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Further information on History page.

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That are

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That are to be

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1876

SHERMAN, N. Y.

1923

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Sherman, New York

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Sherman's Store for Men

ALLAN A. WILCOX

MANAGER

SOME EVENTS
in the HISTORY *of*
SHERMAN

PUBLISHED IN CONNECTION WITH THE
Centennial Celebration



August 24, 25 and 26, 1923

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Historical Committee of the Sherman Centennial Celebration has collected the contents of this book, from every source available.

The early settlers have passed on, leaving a bit of fact and history here and there.

To gather these and get them in suitable form for reference and preservation, has been our aim. No doubt we have made some errors in dates, but we have used the best sources of information at our command, and we believe that the main facts are correct. Much material gathered for this book, we are unable to use for lack of time to get it into shape. It may be prepared later and placed in Minerva Library for future use.

WALTER A. EDMUNDS
CHARLES E. SHELDON
FLORENCE G. BLIGH
BESSIE C. HART

Committee

A HUNDRED YEARS

“A hundred years,—how brief a span”, wrote Forrest Crissey in his poem for the Westfield Centennial twenty years ago, and the truth expressed at that time is strikingly so today. Many men and women, now living, knew Dearing Dorman, the Skinners, Gleason, the Millers, Kip and other pioneers who settled this town a century ago, and some children of these men are still living. Yes, looked back upon, a hundred years seems a short time, but measured by the advance in every department of human life, the century past has witnessed greater progress than the preceding eighteen centuries of the Christian era, or even the reputed six thousand years of man’s life on earth.

The ox team and cart are gone forever, but the motor truck and automobile are here; the tomahawk and the scalping knife of the Indian warrior have given place to the more deadly, but perhaps less cruel bomb, dropped by the airplane in the sky. Even the fish in the sea has been shorn of his solitude by the submarine which has invaded the depths of the ocean and made the experience of Jonah seem amateurish. The birds of the air have been robbed of their estate, and a non-stop flight from the Atlantic to the Pacific is a recent achievement. The weekly paper which was delivered by the lumbering stagecoach, or even the swifter rider on horseback, was long ago superseded by the great daily which is carried by the “18-hour flyer” to the distant city the same day, while the telephone, the telegraph and the radio have ceased to be wonders.

What will the future bring? No man knows or dares to prophesy. We may well hope and believe, however, that there are still heights and depths in the wonders of God’s universe, which will yet be reached, and a century hence will see a civilization so far advanced that war shall be considered a relic of barbarism, and the spirit of brotherhood shall prevail from sea to sea in every Nation on earth.

DEERING DORMAN—First Settler

Dearing Dorman, the central figure of the event which this Centennial celebrates, was born in New Haven, Ct., December 20th, 1797, and came to Batavia, N. Y., with his father's family in 1804. He was married to Huldah Perkins in 1818, by whom he had fourteen children, two of whom died in infancy. Those who came to maturity were: Amasa (born in Batavia), married Mary Ann Wood; Archibald (the first white child born in Sherman), married Jane Stoddard; Luzurn (father of M. L. Dorman of the Chautauqua News), married Mrs. Mary Huntley; Albert, married Susan Horton; Elvira, married Gabriel Odell; Walter, married Mary Anderson; Eliza, married Simeon Brumagin; Emeline, married Calvin Messenger; Betsy, married George Messenger; Dearing, married, but name of wife not given; Huldah, married Andrew Perkins; Riley, married Hannah Haskins.

Mr. Dorman's first wife died in 1866, and his second wife was Mary Horton Elderkin, widow of Addison Elderkin, who survived him several years.

In 1823, Mr. Dorman moved from Batavia with his wife and son and settled on Lot. No. 32, which is on the town line road between this town and Chautauqua, north of the railroad crossing. A monument will be erected during this Centennial on the spot where the log cabin of the first settler stood, and suitable exercises will be held with the address by Rev. H. A. Ellis, D. D. It would be of interest if we knew whether Mr. Dorman made the entire trip by oxen or horses.

After the Erie Canal was opened in 1825, many pioneers in this section from the east came by canal to Buffalo, thence by boat to Barcelona, and by team over a mere track marked by blazed trees to the new home in the unbroken forest. With the present improved roads and the auto, to say nothing of the train and the airplane, we can scarcely imagine the difficulties of a trip from the somewhat settled region along Lake Erie to this wilderness, and we do well today to honor the faith and courage of Dearing Dorman and others of that heroic band.

SHERMAN PIONEERS

[Courtesy of Chautauqua History Company]



Dearing Dorman
Sherman's First Settler



Huldah Perkins
Wife of Dearing Dorman



Archibald Dorman
First White Child Born in the Town,
1823

SHERMAN, PAST AND PRESENT

Chautauqua County was formed from Genesee in 1808 and it was then all one town of the same name.

Clymer, comprising the present four towns of Clymer, French Creek, Mina, and Sherman was taken off from Chautauqua, February 9, 1821.

March 23, 1824, Mina, comprising the present town of that name and Sherman, were taken off from Clymer.

In 1829, (April 23) French Creek was taken off from Clymer.

April 7, 1832, nine years after its first settlement, Sherman was organized and set off from Mina.

Seven articles under the heading, "Fragments of our Town History", were written by Hiram N. Gleason in 1854, and published in the Western New Yorker, of which Patrick McFarland was the editor and manager. As they contain the basis of most of the early history of this town, we have thought best to give the substance of them in this volume. These articles, the memory of the other "pioneers", and a few copies of the Western New Yorker, furnish all the history of Sherman obtainable to 1876, when the Sherman News was started by B. D. Southworth, even the town records up to 1865 being destroyed by fire.

At the time of the first settlement of this portion of the country, the office of the Holland Land Company was located at Mayville, and William Peacock was the agent. Thitherward the sturdy pioneer bent his steps, after he had carefully selected the land upon which to commence his "improvements", and made it his, by obtaining an article of agreement.

The Company then furnished land to actual settlers, in quantities of one hundred and twenty acres, or more, at the rate of \$2.25 per acre; while \$2.50 per acre was the price for anything less than one hundred acres, unless it were a remnant of a "quarter section."

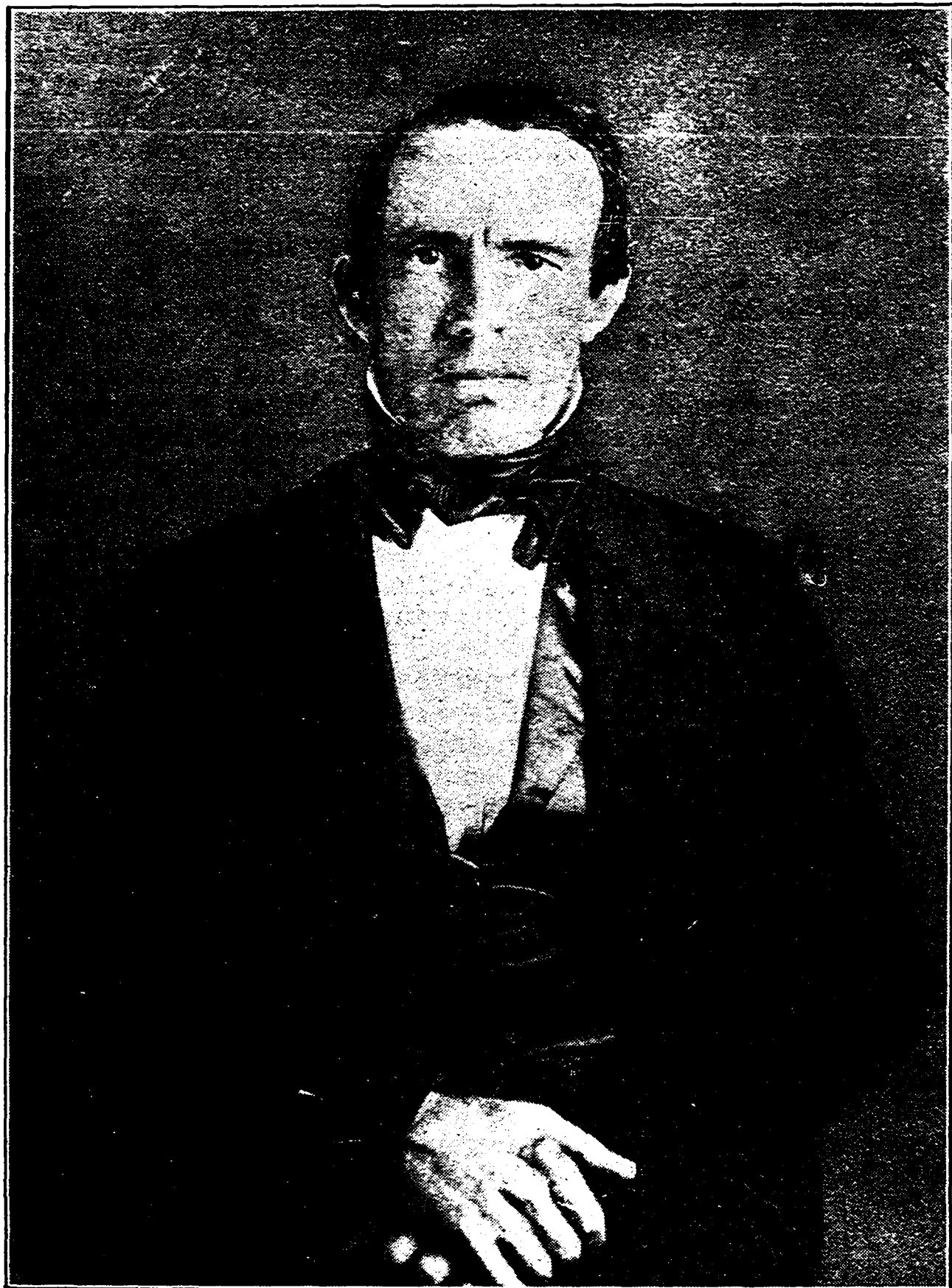
Five per cent. of the purchase money was to be paid at the time of the execution of the article. The remainder could run for eight years, (the first two without interest) and to be paid in six annual payments, with interest annually, on all sums unpaid. Lands were offered by the agent, for cash, at \$2.00 per acre, but only a few were able to advance more than five per cent.

Mr. Deering Dorman is believed to have been the first actual resident of the territory embraced within the limits of the town of Sherman. He located on Lot No. 32, in 1823, erected a "shanty", covered it with bark, laid a floor of split logs, kindled a fire in the end, and introduced his youthful bride to her new home. In his shanty, November 28th, 1823, it is believed, the first child born in Sherman saw the light, (Archibald Dorman, until recently a resident of this place). A short time after the location of Mr. Dorman, Harvey W. Goff erected a "shanty" on lot No. 22, as a residence. There too, was a speedy increase of population by the addition of a little "dependent". In the spring of 1824, Alanson Weed erected a log house on lot No. 31, and removed his family from Ellery in this county. During the same summer, Otis Skinner, Esq., built and occupied a "shanty" on lot No. 24. Jonathan R. Reynolds built a log house on lot No. 32, in the fall of the same year, and occupied it with the family of his father. The above named were, at the last mentioned date, the only families residing in this township. Hiram N. Gleason and Lester R. Dewey had cleared spots of land large enough for a log house twenty by twenty-four feet, and in the spring of 1825, returned from a visit to the east, each with a better half, pledged to found a colony.

