



CHAPTER I.

THE PARENTAGE, YOUTH AND EARLY MANHOOD OF GEORGE FREDERICK WARNICA.

I.—HIS PARENTS.

GEORGE FREDERICK WARNICA, the second of a family of four sons, was born in Salina, New York State, on the 20th of September, 1808. His parents, before their marriage at this place in 1806, had both passed through some uncommon experiences, as will appear from the few facts about them that have been handed down. Many events of their lives are, accordingly, worthy of being related, especially so in the case of his father, George Frederick Hanning Warnica, a Dane, who will be the subject of our first remarks.

The spelling of the name "Warnica" requires a passing notice. The Danish form of it was Werneck (pronounced 'Varnick'); but when he left Denmark and finally settled down in a country where the English language was used, the spelling became "Warnick." This is the form always retained by John, the eldest of his family; but the other sons, including George, modified it still further into "Warnica," which name now designates a numerous line of descendants.

In regard to the year of his birth, some difficulty has also arisen. The inscription upon his gravestone in Barrie states that he died August 1st, 1847, aged 87 years. It would thus appear that he was born in the year 1760; another traditional account makes it 1770; while the announcement of his death in the Barrie "Magnet" at the time states that his age at death was 83, as a consequence of which the year of his birth would be 1764. The latter date is likely to be the more correct, as his age at marriage in 1806 has been always mentioned in family tradition as forty-two years.