

language when the congregation was under the ministrations of Rev. Abraham Van Horn. His grandson, the present John H. Starin (169), has now in his possession the two pew doors which belonged respectively to the Starin and Sammons families. These doors Mr. Starin keeps as most precious relics and memorials of "ye olden tyme."

John Starin was married, in 1780, to Jane, a daughter of Hendrick Wemple (or Wimple) of the manor of Schenectady. He died at his residence opposite Caughnawaga (now Fonda, N. Y.) on the 19th of February, 1832, aged 77 years, 5 months and 18 days. She died at Syracuse, N. Y., Sept. 4, 1840, aged 88 years, 3 months and 2 days. Their children, with the exception of Henry Wemple, were all born at Glen, N. Y.

the farm dinner-bell of Sir William Johnson, which was purchased by several male members of the congregation and conveyed to it on a pole by friendly Indians. The bell weighed about 100 pounds, and bore this inscription: "S. R. William Johnson, Bart., 1774. Made by Miller & Ross in Elis. Town (Elizabethtown)." In 1844 it was fitted up as a classic school known as "Fonda Academy." It failed, however, to be successful, and was afterward converted into a private dwelling. In 1865, the owner of this ancient landmark tore down its substantial walls; and this old church was henceforth a thing of the past. Built before the Revolution, this old Caughnawaga Church had associations with the great political and religious struggles of Europe and America. "It had been the scene of Indian warfare; of sudden and secret attack by stealthy savages; of bloody forays which swept away the crops and cattle of feeble settlements; of assaults by the French, of personal conflicts which mark contests on the outskirts of civilization. It was the stronghold of our fathers during the Revolution. The missionary and the fur trader more than three hundred years ago floated by its position in bark canoes, and in these later days millions of men and women from our own country and from foreign lands, on canals or railroads, have passed by on their way to build up great cities and States in the heart of our continent." Indeed, there is no spot where the historian could have placed himself with more advantage when he wished to review in his mind the progress of our country to greatness, than the Old Dutch Church at Caughnawaga.