

C H A P T E R 7

P A R T 6

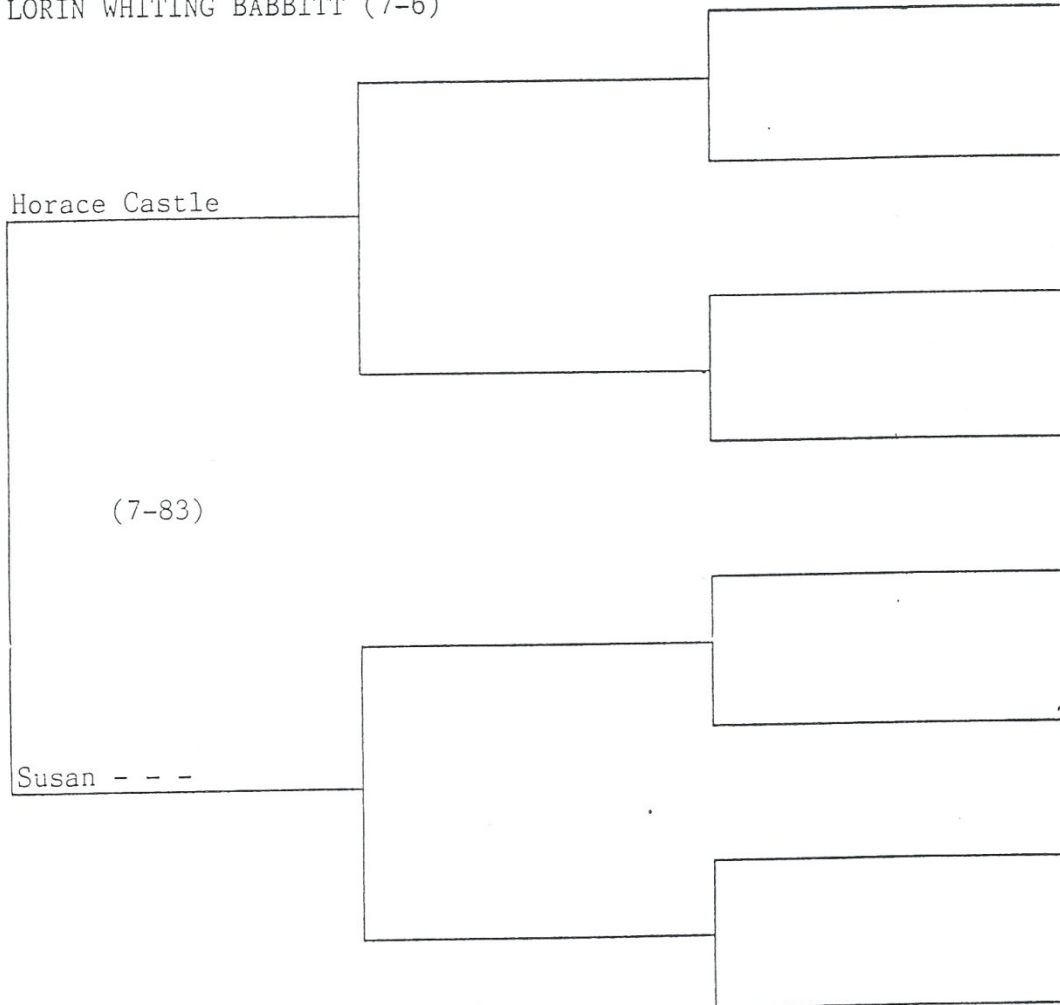
Ancestral lines of
ELIZABETH ALMIRA BABBITT, wife of
LEONARD GURLEY RICE (1-7)

Extended by the parents of
ALMIRA CASTLE, wife of
LORIN WHITING BABBITT (7-6)

PEDIGREE CHART

The Book of Leonard Gurley
Ancestral lines of his wife
ELIZABETH ALMIRA BABBITT (1-7)

Extended by the
parents of:
ALMIRA CASTLE, wife of
LORIN WHITING BABBITT (7-6)



HORACE B. CASTLE (1784 - after 1857)

