

## Chapter 18

### The Neighbors

As was true with other settlements of the time, there were a certain number of settlers drawn to Philip Church's new town for romantic reasons, and as there is often a vast difference between the romantic vision and reality, so indeed was it here.

One particular group whom John Barker Church had known through his connections with the Commissary Department, later in his stay in Paris, and still later in London, were the French aristocrats and upper middle class who were forced to flee France at the time of the Revolution. These often had Rousseau's romantic vision of the wilderness. Church persuaded some of them to settle in Angelica. Among them was Victor DuPont whom the Churches had also known in New York. (His stay was a relatively brief and unhappy one.) There are in the DuPont papers several references to Victor DuPont's dealings with John Barker Church before the trip to the Genesee. One relates to the ship Clarissa which apparently made a voyage to Santiago, Chile, with a cargo of 102 items in 1804. The note referring to this says that John Barker Church and Victor DuPont de Nemours and Company are listed as joint owners of the cargo.

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service. But Victor had gone into bankruptcy trying to start  
business in New York and not only his money, but hers had  
been depleted. The former Gabrielle Josephine de la Fite de  
Bellevue was supported in her opposition to the move to  
Angelica by Victor's brother Irene. Oddly enough, Madame  
DuPont and Anna Mathilda Church developed a friendship that  
transcended the final quarrels of their husbands, and their  
friendship lasted until the death of Madame DuPont, many  
years later.

While Madame DuPont and Anna Mathilda seem to have  
been friends, and Victor DuPont and Auguste D'Autremont (of  
the family who were to remain in Angelica) were friends,  
Madame DuPont and Madame D'Autremont, Auguste's mother, never  
seem to have had much to do with each other. One wonders if  
Madame DuPont felt herself a cut above the D'Autremonts.  
Perhaps age had something to do with it. An early letter  
from Anna Mathilda suggests that she was anxious to cultivate  
the friendship of Victor's wife. It may have been simply the  
diplomatic gesture of the landowner's wife to prospective  
purchasers of land. It is dated New York, November 20th [no  
year, but evidently before they came to Angelica] and mentions  
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"would certainly make you a visit at Bergen, [at the DuPont estate there] but my fears are so great in crossing water that I dare not venture. I flatter myself, however, my dear madame, with the hope of seeing you before I leave New York."

"Mr. Church returns you many thanks for your remembrance of him and is anxious as myself for the time to arrive when we shall have the happiness to welcome you at Angelica, and if any circumstances should intervene to deprive us of that satisfaction, we will suffer the greatest mortification and disappointment.

Pray have the goodness to present my respects to Mr. DuPont and tell your little

family that I anticipate great pleasure from an acquaintance with them.

Mr. Church unites in the best wishes for your happiness with my Dear Madame your sincere friend and admirer.

A. M. Church"

When Victor DuPont first came to the Genesee Country having already experienced one bankruptcy, he saw this as a chance to settle in a smaller place, a place he was sure would grow and prosper.

Tallyrand had rescued his brother from having had to abandon his infant powder mill. Tallyrand had offered to buy an interest in Victor's New York firm, but it had come too late. The new village of Angelica would rescue him. He would be part of a new venture, and recoup his losses and his self respect.

His friends, John Barker and Philip Church, had land for sale, beautiful heavily wooded land never subject to an axe, that could be cleared for farming. Victor was not a farmer, but never mind. He would open a general store to supply the needs of his fellow settlers who would be in need of tools,

deed bears the distinction of Alleghany County.

By the time they reached of 1806, winter was almost of Lancaster, Harrisburg, and Painted Post and Bath. him a thousand pounds of be sold in the general st

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His friends, John Barker and Philip Church, had land for sale, beautiful heavily wooded land never subject to an axe, but never mind. He would open a general store to supply the needs of his fellow settlers who would be in need of tools, gunpowder, seeds, etc. The Genesee flowing north to Lake Ontario also had connections to the south and Baltimore for a trade route. It was swift and a source of power for mills.

He used the last of the money that had been left his wife from her father's estate, and bought of Church 500 acres of heavily wooded land, bounded on three sides by the Genesee. This was to be his farm. In the DuPont papers is a deed from John Barker Church and his wife to Victor DuPont dated 1806.

His wife, who was expecting a child at the time he signed the deed, was living in Delaware with Irene's family. Her lack of enthusiasm for going into the primitive north country was nothing to the loathing she felt for it once she was there. Despite her pleas and the urgings of Irene, the deed had been signed October 13, 1805, so off they went. The

Victor was  
The store opened

He had no supplies except in touch with a merchant in order tools, grain, etc., unless Irene would sign for Winterthur manuscripts in the "liste des objets necessaires a Angelica."

The powder Victor had settlers was seldom needed a catching game. The settlers yarn, wove their cloth and Even the brandy stills did northern climate made winter not least, the house in an unhappy wife and four young their last treasure, a pl boat with the young couple wife's last tie with the

Victor, in the help of Auguste D'Autremont and the two remained Alexandre D'Autremont was given at his birth



... bears the distinction of being the first one recorded in Allegany County.

By the time they reached the Genesee Country in October of 1806, winter was almost upon them. They had come by way of Lancaster, Harrisburg, and Northumberland, Pennsylvania, and Painted Post and Bath, New York. Victor had brought with him a thousand pounds of Eleutherian Mills best gunpowder to be sold in the general store he planned to open.

There was no time to build a house. Josephine Gabrielle again produced money, from a secret store. This time she saved it from the sale of furniture, etc., in New York. She bought a small house in the village of Angelica in January of 1806. Victor was to build the store next door, the following spring. The store opened in January of 1808.

He had no supplies except the gunpowder, and when he got in touch with a merchant in Philadelphia, Archibald McCall, to order tools, grain, etc., on consignment, McCall refused unless Irene would sign for it. Irene signed. In the Winterthur manuscripts in the papers of Victor there is a "liste des objets necessaires pour commencer un petit store a Angelica."

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The powder Victor had thought would be indispensable to settlers was seldom needed as trapping was the usual way of catching game. The settlers grew their own food, spun their yarn, wove their cloth and were generally self-sufficient. Even the brandy stills did not seem to be needed. The northern climate made winter travel difficult, and last but not least, the house in Angelica, a log structure, housed an unhappy wife and four young children, little furniture and their last treasure, a piano which had come from France on the boat with the young couple when they first came. It was his wife's last tie with the world she had once known.

Victor, in the brief time he was there, enlisted the help of Auguste D'Autremont, his fellow exile from France, and the two remained friends for long years. One of the Alexandre D'Autremont children, a nephew of young Auguste, was given at his birth in 1807, the name Victor DuPont

D'Autremont. Louis Paul D'Autremont who went back to France with Tallyrand was also a close friend of the DuPonts. Auguste worked in the DuPont tannery and mill in Delaware for brief periods of time, not always happily. He was, in fact, blamed by some of the DuPonts for failure in one of their enterprises.

While Victor DuPont was in Angelica, the Masonic Lodge is noted as having met "over the DuPont Store" [located on Depot Street on what was later the Post Lot], met there for four years and nine months October 1808-July 1813, and then moved. Whatever merits the store had as a meeting place for the Masons, it did not fare so well as a store. It lost money, and Victor continued to increase his debts. Victor DuPont was listed as one of the first masonic members in Angelica. He later continued his masonic associations, of which he was proud, in Delaware. Some writers have commented that masonry tended to "*attract men from the upper classes in the villages and cities*" and named "*lawyers, land agents and politicians*" as examples.

DuPont, as a farmer, tried unsuccessfully to raise merino sheep following the example of Philip Church. He was also in politics, the first town clerk, and commissioned clerk of Allegany County November 9, 1808.

1807 Victor D'Autremont was writing her son



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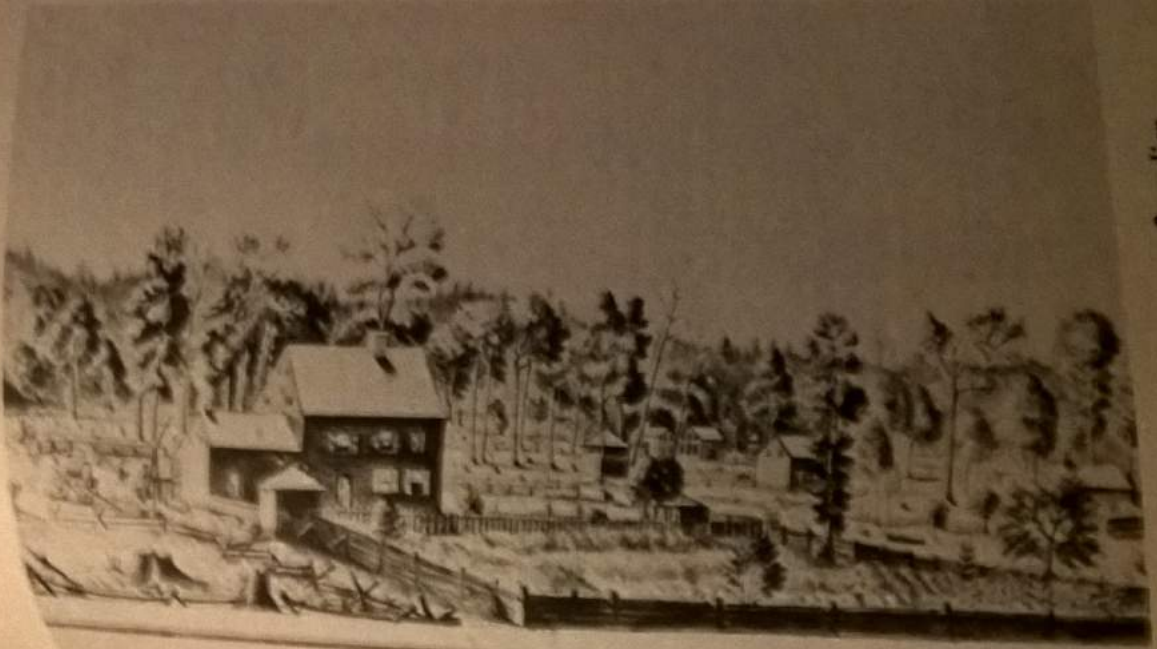
As early as 1807 Madame D'Autremont was writing her son Louis Paul in Paris:

*"The DuPonts are leaving us to join the family at Welminton [Wilmington]."*

Mme also reported to Louis Paul in August of 1807 that "the father and mother of Mr. Church had brought letters" to her from Philadelphia. Where they apparently had arrived from France by packet ship and noted that she would be sending some back in October "by way of Mr. [Philip] Church" who was joining his wife there [Philadelphia].

She comments that Mme DuPont will be lonesome since Mrs. Church is pregnant and she thinks they will spend the winter in town.





*Sketch of DuPont House at Angelica  
by the Baronne Hyde de Neuville*

It was not until two years later that with the urgent insistence of his brother Irene that Victor finally went to Wilmington to join the enterprise there.

On leaving Angelica the DuPonts wrote a notice of property for sale in Angelica, New York. This version appears to be a rough draft of this. When or where it was published is not known.

"M. E. I. DuPont of Wilmington, Delaware, owns a property at Angelica, chief town of the County of Allegany, State of New York, which he will sell on easy terms and at a reduced price.

It consists of one dwelling house frame, well painted in white and almost new. The house contains six rooms with four fireplaces, a large kitchen with servants room, pantry and garrett, two cellars. On the premises there is a convenient stable for six horses with harness room and other conveniences, 2 shads [sheds] for wagons, two barracks with stables under, one for cows the other for sheep, one complete fowl house and pigeon house and necessary house. The farm yard is well fenced in boards and the front part in pail rail picket fences--also the garden containing about one acre, in the highest state of

one half under the  
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Next to this lot is another of about one acre, on which stands a new store built of the best materials, oak post and sills and calculated for solidarity with a neat appearance on the outside. The store is 25' by 28' a cellar under the whole and the upper story is divided into bins for grain. The store is well painted. Price \$1000.

In the same village and very near the center square there is a pasture and wood lot of 15 acres

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It would be 9  
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is offered for sale.

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best and shortest  
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The shortest  
is by Hartsville  
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the greater par  
course west [  
This store  
one year every  
natural [  
]. Tax



one half under improvements, the other half is  
wood. Price \$500.

One three acre lot in West Street with a good  
frame house, the lot wide enough on the street  
three chains to be divided in two or three  
building lots. Price \$500.

Two farms of fifty acres each about two miles  
from the village, both with some buildings and  
improvements, one nearly adjoining the turnpike.

In the store, now under the direction of a  
neighbor who has an interest in the same, there  
was about \$3,000 of goods left last fall and  
which has been renew in part since, with the  
produce of the sales in the store of grain. [ ]  
at [that] the person who is now at the head of the  
store is well acquainted with the people and  
every particular regarding the trade of the place.  
It would be greatly to the interest of the purchaser  
to keep him with him with a share of one third of  
the store which should be made out of the present  
goods as first cost price at which the remainder  
is offered for sale. [ ] of town of the county of  
[ ] path and a

to the store which should be sold at  
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goods as first cost price at which the remainder  
is offered for sale.

Angelica is the chief town of the county of  
Allegany, situated 40 miles west of Bath and a  
turnpike is now in great forwardness and will  
probably be completed this coming season from Bath  
to Angelica to the head waters of the Allegany  
river about 20 miles southwest. There is now the  
best and shortest road from the emigration of the  
Eastern states and when the turnpike is completed  
it will be the best and cheapest road for the salt  
trade ends at the Allegany.

The shortest road from New York to Angelica  
is by Hartsville, Owego, Newtown Point and Bath,  
the distance about 280 [ ?]. There is a turnpike  
the greater part of the road which lies straight  
course west [ ?].

This store has sold from upward of \$7000 in  
one year every information required toward the  
natural [ ? ] of the trade might be given by Victor  
[ ? ]. Taxes is now in New York."

Some years after DuPont left Angelica in August of 1809 having reduced his debt by \$200 by the sale of a slave and her infant, his property in the village was the subject of some rather testy letters between the DuPonts and Philip Church.

Though those from Delaware are signed with the name of Victor DuPont in one case, and the name of Irene on the other, Victor is the author of both. They follow a letter from Philip Church in August of 1821.

"Angelica, August 23, 1821

Sir:

At the request of Mr. Cruger I let your brother's property in the village of Angelica to Mr. N. Ayrault for three years at the annual rent of 150 pounds the tenant to be allowed to expend the first year's rent in improvement. Mr. Ayrault has since transferred the lease but he still remains bound for the payment of the rent.

The second year's rent has been due some time and Mr. Ayrault instead of paying it has begged me

Philip Church Esquire  
Angelica

Sir: I feel myself for the information the 27th of August. If your steward person of confidence for a commission rent and saving destruction, it

Mr. S. Hall the house and my brother that hardly habitable he has been an of money should Ayrault's rent another year. rent out of t



"Angelica, August 23, 1822

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The second year's rent has been due some time and Mr. Ayrault instead of paying it has begged me to write to your brother advising a further allowance of thirty dollars for repairs. I have by this mail informed Mr. Ayrault that I could make no other arrangements than to request the payment of the rent. This I have done, because I could not feel myself justified in advising your brother to make further allowances for repairs.

I have desired Mr. Ayrault to pay the rent into the Geneva Bank to my credit. Will you be so good as to ask your brother whether I shall send a check for the amount to you? Or to some person in New York who can perhaps convert it into money at less discount and with less difficulty. I remain  
sir

Respectfully  
Your Obedient Servant  
Philip Church

Irenee DuPont, Esq.

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destruction, it  
Mr. S. Haight who  
the house and store from me. My  
my brother that it was in such a  
hardly habitable at present for  
he has been answered . . . that  
of money should be allowed the  
Ayrault's rent ought to do it  
another year. I should suppose  
rent out of the three ought to  
sufficient good order.

Mr. Haight has wrote to  
Auguste D'Autremont has consi-  
judgement for \$1900 he owes  
myself a great deal more and  
Alexandre. Please excuse me  
the liberty of troubling you  
subject but what you were  
and the interest you have  
Angelica induce me to belie-  
direct me what I am to do

As to the money you  
Ayrault, I will thank you  
the Geneve Bank to M. An-  
who will collect it and  
thank you very

October 2, 1821

Philip Church Esquire  
Angelica

Sir: I feel myself under great obligation to you for the information contained in your letter of the 27th of August.

If your steward [steward] or overseer of any person of confidence you could recommend would for a commission take the trouble of collecting rent and saving the Angelica property from destruction, it would infer a great favor on me.

Mr. S. Haight who is the officer has taken the house and store from me. N. Ayrault wrote to my brother that it was in such a state as to be hardly habitable at present for want of repairs he has been answered . . . that before any sum of money should be allowed the proceeds of N. Ayrault's rent ought to do it as N. Ayrault owes another year. I should suppose that two years rent out of the three ought to keep the house in sufficient good order.

Mr. Haight has wrote to my brother that . . . has consigned our favor a . . . brother and . . .

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myself a great deal more and also broke like  
Alexandre. Please excuse me . . . if I take  
the liberty of troubling you further on this  
subject but what you were obliging to do already,  
and the interest you have in the prosperity of  
Angelica induce me to believe that you will  
direct me what I am to do.

As to the money you have received from Mr.  
Ayrault, I will thank you to send your check in  
the Geneve Bank to M. Anthony Girard, New York,  
who will collect it and believe me I wish many  
thanks and very

Respectfully yours,  
Victor DuPont"



"Angelica, March 24, 1822

I.E. DuPont, Squire

Sir: Next April another year's rent will be due on your house and lot in the village of Angelica, and the last year of Mr. Ayrault's lease will expire. I have not been able as yet to rent your house and lot to any other tenant, and I presume I shall not obtain any more than \$100 per annum and shall also be obliged to expend at least one year's rent in repairs.

After a good deal of reflection I have determined to advise you to sell your house and lot should you be able to obtain anything equal to what you may estimate their value. The barn and stable were left in a state by Alexandre D'Autremont that they cannot be considered worth anything. The house and wells, fences, etc., excepting the store were also left by that gentleman in very bad repair. Every tenant that occupies will in all probability let it run to such further ruin as will be continually requiring expenditures to prevent it falling to destruction.

