

London April 4th 1792

My Dear Sir,

This letter will most probably come to your hand as soon as the two which I wrote you by the packet of last month. In my last I had acquainted you that I had requested General Schuyler to invest 10,000 pounds sterling in the purchase of lands for me in America. Since then I have had a good deal of conversation with young Morris. He has not yet been able to pay either principal or interest of his father's debt, and he has proposed a sale of land in the Genesee Country. I have therefore purchased of him the nine townships in the enclosed plan- ( a word here I can't make out ) at 18 pence sterling per acre on condition that yourself and Schuyler approve of the purchase and think it better than he can do for me in America. Now my dear Sir, as this is a large concern be so good as to consult with Schuyler and inform me whether it will be for my advantage to keep this land or whether he and you think he can employ my money more advantageously in America. The deed, I find, is lodged in escrow with the State of Massachusetts. I am therefore not to release the mortgage until Mr. Morris redeems it, and (in case you think this an eligible purchase) until he gives you a satisfactory title. You will observe that the State of Massachusetts has reserved an undivided sixtieth part of Mr. Morris' Purchase to other persons. It will be necessary to be satisfied on that head, that no difficulty may hereafter arise in that account.

Angelica and her little Alexander are both well. the boy is to be christened next week. Gouverneur Morris in person and yourself by proxy are to do him the honor of being his sponsors. We will try to make him a clever fellow that you may not be ashamed of him. We all join in most affectionate love to Mrs. Hamilton, yourself, and the young ones. I am, My Dear Sir,

Most sincerely yours,

J. B. Church

Alexander Hamilton, Esqr.

This letter was found among the private papers of Alex. Hamilton by his son John C. Hamilton, from whom I received it.

J. B. Church  
(a great grandson of  
John Barker Church)

Copy  
J. B. Church  
April 4 1792

Private-papers



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April 4 1792



London April 4<sup>th</sup> 1792.

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J. B. Church

Alex. Hamilton Esq.

Copy

J. B. Church

April 4 1792.

Private papers

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being among the

private papers of

Alex Hamilton by

his son John C. Hamilton

from whom I received it

J. B. C.

(a. G. Hamilton of  
John South Church)



P H I L I P

son of Angelica

father of Angelica



Philip Church

The gospels according to O. Turner

and J. Minard

MACH



Elisha Johnson builder and contractor of Genesee Valley Canal from Rochester to Olean. It was important economically to the Genesee Country from 1837 to 1876.

When Robert Morris in 1797 sold land to Holland Land Company he kept 500,000 acres a strip 12 miles wide on both sides of Genesee River called "Morris Reserve."



Judge Philip Church



Moses Van Wick Church



VICTOR



\* 1st Court House

\* EVO

ANGELI



1st Settler on Ischua Creek Joseph McClurg 1806

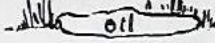


Col. Samuel M. Morgan 1811



\* BELVIDERE 1810 Philip Church

CUBA



A Franciscan friar d'Allion discovered oil here 1627 - first mention of petroleum in Americas.

BELMONT



Red Jacket orator and Seneca War Chief wearing medal given by Washington 1792



OLEAN

Grist mill of Adam and Robert Hoops 1809. Terminus of Genesee Valley Canal between the Erie Canal and the Allegheny River.



Nathanie Gideon W WELLSV

French priests in Genesee Country 1640-1708

Etienne Brulé

1615  
Aide to Champlain 1st white man of record to cross Western New York.

LaSalle's first visit to Irondequoit was in 1669 when searching for a route to the Mississippi River.



Wife of Cleveland  
ALE  
Lawanda Cr.  
Doolittle brothers  
on the 3b

Wing of house of Judge Alden Stevens  
1822. Robert S. Stevens  
Born here 1824.

1803 Eliza Webster

The Big Tree Treaty 1791  
Indians ceded to whites  
land west of Genesee  
William and J. Wadsworth

WARSAW  
Newspaper 1826  
\* 50TH gates \* Academy  
1824 (museum) 1846

CUYLERVILLE  
(Genesee Castle) 1779  
End of Sullivan's march.  
\* Torture Tree

GENESE  
Lost city of Williamsburgh

VERSFIELD SPRINGS  
Alden Stevens held 1843  
Institute for Teachers

GAINESVILLE  
\* Cong Church 1826  
Hiram Jordan  
Father of David Starr Jordan.

1839 Anti-Slavery Weekly. PERRY  
Whaley Tavern  
Here  
Dr. James Seaver  
1823 interviewed  
Mary Jemison  
before writing  
her life.

MOUNT MORRIS  
Gen. M...  
in ge...  
Cong...  
Bill...

JAVA  
Town meeting  
Share of  
Sugar Carrier  
Parsons



PIKE  
Drum-mas...  
Garnsey

CASTLE (MUSEUM)  
\* Van Arsdale built by  
Ziba Hurd 1817

Dr. James Seaver  
1823 interviewed  
Mary Jemison  
before writing  
her life.



Brooks Gr.  
\* Methodist  
1844

Many pioneers joined in  
Revolution and War of 1812  
Silas Beach  
Capt. Remond  
Jackson and  
Capt. Francis  
Wilburn, son



FREEDOM  
Daniel Bokeman  
Last prisoner  
of Revolution  
aged 109.



\* Last Seneca Council House  
moved from Canadea to  
Letchworth Park. At the  
1791 Treaty 17,927 acres  
were given to the  
Indian captive  
Mary Jemison.

PORTAGEVILLE  
Carry around  
three falls

NUNDA  
\* Ruins of  
Locks on the  
Genesee Valley  
Canal.



HOUGHTON  
Seminary 1833

3 Indian captives  
Horatio Jones  
Jasper Parrish  
Moses Van Campen  
invaluable as sur-  
veyors and as  
interpreters.

MACHINE  
No. 1000  
Butcher



Eliza Johnson builder and  
contractor of Genesee Valley  
Canal from Rochester to Olean.  
It was important economically  
to the Genesee Country  
from 1825 to 1835.

CANADEA. In this Indian  
village Moses Van Campen  
ran the gauntlet

When Robert Morris in  
1797 sold land to Holland  
Land Company he kept  
500,000 acres a strip 12  
miles wide on both  
sides of Genesee River,  
called "Morris Reserve."



Judge Philip Church



Moses Van  
Wick  
Church

Col. Samuel H.  
Morgan 1811



\* 1st Court House  
ANGEL

1st Settler on Ischua  
Creek Joseph  
McClurg 1806

CUBA  
oil

\* BELVIDERE 1810  
Philip Church

A Franciscan friar d'Allion  
discovered oil here 1627-  
first mention of petroleum  
in Americas.

BELMONT

OLEAN

Grist mill of Adam and  
Robert Hoops 1809.  
Terminus of Genesee  
Valley Canal between  
the Erie Canal and  
the Allegheny River.

Nathani  
Gideon  
WELLS



Etienne Brule



PHILIP CHURCH  
founder of  
a town called Angelica



\* This is incorrect. For  
correct information see  
"Land Sales from First Settle-  
ment to 1810" in Angelica Free  
Library.



Wellsville Library  
LH 974.78  
T

446

PHELPS AND GORHAM'S PURCHASE.

Orasmus Turner  
Alling 1852

CHAPTER IX.

ALLEGANY — JOHN B. CHURCH, AND PHILIP CHURCH.

JOHN B. CHURCH came from England to the American colonies, a young adventurer, a few years previous to the Revolution. He had been placed by a wealthy uncle in a large mercantile establishment in London, but the business not suiting his inclination, he emigrated, fixing his residence in Boston, where he prosecuted for several years, with great success, the business of an underwriter. When the Revolution broke out, or as soon as an army organization was perfected he was engaged in the commissary department, with Jeremiah Wadsworth, in which he continued throughout the war. Gen. Philip Schuyler, being also engaged in the commissary department for the northern division of the army, business relations led to an acquaintance, and before the close of the Revolution, Mr. Church married one of his daughters. The official duties of Messrs. Wadsworth and Church, embracing the care of the subsistence of the French army, an intimate acquaintance with the French military and naval officers of the Revolution, succeeded. Soon after the close of the Revolution — in '85, — some unliquidated accounts between the commissary department and the army of Rochambeau, made it necessary for Messrs. Wadsworth and Church to visit the French capital, where they remained with their families for eighteen months. Mr. Church removed his family to London, residing there and at a country seat in Berkshire, on the Thames, until '97, when he returned to America, and settled in the city of New York.

The eldest son of John B. Church, is the present Judge Philip Church, of Belvidere, Allegany county, the Pioneer of that region. In his early boyhood he was taken to Paris by his father and afterwards to England, receiving his education at the celebrated Eaton school. Returning to America, he became a student of law, with



his uncle Alexander Hamilton,\* and also his private Secretary. Changing his destination in life soon after his majority, and becoming the patron of new settlements in the wilderness.

Judge Church is now 71 years of age. With a yet vigorous intellect, his memory goes back to the early scenes of his youth, and calls up reminiscences of the American and French Revolutions, of England and English statesmen, which, although they belong to the province of general history, will, the author is confident, not be unacceptable, if preserved in these local annals.— See Appendix No. 18.

While pursuing his studies, the difficulties occurring with France, on the raising of the provincial army, he was commissioned as a Captain though he saw little of service, as the difficulty was soon adjusted.† Gen. Hamilton, as the agent of John B. Church, had in his absence, loaned to Robert Morris \$80,000 and taken a mortgage on Morris Square, Philadelphia; the lien being afterwards transferred to 100,000 acres of land, on Morris' Reserve in the now county of Allegany. In 1800 the mortgage was foreclosed, the land was sold at Canandaigua by Benj. Barton, then Sheriff of Ontario, and bid in by Philip Church for his father.‡

At the period of this sale, there was no white settler on all the territory now embraced in the county of Allegany, with the exception of two localities which will be named. The survey\*\* and settlement of the 100,000 acre tract was commenced under the general supervision of Philip Church. Shortly after he had graduated from the law office of Edmund Pendleton, where he had finished his law studies—in July 1801—he made a second advent to the Genesee country. Taking Geneva and Lyons in his route, he employed as

\*Gen. Hamilton married a daughter of Gen. Philip Schuyler.

†When the secretary of his uncle, and having frequent occasions to carry messages and papers to Washington, he was cautioned by General Hamilton to be punctual, if he wished to gain his esteem. When application was made for a commission for him in the army, Washington at first objected that he was too young; but observing that he remembered the promptness and punctuality of the young man, granted the commission.

