

WALDEN

is the most thriving and important village in town. It is situated on the Wallkill, at the High Falls, and was known for many years by that name. Settlements began at Walden many years before the Revolution. James Kidd is said to have built a grist-mill at the very foot of the falls, on the east side, the date of which is uncertain. In 1768 it appears from certain town records to have been owned by or in the possession of Johannes Decker. In 1789 it was owned by Cadwallader Colden, Jr., son of Maj. Cadwallader Colden, and grandson of the Lieutenant-Governor. This property was afterwards occupied for a cotton-factory. Stephen Gilbert erected another mill, not far from the same time, lower down. This was probably on the site of the grist-mill recently burned.

Other early settlers on the site of Walden or in its immediate vicinity were Francy Cane, Hugh Milligan, Jacob Bodine and his sons, Charles and Lewis, Jonathan Low, Peter Bodine, Conrad Moore, William Bodine, Robert Kidd, Thomas Clineman, and William Erwin.

The place is named in honor of Jacob T. Walden, who formerly resided there and was the president of a company which purchased the water-power and a large tract of land which had previously been owned by William Erwin, and earlier still by Mr. Gatehouse. His energy and untiring perseverance did much to build up the place, introduce manufactures, and establish its prosperity on an enduring basis.

The principal manufacturing establishments are given under the head of "Industrial Enterprises."

The village has had a rapid modern growth. All of the brick houses—and there are now a large number—have been built within about twelve years. There are many handsome villa residences on some of the beautiful heights on both sides of the Wallkill River. The latter is spanned by two handsome iron

bridges. The village was incorporated by a special act passed April 9, 1855. The first village meeting under the act was called by George W. Millspaugh, justice of the peace, and was held April 14, 1855, at the house of Jacob D. Millspaugh. The officers chosen at that time were the following: Augustus F. Scofield, Marcus C. Hill, Milton Millspaugh, Giles Andrews, Levi L. Gowdy, trustees; Seth M. Capron, John G. Woolsey, George M. Embler, assessors; Nicholas T. Clearwater, treasurer; Mordecai Homan, collector; John S. Gray, James Holbrow, John B. Tears, fire-wardens.

At the first meeting of the board of trustees, April 20th, Augustus F. Scofield was chosen president, and George W. Millspaugh clerk. A. F. Scofield and M. R. Hill were appointed a committee to draft by-laws. Regular meetings of the board were voted to be held on the first Tuesday of each month. May 11, 1855, a full set of by-laws was passed, and the organization of the village government was duly completed.

The principal officers from 1855 to 1880 have been:

	President.	Clerk.	Treasurer.
1855.	Augustus F. Scofield.	Geo. W. Millspaugh.	Nich. T. Clearwater.
1856.	"	Henry Gowdy.	"
1857.	"	"	Wm. S. Parks.
1858.	"	"	George Kilner.
1859-61.	"	"	Joseph G. Millspaugh.
1862.	Marcus K. Hill.	David Dill.	"
1863.	Augustus F. Scofield.	John C. Scofield.	Ebenezer W. Knapp.
1864-69.	"	"	Seth M. Capron.
1870.	"	"	L. L. Gowdy.
1871.	C. D. Woolley.	Robert W. Sutcliff.	Marcus K. Hill.
1872.	Marcus K. Hill.	J. R. McCullough.	Luther Lefevre.
1873.	Wm. B. Abbott.	"	Marcus K. Hill.
1874-75.	Thos. J. Bradley.	"	George W. Stoddard.
1876.	Alfred Bateman.	R. H. Sutcliff.	"
1877.	T. D. Barker.	J. C. Bogert.*	"
1878.	"	R. H. Sutcliff.	"
1879.	M. Littell.	"	"
1880.	John C. Scofield.	J. R. McCullough.	"

Police justices were first chosen under the amended act of 1839, and have been as follows:

1869, A. H. Saxe; 1871, A. H. Saxe; 1872, N. K. Wade; 1873, C. D. Woolley; 1874-76, J. C. Holbrow; 1877-78, A. S. Tears; 1879-80, J. L. Hart.

The list of officers for current year (1880-81) is as follows: John C. Scofield, N. J. Fowler, J. W. Wilkinson, George Bingley, M. Littell, trustees; J. R. McCullough, clerk; J. L. Hart, police justice; J. Best, C. Birch, O. Moffatt, assessors; Andrew Bradley, collector; G. W. Stoddard, treasurer; S. Bardsley, T. B. Jordan, W. S. Parks, inspectors of election; M. Littell, street commissioner; Daniel Torbush, police constable and pound-keeper.