At this time there was not an open highway in town; not an acre of turf; not a saw mill within many miles, and the grist mill was still more remote. There was indeed a hand mill somewhere in the neighborhood of Chautauqua Lake, owned by a Mr. Wing, to which, in cases of urgent necessity, some resorted to crack their corn. The lumber for roofing some of the first houses was hauled through the woods from Mayville, having been wafted in rafts by propitious gales from the southern extremity of Chautauqua Lake, where was a saw mill. "Settlers", who could not procure lumber, used elm bark for covering their dwellings, or made troughs of split Linden logs, placing two side by side, and laying a third in a reverse position over the edges of the two. It was under such unpropitious circumstances that the settlement was commenced. The first families were emigrants, or the immediate descendents of emigrants, from favored New England—of sound characters, good intelligence, and withal well schooled in the patriotic principles and preserving industry of the Pilgrims of Plymouth Rock.

The spring of 1825 opened auspiciously. Early in the month of May, several new edifices were erected and occupied by permanent settlers. Immigration increased. Charles Ross located on lot No. 50. In the fall of the year, Charles Hawley, Sr., built a shanty on lot No. 29 and occupied it with his family. And yet at this late date, so sparse was the population, and so little intercourse was there with other towns, that his wife lived three months without seeing the face of a woman, save her own in a mirror.

The first saw mill erected in town, was built in the summer of the same year, by Alanson Weed, on the site of the mill now owned by Perry Dewey, on lot No. 31. In August, Jesse Newell and Jos-



Elijah Miller

Born April 4, 1806. Died November 21, 1852



Louisa Hawley Miller
Wife of Elijah Miller

hua LaDue, built each a log house on lot No. 34, preparatory to removing their families, which they did in March 1826.

In the summer of 1826, William Williams, Esq., and Elisha Woodruff, built each a small frame house, the former on lot No. 29, the latter on lot No. 38, which were the first frame houses in town. Hiram Northway built a shanty on the present site of the Sherman Village, on the west side of the stream passing the Baptist Church, and nearly west of the present school house site (where H. A. Reynolds now lives. Eds.)

In the same summer, Elder Spencer, a Baptist clergyman, was the first to proclaim the gospel in town. This first sermon was delivered in the house of J. R. Reynolds. In the winter following, Elder Grinnels, a Free Will Baptist, preached in the same house.

By this time the roads were partially opened, and during the winter months, the traveling with an ox team and sled was very fine. On moonlight evenings, those who owned such a team, would get up a sleighride, and filling their vehicles with those of their neighbors who were less fortunate, would hie away o'er the crackling frost a few miles to the shanty of a friend.

In 1827, settlers increased so rapidly, that in every part of the town the forest resounded with the axeman's blows. Invitations to "come over and assist in raising a log house", were often presented five days in a week, which, although quite a tax upon the time of those who were striving to clear a "patch" for potatoes or other crops necessary for subsistence, were cheerfully accepted, and the new settler was ever assisted by the strong arms and willing hearts of those who had preceded him.

Some there were who greatly relied upon the rifle, as a means of procuring fresh meat for their tables, and the forest being so well stocked with deer, it required but little time to procure a venison steak satisfactory to an epicure. Indeed it was nothing uncommon for the writer to start a herd of deer when in pursuit of his cow, numbering from two to ten.

A bear was occasionally seen, and sometimes a stray wolf would dismally howl, either for want of food or for his own amusement, but they were soon captured, and the inhabitants suffered only slight losses from their depredations. Those beasts of prey were very easily conquered, although our then neighbors of the Lake Erie Shore declared that this section was their native home, being unfit, and never intended by the Great Maker for human occupation.

The times were indeed hard, money could not be procured except in very small sums, for we had but very little to sell. Black salts were the only article that commanded cash, and many families relied almost solely on them as a means for procuring bread.

Among the men who early entered this, then wilderness, and laid the foundation of the present prosperous town of Sherman—men who bravely met toil, hardship and obstacles too numerous to record, were Alanson Weed, who located on lot No. 31, Dearing Dorman on 32. Otis Skinner on 32, L. R. Dewey on 31, H. W. Goff on 29, H. N. Gleason on 24. George Hart on 23, Sampson Vincent on 20, M. Olmstead on 27, S. P. Marvin on 12, G. Wait, L. Stebbins and Isaac Willard on 11, J. Hubbard on 9, C. Hawley on 29, Wm. Williams on 30, E. Woodruff on 38, A. and O. Hall on 36, J. Newell and J. LaDue on 34, Charles Ross on 58, Loren Park on 59, W. Palmer on 51, B. L. Butler on 44, the Wilcox family on 56, the Pelton family on 63, L. Hewitt on 64, with many others no less enterprising and worthy, in various parts of the town.

Mr. Pelton erected the first blacksmith's forge in town, and Joel Hill soon after erected the second.

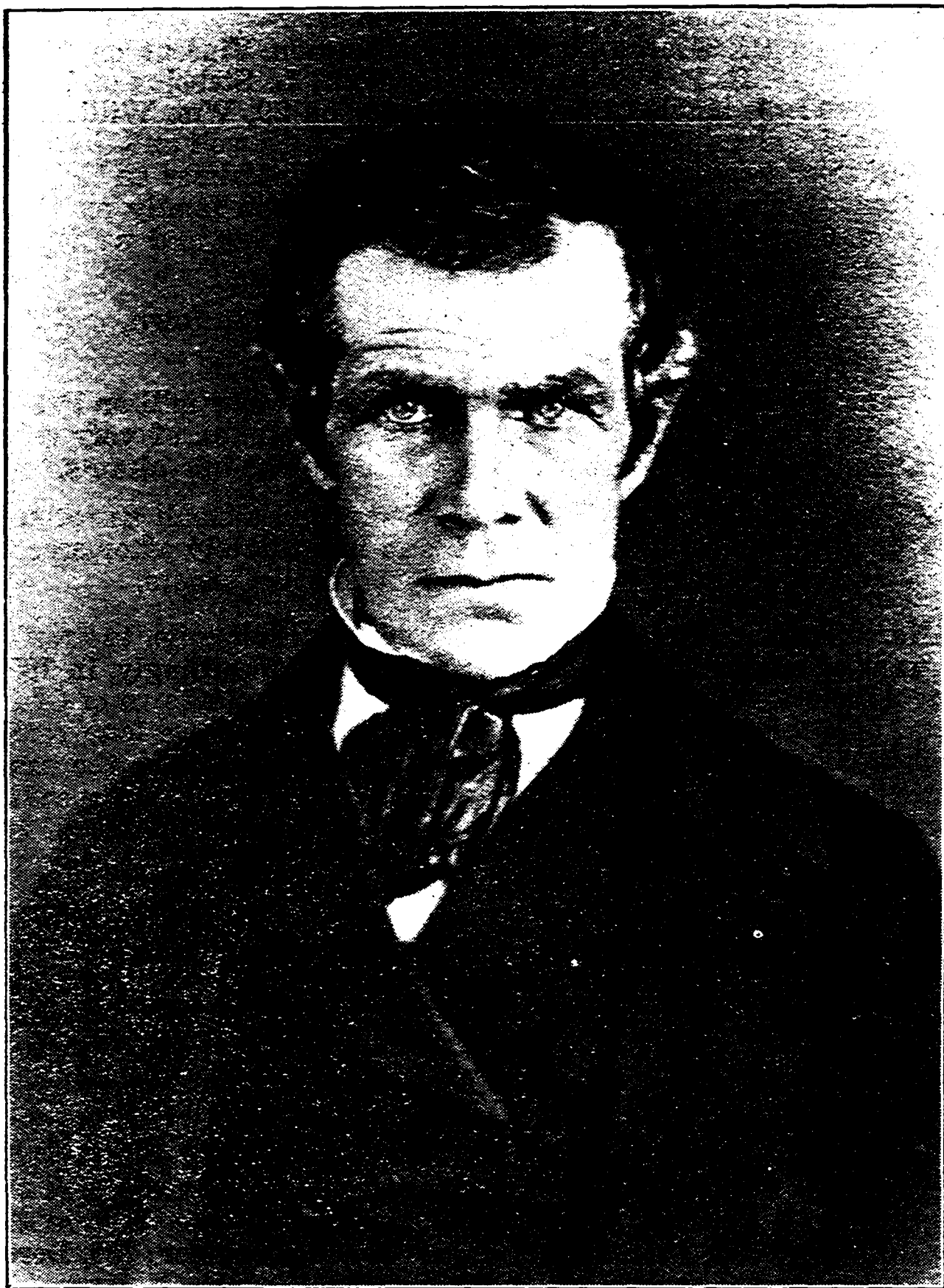
Spencer & Skeels about 1827 or 1828, built a saw mill on French Creek, and shortly after put in a pair of mill stones, of very small size, and a belt, which were of great service to the inhabitants.

About the same time, Josiah Keeler opened a small assortment of goods in the house of Asahel Hall, and immediately after erected a store and ashery near what is now Hemstreet's Corners.

Nor did the early settlers forget, amid all their toils, to provide the means of educating their growing families. Accordingly, in 1825, a school district was formed of territory adjoining the town of Chautauqua (now the Hustis District), and a school was ere long established, which has been continued to the present time, save the usual vacations. Other schools in various parts of the town were speedily organized, and abundant means provided for the instruction of the young in the elementary principles of an education.

In 1832, that part of Mina lying east of township No. 2, in the 15th range of townships as surveyed and mapped by the Holland Land Company, was by an Act of the State Legislature, "constituted a new town by the name of Sherman". The boundaries of the town are the same as those of the 2nd township and 14th range of the survey.

On the first Tuesday in March, 1833, the first town meeting was held at the house of Asahel Hall, at which Otis Skinner was elected Supervisor, and Osmond Hall, Town Clerk, since which the following named persons have been Supervisors of the town in the order following, viz.: In '34, B. H. Kip; '35, Otis Skinner; '36, Loren Park; '37, Loren Park; '38, Otis Skinner; '39, Platt S. Osborne; '40, Lucius Cook; '41, Lucius Cook; '42, Lucius Cook; '43, George Hart; '44, Platt S. Osborne; '45, Platt S. Osborne; '46, John P. Hall; '47, J. P. Hall; '48, B. H. Kip; '49, B. H. Kip; '50, Lester R. Dewey; '51, Loren Park; '52, Lewis Sperry; '53, Lewis Sperry; '54, B. J. Coffin Loren Park; William Green; Miles J. Clark; Henry Bliss; Henry W.



Benjamin Kip

Born April 22, 1797, Died June 1, 1850, Age 53 Yrs.