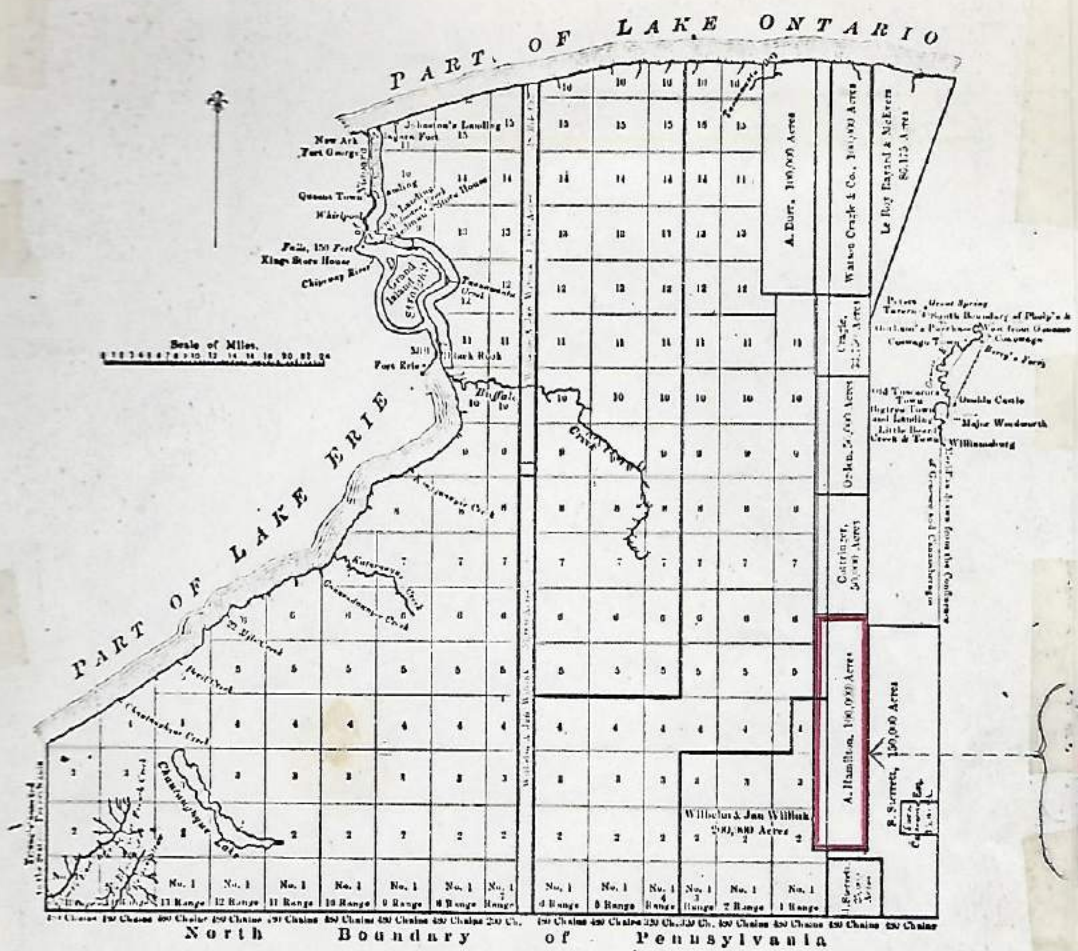
‡This was Judge Church's first visit to the Genesee Country. After his return, he visited a club with his father; among the members present, were Brockholst Livingston, Richard Varrick, Messrs. Bayard and Le Roy, Richard Harrison, Governor Morris. The conversation turned upon the wretched state of the road from New York to Albany. Philip Church remarked that they would have a good turnpike road from Albany to Canandaigua before there was one on the Hudson. He was pronounced beside himself by the club, and retiring, he was chided by his father for offering so rash an opinion.

Philip Church's first visit to the Genesee Country did not include a trip to the Church Tract because, from the deed he got, he couldn't tell where it was.

\*\*  
survey commenced  
by Adam Hoops for  
Robt. Morris 1798.  
Resurvey commenced  
by Moses VanCampen  
for Philip Church  
September 1810.  
Settlement commenced  
by Evert VanWickle  
for Philip Church  
1802. Exploration of  
the tract by Church,  
VanCampen and VanWickle  
in 1801.

incorrect.\*  
see footnote  
opposite page





A. Hamilton  
100,000 acres,  
Church Tract  
May 6 1800  
Liber 6 at 398  
Ontario County

MAP OF HOLLAND LAND COMPANY'S PRELIMINARY SURVEY 1797

footnotes page 447

\* In 1800 the mortgage was foreclosed and the land was sold at Canandaigua by Roger Sprague, then sheriff of Ontario, and bid in by Philip Church for \$4,000. The deed given Church was faulty in that the metes and bounds given therein placed the 100,000 acre tract astride the Transit Meridian Line, partly outside the Morris Reserve and intrenching on Holland Land Company. So it was decided among all the creditors of Robert Morris that the sheriff should sell all the Morris Purchase again and that Thomas L. Ogden should bid it all in, then that Ogden should convey to each creditor, without encroaching on any other creditor, an amount of land equal to that which each creditor thought he had purchased or on which he had taken a mortgage. The agreement to let Ogden bid in the 3.3 million acres is recorded in Ontario County Liber of Deeds 9 at page 221. The sheriff sold the whole purchase to Ogden May 13 1800 (recorded Liber 6 at page 413) and Ogden conveyed the 100,000 acre tract to John Barker Church April 28 1801 (Liber of Deeds 9 at page 247). The metes and bounds given in the deed place the tract east of the Transit Meridian Line, entirely in the Morris Reserve and not encroaching on Holland Land Company. If Philip Church had started his exploration in May 1800 he wouldn't have had any idea where the 100,000 acre Church Tract was.

(The map used by T. L. Ogden is on the reverse of this sheet.)



Z

E

W

Y

R

K

18° Longitude Wm Willinck & Jno Willinck Jr 83875 Ac.

Holland Land Company 800,000 Ac.

Holland Land Company 1,000,000 Ac.

2.6 miles 20 chains 34 links  
J. Watson 2700.54  
A. Cragle  
J. Greenleaf  
6 Miles  
Connecticut 100,000 Ac.  
Triangular Tract  
H. LeRoy  
Wm Bayard  
J. M. Evens  
M. Clarkson

12 Miles  
40,000 Acre Tract  
Wilhem & Jan Willinck  
Mill Yard Tract  
Part of Phelps & Gorham Purchase

44 miles 26 chains 48 links  
1091.66  
S. Williamson  
59,000 Ac.  
Samuel Ogden  
59,000 Ac.

RESERVE RIVER  
MORRIS  
Trustees of Harrison & Sterrett  
175,000 Ac.  
Western Boundary of Phelps & Gorham Purchase

Holland Land Co

1490  
W. & J. Willinck and  
W. & J. Willinck Jr.  
199,680 Ac.

2085.32 TRANSIT LINE  
John B. Church  
100,000 Ac.  
E. N. F. S. E.  
Liber 9 Page 247 4/28/1801

ROBERT  
LeRoy Bayard Evens  
1827.66

24 Miles  
John Sterrett  
25,000 AC  
W. Frances  
34,500 AC  
720

STATE

42° Latitude N.



This  
TRACT of LAND  
contains 100,000 Acres,

and is situated on the  
**GENESEO RIVER**

30 Miles South of  
**HERTFORD**, 20 East of the **ALLIGANY RIVER**  
& North of the **PENNSYLVANIA LINE**, and 16 West  
of the navigable waters of the **SUSQUEHANNAH**.

The Land is of an excellent quality, and the Country  
from the purity and abundance of the streams with which  
it is watered is remarkably healthy. Produce can be transported  
from within 16 miles of the Tract, down the Susquehanna, in  
Barks, to Baltimore at 2 shillings per Bushel.

A Town called *Angelica*, is laid out near the cen-  
tre of the Tract with 4 Lots in the middle of it upon which  
Churches and Schools are to be erected; for the building and  
supporting of which 200 Acres are reserved near the Town,  
and as the settlement advances, 200 Acres on the North, and  
200 Acres on the South part of the Tract will be appropri-  
-ated for a like purpose.

The proposed State Road from Catskill to Pres-  
que-Isle and New Connecticut is already opened as far  
as this Tract; upon which a settlement was first commenced in  
March 1804, since when a store has been established near the cen-  
tre of the Tract & a Grist and Saw-Mill erected.

The Lands will be sold at a moderate price on the fol-  
-lowing terms, which are calculated particularly to accommodate Ac-  
-tual Settlers.

Those purchasing 100 Acres and under to pay  $\frac{1}{20}$  cash,  $\frac{1}{20}$  in  
two years, without any interest, and the remain-  
-der in seven equal annual payments with interest  
from 100 to 200.  $\frac{1}{10}$  cash, and the remainder in 9 equal  
annual payments, with interest.

from 200 to 300  $\frac{1}{4}$  cash, and the remainder in 3 equal  
annual payments with interest.

from 300 to 400.  $\frac{1}{3}$  cash and the remainder in 2 equal  
annual payments with interest.

As an assistance to settlers in building good Houses, Boards will be  
sold to them at a low price, for their Notes payable in 9 Months.

(Shares of the Kingston Turnpike will be taken in payment for Land at par.)

For further particulars apply to the subscriber residing at *Angelica* who is proprietor of part of the Tract & duly authorized to dispose of  
the remainder.

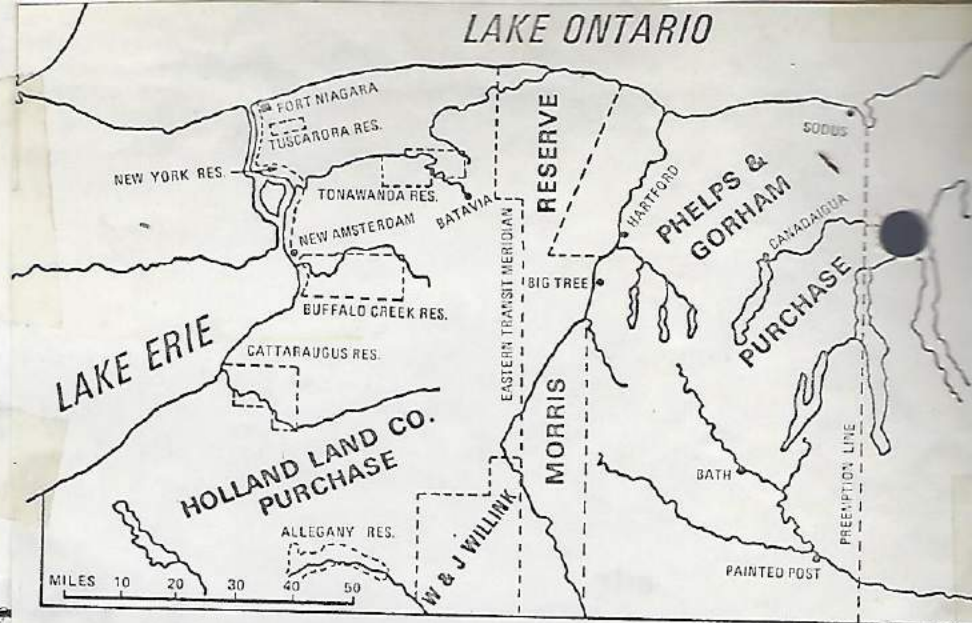
Philip Church.

