

buried in the deep forests can hardly be conceived by one who has had no such experience. There were no highways, no bridges, no schools, no churches, no mills, no merchants. The narrow openings and wide forests supplied the isolated foresters with their sole subsistence.

The subject of this memoir was taken from school at the early age of nine years. The straitened circumstances of his father, and the lack of facilities, prevented him from obtaining any further education in his boyhood. His thirst for knowledge was, however, increased by his deprivation. As soon as he reached his majority, having obtained a reputation for integrity, he obtained the means upon his own responsibility to reach Connecticut and spend a winter at school. In that brief winter he mastered the common branches taught there, and acquired sufficient knowledge to do ordinary surveying. Immediately after he returned from Connecticut, he commenced lumbering, and in the spring of 1797 got in a raft which he ran down the Delaware river to Philadelphia. Having disposed of his logs, he started for Ohio, just then opened for settlement — the *ultima thule* of western emigration. He was engaged during the summer with the government surveyors, but being attacked with the then prevalent malarial fever, upon his recovery worked his way back to New York. In 1798 he removed with his brother to Ovid, Seneca county, that state. They purchased a tract of land on the western shore of Cayuga Lake, laid out a town, and established a ferry across the lake, known as Kidder's Ferry. December 19, 1799, he was married to Elizabeth Dye, and engaged in farming and merchandising. From 1808 to 1814 he represented Seneca county in the state legislature. In 1815 he removed with his family to Allegany county, then quite new. He there erected mills and opened a store for the accommodation of the settlers. In 1816 he was appointed judge of the Allegany county court. He represented Allegany and Steuben counties in the legislatures of 1818-19 and 1823; and in 1821 was a member of the state constitutional convention, from the same district. In 1824 he was elected senator from the Eighth senatorial district of the