

THE MILLS AND OTHER INDUSTRIES
OF EARLY GIENVILLE, NEW YORK

BY

PERCY M. VAN EPPS

BEING THE FOURTH REPORT
OF THE
TOWN HISTORIAN

A People that has no records
must needs begin every generation
as at the dawn of time.
--Wallace Nutting

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George Bull's blacksmith Shop - Glenville 1903.

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THE AREA comprising the Town of Glenville, the only township of Schenectady County lying north of the Mohawk River, until 1798 was part of the district or town of Schenectady, county of Albany. On March 26, 1798 Schenectady was incorporated as a city, the area of Glenville then becoming its fourth ward; still, however, part of Albany County. In 1809 the present county of Schenectady was set apart from Albany, the area of Glenville yet remaining the fourth ward of the city. Finally, by an Act of the State Legislature, passed April 14, 1820, the area of Glenville became a separate town, being named in honor of Alexander Lindsay Glen who in 1865 received a grant of land across the Mohawk River from the newly-settled village of Schenectady. Rotterdam, previously the third ward of Schenectady, being created a township at the same time.

In early Glenville, like in the first settlement by the whites of all parts of our State, the building of mills, especially of saw-mills, closely followed the advance of the pioneer families into the region.

Now, due to the scarcity of reliable data, it is difficult to determine just when or where the first mill was built in the area of Glenville. It may have been the mill operated by the Sanders family, in Scotia -- a grist-mill probably operated by horsepower; it may have been at the High Mills on the Alplaus, then the Aalplaats; perhaps it was the mill known to have stood on the Indian Creek in Swaagertown. Then, again, the earliest mill in Glenville may have been the saw-mill built on the Crabbs Kill, just north of the present village of Glenville. All of the mills mentioned, however, certainly were built and operated during the last quarter of the 18th century and they will all be spoken of in this paper.

As no chronological order, therefore, can be followed in the more or less complete story of the early mills of our town, they will be treated of under the heading of the streams on which they stood, together with a few authentic incidents and sketches pertinent to the mills and their builders and owners. And it is deemed that no apology is needed for the inclusion in this paper of such random incidents and sketches, for in the words of one of our great historians: "Among such fragments have been found the key to valuable facts, and the elucidation of past events obscured by time."

MILLS ON THE ALPLAUS

Very little data seems available regarding the early mills on the Alplaus Kill. However, it is well-nigh certain that at an early date a mill of some kind was built at the hamlet afterward known as the High Mills. Certain land transfers made when the territory was still part of Albany County tend to show this. The first mill built at this place was probably a saw-mill, though the erection of a grist-mill may have closely followed. Fagan's map of 1856 lists the grist-mill and saw-mill of Curtis & Beedle, a woolen factory and another saw-mill.

The "Woolen factory," shown by Fagan, may have had machinery for fulling cloth; however, it was known in the vicinity as a carding mill, a mill wherein the fleeces brought in by the sheep-raisers of the neighborhood were made up, or "carded" in long fluffy rolls, ready thus, for the housewife's spinning-wheel, a machine as old as time, years ago relegated to the attic, but in these sophisticated days dragged to light, being much in evidence in the stock-in-trade of the omnipresent antique dealer.

In those parts of the country where sheep were early introduced, the carding mill and the fulling mill closely followed. Here and there in the country-side were those who with hand looms did weaving for their neighbors; carpets and rugs occasionally, but principally blankets, bedspreads -- these in a host of patterns, some having the date of weaving in their border -- and woolen cloth. The cloth woven by these country weavers, before it was fit to be made up in garments, at the home or by the tailors then found in nearly every neighborhood, had to be "fulled," a process of beating by a row, or battery of heavy wooden mallets generally driven by water power; a process which lessened the length and breadth of the cloth but increased its thickness and rendered it more compact and durable.

About a mile northwest from High Mills, the Alplaus was dammed at an early date and a fulling-mill erected, this probably also equipped with carding machinery. This mill stood where the road leading west from the village of Burnt Hills crosses the stream. The land is now owned by William A. Ward. A great-grandfather of Mrs. Ward, named Bradley Eaton, who came to this vicinity from the Otsego region, learned his trade as a fuller in this mill.

Immediately above the site of this old fulling-mill dam, part of whose embankment still remains, a tributary now called Ward Creek, which drains nearly a third of the town of Charlton, joins the Alplaus. Less than half a mile north from the fulling-mill site, this tributary was also dammed in former years, and here was a distillery, or "still," as these joy-factories were then called. This also was on the farm now owned by Mr. Ward.

Well along in the first half of the last century there was a grist-mill on the Alplaus where the road leading past the County Sanitarium at Glenridge crosses that stream. This mill was operated for a number of years by the Brumaghim family. It is not known whether it was first built by the Brumaghims or by some former owner of the land. Except for its crumbling foundation walls, no trace of this once busy mill now remains. The east-west road leading past this mill was known for many years, even after the destruction of the mill, as the Brumaghim Road.

Indian Creek drains the mid-eastern slope of the Glenville Hills, thence crossing the comparatively level tract locally and for many generations, known as Swaagertown (Cousin-town) it joins the Alplaus a short distance north of the Sanitarium at Glenridge. On the south fork of this stream there was a mill, erected at an early date. This stood on a tract of land granted to Lawrence Van Eps by the Town Trustees of Schenectady, in 1790. The deed then given mentions a mill right on the property conveyed. A mill was built here about this period, possibly on land leased before the granting of the deed, but by whom it was built or by whom operated is not definitely known; presumably by this Lawrence Van Eps. Neither is the nature of this mill known. There is no record or evidence that it was a grist-mill; it may have been a saw-mill but more likely it was a carding-mill. The ruins of this mill have been in evidence for many years, and only recently huge beams were taken from its wreckage by the present owner of the property, Fred Van Buren.