or to his Agents

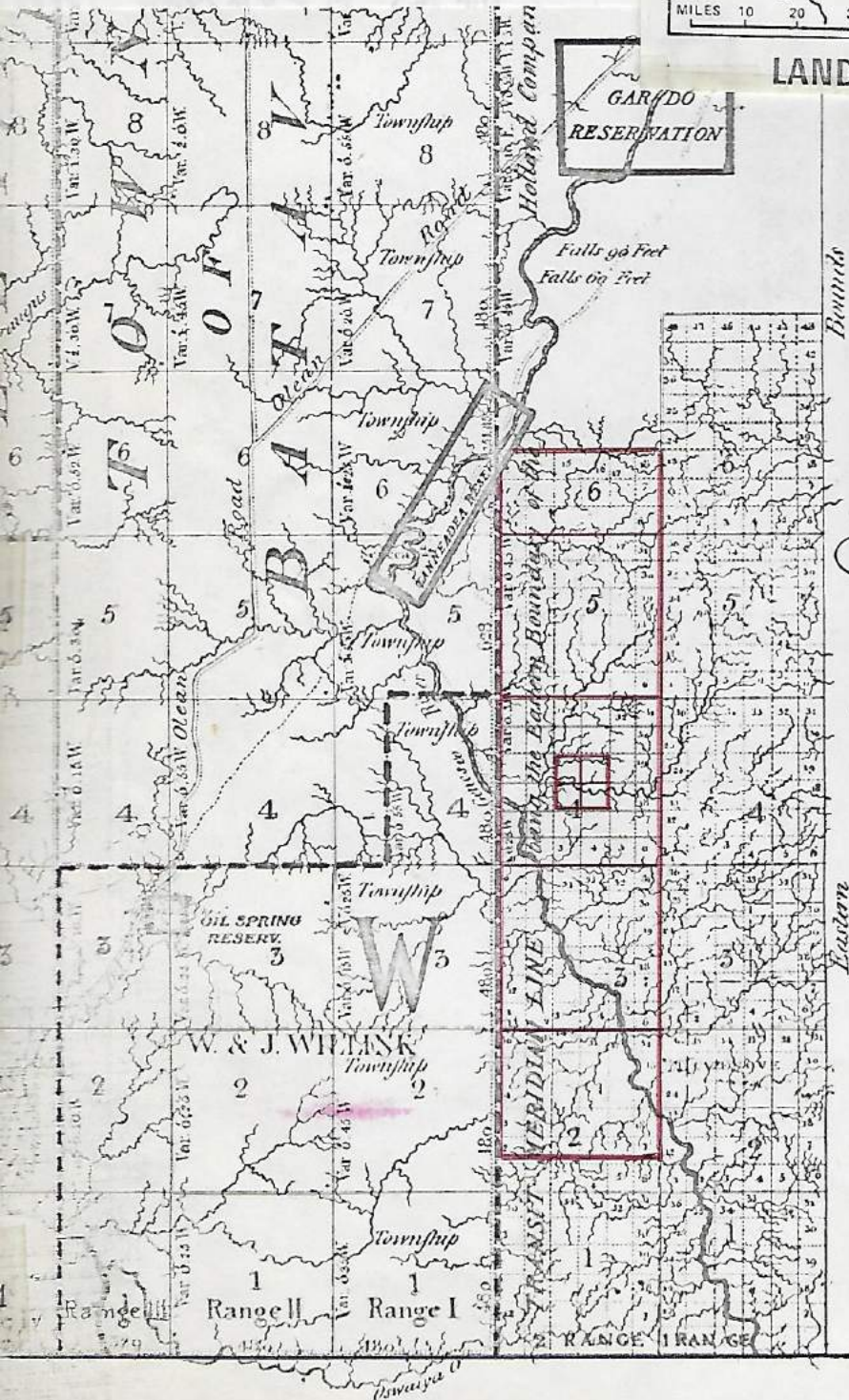
Evert Van Wickle.



LAKE ONTARIO



LAND HOLDINGS IN WESTERN NEW YORK



by  
*Joseph & B. Ellicott*  
 1800.

TO THE  
*Holland Land Company*

their General Agents  
*Theophilus Cazenove & Paul Busti Esqrs*

**THIS MAP**

*Is respectfully inscribed*

by the

**AUTHORS.**

1804

**EXPLANATION**

- Boundary line of Tracts & Towns
- Townships Tracts
- Reservations & Tracts
- Waggon Road
- Indian Path
- Indian Village

THIS MAP IS REPRODUCED FROM ONE IN THE GROSVENOR RESERVATION DIVISION OF THE SURVEY AND ERIE COUNTY

PENNSYLVANIA

LAT 42° N

Scale of Miles



LERROY BAYARD  
&  
M<sup>r</sup> EVERS

# Morris's Purchase

## or West Seneseo

In the State of New York:

Exhibiting

Part of the LAKES ERIE and ONTARIO, the  
Sources of NIAGARA CHAUTAUQUE LAKE  
and all the principal Waters, the Boundary  
lines of the several Tracts of Land purchased

By the

### Holland Land Company

William and John Williams  
and others.

Boundary lines of Townships  
Boundary lines of New York and  
Indian Reservations

Laid down from actual Survey

Also

A Sketch of part of Upper Canada

by  
Joseph & B. Ellicott  
1800.

TO THE

### Holland Land Company

their General Agents

Theophilus Casenore & Paul Baskin Esqrs

THIS MAP



Purchase

Bounds



## Chapter IX

448

## Allegany-- John B. Church and Philip Church

surveyor and local agent, Evert Van Wickle, who was accompanied by John Gibson, John Lewis and Stephen Price. Laying in provisions and camp equipage at Geneva and Bath, the party rendezvoused at the settlement, which had been commenced by the Rev. Andrew Gray and Moses Van Campen, in what is now Almond, Allegany county. Mr. Van Campen, who to use a sailor phrase, knew all the "ropes" of the forest, was enlisted in the expedition. Proceeding on, the party came to the house of —— Dyke, a solitary settler who occupied the advanced post of civilization, near the junction of the eastern line of Allegany with the Pennsylvania line; slept in a log barn, and then pushed on into the dark forests upon the Genesee River. This was the first breaking into the woods in all the region which is now embraced in the western portion of Allegany, Wyoming, southern portions of Erie, Chautauque and Cattaraugus, and all that part of Pennsylvania bordering upon this state, with the exception of Presque Isle, and the solitary family of Francis King, at Cerestown, near the Allegany river, that had a short time before exchanged a residence in the city of London for a solitary one in the backwoods of Pennsylvania, a days journey from their nearest neighbor.

The party made a pretty thorough exploration of the tract, camping and breaking up their camp from day to day, encountering almost constant rains and swollen streams. With Judge Church it was a youthful advent—a first introduction to the woods—and a pretty rugged specimen he encountered, as all will acknowledge who have traversed the alternating hills and valleys of Allegany. Arrived at the north-west corner of the tract, the party mostly returned to their homes; Judge Church and Van Campen, making up their minds for a *pleasure* trip, taking an Indian trail\* that bore off in the direction of Niagara Falls. This they pursued for two days, when they found themselves in the Seneca Indian village. They made their appearance in the little white settlement of "New Amsterdam," (Buffalo) in a sorry plight; with torn clothes, beards unshaven, tanned and camp smoked. They visited the Falls, returned

\* This trailed from the Indian village of Canaëda on the Allegany river, over the summit that divides the waters of the Genesee from those of Lake Erie, fell into the valley of the Cattaraugus, then passed over into the valley of the west branch of Buffalo creek, and pursued generally, the course of that stream, to the Indian village at its junction with the main stream, four miles from its mouth.

\*\* The first breaking into the woods in all the region of the Church Tract was the running of the eastern transit meridian line along the tract's western boundary. This was done in 1798 by Joseph & Benjamin Ellicott, surveyors for Holland Land Company. The wide swath cut by them through the woods and the numbered milestones they set along the transit line provided the Church-VanCampen-VanWickle exploring party three years later an easy means to find the central township of the Church Tract (T4 R2 MR) and the center of the central township (present village of Angelica). The townships in which lay the Church Tract had already been subdivided into sections or lots before the exploring party saw the tract. It had been done by Adam Hoops, surveyor for Robert Morris. See the map of Holland Land Company in the hall of Angelica Free Library.

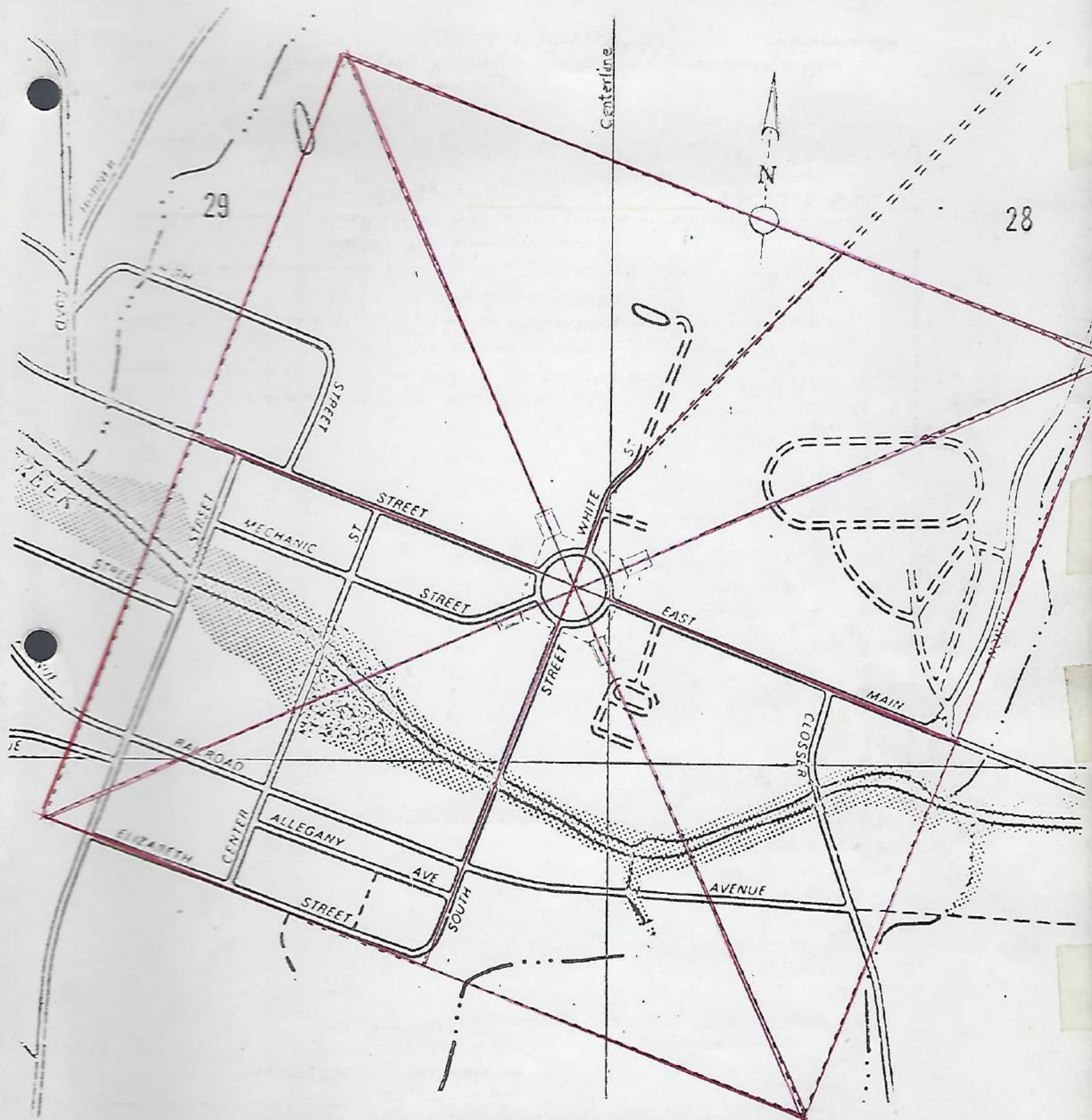


to Buffalo, and took the "white man's trail"\* on their return to Bath. No such tramps had been contemplated, and soon after leaving Buffalo, money and provisions had both been exhausted; all but a surplus of chocolate, which they exchanged along with the new settlers for meals of victuals. Mr. Ellicott had just got his land office built at Batavia. At Ganson's there was a militia training, the first that was ever had west of the Genesee river. Richard W. Stoddard being one of the officers, supplied Mr. Church with money; and proceeding on to Geneseo, they visited Mr. Wadsworth, whom Mr. Church had become acquainted with in New York.

