

Souvenir of Morris

MORRIS, NEW YORK



Speeding on Hargrave Lake, Morris, N. Y.

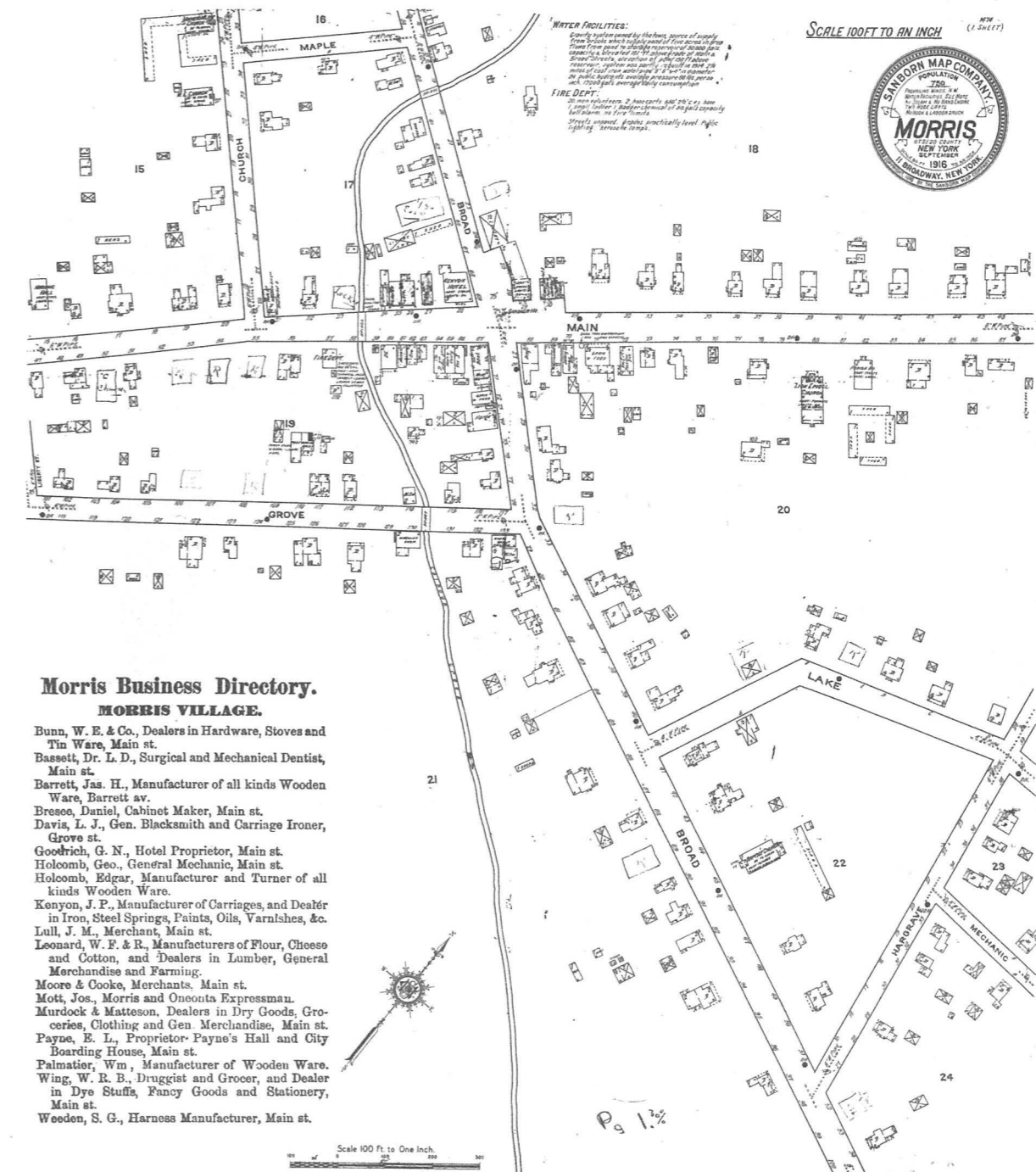
Bob Thomas

Morris, New York 1976



Compiled by
Doris Whitman and Dorothy Payton

Morris Historical Society



WATER FACILITIES:
 Gravity system owned by the town, source of supply from Spring Lake, which supplies water to the town and village from a point to which a reservoir of 20,000 feet capacity is maintained at the Spring Lake. A reservoir system was built at the Spring Lake, which will supply the town and village with water under a pressure of 100 feet. The public supply is available at all points and the water is of the highest quality.

FIRE DEPT.:
 20 men, 2 horses, and 2 engines, one of which is a motor engine. The fire department is organized on a full-time basis. The fire department is organized on a full-time basis. The fire department is organized on a full-time basis.

SCALE 100 FT. TO ONE INCH
 (1:31.68)



Morris Business Directory.
MORRIS VILLAGE.

- Bunn, W. E. & Co., Dealers in Hardware, Stoves and Tin Ware, Main st.
- Bassett, Dr. L. D., Surgical and Mechanical Dentist, Main st.
- Barrett, Jas. H., Manufacturer of all kinds Wooden Ware, Barrett av.
- Breson, Daniel, Cabinet Maker, Main st.
- Davis, L. J., Gen. Blacksmith and Carringe Ironer, Grove st.
- Goodrich, G. N., Hotel Proprietor, Main st.
- Holcomb, Geo., General Mechanic, Main st.
- Holcomb, Edgar, Manufacturer and Turner of all kinds Wooden Ware.
- Kenyon, J. P., Manufacturer of Carriages, and Dealer in Iron, Steel Springs, Paints, Oils, Varnishes, &c.
- Lull, J. M., Merchant, Main st.
- Leonard, W. F. & R., Manufacturers of Flour, Cheese and Cotton, and Dealers in Lumber, General Merchandise and Farming.
- Moore & Cooke, Merchants, Main st.
- Mott, Jos., Morris and Oneonta Expressman.
- Murdock & Matteson, Dealers in Dry Goods, Groceries, Clothing and Gen. Merchandise, Main st.
- Payne, E. L., Proprietor Payne's Hall and City Boarding House, Main st.
- Palmator, Wm., Manufacturer of Wooden Ware.
- Wing, W. R. B., Druggist and Grocer, and Dealer in Dye Stuffs, Fancy Goods and Stationery, Main st.
- Weeden, S. G., Harness Manufacturer, Main st.

Scale 100 Ft. to One Inch.



Birds eye view of Morris

THE VILLAGE OF MORRIS

AMONG the last important acts of Sir William Johnson was the securing of a treaty, in 1768, from the Indians and the execution of what is known in history as the "Fort Stanwix Deed," which conveyed a vast tract of land to the King of England. The whole of New York State and Pennsylvania was in this tract. Benjamin Franklin was one of the witnesses to the deed. Following this treaty came the issuing of grants of land, and among the first to secure one of these was John Butler, a deputy under Johnson, and afterwards a notorious Tory leader. Butler's patent comprised nearly all the land in the present township of Morris north of a line across the valley two miles below the village. In Hillington Tract in Butler Patent lies the village of Morris. This beautiful little village, situated in the heart of the Butternut Valley, had its foundations intimately connected with the birth and rise of two great republics—France and the United States. At the breaking out of the French Revolution in 1789-90, many French people sought the shores of America, and found homes in the wilderness of the new country. A Frenchman named Le Ray Chaumont bought a large tract of land in this valley, and when newly arrived French people applied to the French consul at New York, he seems to have induced them to settle in "Chaumont Valley." Thus it was that the Widow Rosseau and her three sons, and Francois Cockrell, from Paris, became the first settlers in what is now Morris village; and Louis de Villers at Elm Grove. In the early summer of 1790 Charles Franchot and his two sons, Louis and Pascal, came here from Chamonilly, France. The father returned to France; the young men remained and went into business, as elsewhere noted in this book.

It is probable that prior to 1800 the majority of settlers here were French, driven from home by the terrible scenes of the French Revolution. Loyal to their king, they named their little settlement in the new country "Louisville," in honor of King Louis XVI. The village grew slowly, but shortly after 1800 it became the center of trade and industry to a large territory. It had grist mills, saw mills, distilleries, tanneries, woolen, cloth, and cotton mills, and several stores. And so it grew apace. Among the names inseparably connected with the village from early days may be mentioned, Luther Skidmore, a merchant; Dr. Wing, who built the brick house in 1824 now occupied by his son and daughter; Ebenezer Dewey, whose son Nelson was twice governor of Wisconsin; Stephen Walker, whose thirteen children grew up and had families, one son Edward was for years a University Regent in Michigan, two grandsons were Bishop Andrews of the M. E. church and Judge Andrews of the supreme court; A. G. Washbon, a manufacturer; Jacob K. Lull, tanner and wholesale boot and shoe maker; the Averys, the Davises, the Lulls, the Moores, the Garratts, the Cruttendens, Seelys, Jacksons, Weedens, Horace Perry, and one still in active business here, a resident for seventy-seven years, whose life reaches back and covers a period embracing nearly the whole history of the village—James P. Kenyon. The list might well be continued, did space allow. In 1824, the village contained 29 houses and 169 people. It now has 175 houses and 650 residents.

MAIN STREET IN 1827

ON the opposite page is pictured a part of Main street, in Morris village, in 1827, looking east from where now stands the Morris Chronicle office, then a tanyard, with Davis's tannery in the rear. The white building in the picture was built about 1822, by Jeremiah Cruttenden, (grandfather of Albert N. Cruttenden). It was used as a hotel for a good many years, and then for a private house, and part of it for different business purposes, changing ownership many times. In 1881 it was partly torn down and rebuilt by James E. Cooke & Co. into the present three-story block. It is owned by J. P. Kenyon.

The second building had been occupied by Edward Williams as a grocery store, and about this time was moved down the side street, where it still stands, a part of E. M. Scan's hardware store.

The third building was Luther Skidmore's store. Mr. Skidmore owned a large tract of land in the northwestern part of the village and was a very influential citizen. This building, about 1830-3, was moved to Grove street and transformed into a dwelling house. It is now owned and occupied by Mrs. Ross.

The next building was Davis's horse barn. In front of it across and partly in the road to the foot of the hill was a good-sized goose pond. A Virginia rail fence led from Mr. Skidmore's store, along the street up the hill, and around the church grounds.

On the hill stands Zion Episcopal church, built of stone in 1818, on land donated to the parish by General Jacob Morris. It was renovated and enlarged in 1869. Within its walls at least six generations have worshiped. If those walls could speak, how much they could tell us of faithful hearts consecrated to God's service and of the sorrows and joys of those who have passed to the other side. In 1827, Russell Wheeler was the rector, often spoken of as Priest Wheeler, filling that position from 1814 to 1836. Two rectors of this parish and one communicant became bishops, viz: Bishop Rulison of Pennsylvania and Bishop Gilbert of Minnesota, both deceased, and Bishop Daniel S. Tuttle of St. Louis. Rev. George H. Sterling is now rector of the parish.

The trees seen in the picture were out in the street a sufficient distance for teams to drive between them and the hotel. The hotel sheds reached along the street toward the brook, and a road followed along beside the brook to a distillery a few rods down the stream.



Main Street in 1827



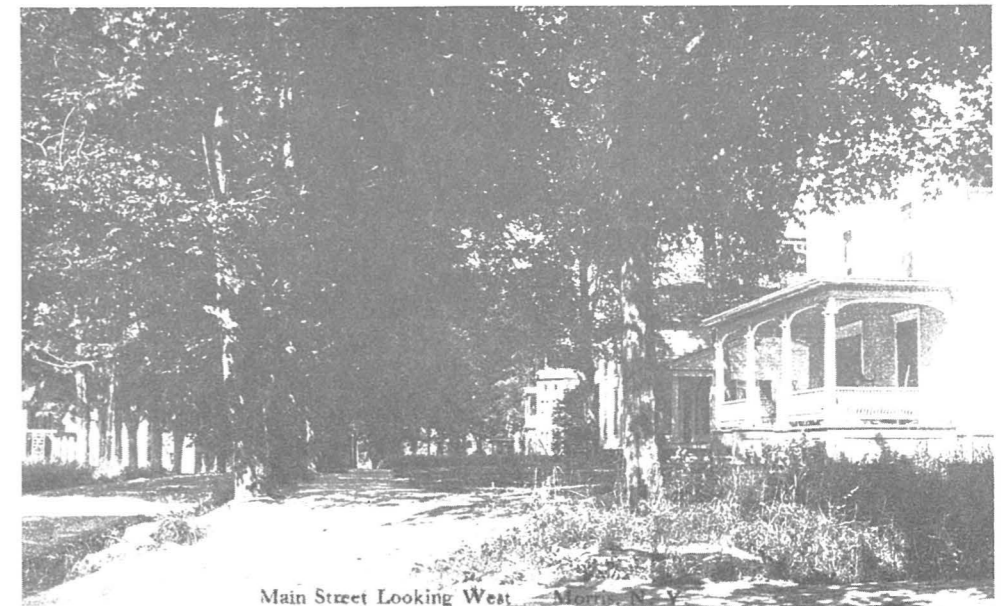
Main Street looking west



Main Street - South side of street



Main Street looking east from Silver Creek bridge



Main Street Looking West Morris, N. Y.
Main Street looking west



Van Rensselear Manor

THE VAN RENSSELAER MANOR

WHEN Killian Peter VanRensselaer, a Dutch jeweler and diamond cutter of Amsterdam, Holland, decided to give up a prosperous business and become a Patroon in the country called New Netherlands, he was undoubtedly called a stupid man by his friends, because, to become a Patroon meant the outlay of a vast sum of money, to be invested in a wilderness thousands of miles from civilization. However, his sturdy Dutch qualities overcame all discouragements, and the result was the thrifty colony of Rensselaerwyck at what is now North Albany. It is curious and interesting to note the bearing that this move of Kilian VanRensselaer in 1630 had upon the village of Morris. One hundred and eighty-four years later, 1814, one of the direct descendants of the original Patroon came to Morris, then a mere hamlet of four corners, and built the present manor house. This was Colonel Volkert Peter VanRensselaer, who came from Claverack, Columbia county, to engage in business with Pascal Franchot.

