

STEUBEN COUNTY.

THIS COUNTY was formed from Ontario, March 18th, 1796, and named in honor of Baron Steuben. The seventh Range of Townships was annexed to Allegany County, March 11th, 1808; the part in the fork of Crooked Lake to Ontario County, February 25th, 1814; a part of Dansville, to Livingston County, February 15th, 1822, and a part to Schuyler County, April 7th, 1854. It lies upon the south border of the State, considerably west of the center, is centrally distant 188 miles from Albany, and contains 1,425 square miles. The surface consists chiefly of ridges and high rolling uplands, which form the northern continuation of the Alleghany Mountains. The water-shed between Lake Ontario and Susquehanna River extends from Allegany County eastward, across the northern part of the County. The deep valley of Crooked Lake breaks through this chain of highlands and extends seventeen miles south-west from the head of the lake, connecting with the Conhocton Valley at Bath, forming a natural pass between the southern valleys and the basin of Lake Ontario. The highlands in the south-western part of the County form a portion of this watershed, being drained by branches of the Canisteo on the east, and of the Genesee River on the west. The highest summits in the County are about 2,500 feet above tide. The elevation of the upland region is nearly uniform, with a slight inclination towards the north. It is intersected by numerous deep valleys, which have evidently been excavated by more powerful currents of water than those which now flow through them. Geologists refer their formation to the drift period. The formation of the steep hillsides which border on these valleys, proves conclusively that a wide, rolling plateau once spread out over this whole region, now so irregular and broken. The principal of these valleys are those of the Conhocton and Canisteo Rivers, extending nearly

north-west and south-east through the County. From these main valleys numerous others diverge at nearly right angles and branch off into numberless deep, crooked ravines, intersecting the plateau in every direction. The hills bordering upon these valleys are usually steep, and from 300 to 500 feet high.

Conhocton River flows south-east through the County, near the center. In high water it was formerly navigable for arks, fourteen miles above Bath. It receives several tributaries from the south-west, the chief of which are Neil's, Bennett's, Campbell's, Stockton, Michigan and Stephens's Creeks; and from the north-east, Twelve Mile, Ten Mile, Five Mile, Mud and Mead's Creeks. Mud Creek is the outlet of Mud Lake, in Schuyler County. When the County was first settled, this stream was navigable, and arks floated from Mud Lake, down the creek and the Conhocton, to the Susquehanna, thence to Baltimore. Since the clearing of the forests, the stream has entirely failed for the purposes of navigation, and in summer it is almost dry. Canistota River flows through a valley south-west of the Conhocton, and nearly parallel to it. In freshets the water rises from six to eight feet, and the stream is then navigable for boats and arks about forty miles. Its principal branches are the Canacadea, Crosby, Purdy, Bennett's, Col. Bill's and Tuscarora Creeks, all flowing into it from the south-west. Tioga River rises in Pennsylvania, flows north through a deep mountain valley, and unites with the Canistota at Erwin, and with the Conhocton at Painted Post; from this place the combined stream takes the name of Chemung River. These streams were formerly much larger than now. The early settlers describe them as being "full from hill to hill" in time of high water. Canaseraga Creek, flowing north, drains the north-west corner of the County; and several small streams, rising in the south-west corner, form branches of the Genesee River. Crooked Lake lies in a deep valley along the north-east border of the County, while the surrounding hills are from five hundred to eight hundred feet high. Little Lake lies in a shallow valley along the east border of the town of Wayne, and discharges its waters south into Mud Lake, and through Mud Creek into the Conhocton River. Loon Lake, in Wayland, lies in a valley that is the continuation of the valley of Hemlock Lake, in Livingston County. Mud Lake lies in the same valley, and its outlet, Mud Creek, flows into the Conhocton.

The rocks of this County are generally of a shaly nature, and not fit for use. The shales and sandstones of the Portage group crop out in all the deep ravines in the northern part of the County and on the west bank of Crooked Lake. At Hammondsport, in the ravine above Mallory's Mill, about three hundred feet of rock, belonging to the Portage group, lie exposed to view. It consists of shale and thin layers of sandstone, in the lower part, and at a