\* Returning to Lyons, Judge Church arranged with Mr. Van Wickle to go on to the Allegany lands, and commence surveys and improvements, having previously designated the site of Angelica, as a primitive location. A mill calculated for one run of stones, and a saw mill, was soon commenced, and a road opened from four miles west of Hornellsville, (west line of Steuben) to Angelica.† This road was cut through by Silas Ferry and John Ayers. The saw mill was in operation in 1802, the grist mill in 1803. A framed dwelling house for Mr. Van Wickle, a small log land office, and a few shantees to live in, were also erected. Judge Church remembers that the transportation of his mill irons from Albany to Angelica, cost \$6.00 per cwt. All the early transporting was done with sleighs and wagons, from Geneva (80 miles;) with light loads, a trip would generally consume seven days. In 1802, Joseph Taylor opened a tavern. In the same year, Judge Church opened a small store, which was managed by John Gibson, one of his companions in the primitive exploration, who now survives, a resident of the neighborhood of Angelica, aged 72 years. John Ayers who helped cut out the first road leading into Angelica, is also alive, a resident near the Transit Bridge, on the river. In 1803 a road was opened from Angelica to Belvidere, and in 1805 was continued on to the present site of Hobbyville, to which point Dr. Hyde had advanced and erected a log tavern house. This was in 1807; the road was for several years but little better than a woods' path.

\* Returning to Lyons in Sept 1801, Philip Church arranged with Mr. VanWickle to go on to the Church Tract and commence surveys and improvements in a platted area near the centre of township 4 range 2 of the Robert Morris Reserve, having previously designated the site of Angelica as a primitive location near the centre of the Church Tract, near a good head of water, and near the proposed route of the Bath to Lake Erie Turnpike. The marker in the center of Park Circle is the center of the village plat laid out by VanWickle in 1802. The original plat was a 62 chain square, divided into eight parts by the centerlines of South Street, East Main Street, West Main Street and White Street and the four triangular lines midway between those streets. The lines of this original plat can be determined from information in the Church Family Papers at Angelica Free Library.





Lines of original village plat superimposed on 1975 flood zone map. The only parts now visible are:

- The marker in the center of Park Circle
- East Main Street centerline
- West " " "
- South Street "
- White " "
- Elizabeth Street



Eastern  
Transit  
Meridian  
Line

Holland Land Company Morris Reserve Pulteney Estate  
Phelps and Gorham

WYOMING COUNTY		LIVINGSTON COUNTY		
T6,R2 HC CENTERVILLE	T6,R1 HC HUME	MR GRANGER	MR GROVE	
T5,R2 HC RUSHFORD	T5,R1 HC CANEADEA	T5,R2 MR ALLEN	T5,R1 MR BIRDSALL	BURNS
T4,R2 HC NEW HUDSON	T4,R1 HC BELFAST	T4,R2 MR ANGELICA	T4,R1 MR WEST ALMOND	T4,R7 PE
T3,R2 HC CUBA	T3,R1 HC FRIENDSHIP	T3,R2 MR AMITY	T3,R1 MR WARD	ALMOND
T2,R2 HC CLARKSVILLE	T2,R1 HC WIRT	SCIO	WELLSVILLE	T3,R7 PE ALFRED
T1,R2 HC GENESEE	T1,R1 HC BOLIVAR	T1,R2 MR ALMA	T1,R1 MR WILLING	T2,R7 PE ANDOVER
				T1,R7 PE INDEPENDENCE

STATE of PENNSYLVANIA  
PRESENT MAP of Allegany County is used to show perspective in conjunction with old town of ANGELICA.

42° N. Latitude

Area within the red outline is that of the original Town of Angelica erected by act of the legislature February 25 1805. 28th session Chap XV Page 36

The north-south lines were 34 miles in length or 2720 chains. The east-west lines were 12 miles or 960 chains. The lines enclosed 10 standard sixmile square townships and two thirds of two more (present Granger and Grove). The acreage in the original Town of Angelica was 261,120, of which John B. Church owned 100,000. On March 11 1808 the New York Legislature, in Chapter XXXVIII of laws of the 31st session, reduced the area in Town of Angelica to that of 10 townships or 230,400 acres. The area dropped was in present Granger and Grove. Further reductions in size followed so that, by Apr. 15 1833, the town of Angelica had been reduced to its present size of one standard sixmile square township. It is the fourth township in the second range of townships in the Robert Morris Reserve, T4 R2 MR



## Chapter IX

450 Allegheny-- John B. Church & Philip Church

From the commencement of settlement, until 1805, Allegheny was a part of the town of Leicester, Ontario county, and the new settlers had to go to the old village of Leicester on the Genesee river, via Hornellsville, to town meeting. In 1805 what is now Allegheny county, was erected into a new town, and called Angelica.\* In April of that year the first town meeting was held at the house of Joseph Taylor. Benjamin Briggs was elected supervisor, Jacob S. Holt, town clerk. Other town officers:—John T. Hyde, David Church, Luke Goodspeed, Sylvester Russel, Elijah Church, Wm. Barney, Evert Van Wickle, Joseph Taylor, Abisha Cole, Wm. S. Heydon, Stephen Waterman, Thomas Cole, John Bennett, Ezra Bacon, George Otto, Jacob S. Holt.

\* Incorrect. See opposite page.

In this year there are the records of roads, as follows:—Through main street of Angelica; from Angelica to Indian line, or Canaedeas, from Angelica to south line of Van Campen's farm; from Angelica to Philipsburgh mills; to Philips creek; to Vandermark's creek, to Dike's settlement.

No resolutions were passed in 1805. In 1806 Luke Goodspeed was supervisor. It was resolved that "every man's yard should be his pound;" that the town of Angelica should pay \$2,50 for every wolf caught within the limits of the town.

At the first election, April, 1805, John Nicholas had 16 votes for Senator: for members of Assembly, Alexander Rhea, had 30 votes, Ezra Patterson 25, Daniel W. Lewis 16, Jeremiah Munson 12. In 1806, Daniel W. Lewis as a candidate for Congress, had 51 votes: for the Senate, Joseph Annin 42, Evens Wherey 38, John McWhorter 33, Freegift Patterson 33; for Assembly, Philip Church 82, Timothy Burt 35, Philetus Swift 33, James Reed 32, Asahel Warner 30, Joseph M'Clure 6. In 1807, as candidates for Governor, Morgan Lewis had 37 votes, Daniel D. Tompkins 28.

Judge Church spent several months in the new settlement, in each of the years 1801, '2, '3, and '4. In 1803, he selected as his residence, a location upon the Genesee River, where he now resides four miles from Angelica, which was named Belvidere. His large farm is a beautiful sweep of flats, table and up land. The Judge, who in his prime, was somewhat noted for athletic feats, is said to have looked out the favorite spot, by climbing tall pine trees upon the highlands. The winding of the river at that point, and the frequent breaks in the ranges of highlands as they rise from the valley, sur-



grounds cultivated fields, a fine mansion with its English lawn, cultivated groves, orchards and gardens,—with a varied, wild and romantic landscape. The primitive framed house—built in 1803—which stood for years, an outpost of civilization, is yet preserved; its architecture, its old fashioned cut nails, marking a period when it must have looked almost aristocratic. Its founder still lives, but how many of the early men of the Genesee country, who have been sheltered under that venerable roof, have long since gone to their graves!

Belvidere is retired and secluded, even now. After an occupation of nearly half a century, the guest of its hospitable founder, will often be waked from his slumbers, by the crack of the rifle, and the baying of hounds upon the surrounding hills. How must it have been when miles of forest intervened between it and the nearest settlements, and those settlements far away from the earlier ones of the Genesee country!

In 1805, Judge Church married the daughter of General Walter Stewart, of Philadelphia,\* transferring her at the age of eighteen years, from city life and its associations, to the far off home in the wilderness, that has been described. The then young wife—the now venerable matron—remembers that woods journey, and describes it, even in a vein of gaiety and humor. There was the long and tedious journey from Albany to Geneva, and Bath; then the stage wagon, over a wood's road to Hornellsville; and then when wheels could no longer be used, the horseback ride over what was but little better than a wood's path, to Angelica, and her new home at Belvidere. With a characteristic gallantry, Thomas Morris, then an active promoter of settlement, in the Genesee country, accom-

\* Gen. Stewart had a command in the Pennsylvania line during the Revolution. His house in Philadelphia was often the hospitable retreat of Washington, La Fayette, Mifflin, and other of the eminent men of the Revolution. Mrs. Church has a portrait of her loom of the family, a relic of the father of his country. It is his portrait in a frame; upon the back of the frame is pasted an original autograph addressed to Mrs. Stewart, which accompanied the portrait. It was something unique in its kind at the time. In the note, Washington with characteristic modesty, begs Mrs. Stewart to regard it "not so much for any merit of the original, as for its excellence as a work of art; the production of a young lady."

Extract from Washington's general order book, Moore's House, 1779:—"The commander in chief directs a general court martial to be held at the usual place to-morrow morning, at 10 o'clock, for the trial of Col. Arnaud; Col. Walter Stewart to preside."

By a resolution of Congress, medals were ordered struck for Gen. Wayne, Major General Stewart and Lt. Col. Fleury, for their gallant conduct in the storming of Stony

\*\* This primitive framed house was called the White House. It blew down in a windstorm in the early part of the 20th century. There were also several framed houses started in the village in 1803, some of them still standing, though obscured by "improvements" and additions. These can be located by the use of the Library's "Record of Land Sales from First Settlement to 1810" in Church Family Papers and by visual inspection of present houses in the village.



## Chapter IX

452 Allegany--John B. Church & Philip Church

panied her in this her bridal tour to the wilderness. She had her first experience in housekeeping, and lived for several years, miles away from neighbors; often the business of her husband calling him away for weeks; her only companion a colored female domestic, and a small boy.\* She made an early acquaintance with the Indians at Canaëda, and was a favorite with them. Upon one occasion, in the absence of Judge Church, she attended one of their festivals, contributing to its feast out of her stores, and enjoying with a high relish their Pagan rites, dances and rude sports. They gave her as a name, "Ye-nun-ke-a-wa," or the "first woman that has come;" having reference to settlement upon the river. Judge Church being in England on the breaking out of the war of 1812, a party of Canaëda Indians, headed by a chief, went to Belvidere, and in gratitude for Mrs. Church's kindness to their people, offered to keep a guard around her house, to protect her from the British Indians. Regarding herself as secure from invasion, in the woods of Allegany, she thanked them but declined their proffered gallantry.

John B. Church died in London, in 1816. His sons, other than Philip Church, were:—John B. Church, who now resides in Paris; Alexander, who died young, and Richard, who now resides in England. His daughters became the wives of Bertram P. Cruger, of New York, and Rodolph Bunner, late of Oswego.