Before the incorporation of the village a fire company had been in existence under an organization known as "Walden Fire Incorporation." The books, papers, and property were transferred to the village trustees, and the latter voted a tax of \$250 to pay up the debts of the existing Fire Department and \$40 for

ladders and carts. Money was subsequently raised for the purchase of an engine-house for the company.

Under date of March 4, 1865, the following officers of the fire company were reported: Chief Engineer, Daniel Torbush; Assistant Engineer, W. H. Tears; Foreman, Jacob Bradwell; Assistant Foreman, M. B. Tears; Secretary, Theron L. Millspaugh; Treasurer, Harvey Trickett.

At present (December, 1880) there is one fire company existing, known as "Enterprise, No. 1," in charge of a steam fire-engine, the best made. The company is uniformed, all their apparatus is in excellent order, and they are ready for efficient action either at parades or actual service at fires.

The Fire Department is organized as follows: Granville Crist, chief engineer; John R. Hayes, first assistant engineer; James L. Crawford, second assistant engineer. Company officers: J. R. McCullough, foreman; Caleb Birch, first assistant foreman; John Luckley, second assistant foreman; George H. Roat, secretary; P. Van Buren, treasurer. In charge of the engine: John W. Weller, first engineer; Charles Smalls, second engineer; Joseph Oldham, third engineer; William Hatch, fireman; Thomas Storms, assistant fireman; John H. Vandemack, steward; John W. Weller, chairman.

For a time the village was lighted by gas, but the enterprise was not pecuniarily successful, and the company was disbanded.

The Taylor & Bateman coal and lumber yard is conveniently situated near the railroad. They are also proprietors of the Walden Steam-Mill, and dealers in flour, feed, grain, grass-seed, lime, cement, and building supplies generally.

The post-office was established many years ago. Mr. E. W. Knapp is the present postmaster, and has held the office nearly twenty years. He was preceded by Marcus K. Hill. Earlier still was James Kidd.

Embler's grist-mill was burned a few years ago, and has not been rebuilt. He has a saw-mill, which was not destroyed and is still running.

The Eagle Hotel, C. Johnson, proprietor, was built in 1823 by Jesse Scofield. It is a well-known house, and a favorite stopping-place for travelers. The St. Nicholas is a later-built house, and is a large and commodious hotel.

The principal stores and other business places of Walden, as shown by the advertising columns of the village paper, are T. E. Newkirk, drugs, medicines, toilet articles, lamps, cigars, etc.; H. B. Wooster, grocery-store; Caleb Birch, boots, shoes, hats, and caps; W. H. Wood, general furnishing undertaker; Sears Brothers, dry-goods, provisions, groceries, crockery, and glassware; Walker & Eaton (West Walden), dry-goods, groceries, grass-seed, woodenware, etc.; T. Cockroft, confectionery, domestic nuts, cigars, toys, etc.; the palace photographic car; John R. Hays, hats, caps, gents' furnishing goods, and ready-made clothing; E. W. Knapp, postmaster, sta-

* Declined, and R. H. Sutcliff appointed.

tionery, school-books, newspapers, and periodicals; T. D. Barker, harness, blankets, and robes; McCullough & Tate, groceries and provisions; G. V. Tears, boots and shoes; Stoddard & Rutherford, general insurance agents; H. E. Stoutenburgh, watchmaker and jeweler; William Alcock, watches and jewelry; Frank Pultz, stationery, sheet music; Irving H. Loughran, attorney and counselor-at-law; Dawson & Rowland, millinery and fancy goods; T. L. Mills-paugh, carpets, oil-cloths, furniture; Fowler's hardware-store and agricultural implements.

The *Walden Herald* is a neat village paper, and is now in its eleventh volume, Mr. Chauncey A. Reed editor and proprietor. It is conducted with vigor, and has evidently come to stay.

ST. ANDREW'S

is a hamlet situated in the northeast part of the town, not far from the line of New Windsor. It derives its name and most of its historical importance from the fact that it was the seat of an early Episcopal church known as St. Andrew's, which is now located at Walden. The early development of the water-power led to the growth of a large village at Walden, and changed the current of trade and other business from St. Andrew's. A post-office is still maintained there, and James A. Coe is postmaster. There is also a hotel there, kept by John McKinney.