MILLS ON THE CRABBS KILL

At a very early date there stood a saw-mill on the Crabbs Kill, at a point one-half mile north of the village of Glenville, or just west from the Glenville-Galway highway, on the farm now owned by Charles Conde. Sixty years ago the sill of the wooden dam of this mill was still in place, crossing the bed of the kill. This mortised timber, still as sound as on the day it was hewn, was then utilized as the base for the stone-work of a small dam built to impound water for bathing and for the cutting of ice. This later dam, however, was soon swept away by a freshet.

This mill on the Crabbs Kill probably was built at the time of the first settlement of this part of Glenville, which took place not long after the year 1770. Some have asserted that there were two saw-mills at this place. At a later date Rockwell Harmon, in connection with a shoe-shop, built and operated a tannery near this place. He dammed the kill just below the site of the old sawmill, leading its water to the small overshot wheel that gave power to grind hemlock bark for his tan-vats.

The point where these dams were erected, notably the site of the old saw-mill dam, was by nature a strategical situation

for such structures. Here, the southern margin of an enormous deposit of glacial sands and gravels, stretching far to the north, closely approaches a projecting shoulder of slates and shales, separated therefrom only by the narrow valley of the stream. In post-glacial times this deposit of detritus completely filled this channel thus impounding a body of water - a post-glacial lake covering several hundred acres and extending nearly two miles to the west. In fact, its waters lapped the base of that great uplift of dolomite, the noted Hoffman's Ferry Fault, thus known to the geologists, which cuts obliquely through the western end of Glenville.

As shown by its scanty deposits of peat, the life of this little pleistocene lake was, however, of short duration, perhaps but a few centuries; its overflow soon cut its way through the friable barrier, down to the underlying slates, the present bed of the kill; thus, save for certain swampy areas yet remaining, completely draining the basin of this short-lived lake. However, a very short and low dam would restore this body of water, but with its present deforested water-shed evaporation might possibly overbalance its water supply, mainly spring-fed. It would be an interesting but costly experiment - costly, not so much in the building of the necessary dam, a very short one would suffice, and sand and gravel for concrete is close at hand, but on account of the flooding of farm-lands and forest.

There was formerly a saw-mill on the Crabbs Kill very near the point where it leaves Glenville and enters the town of Charlton. This mill was built during the first decade of the 19th century by John Dawson, born in Lancaster, England, 1780, who operated it for a great many years. Its "up-and-down saw" was driven by a breast water-wheel. Not long before this mill was abandoned, the breast wheel was displaced by a "flutter-wheel," so-called, one of the first forms of the modern turbine wheel.

It is related that both Dawson and the owner of a near-by grist-mill, over the line in the town of Charlton, procured and placed these flutter-wheels in their mills and that shortly thereafter they learned that the new wheels they had installed were an infringement of the inventor's patent and that they had the alternative of paying what to them seemed an exorbitant royalty, or penalty, or having the wheels removed. The owner of the Charlton mill, one Marvin, refusing to pay the sum demanded, the patentee at once took steps to remove the wheel from his mill. It is said that Dawson, hearing of this, lost no time in secretly removing and burying his new-fashioned water-wheel. It is believed that this wheel was never dug up or put to use again but still lies underground somewhere near the site of the old mill.

About this period Dawson abandoned this mill and built a new mill about half a mile to the east. This stood in the town

of Charlton, just over the Glenville line, and it utilized the flow not only of the Crabbs Kill but also that of the Alplaus, and the Conde Creek as well, the three streams joining at this place. The dam of the older mill is still standing except for the gap worn through it by the stream.

When Dawson acquired the land on which he built both his house and his saw-mill he found squatters already there; a family of basket-makers, Indian John and his wife Deel. This couple was living in a hut built near the stream and quite near the spot chosen by Dawson for building his mill. At this period more than one of the wooded ravines of Glenville sheltered its family of Indian basket-makers; all squatters from Yonsey Hill near Schenectady. Basket making, therefore, can rightly be included among the minor old-time industries of the region, and a few words here, relative to the pitiful remnant of the Oneidas, that once prominent member of the great Iroquoian Confederacy, will not be out of place.

During the War of the Revolution all the members of the Six Nations espoused the cause of the British except the Oneidas, who mainly favored, and sometimes fought beside the Americans. Consequently, during the many raids from Canada, the homes and cornfields of this people were ravaged and completely destroyed. At the close of the war, therefore, the remnant of this nation, some five hundred in number, were removed by order of the Government to a group of barren sand dunes well-outside and a little to the southeast of Schenectady, where they were housed in cheap huts. Here they lived for many years, the region becoming locally known as Yonsey Hill.

Tired of the barren and drifting sands of Yonsey Hill, hot in the summer and too cold in the winter time, like many other families of their people, who sought homes along the streams and in the secluded valleys of Glenville, and of Rotterdam and Niskayuna as well, Indian John and Deel chose for their home as squatters a spot in the forest, beside the Crabbs Kill. Here they lived an easy and care-free life. No bothersome rent or taxes to pay and black ash growing in every nearby tract of low ground, giving them material in plenty for the baskets they dexterously wove and hawked about the countryside. Should the demand for baskets fall off for a time, there was plenty of fish in the streams and wild game on every hand in the woods, and -- rum! that was dirt cheap in those days; indeed, the whole supply of liquor, several kinds -- and a goodly supply at that -- bought and paid for by the Consistory of the Dutch Reformed Church of Glenville on the occasion of the raising of the huge frame-work of the church in 1812, cost but a few cents over eighteen dollars. The bill is yet preserved.

It is said of John and Deel, by those who still remember them, that they both liked their dram, and that sometimes John would take a week off from pounding basket-splints, enjoying a "big drunk." Deel in the meantime invariably remaining sober.

Then when Deel saw fit to "make whoopee," John would abstain; thus the routine of their household affairs went on undisturbed.