The VanRensselaer mansion is a fine type of the old Colonial country house. Built of stone upon a site at a point where the valley makes a bold curve, it commands a magnificent view of the surrounding country. The house is a large square structure, with an immense hall extending through its middle; from this hall, on each floor, four large rooms open, each room being provided with a large fireplace, the four high chimneys of which are built from the cellar. Mr. A. S. Avery, a townsman, in writing his recollections, "When I was a Boy," says of this house in 1827: "The residence is the finest west of Albany; the window panes are large, there being but six lights to the sash." Few people in those days had seen window glass larger than seven by nine inches. The wing to the house is the kitchen. This has an extra large fireplace, and the cracked flag-stones, which front and flank it, testify to the many years of service they have seen. In the "good old days," when the VanRensselaer family was large and kept open house, these nine fireplaces were in constant use throughout the cold months. To-day, of course, they are replaced by stoves. In 1831, seventy-three years ago, the parlor was papered; the same paper is still upon the walls, in a good state of preservation.

In 1843, Robert Henry VanRensselaer, nephew and adopted son of Col. VanRensselaer, married Joanna Franchot, a daughter of Pascal Franchot, in this same manor house. Four of their children survive, Robert at Peoria, Ill.; Joanna and Katherine at Cambridge, Mass.; and Volkert Peter at Binghamton. Another son, Franchot, died in Morris in 1903, the last resident descendant in Morris of the VanRensselaer and Franchot families.

THE FRANCHOT HOUSE

THE first settlers of the village now called Morris were French people, and first of these Frenchmen came, in the spring of 1790, Charles Franchot and his two sons, Louis Franchot and Stanislas Pascal Franchot, then a youth of sixteen years. As soon as the sons were comfortably settled here, the father returned to France. The two brothers went into partnership, carrying on the milling business and also conducting the first store in the village. They must have lived in a log house probably somewhere near the site of the house in the picture, as there was not a frame building in this valley until 1795. This partnership continued for eight years, when Louis died. After his brother's death, Pascal Franchot entered into partnership with Volkert Peter Van Rensselaer, who came here from the Hudson Valley, continuing in this enterprise until 1814. Their grist mill was located near the site of our present mill, and their store was a short distance to the right (west) of the house shown in the picture.

The erection of this house began in 1810, and was completed a few years later. It is one of the most substantially built houses in the county, and was among the first frame houses in the village. As seen in the picture the house stands in its original lines as built by Judge Franchot, excepting the piazza, which has taken the place of a wide porch over the front door, the prevailing fad in architecture for a stately residence of those days. Here were born to Judge Franchot his eleven children, eight by his first wife, Catherine Hansen, and three by his second wife, Deborah Hansen, both daughters of Derrick Hansen of Greenbush. Shortly after the completion of his residence, Mr. Franchot retired from the mercantile business and became the agent of LeRay de Chaumont, in selling and settling the latter's vast holdings of land in this vicinity. He also cleared and extended his own farm, which comprised all of what is now the lower part of the village. Pascal Franchot was the first Supervisor of the town and was also Special Judge of the county for a number of years. He was always a courtly French gentleman, well dressed and proud. He died in this house in the year 1855 at the age of 81 years, leaving to his large family an honored name and a substantial property.



The Franchot House



Mapleside - Washbon home built in 1839



F. C. Potter home - West Main Street



Kenyon stead - South Broad Street



George Sprague home - Grove Street



The Bowne House

THE BOWNE HOUSE

TWO miles up the valley from Morris village, located on a slight rise of ground sloping to the Butternut Creek, stands the Bowne house. For four generations genial hospitality has been its characteristic, and its old halls have re-echoed the happy laughter of children, grandchildren, and even their children's children. This venerable house, whose size, imposing appearance and peculiar architecture entitle it to be called a mansion, was built in 1808-9, by Robert L. Bowne, who came here from New York. It was built on magnificent lines for those days. The upright and the wings are octagon, and the rooms inside conform to the exterior lines. The house is practically three stories high, with forty rooms. Great chimneys on either end contained enormous fireplaces, the one in the kitchen having a brick oven of mammoth proportions attached to it. The great hewn timbers of the frame, as seen in the spacious attic, are as sound as when put there nearly a century ago. It was expected in the days when this house was built, that Elm Grove was to become the village of the valley. It contained a large broadcloth factory built and owned by Robert L. Bowne & Co., and other industries; its many level acres were surveyed and laid out into streets and building lots. The Bowne mansion stood at its north end and overlooked it all. The factory burned one day, later the firm failed, the other industries waned, and the village failed to materialize. Robert Bowne's house was bought by George Shepherd, who sold it later to two brothers Loomis, and they in turn to the Somers family.

In 1849, Judge Samuel S. Bowne, remembered as one of the leading jurists of the country and a man of wonderful oratorical powers, bought the place. He was the nephew of Robert L. Bowne and son of Joseph Bowne, the noted Friends preacher. At the judge's death the property came to his sons, Charles A. and John Bowne. The latter died in 1901. The place is now owned by Charles G. Bowne and his partner, D. F. Wightman, the former a son of Charles A. Bowne.

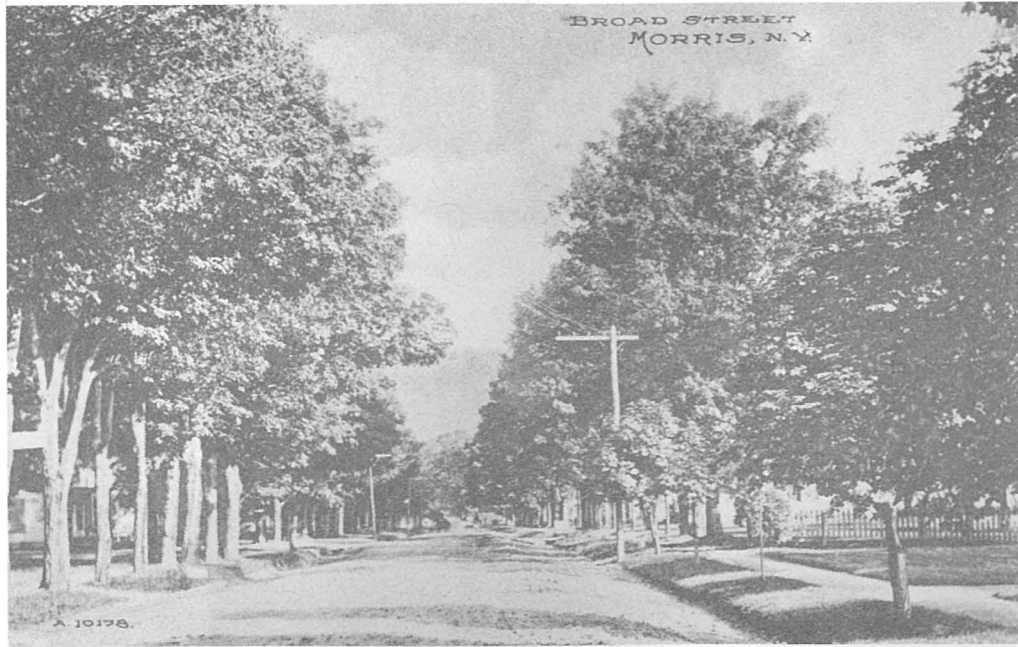
In the picture on the opposite page, C. A. Bowne is seen seated in the carriage at the left; although 83 years old, Mr. Bowne is an active and well preserved man. The boy leaning on the bicycle is John Bowne, his grandson. In this connection it is interesting to note that C. A. Bowne has twenty grandchildren and twenty-one great-grandchildren. Before so many homes had multiplied from this one, the family gatherings at "Bowne Castle" were events of interest in the valley. For many years it was no uncommon thing for the family to number a full score around the hospitable board for days at a time.

LOWER BROAD STREET

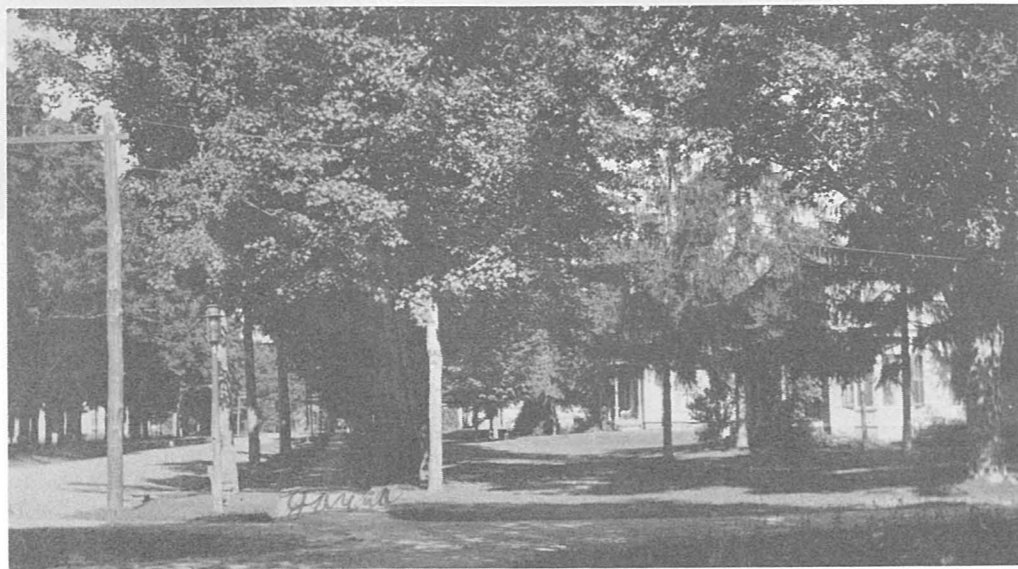
HERE we have a pretty view, in the residential part of the village—South Broad street in its autumnal dress; taken from Lake street, looking toward the creek bridge. Edwin Gaylord's residence is shown on the right; on the left, George Whitman's place, with the Baptist church beyond. This street was the road of the old historic Charlotte Turnpike as it passed through Louisville in the old days.



Lower Broad Street



South Broad Street



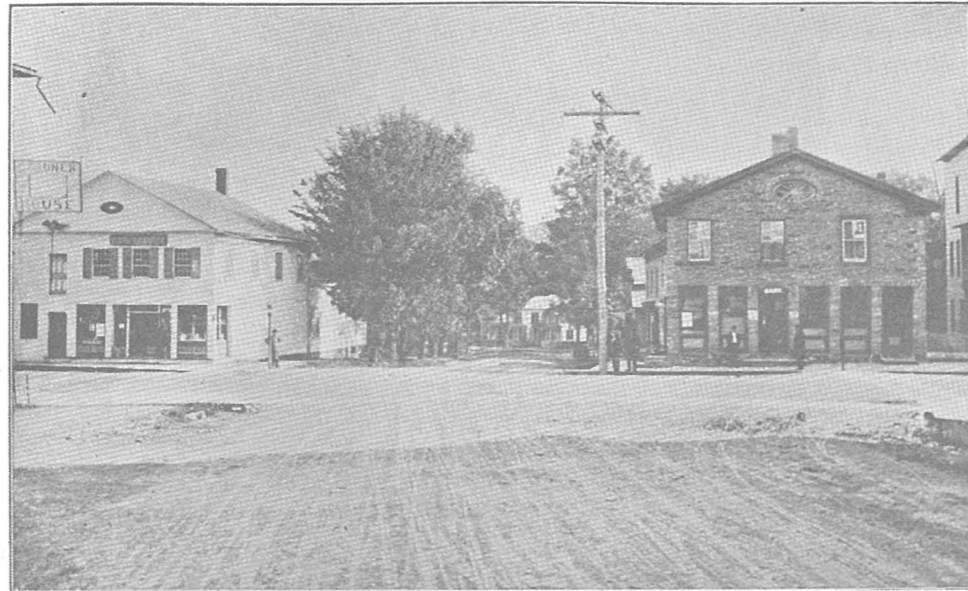
South Broad Street



Morris Village about 1865



Morris Village - Main Street



Corner Main and Broad Street

CORNER MAIN AND BROAD STREETS

HERE we are looking across Main street and down South Broad street. The stone building on the right was built about 1833. For many years it was owned by Ansel C. Moore and occupied by him as a general store, and in it he established and conducted the first banking business in the village. It is now owned by James P. Kenyon and occupied by the First National Bank, which was moved here from the C. H. Lawrence building in 1898. This Bank was established in 1893, with the late D. I. Lawrence as its president and Frank Barber, cashier. J. P. Kenyon is now its president, and Geo. Whitman the cashier. Beyond the Bank is V. L. Curtis's feed store and E. M. Sloan's hardware store. Opposite these is the residence of Dr. Merritt Matteson. It was built in 1837 for Edwin E. Gilbert, a merchant here at that time. On this building J. P. Kenyon did his first work as an apprentice, working for Mordecai Wing, a carpenter and builder.

