



HISTORIC NEW YORK

THE FINGER LAKES

The Finger Lakes of central New York occupy deep north-south valleys amid gently rolling hills. From east to west these sparkling lakes are Skaneateles, Owasco, Cayuga, Seneca, Keuka and Canandaigua. This region was the home of the Cayuga and Seneca Indians of the Six Nations whose lands were devastated by the Clinton-Sullivan Expedition of 1779. After the Revolution the area was opened for settlement. Jemima Wilkinson, the "Publick Universal Friend," in 1788 brought here followers who accepted her ideas of celibacy and communal living.

After 1830, with the linking of Cayuga and Seneca Lakes with the Erie Canal, population grew and industry flourished. In 1908 Glenn H. Curtiss of Hammondsport pioneered in the flying of airplanes.

Fertile lands and natural resources developed important products. Salt is manufactured from brine pumped from wells on the shore of Seneca Lake. Good soil and gentle winds have combined to make the Finger Lakes outstanding for growing grapes from which are produced champagne and other fine wines.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

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