In short, in a country when land is cheap my

Mr. Gambault  
he has but little  
debts and the amount I s  
not very readily be abl  
of your judgement. Thi  
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some friend who might  
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Handwriting of Victor  
DuPont N.D.

"Philip Church, B

Dear Sir:

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of March. I am  
left and am sor  
of a conversati  
Angelica proper  
satisfying to  
correspondence

determined to advise you to sell your house and lot should you be able to obtain anything equal to what you may estimate their value. The barn and stable were left in a state by Alexandre D'Autremont that they cannot be considered worth anything. The house and wells, fences, etc., excepting the store were also left by that gentleman in very bad repair. Every tenant that occupies will in all probability let it run to such further ruin as will be continually requiring expenditures to prevent it falling to destruction.

In short, in a country when land is cheap my own experience and that of anyone else shows the bad policy of keeping property to rent. These circumstances have made me resist any further expenditures of Mr. Ayrault's rent on your house, and its strict collection was the only mode of obtaining something for you out of what I deemed a very advantageous rent to a man who was able to pay. Should you determine to sell, please write me more as soon as possible with your price; the terms of payment you had better leave with me. You must expect, of course, to take on a considerable credit.

Auguste D'Autremont has not failed, he is, however, keeping the store not in his own name, but in that of Mr. Gambault. He talks of leaving Angelica for Schnectady with a view of assisting

Ba.  
DuPont N.D.

"Philip Church, N.Y.

Dear Sir:

Accept my thanks for  
of March. I arrived in  
left and am sorry I was  
of a conversation with  
Angelica property as  
satisfying to me and  
correspondence.

I am perfectly  
be to my advantage  
is impossible for me  
unacquainted with  
country. All I know  
all I can judge is  
nothing like it.

If you can  
offer for either  
to take it if  
but short pay  
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22  
n  
Mr. Gambault in his tobacco factory. I expect  
he has but little property after payment of his  
debts and the amount I should think you would  
not very readily be able to collect--the amount  
of your judgement. This is, however, conjecture  
as I do not think him well calculated for a  
merchant. I believe the most judicious step he  
could take would be to go into the service of  
some friend who might assist him with both advice  
and employment. I remain sir

Very respectfully  
Your obedient servant,  
Philip Church"

Handwriting of Victor DuPont, but signed with E. I.  
DuPont N.D.

"Philip Church, Esquire

Dear Sir:

Accept my thanks for your letter of the 24th  
of March. I arrived in Philadelphia the day you'd  
arrived. I was deprived of the pleasure  
of the subject of the



Handwriting of Victor DuPont, but signed with E. A.  
DuPont N.D.

Philip Church, Esquire

Dear Sir:

Accept my thanks for your letter of the 24th of March. I arrived in Philadelphia the day you'd left and am sorry I was deprived of the pleasure of a conversation with you on the subject of the Angelica property as it would have been useful and satisfying to me and less troublesome to you than correspondence.

I am perfectly of your opinion that it would be to my advantage to sell that property but it is impossible for me to fix a price as I am totally unacquainted with the value of a property in your country. All I know is what it will cost me and all I can judge is for the present I will get nothing like it.

If you can find somebody that will make an offer for either part of the whole I may be willing to take it if you advise me to do so. But nothing but short payments would induce me to make so great a sacrifice as I still believe that the time will come when the lots themselves will be worth as much as the lots and buildings now even supposing the lot to be finally destroyed.

If it is not intruding too much on your good will please to inform me of the value of said property and if the offer you may meet with in the meantime, try to produce good [ ]. I understand M. Haight is in the house and also that he is a bad paymaster. You have full power to act in [ ] for the cost of my interests. Any money you may collect or have collected for rent please send to Anthony Girard or William Kemble in New York.

With many apologies for giving you so much trouble I remain sir very sincerely

Yours,  
E. I. DuPont"

A third French family of note were also induced to settle in Angelica, but their stay was brief. The Baron Hyde de Neuville and his wife, who was an artist, came and left again shortly. There is among the Church land records listed one William Hyde de Neuville as land purchaser in 1807. Baron de Neuville was described as "one of the most ultra of the French refugees." To the Victorians, this would indicate the most fashionable, desirable, and sought after socially of all the refugees. He was described by another author as dressing "as

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Madame de Neuville spent at least, sketching, as she in Delaware at the DuPonts and give us not only a picture of reflection of her feelings and little romance in her scene

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have  
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An ad for a 1979 Washington part of its loan exhibit "a 1822" described as being painted by Neuville. She is described as a minister, who at the time lived in the Square in Decatur House loaned by St. Johns Church and Dolley Madison's house.

The sketch of the Angelica in 1808, a copy of which character of the place, of the activity about the place by Arch Merrill as: "A enchanting scene." One

In addition to the area several Indian portraits. One of them is by Jemison (the "White Ag... sketches



"Baron Hyde de Neuville came to Angelica about the time my great-grandfather did, and after the downfall of Napoleon returned to France where he was welcomed by the Bourbons and was one of the bitterest against the French dynasty."

Madame de Neuville spent part of her time in Angelica, at least, sketching, as she had done at Azilum and was to do in Delaware at the DuPonts and in Washington. Her sketches give us not only a picture of the things she saw, but a reflection of her feelings about them. There was very little romance in her scenes of the new country.

In addition to these sketches, the Baronne is known to have done a sketch of the house of her compatriot, General Jean Victor Moreau in Pennsylvania. The sketch is now in the Karolik Collection in the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, one of Madison's house is now in the Musee de Blerancourt in France. Another collection is in the New York Historical Society.

An ad for a 1979 Washington, DC, antique show cites as part of its loan exhibit "a watercolor of Lafayette Square in painted by the Baronne Hyde de of the then French living on

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minister, who at the time the sketch was made "was living on  
the Square in Decatur House." This sketch, described as  
loaned by St. Johns Church, included a view of that Church  
and Dolley Madison's house.

The sketch of the Angelica home of Victor DuPont, done  
in 1808, a copy of which is in Belvidere reveals the primitive  
character of the place, the method of building and something  
of the activity about the area. This sketch was characterized  
by Arch Merrill as: "A huddle of houses amid stumps. Not an  
enchanting scene." One suspects the Baronne agreed.

In addition to these sketches, the Baronne had left  
us several Indian portraits done while she was in the Angelica  
area. One of them is believed to be that of one of Mary  
Jemison's (the "White Woman of the Genesee") ill-fated sons.  
Again, the sketches do not suggest a romantic vision of the

artist, but they are of value to us in the view they present. Another is entitled Seneca Woman And Child and a third, Peter, A Seneca From Tonawanda.

The final group of French refugees who came to Angelica were the D'Autremont family, who have been mentioned before. They, unlike the other two had had a previous experience in the wilderness of the new country, when in the first year of their exile from France, they had settled, and almost lost their lives from starvation, in or near Greene, a small place above Binghamton. They had moved then to Azilum, and finally after a second stay near Greene, to Angelica. There had been originally four of them: Madame Marie Jaene D'Autremont and three sons, Louis Paul, Alexandre and Auguste; but the eldest, Louis Paul, had gone back to France with Tallyrand before they made the final move. By the time they settled in Angelica, Madame D'Autremont was a woman in her sixties, worn out from all the changes she had experienced in her life. This final move had been anticipated as one to good land, near a settlement with the promise of abundant crops, pleasant neighbors of like interests, and a haven for her last years. Instead it was a repetition of the trails of the years preceding it: "smoke that should go up the chimney but persists in coming down," a house without windows, no privacy, a quarrelsome relationship with her daughter-in-law, the unhappy arrival of her sister, a former nun who could not

had strong reservations about the  
Louis Paul, the eldest son  
had gone back to France with Tallyrand  
frantic correspondence with Victor  
he was sending financial help  
he asks about why he had not  
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"It seems to me, [and  
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Her youngest son, Auguste was both a friend and employee of the DuPonts. He took over DuPont's Angelica business when he left, and turned it around and both he and his brother were active in political affairs in Angelica.

In letters from the AuPonts, there are suggestions that Auguste was blamed for one disaster at the DuPont powder plant during a period there, and evidently Angelica proved the better place for him, though Philip Church had reservations about the conditions under which he would succeed there! As a matter of fact, Philip Church seems to have

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had strong reservations about both the D'Autremont men.

Louis Paul, the eldest son of Madame D'Autremont, who had gone back to France with Tallyrand, kept up a rather frantic correspondence with Victor DuPont during the years he was sending financial help to his family. Over and over he asks about why he had not heard from either the family or Victor. Along with these he attempted to interest Victor or Auguste, or both, in inventions which he thought would be marketable and gave advice about their holdings in America.

"It seems to me, that these 3000 francs [for his family] have really diminished . . . I beg of you, my dear Victor, to straighten out this affair with Mr. Gerard [the banker] and to take care of my interests . . ."

Victor, alas, was not really able to take care of his own interests, let alone the D'Autremonts and eventually the friendships within the French group were strained beyond repair.

In 1813 Alexandre D'Autremont was appointed the town clerk for Angelica, in 1851 Victor D'Autremont, his son, was Supervisor of Angelica and Charles D'Autremont, a son of Victor, was Supervisor in 1855-56 and 1862-64.