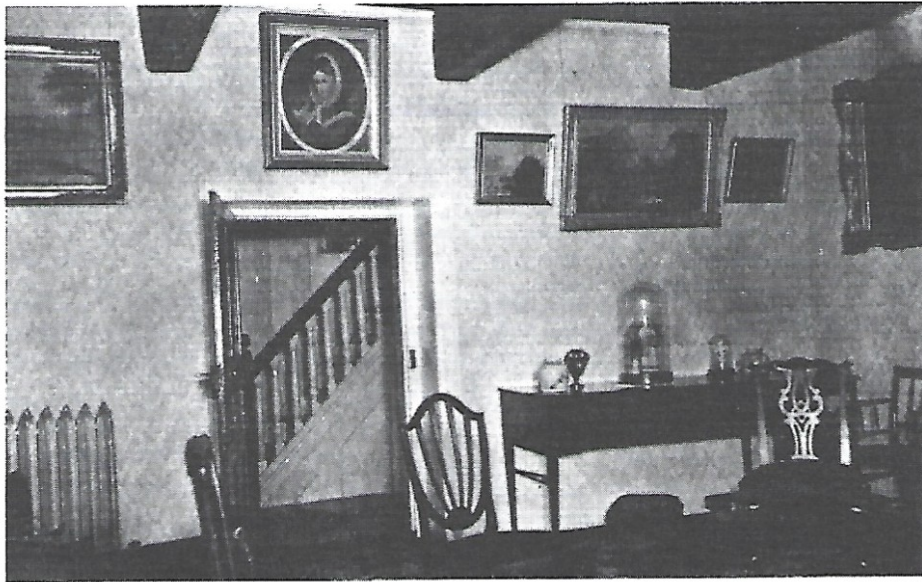
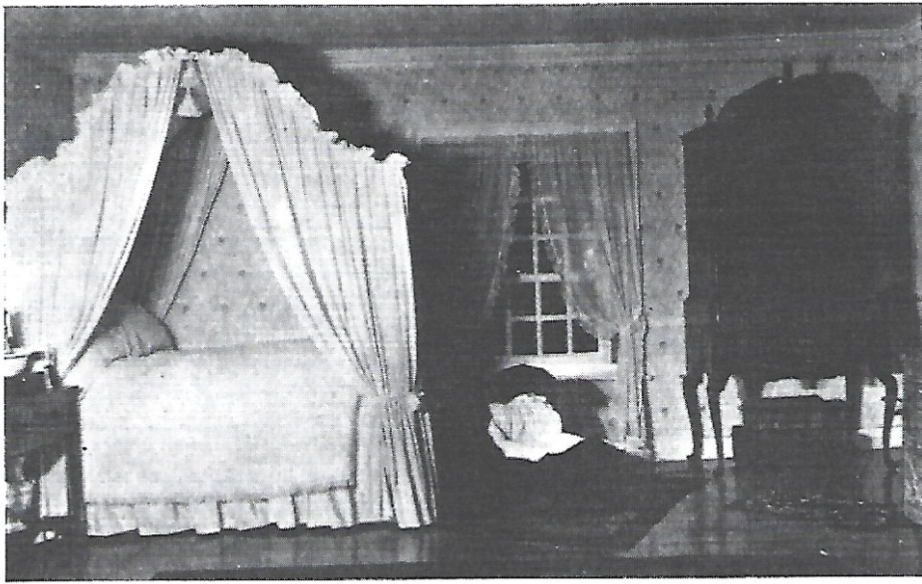
Though squatters, Indian John and his wife were allowed to remain in their little hut by the stream till they died. They were both buried in the cemetery of the Dutch Reformed Church at Glenville.

SCOTIA

In the last quarter of the 18th century there was a grist-mill in Scotia owned and operated by Johannes Sanders. As near as can be ascertained this mill stood on the south side of the present Glen Avenue, at the foot of Ballston Avenue, the latter road then ending at Glen Avenue. The machinery of this mill probably was driven by the old-time sweep-power, kept in motion by horses or possibly by oxen. Sanders had for a miller one James Bradford who came to America from Scotland. Bradford married a widow Vandenburg and from 1800 to 1815 he kept a grocery in a house afterward known as the Van Slyck house, that stood on the north side of Mohawk Avenue, just below the corner of Ballston Avenue.

This house was built for Bradford by his employer, Sanders, as an act of gratitude for the part Bradford took in an incident that happened at the mill, Bradford receiving a life lease on the payment of one cent each year. The occasion of this generous gift from Sanders is told by the late E. Z. Carpenter in his publication, the "American Historian," a rare and valuable work printed in Glenville in 1875. Sanders, it appears, had a Negro slave named Robert Baker, known around Scotia as "Rup." Angered at some offense, Sanders struck this slave who thereupon laid hold of his master purposing to hurl him bodily from an open upper door of the mill, near which they were standing. This he would have effected except for the timely intervention of Bradford, who knocked the Negro over with a handspike.

Johannes Sanders, owner of the mill, was the fifth in line of direct descent from Thomas Sanders, a silversmith of Amsterdam, Holland, who came to New Amsterdam, where he married in 1640. Johannes, born 1757, was twice married, first, Feb. 24, 1777, to his cousin, Debora Sanders, daughter of Robert Sanders of Albany. Debora died in 1793. Sanders next married, Nov. 30, 1801, Albertina Ten Broeck of Clermont. She died in July, 1840. From his father, Johannes inherited the Glen estate. Carpenter, relating the incident at the mill, more than once refers to Johannes Sanders, as the "Judge." Possibly he was justice of the peace for the then township of Schenectady. It is well-known that in those days every newly-elected justice of the peace was at once addressed as "Judge." It has been said, moreover, that some of the old-time justices, unquestioned, assumed equal or even greater legal prerogatives than granted to judges of the higher courts.



THE GLEN-SANDERS HOME, SCOTIA

Finally the old Sanders mill ceased to be operated as a grist-mill, though long afterwards the building was used for broom shops, Peter E. Sanders having a broom shop in one end, while at the same time Henry F. Perry, who in Scotia was often dubbed "Commodore Perry," made brooms in the other end.