higher point, layers of sandstone from four to ten inches thick. The edges of all the layers exposed are covered with crystals of selenite or crystallized gypsum. An excavation for coal was once made about a mile from the mouth of the ravine, but it was finally abandoned. About a mile north of Bath is a stratum, three feet thick, of tough argillo-calcareous rock, forming an excellent building stone. In Woodhull, Canistota and Jasper, the sandstone ledges furnish an excellent quality of grindstones. At Arkport, in Dansville, and Troupsburgh, are marl beds, from which lime is manufactured. The rocks of the Chemung group continue along the valley of the Conhocton to Painted Post, and through the Tioga valley to the State line. The valley of the Canistota is embraced in the same group. Near the State line the highest hills are capped with a coarse silicious conglomerate, which forms the floor of the coal-measures. There is a salt spring at Lagrange, from which salt was manufactured by the Indians, and since by the early settlers; sulphur springs are also found in Campbell, Jasper and Urbana. The tooth of a Mastodon was dug from a bed of blue clay, some years ago, on the road between Bath and Wheeler; it was eight or ten inches in length. The soil is composed chiefly of detritus of the adjacent rocks, and is better adapted to grazing than to tillage. Upon the intervalles along the large streams, the soil is a rich alluvium, and there is no better land in the State than the extensive flats along the banks of the Chemung.

Agriculture constitutes the chief occupation of the people. Grain is largely produced on the alluvial lands, and stock is raised extensively on the uplands. The principal branches of agriculture pursued in this County are stock-raising, dairying and wool growing. Lumbering is carried on to some extent, but is gradually diminishing. The manufacturing is chiefly confined to lumber, articles of wood, and the heavier and coarser products necessary to an agricultural region.

The County is divided into the Northern and Southern Jury Districts, the County buildings being situated at Bath and Corning. When the County was organized, in 1796, the County buildings were located at Bath. A wood Court House, one and a half stories high, with two wings, was erected the same year. It was removed in 1828, and the present brick Court House erected. About the time of the erection of the first Court House, a jail was built of hewn logs, which was superseded by the erection of the present jail in 1845. By an act of the Legislature passed July 19th, 1853, the County was divided into two Jury Districts, and the County buildings for the Southern District were located at Corning. The first County officers were William Kersey, *First Judge*; Abraham Bradley and Eleazer Lindley, *Associate Judges*; George D. Cooper, *County Clerk*; William Dunn, *Sheriff*; and

Stephen Ross, *Surrogate*. The Court House at Bath is a commodious brick building, erected in 1828. The Jail is built of wood, and closely surrounded by other buildings; the cells are in the basement. The County Clerk's Office is permanently located at Bath. The Court House at Corning is a fine brick edifice, erected in 1853-54, at a cost of \$14,000. The Jail at Corning was erected at the same time. The Courts are held alternately at Bath and Corning.

The County Poor House is located upon a large farm, about two miles north-east of Bath village. From the report of the Superintendents of the Poor for 1867, we find that the total expense for the support of the poor for the year, was \$16,646.78. The paupers are well cared for, and everything is done to promote their health and comfort. There is a flourishing school in connection with the Poor House, in which a large number of pupils are taught, and are making commendable progress. The farm is in good condition, some valuable improvements in the way of fencing having been recently made. The number of paupers at the Poor House, from the several towns, is as follows: Avoca 1, Bath 4, Bradford 1, Cameron 5, Campbell 4, Caton 1, Cohocton 8, Canisteo 2, Corning 12, Greenwood 1, Howard 7, Hartsville 1, Hornellsville 1, Jasper 1, Lindley 1, Prattsburgh 3, Rathbone 3, Tuscarora 3, Thurston 3, Urbana 5, Woodhull 1, Wheeler 1, Wayne 1.

The New York and Erie Railroad enters the County from Chemung, and extends along the valleys of the Chemung and Canisteo Rivers to Hornellsville; thence west, along the valley of the Canacadea, to the County line. It passes through Corning, Erwin, Addison, Rathbone, Cameron, Canisteo and Hornellsville. The Buffalo, New York and Erie Railroad extends north-west from Corning, up the Conhocton valley, through Erwin, Campbell, Bath, Avoca, Cohocton and Wayland, to the north border of the County. This road intersects the Genesee Valley Railroad at Avon; the N. Y. Central at Batavia; the Buffalo and New York City at Attica; and the New York and Erie at Corning. The Hornellsville Division of the Buffalo, New York and Erie Railroad extends north-west, up the valley of the Canisteo, from Hornellsville, passing through that town and the south-west corner of Dansville. The Blossburg and Corning Railroad extends from Corning, through Erwin and Lindley, south, along the valley of the Tioga, to the Blossburg coal region. Crooked Lake is navigated by steam and canal boats, and forms a link in the chain of internal water communication in the State. It is united with the Erie Canal at Montezuma, by the Crooked Lake Canal, Seneca Lake, and the Cayuga and Seneca Canals. The Chemung Canal navigable feeder extends from Corning, east, to Horseheads, in Chemung County. Large

quantities of lumber are floated down the river to Philadelphia and Baltimore. These works of internal improvement afford ample facilities for the transportation of goods and passengers, and bring the farm products of the County into close proximity to eastern markets.