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The later generation of D'Autremonts contributed much to Angelica. The first bank in Angelica was owned by D'Autremont. It was a private banking enterprise, there being no others until the National Bank was established in 1864 at the beginning of the war. Ironically it was a D'Autremont who planned to buy Belvidere and restore it when the final sale to the present owners came. Hubert D'Autremont of Tucson, Arizona, was in Wellsville, New York, when he died suddenly April 16, 1947, on the eve of his purchase of the farm.

Henry Clune indicated that not all of Philip Church's other neighbors were his admirers. One of the causes for this was his practice of imposing a tax on the logs that floated down the river past Belvidere. He assumed that the



Genesee flowing through his property also belonged to him! One Benjamin Palmer was responsible for having legislature declare the river a public highway, thus ending that source of income.

It litigation is a mark of less than cordial relationships, the Churches considered their legal rights first. The number of cases involving them is a large one.

In two cases listed in the Allegany County Courthouse for assault and battery and "Malicious trespass" there may have been forceful ejection from the Church property by the then owner. Unfortunately the minutes of these cases show the outcome of the case, whether or not there was a jury trial, lists of jurors, witnesses and judges, but fail to reveal the actual situation that prompted the case, or the testimony given, so that one can only conjecture. The first case noted in 1815 involved Philip Church and the next in 1841 Richard Church.

The number of other types of cases involving Philip Church, John Church, and John P. Church, Jr. and various

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He had originally eventually settled built a handsome in after all this

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The number of other types of cases involving Philip Church, Walter Church and John B. Church, Jr. and various people, including suits in which Philip Church and Walter Church are on opposite sides, would indicate that the financial dealings of the Church family could become complicated indeed. However, the amounts of settlement are so small that one wonders if it were worth everyone's time and costs. The question that perhaps the Churches enjoyed litigation also arises. Since the peak of these cases is in the 1840's, and they involve such people as Elias Crabtree in connection with Philip Church, Judson Sherman and others it seems more likely that real estate dealings were the cause as a result perhaps of the 1837 depression.

At least once the suits involved Philip Church and the People of Angelica. This case seems to have dragged on for several years, but it is not clear now what it was all about.

Two of Philip Church's trusted business associates and earliest neighbors were the two men who very soon after its acquisition were given the responsibility of handling the disposition of his father's (later his) property.

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We have spoken of Moses Van Campen, his early companion  
in the exploration of the tract, in whose company he made the  
trip to Niagara Falls. The two men twenty years apart in age  
were fast friends. Van Campen, the Indian fighter, the  
leader of Sullivan's Expedition, became Van Campen, the  
owner of many tracts in Allegany County, office holder of  
many offices in the county, an early justice, county treasurer  
and judge of the court of common pleas. He died in Angelica  
at age 52 in October of 1849. His grave is fittingly close  
to that of Philip Church.

He had originally settled in Almond, New York, but  
eventually settled near his employer and friend. In 1809 he  
built a handsome brick house, still standing and still lived  
in after all this time and the ravages of changing fortunes.

There are a few references in the Church correspondence  
and family notes about Van Campen so that one must assume that  
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members of the squire's family.

Van Campen was a member of the Presbyterian Church and for years the only ruling elder of that group. The Church family was Episcopalian and in the early days this alone would separate people socially, since sectarian feeling was high, and the mores of church groups were influenced by their beliefs.

One of Van Campen's daughters married the first Presbyterian minister to serve in western New York, the Reverend Robert Hubbard.

Evert VanWickle, the first agent for John Barker and Philip Church, is known in Angelica still, but when one examines the record the knowledge is scanty. Standing on the Main Street of the village is the handsome frame house built by him in 1802, a landmark of the village and the county. His log land office was next door.

seems to have come from the town of Lyons and Sedus,

New York, then known as the "district of Sodus." An early record of the Town meeting was held, we are told by Gramma Turner "at the house of Evert VanWickle" in Lyons Village in 1799 and he was at that time employed by Charles Williamson as a supervisor. Turner says that in one of Williamson's letters in 1798 Williamson says:

*"A promising settlement composed of people from Jersey and Maryland is begun here this June: a Mr. Van Wickle, from the Jerseys moved in along with forty persons."*

In 1805 Van Wickle signed with his fellow excise commissioners, Van Campen and Riggs, a certificate of license for a public inn or tavern serving spiritous liquors in Angelica. This was issued to one Joseph Taylor, being by 1808 one of ten such licenses issued in a town of sixty-four freeholders. We can only hope that the flow of travelers in and out of the area was considerably larger than this.

Van Wickle was also town clerk in 1820-21.

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Van Wickle was also town clerk in 1820-21.

Van Wickle, like Van Campen was an early office holder in Allegany County, serving as county clerk in 1813, and as overseer of the poor and excise commissioners. Van Wickle and his brother Samuel were both surveyors. About 1828 or 1830 Van Wickle suddenly left the area, due it is said, to the "ruckus about the masons." His brother stayed in Angelica, where he continued to ply his trade and his wife Jane is listed in the cemetery listings as having died in 1831 there and having been buried in lot 104. Not one word exists about Evert Van Wickle's subsequent life and death. Masonic lodges in the area were dissolved and their charters not renewed until the 1840's when they were assigned new identities.

The "ruckus" erupted in upstate New York in 1826 with the disappearance, under highly suspicious circumstances, of one William Morgan.

Masonry had been a popular movement in this country since the mid 1700's, and many prominent Revolutionary figures, such

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as Washington, Revere and Lafayette had been highly publicized members. Locally Philip Church and Victor DuPont were members. But the religious tinge of the organization plus the mystic secret practices alarmed many people. Morgan was reportedly about to publish a book exposing the secrets of Masonry when he vanished from jail in Canandaigua to be taken, or so it was later said, to the shores of Lake Ontario. A body was found with evidence of foul play, and it was identified by his wife as his, but the authorities claimed it as unidentifiable.

Outcries against the Masons were made by men like the Reverend Lebbeus Armstrong, once a Mason himself, who declared that "the whole system of Masonry belongs to the powers of darkness . . ." and an Anti-Masonry Party made its appearance, attracting politicians like Thurlow Weed, editor of the Albany Evening Journal who has been described as a "hard bitten professional politician." Weed abandoned the cause when the time was right for more profitable enterprises.

For a year or so, Weed owned the Anti-Masonic Enquirer and Samuel Heron, which eventually merged with Wadsworth, "unlike most Anti-

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enterprises.

For a year or so, Weed owned the Anti-Masonic Enquirer of Rochester with one Samuel Heron, which eventually merged with the National Republican. James Wadsworth, "unlike most wealthy men," says Arch Merrill, also favored the Anti-Masonic movement, but declined that party's offer to make him candidate for governor.

What Van Wickle's role in the "ruckus" was is not known, but he apparently went south in 1828, three years before the recorded death of his wife. The lodge itself which had been started in 1808 ceased in that year, and was not re-established until July 1, 1896.

It had been started at the home of Evert Van Wickle, and had included such men as Baron Hyde de Neuville, besides Philip Church and Victor DuPont. The last recorded meeting of the lodge was October 2, 1827.

In searching the literature on the Morgan murder, one finds strange lapses--silence where one expects information. Arch Merrill, in commenting on the lack of information in the early books by Orasmus Turner, says that Turner himself