Ester Miller Kip
Wife of Benjamin Kip

Sperry; Sylvenus H. Myrick; Henry Sheldon; Alfred W. Benson; John T. Green; Virgil A. Fenner; Jerome J. Dean; Enoch Sperry; Albert B. Sheldon; Charles H. Corbett; Edgar O. Buss; Morris L. Edmunds; Frank E. Miller; Warren B. Whitney; W. W. Benjamin; H. M. Keith; I. O. Ottaway, the present incumbent. (Some of the above served several terms. This list is brought down to date by the Com.)

The construction of the Westfield and Clymer Plank Road in 1850-51, which passes through the town, and to which many of our citizens liberally contributed, has tended largely to increase the business of Sherman, as well as the travel for business or pleasure, through this section of the country. The few "first settlers" who remain with us, look over the scene around us with emotions unknown to those who have not anxiously watched the changes that have occurred during thirty years. The satisfaction felt in viewing the result of enterprise in which they were so deeply interested, they share in common with.

A PIONEER



Main and Miller Streets, 1870

All of these pioneers mentioned who settled this town and made prosperous farms and happy homes out of the forest have long since passed away, and few of their children remain. Of the twelve sons and daughters of Dearing Dorman, the first settler, the last survivor, Mrs. Emeline Messenger, died October 9th, 1917. We give the names of a few: Lester R., son of Lester Dewey, is the oldest man living here who was born in Sherman. He is eighty-six years old and very feeble both in mind and body; Stephen, son of Sampson Vincent, Sherman, age eighty-four; Ernest N., son of H. N. Gleason, Ann Arbor, Mich.; Otis, son of Aretus Skinner, Sherman, age eighty-two; Mrs. Mattie Lakin, daughter of Elijah Miller, Jamestown, still active in mind and body, and has given valuable information for this book; Jay Ladue, Luvern, Minn., age ninety-six; Mrs. H. C. Kingsbury, Westfield, age eighty-nine; Mrs. Lillian P. Marsh, Portland, age eighty-one; the last three are children of Joshua Ladue, one of our earliest settlers; Joseph, son of Dennis Hart, Sherman, age ninety-one, and his sister, Mrs. Elizabeth Morse of Illinois, age eighty-five, were born just across the town line in Chautauqua, but were identified as Sherman people; Mrs. M. L. Lawrence, San Diego, Calif., daughter of Burnett Osborn, who settled near Gage's Gulf in Ripley in 1824, and moved to Sherman where his brother, Platt S. Osborn was living. The latter came to Sherman very early and worked in the store of his brother-in-law, Josiah R. Keeler, on Presbyterian Hill. The two brothers were prominent in the early history of Sherman Village, building the tannery, and a store about where the Legters Block now stands. This building was burned in the fire of 1865.

Since the above was ready for the press, Lester R. Dewey has passed away—August 1, 1923. His parents, Lester Dewey and Fanny Patterson, were parties to the first marriage in town, Otis Skinner, J. P., performing the ceremony. Mr. Dewey's death leaves Stephen Vincent the distinction of being the oldest person living here, who was born in the town. Jay Ladue mentioned above, is the oldest person living, who was born in Sherman.

From a composition written in 1862 by the late William H. Sperry, when he was a student in the Sherman School (to be found in the News of June 9, 1914) the following is taken:

“Several years ago there was an Ashery in this place. At present there are in town 4 dry goods stores, 1 hardware store, 1 drug store, 2 clothing stores, 2 post offices, 2 cabinet shops, 2 millinery shops, 2 shoe shops besides several farmers that work at it some, 4 blacksmith shops, 1 grist mill, 10 saw mills, 1 tannery besides one

farmer that does considerable tanning. 2 harness shops. 1 imbrotype room. 1 cheese box manufactory. 3 wagon shops. 1 tavern. Two or three years ago there was another tavern started but did not last long.

“This town contains 268 dwellings. There was according to the census of 1860, 274 families, 240 freeholders. So there are 34 families that do not own land. The population of the Village was 401, the Town 1,314—652 of which are males, 662 females.

There are nine school districts; 450 children are taught—one-fourth of them are taught in this district. At the time there was some prospect of the railroad going through here there was considerable building going on; since that time there has been very little done.

“Sherman is considerable of a dairying town. In 1860 there were 1,260 cows milked, from which 143,745 pounds of butter was made and 14,100 pounds of cheese; an average of 114 pounds of butter and 11 pounds cheese per cow.

There are but few persons of very great age now living in town. The oldest of which is Old Mr. Kidder, aged about 95 years. Of the soldiers of the Revolution none are left, and but few of the war of 1812. This town has sent some of its boys into the army that are now trying to put down rebellion and uphold the Constitution.



South Side of Main Street, 1868

The Sherman Postoffice

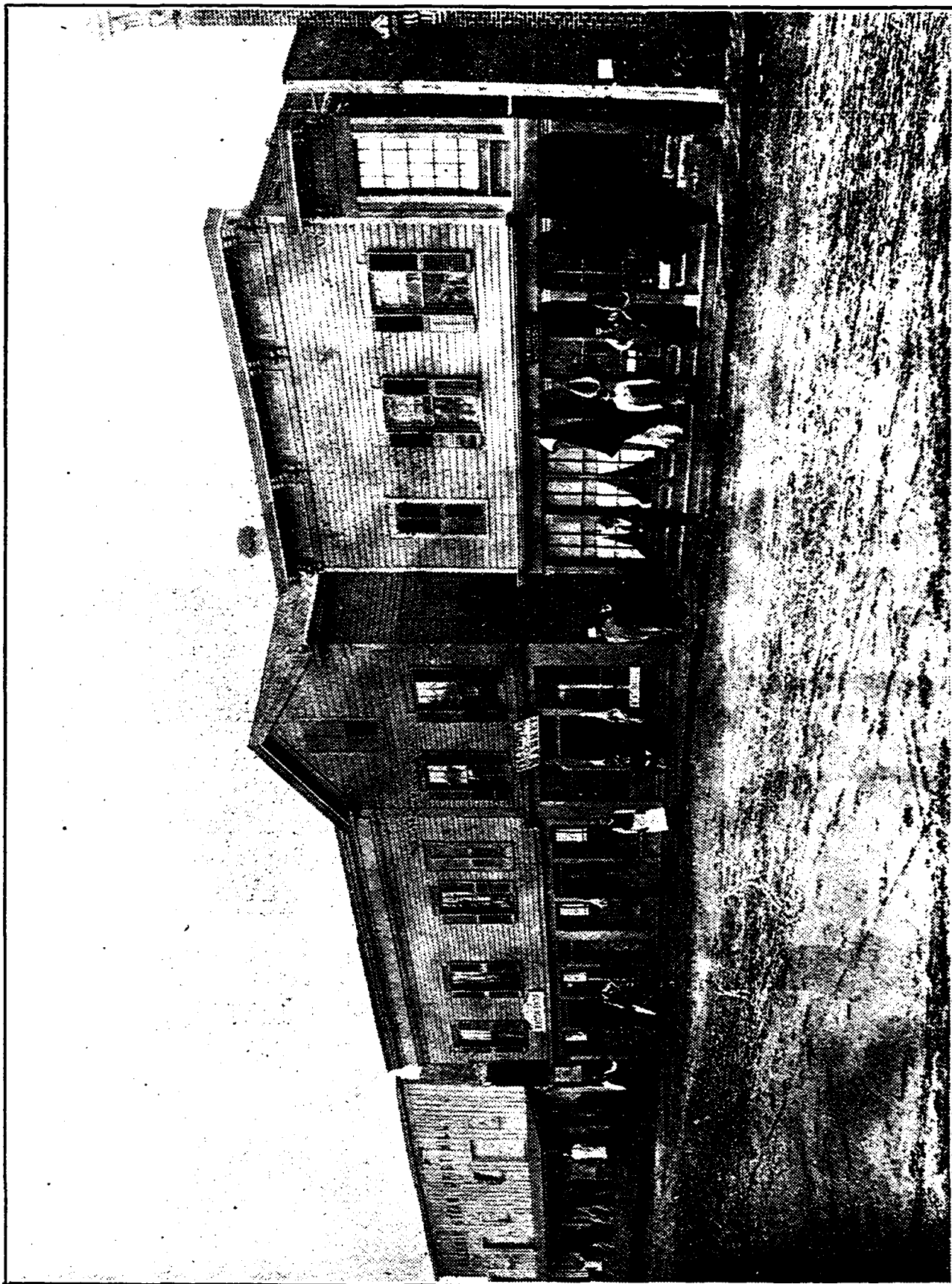
According to the following facts obtained for this volume by C. H. Newell and Hon. Daniel A. Reed, of Washington, D. C., from John H. Bartlett, First Assistant Postmaster General, the first Post Office in Sherman was established December 17th, 1824, while it was still a part of Mina, and the office was called Mina. The first postmaster was Nathaniel Throop, who was appointed at that time. According to the early records, Mr. Throop settled on Lot Six of the present Town of Mina, probably near the Buss Schoolhouse, and was elected Supervisor of Mina in April, 1824. It is probable the office was kept in his house in the neighborhood where he settled. He held the office until September 30th, 1829, when Potter Sullivan was appointed postmaster. We find no record in what part of the town Mr. Sullivan lived, but he was one of three Commissioners of Highways elected in April, 1824, and probably resided and kept the Post Office in what is now the Town of Mina. However, in an old account book, kept by Josiah R. Keeler in 1827, we find a charge of goods to Mr. Sullivan, so he may have lived in the territory now included in Sherman, but it is likely the office was still kept outside this town.

September 8th, 1832, the year that the town was set off from Mina, Josiah R. Keeler was appointed postmaster, and there is no doubt the office was kept in his store on Presbyterian Hill.

But May 26th, 1836, Elijah Miller was appointed postmaster, and the office was moved to his house on the corner of Main and Church Streets. The boxes used by him at that time are to be shown during the Centennial.