The house in the center of the picture down Broad street is the residence of John W. Shaw, senior. Here Dr. John W. Still lived a long time. It was built in 1833, by John Bard, who also built and owned the big red wagon shop adjoining, on the corner of Grove street.

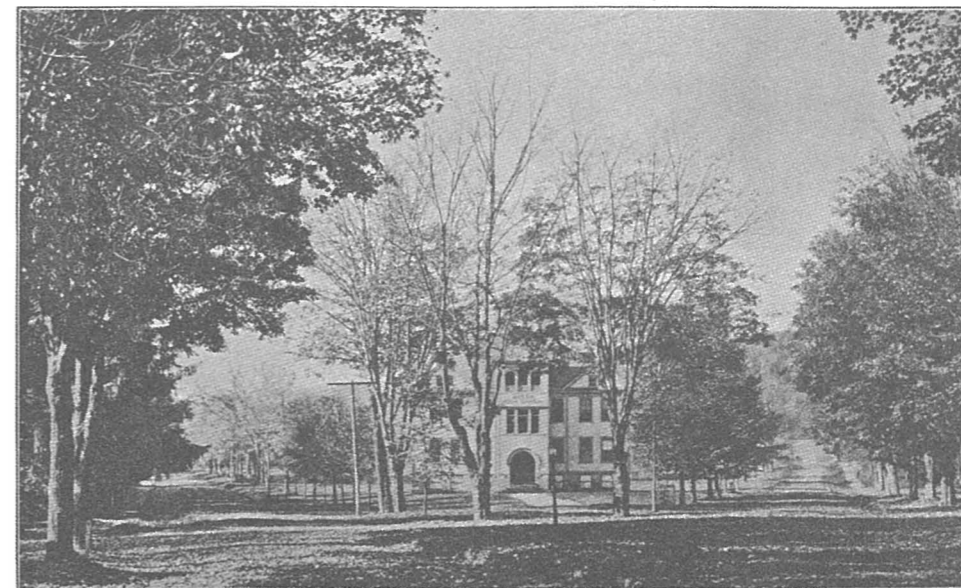
The store on the left of the picture was built by Chauncey Moore and Jonathan Lull for a general store. Chester Jarvis succeeded them. Then W. R. B. Wing had a drug and grocery store there until about 1870-71, when he died. J. P. Kenyon then bought it, and conducted the business until 1885, when he sold to John A. Ward and Volney J. Hoke. Some years later V. J. Hoke became the sole owner, and still conducts it as a drug and grocery store.

THE MORRIS SCHOOL

THE first schoolhouse for the village of Morris was located across the Butternut Creek bridge somewhere opposite the present cemetery entrance. Later it was located on Grove street, near the present site of Alfred Benington's house; then it was changed to a lot which was part of the present school grounds. In 1861 a new schoolhouse was built, and the old one moved to a lot on Liberty street, and is now the residence of Mr. and Mrs. L. A. Hewel. In 1869 the school was organized as a Union Free School, the first one in the county; in 1875 it became an Academic School. In 1894 the grounds were enlarged by the purchase of an acre of land, and the present commodious building was erected at a cost of \$8,000.00, and the institution became a High School. The building put up in 1861, and many times enlarged to meet the growing demands of the town, was sold and moved to Grove street, where it is now owned and occupied by Alvin Gifford as a residence.

The standard of the school is high, and its graduates are scattered everywhere in the busy responsible corners of the earth. The number of students who finished their common school studies here and earned their academic certificates is 406, while those to whom academic diplomas have been granted number 166. The school offers three courses of study: the English, 3 years; the Modern Language, and the Ancient and Modern Language, each a 4-years' course. Students are prepared for entrance to college and normal schools, where our students have always taken high rank. The State Department of Education has for many years kept this school under appointment to instruct a Teachers' Training Class. The school employs a faculty of seven teachers.

It is interesting to recall the names of some of those citizens of the village who always stood for a broad and liberal education, not only for their own children, but for the boys and girls of their neighbors. Among such we may without prejudice to others mention Dr. Walter Wing, Jacob K. Lull, Chester Jarvis, Edwin E. Gilbert, Jonathan M. Lull, Asahel S. Avery, C. A. Church, Walter A. Wing, Benjamin H. Matteson, Silas S. Seely, Nathaniel Stevenson, Otis B. Matteson, John D. Buzzell. For later years it is but proper to recall the services to the school of Isaac Mansfield, Maurice Shanessy, Daniel C. Winton (a member of the Board of Education for thirty years and still serving), and Dr. Merritt Matteson, a member of the Board above twenty years and for many years its efficient president. But for lack of space this honored list could be largely extended, for the town has always had a good school spirit.



Morris School

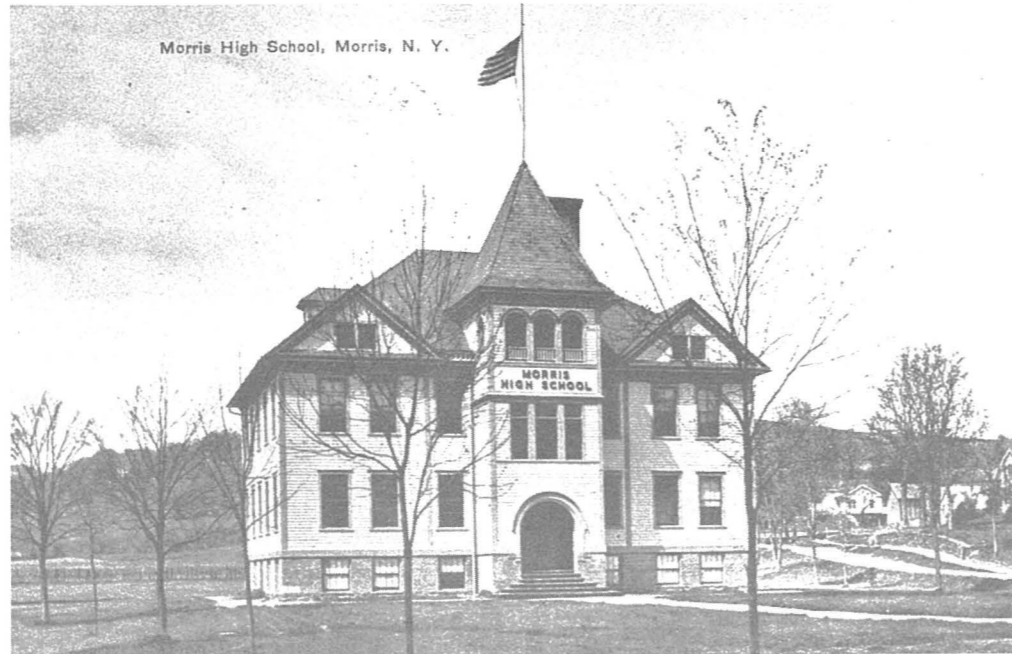


Union School— 1860-1894
Morris, N.Y.

Union School 1860-1894

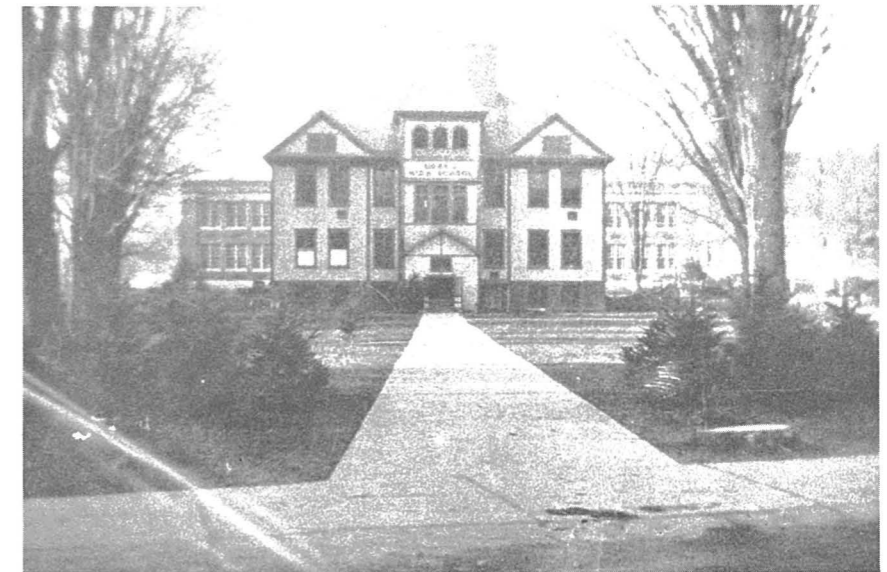


Morris High School 1894-1932



Morris High School, Morris, N. Y.

Morris High School 1894-1932



Foreground Morris High School - Background Morris Central School 1932



The Morris Manor

THE MORRIS MANOR

BEFORE the Revolutionary War there resided on large tracts of land within what is now the limits of Greater New York, three brothers Morris—Staats Long, Lewis and Richard. The two latter zealously supported the cause of the colonists, while Staats Long as zealously cast in his lot with King George. His wife was the Dowager Duchess of Gordon. He became an officer in the king's service, and later was governor of Quebec. The king, in 1769, granted Staats Long a patent of 30,000 acres of land in the Butternut Valley, located south of a line running east and west about two and one-half miles below the present village of Morris.

When Lewis Morris, who was one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, was in attendance at Philadelphia, in July 1776, upon the Congress that passed and signed that immortal document, a large body of British troops landed upon his estate at Morrisania. They burned a thousand acres of valuable timber, carried off his stock, destroyed his buildings and drove his family away. After the war, in which Lewis and Richard put their services and fortunes at the disposal of Congress, the State was appealed to, and to indemnify for the loss of Morrisania the Morris patent of 30,000 acres was taken from Staats Long Morris and given to his brothers, Lewis and Richard.

Lewis Morris had a son Jacob, who at the age of 19 entered the army as aide-de-camp on the staff of General Charles Lee. Later he was on the staff of General Nathaniel Greene. After the war he entered into business in New York city, and also served in the Senate and Assembly of the New York Legislature. In 1787, when he was 33 years old, General Morris left his New York home and came to the Butternut Valley to live. He settled upon a thousand acres in the north part of his father's patent. He found a wilderness never before inhabited, and lived to see and participate in the opening and settling of all the vast territory of Central and Western New York, for sixty years of his life was before him when he came to his new home. He at once took a leading position in the affairs of the new country contemporary with Judge Cooper of Cooperstown. General Morris brought a sawmill with him into the wilderness and his first work was to erect that mill and saw out lumber for a house, thus his first house was a frame dwelling, instead of the universal log cabin of those days. It stood on a knoll on the south bank of Mill Creek, below the present manor house. On its site to-day stands an elm tree whose trunk is more than two feet in diameter. His second house was built still farther south, on the place so long occupied by his grandson, James Rutherford Morris, and now the home of his great-granddaughter, Mrs. Laura Morris Hartman. The Manor House was built in 1805. It is the property of the General's great-grandson, Dr. Lewis Rutherford Morris of New York city, who occupies it summers. He has recently rebuilt its interior and somewhat enlarged it, and has also beautified the grounds of the estate, and especially Mill Creek, across which a massive dam of concrete and masonry forms a picturesque little lake reaching up into the glen and falls of St. Mary. This ravine and the "hatted knoll" form a scene in one of Cooper's famous novels.

