

## THE TIES THAT BIND

Lakeview, from its origin, depended on North Evans for its economic and social needs.<sup>1</sup> As long as this situation continued, Lakeview would not identify itself as an individual community. The establishment of its own social institutions began the period of transition to self identity. The fact that many of the first families in Lakeview originated in North Evans prolonged the transition.

It is not unusual to note that two social institutions, a church and a school, were established at approximately the same time. One can only speculate as to the reasons why the decision was made to initiate these institutions at this time. Population growth, personality conflicts, geography or a desire for self-identity could have been the contributing factors.

The first church in Lakeview, the Lakeview Congregational Church, began as a Sunday School. This was organized February 13, 1889, with Mr. Nelson Broad as superintendant.<sup>2</sup> The success and interest in this religious endeavor prompted members of the community to organize a church. On September 20, 1891 an

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<sup>1</sup>Diary. Jesse Ames. Leland A. Hazard Collection.

<sup>2</sup>Papers. Leland A. Hazard Collection.

ganizational meeting was held and on October 25, 1891, "The First Union Church of the Lake Shore District of the Town of Hamburg" was founded.<sup>1</sup> The charter members of this church were as follows: Mr. and Mrs. F. V. Cook, Miss Amelia Meyer, Mr. Wm. Wohlschlagel, Miss Charlotte Mulligan, Mr. C. B. Cole, Mr. Nelson Broad, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Potter, Mr. Allen Thompson and Mr. Thomas Grimshaw.<sup>2</sup> Of the above, Miss Mulligan was the only member who did not reside in Lakeview. She lived in Buffalo but was a prominent Christian leader in Western New York.<sup>3</sup> She was a dynamic force behind the organization of this church.<sup>4</sup> The ethnic origin of her name made her the only person of Irish extraction to play a role in the establishment of Lakeview. Her religious affiliation seems incongruous with the name, Mulligan.

On November 7, 1891, the decision was made to build the church on the "Beavis" lot, which sold for \$100 a half acre. This land was located on Lakeview Road. The building was

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<sup>1</sup>Papers. Leland A. Hazard Collection.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid.

<sup>3</sup>Statement. Leland A. Hazard.

<sup>4</sup>Papers. Leland A. Hazard Collection.

pleted in July of 1892 and Mr. C. S. Loeffler was called as the first pastor. He was paid no salary but the church leaders promised to support him as best they could.<sup>1</sup> Mr. Cook, who owned the general store, paid one dollar each Sunday to board the minister.<sup>2</sup> Reverend Loeffler resigned in July of 1893.<sup>3</sup>

No replacement could be found for Mr. Loeffler until 1897. During the intervening years the Lakeview Church shared a pastor with the North Evans Congregational Church. The financial remuneration offered the first pastor could well be the reason why the church had difficulty securing a successor to Reverend Loeffler.

In February, 1897, the church was re-organized and became incorporated as "The Lakeview Congregational Church."<sup>4</sup> At this time Reverend Charles Page became the pastor.<sup>5</sup> The Lakeview Congregational Church still serves the religious needs of the community.

Public School 12 was built in 1890-1891. It was built on Lakeview Road and in the past few years has housed the overflow of the Pinehurst Elementary School. The first trustee was Mr. Nelson Broad, and the first teacher was Mr. Julius Gressman.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Papers. Leland A. Hazard Collection.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

<sup>6</sup> Telephone conversation with Mrs. Bailey, 171 Berkshire, Buffalo, who attended the school in the early 1890's.

No other information is available concerning the origin of this school.