Later postmasters and the date of appointment follow:

Platt S. Osborn.....	June 18, 1850
Jay LaDue	May 23, 1853
James Fenner	September 3, 1857
Elmore Myrick	March 9, 1861
Mrs. Harriet C. Bliss.....	March 29, 1865
John C. Page.....	June 15, 1869
George C. VanDusen.....	July 30, 1885
Walter J. Corbett.....	March 2, 1887
Thomas R. Coveney.....	June 17, 1889
D. W. Adams.....	March 22, 1894
Charles E. Sheldon.....	June 2, 1898
Charles E. Sheldon.....	June 27, 1902, Re-appointed
Charles E. Sheldon.....	June 22, 1906, Re-appointed
Charles E. Sheldon.....	Dec. 13, 1910, Re-appointed
Wellman L. Bates.....	March 3, 1915, Re-appointed
Wellman L. Bates.....	August 5, 1919, Re-appointed
Frank A. Erickson.....	August 5, 1923



South Side of Main Street

The Churches of Sherman

BAPTIST CHURCH

The first sermon preached in the territory now included in the Town of Sherman, was by Rev. Orange Spencer, a Baptist clergyman. This service was in the summer of 1826 and was held in a log house built by Jonathan R. Reynolds and occupied by him and his father's family. This house was on lot thirty-two, near where Dearing Dorman made the first settlement. To the Baptist Church, therefore, may be given the credit of being the pioneer in church work in the town and only three years after the first tree was felled in the solid forest. The first Baptist Society of Sherman was not organized until August 29, 1827, two months after the First Presbyterian Church of Mina came into existence, but on account of priority in holding services, it is given precedence in this history. Both of these societies were organized while the town was a part of Mina. The meeting for organization was held at the home of Lester Leach, about one mile east of the present Village of Sherman. Rev. Elisha Tucker of Pomfret, was chosen moderator of the meeting and Rev. Jairus Handy of Mayville, clerk. There were twenty-five members at the organization with five more recognized as such, who had not letters of transfer at the time. The former were Rev. Orange Spencer, the first pastor; Benjamin Boorman, George W. Sparks, Lester Leach, Miles Mark, Allen Durham, John C. Wilcox, Thomas Stroud and their wives, also, Benjamin Ford, Nathaniel Troop, Lucy Pelton, Polly Hewitt, Angeline Arnold, Lydia Chapman, Elcy Reynolds, Betsey Simmons and Celia Seldon. The names of some of these people are familiar to us and they have descendants still living in this vicinity. Others have passed on and even their names have gone from the memory of this generation. Meetings were held in private dwellings and school houses, until about 1841, when plans were made for the erection of a church, which in 1843 was far enough advanced so that services were held in it. It was completed and dedicated in December, 1844.

Rev. Spencer served the church till the fall of 1831, after which the church had no minister until June, 1841, when Rev. E. B. Sparks was called to the pastorate. He was succeeded on April 27, 1844, by Rev. William Smith, who served one year, being succeeded by Rev. Ira Stoddard, who, also, served about one year. Rev. Charles Sander-son began his pastorate in 1848 and continued for nineteen years. He resigned about 1866, but for a year or more supplied the pulpit of the Baptist Church at North Harmony. He died January 6, 1869. Rev. A. S. Merifield succeeded him as pastor of the church on April 21, 1866, and remained until October 1, 1869. The pulpit was then supplied until September, 1870, when Rev. J. E. Birdsall became its

pastor. Rev. Birdsall served until May 16, 1871, and on October 2, 1871, Rev. I. N. Pease began a pastorate of five years. In March, 1872, the society bought the house owned by Thomas R. Coveney on West Main Street, for a parsonage. In the summer of 1888, this was sold to Dr. James Murphy and a new parsonage built on the lot next to the church.

The pastors of the church since 1876 have been as follows: Rev. H. N. Cornish, Rev. J. B. Vrooman, Rev. O. N. Fletcher, Rev. C. B. Smith, Rev. L. C. Davis, Rev. A. Lindsay, Rev. E. L. Gates, Rev. T. P. Poate, Rev. F. F. Himes, Rev. Walter A. King, Rev. T. J. Wheeler, Rev. C. R. Wolcott, Rev. F. C. Peck, Rev. A. D. Shepard, Rev. Cyrus Aldrich, Rev. R. S. Chittum, Rev. Frederic H. Baker, Rev. John H. Hamstra, and the present pastor, Rev. C. F. Cornman.

In 1867, the church edifice was entirely rebuilt and remodeled. The steeple was built, the choir loft removed, the windows enlarged, and new seats installed, the total expense being for more than the cost of the original building, and on February 20, 1868, the remodeled church was rededicated.

During the pastorate of Rev. Walter A. King in 1903, the chapel was added to the church, including a prayer room, with dining room and kitchen in the basement. In 1920 extensive improvements were made to the church interior including the class rooms for the Bible School. The present membership of the church is 150 and in all departments of the organization is in a flourishing condition. The officers of the church and its allied organizations at the present time are as follows: F. L. Morris, Financial Secretary; Mrs. A. R. Sears, Church Clerk and Miss C. Minnie Sterneborg, Treasurer of Benevolences; Board of Trustees, William Rasper, Chairman; R. D. Guilford, A. H. Fraser, Treasurer; Albert Schruise, J. Arthur Bock and F. L. Morris Secretary; Sunday School, F. L. Morris, Superintendent; A. R. Sears, Assistant Superintendent; Beulah Vrooman, Secretary and Treasurer; Mrs. Russell G. Harris, Organist and Superintendent of the Home Department; Mrs. A. R. Sears, Superintendent of Primary Department and Mrs. C. F. Cornman, Superintendent of the Cradle Roll Department; B. Y. P. U., President, J. Arthur Bock; Vice President, Harley N. Mead; Secretary, Ruth Cornman; Treasurer, Paul Blackburn; Woman's Missionary Society, President, Mrs. C. F. Cornman; Vice President, Mrs. R. D. Guilford, Secretary and Treasurer, Mrs. F. L. Morris; Ladies' Industrial Society: President, Miss C. Minnie Sterneborg; Vice President, Mrs. S. B. Wood; Secretary and Treasurer, Mrs. F. K. Newton.

Among those who are oldest in point of membership and are still in attendance, should be mentioned: Judson C. Pelton and Mrs. Ameretta Seymour, who joined in 1863; Mrs. Lucy Pelton Ottaway in 1866; Aurilla M. Pease in 1872; Mrs. Alice Pelton and George Pelton in 1877; William Pelton in 1878; Mrs. Maggie Smith in 1878; Mrs. Francelia Reynolds in 1881; Mrs. A. H. Fraser in 1883; Mr. A. H. Fraser in 1884; Mrs. Leria Wood in 1885; William H. Bock in 1888; Howard A. Reynolds and Adella Reynolds in 1889.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

One hundred years ago, the place where our village now stands was a wilderness. The early settlers came from New England! The life was so different—they were accustomed to schools and churches. There they were permeated with the air of social order and moral guidance. The new comers were thoughtful, hopeful and resolute. They believed that if they needed the help of God in their old homes, they and their children would require His care and direction in this wilderness.

On June 23, 1827, fifteen persons, among them Elisha Woodruff, Charlotte Woodruff, William Williams, Mary Williams, Charles Hawley, Clara Hawley, Robert Woodruff, George Hart, Esther Hart, met at the home of Dennis Hart for the purpose of establishing a Christian church. Most of those present were from the Congregational Church of Farmington, Conn. After two such meetings, the church was started, called the Congregational Church of Mina, and was the first to be established. Land was given and the church building was completed March 7, 1833, and was on what is now Presbyterian Hill, south of the village. The dedicatorial sermon was preached by Rev. C. C. Gregory and the first pastor was Rev. Marsh, who began his work in 1828. As there were no Congregational Churches near, the members thought best to unite with a stronger body, the Presbyterian Church which had churches in Western New York. The first pastor received \$400, one-half of this amount being paid by the church at Farmington, Conn., the church here to raise the balance. Later Roger Sherman of Connecticut, contributed \$600 toward the salary and upkeep of the church. The bell was purchased from this amount, and can still be heard ringing out its chimes in Memorial Hall. In honor of the donor, this town was called Sherman. Thus the foundation of the Christian Church was established by people of sterling, religious lives. The ministers who have served the church are: Justin Marsh, M. P. Squires, Rev. Mr. Wilson, Rev. Mr. Jones, A. S. Eddy, C. S. Stacy, Wm. T. Reynolds, A. H. Lilly, H. M. Hazeltine, John F. Severance, W. L. Hyde, S. N. Robinson, Charles Simpson, J. H. Ralston, F. E. VanWie, F. L. Greene, C. C. Cornwell.

In 1833, the first Mission Band was started and it has ever been one of the strongest organs, both for home and foreign fields; the same year a society was organized which convened every two weeks, and once each month the children were invited. This was called "The Maternal Society". The mothers had talks on the education, morals and religion of the children. How much good these meetings did, together with the family altars, can be seen by the record made by the children from these families.

The Presbyterians were the pioneers in church building in Sherman, antedating the Baptists by nine years, the Universalists by eleven, and the Methodists by fifteen.

In the fall of 1845, the building was taken down and moved to Sherman village where it now stands and is known as Memorial

Hall. When placed here it had a gallery extending around both sides and the north end. The pulpit was massive, being reached by several steps, so that the minister was midway between the people in the pews and those in the gallery. These were changed in 1856, when the church was enlarged and improved.

The parsonage was bought in 1855 and greatly improved in 1890. A chapel was added to the church building in 1888, the money left by Miss Mary Osborne aiding materially in its construction. The musical part of the services of the church has always been important, the musical director serving for many years.

Bible study was always encouraged and there was a large Sunday School with able devout superintendents, especially Mr. William Hart and Mr. Fred Legters and others, who gave so much of their time and ability in this work.

Prayer meetings were well attended in the earlier days on Thursday afternoon. Later when more convenient for the men, they were changed to Thursday evening and continued until the Community Church was formed.

A Junior Christian Endeavor was a great education and moral help and for ten years Mrs. Lida W. Waterhouse was the superintendent; the young people under thirteen meeting in the chapel, every Sabbath afternoon at 3 o'clock.

The Senior Christian Endeavor flourished for many years under different pastors but was finally changed to a Young Peoples Society.

During the pastorate of Rev. Fredrick L. Greene, a successful Parish Society was formed, the president being Mrs. Greene, who supervised the first Linen Sale and it was a great financial success. The Sherman Cook Book was gotten out by the ladies of the Parish Society. Mrs. Ellen Cheney of Lynn, Mass., brought the idea of the May breakfasts. The first one was held in the Waterhouse building on Main Street and the breakfasts have been an annual event to this time.

Through the efforts of the Parish Society, the Church Chapel was remodeled—a homey fireplace built and a large kitchen and equipment were added. Owing to the shortage of fuel the cost of upkeep and other expenses, also loss by death of so many of the liberal contributors, it was decided to join with two other churches in one Community Church. The Buffalo Presbytery accepted the withdrawal of the members, and most of them are active in the new church. The church property was all turned over. The parsonage is still used for that purpose, the church building (Memorial Hall) is used for a Community House. All are working very harmoniously, showing that one church, is sufficient to reflect the teachings and character of Christ.

HISTORY OF SHERMAN METHODISM

Methodism had its birth in Sherman in 1832, when a class was organized with Otis Miller as leader, who, with his family and B. H. Kip and family, came from Newark, N. Y., in the spring of the same year. Among the members of the first class were John Pierson, Jad Pierson and wife, Otis Miller and wife, William Green and wife, Polly Miller, Esther Kip and Clarisa Smith. The first convert to be added to the class after its organization was Ezra Smith, father of Jay L. Smith of this village.

The first Methodist sermon was preached in Sherman, December 12, 1833. This was delivered by Rev. Darius Williams in the home of Otis Miller, whose residence was located on Miller Street, near the present residence of A. H. Fraser. Preaching services were held from this time regularly every four weeks, the Sherman appointment being attached to the Westfield circuit.

The home of Otis Miller was used as a place of worship for about three years, when a room in the carding mill of Kip & Miller, located near the southeast corner of Main and Franklin Streets, was fitted up and used. During the summer of 1835, the first regular school house of the village was erected on Main Street. Soon after its completion it became a place of public worship.