COLDENHAM

is in the southeast part of the town, near the New Windsor line. Its name is derived from the Colden family, among whom there were several members of much prominence, of whom a full account has already been given. This little hamlet in late years has of course had nothing of the importance of former times, when it was the home of the Lieutenant-Governor and acting chief magistrate of the colony of New York. A hotel, a small number of shops, stores, and private dwellings constitute the village of to-day.

ALLARD'S CORNERS

is a hamlet in the northwest part of the town, where a post-office was established some years ago for the convenience of quite a section in this town and in Ulster County.

SCOTT TOWN

was recognized in former years as a neighborhood with a special name, though scarcely so at the present time. It was described as situated "on the Newburgh and Cohecton turnpike, four miles east of the village of Montgomery, where there used to be a turnpike-gate." Samuel Monell was gate-keeper, and Mr. John Scott resided there, kept a store, and from him the name is derived.

SCOTT'S CORNERS

must not be mistaken for the above. The Corners are about one and a half miles east of Montgomery village. It was named from John F. Scott, who kept

store at this place, as his father, John Scott, did at the other mentioned above.

KEISERTOWN

was the name formerly attached to a settlement, and at the present time to a school district, in the southwest part of this town, on the Wallkill, three miles from Montgomery. It was a Dutch settlement. To this simple rural hamlet Mr. Eager, in his history of this county, devotes the following amusing paragraph:

"Though on the banks of the Wallkill, in this republican county, we find ourselves unexpectedly in royal company, in the very presence of the Caesars. The name of Keiser is of blood royal descent, direct from Caesar. An example: Keiserluter, in the Lower Palatinate, is Caesariopolis in Latin.

"The Grand Emperor of Russia is a Keiser, and claims it by calling himself the Czar of all the Russias, which is nothing less than calling himself Caesar, King, Keiser in his own native Russ, the language of his country. The name, therefore, is good Dutch, and the emigrants imported it when they came. Keisertown consequently is an Imperial City, the town of a King, the city of Caesar."

VI.—SCHOOLS.

The modern system of public schools having been inaugurated in the State by the law of 1812, this town, at the annual meeting of 1813, complied with the conditions of the statute and elected as school commissioners Wm. Crist, Joseph I. Houston, and Abraham A. Thompson. Others who served one or more years each during the period from 1812 to 1844 were the following: Frederick Mills-paugh, Nathaniel P. Hill, Wm. W. Crawford, Jonathan Mould, Alexander Thompson, Jr., Adam Dickerson, George Eager, William Jackson, **Henry Dubois**, Daniel Lawson, Henry **Dubois**, David Lawrence, Charles Borland, Jr., Abraham Crist, Isaac Jennings, William Graham, James Jessup, George Welles, John J. Scott, Thomas Cline-man, Robert Mead, Cornelius Neafie, Moses Smith, Joseph V. Whalen, John Kelly, Gideon Pelton. During the same period the following persons served one or more years each as inspectors of schools: Andrew King, Moses Froeligh, William Powell, Isaac Van Doren, Arthur I. Stansbury, David Mason, Charles Borland, Jr., Samuel W. Eager, Henry I. Hardenbrook, Wm. H. Weller, Charles Winfield, Daniel W. Frye, Absalom Bull, James C. Cook, Isaac Jennings, John L. Lyon, David Ruggles, Joseph V. Whalen, Fred. J. Betts, George Eager, Archibald Smith, John Sears, Philip Mills-paugh, Martin Lewis, Hiram E. Conger, Jacob C. Tooker.

Under the system of supervision by town superintendents, from 1844 to 1856 the following were the incumbents of the office in Montgomery:

1844-46, Peter T. Clearwater; 1847-48, George W. Mills-paugh; 1849, Peter T. Clearwater; 1851, James T. Kane; 1853-55, Alexander Beattie.

In 1856 all control of the schools by town authority ceased, supervision being transferred to the Assembly District Commissioners.

November, 1873; John Kidd, elected August, 1874; Frederick Bodine, elected December, 1876; Robert Ashby, elected January, 1877; John R. Hays, elected June, 1877; Theron L. Millsbaugh, elected January, 1880; Hiram B. Wooster, Jacob Van Steenburgh, elected March, 1880.