The family of Philip Church, now consists of John B. Church of New York, who married a daughter of Professor Silliman Walter and Henry Church, of New York; Philip Church, who resides near Belvidere, and Richard Church, who resides at the homestead. Daughters:—Mrs. John Warren, of New York, Mrs. Pendleton Hoosick, of New York, and an unmarried daughter, residing with her parents.

The southern portion of all that part of Allegany, which is upon the Holland Purchase, was not settled until just preceding the war of 1812. As early as 1804, a few families had settled at Olean, but no road from Angelica to that point was opened until 1809 or '10, and then but a woods road. It was surveyed by Moses Van Camper-

\* There was much of woman's nature in her reply, in long after years, to an observation made to her, expressing some surprise that she could have endured such a change—from a gay and social city to the woods:—"Oh," said she, "I was just the one to do it, I had youth, health; to be sure it was pretty hard at first, but the relations of a wife, to which was added the cares of a mother, soon reconciled me to my new home."



Allegany--John B. Church & Philip Church 53

In 1815, and soon after settlers dropped in, began to be worked by them and the proprietors of Olean; though when it began, in 1816, 1817, to be thronged with western emigrants on their way to embark upon the Allegany, it was only by sleighing they could get along comfortably; when that left them, as it often did, they plodded through sloughs, and over stumps and roots, making slow progress. There are emigrants on the Ohio and Wabash and in southern Illinois, who remember their early journey through the woods of Allegany and Cattaraugus, as by far the most trying scene they encountered upon their journey. Soon after 1816, a state road was laid there, the state making a small appropriation, but the pay for its construction principally made dependent upon the proceeds of tolls. It was completed in 1822. The road was principally built by David D. Howe.

In 1805 Judge Church purchased and had drove to Belvidere twenty-four sheep. Arriving late in the evening, they were folded close to the house. In the morning a brother-in-law, from New York, being his guest, he invited him out early to see them. Approaching the pen, they found 19 of the 24 lying dead. The wolves had tracked them in, and made the havoc. As is usual, where they have a plenty of victims, they had only bitten the throats, and exhausted the blood. The woods of Allegany were especially the haunts of wild beasts; trapping and hunting was a serious diversion of the new settlers, from the work of improvement.

In early years, the Post-office nearest Angelica, was at Bath, 40 miles distant. The citizens clubbed, and contracted with William Barney to make the trip, carrying letters and papers once a month. A blind boy of Mr. Barney made the trips, until he was killed by a fall from his horse.

There was no physician in Allegany, in the earliest years; Judge Church says he brought in a medicine chest, and "Buchan's Family Medicine," and occasionally made prescriptions. The nearest physician, Dr. Niles, in Steuben county. The first settled physician in Angelica, was Dr. Ellis, who was succeeded by Dr. Southworth, now of Lockport.

The primitive religious meetings were held in the loft of Judge Church's store house, by the Rev. Andrew Grey. "He was a broad shouldered man," says Judge Church, "of extraordinary muscular power; I remember his getting so earnest on one occasion, in en-



## 454 Allegany--John B. Church &amp; Philip Church

forcing religious precepts upon his backwoods congregation, that in his gestures, he knocked our store desk to pieces, that we gave him for a pulpit."

That part of the Morris' Reserve, in Allegany, which constituted the Church Tract, was six miles wide, lying east of, and adjoining the Holland Company's lands. In the division among Mr. Morris creditors, another tract, six miles wide, containing 150,000 acres fell into the hands of Sterritt and Harrison, merchants of Philadelphia; and in turn, this was cut up into small tracts and divided among their creditors. This large tract was mostly kept out of market until after 1815. South of the Church and Sterritt tract on the Pennsylvania line, is another tract of 37,000 acres, which fell into the hands of Willing & Francis, also merchants of Philadelphia; Mr. Willing, of the firm, was President of the old United States Bank.

The first settlement founded after Angelica, was at Van Campen's creek, in the direction of Olean. This name was given during the primitive advent of Mr. Church, in honor of his woods' companion Mr. Van Campen. Harrison and Higgins were the first settlers. Six or seven miles up the river, above Philipsburgh, a settlement was commenced by Joseph and Silas Knight. The first settlement down the river, was founded by the Sandfords.

No new country has probably ever been opened for sale and settlement, that had as rugged features, as much of difficulty to overcome, as the territory which comprises the county of Allegany. Heavily timbered throughout, with the exception of small spots upon the river, it was many years before the roots were out so as to admit of easy cultivation. The new settlements in all early years were extremely isolated. The wide forests of the Holland Purchase bordering upon them, had been but little broken into, as late as 1809 or '10, and after that for many years, settlement upon them advanced but slowly. When the settlers began to have any thing to dispose of, they had no market, but such as involved a ruinous cost of transportation, over long woods, roads, and up and down steep hills. The very earliest years, however, were far more prosperous than a long period that succeeded. Black salts, pot and pearl ashes, and grain could be taken to Hornellsville, and from thence go to Baltimore, where it would command cash. This made for a few years, pretty brisk times; but the navigation was precar-



ous, and at best, had in each season but a short duration; and soon came on European wars, the embargo to bear especially heavy upon the enterprise and prosperity that had begun to dawn in the secluded backwoods. Pine lumber, was good for nothing, beyond the home uses of the new settlers. It was too far from the navigable waters of the Allegany, even if there had been roads; and too far from the northern older settlements, to allow of any considerable market in that direction. The best of pine trees, instead of being any help to the new settler, was a great hindrance, for they constitute the most difficult clearing of new lands that is encountered. The first considerable market for the pine lumber of Allegany, was at Mt. Morris and Dansville, after the completion of the Genesee Valley canal to those points.

Independent of other hindrances to prosperity — or especially to agricultural improvement — two prominent ones have existed: — The mountains, the valleys and the streams, had attractions for the hunter, the trapper and the fisherman, and slow progress in felling the forest, neglected fields, and dilapidated log tenements, were the consequences. The free use of whiskey in all the new settlements of the Genesee country, was a curse and a blight, the consequences of which — the manner that it retarded prosperity and improvement — the strong men that it made weak — the woe and the sorrow that it carried to the log cabins of the wilderness — would form a theme that might be regarded as an innovation here; but elsewhere, in its appropriate place, would "point a moral," though it would not "adorn a tale." Especially was this an evil where men were attracted by the causes that have been named, from legitimate pursuits. The other local hindrance succeeded when lumbering became a sufficient object to draw men away from agricultural improvements.

Soon after 1807, a serious embarrassment was added to other difficulties upon the Church tract, which constituted nearly all the settled portions of Allegany. John B. Church, who was then residing in New York, became embarrassed, principally in consequence of French spoliations upon American commerce; having made large ventures as an underwriter.\* The title of one half of the

\* His heirs have now large, and as it would seem just claim upon our government, growing out of this. By Treaty with France, our government assumed payment of the claims.



100,000 acre tract, was in his son, Philip Church, but there had been no division; a mixed interest was assigned to trustees, for the benefit of his creditors, and there was no final division and settlement until 1815. In all this time there was a distrust of title, which hindered settlement, and created an unsettled state of things, as the same cause always will. \*

The war of 1812 prostrated all of enterprise and progress in all the newly settled portions of the Genesee country, where they had no surplus produce, were consumers instead of producers. The new settlements of Allegany furnished their full quota of men for the frontier, drawn from feeble settlements, where they could least be well spared; some were left upon battle fields, died in hospitals, or returned to die of disease contracted upon the frontier. Peace had but just been concluded, when the cold and untoward season of 1816, came upon them, its biting frosts upon hill and valley, destroying all their hopes of sustenance, creating distress and want, driving, in many instances, men to the game in the forest, the fish in the streams, and wild roots and herbs, as their only resources to ward off a famine. Independent of their own sufferings and privations, they had quartered upon them the poor Indians of Canaëda, who were reduced to the extremity of want. Then came propitious seasons, life and activity; for a few years a tide of emigration flowed through their midst, on their way to Olean, and down the Allegany, creating a home market for their produce. This lasted, gradually declining, until the Erie canal had reached its western terminus, when emigration was entirely diverted, and their main roads and public houses were deserted. The Erie canal so diffusive in its benefits, stimulating to life and activity, in all other localities of western New York, but came to crush the hopes, and depress the energies of the people of Allegany and Cattaraugus. Recovering from its first effects gradually, and remotely, its benefits began to reach them, even before the construction of the Valley canal.

It is after almost a half century's struggle, but for Allegany the "better time" has come. The whistle of the steam cars are startling the deer that yet linger in her forests; the echoes of the boatman's horn, ere these imperfect annals will issue from the press, will be sounding along the valley of the upper Genesee; the dark forests are rapidly disappearing; the neat framed house is taking the place of the moss covered log cabin; all is putting on the appearance of re-

\*

**Suggested reading:**

- Robt. Morris's mortgage to A. Hamilton in Ontario County Liber of Mortgages 3 at p.181  
 Sheriff's deed to Philip Church in Ontario County Liber of Deeds 6 at page 398  
 Agreement to divide the Morris Reserve in Ontario Co. Liber of Deeds 9 at page 221  
 Thos. L. Ogden's deed to John B. Church in Ontario Co. Liber of Deeds 9 at page 247  
 John B. Church & Angelica, his wife, give undivided half interest to Philip Church  
 in Allegany County Liber of Deeds A at page 227 March 31 1807  
 Land sold before April 1 1807 is shown in a booklet among the Church Papers in  
 Angelica Free Library, "Land Sales from First Settlement" pp 6,9,10  
 Mortgage to Wm. Short Apr. 1 1807 in Allegany Co. Liber of Mortgages A at page 1  
 John B. Church & Angelica, h.w., give undivided half interest to trustees for creditors  
 in Allegany County Liber of Deeds A at page 278 on December 15 1810  
 Short forecloses and gets one fourth of entire Church Tract. Read all about it in  
 Allegany County Liber of Deeds B at page 129.  
 Remainder of Church Tract divided three ways. See Allegany Deeds Liber B at page 198  
 Absentee landlords May 11 1816  
 Henry Beekman, New York City, see Allegany Deeds Liber B at page 275  
 Bertram P. Cruger, New York City, see Allegany Deeds Liber B at page 357