A number of new names had been added to the class by this time. Among them were: John P. Hall, E. A. Owen, George Buss and wife, Miranda Kip (Mrs. S. P. Hall), Frances Kip (Mrs. D. M. Stever), Jennie Kip (who married Rev. Edwin T. Green), Addie Kip (who became the wife of J. J. Dean), Samaria McLennathan and Amanda McLennathan. In 1846, John Bly and wife, who had recently moved from Madison County, N. Y., became members of the class by letters of transfer from their former home. Soon after, the following names were added: David Osborn, William Coville and wife, Thomas J. Newell and wife, Justin F. Newell and wife, Henry Dutton and wife, Eli Grannus and wife, and Stephen Grannus and wife.

With the increased strength gained by the addition of these new names, and because the constantly growing congregation was crowding the capacity of the schoolhouse, it was thought advisable to build a church. A building lot was donated by Elijah Miller. By liberal donation of services and less than three hundred fifty dollars in money, the church was soon completed. The dedicatorial sermon was preached by Rev. J. H. Whallon, the pastor in charge. This was in 1848.

With the completion of the new church began an era of growth that soon made it necessary to provide still more commodious quarters. In 1866, steps were taken leading to the erection of the present structure. On the 17th of January, 1868, Bishop Calvin Kingsley preaching the dedicatorial sermon, the new church was set apart and dedicated to the worship of God, under the name of Centenary Methodist

Church, commemorating the one hundredth anniversary of Methodism in America. Some years later an addition was built on the back of the church for the use of the Epworth League, Sunday School and prayer meeting services, with dining room and kitchen below.

When Sherman became a place of residence for one of the preachers appointed to the Mayville and Sherman circuit, it was necessary to provide a house for the preacher's home. Elijah Miller again came forward and donated the lot for a parsonage. With little money and much labor a home was soon provided. Alexander Barris being the first occupant. In 1884, during the pastorate of C. W. Miner, a new parsonage was built.

The first Sunday School in Sherman was organized in 1834, in the home of B. H. Kip, located on Main Street, on the site now occupied by the residence of Henry Raspas. Otis Miller was superintendent. Seating accommodations were provided by the use of old sap troughs. One of the duties imposed upon the members of the Sunday School was that of learning from the Bible seven verses a week—one for each day.

The Epworth League was organized in Sherman under T. J. Hamilton, pastor, with Henry Hooker as president. It was given the name Kingsley Chapter for Bishop Kingsley who dedicated the church.

Centenary Church was honored by having eight men from her altars called to preach the Gospel. They are D. C. Osborn, D. D., (deceased); G. W. Gray, D. D., (deceased); E. T. Green, D. D.; (deceased); Stephen Parker, (deceased); Orin Parker, (deceased); James L. Chase; Will O. Calhoun and Herbert A. Ellis, A. B., D. D.

Methodist circuits in the early days were traveled by two men, the pastor and his associate. As the country became more thickly inhabited, the large circuits were divided. In 1842, Mayville became the head of a circuit with Sherman as an out appointment. In 1851, Sherman appears for the first time in the list of appointments, and then as "Mayville and Sherman". In 1853, Sherman became the head of a circuit with Volusia and North Harmony as out appointments, and A. Barris as pastor. In 1892, during the pastorate of H. M. Burns, the North Harmony appointment was made a part of the Panama circuit and Sherman became a station.

The record of pastors from 1833, when the first Methodist sermon was preached in the village, is as follows: 1833, Darius Williams, pastor, and Francis Dighton, associate; (Pittsburgh Conference, Erie District); 1834, Caleb Brown and S. W. Parks, (Pittsburgh Conference, Jamestown District); 1835, David Preston and Justin O. Rich; 1836, William Todd and Moses Crow, (in this year the Erie Conference was organized, Westfield Circuit belonging to the Jamestown District); 1837, Lorenzo Rogers and W. H. Hunter; 1838, Lorenzo Rogers and Moses Hill; 1839, Darius Smith; 1840, Darius Smith and J. E. Chapin; 1841, J. E. Chapin and Josiah Flower, (Westfield and Mayville); 1842, Josiah Flower, (Mayville became head of circuit);

1843, John Prosser and C. R. Chapman. (Erie District); 1844, Alvin Burgess and Ruben Edwards; 1845, T. B. Blinn and A. M. Reed; 1846, Alvin Burgess and S. N. Forest; 1847, J. H. Whallon and S. B. Sullivan; 1848, Rufus Parker and J. H. Wilson; 1849, J. K. Hallock and R. S. Moran; 1850, Warehem French; 1851, C. S. Jennes and H. P. Henderson; 1852, H. H. Moore, A. R. Hammond and C. S. Jennes (Fredonia District); 1853, A. Barris; 1854, John Wigglesworth; 1855-6, Peter Burroughs; 1857, John Robinson; 1858, D. M. Stever; 1859-60, E. M. Nowlen (Jamestown District); 1861-2, T. D. Blinn; 1863-4, J. F. Stocker (Fredonia District); 1865-6, Jephtha Marsh; 1867-8, L. W. Day; 1869, W. W. Warren; 1870-1, Milton Smith; 1872-3, W. H. Nelson (Jamestown District); 1874-5, D. M. Stever; 1876-7, W. B. Holt; 1878-9-80, Joseph Leslie; 1881-2-3, Walter O. Allen; 1884-5-6, C. W. Miner; 1887-8, A. J. Lindsey; 1889, C. O. Mead; 1890-1, T. J. Hamilton; 1892-3-4-5, H. M. Burns; 1896-7-8, P. J. Slattery; 1899-1900-1-2, Elmer E. Higley; 1903-4, J. H. Bates; 1905-6-7, R. L. Foulke; 1908-9-10-11, J. G. Ginader; 1912, G. W. Corey; 1913-14-15, E. W. Robinson; 1916-17, W. A. Thornton.

The Methodist Church in Sherman from its beginning occupied a large and worthy place in the community. In the fall of 1918, breaking away from denominational grooves, with a broader outlook for usefulness in the world, the Methodist Church united with the Presbyterian and Universalist Churches, forming the Community Church of Sherman, for the purpose of being more helpful in Christian service to the community and to mankind.



Residence of Streeter Whitney
Cor. Main and Willard Streets, 1872

THE FREE BAPTIST CHURCH

The Sherman Free Baptist Church, located at Waits Corners, was organized September 1st, 1836, with eight members, namely: Dexter Stebbins and Eliza Stebbins, his wife; Samantha Stebbins, Loren Stebbins, Moses Stebbins, Irene Stebbins (who was the mother of Dexter, Samantha, Loren and Moses Stebbins) Daniel Eastman and Tryphena Eastman, his wife.

Among the early members were Calista Stearns, Sally Stebbins, Jane Ransom, Clarissa Knapp, J. W. Huntley and Mary Huntley, his wife, Abram Casler and Sampson Vincent.

The first clerk was Daniel Eastman; the first pastor, Rev. Levi Rexford who continued the work four years. He was succeeded by Rev. B. F. Nealy who served two years. In November, 1843, Rev. John Oliver became pastor, serving two years. Those following were Levi Rexford, second term, three years; L. Rogers, two years; T. Grinnel, three years; Arad Losee, eleven and one-half years; A. Griffith, three years; Oliver Johnson, one year; Benjamin McKoon, two years; Robert Martin, three years; William Edwards, four years; William Russel, two years; S. R. Evans, two years; W. Parker, six years; William Knapp, three months, when he was called as missionary to China and A. N. Lewis filled out the year; E. Darling, one year; A. Losee, second term, one year; J. Z. Barr, three years; A. E. Pickett, one year; John E. Martin, one year, six months; C. D. Allen, six months; Z. B. Dally, five years; Thomas Lasley, two years; William Crabtree (who was ordained while pastor of the church), one year; J. F. Thompson, six months; Edward Sharp, five months; F. D. Smock, two years; and R. Place, one year.

In 1912 the church came into the Baptist Association, and, in connection with the first Baptist Church of Sherman, has had the following pastors: Rev. Cyrus Aldrich, two years; Rev. R. Chittum, two years; Rev. C. C. Cornwell of Presbyterian Church, two years, (who resigned to take up Y. M. C. A. work during the World War); Rev. Frederick Baker, two years; Rev. J. H. Hamstra, two years; and Rev. C. F. Cornman, the present pastor, who for the past year has faithfully served the church, which has through all these years been as a lighthouse in the community with some members of fifty years standing. The late S. J. Phelps served as Sunday School Superintendent, thirty years.

The church building was erected in 1852, services being held in dwellings or the school house previous to that time. Rev. G. H. Ball of Buffalo, preached the dedication sermon. The parsonage was built in 1869.

THE UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

The first Universalist Sermon in Chautauqua County was by Rev. Stephen R. Smith of Williamsville, N. Y., (near Buffalo) in January, 1817. On this trip of five days, he held nine meetings. Among the places visited at this time or during that year were Fredonia, Ripley, Mayville, Chautauqua (probably Hights Corners), Gerry, Pomfret, Portland, Ellicott and Hanover.

The first preacher of the faith in Sherman was probably Rev. Linus Paine, and the place the red schoolhouse on the corner of Main and Kip streets, near where I. O. Ottaway's house is now located. There may have been services in private dwellings before this, but there is no record. How long these services in the schoolhouse continued is not known. There is a tradition that objection was made by some who feared the effect of such "dangerous doctrines" on the community, and they were discontinued. Rev. Paine did not reside in Sherman at this time, but near Hights Corners. Later he lived here and built a house on the site of that where W. L. Bates and family now live. It was not sided with wood on the outside but was plastered with coarse mortar, and was a great curiosity to the youngsters in those days.

The First Universalist Church in Sherman was organized in 1842, and was admitted to the Chautauqua Association of Universalists at the annual meeting at Hights Corners in August, of the same year. (The Society at Hights Corners was organized in 1833 and the church building erected in 1842).

Following are the names of the original members of the Church as near as can be learned, the early records being lost in the fire of 1869: Mr. and Mrs. Lester Dewey, George Bates, Loren Park, John H. Jones, Erastus Gibbs, Mrs. Linus Paine, Elliott Smith, Mr. Hill and Mrs. Cushing. Rev. Paine was the first pastor and continued until 1846.

The Chautauqua Association of Universalists met in Sherman in September, 1844, at which time Rev. F. M. Alvord, father of Rev. Otis F. Alvord, a later pastor, was ordained to the ministry of the Universalist Church. Rev. L. Paine of Sherman, preached the sermon; Rev. P. P. Fowler of Brant, N. Y., gave the charge and delivered the Scriptures, and the right hand of fellowship was given by Rev. G. S. Gowdy, then of Concord, Pa.