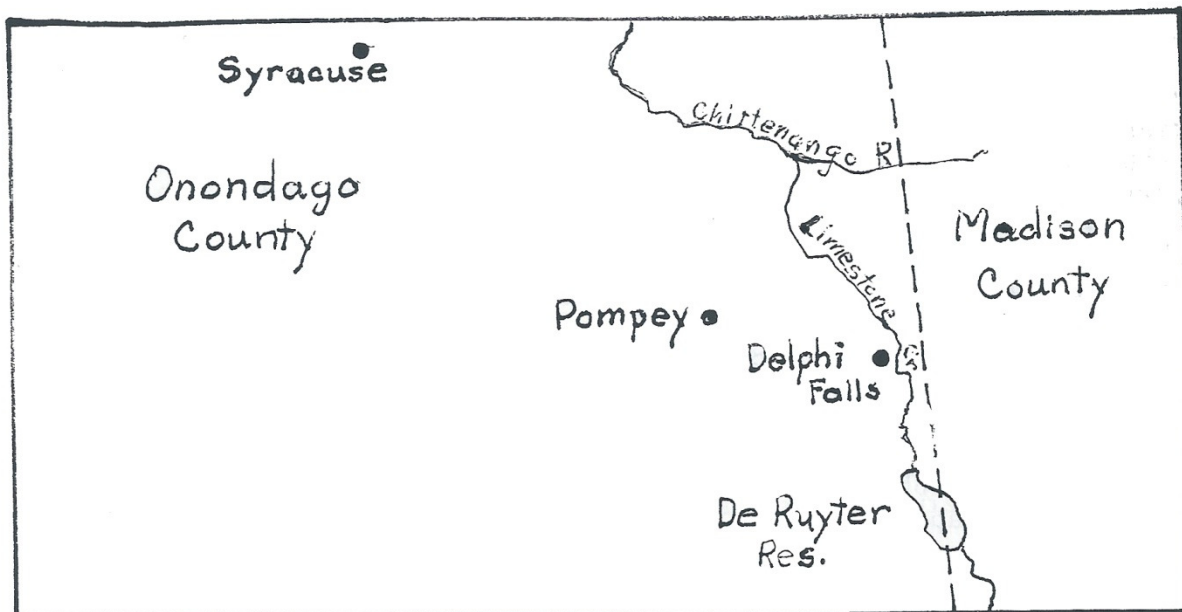
SUSANNAH (SUSAN) _____ (1787 -)

Thus far the only records yielding information of the Horace Castle family of Pompey, Onondago County, New York are, (1) the 1810 Census of Pompey; (2) Justice of the Peace Records of Pompey; (3) Land Records of Pompey, N. Y., and (4) L.D.S. Church Index Records and Archive Files.

Horace Castle was born 19 Aug. 1784. He married Susan _____ 12 Sep. 1805. Susan was born 15 May 1787. Both were born in England but it seems possible that they migrated from Massachusetts and Connecticut. Evidently they lived in Pompey, N. Y. during their married life where their children were born:

- "1. Almira Castle, b. 6 Feb. 1810; md. Lorin Whiting Babbitt (7-6); died, 8 Sep. 1845
2. Susan Castle, b. 16 May 1812
3. Horace Castle, b. 14 Nov. 1815
4. John Castle, b. 7 Jan. 1817
5. Harlow Castle, b. 20 June 1819
6. Levi Castle, b. 5 Nov. 1821
7. Emily Castle, b. 13 May 1823
8. Albert Castle, b. 30 Oct. 1824
9. Edmund Castle, b. 10 Mar. 1827" 1

The census record of 1810 gives the family's residence as Delphi Village, today 'Delphi Falls', which is situated near the county line of Madison. This indicates that the Castles lived in the south eastern part of the area of Pompey in Onondago County.



REGION EAST OF FINGER LAKES, SOUTH OF ONEIDA LAKE, N.Y.

It must be taken into consideration that when the region was allotted as a Government land grant, the whole area was referred to as Pompey. One might travel for miles in Pompey before arriving at the little town called Pompey. This was found to be the case (1975) when the writer began to search for information in the town. Nothing was obtained until going to Syracuse, the county seat, a few miles to the north and west. We might assume from this that the Castles may never have lived in the town of Pompey, but rather were in Delphi Falls.

Recorded material, such as births, marriages and deaths, during the time that migrations began in any earnest west out of New England, were scarce. A steady movement of people over pioneer trails took a priority over any requirement for record keeping and those on the move had no time, nor thought, for such matters. The death dates for Horace and Susan were not found on record.

There is reason to believe that the Castles had relatives in the area where they lived in Onondago County, New York. "Families of Ancient New Haven", compiled by Donald Lines Jacobus, speaks of one Seth Castle who removed from his childhood home in Waterbury, Conn., to Salina, Onandago Co., a village that was later incorporated into Syracuse. Seth was born in 1780 near the age of Horace who was born in 1784. We know that they were not brothers, however, for Horace is not listed, as was Seth, in the family of Phineas Castle, who was the son of William Castle recorded in the same source. Also in Pompey, New York, there was a Selah Castle who came from Woodbury, Conn., a neighboring town to Waterbury, and who was an older man than either Horace or Seth. A William Castle, also from Woodbury, Conn., was settled in Pompey. ²

From "History and Genealogy of Families of Old Fairfield, Conn." we find that a Henry Castle and a William Castle removed to Pompey about the same time as the others mentioned here. ³

In the 1810 Census of Pompey as recorded in Delphi Village, (now referred to as Delphi Falls) Horace Castle and his wife are listed with two children, a boy and a girl under 10 years old. According to this record, the Castles must have had a boy before Almira that is not listed in the family group sheet cited earlier. (#170 p. (7-83) Their daughter, Almira, who later married Lorin Whiting Babbitt, becoming ancestors of the writer, was born in Pompey, 6 Feb. 1810 and, without a doubt, was the baby girl listed in the 1810 Census.