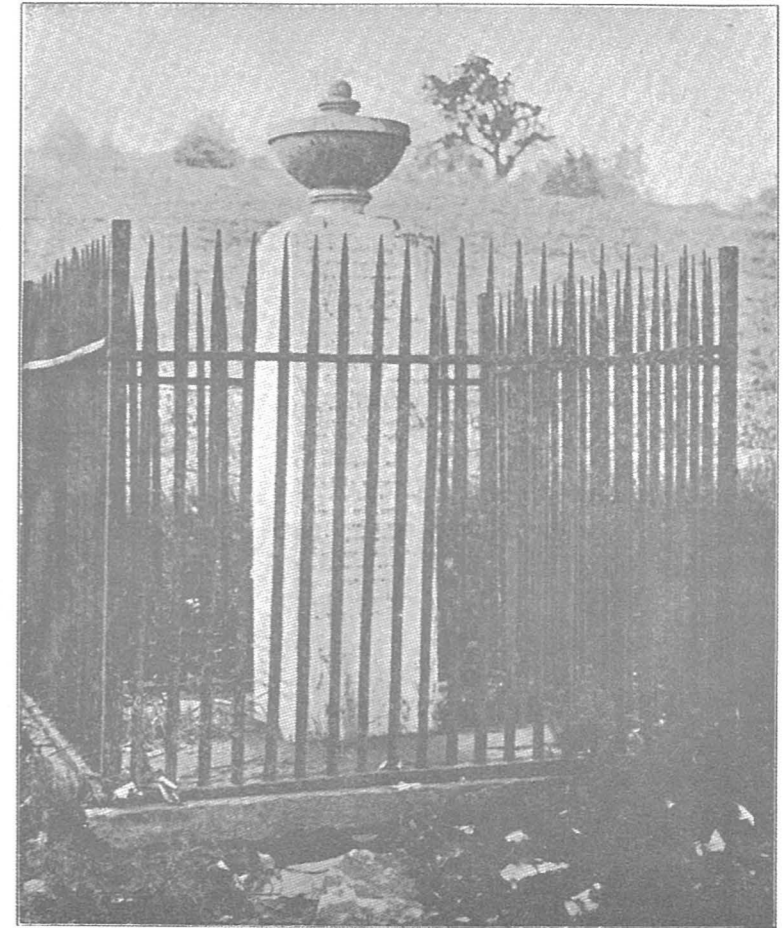
THE HANNAH COOPER MONUMENT

HERE stands in the beautiful Butternut Valley, two miles below the village of Morris, a shaft of marble, erected more than a century ago. Around it clusters a story filled with interest and pathos. The monument marks the scene of the tragic death of Miss Hannah Cooper, the sister of James Fenimore Cooper, the famous novelist. The family of Judge Cooper and the Morris family, although living twenty-five miles apart, and separated by an almost unbroken wilderness, were intimate, and the young people at least often visited back and forth at Cooperstown and at the Morrises. These visits seem to have brought on an attachment between John Cox Morris, a son of General Morris, and Hannah Cooper, the Judge's daughter. Miss Cooper was visiting at the home of her betrothed, and on that fatal morning, the roth of September, 1800, formed one of a merry party of young people out horseback riding. Her horse was a spirited animal, and when the party started away from the house General Morris but half jokingly said to her, "I shall expect to see you ride to glory on that beast yet." But little less than a mile had been passed, when from out a log cabin by the road-side rushed a little dog, barking as he came. Miss Cooper's horse jumped quickly to one side, and the young lady was thrown to the ground. She was instantly killed. Her body was taken to Cooperstown.

The picture shows the monument as it stands to-day; thus has it stood a hundred years and more. The fence about it is an iron one, all hammered and forged in a shop near by. The shaft is about seven feet high, and all four sides are covered with neatly chiseled inscriptions. The event is stated, the virtues of the young lady are tenderly named, the moral quaintly drawn. Two sides are given up to a poem in memory of her who met such an untimely death. At the bottom of one side may be read:

To departed worth and excellence this monument is erected,
this tribute of affection is inscribed, by a friend,
this 1st day of January, 1801.

Probably the Friend named was John Cox Morris. He afterward became a side judge of the county and practised law some. He was a graduate of Dartmouth College, a highly educated gentleman. He never married, and died in 1860, aged 89 years.



The Hannah Cooper Monument



Charles H. Naylor Farm – Patrick Hill

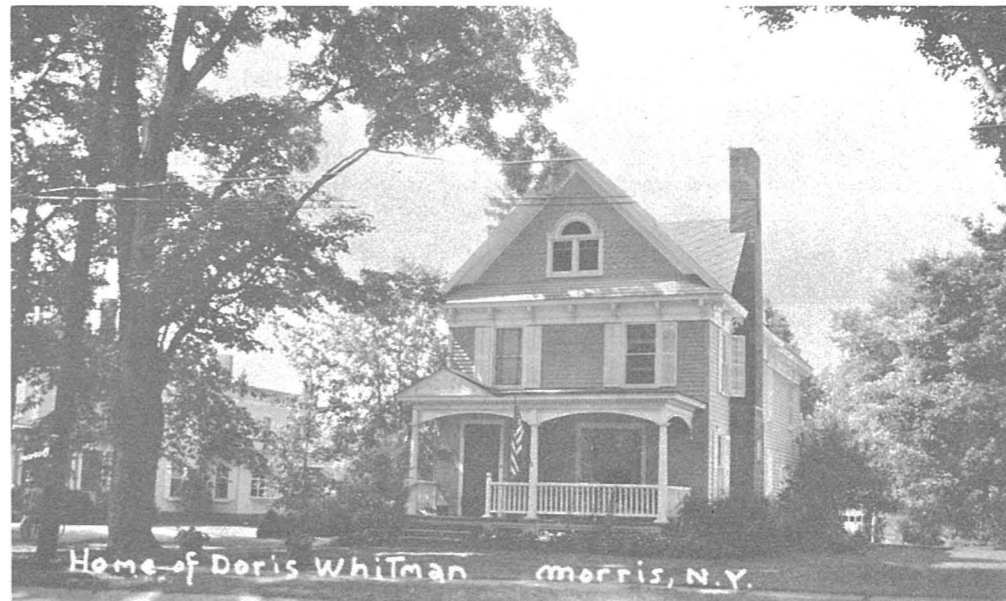


Paul Edgerton Farm – New Berlin Road



Explosion at George Whitman home 1906

Then



Now



The Lull Homestead

THE LULL HOMESTEAD

THREE miles up the valley from Morris village is the Lull Homestead Farm. But little more than a stone's throw from the house pictured on the opposite page came Benjamin Lull, senior, one of the first settlers in the Butternut Valley, and built his log cabin. This was in 1772-5. He had five sons, Benjamin, Caleb, Nathan, William and Joseph. In 1777, these settlers were all driven off by the Indian raids, and William Lull was captured and adopted by the Oneida chief, Grass Hopper, but succeeded in making his escape after about a year spent with the Indians. Benjamin and Caleb Lull were also made prisoners and delivered up to the English authorities. In 1782-3 Benjamin Lull senior and his wife and one son returned to the valley. Later the other sons followed, and settled on farms near their father, hardy pioneers of the wilderness. The remains of many of the first and second generations are buried in the little plot but just across the road from this house, where also stands the Lull Monument, erected recently by their descendants to the memory of Benjamin Lull senior and his wife.

This house was built by Caleb Lull, about the year 1817. It was occupied after his death by his son Ezra, and later by the latter's son Ezra, and is now owned by Ezra's son-in-law, Smith Lasher, who with his son Harold lives there, Harold being the great-great-grandson of the builder of the house. This house has been occupied by the Lulls ever since it was built, and the farm has been in the family ever since the time when the valley was a wilderness.

THE FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE.

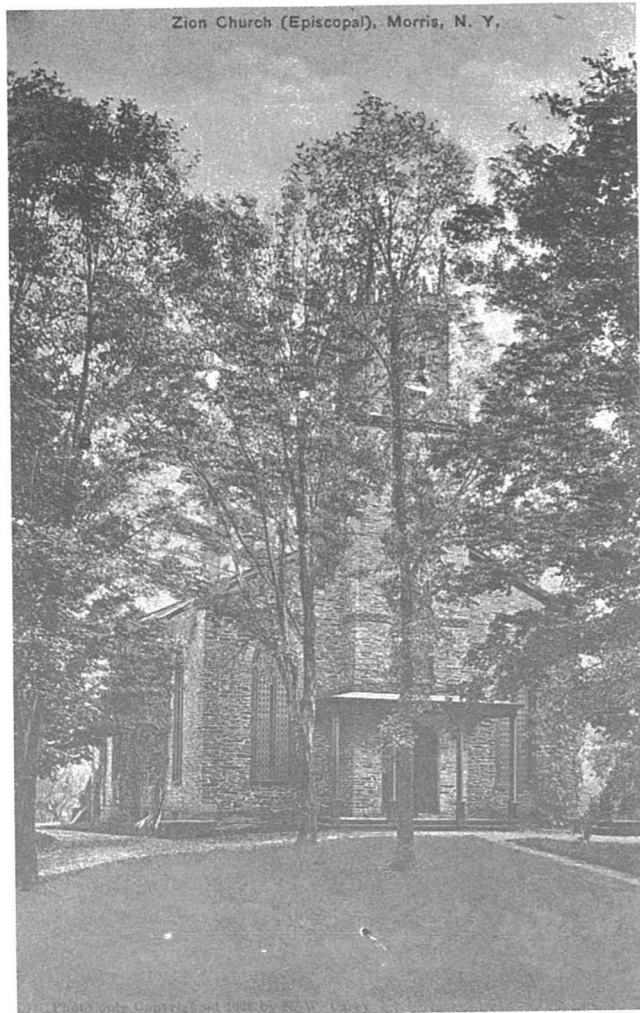
A SHORT distance east of the corporate limits of Morris village, almost hidden from the main road by the beeches and evergreens, stands the unpainted weather-beaten structure pictured on the opposite page, and here it has stood for ninety-six years, having been built by the Butternuts Friends Meeting in 1808-11, to succeed a log meeting house which stood on the hill a little farther south near the present residence of Mr. W. B. Gilbert. This meeting was the center of a large territory, Friends belonging to it in the old days as far east as Middleburg, Schoharie county. The house, when built, faced the main road, which then ran from the corner of the road leading up the valley by the old Church Burying Ground, southerly to the rear of the residence now occupied by Mr. Walter Wing, past the meeting house, crossing the hill road above the residence now occupied by Rev. T. D. Littlewood, and passing along the hillside to where the present creek road makes a square turn west to approach the old factory ground. This road was thrown up in 1834.

In the picture may be seen the places where two doors opened to the front, making two separate entrances. Inside, the house was divided by a movable partition. On one side sat the women, on the other the men. It had a gallery across the front and at either end. Opposite the entrances were the high seats where sat the elders and preachers. In the years long gone by the primitive people of this persuasion gathered here in great numbers to listen to such renowned traveling preachers as Joseph John Gurney of England, Joseph Hoag of Vermont, Henry Knowles of Massachusetts, and Joseph Bowne of New York city, but who later lived and preached here for many years. Other preachers who edified the Friends of the last century were Caleb Braley, Jarvis Rider, David Bennett, and Anthony Youmans (grandfather of Levi Youmans the present aged clerk of the meeting). Mary Peckham, daughter of Henry Knowles, was often heard here. She recently died at Westmoreland at a great age. Phebe Weeden was a resident preacher here fifty and more years ago, until she married Elder George Elkington of Philadelphia. Among the old families who belonged to this meeting are recalled the Sodens, the Leggetts, the Trumans, the Wings, the Bulls, the Youmans, the Collinses, the Furmans, the Cornells, the Haight, and the Bownes.

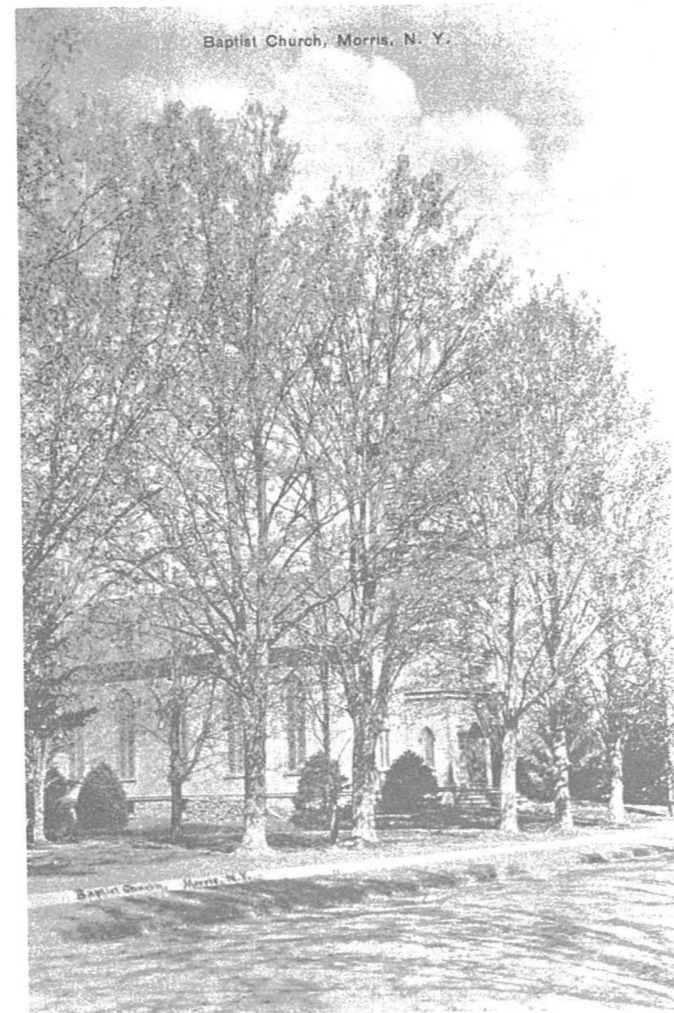
Near a hundred years have passed, and still the meeting is carried on; but the primitive manners and customs of the old days have largely passed with the years, and to-day a modern interior and modern services have taken their place. The crowds that packed galleries and floors in the other days are now represented by but a handful of people, who find a quiet peace and joy in the simple worship of the Friends—whose hearts are tender with the memories that cluster around this venerable old meeting house.



