



Harrison Cheney
Lt Col. 154th N Y Vol.

Java, N. Y.; Walter L.; and Wellington M., a physician of Dansville, N. Y. Lt.-Col. Harrison Cheney was born in Freedom, Jan. 3, 1830. After receiving his education in common schools and in Arcade Seminary he taught nine winter terms of district school and labored on his father's farm in summer. But this quiet farmer's life was not to continue. At the breaking out of the Civil war he was too true a patriot not to be aroused to action, and in Aug, 1862, he recruited every man of Co. D, 154th N. Y. Vols., and had more applicants than he could receive. It is said that "he was the only man who recruited, personally, every man of a company in this State." He was commissioned captain of the company at its organization. He was engaged at the battle of Chancellorsville and was captured by the enemy at Gettysburg. On the ninth day after his capture, while marching under guard through a piece of woods near Martinsburg, he broke from the ranks and ran, was hotly pursued into the woods, but escaped, and was a fugitive for twenty-two days before he reached the Union army. Captain Cheney was promoted major in Feb., 1865, and lieutenant-colonel in March, 1865, and was mustered out at the close of the war in June, 1865. Colonel Cheney married, first, Mary J., daughter of Harvey Foote, of Deerfield, N. Y. Mrs. Cheney died in 1891. Their children were Ella M. (Mrs. Cassius C. Wood), Mary E. (Mrs. Walter L. Knight), and Harry F. He married, second, Frances D. James, of Freedom. Colonel Cheney has been prominent in his town and his district, which he represented in the Assembly in 1876 and 1888. How well he performed his duties can best be told by quoting from the "Review of the Assembly." He is spoken of among the most earnest working members, and "as a man of tone and character he had no superior. Far above the wily machinations of bad men, he had the interests of the people at heart, ever watching and working for sound legislation and good government. With this class of men in our legislative halls we should soon feel a welcome relief from the sad depression into which incompetent and dishonest men have plunged us; and we could once more enjoy the privileges and blessings of an honest prosperity." Colonel Cheney made agriculture his vocation after the war, and since 1881, with the exception of three years, he has held the position of railway mail clerk. Courteous, affable, kind-hearted, and dominated by strong Christian principles, he has ever been a popular citizen and official, and holds a high place in the regards of his numerous friends. He rightly stands among the representative men of Cattaraugus county, and in the written words of Dr. Van Aernam to him: "You helped in clearing the forests of Cattaraugus, helped in opening up its roads, aided in establishing its schools and churches, aided in crushing out the Rebellion, and I think it is due to yourself and your special friends as well as the public that your memory should be perpetuated in its history."

Walter L. Cheney was born in Freedom and has always been a farmer. He married, first, Frances, daughter of Charles Beebe, Sr., and had one son, Willie T., of Pike, N. Y. After her death he married Jane, widow of Capt. Alfred H. Lewis, by whom he has two children, Hattie E. and John W. William Crossman and two brothers came from England to Connecticut at an early day and subsequently settled in the town of Williamsport, Pa. He married Sally Workman and just before the War of 1812 removed to Pavilion, N. Y., where he died. Amos Crossman, his son, was born in 1788, married Alice Stoddard, and in Nov., 1828, came to Freedom, where he bought 244 acres of land, on which there was a log house. He died in 1870 and his