

the *Genesee Messenger*, containing a series of publications on the subject of a route for a canal from Lake Erie to Utica, and recollect hearing remarks made at that time by Mr. FORMAN and others, on the subject of those publications. I spent a part of the winter of 1819-20 in Albany, with Judge FORMAN. In a conversation while there, he asked me if I recollected the publications which we had seen many years before in the *Genesee Messenger*, and had noticed how nearly the route there laid down corresponded with the route that had been adopted and was then in progress. I told him I had not seen those papers since about the time of their publication. He then invited me to go with him to ELKANAH WATSON's, who kept a file of that paper. Mr. WATSON produced a file of the papers alluded to, and we amused ourselves in comparing the route you had proposed with the actual line adopted by the Commissioners, and were all surprised that so little deviation from the route you had laid down, had taken place. It was from them that I first learned that JESSE HAWLEY was the author of those publications, and from the conversation there had, I supposed they believed JESSE HAWLEY to be the first projector of the route of the canal which had been adopted by the State."

From Mr. HAWLEY's letter to Mr. BYINGTON, I also quote the following: "While I claim the reputation of having first written on the subject of an overland canal, Judge FORMAN and Judge WRIGHT have the prominent reputation of being the first legislators who gave it an official consideration and set the ball of the project in motion; and it is highly gratifying to my feelings to learn from you that Judge FORMAN derived his first idea of it from my writings. This fact was, indeed, intimated to me by Dr. THOMAS H. RAWSON, formerly Superintendent of the Public Saltworks."

Dr. RAWSON was Superintendent of the salt springs in the year 1808, and occupying a public and official position, he might be expected to confer freely with Mr. FORMAN upon matters of public interest.