The Friends Meeting House



Zion Episcopal Church - 1818



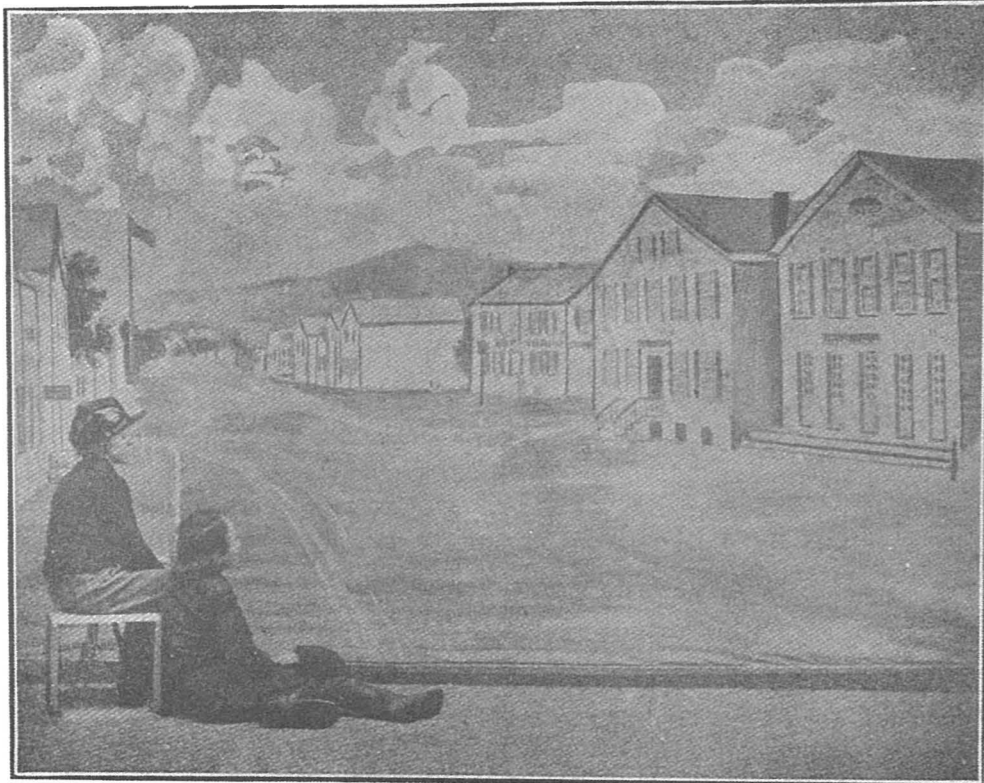
Baptist Church - 1841



Universalist Church - 1841



Morris Methodist Church - 1845



Main Street in 1861

MAIN STREET IN 1861

IN the opposite page is a view of Main street, looking west, as it was in the stirring days of '61. The first stone building on the right was built in 1833, and in a corner of it was the postoffice during the war times. Harley Sargeant was the postmaster. The building was owned by Jonathan M. Lull, who occupied it for a dry goods store at different times. Also for a period after the war Silas W. Murdock and Silas S. Matteson, now of Oneonta, were partners in business in this store. About this time, and for a year or two previous, the second floor of this building was used for a young ladies' select school. Miss Deitz, of Oneonta, was the teacher. It called numerous out-of-town pupils here. The second building, the old Louisville Hotel, was also built of stone. John Gaskin was the landlord in 1861. For thirty years it has been owned and run by W. H. Gardner. These stone buildings were built by Capt. Dan Smith, who came into the valley early in 1800, and in 1809 bought the place a mile below the village now owned by John T. Elliott. The large house still stands there in good preservation. For half a century Capt. Dan Smith was a prominent citizen here. He had a large family, but its only representative in the valley to-day is the Captain's grandson, G. Clayton Peck of New Lisbon.

The third building, the old Davis property, was kept for years as a hotel. Hosea Bundy was the landlord in 1861. The fourth building was last owned by the late D. I. Laurence, and was burned, with all the buildings from the corner to the brook, in 1882. Then follow other buildings to Willis E. Bunn's hardware store next to the brook,

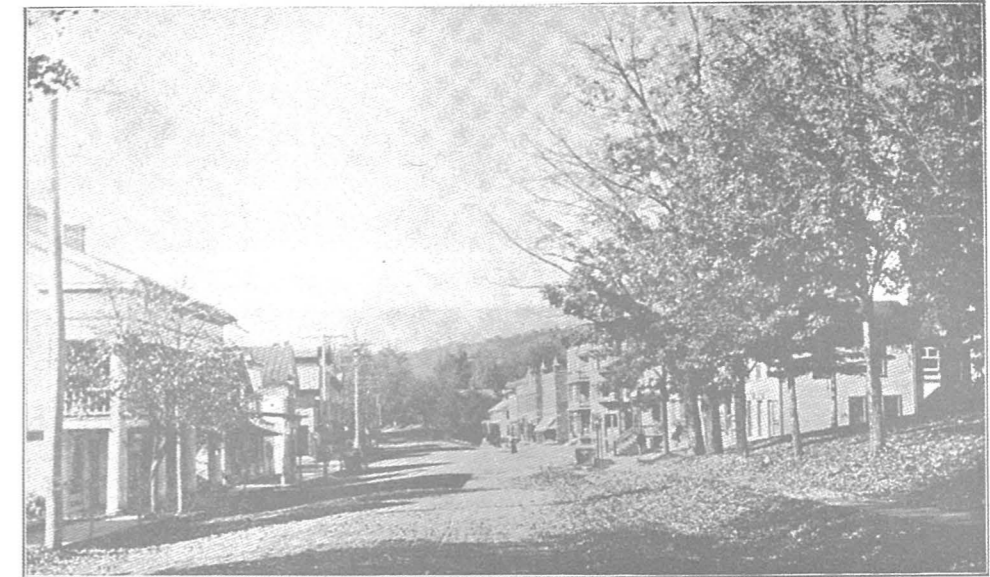
In the centre of the picture, dimly outlined, may be seen the old town pump.

The two boys in the foreground are Frank and Ben Avery, sons of A. S. Avery, the village artist, who photographed the picture in his gallery after he had painted it for a drop curtain. To some this old drop curtain itself may awaken pleasant memories of old associations.

MAIN STREET IN 1904

FOR the benefit of those of our readers who have not seen the village for some years, we will describe the Main street of to-day. This view is taken from nearly the same position and looking in the same direction as that of 1861. The first building on the left is the Payne block, and at present unoccupied. The next building is Henry Foote's store, and the next Schuyler Woodard's market. Cornering on Broad street are Hoke's store and the Bank, more fully described on another page. Next comes the Kenyon block, the lower part occupied by three stores: L. S. Pearsall & Co. (J. P. Kenyon), L. A. Hewel, and Kenyon & Burt; the second floor has three living flats, and on the third floor is the hall and the Maccabees' rooms. The old Perry block comes next, occupied on the ground floor by Mrs. A. N. Cruttenden, millinery, and by Mrs. Harris' art store, and as the central office of the Butternut Valley telephone line, Harry McDonough, manager; and on the second floor by Henry Barker, the tailor, and Martha and Jennie Gifford, dressmakers. Adjoining, is P. Weeden & Son's harness store, show room and shop, on the first floor, and H. W. Weeden's insurance office up-stairs. The next is James Kneen's hardware store. Beyond and across the brook is the Town House.

The first building on the right is occupied the on first floor by the postoffice, John W. Shaw, jr., postmaster. (Between Harley Sargeant in '61 and Mr. Shaw to-day have been the following postmasters: A. S. Avery, L. B. Wallace, Daniel C. Winton, and George Folts. On the second floor of this building are the law offices of Nathan Bridges and his son Merritt Bridges, the latter being District Attorney of the county. The stone building comes next, and is occupied on the ground floor by Foote & Smith's barber shop, and a pool room; up-stairs Mrs. Mary Hoke has a millinery store. Next is the Gardner House. Across on the next corner is the Kenyon House, E. S. Watson, landlord. Then come three fine brick buildings: the first owned and occupied as a dry goods store by Arnold E. & Hiram C. Potter; the second owned by the D. I. Laurence estate, occupied on the first floor by Geo. B. Folts, drugs and groceries; and on the second floor by Dr. J. B. Wells, dentist. The third brick building is owned by Charles H. Lawrence, who lives up-stairs and uses the first floor for the sale of agricultural implements, fixtures, etc. The building adjoining was built in 1900 by L. P. Carpenter's Sons, printers and publishers. The last building clearly discernible was owned by the late D. I. Laurence, and his family still reside there. Beyond that, in the building owned and occupied in 1861 by Nathaniel Stevenson as a shoeshop, employing several hands, is Ira Carey's residence and market, and on the third floor N. W. Carey's photograph gallery and the Western Union Telegraph office.



Main Street in 1904



Parade - Main Street



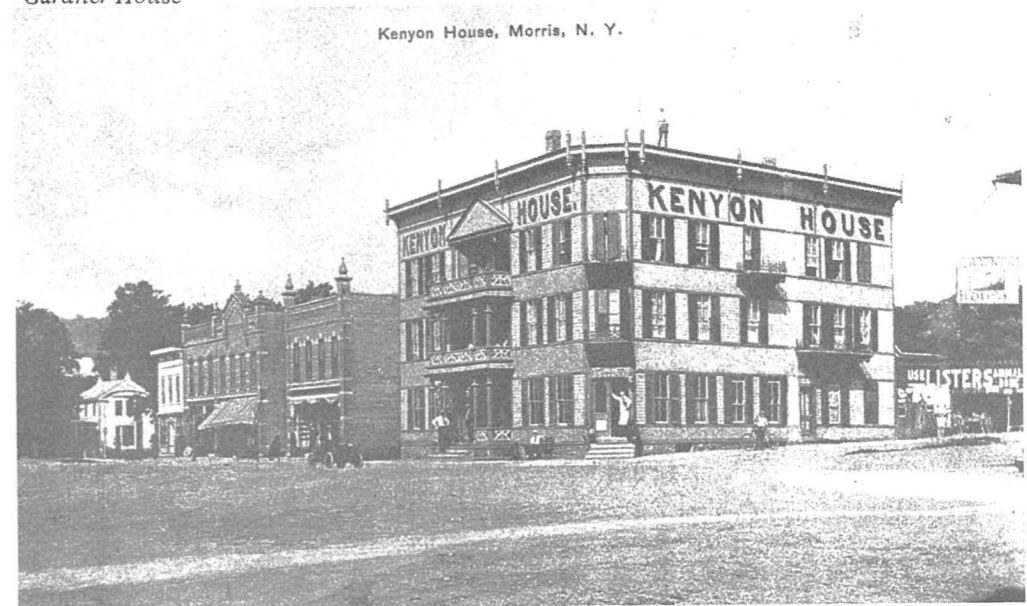
Gardner House, Morris, N. Y.



Gardner Hotel and Morris Band, Morris, N. Y.

Gardner Hotel and Morris Band

Gardner House



Kenyon House, Morris, N. Y.