THE INSURANCE AGENCY,

by the officers of the National Bank, is a large and important business, affording insurance facilities to Montgomery and adjacent towns. A line of strong companies is represented. The lowest rates possible for safe insurance are given, and all losses are promptly adjusted.

X.—PLACES OF HISTORIC INTEREST.

The High Falls at Walden in the earlier years, when the volume of the stream was greater than in modern times, were very noted. They are still romantic and attractive, though the primeval forests on their banks were long since cut away, and for a century or more the whirling waters have been compelled to minister to the wants of man. Another writer says:

"The fall is about forty feet, not perpendicular but in an angle of about forty-five degrees. When the stream is full of water the sight is beautiful beyond description, and is increased in grandeur by the resistance of its rocky and irregular descent. At every step the foaming flood is met by some obstructing rock, which throws the rush of water in another direction, there again to be impeded in its downward course and forced aside by the mighty pressure from above. Thus struggling from rock to rock, deep buried by the headlong torrent, the flood, in tones of thunder, meets the abyss below, and plunging deep comes boiling up throughout the mighty cauldron, and in whirling eddies flows on its way. The roar of this waterfall in the vicinity is almost deafening for a little while, and the view of it from both sides of the stream, which at this place are high, is truly grand and magnificent. The abyss below is really frightful at such a time, yet directly over it, at the foot of this fall, the first settlers built a bridge, which remained there till the site was changed to that of Galatian's Mill."

INDIAN LOCALITIES.

On the east bank of the Wallkill, on the line between the towns of Montgomery and Wallkill, and on the farm of Daniel Rogers, deceased, there was an Indian settlement. The land at this location, and for some distance around, was cleared, and full-grown apple-trees flourishing when first visited by the white immigrants. Some of the trees were standing for many years.

On the flat, just above the bridge across the Wallkill, near Mr. John Miller's, and below where the old Miller stone house stood, there was another settlement. They were there when Johannes Miller planted his shanty on the hill above them. Of these there is no tradition worth recording, except that they were friendly, and not many years after the settlement began to leave, and were all gone several years before the war.

On the farm of Mr. Stuffle Mould, on the main road from Montgomery to Albany, near the residence of Samuel Hunter, Esq., there was a third Indian location. This clan was quite numerous. They broke

up and left about 1775. A squaw of this clan, by association with the family of Mr. Mould, had become partially civilized, and did not wish to go. She had made herself useful to the family in many ways, and they wished to keep her. To accomplish this, with the consent of Mr. Mould, she hid herself somewhere about the house. The Indians in looking over their members missed her, and knowing her intimacy with the family instantly suspected that she did not want to leave, and had secreted herself till they should remove. To obtain her they surrounded the house for several nights in succession, made all kinds of hideous noise, demanding the absent squaw. At last Mr. Mould concluded that if she was not produced and given up, the Indians, as they were about to leave, would as soon break friendship for cause as not, and in the excitement of the moment might murder the family, he produced her, and they left never to return.

OLD HOMESTEADS.

The following list of old historic homesteads was given by Mr. Eager in 1846. The description is of recent date enough to still indicate the location of such as remain or the site of those which have been removed:

The Rockafeller house, near the village of Montgomery, known as "The Camp."

The stone Hedden house, near the Goodwill church.

The Charles Booth house, owned in later years by Lewis Booth, on the road from Neelytown to Campbell Hall (town of Hamptonburgh).

The Henry Van Keuren stone house, near Goodwill church, owned by Dr. James Van Keuren in modern times.

Hans Youngblood's stone house, near the Muddy Kill, where there was a German school in 1761.

The Willhelms Smith house, built in 1759 of stone drawn from Comfort Hill. They would draw a day or two, then mend the roads for a day or two. It was owned in after-years by Hendrick Smith.

The house known as the Beemer place, on the State road.

The old house at Neelytown built by William Eager, owned in later times by Mr. Mulford.

The old house at Neelytown built by James McCobb, subsequently owned by James Jackson, and later by Mr. Sherwood.

The old house where Rev. Robert Annan lived during the Revolution, and owned in later years by Foster Smith.

The old stone house built by Lieutenant-Governor Colden.

XI.—INDUSTRIAL PURSUITS.

This town is well adapted to successful agriculture. Its surface is pleasantly diversified with hills and with rolling uplands. There is also valuable meadow land.