"At this early date the township of Pompey included much of Onondago County to the south of Syracuse of which Delphi Village was a part." ⁴

From the land records of Syracuse, 1857, Book 128, page 193, and Book 130, page 44, it is noted that Horace Castle bought and sold properties in Syracuse, which record could include county properties. From this we know that he was still in Onondago County at least 20 or more years after his daughter, Almira, was married to Lorin Babbitt and had moved to Ohio, making a home in Painsville near Kirtland. (see map #18)

In Syracuse Land Records, 1813, Book Q, page 113-114 is found a transaction of 100 acres of land between William Babbitt and his son Elijah. This would indicate another inducement for Lorin to stop over to visit, perhaps, Babbitt

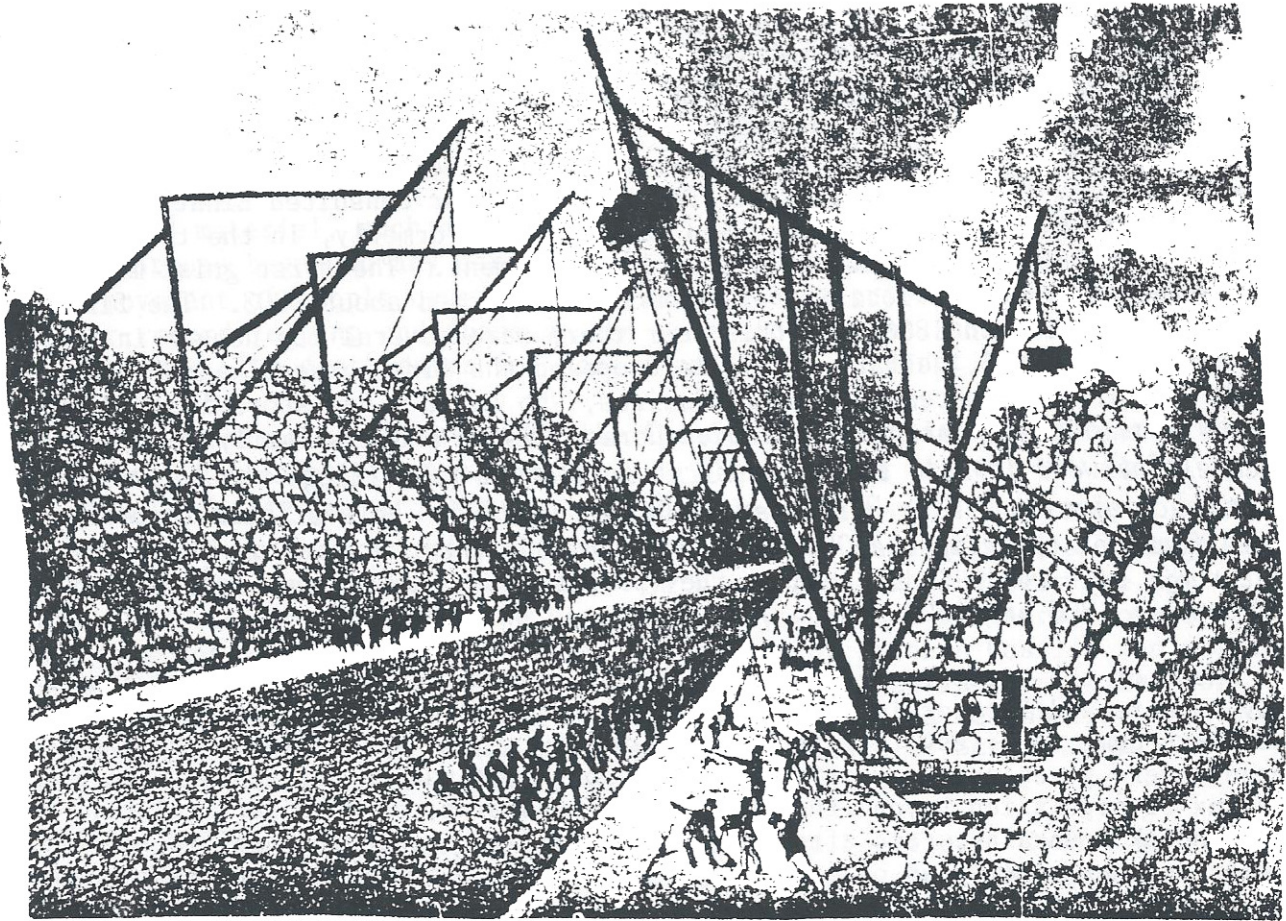
relatives in the area where the Castles lived. The only line of Babbitts known to be in the land at that time were descendants of Edward Babbitt, the immigrant, who came in about 1632, settling in Taunton and Berkley, Mass. So there were Babbitts and Castles living in Onondago County, N. Y. at the same time, who most likely had been acquaintances and, no doubt, relatives of Lorin Whiting Babbitt.

Professor W. W. Clayton in 1878 wrote the "History of Onondago County, New York" and for the early history of Delphi the author consulted Elnathan Griffith, a gentleman ninety years of age, who had resided, formerly, in the town, and was considered as authority on the early settlement. The first grist mill on Limestone Creek, (the location of Delphi) was erected about 1803. The first tavern was built in 1806. In this year there were several log houses in the vicinity. In 1805, Hubbard and Willard opened the first general assortment of sale goods. His successor was Eli Squires, who built a new store in 1810, the year of the Census taking that listed Horace Castle and his family in the town. Samuel Sherwood is said to be the first settler of the village who built his log residence about one mile northwest of Delphi in 1795. No available record has been found of the time that Horace and Susan made their arrival in the area, but their ages would indicate that they probably came later, perhaps near 1800 or between 1800 and 1809.