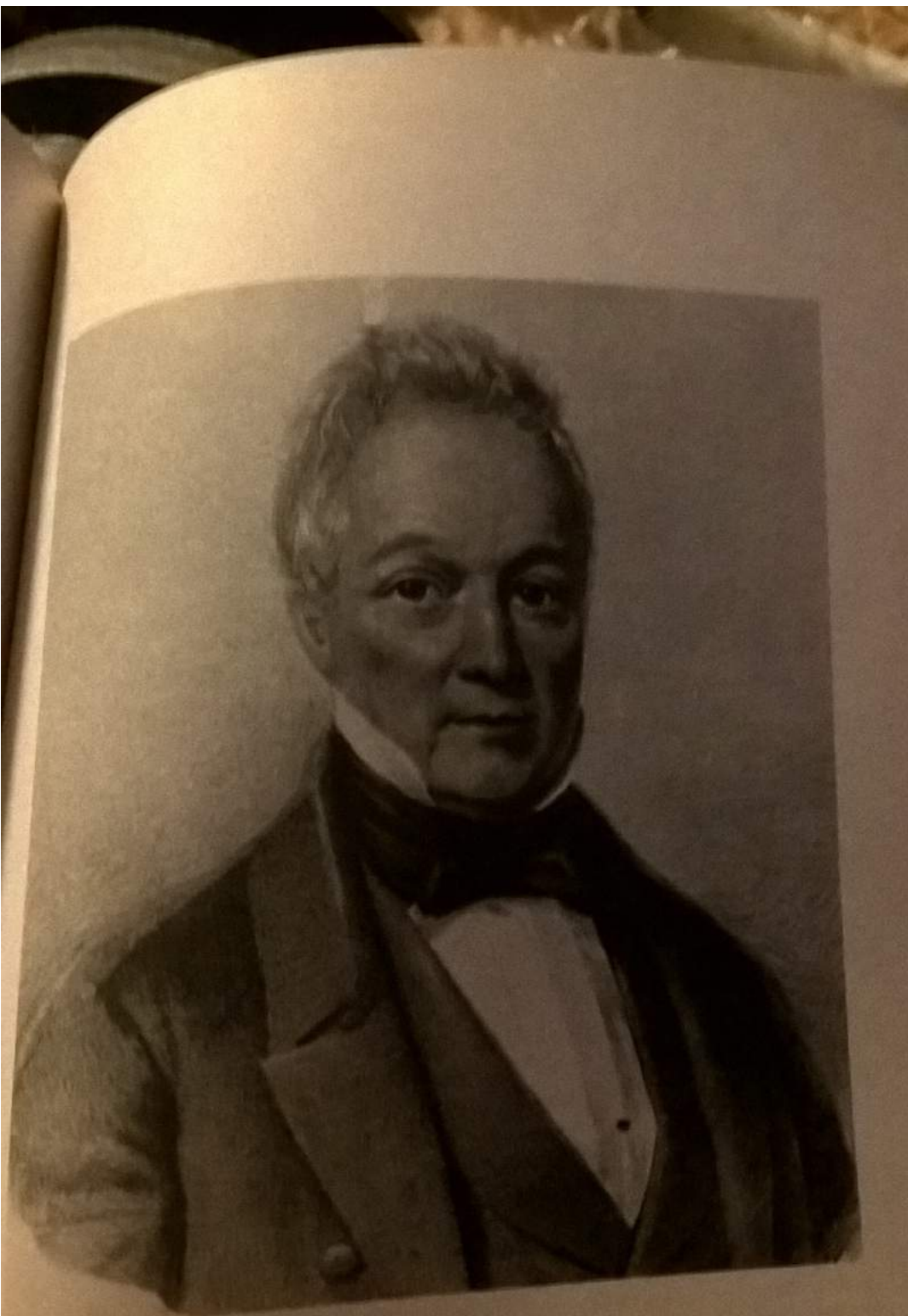


was implicated in the plot.

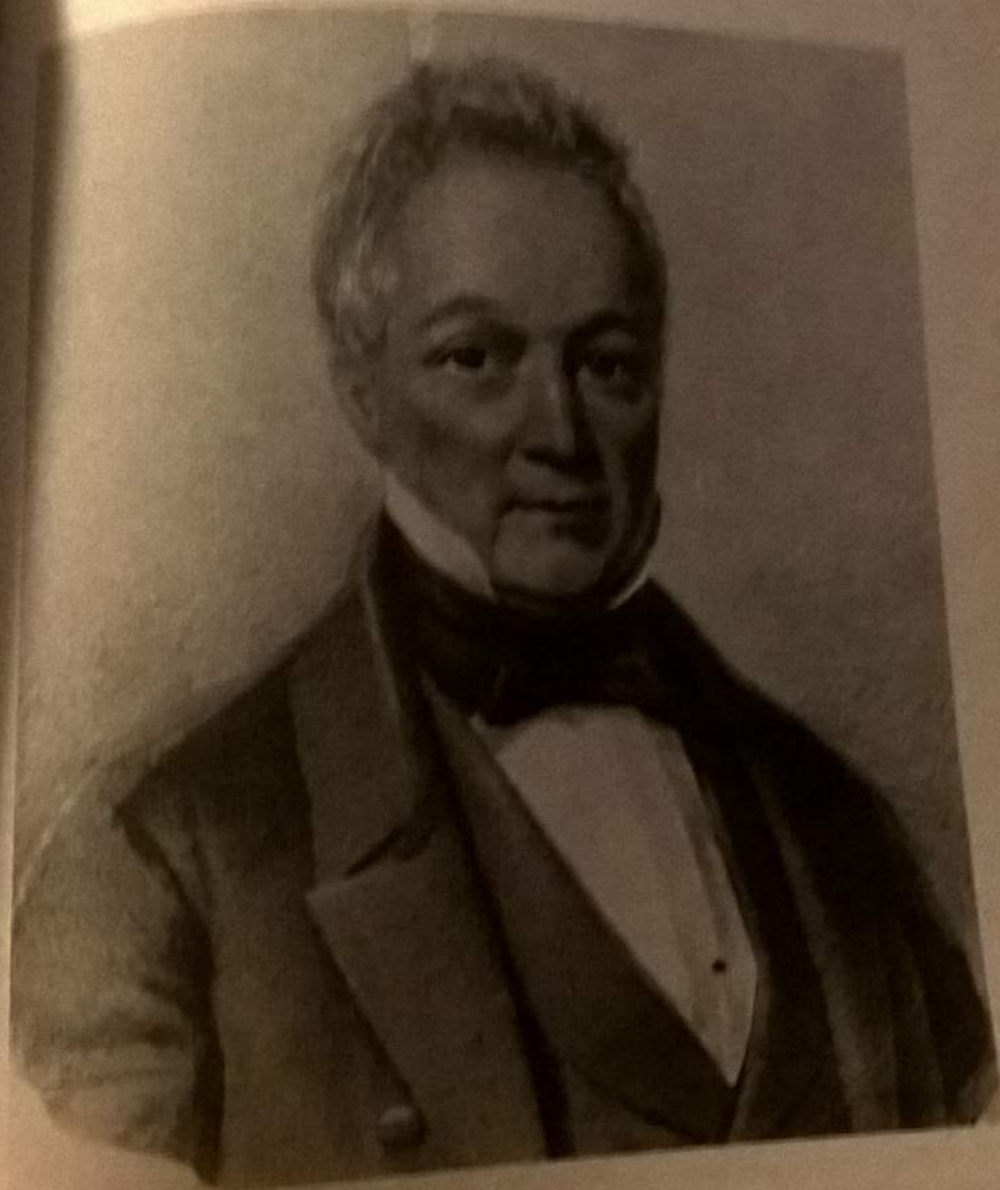
In 1828 John C. Spencer of Canandaigua reported to Governor Thorp that it was impossible to get witnesses from the Masonic group to testify as to what happened to Morgan:

*"Witnesses have been secreted; they have been sent off into Canada and into different states of the union . . . These occurrences have been so numerous and various as to forbid the belief they are the result of individual effort alone . . ."*

Merrill says that at the time of the report, twelve indictments were pending in Niagara County, two in Monroe, two in Ontario, and four in Genesee. Should there have been some in Allegany County? Why did Van Winkle never surface again in an area in which he had played such an important role? Why is the silence so absolute?



Philip Church



Philip Church



Chapter 19  
Wilderness To Tole Gate  
Canal To Railroad

However incomplete his relationships with his neighbors may have been, in building his town, Philip Church made a strenuous effort always to insure both the quality and prosperity of Angelica. McNall notes that Philip Church "whose lands were least accessible" (comparing them to those owned by the Wadsworths in Geneseo and the Carrolls in Hamden) was an innovator in the promotion and/or building of the Lake Erie Turnpike Company, the Genesee Valley Canal and the Erie Railroad: all of which, we must add, brought problems that were not anticipated.

Allegheny County's terrain presents challenges for agriculture, and also presented problems in marketing. The hills are steep, the valleys narrow, the water courses turbulent at many times of the year, and the growing season short with severe winters, flooding and frosts, especially in the valleys. Even as late as 1855 the average farm was less than one hundred acres with often less than half of that devoted to agriculture, according to McNall.

Most of the settlers had small parcels of land, and the early practice of cutting woods and burning potash did not help growing conditions.

Moreover, markets were at some distance and not very accessible contrasted with the ridge road to the north, which

## Chapter 19

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Moreover, markets were at some distance and not very accessible contrasted with the ridge road to the north, which



made access to the east and Albany an easier problem to meet for people like the Wadsworths.

Though the growing of sheep in this area, particularly Merinos, in which Church was extremely interested, was profitable for a time, peaking in 1807, the market collapsed just before the War of 1812, and later western competition made their raising unprofitable. Both the size of operations, the depletion of soil and timber and the ever-present weather problem and the depredation of wolves were a combination of obstacles difficult to beat. Wolf scalps were a bounty item and D'Autremont listed in his store records "to wolf scalp certificates \$185--." In 1845 Allegany County paid its last bounty for wolves.

McNall cites 1845 as the peak year for Allegany County saw mills, when there were 257 in the county but says the production per mill was very small, and it was not long before the forests were pretty well cleared.

He then makes another interesting comment that in the 1830's Philip Church did a lot of land swapping in the upper Genesee for "improved farm lands in Washington and Warren counties in New York and Rutland county in Vermont."

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The marketing problem  
Church and others feel the  
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counties in New York and Rutland county in Vermont."

Early on, Church was affiliated with those organizations  
that would be of benefit to his agricultural interests. The  
State Board Of Agriculture included "Philip Church of Allegany  
County" in 1819, and in 1832 he was listed as a representa-  
tive of the Genesee Valley area on the committee of the New  
York State Agricultural Society.

In 1895 at the Wellsville Centennial, A. W. Litchard  
commented that

"Judge Philip Church of Belvidere was the pioneer  
in good breeding, both in cattle and sheep, and  
the value of his example upon the people in an  
early day in this direction was great. His  
favorite breed was the Durham, or Shorthorn."

But Litchard commented that sheep raising, which should have

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worked out in this terrain had been a failure.

The marketing problems were a big enough factor to make Church and others feel that adequate transportation was a large part of the need. Moreover, he and Robert Troup felt that a southern route would encourage settlers coming from the Catskill area to settle in the southern tier.