Nine newspapers are now published in the County. The first paper published in Steuben County, and the first in Western New York, was

The Bath Gazette and Genesee Advertiser. It was established by William Kersey and James Eddie, in 1796, and was continued several years.

The Steuben and Allegany Patriot was started at Bath in 1815, by Benjamin Smead, and was continued till 1822, when it was changed to

The Farmers' Advocate and Steuben Advertiser. In 1849 it passed into the hands of William C. Rhoades, and in 1857 into those of P. S. Donahue, by whom it was changed to

THE STEUBEN FARMERS' ADVOCATE. It is now published by A. L. Underhill and T. S. DeWolf.

The Farmers' Gazette was started at Bath, in 1816, by David Rumsey.

The Steuben Messenger was started at Bath, April 17th 1828, by David Rumsey, and was published by him, Samuel M. Eddie, William P. Agnel and Charles Adams, successively, until 1834, when it was changed to

The Constitutionalist, and its publication was continued, successively, by R. L. Underhill, Whitmore & Van Valkenburgh, and Dowe & Richards, and by the last named as

The Steuben Democrat, until 1844. The paper was then suspended, but revived in 1848 by L. J. Beach, and in 1849 it was transferred to George H. Bidewell, by whom the publication was continued until 1852.

The Steuben Whig was published at Bath during the political campaign of 1828, by William M. Swain.

THE STEUBEN COURIER was established at Bath in 1843, by Hull & Whitemore. It is now published by H. H. Hull.

The Temperance Gem was published at Bath in 1854, by Jenny and Caroline Rumsey.

The Addison Record was published in Addison by Isaac D. Booth, from 1840 to 1842, and in 1849 by Dryden & Peck.

The Addison Advocate was published by H. D. Dyer, in 1848-49.

The Voice of the Nation was commenced at Addison in 1852, by R. Denton. In 1855 it passed into the hands of A. L. Underhill, by whom it was published until 1856, when it was removed to Bath, and its name changed to

The Steuben American, and its publication continued until May 1857.

The Canistota Express was published at Addison in 1850, by T. Messenger.

The Addison Journal was started in 1851, by R. Denton, and was removed to Allegany County in 1852.

The Addison Democrat was started by Charles L. Phelps, in 1853, and was united with the *Voice of the Nation* in 1854.

THE ADDISON ADVERTISER was established in 1858, by E. M. Johnson and Henry Baldwin. It is now published by Johnson & Roberts.

The Corning and Blossburg Advocate was commenced at Corning in 1840, by Charles Adams. In 1841 it passed into the hands of Henry H. Hull, by whom it was merged in the *Steuben Courier*, at Bath, in 1843.

THE CORNING JOURNAL was started by Thomas Messenger, in May 1847. In 1851 it passed into the hands of A. W. McDowell and G. W. Pratt, and in 1852, into the hands of Geo. W. Pratt, its present proprietor.

The Corning Sun was started in 1853, by M. M. Pomeroy, better known as "Brick" Pomeroy, and P. C. VanGelder. In 1854 Rev. Ira Brown became the publisher, and changed its name to

The Elmira Southern Tier Farmer and Corning Sun, and continued it until 1856.

The United States Farmer was published at Corning in the spring of 1856.

THE CORNING DEMOCRAT was established in 1857, by Charles T. Huston and Frank B. Brown. Mr. Brown bought Mr. Huston's interest soon after, and has continued its publication to the present time.

The Painted Post Gazette was started by Mr. Fairchild in 1846, and continued one year.

The Painted Post Herald was published by Hawley & Bennett, from 1848 to 1850.

THE HORNELLSVILLE TRIBUNE was started in November 1851, by Edwin Hough. It was subsequently published by Hough & Son, and is now published by Hough & Beecher.

The National American was started at Hornellsville in 1856, by C. M. Harmon. In November 1858 it was sold to Charles A. Kinney, and its name changed to the

CANISTEO VALLEY TIMES. Its present publishers are Thatcher & Tuttle.