The lot upon which the first church was built (and the second one now stands), was purchased in 1846 from Walter Strong for Fifty Dollars, which he donated toward the building fund. The church was probably built in 1847, though whether finished that year or not is not known. In 1850 the County Association of Universalists met in the new church, and Rev. W. W. King, the Pastor, was ordained. This church had two front entrances, with the pulpit on an elevation of several steps, between the doors. The pews faced the front so that their occupants could see the late comers without turning their heads. The two entrances were convenient also, so that the male and

female attendants could take their seats on different sides of the room, as was the custom in those early days.

This building was sold to the Catholics in 1868 for Five Hundred Twenty-five Dollars, who moved it to Park Street, where they held services for some years. When their adherents in this place became so few that regular services were not held, the church was sold to Rev. Thomas Newell, who converted it into a double residence, now occupied by Luke Harris and J. Lee Savage.

In 1868-9, a new building was erected upon the same site. The contract price was Eight Thousand Dollars, W. H. Dennis being the architect and builder. It was, when completed, a very handsome building, with stained glass windows and the walls and ceiling finely decorated. Mr. Dennis did not complete the job, and it was finished by the trustees, hiring labor by the day, thus costing more than the contract price. To Lester Dewey, Sr., father of Lester R. Dewey of this place, must be given great credit for the erection of this church. He subscribed one thousand dollars to start the fund and by the time it was finished probably gave Five Hundred Dollars more. Charles Hall also did a large amount of work, drawing the chestnut lumber, of which the interior was made, from the shores of Chautauqua Lake. William F. Green was another trustee, but the third one we are unable to name.

In 1906, largely through the efforts of the pastor, Rev. R. R. Hadley, the building was greatly improved. The steeple was taken down, a parlor, dining room and kitchen taken off the west end, and new furniture and furnishings added.

In 1913-15, during the pastorate of Rev. W. G. Price, an addition to the east end of the church was built to hold the Sheldon Memorial pipe organ, which was dedicated October 17, 1915. At this time new orchestra chairs were installed in the auditorium in place of the old pews, and many other improvements made. During his pastorate also, a large increase in the membership of the church resulted.

Rev. Linus Paine, the first pastor, served three or four years and was followed by E. W. Reynolds, one year; Rev. Paine, second term, two years; W. W. King, six months; Benjamin Hunt, three years; Joseph Kinney, three years; C. C. Richardson, six years; G. S. Gowdy, two years; G. W. Powell, one year; J. M. Getchell, one year; S. L. Roripaugh, one year; J. M. Payson, seven years; J. R. Lavelle, one year; F. J. Chase, four years; R. D. Towne, one and a half years; Thomas Borden, two years; Thomas R. Hawks, a short term only; Eleazer Hathaway, one year; W. W. Gleason, one year; W. M. Lawrence, one year; H. H. Graves, three years; O. R. Beardsley, two years; R. R. Hadley, three years; Albert R. Fiske, two years; O. F. Alvord, two years; Wesley G. Price, two years; William P. Farnsworth, one year; F. J. Dressler, one year. Of these, the following are believed to be living: Rev. J. M. Payson, D. D., Secretary of the Agricultural Department of St. Lawrence University, and Pastor of the Universalist

Church of Canton, N. Y.; F. J. Chase, not now in the ministry and residence unknown; R. D. Towne, in newspaper work at Scranton, Pa.; W. M. Lawrence, Norwalk, Ohio, not in the active ministry; H. H. Graves, at Girard, Pa.; R. R. Hadley, Providence, R. I.; A. R. Fiske, Congregational Church, Ottawa, Kan.; W. G. Price, Titusville, Pa., not in regular service; W. P. Farnsworth, in Massachusetts; F. J. Dressler, Buffalo, not in the ministry; W. W. Gleason, Muncie, Ind., not in active service.

In 1918, the Universalist Church joined with the Presbyterian and Methodist Episcopal bodies to form the Community Church, and the building was sold to Sherman Grange for a Hall. The organ was moved across and installed in the Community Church. Most of the members joined the new organization, and as a working body the First Universalist Church of Sherman ceased to exist after an existence of more than three-fourths of a century.

CATHOLIC CHURCH

In 1866-7, during the building of the Cross Cut Railroad, many Irish Catholics came into this vicinity. When the Universalists decided to erect a new church building, the Catholics purchased the old one and moved it upon a lot on Park Street. It was fitted for their use and for many years services were held there as often as once a month. Later, their membership in this vicinity lessened and the property was sold and has since been used as a double residence. The following incident is added to this article: A lady told the writer recently that when a small girl she had such a fear of the Catholic Church building that she always went past it on the run and never at night if she could avoid it. How she got this idea cannot now be imagined, as her parents had no such dreadful ideas. It probably came from other children, who had been trained in homes where fears were held of the danger of this body of Christians. It may be added that there is an authentic story that a deacon in one of the other churches would not allow his children to attend a service in another new building, saying: "Those people down there are nothing but howling Methodists". Could the people of former days see the three churches of widely different beliefs, working together in a common cause, and the Catholics looked up to as doing a great work in the service of their fellows, they would agree with the writer that the latter days are better than the former.

THE COMMUNITY CHURCH

By C. E. Sheldon

The agitation for a Union Church in Sherman, began several years before the organization of the Community Church, some members of all four of the existing denominations, favoring the proposition. This movement was especially strong in 1915, when several

meetings were held and speakers from a distance explained the work in other places where the plan had been tried, and the advantages to be derived from such a union. But not enough members of the several churches favored the proposition to ensure its success and the subject was dropped for the time being.

In 1916 a "Community Service Committee" was appointed, consisting of representatives of the churches and other organizations in the place, and some work of a community nature was done, which showed what might be accomplished with a complete union of the forces in the vicinity.

In the late summer of 1918, the Presbyterian pulpit being vacant with the pastor engaged in Y. M. C. A. work in the U. S. service, the Universalist Church closed for lack of a minister, and government officials calling for the conservation of fuel, the time seemed ripe for another effort along "Union" lines. The official board of the Presbyterian Church invited the similar bodies of the other churches to a meeting to consider the subject. August 29, this meeting was held at the M. E. Church. Representatives of all four churches were present, also Rev. W. A. Thornton of the M. E. Church, Rev. F. H. Baker of the Baptist Church and Rev. W. S. Dowd who was supplying the pulpit of the Presbyterian Church. The subject was thoroughly discussed and there was a strong prevailing opinion that there should be a union of the churches at least during the war. This meeting was the beginning of the movement which resulted in the Community Church of Sherman.

Later a committee of three from each church was appointed to suggest a plan of union, as follows: A. L. Hart, S. H. Skinner, D. H. Stanton, Presbyterian Church; R. D. Guilford, F. L. Morris, Rev. J. H. Hamstra, Baptist; E. O. Buss, J. F. Phear, T. J. Miles, Methodist; J. G. Pratt, W. L. Bates, Nella A. Sheldon, Universalist. The committee elected J. G. Pratt, chairman and Nella A. Sheldon, secretary, and met many times, trying to devise some statement of belief and plan of action for a united work in Sherman. While the committee did not agree upon a statement of belief, it recommended a union of the churches for a "larger religious service to the community and the country". Each church was to maintain its own organization and a committee of twelve was to have charge of the work for at least one year. This proposition was submitted to a legally called meeting of each of the four churches and three ratified the proposed plan: the M. E., the Presbyterian and Universalist, while the Baptists decided adversely. This union in time developed into the Community Church of Sherman, which was duly incorporated and all the property of the three bodies included, was transferred to the new organization. The M. E. Church building was selected as best fitted for religious services, while the Presbyterian was retained as a Community House, and afterwards dedicated to the memory of the Sherman boys in the World War, and especially in honor of Grant S. Norton and Merle Raspas, who gave their lives in that service. The Universalist Church building was sold to Sherman Grange for a hall. The Presbyterian

Manse was retained as a parsonage and the M. E. parsonage, sold as a residence. September 29, the first services under the new plan were held in the Presbyterian Church. Rev. L. A. Gates of Buffalo, delivering the sermon. At this time a Church School was organized with I. O. Ottaway, superintendent; Miss Florence Hawley, treasurer; Miss Mildred Skinner, organist; Miss Ethel Homewood, superintendent of the primary department. W. W. Benjamin was later elected secretary.

December 2nd, Rev. George Wilson of Berlin, Wis., occupied the pulpit as a candidate and the committee gave him a call which he accepted, and February 2, 1919, he began his work as pastor. During his pastorate of nearly two years, the organization of the church and its various branches was completed, a constitution and covenant adopted and the great work of consolidating three churches of different beliefs into one body of Christian workers was successfully accomplished. The Community Church of Sherman will ever be indebted to its first pastor for his faithful and efficient service. Mrs. Wilson also is entitled to equal credit for her work of organizing the Church School, which under her general charge became a strong branch of the church. In October, 1920, Mr. Wilson resigned and November 1st, Rev. C. W. Pusey of Jamestown, became pastor of the church. Mr. Pusey was especially qualified along athletic and recreational lines and was also an able preacher. Mrs. Pusey was very efficient in the social and musical departments of the church. November 1st, 1922, Mr. Pusey was called to the pastorate of the Community Church at Derby, N. Y., and for several months the pulpit was supplied, Rev. R. G. Hildred, a retired M. E. minister of Ripley, serving acceptably for some months.

May 1st, 1923, Rev. Henry Clay Poland, from the First Baptist Church of Wellsville, N. Y., became pastor of the church and the work is prospering finely under his able preaching and wise pastoral work. The present membership is 263, and the officers are as follows: Trustees, S. H. Skinner, chairman; R. O. Jones, Lyman Legters, L. H. Stanton, O. J. Ottaway, W. H. Fink, Stephen Parker, C. J. Karges, C. E. Cobb; church clerk, Jay F. Phear; registrar, C. E. Sheldon; treasurer, W. H. Phear, Jr.; deacons, I. O. Ottaway, chairman; T. J. Miles, Fred W. Miller, Garrett Dennawold, E. O. Buss, Roy Calhoun; deaconesses, Mrs. E. E. Moran, Mrs. W. H. Phear, Sr., Mrs. Clara A. Homewood; president of the Woman's Association, Mrs. Bessie Hart; secretary, Mrs. Mary Belle Titus; superintendent of Church School, I. O. Ottaway; superintendent of Junior Department, Mrs. Roy Calhoun; superintendent of Primary Department, Mrs. W. H. Phear, Jr.

THE WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

The Women's Association of the Community Church was organized by Rev. and Mrs. George Wilson in 1919. Mrs. Wilson was elected as the first president. The object of the organization is to render aid to the church, its individual members and the community at large. It has a membership of nearly two hundred at this time.

Under Miss Jennie Swezey, Chairman, the Mission Department has done both Home and Foreign Mission Work and Study—sending aid to a colored school in the South; a leper colony in Louisiana; a mining town in West Virginia; medical school in China and the International College at Smyrna.

The Social-Work Department has had charge of the monthly picnic suppers of the church, held an annual Bazaar and May Breakfast each year, and other social affairs of the church when called to do so—sent flowers and delicacies to shut-in members and aided in other ways in cases of sickness and need.