However, it was not until the War of 1812 that there was even a decent road from Angelica to Olean, although as early as 1805 Church and Troup had incorporated a turnpike company. The road in existence in 1809, we are told, was almost impassable except in winter! Other members of the corporation included Adam Hoopes, the founder of Olean, New York; William Helm, Dugald Cameron, George Hornell, for whom Hornellsville, later Hornell, New York, was named; and George McClure. A letter from Philip Church to Dugald Cameron and Mr. Haight reveals some of the difficulties of that incorporation:

"To Mr. Haight and Mr. Cameron from P. Church  
Bath, October 19, 1809

Sir:

Not with standing, I have protested against the President and Directors of the Lake Erie entering into those contracts in violation to dispose

Mr.  
ation:

"To Mr. Haight and Mr. Cameron from P. Church  
Bath, October 19, 1809

Sir:

Not with standing, I have protested against the President and Directors of the Lake Erie Turnpike Company entering into those contracts which were so formed, as in my opinion to dispose of my fathers and my property in a manner which I conceive ought not to have been done, I shall be willing, as I have heretofore expressed to the Company, to pay my proportion of those contracts either by debts due or to become due to the estate of my father and myself in the County of Allegany as far as they may go by lands of that Estate. I take the liberty of again impressing their circumstances on your mind. I remain sir,"

"Received two copies of the above letter, one for Mr. Haight and the other for myself on the above date.  
D. Cameron"



The necessary legislation was passed in 1810. Church, John Mullender, (he of the letter) and John T. Hyde were named as turnpike "associates." As we saw from Madame D'Autremont's correspondence, Church was already at work on it. They had hoped to get the Holland Land Company owners interested, but Ellicott in Batavia gave them no encouragement. It would really benefit his company very little and he refused to support it. Later the Holland Land Company gave up some land for its construction, apparently fearing public resentment. McNall reports that the turnpike (really never a turnpike in size, but a narrow road) was finally taken over and maintained by the state after it was allowed to deteriorate to the point of abandonment.

In 1814 the legislature passed a law to authorize the supervisors of what by then was Allegany County "to raise money by tax to improve the Lake Erie Turnpike road" and identified the commissioners for the turnpike as Philip Church, Clark Crandall (of Alfred) and Stephen Major (of Almond). The act stated in one section that each commissioner appointed by the act should be entitled to "two dollars per day for each day they may be respectively and necessarily employed in the discharge of duties . . ." to be audited and paid for an contingent county taxes.

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However, in the very next session of the legislature, in 1815, an act relative to the Lake Erie Turnpike Company was passed on February 25, to determine whether or not the turnpike company was legally dissolved because of failure to elect directors of the company for the three years previous to June 1814. It was decided that the June election had been valid. This did not seem to make much difference practically in the ultimate fate of the turnpike. A look at the terrain of the southern tier and Route 417 following the Pennsylvania line might explain why until the advent of modern earth moving machinery, problems continued to exist. By the 1820's the turnpike issue had revived briefly, then died.

Beers describes it rather vividly:

*"The simplest and roughest kind of woods road had been opened in 1809 or 1810 from Angelica to*

urging him to establish which means the Gate to collect only a single double toll at a Gate little oppressive to

Beers goes on to say a main route of travel to discount the amount of the period from 1816 on had summer followed by years in the affairs of men"

In 1839 the stock Turnpike was sold to P

Today, under sect turnpike, one finds particularly in the east of Angelica of the original

clean. It was surveyed by Moses Van Campen in 1815, but even after the improvement made upon it in the two of three years following, it was only tolerable when snow did something to level up between the roots and frost stiffened the sloughs in which teams otherwise floundered and heavy wagons were stalled. About this time the reconstruction of the road was begun, the state appropriating a small amount toward the work and making it a toll road."

Even the mechanics of this presented problems. Philip Church, writing to Robert Troup at one point complaining of his particular problem, said:

" . . . I have erected a Gate near Angelica and am collecting double toll, that is toll for twenty miles.

I shall write to this post to Mr. Cameron urging him to establish a gate near Dykes by which means the Gate near Angelica will then collect only a single toll. The collections of double toll at a Gate so near the village is a little oppressive to the inhabitants . . .

Philip Church"



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Philip Church"

Beers goes on to say that for about ten years this was  
a main route of travel to the west. McNall and later writers  
discount the amount of traffic actually received. The  
period from 1816 on had been a lean one . . . the year of no  
summer followed by years of economic depression. The "Tide  
in the affairs of men" had turned.

In 1839 the stock of the county in the New York and Erie  
Turnpike was sold to Philip Church for \$200.00.

Today, under sections that are still left of the old  
turnpike, one finds under exposed places on unpaved road,  
particularly in the hills above Almond, New York to the  
east of Angelica, traces of the old log or "corduroy" base  
of the original turnpike. The toll gates and the memory of

them have been long gone, but in the records of the legislative act that created them is a list of tolls that perhaps help us to visualize the time and the place.

" . . . It shall and may be lawful for the said President and directors [of the corporation] to appoint toll-gatherers to collect and receive of and from all and every person or persons using the said road\*\*\*the tolls and duties hereinafter mentioned and no more:

For every score of hogs or sheep . . . . .	8¢
For every score of horses, cattle or mules . . .	20¢
For every chair, sulky or chaise with one horse	12 1/2¢
For every horse rode . . . . .	4¢
For every led or driven horse . . . . .	3¢
For every cart drawn by one horse . . . . .	6¢
For every chariot, coach, coachee or phaeton .	25¢
For every stagewagon or other 4-wheeled carriage	12 1/2¢
For every cart drawn by two oxen . . . . .	12 1/2¢
For every sleigh or sled drawn by 2 horses, mules or oxen . . . . .	6¢

For every stagecoach or other 4-wheeled carriage 12 1/2¢  
For every cart drawn by two oxen . . . . . 12 1/2¢  
For every sleigh or sled drawn by 2 horses,  
mules or oxen . . . . . 6¢

Provided, that nothing in this act shall be construed to entitle the said corporation to demand or receive toll of or from any person passing:

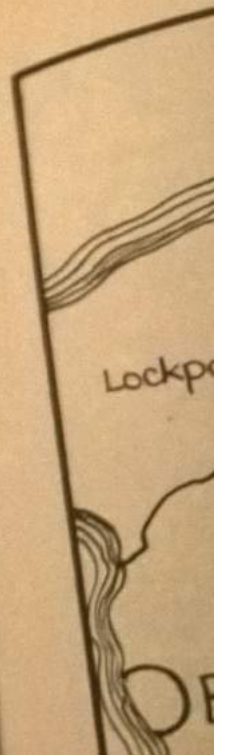
- To or from a public worship or a funeral, or
- To or from a grist-mill for the grinding of grain for his family use, or
- To or from a blacksmith's shop to which he usually resorts, or
- To or from a town meeting or election for the purpose of voting, or
- To or from a court, having been sommoned or subpoenaed, or
- To or from a physician or midwife, or
- To or from militia training he is required by law to attend, or
- For any troops in the service or this state or of the United States, or
- For any artillery wagons and any carriages or stores



*of any kind in the service of this state or the  
United States, or  
From any person residing within four miles of this  
gate . . ."*

There had not been at any time, too many passing by,  
either toll payers or those free of toll.

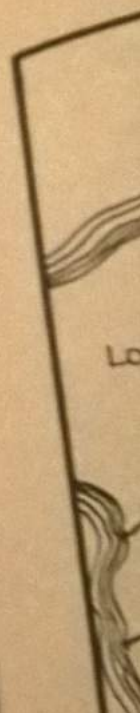
The Erie Canal, opened in 1825, had brought prosperity  
to almost all sections of New York State except Allegany  
and Cattaraugus Counties. Once again Philip Church was in  
the vanguard of a new proposal. Since the canal provided  
easy access to Albany, the problem was getting goods to the  
canal. What better way to achieve this than by a second  
canal which would ultimately link the Erie Canal and the  
Allegany River at Olean. It would be a far different matter  
from drovers driving cattle and sheep from the southern tier  
to Rochester.



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from ... to Rochester.

In June of 1825, Philip Church was among those who signed a call for a public meeting of citizens of Monroe, Livingston, Allegany, Cattaraugus and Steuben counties. It was addressed to those who saw the need of a canal and who were willing to convey a sense of that need to the canal commissioners and the state government.