Many of the settlers of Onondago County came to claim Federal land grants given as reward for service in the Revolutionary War. Further inducement to settlers came as a result of Land grants following the War of 1812. Many such grants were given as far west as, what is now, Michigan and Illinois. The greater influx of population beyond the Appalachian mountains, or more particularly, the Adirondack mountains, came after the Erie Canal was opened for traffic in 1825. Prior to that time modes of travel made such terrain an almost formidable barrier for the ordinary settler. Poor roads, scarcely more than forest and mountain trails, made transportation costs and travel inconvenience prohibitive.

The canal, built solely by horsepower and man power, was 363 miles long, 40 feet wide and 4 feet deep and extended from Buffalo to Troy, N. Y., connecting Lake Erie with the Hudson River. Freight rates between New York City and Buffalo dropped from \$100 per ton, by land, to \$10 per ton through the canal. Transportation time from Albany to Buffalo was cut from 15 days by wagon to six days by canal. Fast passenger packets, drawn by relays of horses along the towpath at a trot, could travel the length of the canal in about 3½ days. Packet lines carried pioneers arriving daily at Buffalo. By 1832, Buffalo had a population of about 12,000. Between 1835 and 1862, the canal was widened to 70 feet and deepened to 7 feet, later 12 feet. It carried boats over a more than 500 feet rise in elevation from Troy to the Lake Erie level by the use of 82 locks. There was a great variety of river and canal craft--arks, barges, flatboats, keelboats and skiffs. Some of these boats were floating log cabins and the barges carried along--furniture, farm implements, horses, pigs, cows, chickens, dogs, cats, kegs of powder, boxes filled with provisions and everything a family might own. 5

Inland ports grew up along the canal, serving as transportation and shopping centers and providing local markets for agricultural products.



BUILDING THE ERIE CANAL

Lithograph by Anthony Imbert -- The Metropolitan Museum of Art

On the canal, the boats, rafts, and barges echoed with a song that could be heard as the travelers passed settlements along the way:

"a mighty ditch,
 To render it more easy for us to find
 a way,
 And sail upon the waters of Michigania,
 Yea, yea, yea, to Michigania."

The Erie Canal was actually started in 1817. It took magnificent vision and first attempts at cutting the tract was just short of madness. Many said that the talk of making a canal three hundred and fifty miles long through a wilderness was utter foolishness. At the start of the project, Irish bog trotters from Weas Ireland, cut away the trees the width of the canal track. They worked in the wet muck wearing nothing but a flannel shirt and a slouch cap. There were no adequate tools that could be used.

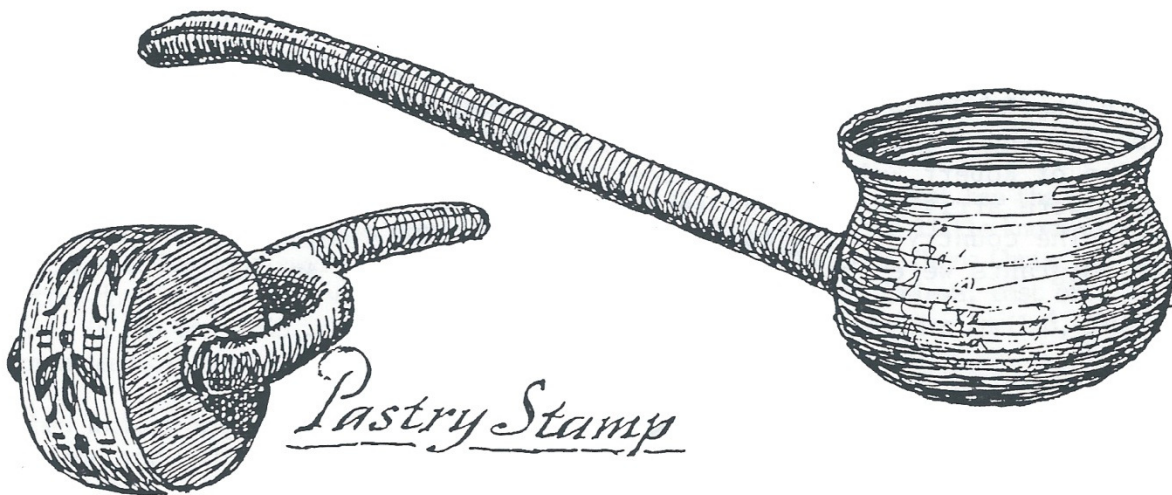
This primitive scene was soon replaced by a prospect of strange new machinery developed out of the unprecedented demands of the great giant cut. Great hoists for removing infinite stumps and full-grown trees, scrapes and plows with special blades to cut deep-lying roots, cleared the ditch. A local variety of cement solved the problem of stonework.