The Congregational Church was the social center of the community from which the community leadership evolved. The leaders in this social institution, the church, were also the leading business people in the community. Mr. F. H. Cook owned the large general store, Mr. G. B. Cole was the postmaster from 1885-1901<sup>1</sup> and Mr. William B. Meyn, who became Justice of the Peace, were all examples of men who were church leaders as well as business leaders.<sup>2</sup> Mr. Meyn purchased the store from Mr. Cook<sup>3</sup> and during the first twenty years of this century was recognized as the community leader of Lakeview.<sup>4</sup>

Thirty years elapsed in the history of Lakeview before the next social institution, a Catholic church, was established. Within a few years after this, two other organizations were founded. These three organizations were the instruments that severed the last ties with North Evans and gave to the people of Lakeview a purpose, direction and identification as a community.

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<sup>1</sup>Petri. p. 57

<sup>2</sup>Letter memorializing his death. Hamburg Town Board. December 2, 1926. Leland A. Hazard Collection.

<sup>3</sup>Advertising slinger. Wm. Meyn Store. Leland A. Hazard Collection.

<sup>4</sup>Statement, Leland A. Hazard

The catalyst for these three organizations was a man who had moved to Lakeview in 1918. This man, Mr. Edward Mayer, had no roots in North Evans, and having committed his family and himself to permanent residency in Lakeview, decided to put Lakeview on its own two feet.

The few Catholics in Lakeview worshiped in St. Vincent's Church, North Evans. In March, 1921, a meeting was held in the home of Mr. Mayer in Lakeview.<sup>1</sup> Ten of the thirteen Catholic families then residing in Lakeview attended the meeting. Those in attendance decided that a Catholic Church should be established in Lakeview. To achieve this goal the following officers were elected: Chariman, Ed Mayer; Secretary, George Fierle; Treasurer, Alvin Fierle. Four of those people present subscribed \$100 to initiate a building fund.<sup>2</sup>

The donation of a strip of land on Lakeview Road by George and Alvin Fierle's father, Leonard, gave further impetus to the project. Leonard Fierle had come to Lakeview in the 1880's and had acquired a triangular piece of property bordered by Lakeview Road and Versailles Road.<sup>3</sup> Leonard Fierle's progeny comprise some of the leading families of Lakeview today.

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<sup>1</sup>Telephone conversation. Mr. Edward Mayer. Lakeview, New York. October 12, 1965

<sup>2</sup>Dedication booklet. Our Lady of Perpetual Help School, November 25, 1962.

<sup>3</sup>See Appendix C.

April 30, 1922, Father Leo Toomey celebrated the first two masses in the hamlet of Lakeview. These were celebrated in the Lakeview Public School.<sup>1</sup> By the end of August, 1922, work had progressed on the church to the point where Father Toomey said mass in the church basement.<sup>2</sup> On Sunday, October 15, 1922, the Bishop of Buffalo, Bishop Turner, dedicated the new church.<sup>3</sup>

The same year that this new religious institution was organized another organization was formed to help solve another community problem. The lack of electricity in Lakeview motivated the people to organize to resolve this problem. To gain this goal, the Lakeview Community Organization was organized with Mr. Herbert Potter as president.<sup>4</sup> Other circumstances surrounding the early years of this organization are lost to posterity as a result of a fire which destroyed all the organization's minutes. These minutes covered the first organizational meeting up to 1933.<sup>5</sup> This organization is the oldest one of its kind in New York State, and still actively sponsors many community projects for the people of Lakeview.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Dedication Booklet. Our Lady of Perpetual Help School, p. 7.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> Statement. Mrs. Hansen, Secretary of the Lakeview Community Association. Personal Interview. December 31, 1965.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid.

The last organization to be discussed was the one that gave the people of Lakeview a real feeling of pride in their community. The Lakeview Volunteer Fire Association was brought about because of a dire need for fire protection. A large number of fires in the summer of 1923 prompted a meeting in the fall of 1923, to discuss the possibility of forming a fire association. This was held in the Lakeview Public School and the end result of the meeting was permission to ring the school bell as a fire alarm.<sup>1</sup>

A fire in the Lakeview Congregational Church on January 8, 1924, created near panic in the community. Many homes were jeopardized and a bucket brigade was used to fight the fire. A meeting was set for January 15, 1925, in the basement of the Catholic Church to form an organization.<sup>2</sup> Mr. Ed Mayer acted as chairman and the following men were elected: President, William Meyn; Vice President, John C. Murjohn Jr.; Recording Secretary, Glen Odell; Treasurer, Walter Streets.<sup>3</sup> George Spittler was elected Chief and Henry Brudo was elected Assistant Chief. Dues were set at 25¢ per month and the name of the organization was "The Lakeview Volunteer Fire Association."