Sometime during the first half of the 19th century Jacob G., born 1789, a son of Johannes Sanders, built a grist-mill on a tiny stream which, rising in Swaagertown, flows southward through the Sanders estate, joining a larger stream that parallels the Vley Road. The latter stream draining the former swampy tract known as Arent Daniel's Vlaic. At a point directly south from Thomas Corners, almost exactly in the center of the triangle formed by the old "Ferry Road," the Ballston Road and the road leading south from Thomas Corners to Freeman's Bridge, Sanders dammed this little stream, now a mere trickle, and built and equipped his grist-mill. Not with any hope of profit therefrom but solely to gratify a passing whim, so it is said.

For just a mile from the point where the combined flow of these streams entered the Mohawk, its channel was straightened and deepened by the heirs of Johannes Sanders. This evidently was done to drain their lands more thoroughly. The artificially deepened stream was mapped by Fagan in 1856, as the Sanders Canal.

On practically the same spot occupied by the grist-mill of Johannes Sanders in the little village of Scotia, there stood, between 1830 and 1850, the buildings of the Scotia Steam Saw & Grist-Mill Company. Daniel A. Atwell served as clerk and treasurer of this company during its most prosperous years. In 1885 we find the same site occupied by a "Mill and Broom-handle Factory." About the same period there stood near this spot a rope-walk operated by John H. and Richard V. Shaw. By those who remember it, this is said to have been a narrow, shed-like structure, several hundred feet long, having a double boardwalk running the whole length of its interior, along which the rope-maker walked backward to and fro paying out the strands of the rope under way, guiding meanwhile a conical wooden implement known to ropemakers as a "top." The top, so-called, had either three or four deep grooves serving to guide, or "lay" in place the three, sometimes four, strands of the rope being made. The raw material used in Shaw's rope-walk was hemp fibre shipped here in bales; possibly grown in Russia, for at that period southern Russia supplied the greater part of the material used by the ropemakers of the world. Sometime between 1870 and 1875 this rope-walk was burned. It was, however, rebuilt but soon after abandoned.

Discontinuing the making of rope, one of the Shaws took up his residence in Schenectady where he soon became well known. There are those yet living in Schenectady who remember him and his peculiarities, one of which was that in shaving himself he never used a mirror. But he is remembered chiefly by reason of a treasured and priceless document he owned, which he sometimes

exhibited and of which he was justly proud. This, a certificate of membership in the Society of the Cincinnati, was granted to Mr. Shaw's grandfather, and bore the signature of General Washington. The ancient and noble order of the Cincinnati was organized at the headquarters of Baron Steuben, on the Hudson in 1783, by the officers serving under General Washington during the War of the Revolution.

Fagan's map of 1856 depicts a rope-walk in the west end of the hamlet of Reesville, paralleling the road leading to the farms on the "Hook." As no other record can be found of a rope-walk in Reesville and but one such is shown in Glenville by Fagan, therefore it is thought that the engraver of this map in some way misplaced the position of the building.

Scotia in 1856 had, as shown on Fagan's map, besides its two churches and two taverns, exactly thirty-one houses. The Baptist church then being the last edifice to the west. Above this came a gap of about a quarter of a mile to Reesville, as it was then called, the hamlet at the foot of Sacandaga Road. Reesville at that time had a hotel, a store, a carriage shop and a broom-handle factory, a schoolhouse -- District No. 2 -- and seven houses, nearly all of the latter owned by the Rees family.

Four years later we find in French's Gazetteer, Scotia credited with 266 inhabitants, while Reesville, still a separate hamlet, is given twelve houses and a broom factory.

In common with the entire eastern end of the Mohawk Valley the making of brooms was for several decades one of the leading industries of Glenville. During the feverish height of this boom hundreds of acres of the rich river-flats were given over to the growing of broom-corn, to the almost complete neglect of the line of general farm produce formerly cultivated. There was scarcely a farm along the Mohawk Turnpike but had its broom-shop, large or small, wherein during the winter months the proprietor with such help as he could obtain made up brooms for market from the stock of corn gathered the preceding fall. Nor was the raising of broom-corn and the making of brooms entirely confined to the Mohawk flats and the farmers of the Turnpike, for the boom continuing unabated, shortly farmers in other parts of the town began to plant broom-corn and to procure the necessary machinery for broom-making. It has been said that the shops of Glenville and of Rotterdam and Schenectady then supplied the United States with brooms. Finally the growth of the broom industry in the middle West brought this thriving and lucrative industry to an end.

VAN PATTEN, A PIONEER BUILDER

At an early date Simon I. Van Patten built a saw-mill on a small stream, sometimes called the Conde Creek, which flowing

from the northeastern part of the hill region of Glenville, crosses the Sacandaga Road, thence crossing the flat lands at the base of the hill it joins the united flow of the Crabbs Kill and the Alplaus at Taylor's Pond, at a point very near the town line between Glenville and Charlton.

The Conde Creek in the spring time is a turbulent, roaring stream, but in the summer time it quite often goes nearly dry. Where it crosses the Sacandaga Road it has for a short distance both above and below the bridge worn its channel quite deep into the rocky shoulder of the slope. In one place, but a few hundred feet below the bridge, it plunges fifteen or twenty feet over a vertical ledge of slates. Here, on land owned by his father-in-law, Adam (Tautie) Conde, Van Patten built his mill, about the beginning of the 19th century. A low dam built on the bare rock, across the channel at the head of the falls, served to divert the necessary volume of water into the penstock leading to the wheel below, which gave motion to the "up-and-down" saw used in those days. Van Patten operated this mill for many years.

William W. Fisher of Sacandaga Road, a descendant of Van Patten, and the present owner of the site of the old mill, has recently recovered therefrom an axe-head of peculiar pattern. These were made and used in old-time saw-mills for splitting loose, or separating the boards of the sawn log. In sawing a log into boards or plank by the vertical saw used in these mills, for a technical reason, the saw was not allowed to cut entirely through the log, but the log-carriage was stopped and reversed when the saw had approached within two or three inches from the end of the log. When the entire breadth of the squared log was thus sliced into boards or plank, then with this peculiar axe these were "cracked off," or separated, one by one.