The Saturday News was started at Bath in April 1868, by E. W. Barnes, and continued until July 4th of the same year.

THE PRATTSBURGH ADVERTISER was started in the fall of 1867. It is published by C. B. Hoke.

BATH TRI-WEEKLY CONSERVATIVE was started in August 1868, by Charles E. Clute, its present publisher.

A paper was published for a time at Hammondsport, on Crooked Lake.

Steuben County was all included in the "Phelps and Gorham Purchase." The original grant to the colony of Massachusetts embraced an indefinite extent of territory, from the Atlantic to the Pacific, or "South Sea," as it was called in the "Royal Charter." Subsequent grants to other colonies, quite as indefinite, if not as extensive, caused a conflict of claims between different colonies, which in some instances resulted in great inconvenience to the settlers. The rival claims of New York and Massachusetts to certain lands in the western part of the former State, were amicably adjusted by a compact entered into on the 16th of December 1786. It was agreed that Massachusetts should surrender to New York all claims of sovereignty to lands lying within the boundaries of the latter State; and the State of New York should confirm to the State of Massachusetts the right of pre-emption of the soil from the Indians, of all that part of New York lying west of the meridian passing through the 82 mile-stone on the Pennsylvania line.

On the 21st of November 1788, the State of Massachusetts, for the consideration of three hundred thousand pounds in the consolidated securities of that State, (equal to \$100,000,) conveyed to Oliver Phelps and Nathaniel Gorham all its right, title and interest to about 2,600,000 acres of land lying west of the meridian just mentioned. The Indian title to this tract had been purchased by Phelps and Gorham in July 1788, and it was immediately surveyed and divided into seven ranges, numbered from east to west, by lines running north and south. The ranges were six miles in width, and divided into townships six miles square, and these were sub-divided into lots. That part of the tract which now constitutes the County of Steuben, was surveyed by Frederiek Saxton and Augustus Porter, in the summer of 1789. Judge Porter, in his narrative of this survey, says: "While engaged in it, we made our headquarters at 'Painted Post,' on the Conhocton River, at the house of old Mr. Harris and his son William. These two men, Mr. Goodhue, who lived near by, and Mr. Mead, who lived at the mouth of Mead's Creek, were the only persons then on the territory we were surveying."

November 18th, 1790, Phelps and Gorham sold to Robert Morris, of Philadelphia, about one million and a quarter acres; and April 11th, 1792, Robert Morris conveyed to Charles Williamson about one million two hundred thousand acres of the same tract, which has since been known as the "Pulteney Estate." Mr. W. held this estate in secret trust for Sir William Pulteney, an English baronet, and others, till March 1801, when he conveyed it

formally to Sir William. The policy of the proprietors and trustees was to sell the lands as rapidly as possible to actual settlers, and in a few years a large part of the most valuable lands were disposed of.

The first settlements in this County were made in 1787-90, by immigrants from Pennsylvania. Settlements were made in the south-eastern part, on the Chemung, and also on the upper Canisteo, about the same time. William Harris, an Indian trader, is supposed to be the first white man who settled in the County. His cabin was at Painted Post in 1787, but at what time it was built is not known with certainty. At that time a pack-horse or a canoe was sufficient to transport the merchandise for the citizens of the County for a whole year. Frederick Calkins, from Vermont, was the first farmer in the County. He settled near the head of the "Chimney Narrows," in 1788. Township number two of the second range was purchased of Phelps and Gorham, in 1790, for eight cents an acre.

In 1793, Captain Charles Williamson, with a large number of Scotch and German immigrants, commenced a settlement at Bath, on the Conhocton. From an exploration of the country it was supposed that the products of Western New York would find their way to the sea through the Susquehanna and its tributaries. Here Captain Williamson decided to build a city which should rival the cities of the old world and have no equal in the new. Every inducement was offered to settlers in this region to occupy lands under his patronage. Money was freely expended in improvements, and lands offered for sale at a low rate and on long credit.

For a time settlements rapidly increased in number and size. Forests were cleared, roads were made, bridges and mills were built, rivers were cleared of their obstructions to navigation, and houses were erected as if by the hand of the magician. Arks and rafts laden with lumber and other products of the country, glided down the Conhocton and the Canisteo to the Susquehanna, thence to Baltimore and the sea. Land speculation was carried to excess, as is often the case in new countries. It is said that any respectable looking gentleman could purchase on a credit of six years, any amount of land, from a mile square to a township. The title that Captain Williamson gave was a bond for a deed at the end of the term, provided payment was made in full; otherwise the contract became null and void. These bonds were transferable, and the speculators sold to each other, and gave their bonds for large amounts, which ruined multitudes who engaged in such enterprises. Many honest, industrious and enterprising men were ruined in the same way.