The completion of the canal was jubilantly celebrated. On October 26, 1825, the Governor of New York and a distinguished group of companions boarded the "Seneca Chief" and started on the first trip from Buffalo to New York City by water. At every town by which the party passed there were artillery salutes, banquets, and speeches. Perhaps Horace and Susan participated in the celebrations at Syracuse. The Seneca Chief reached New York City in nine days and here the celebrations climaxed.

The social activities of the settler and frontiersman centered around the meetinghouses. Quiltings, log-rollings, weddings, funerals, occasional political-doings, all brought people together for serious and simple social purposes. Mid-wives generally delivered babies, although doctors were available for any medical emergencies which arose. Schools were hit and miss affairs before 1870 and were held for only 3-5 months each year. Ingenuity and practical experience played the major role of education.

Plowing was largely a matter between the farmer and his sons, though a daughter or wife could often take the place of a man. Hand plows needed two to handle the plow and the beast of burden. Agricultural implements included the harrow, used for breaking the field earth; broad axe, used to cut logs into square beams; foot adze, used for smoothing down hewn surfaces; auger, for rilling holes for pegs; froe, used for splitting rails; grub and weed hoe; pitchfork, scythe, ox-yoke, usually a crosspiece with two bos-shaped pieces; single-trees, used for yoking two or more oxen together. These are a few necessary items needed to carry on the pioneer's self-sustaining endeavors.

Kitchenware was often made of fruit woods. Bowls and dippers were made of burl woods which are the lumpy masses seen on trees.



Syracuse was the inland trading port. By 1848 when Horace Castle was age 64 and Susan was 61, the population of Syracuse had grown to 22,000. By 1860, the town had several small foundries, machine shops, and factories producing agricultural implements, boots and shoes, furniture, saddlery, hardware and silverware, as well as candles and other household wares. The bank of Syracuse was organized in 1838. At that same time, the Auburn and Syracuse Railroad was opened for traffic. The next year the Syracuse and Utica was completed and by 1853 the Rochester and Syracuse and in 1854 the Syracuse and Binghamton Railroads were operating, bringing coal from Pennsylvania mines for the salt mine fields of Salina. The new city was a bustling, industrious place and the center of factional politics. It was in June 1854, at Syracuse, that the historic conference was held which resulted in the birth of the Republican Party. This party held its first meeting in the town in 1859.

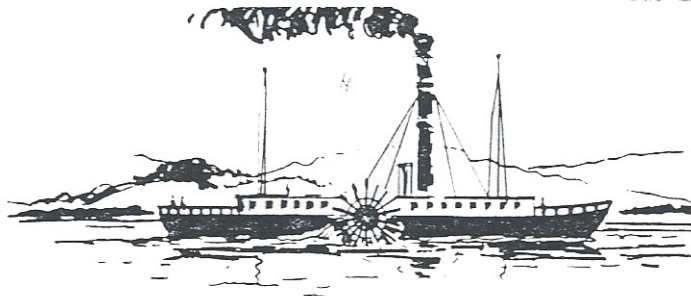
Salt and waterproof cement from Onondago County were unloaded on the Albany wharfs to be loaded again onto barges that went to New York by way of the Hudson River from where the many products of the interior could be transported to other Atlantic ports of the eastern coastline of the United States. Strong economic bonds were being formed between the east and the west.

Horace and Susan Castle lived during a period of great changes. In 1784, the year of Horace's birth, the North Western Territory was ceded by Virginia to the United States. It embraced only the territory lying between the Ohio and Mississippi rivers; and north to the northern limits of the boundaries that were finally determined by the Revolutionary War of 1775-83. The depression that was felt as a result of the war began to be lifted and Americans were doing better. On April 30, 1789, George Washington took office as the first President and a new nation was born.

From the year 1800 to 1860, emigration and immigration were the order of the day.

In 1803 Louisiana was ceded by Spain back to France and by France sold to the United States. The West was extending its borders for further exploitations. The frontier of civilization was on-going. Sometimes several families, neighbors, friends and relatives, went together to form a congenial settlement elsewhere. The emigrants packed in wagons and on pack horses their provisions, clothing, bedding, and such cherished articles as they could not leave behind, and spent weeks on the trail, camping out at night.

With the Louisiana Purchase, the commerce of the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers came under the charge of the United States. During these years the invention of Robert Fulton's Steamboat was advanced for river travel and many settlers were arriving into the interior by way of the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers. The country to the east saw no great loss in population. The places of the emigrants were readily taken up by new comers to America.



The War of 1812 was felt heavily in the area south of the St. Lawrence River and Great Lakes. The dangers of a close conflict filled the hearts of the people in all communities with fear. The mothers were "wont to tell" how the price of common calico went up to a dollar a yard, and how at their tea parties they had no tea, and no cake because sugar could not be obtained.

The slump in the economy was soon to be revived by the Industrial Revolution. Factories showed evidence of the great initiative that was had by the American people.