Kenyon House



Winter Scene – looking from Broad Street



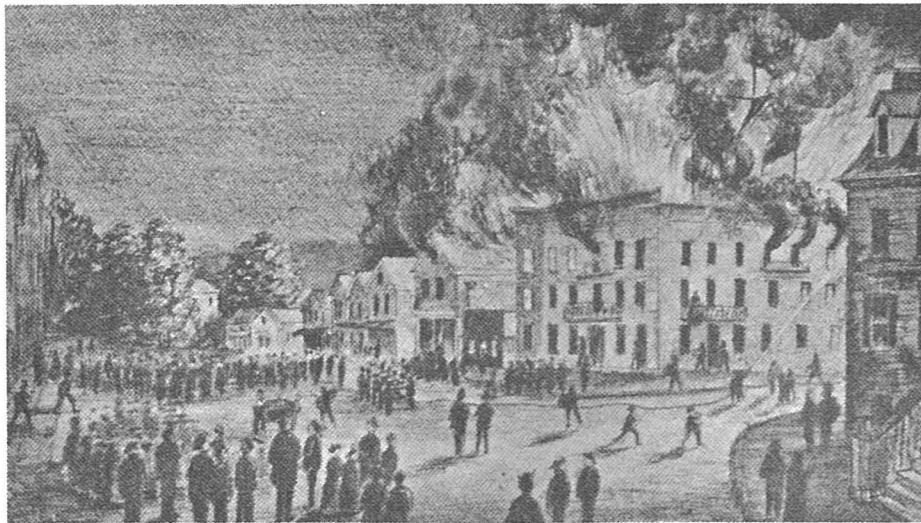
Winter Scene – Main Street



Winter Scene – Main Street



Linn tractor plowing through the snow drifts



The Fire in Morris – September 8, 1883



Bank building and adjacent store complex



Brick building constructed after the fire on September 8, 1883



George Wilcox drove stage between Oneonta and Morris from 1893 to 1929. In 1919 he switched from his horses to a Model T Ford.

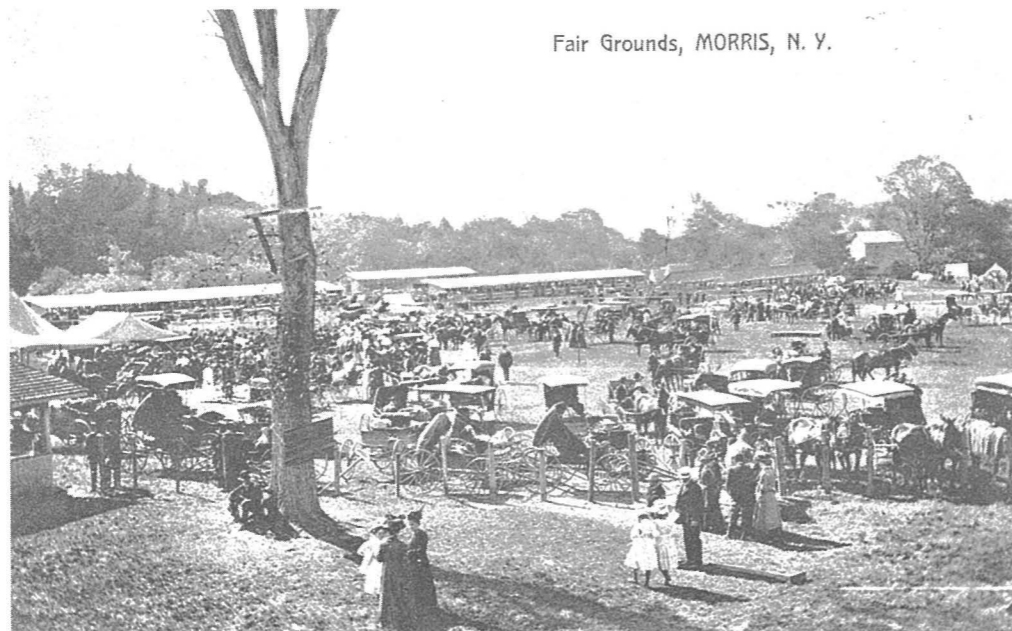


FAIR GROUND - MORRIS, N. Y.

Scene at Morris Fair Ground



Morris Fair Grounds



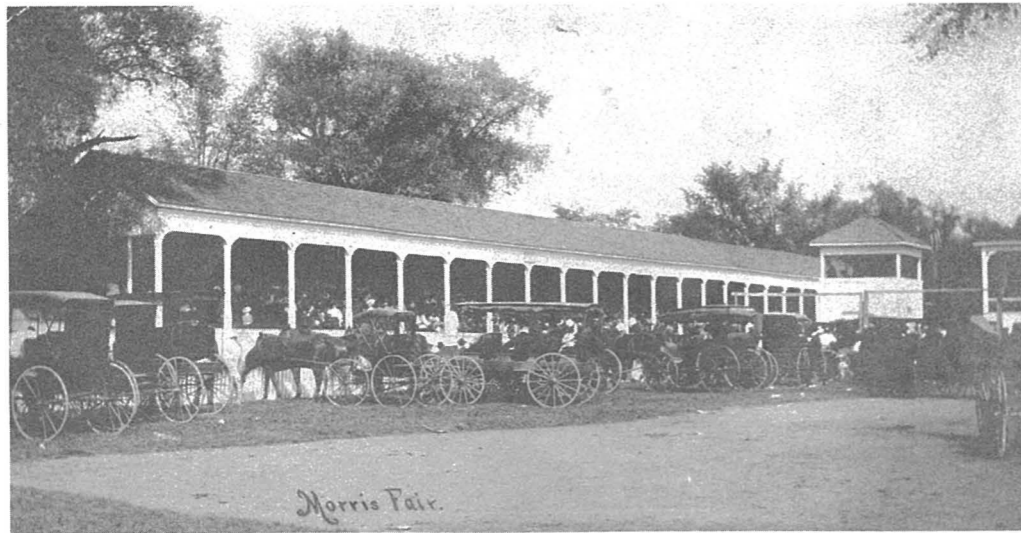
Fair Grounds, MORRIS, N. Y.

Morris Fair Grounds



"At the Fair", MORRIS, N. Y.

Floral Hall - Morris Fair



Grandstand – Morris Fair Grounds



Lull-Thurston Knapp Float – Morris Fair



MORRIS, N.Y.

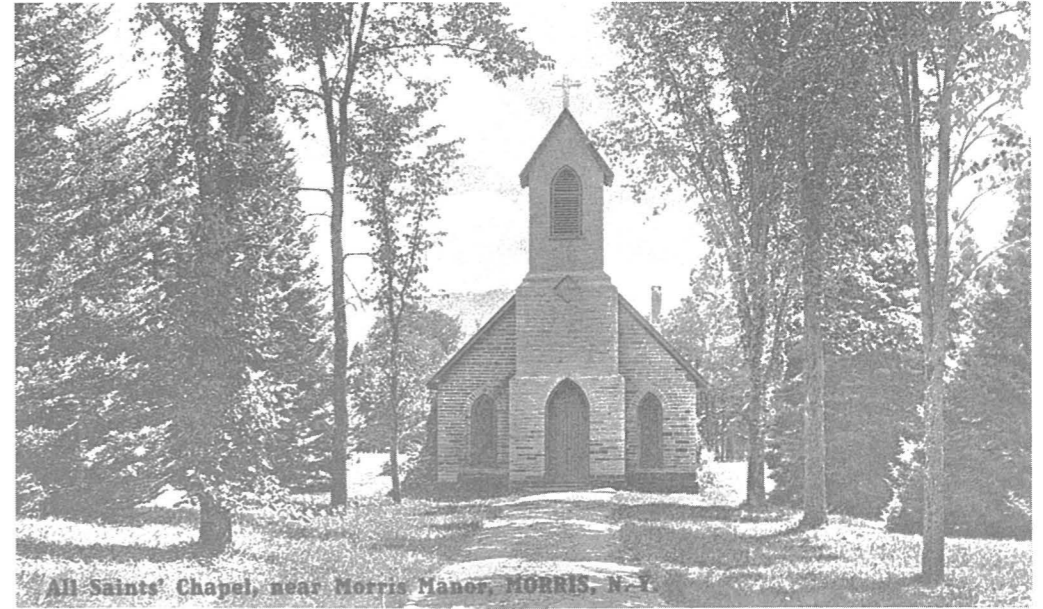
Birdseye view of Morris



Float – Morris Fair



Morris Fire Department



All Saints' Chapel, near Morris Manor, MORRIS, N. Y.

All Saints Chapel, Morris Manor



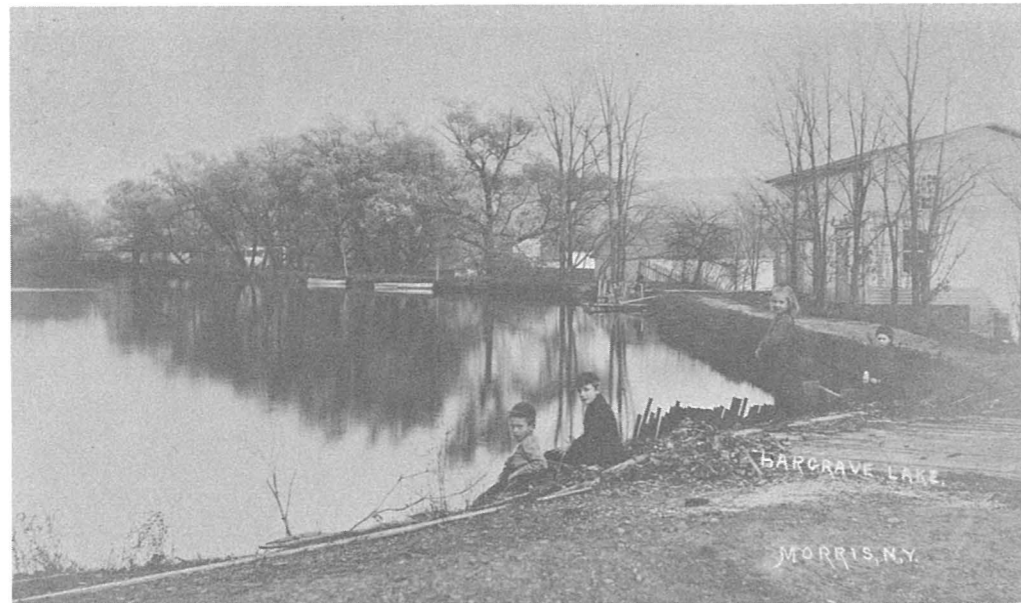
Engine and Town House - 1880



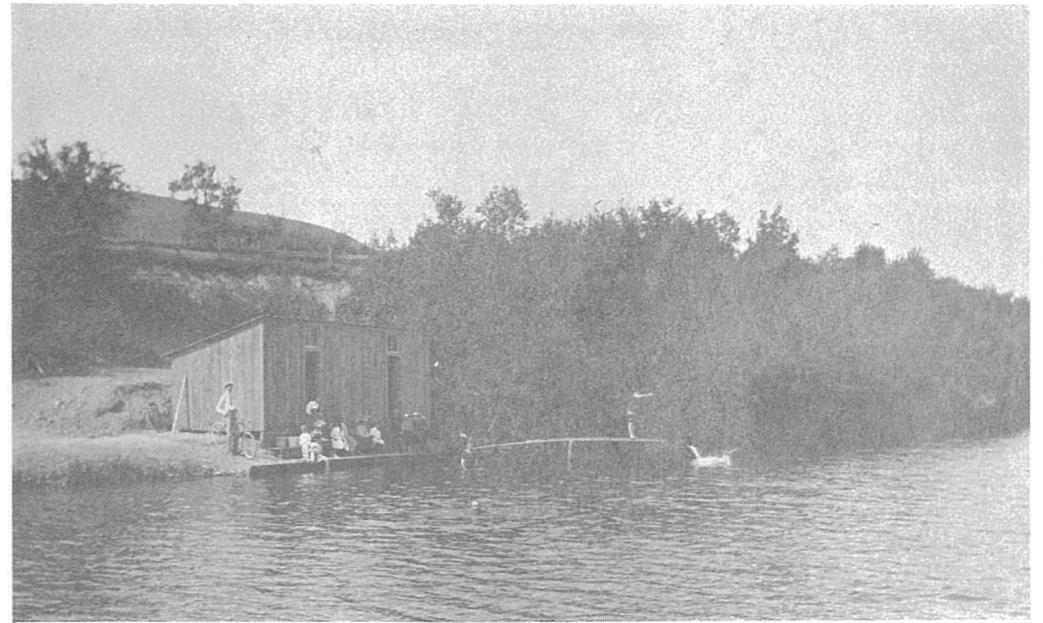
The Dam at Morris Manor



Hargrave Lake

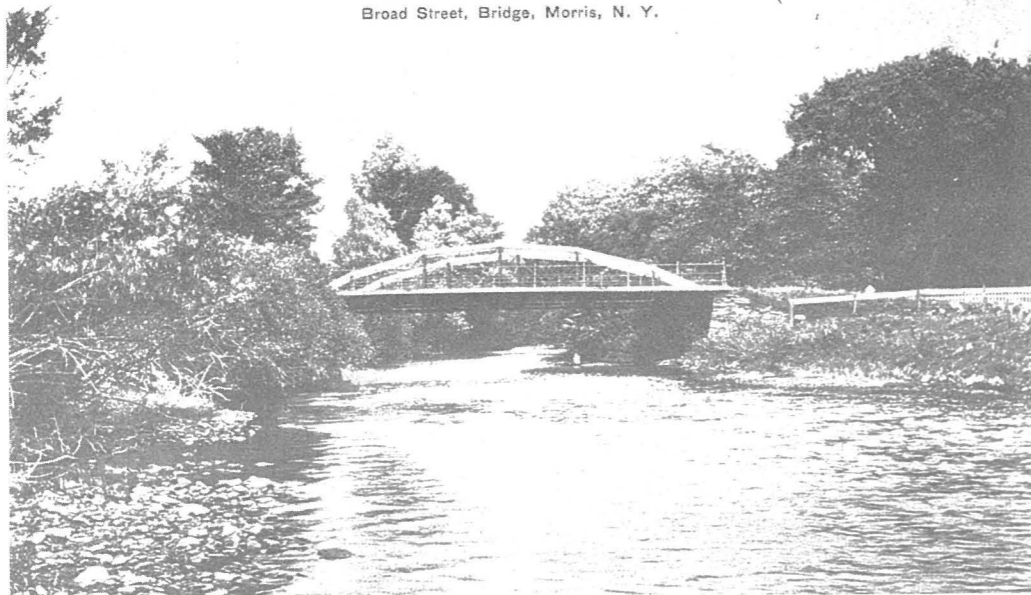


Hargrave Lake



Hargrave Lake

Broad Street, Bridge, Morris, N. Y.



