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had reference in his conversation with Mr. DEWITT at Schenectady in 1803, and which was communicated to JAMES GEDDES at the legislative session of 1804; and the proposition for such improvements at that time was well adapted to arouse the enthusiasm of the people of Onondaga, and lead them to elect to the Legislature a *canal* man of sufficient influence to procure an appropriation for surveying the ground for any proposed improvements that would give them better facilities for reaching the seaboard markets; and with this view they elected to the Assembly in April, 1807, the "Union Ticket" of JOHN MCWHORTER, a Democrat, and JOSHUA FORMAN, a Federal, under the caption of "Canal Ticket;" and CLARK'S History of Onondaga says: "Mr. FORMAN was elected upon the express understanding that he would try to procure the appropriation of money to make examinations of the country."

In reference to the interview between JAMES GEDDES and JESSE HAWLEY at Geneva "in the winter of 1806,"—Mr. HAWLEY, in his letter to Doctor HOSACK, in 1828, written in response to a call for information on the subject of the canal, and being the first time he was known to take up his pen to assert or vindicate his claim to priority in this matter,—writes as follows: "I saw Judge GEDDES at Utica, in April, 1804, for the first time; he was returning from the Legislature; I saw him again at Geneva in the winter of 1806,—this was about ten months after I had suggested" to Col. MYNDERSE, "the idea of an overland canal; again I saw him at his house in Onondaga in September, 1811,—he had then surveyed a part of the route under the direction of the first Board of Commissioners, when we conversed on the subject, I believe for the first time; I do not recollect that any mention was made of it when we met at Geneva,—if there was, I presume that I first spoke of it."

If Judge GEDDES had "received the idea of passing a canal over the country to Lake Erie, from the Surveyor-General in the winter of 1804,"—and if the idea had made such a "vivid