To return to the main thread of our story--while many exciting events were happening throughout the country, Horace and Susan remained at Delphi Falls attending to their land holdings and farming endeavors. If not in Delphi, they were definitely in the area of Pompey and Syracuse up until 1857. During the time that America grew from 3,000,000 to 60,000,000, exciting activities prevailed. The great Mormon Trek across the Plains began in 1846; gold was discovered in California, 1848. Almira Castle, the oldest daughter of Horace and Susan, who had married Lorin Whiting Babbitt, was living in Illinois. It is not known if Almira ever returned to Onondago County to visit her parents. The distance made visits quite prohibitive. By 1845 Almira had died at the time the people of Nauvoo, Illinois, were preparing to journey farther west to the Rocky Mountains. The Castles may never have seen their five grandchildren who left for the Valley of the Great Salt Lake in 1846. (Story 7-6)

Horace Castle lived to see many changes and it is interesting to see his life-span in the light of the many advances that were made to bring America from a colonial state to a leading world power as a Nation. He was five years old when our first President was inaugurated. The whiskey rebellion in Pennsylvania, which required 15,000 troops to quell, occurred when he was ten, and he was seven when the cotton gin was invented. He was twenty-one years old when the people were frightened by the great dark day when the moon and stars only gave light at noon on April 6, 1815.

The January 'Ensign' 1983, page 65, tells how the incident of a volcano on an island east of Java played a role in the history of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. This incident is the one referred to above, and merits our notice here as we set landmarks of time for the people of the period.

"...Any volcanic eruption is apt to be very dramatic, affect many people, and consequently draw much interest...but usually, as time passed, becomes relegated to historic footnotes and all but forgotten.

Among these historic footnotes is the record of one volcanic eruption that has the distinction of being the largest eruption ever recorded. It also has the little known distinction of having played a small role in the history of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. That volcano was Mount Tambora on the island of Sumbawa, east of Java, in the year 1815...The time zones considered would date the eruption April 6, 1815, North American time.

"When Tambora erupted, roughly 4,000 feet of the mountain's summit disappeared, and a caldera over fifteen miles across was created. Estimates on the amount of debris ejected vary, but the most common figure is thirty-six cubic miles. The shoreline of the town of Tambora dropped eighteen feet, and the explosion was noted 1,000 miles away. The greatest

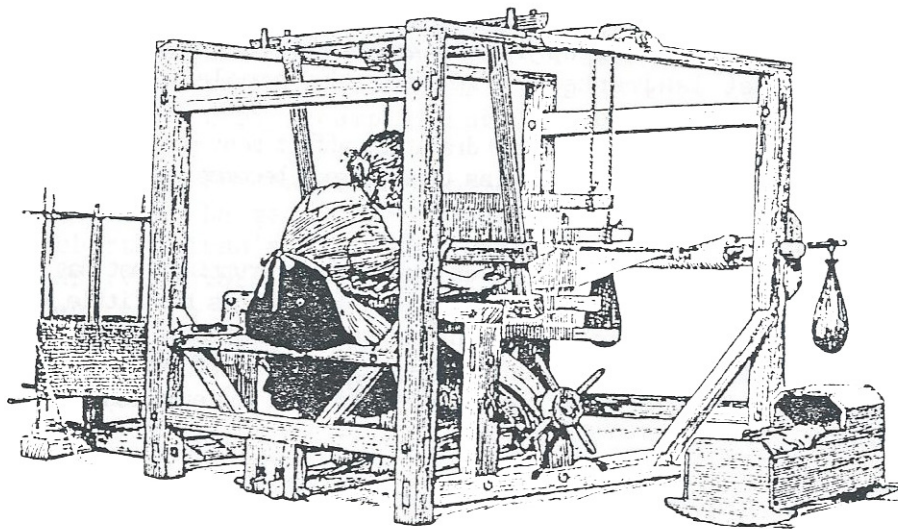
damage occurred within a 300-mile radius, where there was total darkness for over three days, much like the darkness recorded in the eighth chapter of Third Nephi in the Book of Mormon. The hot air rising from the mountain caused hurricane winds to converge from all directions, drawing up entire buildings and all forms of life.

"Of interest to Latter-day Saints is the role this eruption came to play in the story of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Mount Tambora ejected so much matter into the atmosphere that it shaded the sun's rays and cooled the earth by over one degree Centigrade. Many believe this cooling caused the year of 1816 to be known as "the year without a summer"; in the northeastern United States snow fell in June and July, and frost killed crops in August. Coming after several years of hardships, the crop failure was more than the Smith family could handle. This, with other factors, caused them to leave Vermont. Packing their belongings, they moved to Palmyra, New York, where young Joseph was to receive a series of remarkable visions and the Book of Mormon."