Broad Street Bridge over Butternut Creek

Burlingame Falls, Morris, N. Y.

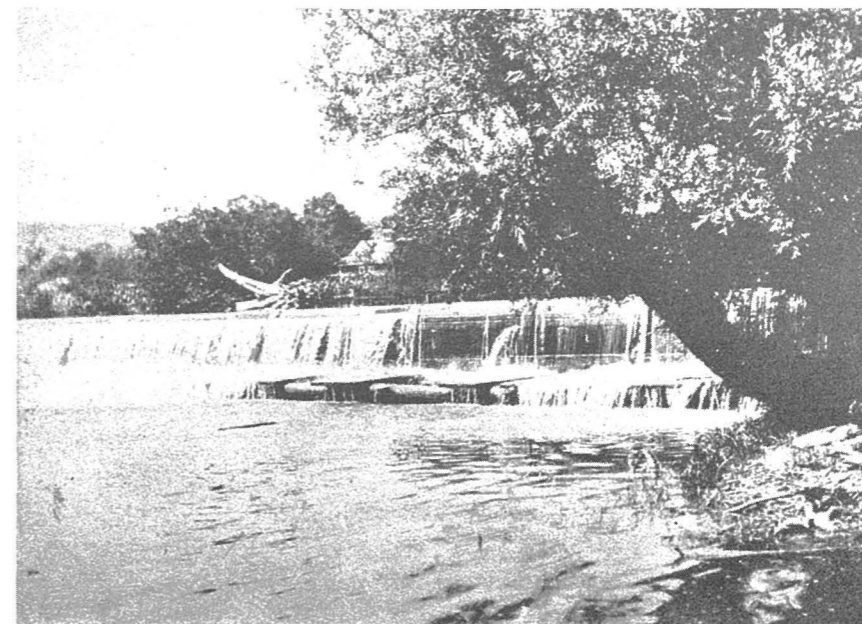


Burlingame Falls, Morris

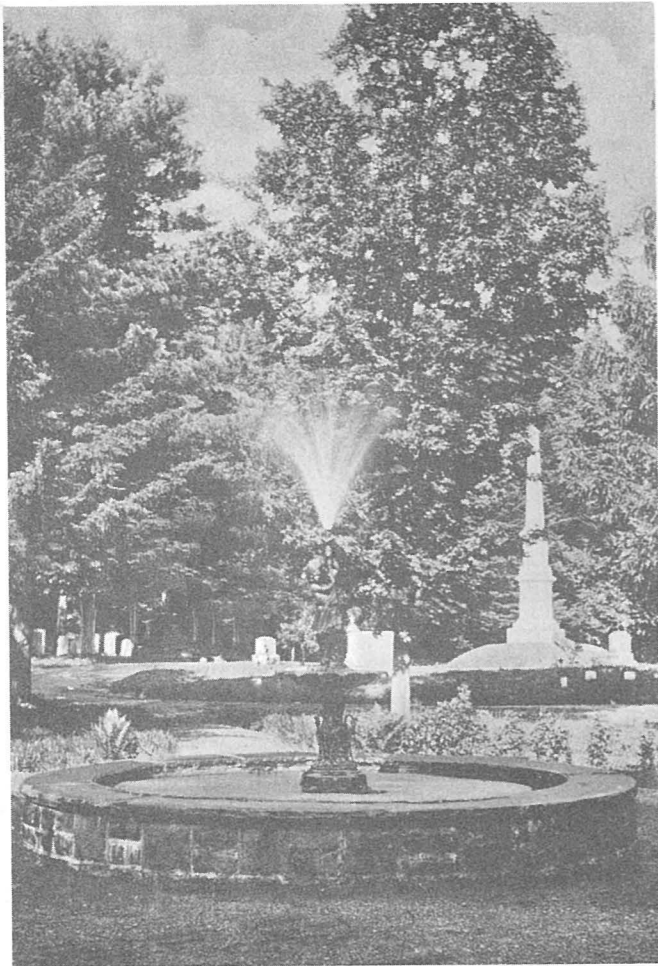
*Cahoon Brook,
Morris, N. Y.*



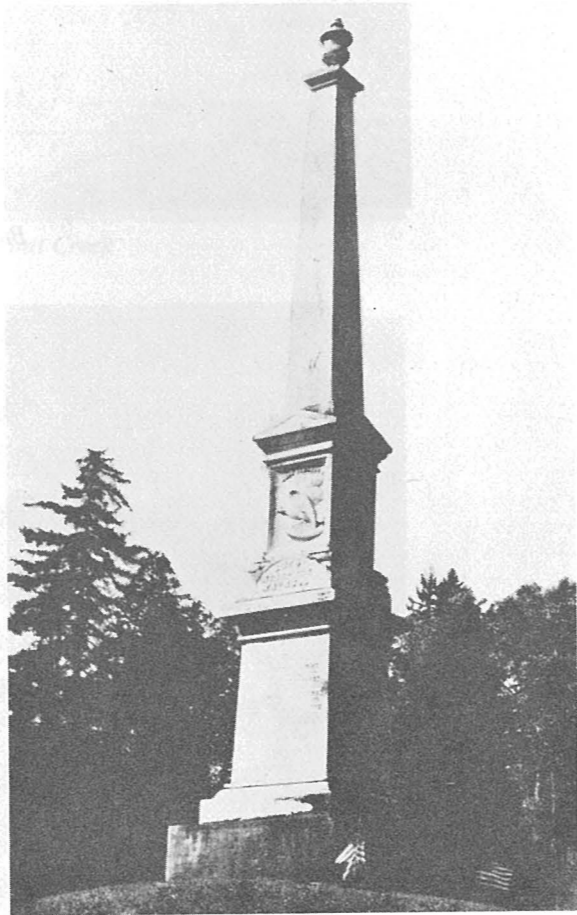
Cahoon Brook, Morris



Benjamin's Dam, Morris



Hillington Cemetery



Soldiers Monument, dedicated end of Civil War



Morris High School Soccer Team - 1898



Morris High School Baseball Team



Curtis Home – about 1900



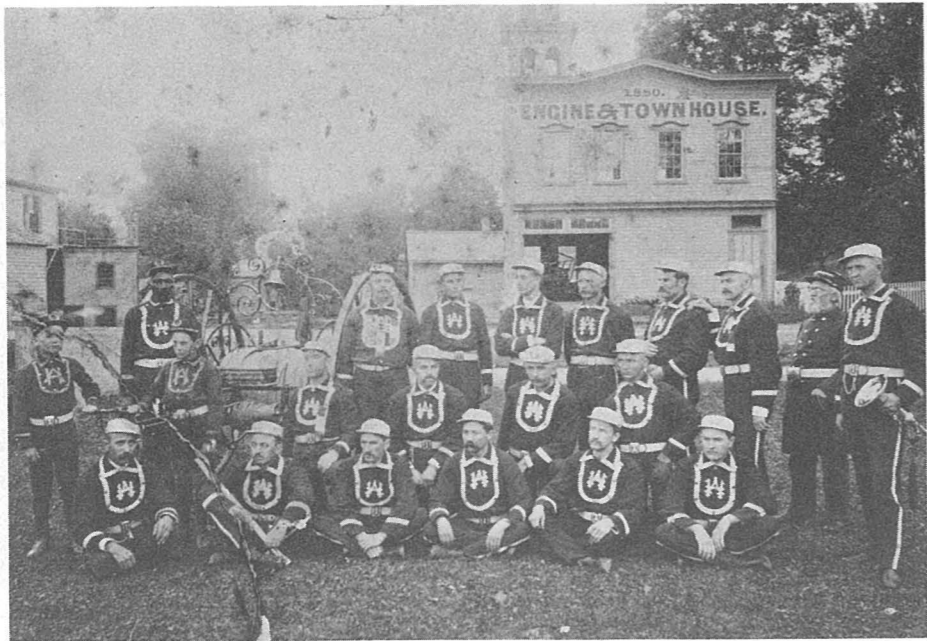
Laura Aplin Harris home. At one time George Sanderson made his headache medicine in the attic of this house.



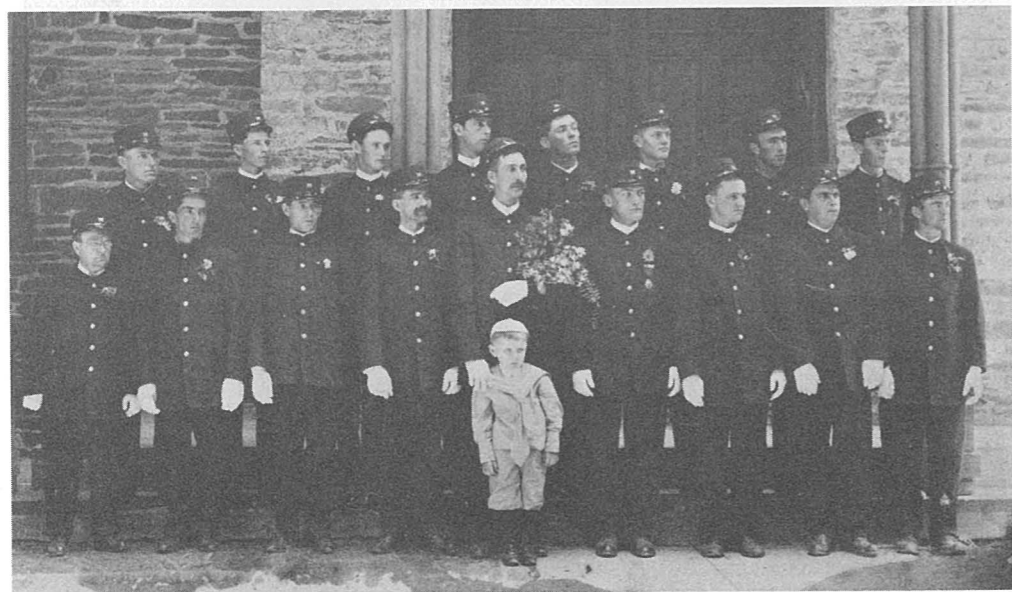
Morris paid Baseball Team – L. A. Hewell, Manager



