

The celebration of Independence Day in 1859 was long held in pleasant memory. The day was cool and delightful. At an early hour the streets were thronged by citizens of Oxford and adjoining towns, making the attendance very great. James W. GLOVER, Esq., was marshal of the day. His assistants were General Samuel A. GIFFORD, Colonel Samuel M. ROBINSON, and Andrew J. HUNT. The Niagara and Lady Washington fire companies, led by the Oxford Bank, met at the head of Washington avenue the Deluge and Rescue fire companies from Norwich, with the Sherburne Band, and conducted them to the rooms of the fire department, where ample refreshments were served. The Oxford Guards, under Captain Freeborn YOUNGS, and the Artillery Company, under Captain Edwin M. OSBORN, received the Norwich Heavy Artillery, under Captain James TYRRELL, with mounted guns, and the Infantry from the same place, and escorted them to the village. The procession was formed in front of Hitchcock Hotel and moved to Washington square, where patriotism found full vent in a high order of merit. Rev. Mr. MATTESON of the M. E. church made the opening prayer, after which the Declaration of Independence was read by Cyrus N. BROWN. The oration by John T. MYGATT followed, replete with happy thought and patriotism. The benediction was pronounced by Rev. Mr. POTTER of the Baptist church. The procession then reformed and marched to HITCHCOCK'S for dinner. The white clouds which floated lightly upon the horizon above, like banners trailing their shadows, the insignia of the fire and military departments, and their banners, beneath, and the bright equipage and glittering armor, with the alternate martial and band music, afforded a beautiful pageant, which is seldom equaled in any village. The banquet at Hitchcock's was partaken of by a very large and gleeful assembly, and presided over by "Count" VANDERLYN, president of the day, who excelled himself in his large experience in similar positions. After the cloth was removed regular and volunteer toasts were drunk. In the afternoon there was target shooting, trial of fire engines, and a parade drill of Captain Tyrrell's Artillery company. At sunset a national salute of thirty-two guns was fired. The evening was brilliant with fireworks and a torchlight procession of the fire companies ended with the celebration of Independence Day in 1859