Simon I. Van Patten (christened Simon John) owner of the mill on the Conde Creek was born in 1775. He was the second son of John Van Patten -- 1739-1809--who during the War of the Revolution was captain of the third company of Col. Wemple's regiment. He was a great-grandson of Claas Frederickse Van Patten who, born in Holland in 1641, came to Schenectady in 1664.

In connection with the operation of his saw-mill, Van Patten was a prominent contractor and builder of upper Glenville. He was the architect and builder of the Dutch Reformed Church of Glenville, a structure built in 1812-1813, still standing, whose massive overhead truss-work of hewn oaken timbers, skillfully framed, excites the wonder and admiration of all who inspect them. It is said that all the boards and smaller beams used in building this edifice were sawn by Van Patten.

Van Patten as a contractor and builder was an energetic and resourceful man. No job was too big, or too small for him. If a framed structure was wanted, his mill and timber-yard on the

Conde Creek would furnish the material. Should his client demand a house built of brick, forthwith a clay-pit was sought and opened and bricks moulded and burned on the spot. At least three large and substantial brick farmhouses in the vicinity bear ample witness to Van Patten's versatility and enterprise; the old Ferguson house on the Sacandaga Road, in the town of Charlton; the house on the farm of Omie DeGraff, and the Ostrom house, built 1825, on the Glenville Road.

Came there a slack time in building, Van Patten lost no time in turning to smaller jobs in the workshop or at outdoor carpenter work. This is well-shown in a journal, or day-book, methodically kept by him and yet preserved in part. Here follows a few items therefrom:

"November, 1800, Adam Conday, Dr.
 to 2 days and a $\frac{1}{2}$ of carpentrs work, at 7s 17s. 6d.
 to making a plow, 6s.
 to making a flower skist, (Flour chest) 10s.
 June 4, 1802, Adam Conday, Dr.
 to making 2 swinge gats, (Swing gates) at 9s. 18s."

Van Patten though neither miserly nor avaricious, deemed that day well-nigh lost in which he could not accomplish some useful work. This is quaintly shown by certain entries in his journal, under the heading "Black Days." Among these we find, during 1806:

"3 days being sick
 1 Training Day
 $\frac{1}{2}$ Day Turning rongs
 To $\frac{1}{2}$ half day going to your oncles
 1 day being sick
 $\frac{1}{2}$ Day to Dorsings rasen."

The last item quoted, "to Dorsens rasen," undoubtedly refers to a "bee," so-called -- a raising-bee -- at which the men of the community gathered to raise in place, with many a loud "Heave-ho!" the hewn, framed timbers of a house, shed or barn. This particular entry may refer to the erection of the first Dawson saw-mill, on the Crabbs Kill.

Not even the time taken for a family visit to his uncle's escaped record among the "Black Days." Also, from the fact that Training Days are more than once listed, it would appear that Van Patten was a member of some local military company.

Like the Crabbs Kill, near the old Dawson saw-mill, so also the Conde Creek had its family of basket-makers from the Oneida settlement on Yonsey Hill, the father of this family a Negro, the mother a full-blood Oneida squaw. Here, in a hut beside the stream, but a short distance west from the Van Patten mill they lived for years, and here their children were born;

one of these, Ann, having characteristic Indian features and traits, was, for eighty years or more, a familiar figure in the community life of upper Glenville.

Simon I. Van Patten had a large family of children, one of these, Charles, inheriting the skill of his father, became an expert mechanic and mill-wright. He spent some years on the north Pacific Coast but finally made his residence in the South, where at Georgetown, D.C. he built large grist-mills as also he did at different places on the upper Potomac region.

THE LIMEKILNS OF GLENVILLE

Crossing the entire western end of Glenville is an outcrop of dolomite surmounted by limestone. This rock exposure is due to an earth movement, a tilting of the strata lying immediately west of a fracture of the underlying rocks. This particular rock-displacement is known to the geologists as the Hoffman's Ferry Fault; a great and deep-seated fracture and displacement stretching from the Mohawk River, at the west line of the town, northeasterly to a point near the junction of the Sacandaga with the upper Hudson, near Luzerne. It is estimated that the territory lying next east of this great crack in the earth's surface dropped at least a thousand feet; some geologists say twelve hundred feet.

Thanks to this ancient disturbance of the surface, known to have happened long prior to the glacial epoch, Glenville has an exposure of limestone nearly one hundred per cent pure. The value of this was recognized almost at the first settlement of the town. This is shown by the numerous old-time limekilns dotting the region. Hardly a farm on this outcrop of limestone but had its individual limekiln. Many such were also built on the nearby farms of the slate regions to the east, the limestone being quarried and drawn to these kilns, where it was burned both for the making of mortar and also to apply to the soil. Its value for the latter purpose was early recognized by the farmers of this last mentioned part of Glenville, whose lands, underlain with slates and shales, were soon found to be quite deficient in lime.

With one exception, so far as known, wood was the only fuel used in the limekilns of Glenville. This was a kiln operated for commercial purposes, situated on the extreme eastern margin of the limestone outcrop, a little over a mile west from the village of Glenville. Here, coal was used in calcining the limerock. The kiln was owned and operated by James V. Peek and the lime burned therein was drawn by teams to Schenectady and other nearby markets.

Peek's limekiln was a "draw-kiln," so-called, the only one of that type in Glenville. The draw-kiln was one in which alternate layers, or charges, of coal and of limestone were placed

as needed, while at certain intervals the burnt stone and ash were raked, or drawn out at an opening provided for that purpose at the bottom of the kiln. Thus kilns of this type could be kept in continuous operation for weeks at a time, their fires perpetually burning.