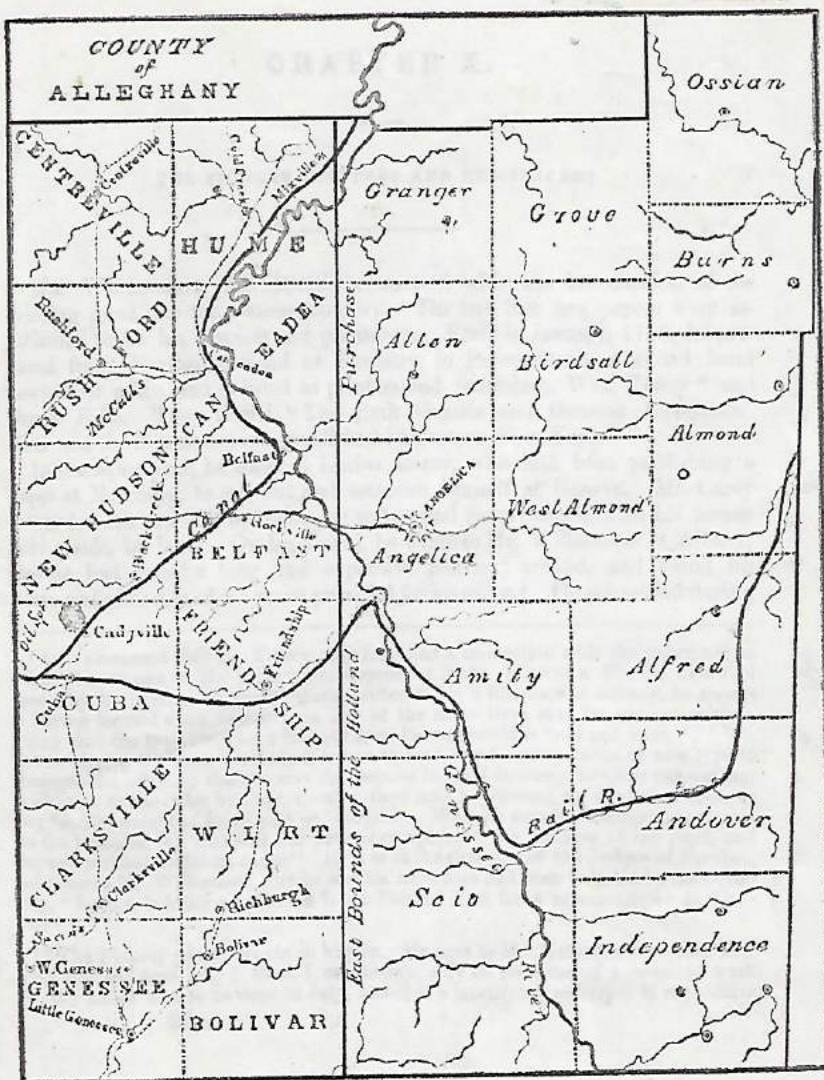
Chapter IX

Allegany County,

John B. Church and Philip Church 457

newed enterprise and rapid progress. Long almost a "terra incognitia" her near neighbors on the "northern plains," her soil, her climate, pure water and pure atmosphere, is beginning to be appreciated; and she will soon occupy a better relative position in the empire region of the Empire State.

"terra incognitia"  
1851





## [NO. 18.]

*On his return to England, John B. Church having been a decided partizan in the Revolution, and moreover, having connected himself by marriage, with so notorious a "rebel" family as the Schuylers, found himself not in repute with the high tory party, and had especially the disfavor of his patron uncle. Fortunately, however, the American adventurer was as independent in his purse as in his politics, and soon grew in favor with Fox and Pitt, and their party. He was elected a member of the British Parliament, from Wendover, warmly espoused the liberal party, and adhered to Mr. Fox, when it was said in decision that "his party could go to the House of Commons in a hackney coach."*

The country residence of the family was but four miles from Windsor Castle, and the family physician was the physician of George the Third. Long before it transpired publicly, the physician informed Mr. and Mrs. Church of the King's aberration of mind, and he did not hesitate, confidentially, to attribute the developement of hereditary tendency, to the loss of American Colonies.

The house of Mr. Church in London was a frequent resort of Fox and Pitt; of prominent Americans who visited London; and on the breaking out of the French Revolution, when the refugees fled to London, he had as guests, Talleyrand, and many of his companions, with most of whom he had become acquainted in America and Paris. Judge Church speaks of the happy faculty of the French to be gay and light hearted even in the darkest hours of adversity. The men who had fled from what M. A. Thiers calls the "Sanguinary Republic of '93" — from the rack and the guillotine — statesmen and courtiers — stripped of their possessions and dependent upon the purses of their friends for the means of subsistence; were yet cheerful and seemingly happy, seeking amusements, and endeavoring to make dull and smoky London as gay as their own devoted capital had been.

In Paris, Judge Church had made the acquaintance of Talleyrand, and it was by means of the assistance he rendered him that the refugee Minister was enabled to reach this country, when the British Ministers had ordered him to leave London in twenty-four hours. Afterwards, when he had returned to Paris, and was flourishing again under a new dynasty, he remembered the kindness, but the demonstrations of his gratitude were marked with the peculiar characteristics of the man. John Church, a son of his benefactor, having taken up his residence in Paris, received from him a general invitation to all his evening parties, and besides, an invitation that at his weekly dinners there was always a "knife, fork, and plate for him." This had continued for a while, when the welcome guest, discovered that some change had come over his host; — coldness and reserve had taken the place of cordial welcomes. An explanation followed. One evening as Mr. Church entered his apartments, Talleyrand beckoned him to a deep window recess and whispered: — "Mr. Church, I am always happy to see you, but you must not feel unpleasantly if I pay no attention to you; I am so watched that I cannot be civil to any person from England or America." The anecdote will be adjudged in good keeping with the whole character of the man.

Judge Church relates many anecdotes which illustrates the ill feeling that prevailed in England, after the Revolution, and especially pending the Jay treaty, to every thing that was American. His school-fellows at Eaton, were generally the sons of the nobility, and of high tory blood, and their boy partizanship could hardly tolerate the sentiments of a representative of the disenthralled colonies. French politics was soon introduced, and the young American, following the lead of his father, was inclined to be a French republican; manifesting upon one occasion a little exultation over the fate of Louis XVI, he provoked the bitterest resentments of his school-fellows.

When the family left London, in '97, there was employed about the King's household, a young Frenchman, in the capacity of a cook or confectioner. He had made



What Mr Turner says of Holland Land Company and Pultney Estate settlers could have been said of settlers in the Church Tract:

"In many instances almost interminable credits were given and that enabled men to possess and finally to pay for land, who could not have done so if payment at a very low rate had been demanded in hand. There is not in the history of the world a better example of the advantages of credit than is furnished in the settlement of this region. It has conferred homes and competence upon many who would not have had them if pay down had been the order of the early days. There were few actual settlers, when most of the Genesee country was brought into market, who could pay down even 25¢ per acre. The present system (1851) of selling the wild lands of the United States would not have answered for that day (1802-1810). Where there was one settler who could pay for his land before working it out of the soil there are now (1851) twenty."

page 566

"As a nation, or a people, in the aggregate, ours was the poorest that ever entered upon the experiment of separate and independent existence; and the settlement of this region commenced at the lowest point of depression. Those who had homes in New England, and elsewhere - the means of comfortable subsistence - generally chose to remain where they were - leaving it mostly for those who were impelled to it by necessity to encounter the then hard task of settling and improving the wilderness. No new region of our entire country has been settled by a class of emigrants as poor in the aggregate as were the pioneers of the Genesee country. The instances of those who had enough to pay the expense of emigration, get possession of their lands, and make any considerable improvements, were few. Those who had enough to place themselves in their new homes and purchase the necessities of life, until they could produce them, were not numerous..The great bulk of the pioneers had little left when they had planted themselves in the forest and erected their rude log cabins. In many instances they parted with necessary raiment, with household furniture that could not easily be spared, with things essential to their comfort, either to pay the expenses of emigration or to piece out the means of subsistence."

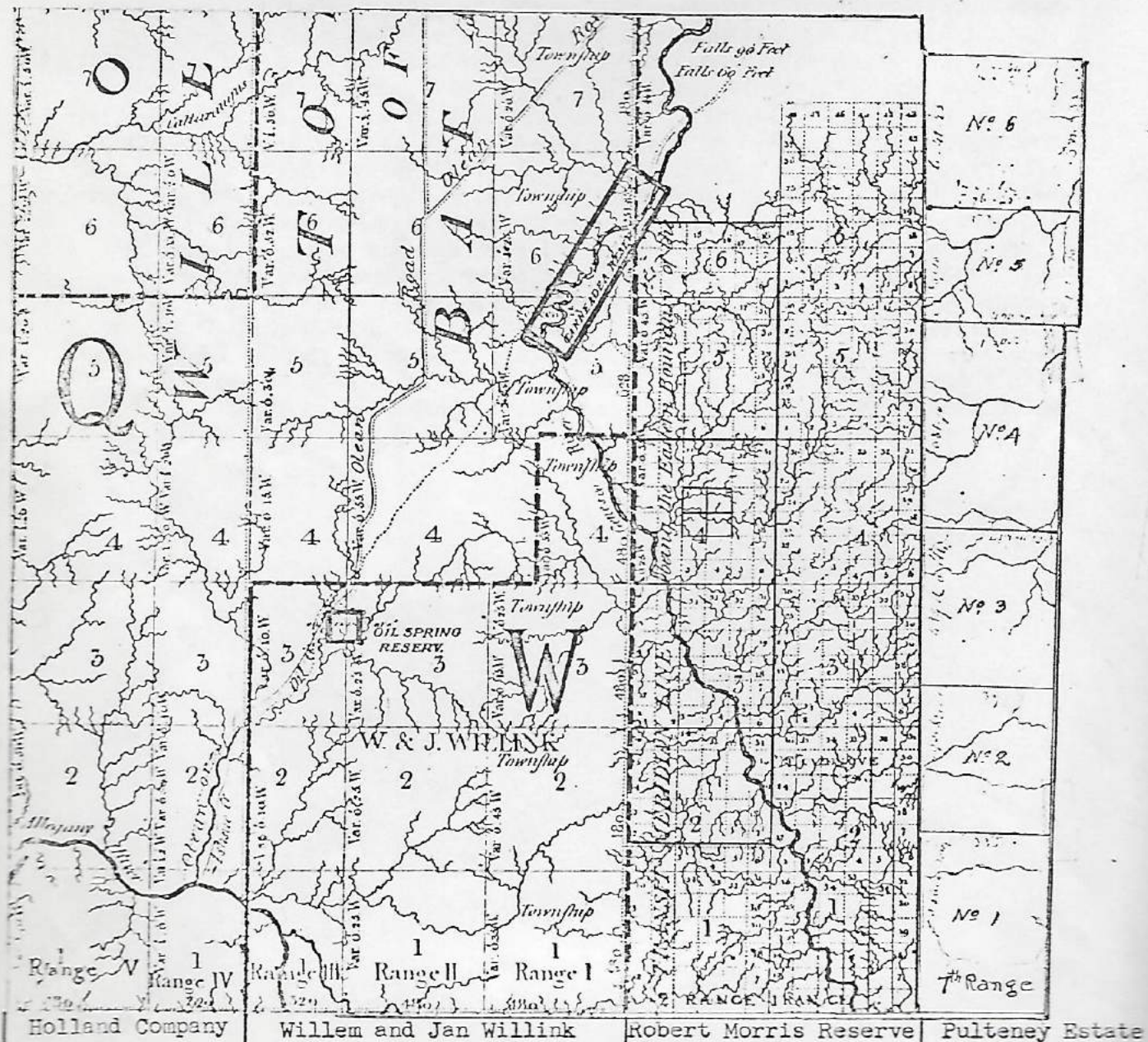


Chapter XXXVIII

An ACT to annex part of the county of Steuben to the county of Allegany and to establish the court house and jail for the county of Allegany, and for other purposes.

Passed March 11 1808

Be it enacted by the people of the state of New York, represented in senate and assembly, That all that part of the county of Steuben lying west of the division line between the sixth and seventh ranges of towns in the said county, and south of the division line between the sixth and seventh towns of the said seventh range of towns, be annexed to the county of Allegany; and that the remaining part of the said county of Steuben be and remain a separate county by the name of Steuben.