For the purpose of improving the navigation of the streams, Captain Williamson ordered the Conhocton and Mud Creek to be

explored by a competent committee, and a report to be made, estimating the probable expense of making them navigable for arks and rafts. The committee rendered a favorable report, and a number of men were appointed to remove obstructions and open a passage to Painted Post. This was done, though the passage was still considered dangerous. After removing obstructions, the next thing was to test the enterprise by a practical navigation of the stream. To do this, Mr. George McClure, afterwards a prominent citizen of the County, built an ark seventy-five feet long and sixteen feet wide, loaded it with staves and started for Baltimore. After many difficulties and delays, the ark reached Painted Post, having been six days in making the passage. At this time the water of the Chemung was too low to be navigable, and craft and crew were compelled to wait several days for a rise in the water. At length a new start was made, and the ark ran two hundred miles in four days. At Mohontongo, twenty miles from Harrisburgh, it ran upon a bar of rocks in the middle of the river, which at this point was one mile wide. After lying here for twenty-four hours, with no means of getting on shore, two gentlemen came on board and informed the navigators that it would be impossible to get the ark off the rocks without a rise in the water. As there was no telling when such an event would transpire, Captain McClure decided to sell craft and cargo as they were for six hundred dollars and a horse worth two hundred. He lost nothing by this expedition, but would have made five hundred dollars had he gone to Baltimore with his ark and cargo. This was sufficient to establish the fact that Conhocton River was navigable, and that the produce of the County could be transported to Baltimore at a trifling expense. Emigrants from all parts came flocking to this promised land. Some came up the rivers in canoes and barges, driving their cattle along the bank, while others made long and tedious journeys through the forests with ox teams. Many Virginians left their worn-out plantations beyond the Potomac, and came up the Susquehanna, and through the forests, the old people in chaises, kept in their upright position by their faithful negroes, while the young came on horseback.

Captain Williamson lived in good style for a backwoods settlement, entertaining his visitors from different parts of the country with the suavity and hospitality for which he was noted, and using every means to increase his rapidly growing settlement. To supply the wants of the settlers, and the adventurers who came hither, flour was brought from Northumberland and pork from Philadelphia. Sometimes it was brought on pack-horses from Tioga Point, and subsequently from the Friends' Settlement at the outlet of Crooked Lake.

In 1794, the threatened invasion by the Governor of Canada created some excitement, and several block-houses were built for defense, and a requisition was made upon the Governor of the State for one thousand stands of arms and several cannon, but the alarm subsided and no blood was shed.

In order to make the wilderness attractive, Captain Williamson had caused one hundred acres to be cleared, and a race-course to be laid out. This novel entertainment was duly heralded by handbills sent far and near, announcing to all "North America and the adjacent islands" that grand races would take place at Bath. The resources of the whole region were laid under contribution to provide entertainment for all who might attend. On the day appointed, there were assembled from New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, and the adjacent country, sporting men of all classes, as they now gather at Saratoga to witness the annual races. The contest was between "Virginia Nell," entered by Captain Williamson, and "Silk Stocking," entered by High Sheriff Dunn. Money was plenty and betting was lively; even the ladies of the owners of the rival horses partook of the general excitement, staking liberally and depositing the stakes with a third lady. "Silk Stocking" was the winner, but the time made is not known. The great race-course was seldom used after the first great festival, except as a drive for those citizens who were so fortunate as to own chaises. A theater was also erected, and a troupe of actors from Philadelphia, kept at the expense of Williamson, gave dramatic exhibitions. An advertisement in the *Bath Gazette*, of 1799, indicates that the theater was in full blast. The plays announced are the "Mock Doctor, or Dumb Lady Cured;" and "A peep into the Seraglio." Admission, "Pit, six shillings; Gallery, three shillings."

The Duke of Liancourt visited Bath in 1795, and gives the following account: "The habitation of the Captain consists of several small houses, formed of the trunks of trees and joiner's work, which at present forms a very irregular whole, but which he intends soon to improve. His way of living is simple, neat and good. Every day we had a joint of fresh meat, vegetables and wine. We met with no circumstances of pomp or luxury, but found good ease, humor and plenty."