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<sup>1</sup>Introduction. Minutes of the Lakeview Volunteer Fire Association. Mr. Fueller, North Creek Road, Lakeview, New York.

<sup>2</sup>Minutes. Lakeview Volunteer Fire Association. January 8, 1924. Mr. Fueller.

<sup>3</sup>Ibid.

<sup>4</sup>Ibid.

The formation of the Fire Association gave the community the last social institution needed to weave the thread of unity in Lakeview. The two churches, the school, the Community Association and the Fire Association continued to function as unifying factors as the community grew.



## CONCLUSION

There seemed no need to go beyond the year 1924 in this manuscript because by this time the framework for the community had been established. The early settlers in Lakeview were dependant upon North Evans for most of their needs. The establishment of a tannery and grist mill on the south bank of Eighteen Mile Creek created the basis for the North Evans hamlet.

Most of the inhabitants in early Lakeview were New Englanders with a smattering of Germans. This was reflected in the religious affiliations of the people. The Congregational Church was established in 1892 but the Catholic Church was not established until 1922. The ethnic origins of names further substantiates this claim.

The establishment of a railroad station in Lakeview gave it its birth. Despite the economic disruption caused by the Gatling incident and the bicycle factory, the railroads provided the economic basis for the growth and development of the community.

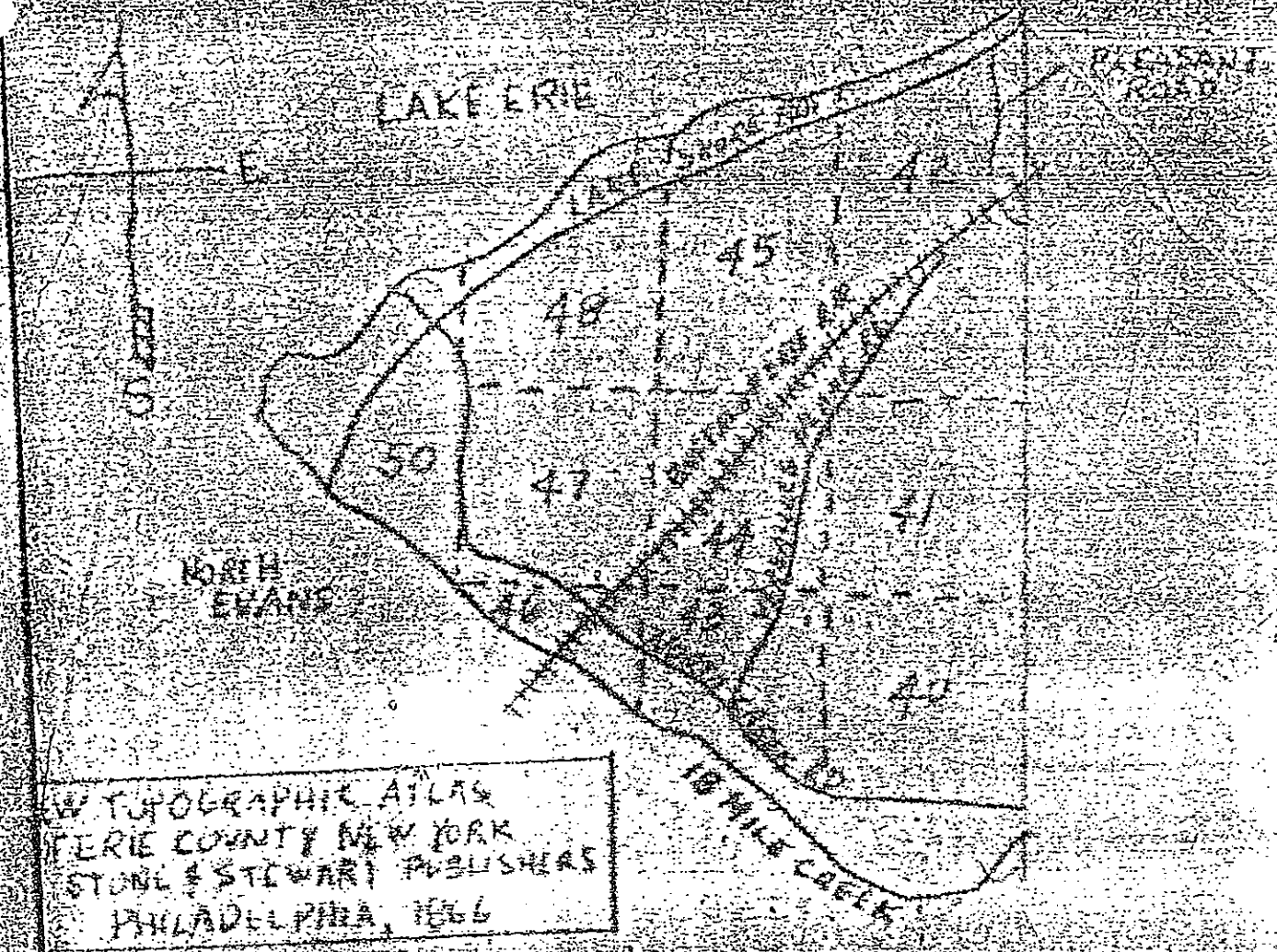
Although Lakeview was a small community of little significance in comparison to Hamburg, Angola, etc., it still harbored many important people. Ebenezer Walden, the first lawyer west of the Genesee River and Mayor of Buffalo in 1838, resided there in the 1830's. Professor Elliott Stewart was internationally known. The Schoelkops still reside in Lakeview.

