

(continued from page 3)

town in Genesee County. It would soon change its name to Caledonia (and the town of LeRoy would be taken from it in 1812). The Town of Leister, later to be named Leicester, was south of Southampton and extended to the Pennsylvania border.

The first Southampton town meeting was held on March 1, 1803, about a mile and a half east of the present Village of LeRoy (near the cemetery on East Main Road) at the home of Captain Jotham Curtis. Christopher Laybourn was elected the first Supervisor. He would represent the early settlers at the county supervisors meeting in Batavia.

Charles Wilbur was the first settler in what would become LeRoy, arriving in 1797. Perhaps he was waiting for the outcome of the negotiations with the Indians at Big Tree. No one will ever know, but he built a small cabin near the present-day golf course on the east side of town. At that time, he would be living in the town of Northampton in Ontario County on a part of the Phelps and Gorham Mill Tract. He would have gone to Canandaigua to register his land purchase.

Wilbur moved on and his cabin was sold to Captain John Ganson and the area became known unofficially as the Ganson Settlement. Small groups of pioneers settled in the Fort Hill area and others settled south of the Ganson Settlement. In 1801, Richard Stoddard, who had been a member of Joseph Ellicott's survey team, came from Canandaigua to survey the Triangle Tract and to serve as its land agent. He partnered with Ezra Platt to build a grist mill on the west side of Allen's Creek. About 1810, Thomas Tufts arrived to promote the sale of land in the Craigie Tract.

By 1812, there were enough new settlers to warrant the establishment of a new town in Genesee County. So on June 8, 1812, the State Legislature voted to divide the Town of Caledonia and create the Town of **Bellona**. (Later to be named LeRoy) At the same time, the Legislature approved the creation of the Towns of Bethany, Alexander, and Pembroke. (#5)

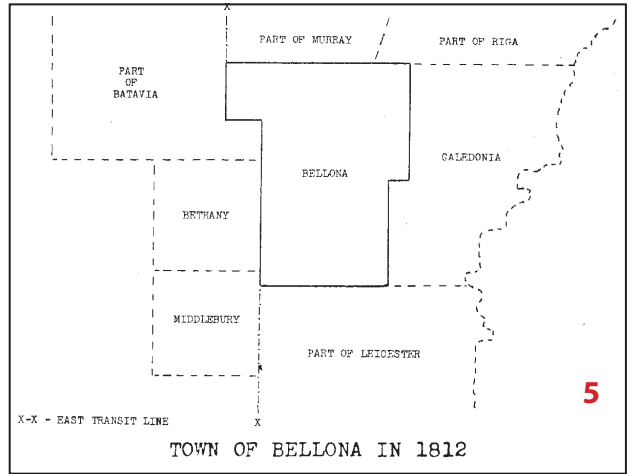
There were a lot of changes taking place at this time. The original

Genesee County was being divided. In 1806, Alleghany County was carved out of the southern section of Genesee County and in 1808, Cattaraugus County, Chautauqua County and Niagara County were created. The state legislature approved the creation of numerous towns, and a system of local government was in place to insure the development of the New York frontier.

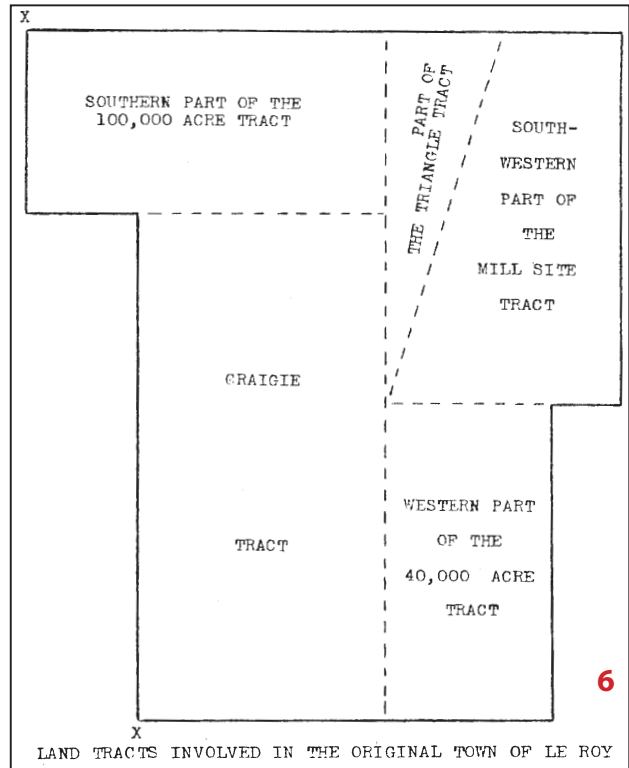
When the state legislature created the new town of Bellona (LeRoy), it was important to include the exact location. The legislation read:

" . . . all that part of the Town of Caledonia, in the County of Genesee, comprehending the west part of said town, beginning on the south line of said town between lots number 32 and 40; and running thence north of said line to the north line of lots numbers 25 and 33 of the 40,000 Acre Tract; from thence easterly on the south line of town number one, second range, to the southeast corner of lot 116 of said town number one; thence north until it intersects the north line of the said Town of Caledonia between lots numbers 53 and 54; and is hereby erected into a separate town by the name of Bellona, and that the first town meeting be held at the school house near Stoddard's Mills."

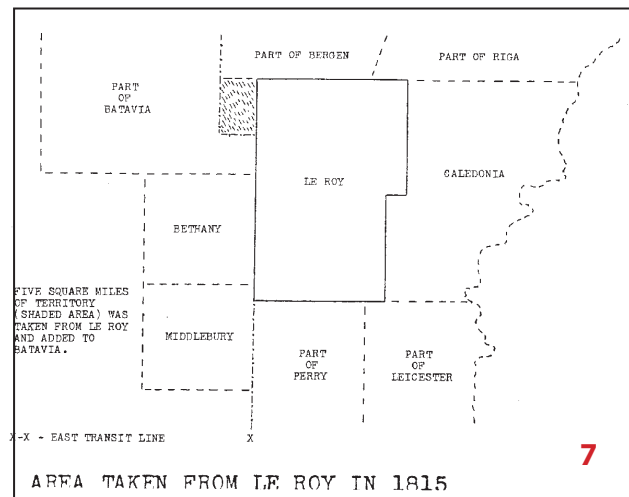
At the time it was created, the town of Bellona (LeRoy) included the eastern half of the present Town of Stafford; all except the extreme southern edge of the



5



6



7

(continued on page 5)