The expenditures during Col. Williamson's management were enormous, and the returns very small. The expectations of the English baronet and his associates were not realized. In 1801 Col. Williamson conveyed to Sir William Pulteney the property he had held in trust, and resigned his stewardship. Robert Troup, Esq., of New York, was appointed his successor. When Williamson departed, the County contained about two thousand inhabitants. The work of subduing the forests had been begun with

vigor and hope. A lumber trade had been opened with the ports of the lower Susquehanna and the Chesapeake, and Bath was becoming a market for the grain of the surrounding country. The change in the administration of affairs was sensibly felt, and the stir and bustle of Bath, as well as of the County generally, was greatly diminished. Williamson had been the life of the land; "times were dead enough when he left." "No more the Hudson, the Potomac and the Delaware were startled by proclamations of races in the wilderness; no more did rumors of bull fights and the uproar of horns disturb the goodly; no more did gallant retinues of riders gallop through the forest, while servants followed with luncheons and baskets of wine. Newspaper paragraphs no longer told the citizens of the East of the great things done in Steuben, and pamphlets no longer enlightened London and Edinburgh concerning the capabilities of the Conhocton River."

The County from this time began to work its own way, and hew its own road to prosperity and independence. The settlers generally were poor men, and struggled against difficulties and discouragements, at which weaker hearts would have fainted. Railroads now intersect the County, and canal and lake navigation open avenues to the markets of the world. The population of the County has increased during every decade, until it ranks among the first in the State. The population in 1790, was 168; in 1800, 1,788; in 1865, it was 66,192.

Steuben County constituted a part of the domain of the Seneca Indians; but this part of their dominion was only used as a hunting ground. Hundreds of them came in the winter from the Genesee and the Niagara, built their lodges and killed deer for their summer stock of dried venison, and other animals for their peltry. Sometimes a solitary old savage made his wigwam and hunted and fished alone. Sometimes two would unite in the same sport, and again a score or more of men, women and children, would unite around the same camp fire, eat, drink and smoke, in the most free and easy manner. On great occasions, the Indians arrayed themselves in flaming blankets, adorned with plumes and medals, and girt with curious belts from which hung the tomahawk and glittering scalping knife. The traffic in ardent spirits here, as elsewhere, proved destructive to the unfortunate red men. A large portion of their game was bartered for "firewater." A favorite place for their carousals at Bath was in the bushes at the edge of the village. Here they would lie, howling, screaming and singing all night, to the great annoyance of the quiet villagers. The river abounded in fish, and half a dozen Indians wading up the stream and pushing their canoe before them, would spear their boat half full of fish in a very short time, and sell them for a mere trifle.

Game was very abundant at the time of the settlement. It is said two young men from the vicinity of Northumberland, came up the river in a canoe, in 1790 or 1791, and built a lodge at the mouth of Smith's Creek, on the Conhocton, and hunted in the neighborhood for two months. The product of their labor was more than two hundred deer, several elk, three panthers, besides wolves, foxes, martins, and a few beaver. Two canoes were loaded and taken to Northumberland, and their cargoes disposed of for more than three hundred dollars.

Rattlesnakes abounded in the County, and the vicinity of Bath was especially productive in these reptiles. From all accounts, the Pine Plains may challenge competition with any field of dragons the country has ever produced. When Patterson, the hunter, first visited this region, he was startled by their number and size. Every size from the little "fiery serpent with ne'er a rattle in his tail," to the veteran with sharp, shrill sounding rattles, numbering more than half a score, were gliding across his path or dragging their slimy folds over the logs, and from bush to bush, in a manner frightful to behold. Unaccustomed to these reptiles, he took to the river and waded several miles, until he passed beyond this habitation of dragons.

The military statistics are not sufficiently full and accurate to enable us to determine with certainty the full amount of service rendered by the citizens of Steuben, in crushing out the Rebellion that for four years was carried on against our Government with an energy worthy of a better cause. The State Census reports the number of enlistments in the County to be 3,357, and the number of deaths in the military service, or from injuries received while in the service, 752. Only three counties in the State report a greater number of deaths; showing that while the strong and brave volunteered cheerfully, they did not shun the post of danger while in the service; but where the battle waxed hottest, there were the soldiers from Steuben County found, battling for freedom and their country. Long may the survivors of the war live to enjoy the blessings which they fought to perpetuate, and may the memory of those who gave their lives for their country be embalmed in the hearts of all future generations.