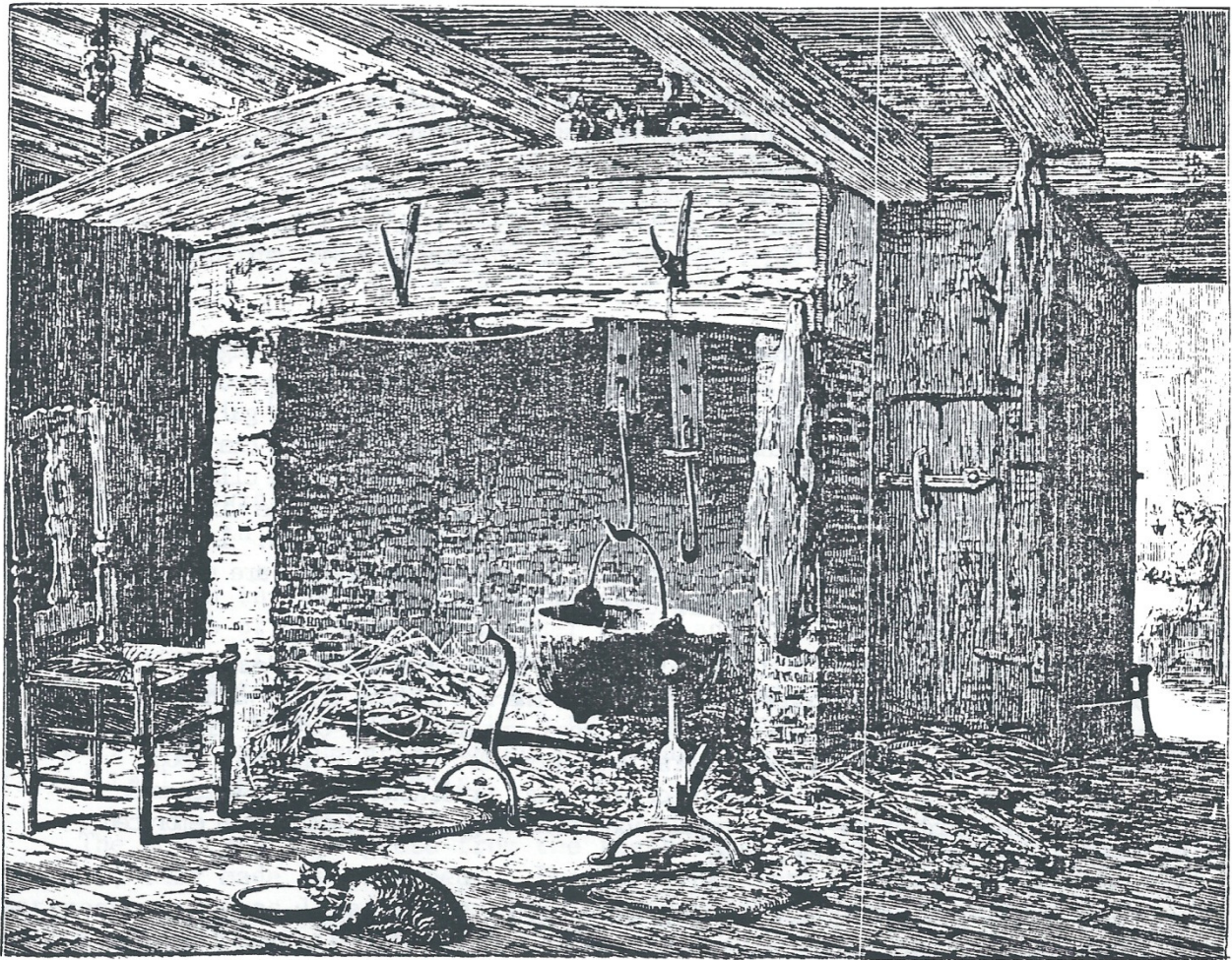
We can be sure that Horace and Susan were aware of the organization of the restored church of mention, for their daughter, Almira, and son-in-law, Lorin Whiting Babbitt embraced the new Church while living in western New York State and were actively engaged in the church programs of the early Saints in Ohio and Illinois. It is not known that the Castles ever gave consideration to the teachings of Joseph Smith or to missionaries who may have called on them.

Migrations of the Saints across the state of New York at that time were constant and no doubt wagon trains passed the area of Pompey near where the Castles lived. The Erie Canal was being used extensively in navigating across country. The canal was within easy reach of where the Castles lived.

Horace was 47 years of age before the first locomotives were used on rails. Syracuse became a great commercial center soon to be a terminal for several railway companies. He was 51 years of age when the telegraph was invented. Sewing machines did not come into use until he was 62 and clothes worn before that time were all made by hand from the raw materials--wool and flax.



Weaving Linsey-woolsey



INTERIOR OF TYPICAL PIONEER HOME



CRADLING AND BINDING THE GRAIN

"The teams used by the earlier settlers were universally ox teams. There were no wagons when the settlers migrated from the east. Carts were the best of vehicles for mountainous trails, pulled by oxen, and pack horses were used to carry much needed provisions. Oxen worked best for pulling crude sleds over rough terrain. There were no wagons in the early Pompey settlements and only a single horse or two to go to the mill or to a store. The first chaise (a two-wheeled carriage for two persons used mainly for pleasure driving) was brought to the Pompey area by Judge Butler, from Philadelphia, where he had purchased it in exchange for cattle that he had driven there to sell. For this vehicle horses were best suited to do the pulling...

"The greater portion of the township of Pompey lies on three hills or ridges. The slopes of these are not steep and were originally covered with a heavy growth of timber—mostly deciduous trees. Swamps are few and small; as also are gulfs and ravines and most of the land can be cultivated. The soil is chiefly a clay loam and two hundred years tillage has proved it of excellent quality. The climate is subject to sudden changes, and is particularized by high winds. In the village of Pompey, on Pompey Hill, the wind often blows with terrific violence. In winter the situation is most unfavorable for comfort, but the summer breezes are pleasant relief from the oppressive heat of the city and valleys below...

