

REPRESENTATIVE

YOUNG IRISH-AMERICANS

OF TROY, N. Y.

1889. /

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The City of Troy.

IT WAS IN 1630 that Kiliaen Van Rensselaer, an Amsterdam pearl merchant, began to send emigrants to settle along the Hudson River. The West India Company had offered to any person belonging to the association who would induce fifty persons over fifteen years of age to settle within four years upon stated tracts of land in New Netherland, the title of patroon or proprietor of the land so settled. Van Rensselaer was ambitious to become a patroon, and in due time he was made patroon of Rensselaerwyck manor, a great stretch of territory now included in Rensselaer, Albany and Columbia Counties. The part of the manor upon which the city of Troy now stands was known on the earliest maps of the territory as the Pafraets Dael (Pafraets' part) so called in honor of Maria Pafraets, the mother of Kiliaen Van Rensselaer.

Lack of space prevents a detailed history of the early settlers hereabouts. Suffice it to say that when the first emigrants from New England came this way the site of Troy was in possession of three Dutch farmers. The farm lying between the Poestenkill and Division Street was owned by Matthias Van der Heyden, that between Division Street and Grand Street by Jacob D. Van der Heyden, and that between

Grand Street and the Piscawankill by Jacob I. Van der Heyden. A ferry crossed the River at the foot of the present Ferry Street, and for many years the locality was known as Van der Heyden's Ferry. All that section of the city below the Poestenkill was originally the property of Teddy Maginnis. His widow sold it to Stephen I. Schuyler.

New England settlers came in rapidly. Among the earliest were Benjamin Thurber, Benjamin Covell of Providence, and Samuel Gale, M. D., of Killingworth, Conn. At a public meeting held Monday evening, Jan. 5, 1789, the name of Troy was given to the hamlet, but it was not until Feb. 6, 1798, that the village was incorporated by act of the Legislature. Troy grew rapidly, and in 1807, John Lambert, an English traveler, said of it: "Troy is a well-built town, consisting chiefly of one street of handsome red brick houses, upwards of a mile and a half in length. There are two or three short streets which branch off from the main one; but it is on the latter [River Street] that all the principal stores, warehouses and shops are situated. It also contains several excellent inns and taverns. The houses are all new and lofty and built with much taste and simplicity."

The population of the village in 1815 was 4,254. On April 12, 1816, the Legislature made the village a city, and the first charter election was held on Tuesday, May 14, 1816, and the following were elected aldermen: First Ward, George Allen, assistant, Amos Salisbury; Second Ward, Hugh Peebles, assistant, John Loudon; Third Ward, Townsend McCoun, assistant, Gurdon Corning; Fourth Ward, Stephen Ross, assistant, Henry Mallory; Fifth Ward, Lemuel Hawley; Sixth Ward, Philip Hart, Jr. Albert Pawling was

appointed mayor and William L. Marcy recorder by the Governor and Council of Appointment of the State of New York.

There is no need of following up the growth of Troy to the present day. With the salient features of its history since the city charter was obtained all are more or less familiar. Troy's population to-day is not less than 65,000 and it is the commercial center of 200,000 people. In all the years of the life of the city young men have been foremost in the work of its development, and in the following pages we propose to give sketches of the lives of some of the young Irish-Americans who are in the front rank in the commercial, professional and political life of the Troy of to-day.

APPENDIX.

SINCE the enclosed sketches were placed in type Senator Collins has been reelected to the Senate for a term of two years, by an increased majority ; George O'Neil is succeeded in the Assembly by James M. Riley, and John P. Curley has retired from the civil justiceship, which he held for three terms. The appointment of District Attorney Griffith as county judge to succeed E. L. Fursman, elevated to the Supreme Court bench, rendered the office of district attorney vacant. Early in January Governor Hill filled the vacancy by the appointment of Assistant District Attorney John P. Kelly. Thomas S. Fagan, whose term as civil justice had expired, was appointed assistant district attorney. William H. Ryan has retired from his position as book-keeper in the *Press* office. Daniel T. Holland and Cornelius M. Dorsey have dissolved their partnership, and each is conducting a separate painting and decorating business. In the election last fall Mark J. Coyle was chosen an alderman from the Second Ward. Alderman Patrick J. Delaney, when the present Common Council was organized, was elected president of that body, and accordingly he is now a member of the contracting board. George E. Sands has retired from the comptroller's office, and will shortly be admitted to the bar.

FEBRUARY, 1890.