The outcrop of limestone, of early Ordovician time, brought to light in western Glenville by an ancient disturbance of the earth's surface, is the only deposit of limestone in the area of the town. Except for a very small surface exposure in the extreme north parts of Rotterdam and Princetown, the southern visible termination of the strata appearing in Glenville, there is no other limestone found in any part of Schenectady County; nor is there any to the eastward till the other side of the Hudson River is reached.

Nearly all the abandoned limekilns of Glenville are now but bare and unsightly heaps of stone and earth. Occasionally, however, one will be seen whose sides are well-covered with a growth of bushes and perhaps a tangle of clematis or wild grapevines of regular contour; these mounds often arouse the curiosity of those of today passing by, who are ignorant of their origin or use. When closely examined, their crater-like interiors with fire-reddened walls plainly showing the effects of great heat, often in places coated with a glassy slag, but adds to the wonder and speculation which they call forth. It was but a few years ago that one of these old kilns of Glenville figured large in a fantastic tale published at that time, its author totally at sea as to the true character of the "haunted ruins" of his supposedly-true story.

THE MANUFACTURE OF HYDRAULIC CEMENT

An early industry of Glenville, unique in this part of the State, was the manufacture of hydraulic cement, or water lime as it was then generally called. This product was made just west of Hoffman's Ferry, near the river, at the extreme southwest corner of the town, by John Van Eps and Sons.

The precise date of the beginning of this enterprise is not known, but it is certain that hydraulic cement was made at this place as early as 1834, probably several years prior to that year. From a statement by Vanuxem in the "Geology of New York," (Geology of the Third District, page 31) it appears that the kiln and mill were still in operation in 1842. Doubtless the establishment of large cement plants in the vicinity of Syracuse, following the enlargement of the Erie Canal, and the cheap transportation then offered, brought an end to this unique enterprise in Glenville.

The stone from which this Glenville cement was made was quarried from outcropping upper layers of the strata now known

as the Little Falls Dolomite, an impure sandy limestone known to the pioneer geologists of the State as the Calciferous Sandrock.

The quarry was opened on the steep eastern shoulder of the Kinaquariones, that formidable projecting nose of flinty dolomite, which in the early days of the Dutch settlement of the valley reached to the very brink of the river and through which a level way was cut for the Mohawk Turnpike. This rock cut being taken in 1836 for the tracks of the Utica and Schenectady railroad, the turnpike was then set further back in a new and deeper cut.

The kiln in which the quarried stone was burned stood on the slope, a few hundred feet north of the turnpike. The mill where the burnt stone was ground and barreled for shipment stood on the west bank of the little stream, the Chaughtanoonda, and very close to the present Mohawk Turnpike. Its foundation wall is yet standing, in part, but doubtless will be entirely obliterated and covered by the widening and reconstruction of the turnpike now under way.

The Chaughtanoonda, whose water turned the wheel of the cement mill, was then, no doubt, as it is today, but a small and unconstant stream. Its watershed is not extensive and is, moreover, mostly cleared land, consequently the water from the melting snows of winter and from heavy rains runs off quickly. A half-mile to the east of the Chaughtanoonda, there is however, another stream flowing from the Glenville Hills, having a far greater watershed, and which at the period of the cement manufacture, doubtless ran with more constant volume. Here was an opportunity that the founders of the cement enterprise embraced. Owning the lands involved, a dam was thrown across this second stream at a point about one-half mile up its course, and by means of a ditch, or shallow canal, its diverted flow was caused to join that of the Chaughtanoonda. The canal connecting the two streams, crossed the narrow and nearly level neck of intervening land, just below the mouth of the Wolf Hollow, or near the present farm buildings of John and Rudolph Shultz.

The cement made at this little plant was of excellent quality, as foundation walls of houses in this vicinity, in which it was used, still show. In old-time houses of the vicinity undergoing reconstruction it has been found that in chimneys laid with this cement it is sometimes hard to separate the bricks without actually splitting them.

When, sometime between 1830 and 1834, it was thought necessary to build four additional piers to support the famous old Mohawk Bridge between Glenville and Schenectady, that masterpiece of wooden bridge construction, a considerable amount, if indeed not all, of the cement used was from this Glenville kiln and mill; and it has been told that when in later years certain changes

were made to these added piers, it was found that the stones could be separated only by drilling and the use of blasting powder.

Once established and in operation, a market was found in New York City for the product of this Glenville cement plant and for a time, considerable quantities of the barreled cement was shipped to that place. In 1836 the cement was sold at the mill for four shillings the bushel. Barreled for shipment, it sold for about two dollars per barrel plus freightage.

In The Cultivator, of February, 1836, an early agricultural journal published in Albany, N.Y., there appeared an interesting article advocating the use of this Glenville cement, or "water lime," in permanently setting gate and fence posts, for topping chimneys and for plastering walls of houses, also stating that it could be used as a good and cheap substitute for paint. In this paper, Harmonas Van Eps, one of the partners in the enterprise, after describing the method to be used in setting posts in a grout of sand and cement, says:

"As a cheap and valuable substitute for paint for outhouses, the same article mentioned above has been used to a considerable extent in this vicinity, and with most decided success. The ingredients are the most simple and easily procured, though one is of a nature that would not at first be considered as suitable for uses of this kind. To give greater adhesiveness to the cement, or water lime, when it is to dry in the open air, milk that has had the greater part of the cream taken from it has been used. This and the cement are used instead of oil and white lead, or other paint. When a different color from the natural (a dusky white) is desired, a small proportion of common paint is added to give the color. One peck of cement, which costs one shilling, and five pounds of Spanish brown, costing about four times that amount, will form a paint, and of a very good colour for an ordinary sized barn. This is for one coat, and for two about twice the quantities will be necessary. It forms a durable paint and effectually preserves the boards from decay. Cement in the vicinity of Albany costs about two dollars per barrel. The nearest manufactory is that of Messrs J. Van Eps & Co., whose cement is of the lightest color, and therefore best fitted for paint."