In 1921, under Mrs. Wagner, as President, the Association decorated and furnished the parlors in Memorial Hall, making a suitable place in which to hold their meetings and the social events of the church; and in 1923, under Mrs. Imbery, President, has repaired and redecorated the manse, both inside and out, putting it into fine condition for the new pastor, Rev. H. C. Poland, and family.

SHERMAN IN THE '50s

In the early '50s, quite a large amount of business was done across the creek. Besides the grist mill, where the present one now is (though not in use), and the Fields Tavern, there was a saw mill just below the dam near the bank on the south side of the creek. What is now the Haynes Building was called the Railroad Store, occupied by Chapin & Jannis, with a general stock of dry goods and groceries, and "sash made at Panama". Just beyond was a blacksmith shop operated by Sheldon Graves, while across the street was the shoe shop of Joe Zahringer, recently used by J. G. Coffin for the manufacture of cement blocks. On the bank of the creek where Mr. Cady's house now stands was a building occupied by Dr. James Fenner as his office and the drug store of Fenner & Buss. The postoffice was kept there by Dr. Fenner for part or all of his term of office. After wards, this building was used as a cabinet shop by James Schaeffer, and later was moved across the street and toward Main Street, and is now occupied by Neal Whitney as a harness shop and dwelling.

Coming across the creeks (there were two bridges then, the second one over the race from the sawmill), we find a small building where Mrs. Clute now lives occupied by E. S. Higgins, "No. 4, Franklin Street", and later by Miss Philura Barker, after the death of her father James Barker, as a dwelling and a small candy and notion store. Across the street was the blacksmith shop of M. L. Plato, and to the north the old machine shop, formerly a carding mill.

Reaching Main Street, east of Franklin, it is difficult to locate the business places for a certainty. With the exception of the brick block on the corner, the old buildings, as far as the gristmill, were about the same then as now. In the row was the Ransom Block, occupied in 1853 by Ladue & Leet, clothing store and the Postoffice kept by Jay Ladue. In the Ransom Block, "one door east of Ladue & Leets's", was Charles Miller, boots and shoes; further on, H. C. Williams "Photogenic Artist, two doors east of the Postoffice". This was no doubt the building now owned by C. E. Sheldon. To the east of this was a bank on which were one or more dwellings. What was on the corner where the Sperry Hardware Store was built afterwards, it is hard to tell. One or two elderly people think the Ransom Block was on the corner, and others think it was one of the present Waterhouse buildings. Once in "Ye Olden Time", Hartwell Smith had a grocery somewhere in this row of buildings. West of Franklin Street on the south side was the Tannery lot on the corner, then "the brown building", occupied by Chester Bullock, dry goods, etc., and S. Delavan Adams clerked for him. Next came the dental office of E. Olin, and still further down the street was a dwelling occupied at one time by Burnett Osborn. The Owen Building, afterwards used as a hotel, was where James Barker lived and had a small grocery. Next was the blacksmith shop of Miles J. Clark.

Crossing Main Street, on the corner of Church Street was the "Tavern" owned by Oliver Dutton and occupied in 1853 by William Fowler, later, by Mr. Shelmadine and Mr. Dutton; next door east was Dutton & Sanderson's harness shop. The next business place definitely located is S. T. Hawley's clothing store, "first door west of Trinity Block"; N. Myrick dry goods, "No. 3 Trinity Block"; Miller & Morris General Store, "No. 2, Trinity Block"; Isaac E. Hawley, "Trinity Block" (on the corner where the Postoffice now stands).

Of professional men, there were Doctors Fenner, Thatcher, Tefft and Pelton in the Village and Dr. Green at Center Sherman; H. N. Gleason, J. P. and H. C. Kingsbury, lawyer, were upstairs in some of these buildings; also the Western New Yorker office and John B. Baker, mason, afterward a lawyer at Panama.

Among other business not located was Morton's Cabinet Shop, Gallup & Company, Hardware, "No. 10 Main Street, one door west of Postoffice" (probably on the Sperry Corner); Lewis' Cheap Jewelry Store" and W. W. Gibbs, hardware. There may have been two hardware stores at the same time or one of these may have been successor to the other. Mrs. Murphy, milliner, "first door east of Ransom Block", (probably up stairs); S. Cushing, harness shop, "corner of Main and Franklin Streets". (in basement or on second floor). Frank F. Fowler had a livery stable on Church Street in the rear of the tavern.



North Side of Main Street

THE DARKEY ON THE DEMOCRATIC POLE

Probably the best political joke ever perpetrated in Western New York, was during the campaign of 1856. The first Republican candidate for president, John C. Fremont, and James Buchanan, Democrat, were the nominees of the two great parties. The political campaigns of recent years are tame (but more sane) affairs compared with those in former times. During this contest, as was the custom in those days, the Republicans had erected a fine Fremont and Dayton Pole, on the corner of Main and Miller Streets, near where A. H. Fraser's house now stands. The Democrats had put up a tall hickory pole on the opposite corner of Main and Franklin Streets. This pole was 105 feet above ground and was in two sections, spliced together and held by iron rings made by M. L. Plato, the only Democratic blacksmith in town, who had a shop near where the Jeffers garage now stands. On the top of this pole was a pair of fine buck horns in honor of the head of the ticket.

At this time slavery and the negro were largely discussed as political topics, and often they provoked more or less bad feeling and harsh words. One Sunday morning a darkey was seen to be resting between the branches of the horns on the Democratic Pole. He was clad in a long linen coat and overalls with a straw hat on his head and seemed to be looking down into the Post Office, then located in Ladue & Leet's store, where the drug store now stands. Jay Ladue, postmaster at that time, was probably the first Democrat to discover this "insult to the party", but there were a few interested Republicans who were observers of the proceedings at a distance. Mr. Ladue at once proceeded to haul down the offensive figure by the flag rope but it was securely wired to the horns. Soon the whole town was stirred up by the news, which spread rapidly to the surrounding country and hundreds came to see the strange sight. It is needless to say that the feelings of the spectators depended much upon their political affiliations. The figure was made in the machine shop of Coffin, Putnam & Myrick, formerly used as a carding mill. John Putnam, John Myrick, F. L. Dutton and a Mr. Young did the work. Miles J. Clark and perhaps one or two others knew of the scheme. Mr. Young was a half brother of Orvis Hart. He was a sailor and went up the pole late Saturday night with a pair of climbers made by F. L. Dutton, especially for the purpose, and the figure was placed in position and wired to the horns.

Efforts were made to shoot away the fastenings but to no avail. After several days of vain efforts, a son of Dennis Heath offered to climb the pole and remove the obnoxious "darkey". It is stated that he received ten dollars and a suit of clothes for the dangerous job, the latter donated by Postmaster Ladue.

The Democrats were so delighted with the removal of the "disgrace", as they called it, that they paraded the streets with young Heath and the darkey in a wagon, accompanied by a martial band. There is a tradition that Thomas Morris, a prominent Democrat, kept the darkey in his room for several months as a trophy.

THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD

In the early days before the Civil War, there was what was known as the Underground Railroad, by which negroes were transported from slavery in the south to freedom in Canada. Although all the country north of the Ohio River was free territory, yet the United States laws gave slave owners the right to go into any state and take their "property", and it was a criminal matter to aid slaves to escape. Many years later, it leaked out that Sherman was a station of the Underground Railroad, and that many negroes were fed and secreted here for a few days, then taken at night by sleigh or wagon to the next station, probably Brocton, or Salem Cross Roads, as it was then called.

N. Myrick, Lewis Sperry, N. Sperry and Burnett Osborn are mentioned as some of the Abolitionists who aided in the work, and it is stated that the belfry of the Presbyterian Church (now Memorial Hall) was used as a hiding place for these people on their way to freedom.

SHERMAN AND TEMPERANCE

Sherman has for more than half a century been noted as a "Temperance Town". The last license to sell liquors in the town was issued to Byron Fenner, May 18th, 1868. This was a storekeeper's or druggist's license, and under it no liquor could be drunk on the premises. After 1868, we believe there was no licensed place to sell liquor of any kind. Since the law was passed giving the people a chance to vote on the question, Sherman has never had a license. So strong was the sentiment against it, that on only two or three occasions was the question ever brought up for a vote.

SHERMAN RAILROADS

In 1852 a line was surveyed through Sherman by the Erie and New York City Railroad Company, which had been recently organized. The line passed through the north part of the village, and, it is said, directly through the house now owned by W. J. Akerley on Miller Street, and the one owned by Mrs. Alvin Seymour on Kip Street. It crossed the Mayville Road just north of the house of Joseph Skinner, now owned by F. M. Thomas, and the writer remembers that several piles of ties were placed beside the road near the line. In December of that year some grading was done, and traces of it may still be seen near the Sternberg farm west of the village. In 1882, the Legislature extended the Charter of this road, and it is stated that it is still in force.

CROSS CUT RAILROAD

The Buffalo & Oil Creek Cross Cut Railroad Company was incorporated on July 19, 1865. The road extended from the Pennsylvania State Line to Brocton, N. Y., a distance of about forty miles and was completed and opened for operation on June 17, 1867, that being the date on which the first train was probably sent over the newly constructed road.

In the construction of this road the town of Sherman was bonded for \$30,000.00, Clymer for \$20,000.00, Chautauqua for \$50,000.00 and Portland for \$30,000.00. These towns received stock from the railroad company for the several amounts, and a few years ago the stock received by Sherman was on exhibition here. This stock never paid dividends but the bonds drew seven per cent interest, and it is believed, were payable in twenty years.

The original company operated the road for a little over two years, when on the 18th day of October, 1867; the ownership passed to the Buffalo, Corry & Pittsburg Railroad Company and was operated by this company until April 16, 1873, at which time the property was acquired by the Dunkirk, Chautauqua Lake & Pittsburg Railroad Company.

On June 8, 1878, the road was abandoned and no trains were run, and for a time thereafter a stage line was operated by C. J. Dodge between Westfield and Corry, which carried both mail and passengers.

On the 10th day of July, 1878, interested citizens met Mr. Barney in Buffalo in regard to reopening the road, it being understood that he had recently purchased it for \$75,000.00. He offered it for the same amount but nothing came of it. Soon after, parties from Massachusetts inspected the road with the view of buying and expressed themselves as well pleased with the property. There was great apprehension by the people along the line at this time, that the rails would be taken up and sold for junk. It was, also, rumored that the people from Massachusetts had purchased the road. On July 24, 1878, C. J. Hepburn, Superintendent of the Valley Road, went over the line and requested the citizens through whose farms the road passed to sign a paper releasing the company from keeping the fences in repair for a term of five years. In fact the whole business at this time seems to have been in a confused condition, for on August 28th, 1878, the Chautauqua News announced that William Lewis, known as Pop Corn Lewis, had purchased the road for \$75,000.00 and had reopened it as the Chautauqua Lake Railroad.

On September 12, 1878, an excursion from all points between Brocton and Corry was run to Mayville and Jamestown by way of the Steamer Jamestown, for fifty cents for the round trip. Fay Flanders was the conductor on this train and Joe Hare, who figured in the Prospect disaster on December 24, 1872, was the engineer.