"The landscape consists of hill and dale, placid lakes, meandering streams, beautiful fields and farm houses, together with the hum of busy life. Within the present limits of Pompey there are five villages containing Post Office, viz:- Pompey Hill, Pompey Center, Delphi, Oran and Watervale. As early as about 1800 there were, within the circle thus described, sixty or seventy families which made up about one-third of the entire population of Onondago County (which then embraced Homer, Solon and Cortland Counties).

"At this time such a vehicle as a horse wagon was not in existence in Onondago County, and the visiting was done mostly in winter on ox sleds, and too, it was no disparagement for the belles and beaux of that day to attend singing school or spinning bee on the ox sled." 6

There were deprivations necessarily endured by the early settlers as they cleared the forests and commenced a settlement and built new homes.

"Coming as many or nearly all of them did from Mass. and Conn. where they had enjoyed the comparatively old settled country with churches, schools, mills, good roads and comfortable dwellings, and breaking away from these, and either on foot, with axe across the shoulder, or with the family and family effects upon an ox-sled or cart, they had taken up their line of march for this the then far West." 7

A journey then to "the West", even to sections in New York, was farther by far than that of today to California or to Oregon.

"Delphi is about six miles East and South from Pompey Hill and is located in the beautiful valley of the Limestone Creek. A valley which became settled at an early day by a race of noble men and women, many of whose descendants today are filling positions of trust in State and Nation...The name Delphi was adopted after it had been called "Pompey Four Corners" for several years." 8

The old song of "Leather Breeches" refers to the custom of wearing pantaloons made of deer skins.

"Hey! my little boy, who made your breeches?
Daddy cut them out and mammy sewed the stitches."

Folk dancing was the great entertainment of the time of which the familiar Virginia Reel and several forms of the Western Square Dance were enjoyed with the assist of a caller and a fiddler. One of many calls known was:

"Round and round and round you go.
Round and round in a docey-do!
Chicken in the breadpan pickin' up dough,
Round and round and home you go!"

The following is taken randomly from notes of "The Pompey Reunion" held June 29, 1871 in Pompey, Onondago Co., N. Y.

Every man in that day knew a trade and some of them practiced three or more trades. Skins of squirrels and other small animals were tanned with ashes and cut into thongs for shoe-strings and other uses. The men commonly wore leather breeches or pantaloons made of tanned buckskins with the hair removed and vests (weskits, waist-coats, as they were usually called). Other skins tanned with the hair left on, made articles such as caps of coon-skins, worn often with the ringed tail hanging down behind.

The settlers kept geese from the feathers of which, plucked annually or oftener, they made feather beds. Feather ticks were in universal use as bed mattresses even as late as the end of the nineteenth century. Straw beds, too, were made from the ripened grain stalks.

The people built their own carts, harnesses, saddles, ropes, crockery, nails and lumber, and made their own iron and iron vessels, utinsels, tools and guns and prepared their own powder. They built their own mills, made their own shoes, ground their own flour and meal, raised their own farm products, gathered wild fruit and nuts suited for foods and readily dried or parched many such things as could be stored for winter consumption. Herbs grew plentifully and time was spent gathering, digging and drying them for use.

Farming utensins were of the rudest fashion. Household furniture was very limited in quantity, and often rude in style. One table; the old chest with drawers; the cupboard in which were a few dishes; a few chairs or a bench or two; and one-half of a hollow log for a cradle would frequently complete the list. The plows used were what they called "The Bull Plow", made of wrought iron. The grain was covered by means of a crotch harrow with nine teeth; one such implement answered for a neighborhood. Scythes were brought from the East. The swathe was a straight stick, found in the woods. Wooden forks were used in turning hay, pitching forks were iron, with heavy tines, one answering for a community as did one scythe. The hay was stacked and fenced.

Every woman in the settlement was occupied in making almost all the dozens

of articles of domestic use employed or needed in her family and regarded such work as an indispensable part of her household duties. They were training their sons and daughters in ways of character and in every worthy endeavor and action. A more independent people or a people more sociable and helpful to one another than the pioneers of our westward migration would be impossible to find in any age or any country.

At the reunion of the Sons and Daughters of the Old Town of Pompey held June 29, 1871, it was recorded, "It is impossible for us to give the exact order in which the settlers came into the villages of Pompey. Neither can we be sure that in every instance, correct dates are given." ⁹ Thus what has been written in this review of Horace and Susan Castle has been brief in personal details, but with the help given from the above author and events that occurred currently of a historical vein, we have made up for the lack of this personal data and brought ourselves closer to the picture of pioneer life as it existed in Delphi and the surrounding community where the Castle family resided.

The last record of Horace Castle found at this writing was in 1857 when land records revealed his transactions of properties that were found in the Syracuse Court House as earlier mentioned. At that time he was 73 years of age.

1. #170, p. (7-83)
2. #3, Vol. 2, pp. 388, 389
3. #62, pp. 138, 139
4. #147, p. 12
5. #151
6. #147, pp. 176, 184
7. *ibid*, p. 185
8. *ibid*, p. 205
9. *ibid*, p. 206