

tainly owes its real existence to the erection in 1832 of Colonel George Henry's water power grist mill (the original of the present Hanover mills); to the establishment the same year of a post office under charge of postmaster Baldwin; and to the "Corner Grocery" of one Caswell, who opened out directly opposite; and neither forgot must be the humble but equally efficient village-forming factor, the blacksmith shop of Colin Handy (now of Howard, and son-in-law of Baldwin), in whose smoky interior the disabled nags of thankful travellers were reshod—aye, royalty in the person of Governor Sir John Colborne gratefully accepting of its convenience and Handy's handiwork. At this period, too, arose in the still rugged landscape and bold new tavern of Baldwin, variously known as Dandy Hall, Baldwin's Castle, Baldwin's Folly—a building of somewhat doubtful architectural style, but at all events of considerable pretention and expensive embellishment—the pride of the neighborhood and the surprise of travellers. Dandy Hall, in the heyday of Lake Shore travel, was a noted resort, and known far and near; and it and others were not then, as taverns in many places subsequently became, mere drinking resorts, but practically formed the Town Halls, Election Booths, Auction Rostrums, and business centres of a locality. What scenes have been enacted around the threshold of Dandy Hall and within its walls may be imagined! In Baldwin's first tavern sat the new Township Council of 1827, which, that same morning in January, in the street opposite, had just first been chosen by the electors' simple word of mouth and show of hands; and now in the second, around a board on which stood as if part of the accompanying records a demi-john of liquid of greater strength than water, sat councillors, enacting almost the extreme limit of their powers, "that the lawful fence shall be 5½ feet high; that sheep and horses shall not run on commons subject to impoundage; and perhaps that stone horses, bulls, rams and boars (there were no tramps) shall not be free commoners." Around the huge fireplace soldiers, and prisoners even, in the 1837-8 times, have bivouacked; nay, even the representative of royalty in the eighteen forties has enjoyed its hospitality; and what social and other events there took place is now only known in the memory of the older settlers, who will yet smile as they think of the time of its and their green youth. But this celebrated landmark is no more, its historic ruins being consumed by fire in the spring of 1883, which, with the small plot of ground on which it stood, originally an acre reserved when Baldwin sold Henry the homestead, has been some time the property of Mr. Cavers, a local octogenarian.

Clearville, in its prime, was "some pumpkins," and monopolized all township and magisterial honors. As early as 1827 D. H. Gesner was enumerating the settlers for tax purposes, and perhaps, like his brother clerks on the Thames, recording that "Thos. Droulyard's stock mark is both ears cut off and the left ear split;" that the "mark of his geese is the hinc claws cut off and the left foot split," for which various and laborious duties he received the large sum of £4 currency per annum. For a similar sum collector Baldwin gathered together the York currency shekels, for the irresponsible members of Quarter Sessions at Sandwich to spend as they (practically) saw fit. D. J. Baldwin as early as 1834 and D. H. Gesner in 1839 administered petty local justice in Baldwin Court as commissioners of the old Court of Request, and until superseded in 1841 by the establishment of Division Court No. 2, Morpeth, in whose jurisdiction Clear Creek was included. Even under the new municipal rule, inaugurated in 1840-1, her sons secured the official cream, and D. H. Gesner and Squire Henry divided the honors as Township Councillors to the District Council at Sandwich whilst that rule existed. And E. H. Ridley held a similar honor for years as Reeve, under the more liberal act of 1850. Indeed, Clearville is historical. Its site was