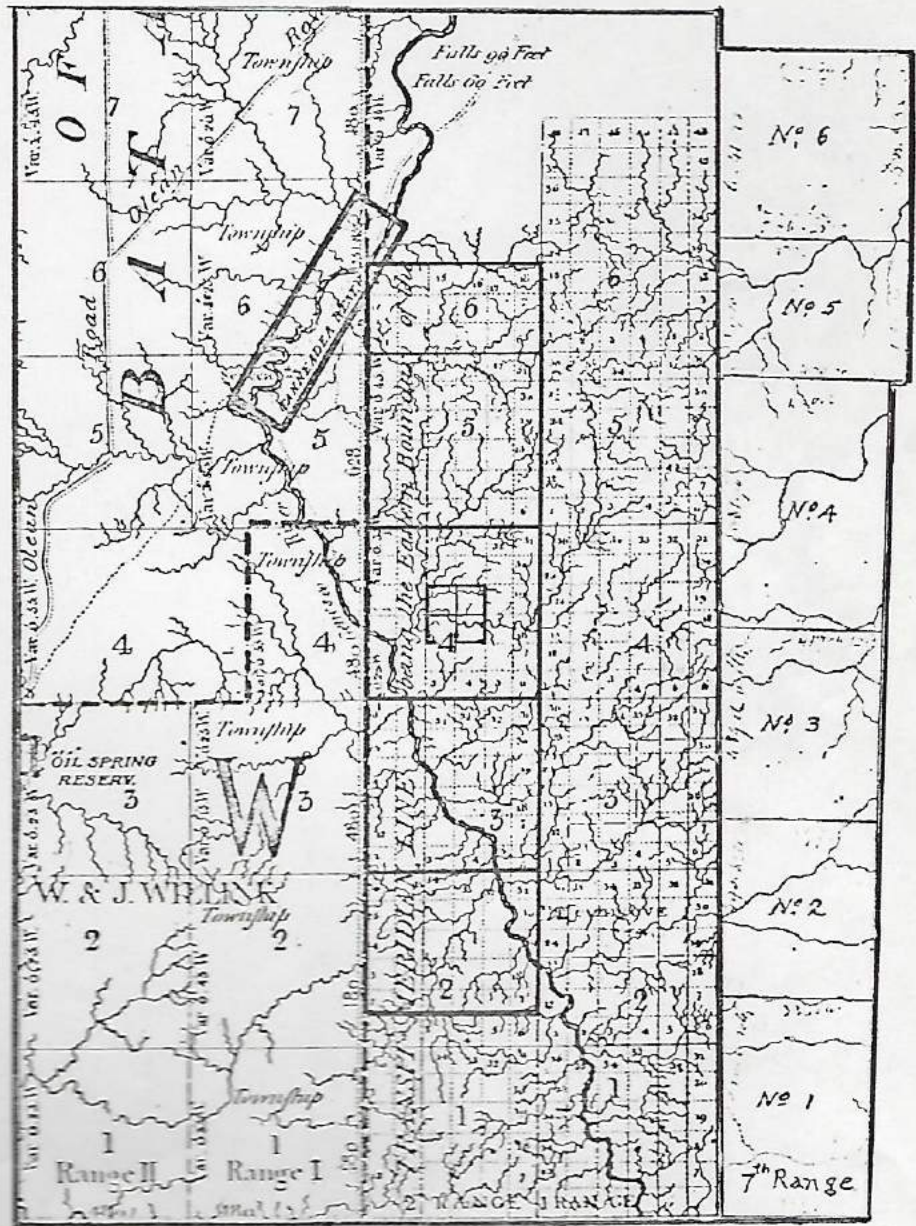


Chapter XL

An ACT to divide the county of Genesee into several counties, and for other purposes.

Passed March 11th 1808

Be it enacted by the people of the state of New York, represented in senate and assembly, That all that part of the county of Allegany lying west of the meridian line, being the division line between the second and third ranges of townships of the Holland Land Company's land, be annexed to the county of Genesee, and that the remaining part of the county of Allegany be and remain a separate county, by the name of Allegany.



For a city we should choose a suitable site that is in the center of the country.  
Plato LAWS Book V c355 BC

For a county we should choose a site suitable to the city that is to be its center.  
Philip Church 1808 AD



by

Horatio Gates Spafford

B. D. Packard

1824

Albany

## Allegany County

29

	Pop.				
Alfred	698	10 mi.	E	of	Angelica
Almond	646	12 "	NE	"	"
Angelica	1510				
Caneadea	696	6 mi.	W	of	Angelica
Centerville	421	16 "	NW	"	"
Cuba		18 "	SW	"	"
Friendship	662	13 "	SW	"	"
Hume		13 "	NW	"	"
Independence	357	18 "	SE	"	"
Nunda	1188	16 "	NW	"	"
Ossian	921	16 "	NW	"	"
Pike	1622	18 "	NW	"	"
Rushford	609	12 "	W	"	"
	<u>9,330</u>				

ANGELICA, a Post Township, the capital of Allegany County, 260 miles a little S. of W. from Albany, bounded N. by Nunda, E. by Almond, Alfred and Independence, S. by the State of Pennsylvania, W. by Friendship and Caneadea. Its length N. and S. is 30 miles, and its width 9 miles, comprising Townships 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5, in range 2 of Morris's Reserve, and the W. half of 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5, in the 1st range. The Genesee River runs N. through this Town, and there are besides many small branches supplying mill seats. The land is but moderately uneven, and the soil, of a large proportion, good farming land. There are tracts of clay, of argillaceous loam, of sandy loam, brown mold, and rich sandy alluvion, besides some black muck. The timber embraces all this broad variety of soils, in a diversity of forest trees at least equal to the variety of soils I have noticed. It is, on the whole, a handsome body of land, with good proportions of arable, pasture, meadow, and waste-lands, handsomely diversified as to surface, soil and position. A turnpike extends

eastward as far as Bath, Steuben County; and at least part of the way S. westward toward Olean, noticed under that Town. There is a very excellent bridge over the Genesee River in this Town, at the little village of *Belvidere*, (or there was, when I last travelled that road, from Angelica to Olean,) erected with money granted by the State, at a pretty extravagant expense. The *Village of Angelica*, the seat of the County buildings, is situated near the centre of township No. 4 of the 2d range, about 2 miles E. of the Genesee River, on a pleasant plain, and on a small stream that runs W. to the river. Besides the county buildings, it has a small collection of houses, but does not appear to be a place of much business, or increasing in population. It is 40 miles W. of Bath, 52 S. of Batavia, and 260 nearly W. of Albany. Population, 1510: 340 farmers, 42 mechanics, 6 traders; 13 foreigners not naturalized; 1 free black; 15 slaves: taxable property, \$195665: 14 school districts; public monies received in 1821, \$81.38; 318 children between 5 and 15 years of age; 317 attended the schools that year: 331 electors; 5674 acres of improved land; 1795 cattle, 196 horses, 2418 sheep: 9220 yards of cloth made in families in 1821: 2 grist mills, 3 saw mills, 1 fulling mill, 3 carding machines, 1 trip hammer, 1 distillery, and 4 asheries. The Genesee, in this Town, is quite a small stream. A Correspondent writes me that some of the iron ore of this country has lately been sent from Angelica, by the Genesee River, and made into excellent bar iron in the forges in Penfield. He did not mention what variety of ore it was, but I presume the bog ore, noticed under Caneadea, and the Towns in the northern part of this County. Since 1813, this Town has undergone some changes, in the course of our excessive and chance-medley legislation, but has only lost the E. half of 5 townships, annexed to Alfred, subsequently divided into 3 towns. A.A., A.L.D., H.W.

ANGOLA P. O., see COLLINS.



Sketches of Border Adventures in The Life and Times of Major Moses VanCampen  
 by his grandson J. Niles Hubbard, revised and enlarged by the  
 author. Edited by John S Minard. Concluding with a biographical sketch of  
 Judge Philip Church  
 Robert Morris, the "Financier of the Revolution," after the end of the  
 war, engaged in land speculations and soon became the largest individual land  
 holder and he did not realize so much or so rapidly as he anticipated from his  
 investments. This together with his liberal advances to support the Continental  
 army, caused him serious embarrassment and he was compelled to borrow money from  
 different individuals, giving for security mortgages on \* should read:  
 Church loaned him a considerable sum of money, taking between 7th and 8th and  
 Alexander Hamilton as trustee on property in the city of between Chestnut and Walnut  
 square between 8th and 9th Sts. and Chestnut and Sansom  
 square the Continental Hotel now stands.

Some time in the latter part of 1795, or early in 1796, Mr. Morris, having  
 determined to erect a palatial residence on ground encumbered by this mortgage,  
 proposed to Gen. Hamilton that the security be changed to 100,000 acres of his  
 land in the Genesee country. Hamilton wrote to John B Church in London stating  
 the proposition and advising Church to accede to the request, thinking that the  
 security was good, or if not good, Mr. Morris' bond was good for the amount.

In accordance with this advice, the mortgage on the Philadelphia was  
 discharged and another executed bearing date May 31 1796 for the sum of \$81,679.44  
 (which amount was quite likely inclusive of some interest) on the 100,000 acres.  
 Mortgage ran to Hamilton, Mr. Church still being an alien.

In 1799 John B Church's son, Capt Philip Church (age 21) visited the  
 county seat Canandaigua to attend the sale under foreclosure of the 100,000 acres,  
 Mr. Morris being unable to pay off the mortgage. He bid in the property and took  
 a deed in his own name, dated May 6, 1800. The property was really purchased on  
 joint account with his father, who offered him a half interest if he would  
 assume the management and conduct the subdivision and sale of the tract.

Pulteney Agent Charles Williamson had become acquainted with the young  
 Church and, knowing his need for a surveyor, recommended Moses VanCampen. Church  
 visited VanCampen at McHenry Valley. A letter from Miss Mary Leckhart, granddaugh  
 Moses VanCampen, says "Philip Church came to secure his services to survey  
 his large tract of land. It was in the latter part of summer, and the family  
 observed a person in the corn field, very vigorously shaking his clothing, which  
 they learned afterwards was to divest himself of fleas as he had been much  
 exposed to them while in the woods. It was but an hour or so afterwards when he  
 came to the house, introduced himself, and stated the object of his visit."

In August 1801 Church engaged VanCampen as surveyor and met Evert Van  
 Wickle, John Lewis, John Gibson, and Stephen Price at Almond, the group to make  
 a thorough exploration of the whole tract. Almond, as yet undignified with a  
 name, was eighteen lines distant from the tract. Proceeding along the route  
 designated partly by an Indian trail and partly by blazed trees, with now and  
 then a log removed to admit the passage of a pack horse, they made their advent  
 to the tract about a half mile north of Wellsville, near the south east corner  
 of the tract. The route was nearly identical to the subsequent location of the  
 Erie railroad.