Interior of L. A. Hewell's store



Morris Active Hose Co. 1885



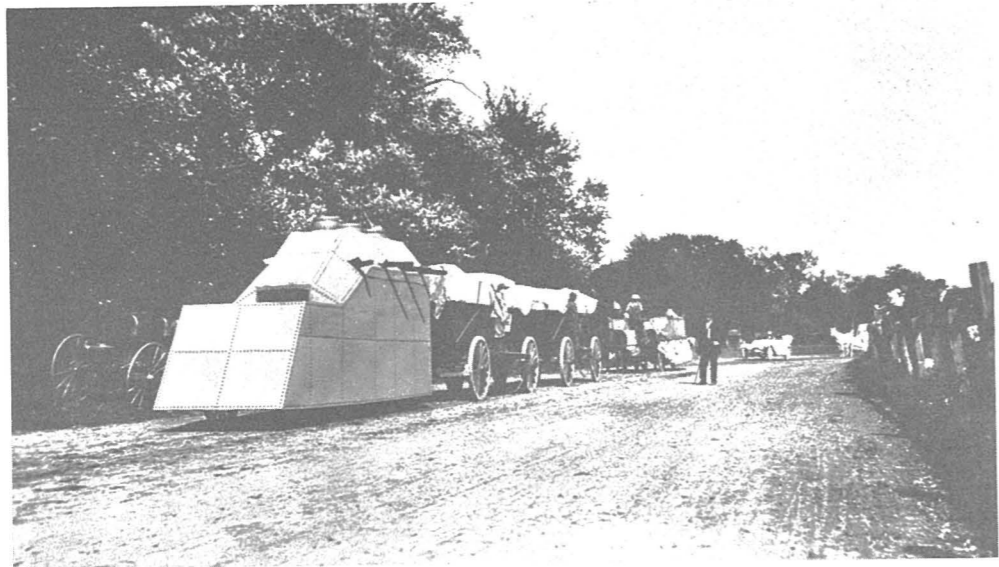
Morris Fire Department



Heavy traffic - Main Street, Morris



First National Bank



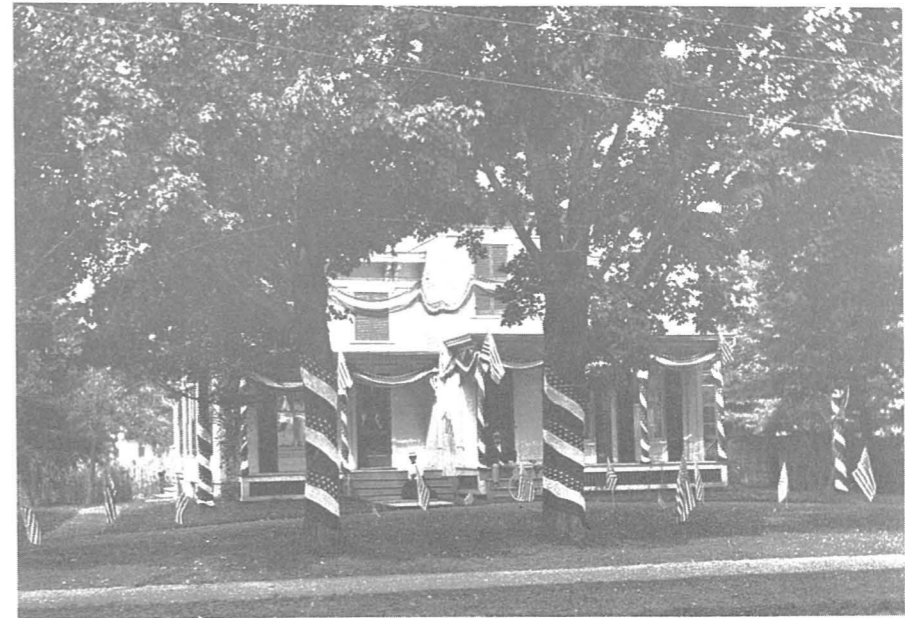
Morris Fair – World War Float (made over a Linn Tractor)



Volney J. Hoke's Store, Main Street



Hop Picking near Morris



Geo. Whitman home decorated for 4th of July



Norman Carey's Meat Market – About 1920



Lew Hewell – Ice Cream Store – early 1920's



Charles Lawrence Hardware Store – Early 1900's



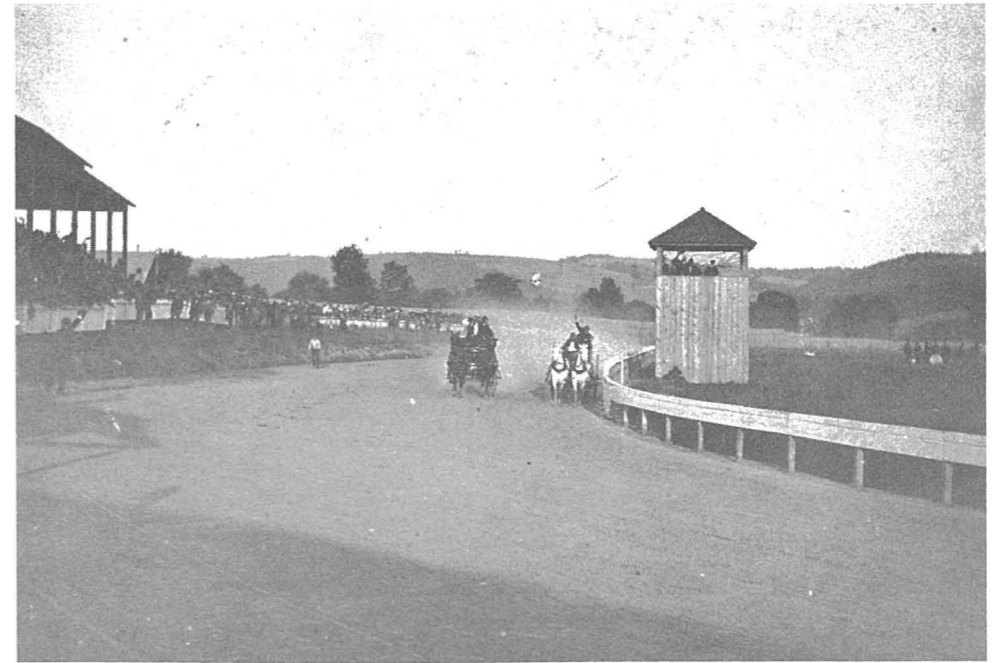
V. L. Curtis Store – Broad Street



R. R. Ripley Ladle Factory – Grove Street



Bert Phillip's Buick – about 1913



Horse Racing – Morris Fair



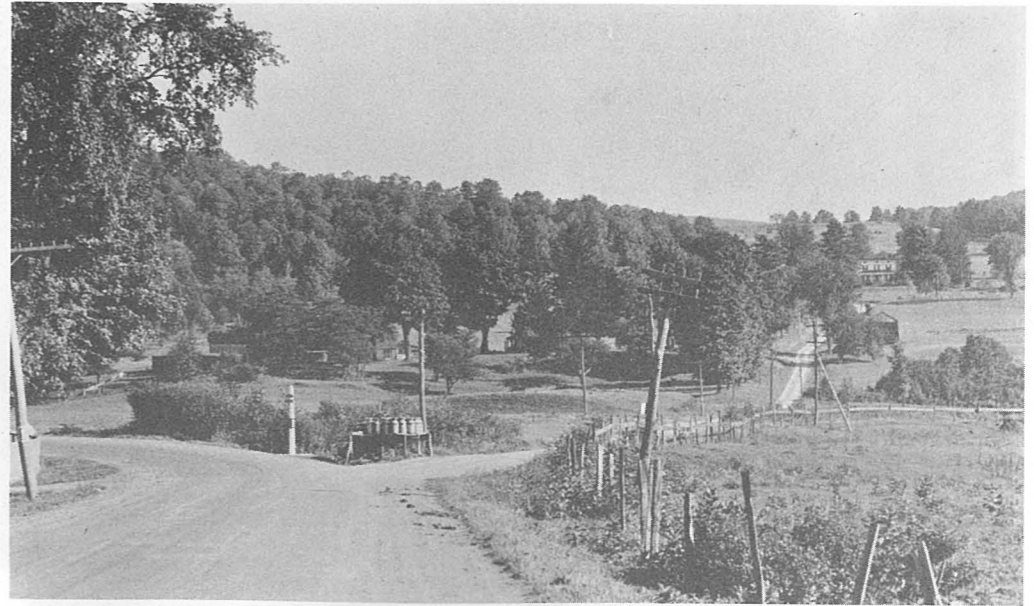
Morris Fair



The Grove – Home of Mrs. C. Gregory



Home of Mr. & Mrs. Charles Light



Route 23 – Turn left to Oneonta



Lewis Light Home



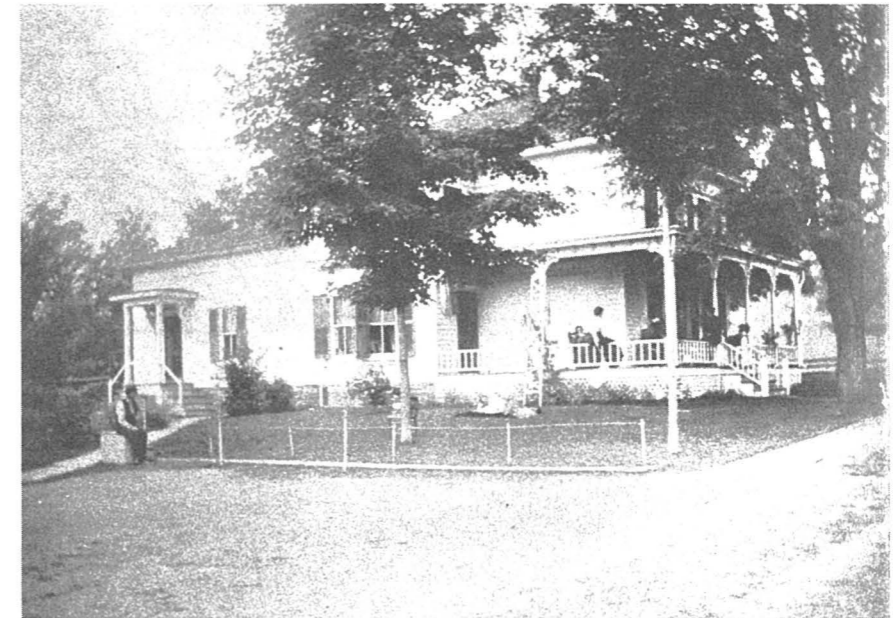
Holy Cross Church, Morris



Present home of Lulu Hülsinger – 1908

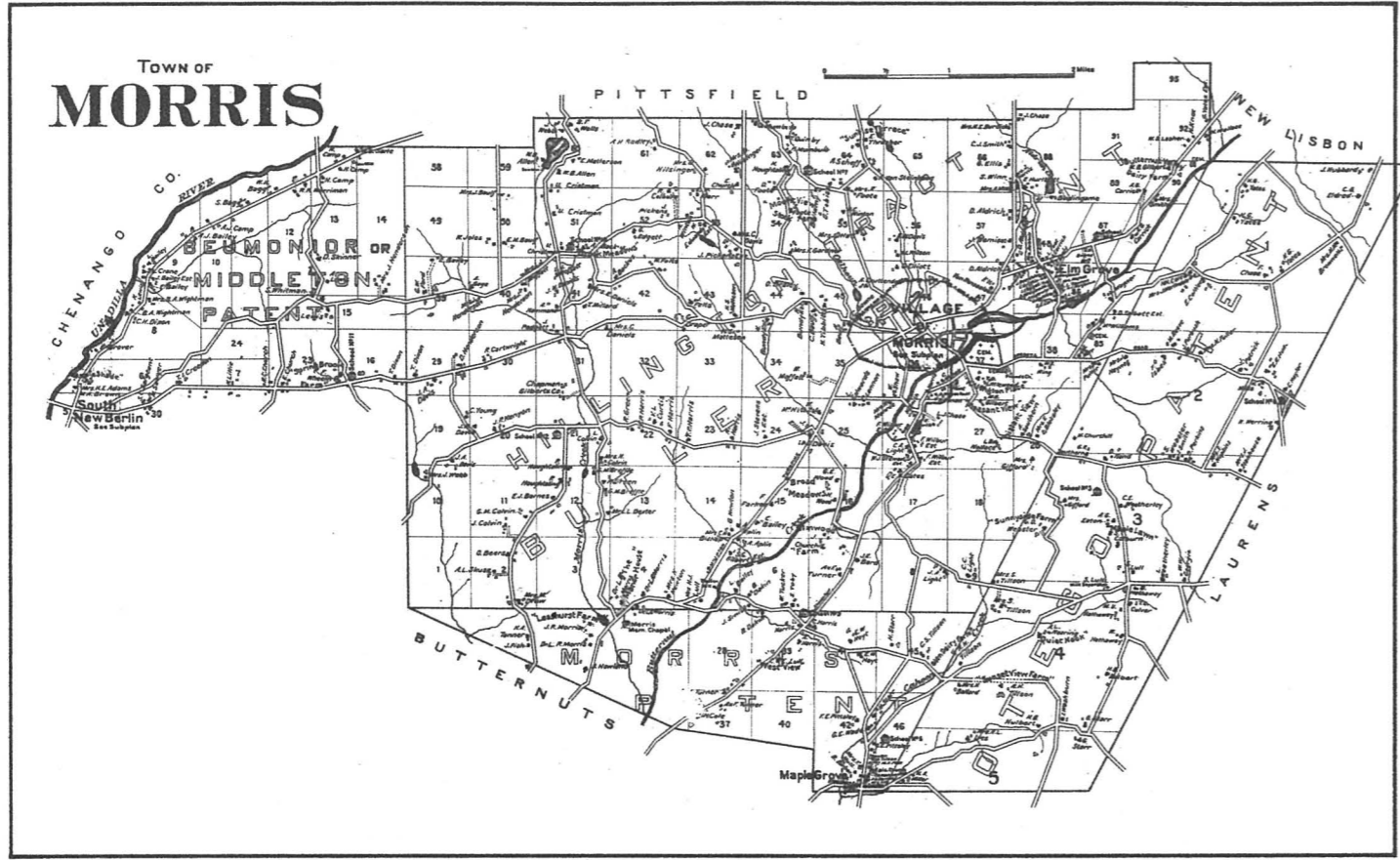


Allen's Pond – early 1900's



Robert Strait House – Present home of Robert Stafford

TOWN OF MORRIS



VILLAGE OF MORRIS

Scale 300 Feet to the Inch.

