

## **From Landmarks of Oswego County**

The following pages identify the first settlers of Richland, Oswego County, New York. Albert Bohannon is listed among the first four men who settled the area now known as Richfield in 1801. He settled at the mouth of Snake Creek while the other three, Nathan Tuttle, Nathan Wilcox and Benjamin Winch, settled at the mouth of the larger Salmon Creek to the north. Tuttle and Wilcox came from Canada. Bohannon appears to have come from Rome, New York appearing in that city's 1800 census records. Three years later, Thomas Jones came from Bridgewater, New York.

Isaac J. Rich, supervisor; Thomas S. Meacham, town clerk; Isaac J. Rich, Burns E. Parkhurst, Latham D. Potter, James C. Knight, and William E. Nelson, justices of the peace; John W. Rima, collector; John Calkins, Edward E. Forman and John Nicholson, assessors; William M. Woods, highway commissioner; George W. Pond, overseer of the poor. Wilfred I. Lane, Albert White and Wells De Graw, excise commissioners. Thomas S. Meacham has been town clerk since 1881, succeeding his father, Daniel B., who held the office almost twenty-one years. Five justices of the peace have been elected in Richland annually since 1872; prior to that only four were chosen.

Settlement was commenced in the present town of Richland by Nathan Tuttle and Nathan Wilcox, who came from Canada and located at the mouth of Salmon River in 1801. The same year Benjamin Winch also settled near the outlet, and Albert Bohannon at the mouth of Snake Creek. Mr. Winch soon removed to the site of Pulaski village, where he opened the first tavern in town about 1806. Being a surveyor he aided in surveying the original Richland, and in various ways was a useful and influential citizen. The first death was that of a child of Nathan Tuttle.

Reliable data of the early settlers in this town are, in many instances, lacking. It is quite probable that many of the pioneers hereafter mentioned came in 1802 or 1803, but if so it is now impossible to determine the fact. We subjoin first, however, the names of those the exact date of whose settlement has been ascertained.

In 1804 Thomas Jones came from Bridgewater, N. Y., and located on Salmon River near Lake Ontario. He had five sons and three daughters, the sons being Pliny, Israel, Horace, Chauncey and Lyman. They settled at what was long known as "Jones Corners" and opened the roads intersecting there. Pliny Jones kept a public house upward of fifty years, and also built the first frame barn in town, which is now owned by J. S. Farmer. He was the father of Pliny H. Jones and of Mrs. Cornelia Ledyard (who died in 1894), and held one or two local offices. Israel Jones erected the first saw mill in Richland. The first wedding in the town was that of Joseph Spaid and Clara Jones, the grandparents of Dr. F. J. Bradner, of Pulaski. Spaid was obliged to go by boat to Oswego for a magistrate to perform the ceremony.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>French's State Gazetteer, a generally reliable work, states that the first marriage in Richland was that of Samuel Crippen and Ruth Tuttle (probably a daughter of Nathan Tuttle, one of the first two settlers) in 1804, but an old resident of the town who has given attention to local annals gives the honor to Joseph Spaid and Clara Jones.

Benjamin Bull and John B. Ingersoll also became settlers in 1804. The first birth was that of Benjamin Ingersoll August 28, 1804. In the next year Jacob Ellis, a trapper, was the first to locate at Brown's landing, a place on Salmon River that received its name from the pioneer, Sylvester Brown. Joel Ellis, a brother of Jacob, came to the town soon after. Jouathan Hooker was an early comer to this vicinity and for many years owned the principal part of its shipping. He was long a justice of the peace and a man of influence and ability.

Among other early settlers was William Smith, a farmer and fisherman, who located on the Ansel Brown farm. While fishing and boating were of paramount importance Capt. John Vorce came into the town. He was a lake captain and settled on the farm now occupied by the widow of Edmund Brown, who was born in Richland and died here in March, 1892. Daniel Brown was the first settler on the place now owned by his son-in-law's widow, Mrs. Augusta Twitchell; his wife was a daughter of Benjamin Winch. Thaddeus Harmon was the pioneer on the land subsequently owned by his son James and later occupied by his grandson Calvin. Luman Hough and a Mr. Stowell were also early settlers; the latter was killed while raising a barn, and the former was poormaster for about twenty-five years. John Woods came from the eastern part of the State and built his log cabin on property now owned by Ira and Gilbert Stewart. He died December 2, 1852. His widow is yet living and resides with her son George W., in Oswego. Other pioneers were Isaac Lehigh, who settled where Thomas Bull now lives, and who was drowned in Salmon River; Abram Bates, who located in the Ingersoll neighborhood; Isaac Fellows and his son of the same name, on the Spring Brook road east of Pulaski; Nathan Stoddard, Ezra Weed, and Daniel Sykes, north of the village; and Moses Phillips.

Caleb Halsey, father of Don C., came to Mexico in 1807 and thence to Richland about 1820; he was born in Oneida county and died in 1894; his widow lives in Mexico. Samuel Calkins journeyed from Canada to Whitesboro in a bateau at the beginning of the war of 1812, and came thence to Richland on foot in 1816, settling on the farm now owned by John Price; he afterward moved to Ohio and died there. With him came his eldest son, Russell, afterwards under-sheriff and sheriff