SMALIER INDUSTRIES AND TRADES

In common with the settlements and small villages of the surrounding region, the hamlets and country roads of early Glenville each had a goodly number of small tradesmen; carpenters, blacksmiths, wagon-makers, painters, shoemakers, harness-makers, coopers and other of the smaller industries. Cooper shops were found on every road and in every hamlet. At the intersection of the Glenville Road with the Sacandaga Road, the "Lower Corners," as it was called for generations, there is said to have been an almost solid row of cooper shops. Today not a trace of these remains.

Prominent among the coopers of early Glenville was Aaron Carroll. "Captain Carroll," as he was called, was an odd and eccentric character and will be remembered by a few still living mainly by reason of a peculiar cane he carried within whose handle was concealed an ugly-looking dirk. To be allowed to handle this sword-cane and press the spring that caused the long and murderous blade to spring forth was a never-ending source of entertainment to the school-boys of the neighborhood, who would cluster around the old Captain as he sat on the porch of the village store. One of these self-same boys often tells of the time when the Captain induced him to accompany him on a trip made to a certain wild woodland some little distance north of Glenville where he was wont to go in order to renew his supply of hoop-poles. Driving to this tract with a small wagon drawn by one horse, the Captain entered the woods to select and cut the poles, generally small hickory saplings. The part assigned to the boy was to carry the poles as cut, back to the wagon. All went well and as planned, for a time, or until on one of these trips to and fro the boy lost his sense of direction, became bewildered and soon went far astray in the woods. Here, becoming more and more frightened, he wandered and circled for some little time before the old Captain was able to find him.

Relationship to the Carrolls of Carrollton has been claimed for the Carrolls of Glenville, but this has never been definitely shown.

The little village of Glenville, within the memory of the older residents of its vicinity, had in full operation at one and the same time, two wagon shops, two paint shops, three blacksmith shops, two harness shops, two shoemaker's shops and a carpenter's shop. These, one and all as well as their owners and operators have passed away.

In early Glenville there also were chair-makers. Prominent among these was one Samuel Shelley, then often spelled and pronounced "Shilley." In the records of the Dutch Reformed Church his marriage to Rebecca Lodies, on October 24, 1773, is mentioned. In another record, dated 1805, he is found credited with twelve shillings for making a wagon-chair for Simon I. Van Patten. It might be of interest to note that this identical wagon-chair, sound as on the day it was made, is still in the possession of a Glenville family, descendants of Van Patten. In those times, to have a chair rebottomed was not an expensive item, as it is further recorded that Shelley, for "bottoming 2 chairs" received four shillings. It appears that the Shelley family, father and son, were chair-makers. At an auction sale of pews held in the newly-finished Dutch Reformed Church of Glenville, on July 16, 1814, John L. Shelley, chairmaker, bid off pew number 34 for 42 dollars.

Nor must mention be omitted of the tailors that could be found in every hamlet. Generally men, though sometimes women followed this occupation so necessary in the days before ready-to-wear clothing could be had, for, quoting again from the interesting account kept by Simon Van Patten, we find a quaint entry crediting Samuel Shelley, the chairmaker, with six shillings on account of "tailoring wick Caty don." Katie, evidently a daughter, since Shelley's wife was Rebecca.

About the middle of the last century Alexander Fisher, an expert Scotch mechanic, made the woodwork of the Scotch plows used at that period. His shop was on his farm, in upper Glenville, property now owned and occupied by DeGraff Van Vranken. The necessary castings used on Fisher's plows were made at a little foundry then operated on one of the Mead farms in West Charlton.

These big-beamed Scotch plows though clumsy and heavy were, however, very efficient. Drawn by a stout yoke of oxen, they endured the bumps and shocks met in the boulder-strewn lands of the region; a soil yet filled with the stumps and tangled roots of the giant primeval pines that once shaded the greater part of upper Glenville. Even to this day, these ancient resinous roots are occasionally thrown out by the plow. Under the same conditions met by the pioneer farmers of the region, the light-weight plows of today with their chilled mould-board and shares would be short-lived.

Fisher also built threshing machines for the farmers of the vicinity, framing them permanently into their barns. These, he undoubtedly built along with the old-time sweep powers operated by two, three, or four horses who traveled in a circle hitched to sweeps tenoned to an upright shaft crowned with an enormous gear-wheel, also of wood, whose teeth, or cogs, were inserted blocks of oak or hickory. This crown wheel gave motion to a horizontal shaft, likewise of wood, which in turn by means of a long leather belt drove the toothed cylinder and shaker of the thresher.

Alexander Fisher was born in Ayrshire, Scotland, about 1790. As a young man he worked as a finisher on inside work in a shipyard in Belfast, Ireland. Unmarried, he came to America before he was thirty years old, landing at Quebec. Coming thence, at either Charlton or Glenville he married Agnes Brown, also born in Scotland. Mr. Fisher died in Glenville, April 7, 1866 and is buried in the cemetery in the village of Glenville.

Bricks were burned in at least three places in early Glenville. The brickyard of Simon I. Van Patten has already been mentioned. Bricks also were burned near Scotia for on the fifth of May, 1815, Jonas R. Adams who came to Glenville from

New England, about 1810, took the contract for burning the brick to be used in building the Second Dutch Reformed Church of Glenville, agreeing with Charles H. Toll, Jacobus Van Eps, Aaron Van Antwerp, Aaron K. Schermerhorn, and Robert Sanders, a committee appointed by the eastern section of the fourth ward for building a church. Adams' contract called for the burning of 190,000 brick, at four dollars and twenty-five cents per thousand; the committee to furnish wood necessary to burn them, and pasture or hay for two yoke of cattle from May 1st to October 15th in that year, by which time the brick were to be all delivered.

Another place in Glenville where brick was made was on the Alplaus north from High Mills. This brickyard was on land now owned by Mrs. Viola Mosher. Here on the banks of the Alplaus was plenty of clay, and abundant supplies of sand nearby. The site of this old brickyard can easily be found by the quantity of broken brick in the soil. The Baptist Church in the village of Burnt Hills, built in 1839, also a house in that village, owned by Leon Turpit, were both built of brick from this place.