Finally, the Lakeview community has grown and expanded since 1924. The exodus to suburbia has created many new housing developments outside the hamlet. Because the social institutions were organized by the people in the hamlet, the leadership of these institutions remained there. As the community grows, positions of responsibility in these social institutions must be offered to and accepted by people both inside and outside the hamlet, without this dissemination of responsibility, the community will lack the cohesiveness necessary for its progress and a large segment of the population will fail to identify with Lakeview. This can lead to apathy and stagnation for our fine community.

APPENDIX A

Appendix A on the next page indicates  
property owners in the Lakeview area  
as of 1866.

PROPERTY OWNERS  
1866

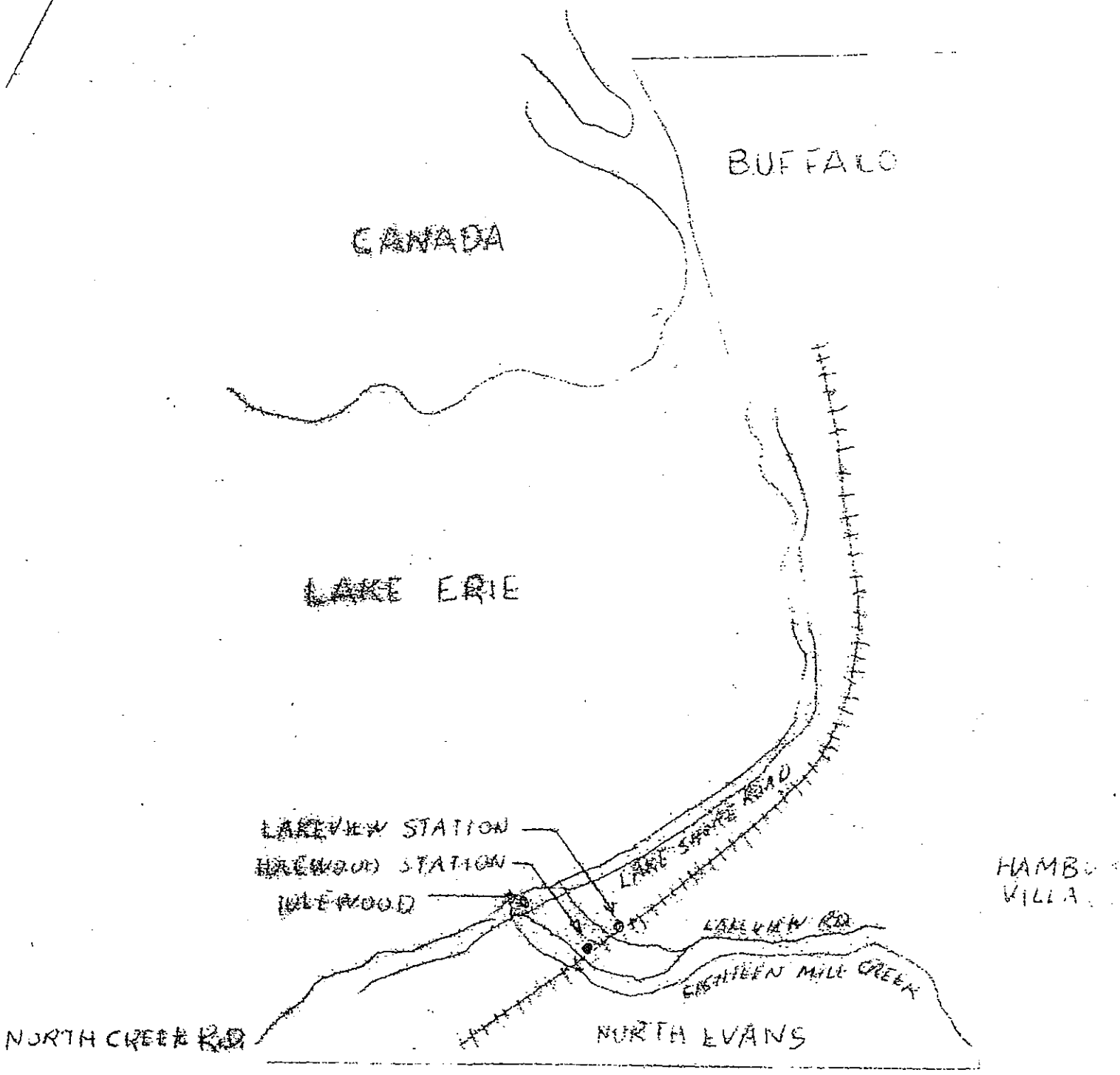


TOPOGRAPHIC ATLAS  
ERIE COUNTY NEW YORK  
STONE & STEWART PUBLISHERS  
PHILADELPHIA, 1866

LOT NO.	OWNER	LOT NO.	OWNER
40	J. POTTER	44	P. BURKHART
41	A. SANDERS		C. KEIFER
	A. BUCKWOLD		J. RETEL
	J. HEIL	45	J. FLIEN
	R. POTTER	46	P. KINDEY
	C. NEWLAND		J. HAGEN
42	J.F. STORMS		J. RAGAN
43	S. SIXES	47	G. KEILERARMEN
	T.J. THOMPSON		J. SCHOLTZ
	D.B. THOMPSON	48	C. BECK
			J.W. WALDEC

## APPENDIX B

Appendix B on the next page indicates the relative locations of Lakeview Station, Idlewood Station and the Idlewood Summer Colony.