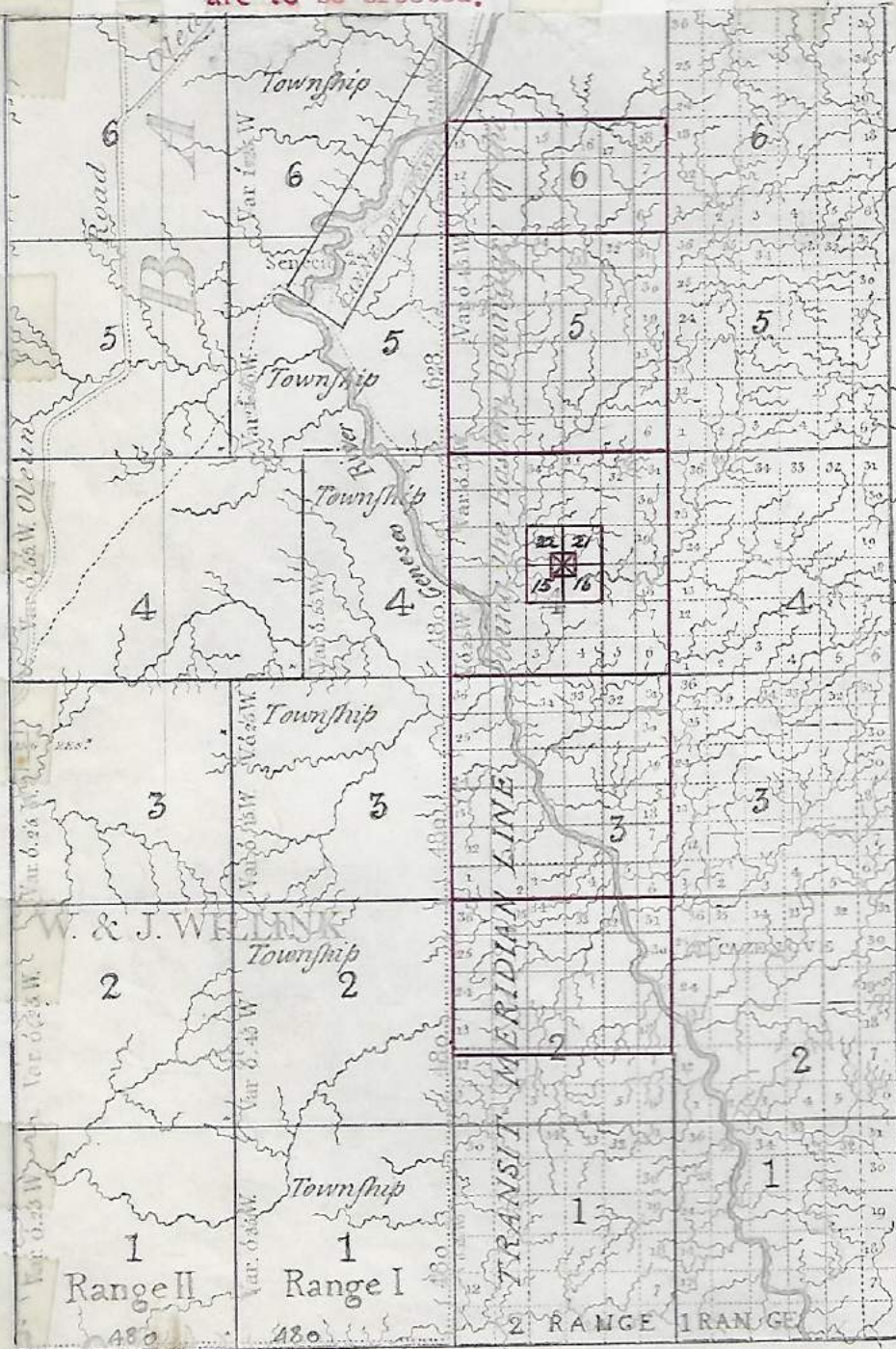
The exploration was at once begun and continued until they became  
 thoroughly acquainted with the whole tract; with its streams, its hills and  
 valleys, its peculiarities of soil, its timber and herbage, the facilities its  
 streams afforded for dams and mill privileges, and possible sites for villages.  
 This was afterwards of great value to Major VanCampen in the subdivision of the  
 tract. Church and VanCampen, dismissing the others members at the north west  
 corner of the tract for return in the opposite direction for their homes, made  
 a trip to Niagara Falls by following an Indian trail that bore off in that  
 direction. Returning by the "White Man's Trail" to Batavia where the Holland Land  
 Company office had just been built, they then went to Bath after stopping at  
 Seneca to visit Mr. Wadsworth, a friend of Capt Church. Returning to New York  
 soon after Capt Church set earnestly to work to settle his lands. In 1802 he  
 sent as his agent Evert VanWickle to select the site for the village. It was  
 accordingly done, and Church named the place Angelica after his mother. As one  
 of the means employed in advertising these lands, a map was published showing the



FOR SETTLEMENT

A TRACT of LAND belonging to John B Church, Esquire, of the City of New York, containing ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND ACRES, and situated on the GENESEE RIVER, 22 miles south of WILLIAMSBURGH, 100 east of PRESQUE ISLE, 8 north of PENNSYLVANIA LINE, and 16 west of the navigable waters of the SUSQUEHANNAH, in the County of Genesee, State of New York.

A town called ANGELICA is laid out near the centre of the tract, with 4 lots in the middle of it, upon which Churches and Schools are to be erected.




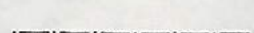




*Holland*  
*Theophilus C. ...*

THIS

*Is respectfully*  
*by*

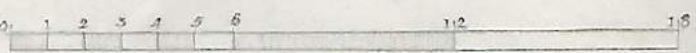
AUTH

EXPL

-  Boundary
-  D'
-  D'
-  Wagon Road
-  Indian
-  Indian

IA Mar 30 1803 LAT. 42° N.

Scale of Miles





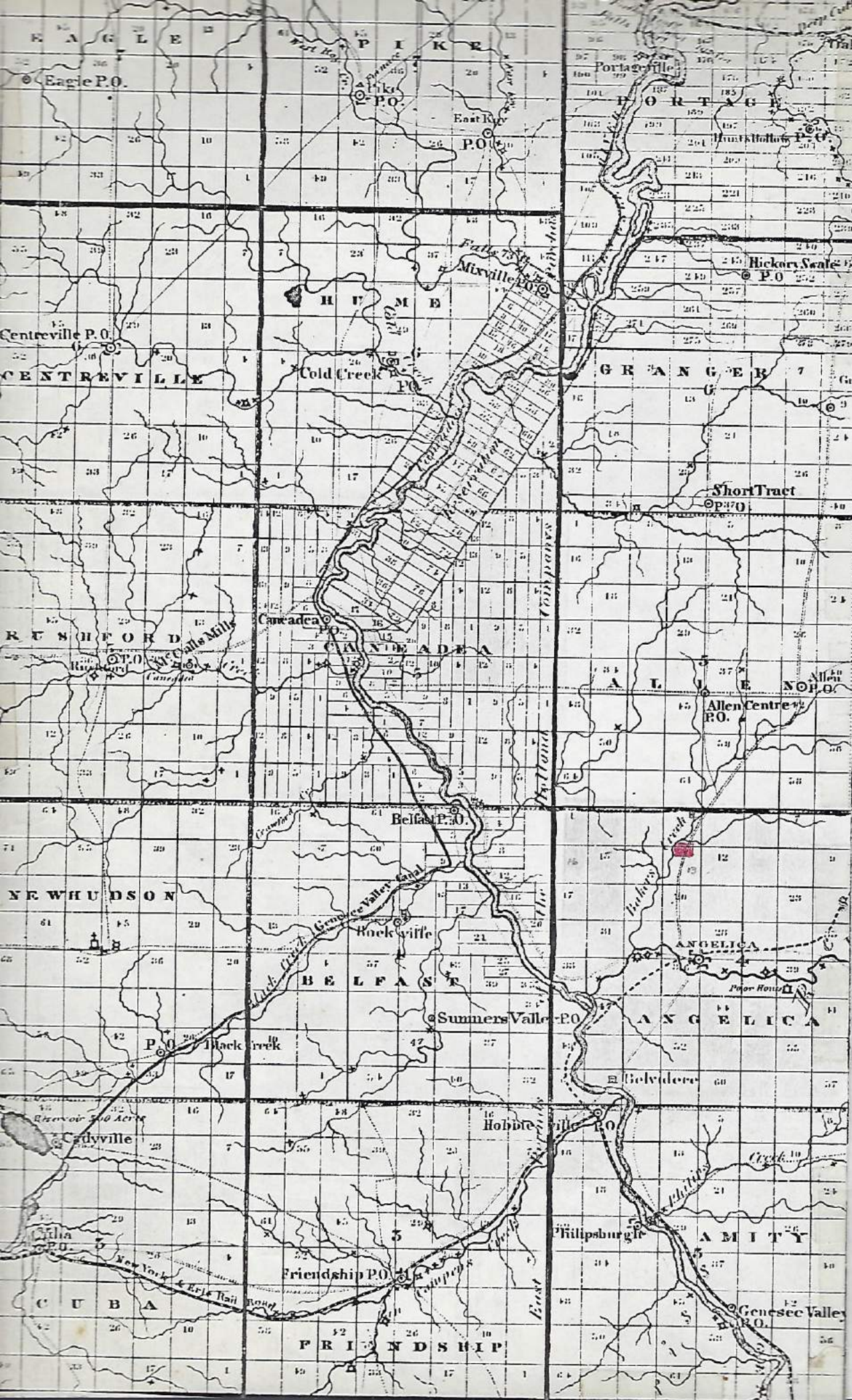
Sketches of Border Adventures in the life and times of Major Moses VanCampen, by his grandson, J. Niles Hubbard. Revised and enlarged by the author. Edited by John E. Minard. Concluding with a biographical sketch of Judge Philip Church

### Revised Revision

In August 1801 Church engaged VanCampen as surveyor and met Evert VanWickle, John Lewis, John Gibson and Stephen Price at Almond, the group to make a thorough exploration of the whole tract. Proceeding along the route designated partly by an Indian trail and partly by blazed trees, they made their advent to the Church Tract about a half north of Wellsville, near the southeast corner of the tract. The route was nearly identical to the subsequent location of the Erie railroad. Soon they saw the wide strip cut through the woods by the surveyors in Joseph and Benjamin Ellicott's party in 1798. Even though now, three years later, the brush had started to grow back in the Transit Line strip, they easily located the milestones. Following the line northward they soon came to the 12th milestone. Since both Church and VanCampen knew that the system of land division outlined in the Northwest Ordinance had been adopted in western New York, they knew that the 12th milestone was the northwest corner of township 2 of the range of townships just east of the Transit Line. Likewise at milestone 18 they knew they were starting to follow the western boundary of township 4 range 2 Morris Reserve, the central township of John B. Church's 100,000 acre tract. At milestone 21 they turned and proceeded due east for exactly three miles. Then they started searching for surveyor Adam Hoops' stake bearing numbers 15, 16, 21 and 22, knowing that these numbers always indicated the exact center of a township. They found the stake but were disappointed that it was on an island formed by the splitting of Angelica Creek. Next year, in 1802, when Evert VanWickle laid out the village plat, he moved its center north, away from the annual flooding of the meandering creek.

The exploration was continued, after finding the spot that Church wanted to become the shire town of the new county soon to be formed, until the party became thoroughly acquainted with the whole tract; with its streams, its hills and valleys, its peculiarities of soil, its timber and herbage, the facilities its streams afforded for mill and dam privileges, and possible sites for other villages. This was afterwards of great value to Major VanCampen in the resubdivision of the tract. Philip Church did not think that sections or lots as large as one mile square would be readily saleable, so he had Major VanCampen obliterate Major Adam Hoops' original subdivision into 640 acre lots (sections) and replace it by a subdivision into great lots of 360 acres each. Van Campen started this in September 1810.





64 lots of  
360 acres  
each.

By M. VanC  
1810