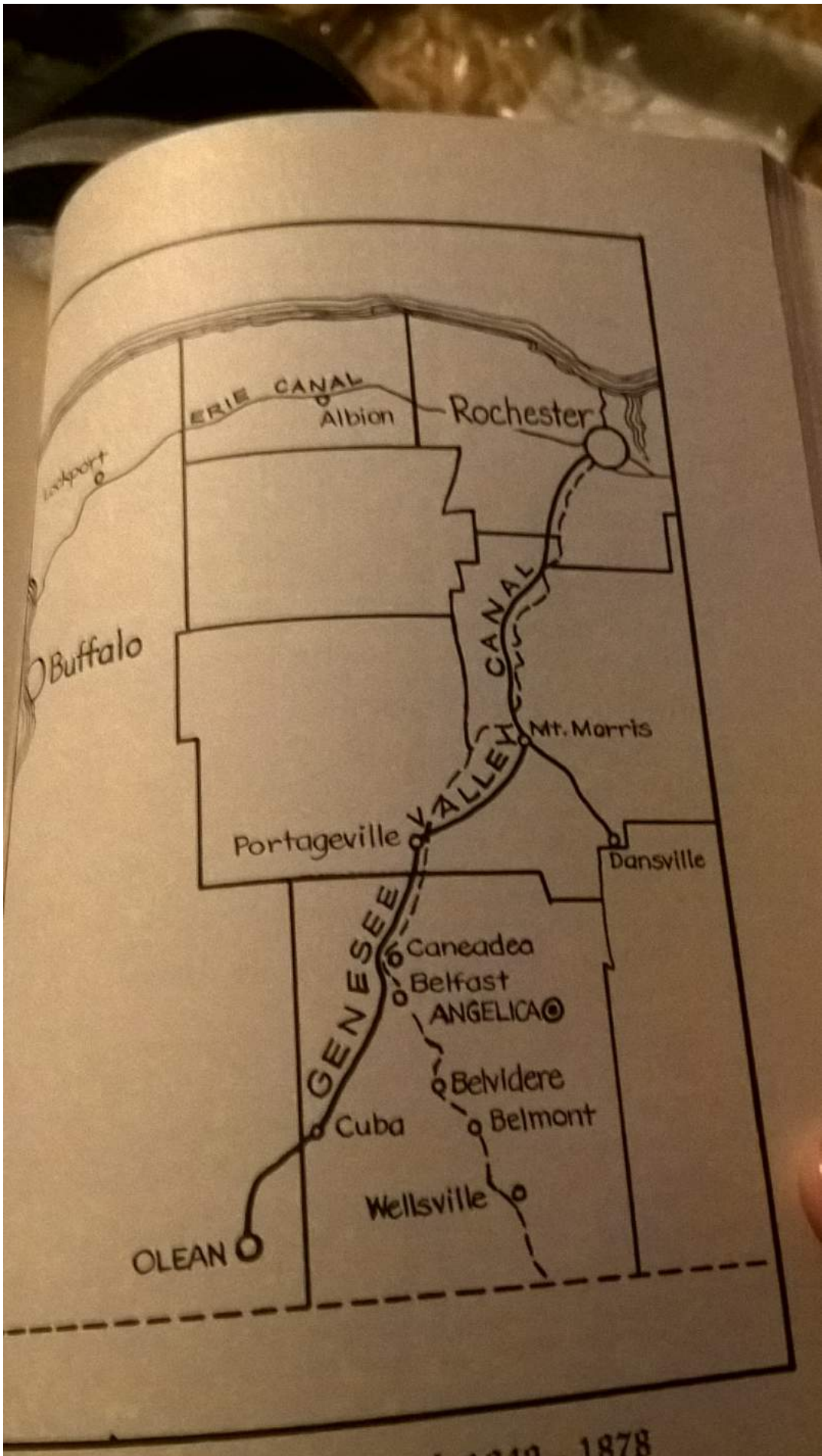
In 1827 Ira Davenport of Hornellsville wrote to Philip Church proposing the idea of asking the legislature to incorporate a company for the purpose of making "black water navigation from Painted Post to Pennsylvania line on the Tioga and up the Canisteo to this place Hornellsville."

He felt that this would induce the state to build what was to be the Chemung Canal.

Though his sentences sound as if his thoughts were racing ahead of his pen, Davenport concludes his letter saying:

"There may be something in this calculation entitled to some consideration. I am confident





ERIE CANAL

Rochester

Albion

Buffalo

Mt. Morris

Portageville

VALLEY CANAL

Dansville

GENESEE CANAL

Caneadea

Belfast

ANGELICA

Belvidere

Belmont

Cuba

Wellsville

OLEAN

1849 - 1878

in my own mind that the state will not make the Chemung Canal under the present application. So unless there is a prospect of a continuation of water communication above the Post we may give up the Chemung Canal.

Very respectfully,  
Your Obedient Servant  
Ira Davenport"

Whether Philip Church gave it any consideration, we do not know. He was concerned about a canal which would link the Genesee country to a system which would join this area as directly as possible to Albany and New York markets.

While Church advocated the building of the canal, he apparently considered the encouragement of railroads more of an asset but was overruled on this. There was already on the books the Omnibus Canal Act, which authorized the examination and consideration of seventeen different canal routes in the state. Canals could be financed by the state. Railroads needed private capital.

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In 1836 the act was passed which provided for the construction of the Genesee Valley Canal, finally completed all the way to Olean in 1856. The Dansville branch had been completed by 1851. As proved to be true of many projects which looked good on paper, the whole history of the canal seemed to produce misfortunes: the building itself, the protests of mill owners who felt the canal was robbing them of waterpower, labor difficulties, the depression of 1837, etc.

The route was certainly better than the former ones, but the cost in the end to the farmer was too much to make his shipping profitable. It had been mainly used for the transportation of lumber, but that was not enough to pay for it.

By June 4, 1877, the Genesee Valley Canal was, by an act of legislature, directed to be abandoned and discontinued as a canal. The railroads had taken over. The cost of the canal's construction and improvements had been \$6,737,430.56; and the total revenues had been only \$860,146.78. The answer

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In a letter  
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B. Welch wrote

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to the southern tier's problems was not a canal. It was certainly not the answer for Angelica.

The last major effort of Philip Church to insure transportation was to encourage the railroads. Again this proved not to be the answer, and the reason again, was ironical. Railroads also opened markets for products from the midwest, and after the Civil War the freight rates from western states, because of volume, were less than those from western New York. Initially, however, the Erie Railroad gave impetus to the lumbering interests in Allegany County, and it was a big factor in the growth of the cheese industry.

Philip Church not only called an early meeting in Angelica in 1831, but served as chairman of the Owego Convention which dated the beginning of the Erie Railroad.

In 1835 Anna Mathilda wrote one of her children:

*"I can give you no information on the subject of the railroad. Your father writes in a letter that he is sanguine as to the ... and the*

"I can give you no information on the subject of the railroad. Your father writes in a letter received today that he is sanguine as to the success of his project, but the company and the city of New York are making great efforts . . . time must show the result."

In a letter to the Allegany County Republican written on January 2, 1882, and reprinted in the Collectanea, Mr. J. B. Welch wrote the following:

". . . The credit of being the first to broach the railroad idea in Angelica township meetings belongs, in my opinion, to the Judge Philip Church. At a meeting of citizens held in Geneseo nearly 80 years ago, to consider the feasibility of the Genesee Valley Canal Project (the history of whose rise and fall is familiar to most of your readers), Judge Church very much surprised the assembly by the suggestion of a railroad over the course in question, in lieu of a canal. At that time the Erie Road had not been thought of; in fact, there was not a railroad in

the state and the suggestion was received with derision and contempt with which, in the history of civilization, advance ideas universally seem to have been met. Judge George Williams of Portage, a co-delegate, proposed to throw Judge Church into the river, as a wholesome means of restoring him to his senses, which proposition was met with such ready acquiescence on the part of the threatened party that the learned portage justice deemed it the better part of valor to withdraw his threat.

Judge Church lived to ride on the Erie Railway, and doubtless his far-seeing judgement appreciated, to some extent, the failway future of his country; for the judge was eminently in advance of the age in which he lived. The first Angelica railroad excitement proper, however, belongs to the time of the construction of the Erie Road, about the year 1845. It was first talked about in 1832. At that time Erie

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Despite Mr. Welch's rather bitter comment about "the contest," the fact of grades was even more bitter. In order to have the railroad go through Angelina from West Almond, rather than by way of Wellsville to Helvidere, the grade at West Almond was so steep it would have been necessary to bore a tunnel through the hills there at a cost of some \$500,000; a cost neither the railroad nor the towns affected were

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...ing or able to assume. This last attempt came after Philip Church's death, but the timing or politics could not override the facts of the terrain.

If the Erie never got to Angelica, it did have a station at Belvidere.

Although poetry is an art not associated with Philip Church, it is interesting that it was the occasion of the opening of the Erie Railroad through the town of Amity where it crossed the Genesee at Philipsburg (now Belmont, New York), to Belvidere, that prompted the only example by Philip Church that we know of.

We are told that for this opening in 1851,

"Judge Philip Church presented for Belvidere Station a flag, representing an engine drawing sheaves of wheat in an open surprised look,

... York,  
Philip Church  
We are told that for this opening in 1851,

"Judge Philip Church presented for Belvidere station a flag, representing an engine drawing a large cannon and sheaves of wheat in an open bay; an Indian in ambush with a surprised look, his bow and arrows apparently falling from his grasp; and a startled running deer."

Underneath this was the following gem:

"BELVIDERE STATION

Energy And Skill

Where the fierce redman trod his pathless way,  
In search precarious, daily food to slay  
Or hid in ambush, sprung upon his foe  
Striking unseen the unsuspected blow;  
Now steam, resistless, spreads his fiery wings  
Where want depresses, wished for plenty springs;  
Dreadful weapons to our border draws  
Columbia's laws and war

Under

"BELVIDERE STATION

Energy And Skill

Where the fierce redman trod his pathless way,  
In search precarious, daily food to slay  
Or hid in ambush, sprung upon his foe  
Striking unseen the unsuspected blow;  
Now steam, resistless, spreads his fiery wings  
Where want depresses, wished for plenty springs;  
Or ponderous weapons to our border draws  
Or writes on ocean waves Columbia's laws  
Boast not proud white man in arts of peace and war  
Look up to heaven and see how small you are!"