Early Glenville had but few tanneries. Harmon's tannery and shoe shop on the Crabbs Kill has already been mentioned. Hogan's tannery on the Sacandaga Road was operated about the same period. This stood not far from the Crabbs Kill, but there is no trace or record of water power having been used. Perhaps the bark used in Hogan's vats was ground by horse power. As with the Harmon tannery so also Hogan operated a shoe shop which was in or near his house. The Hogan house, now entirely destroyed, is said by those who remember it to have been a remarkable structure; of Colonial type having huge fireplaces, a large hall with double Dutch doors, both front and rear; a winding stair, and the floor laid with thick and heavy planks -- really slabs, sawn on one side only, being gained on their under side to fit the floor timbers. This hall floor is said to have been well-marked its whole length by the calk-prints of the horse used to drag in the logs for the big fireplaces.

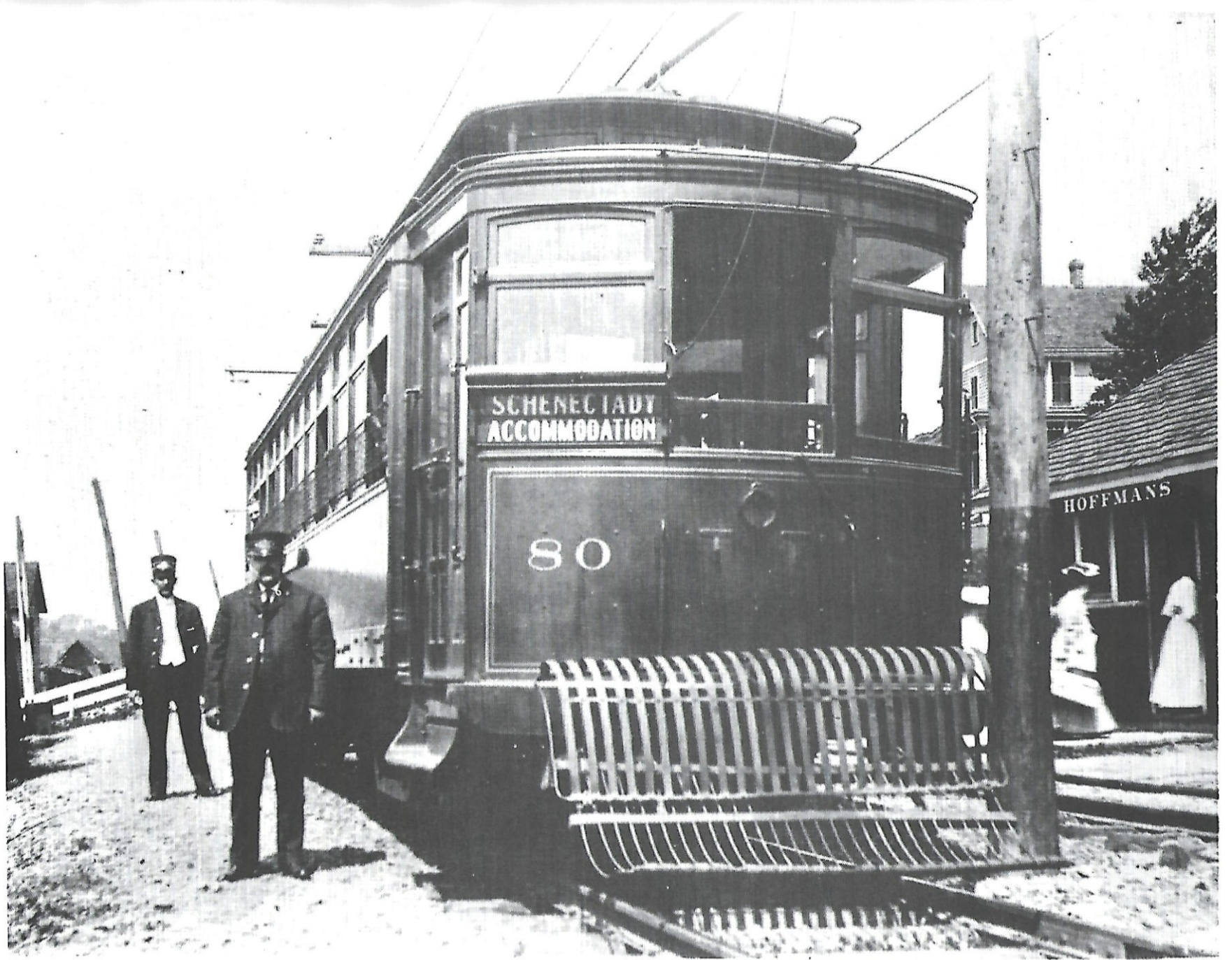
Quarrying of stone was never a large or permanent industry in early Glenville. A short distance north of Scotia a few small quarries were opened from time to time in the harder layers of the slates there exposed. In the western part of the town on the farm now owned by Charles Kinum, there was a quarry opened long ago in the outcrop of limestone previously described in this paper. The blocks of stone here quarried and dressed were used in the construction of the locks and bridges of the Erie Canal. The stone from this outcrop, though unexcelled for the making of lime, proved, however, to be of very poor quality for stone-work, disintegrating rapidly. It is said that nearly two hundred men were employed in this quarry.

Charcoal was here and there made, or "burned," in the early days of Glenville. This is shown by the large circular spots of dark-colored soil - "coal pits" - sometimes found in cultivated fields. The amount of this product was probably small, the demand mainly coming from the blacksmiths, this being the only fuel used in their forges until the discovery and mining of coal in Pennsylvania.

In bringing to a close, these rambling and necessarily incomplete sketches of the mills and other industries of early Glenville, thanks are here given to those who by furnishing notes and data have so kindly assisted in the work.



Grist Mill. High Mills, 1913



The trolley at Hoffmans. Mr. Engles, conductor.