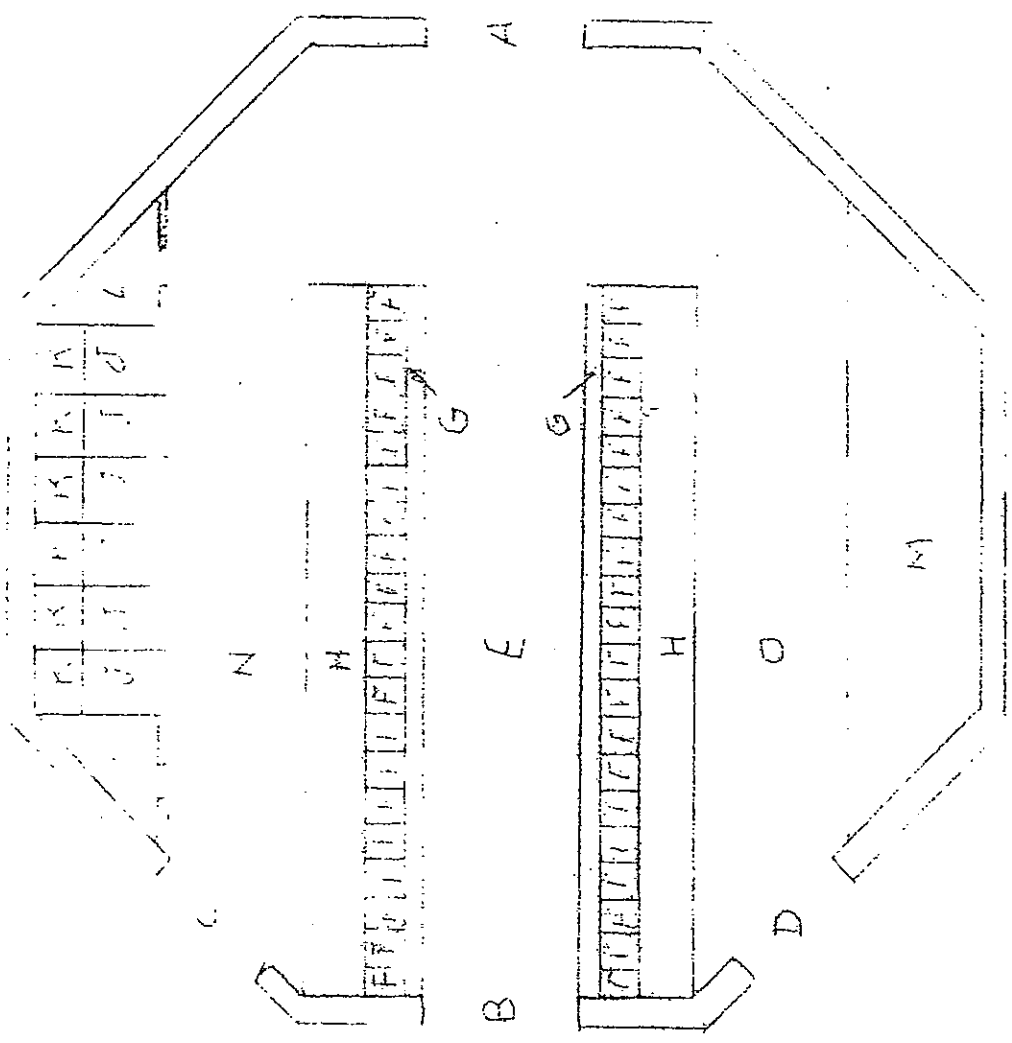
APPENDIX B - BASED ON ROAD MAP OF NEW YORK STATE

APPENDIX C

Appendix C consists of one drawing based  
on illustrations found in the Livestock  
Journal, January 1876. Leland A. Hazard  
Collection.

STEWARTS BARN

STEWARTS  
BARN



- A-D DOORS
- E - DRIVEWAY THROUGH CENTER
- F - 40 COW STALLS
- G - COW MANGERS
- H - OPEN GRATES FOR MANURE
- J - HORSE STALLS
- K HORSE MANGERS
- L LYING IN
- M SPARE ROOM AND ROOT CELLAR
- NC SOUTH DRIVEWAY TO CART OUT MANURE
- OD NORTH DRIVEWAY



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