Philip Church did not live to see either the Shawmut  
Railroad which finally made it to Angelica, nor its demise and  
subsequent ups and downs of railroad history in and for

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Angelica. As usual, his vision was ahead of its time, but even he could not see the pitfalls nor the basic problems. Angelica's resources could not support a railroad, even industry supporting railroads. Disasterous fires in the railroad shops which had been started in 1884 as an independent company put an end to that activity. The shops employed about one hundred and thirty-five men at their height, but declined after World War I, and were closed in 1939 and the line was abandoned in 1947.

Although Philip Church was named county judge in 1807, (actually first judge of the Court of Common Pleas for Allegany County) and from this acquired the title of "Judge" by which he was known for the rest of his life, his political career was not marked by a succession of offices. Rather he used his position to push those causes he felt merited his support.

The Allegany County History of Beers reports that he was associated on the Court of Common Pleas with Judge Griffin of

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manners, but a man of good common sense." Church held the court position for about fourteen years.

In 1819, Philip Church, associated with the honorable John Woodworth, Moses Van Campen and Clark Crandall of Alfred served on the Courts of Oyer and Terminer, and on June 12, 1820, the honorable Ambrose Spencer, as Chief Justice, with Philip Church, Moses Van Campen, Thomas Dole and Clark Crandall, as judges heard the case of the People vs. Madad McKay, a case of murder by poison of McKay's wife. The case was retried in 1820 with Philip Church as First Judge and the defendant was found by a jury not to be guilty.

In 1827-28, 22 years after Angelica was separated from the town of Leicester, Church became the supervisor of the town, giving legal weight to the squiresdom whose role he had consistently assumed from the day Angelica was laid out on surveyor's charts. His biggest political fight began almost immediately.

As early as 1806 Philip Church was one of those who

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signed a petition to the legislature for the division of the then Genesee county. There were many reasons why this seemed desirable. His land sales were lagging. Genesee County was much too large, and he was too far away. He suggested, moreover, that the new county have its county seat at--of course--Angelica.

Church was afraid that he might run into opposition on the part of the Ellicotts (agents of the Holland Land Company) and introduced the petition quietly. On April 7, 1806, the legislature approved the Church petition creating the county of Allegany and designating Angelica as the county seat. Wadsworth with similar thoughts in mind petitioned unsuccessfully for a new county with Geneseo as the county seat.

Ellicott actually wanted Genesee County divided into four counties. Since Allegany had been taken from Genesee in 1806, and Church wanted to enlarge it with two parcels of land taken from Steuben County, Ellicott agreed to support a petition for an enlarged Allegany County if Church



15  
Genesee  
on the horns of a dilemma. Robert Troup, who was the agent for the Pultney Estate found the removal of two parcels of Steuben County land was a threat to the Pultney interests. Ellicott needed the friendship and support of both men.

In March of 1808 with three ranges restored from Allegany, Genesee was divided into four counties: Genesee, Cattaraugus, Niagara and Chatauqua counties. Allegany was enlarged and the county seat was indeed Angelica. In addition, Allegany now had five towns: Angelica, Alfred, Caneadea, Nunda and Ossian.

This same year, 1808, Philip Church acquired for "his" town by an act of the legislature, a courthouse and jail to be erected for \$1,500 raised and levied on "freeholders and inhabitants" for that purpose. His old friend Moses Van Campen together with John Gibson and William Higgins were appointed commissioners in charge of construction.

By the time the War of 1812 was over Ellicott's

relationships with other people deteriorated markedly. He became morose, treated people rudely and Church is said to have remarked that Ellicott was "*wholly wanting in either civility or politeness.*" However, this did not prevent Ellicott and Troup from using the influence of Philip Church to lobby for a law in 1819 that would have limited the taxing powers of the county board of supervisors. How they wanted him to defeat a bill that had been introduced to tax absentee landowners for road maintenance. Ellicott is quoted as saying: "*Any sum which may be considered just and proper, to be allowed Mr. Church for his services, will be paid by us.*" Actually the voting was more on political lines than on concern for who paid taxes, but landholders defeated similar bills for the next ten years. In April of 1820 the bill died in the Senate. Church's connections served him well.

They did not always serve him that well, however. In April of 1858, less than three years before his death in January of 1861, an act was passed in the New York State

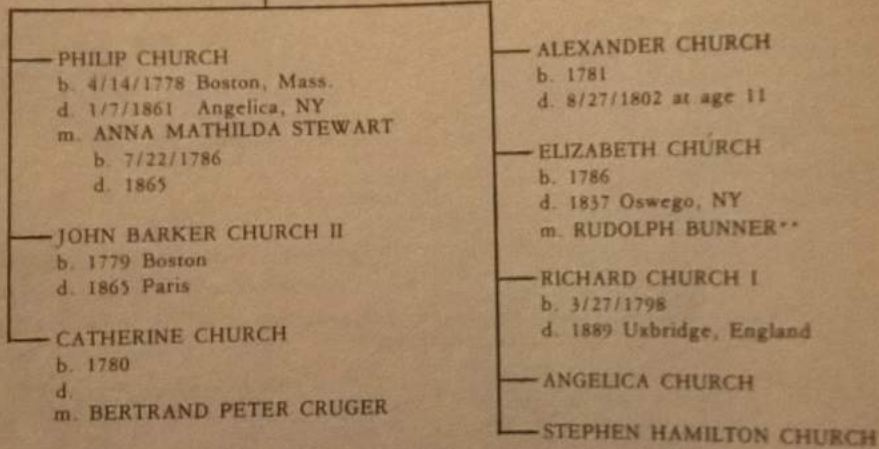
similar bills for the ... Church's connections served him  
bill died in the Senate. well.

They did not always serve him that well, however. In April of 1858, less than three years before his death in January of 1861, an act was passed in the New York State legislature providing for the immediate removal of the county seat of Allegany County to a point on the line of the Erie Railroad! The lines of battle were joined. The execution of the law was arrested by instituting legal proceedings in the state courts. In April of 1860 provision was made for two shire towns, and for the reconstruction and repair of the old court house at Angelica which had been condemned. Under the 1858 act a clerk's office had been erected at Belmont and up through 1875 courts were held alternately at the two towns. Eventually Belmont became the county seat, and another of Philip Church's endeavors became a memory. Church was not around by then.



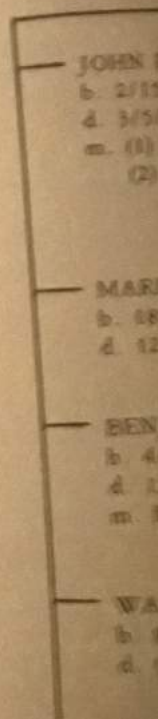
## The Family of JOHN BARKER CHURCH

JOHN BARKER CHURCH married ANGLEICA SCHUYLER\*  
 b. 1746 Lowestoft, England      b. 1756  
 d. 1818 London, England      d. 1814 New York



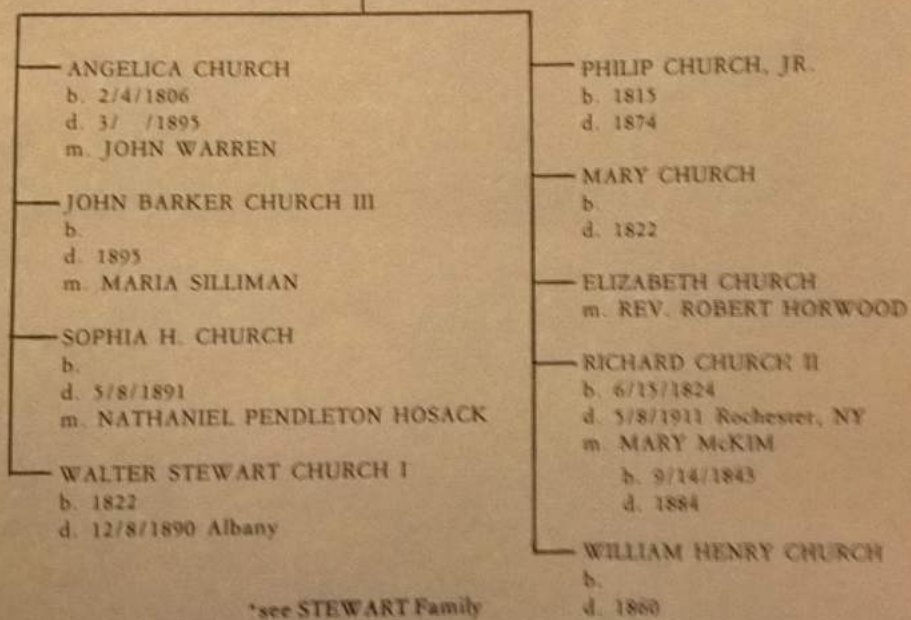
\*see SCHUYLER Family  
 \*\*see BUNNER Family

## The Family of PHILIP CHURCH



## The Family of PHILIP CHURCH

PHILIP CHURCH married ANNA MATHILDA STEWART\*



\*see STEWART Family