By January 7, 1879, the road was again in operation for at that time it was blocked with snow for about nine days and seventy-five men went from Sherman to shovel out a train and reached Mayville two days later.

On April 9, 1879, the Chautauqua News again announced the sale of the property, this time for \$130,000.00 but does not name the purchaser. It was rumored, however, that the road would be operated by the Oil Creek Railroad Company. Only one train a day was being run each way at this time.

On May 3, 1879, for reasons unknown the name of the company was changed to the Dunkirk, Chautauqua Lake & Pittsburg Railway Company, and on June 7th, following, the formal re-opening of the road took place, with an excursion and boat ride on Chautauqua Lake. This was attended by prominent officials of the Lake Shore and Michigan Southern Railroad and other lines, as well as by prominent citizens along the line.

On February 17, 1881, the property was transferred to the Pittsburg, Titusville and Buffalo Railway Company, and was operated by said company until January 22, 1882. During this time the road was extended in 1881 from Brocton to Dunkirk and in 1882 from Dunkirk to Buffalo. In January, 1882, the name of the company was again changed to the Buffalo, Pittsburg and Western Railroad Company and was operated under that name until the 14th of February, 1883, when the property was acquired by the Buffalo, New York and Philadelphia Railroad Company. This company operated the road for four and one-half years, when on September 30, 1887, it was purchased by the present owners, the Western New York and Pennsylvania Railway Company.

Since the 1st of August, 1900, the road has been leased and operated by the Pennsylvania Railroad Company. Since its first incorporation the road has been owned by eleven different companies.

It is needless to say, that during the fifty-eight years of its existence, the railroad has undergone many important changes and improvements. When it was first built, the rails used weighed 60 pounds to the foot, now 130 to 140 pound rails are used. The grades have been wonderfully improved and many curves eliminated. Stone and cement trestles and culverts have replaced the old wooden ones, and two overhead crossings erected. The station and warehouse at Sherman have been doubled in size and kept in an excellent state of repair. Soon, it is expected, the present iron and concrete trestle across French Creek south and east of the village, will be replaced by an arch entirely of concrete. Other improvements are, also, contemplated in the near future, one of which is the erection of a new water tank, to be operated by electricity furnished by the village.

THE OLD PLANK ROAD

During the year 1849, several meetings were held at Sherman to form a stock company to build a plank road from Westfield to Columbus, Pa. Judge T. B. Campbell was one of the active promoters. A company was organized and Lester R. Dewey and B. J. Coffin were elected directors to represent the town of Sherman in the enterprise. Rights of way were procured and in the following year 1850, the road was constructed under the contractorship of Dennis Heath from Columbus, Pa., as far as the present farm of George Dorman, the road ending in front of a large elm tree. The following year the road was completed. It was the intention of the promoters to extend the road to Barcelona on Lake Erie, on the north, and south through the village of Brokenstraw to the Alleghany River, thus connecting the two water systems, but these extensions were never built. The road is said to have cost about \$600.00 per mile.

The toll stations near Sherman were near the residence of Mrs. R. E. Park at Pleasant Valley, which was conducted by Henry C. Palmer. This station was afterwards moved to the curve in the road this side of the Milton Wood farm, and was run by a Mr. Starkweather. The first toll station between Sherman and Westfield was the building now occupied by Thomas Freeman, a short distance south of Nettle Hill. A Mr. Knapp had charge of this place.

After a short time Captain Walter Strong bought up all of the stock and conducted it alone until about 1858, when it was abandoned. The road was never a success financially as the cost of keeping it repaired, more than consumed the tolls collected, which were about two cents per mile. The road was eight feet wide being constructed of pine and hemlock plank. Lester Dewey, Sr., of Sherman, alone furnished between 150,000 and 200,000 feet of the latter for this road. At the toll gates, it was so arranged that until the toll was paid the highway was obstructed with a heavy gate which was swung open as soon as the toll was received.

ASSEMBLYMEN FROM SHERMAN

At least three Sherman men have been honored by being elected to represent the District in the Assembly at Albany.

In 1854, Henry Bliss was elected to the position and served during the legislative session of 1855. His son, F. D. Bliss, has the pass issued by the New York Central and other railroads as was the custom in those times.

A. B. Sheldon was elected in the fall of 1880 and re-elected in 1881. During his terms of office, Theodore Roosevelt began his political life in the Assembly which led to the Presidency. It was at this time also that U. S. Senators Conkling and Platt resigned and the Sessions-Bradley affair occurred.

In 1882, Charles H. Corbett, Democrat, was elected to the Assembly over Phin M. Miller, the Republican candidate by 1,028 votes and served during the session of 1883.

VILLAGE OF SHERMAN

While the history of the Village of Sherman properly begins with its incorporation in 1890, it may not be amiss to briefly relate the events which the meager records mention in connection with the early settlement. We may understand better the struggle made by our fore-fathers which now makes it possible for us to enjoy the advantages that we have.

Squire Gleason tells us in his letters published in *The Western New Yorker*, that in May, 1832, Benjamin H. Kip, Otis and Elijah Miller purchased the mill site upon French Creek, and lands contiguous, upon which is now established the thriving village of Sherman. They immediately, under the firm name of Miller and Kip erected a saw mill, and in the spring succeeding, established a wool carding and cloth dressing establishment. Otis Miller built a black-smith shop and also a tannery. In 1838 Miller & Kip erected a grist mill which proved of great usefulness to the inhabitants of this and adjoining towns.

*In 1839 the village contained twelve families, numbering sixty-three persons. The names of the heads of these families were: Benjamin H. Kip, Elijah Miller, Otis Miller, James Barker, George Vanes, Lucius Cook, George Cook, George Hart, Kiler Dean, Alan-son Patterson, Pitts Simmons, Hiram A. Case and Dr. Thomas Green.

Otis Miller and Kiler Dean carried on the tannery and shoe-making business. James Barker kept the first store (Doubtless on the site of the present hotel, corner of Main and Church Streets). Lucius Cook had the black-smith shop; he was also Justice of the Peace and Supervisor of the Town. George Hart operated the carding and cloth dressing machinery for Kip & Miller. George Vaness was a cabinet maker, carpenter and joiner. Hiram A. Case had charge of the grist mill. Dr. Thomas Green was the first practicing physician. Patterson and Simmons were men of all work for Kip and Miller.

The school during that summer was in charge of Susan Albridge. This was her second term. She received \$2 per week and boarded around. The Methodist was the only church organization with preaching service every other week in the schoolhouse; Sunday school, every Sunday at nine o'clock with Otis Miller as superintendent.

This writer adds, "The cleared fields around the village look new and rough, and are thickly covered with stumps, but undoubt-

*Taken from a composition written by F. R. Case, a student in the Sherman school, dated July 13, 1839.



Corner Main and Miller Streets, 1875

edly the place will grow and improve a good deal in the future, as there are a number of parties contracting for lots and preparing to build. I think and believe, Sherman will some day grow into quite a respectable village.”

Squire Gleason summarizes the character of the early settlers of the village thus: “The people of this town have, from its organization, been noted for their habits of good order and quiet submission to law; although in times of political excitement, party zeal has occasionally been manifested, yet whenever a decision in a constitutional manner has been had, the minority bowed to the will of the electors as expressed at the polls, without a murmur. No extensive combination for evil has been among our people, few and far between have been prosecutions for larceny, assault and battery, or misdemeanors of any name. The inhabitants have generally made steady progress in the various improvements that now surround us and while there are but few exhibitions of wealth with us, there everywhere appears abundant competency. It is believed that the first native town pauper is yet to appear.”

After two unsuccessful attempts, the first one in 1885, the electors of the Village of Sherman voted to incorporate on September 8, 1890, the vote standing 100 for and 76 against. On October 3 following, the first election was held and these first officers were elected:

President—John T. Green.

Trustees—Charles E. Cobb and F. A. Ellis.

Treasurer—H. F. Young.

Collector—John McKean.

At the first meeting of the board, T. J. Newell was appointed village clerk, A. J. Dean, street commissioner, F. L. Cornish, village constable. The territory included in the village boundaries is about three-fourths of a mile-square and is bounded on the east by the present railroad. This has never been changed.

The first inspection of the fire-department was held on September 1, 1891.

OLIVER W. NORTON

The history of Sherman Village would be incomplete without a short record at least of Oliver W. Norton, who, more than any man living or dead, has given of his means toward improving its conditions.

Mr. Norton was born in Angelica, N. Y., December 13th, 1831, the eldest of thirteen children of a Presbyterian Minister. In the late '50s, his father's family came to Sherman and remained a few years, and during the time he attended a select school in Sherman taught by Alfred Dickson.

April 19th, 1861, Mr. Norton answered the call of President Lincoln for 75,000 men, and enlisted at Springfield, Pa. The regiment to which his Company was attached, after serving three months, was re-organized under the name of the "Eighty-Third Pennsylvania Volunteers" for three years or during the war. In November, 1863, President Lincoln commissioned him as First Lieutenant of the Eighth U. S. Colored Troops, and he served in that capacity until November, 1865.

Following the war, with one or more brothers he engaged in the manufacture of tin cans, and later the business was merged in the American Steel Company, and he became wealthy. Remembering his former residence in Sherman and the fact that his brother, Grant S. Norton's family lived in this place, he was greatly interested in the welfare of the town and began his benefactions by giving the funds for Minerva Free Library. This was followed by an endowment of \$6,000, with generous sums for the electric light, water system, and so forth.

Mr. Norton died in Chicago, October 1st, 1920, and suitable memorial services for him were held in the High School Auditorium in Sherman, October 10th. In accordance with a resolution of the Board of Trustees, the flag of Minerva Free Library is displayed at half mast at each anniversary of his death.

It is estimated that Mr. Norton's gifts to Sherman amounted to nearly \$75,000.00.

SHERMAN WATER WORKS

In May, 1896, the business men of Sherman organized a company to provide a system of water works. The following were elected directors for one year: W. H. Homewood, C. H. Corbett, J. L. Thayer; for two years: W. H. Sperry, George Card, F. L. Cornish; for three years: H. W. Sperry, C. E. Cobb, J. C. Page. C. H. Corbett was elected president of the company; C. E. Sheldon, secretary; W. J. Corbett, treasurer. Later, the company was incorporated. The Flint & Walling Manufacturing Company of Kendallville, Ind., built a five hundred barrel tank on a seventy foot derrick, also a windmill to pump the water from a well under it. A six inch pipe was laid on Main Street and most of the business places and residences were connected with the system. The total cost of the plant when built was \$2,769.54. Later, a pump in the Edmunds mill was connected with the main to take water from the pond in case of fire. Later, a contract was made with the Sherman Electric Light Company to pump the water instead of the windmill, at a price of five dollars per month. About \$3,100 worth of stock in all was sold, on which a small dividend was paid for a few years.

In 1908, the plant was sold to the Village of Sherman for \$1,550, the stockholders receiving fifty cents on the dollar for their shares.

FIRST MEMORIAL DAY

Early in 1868, General John A. Logan, Commander-in-Chief of the Grand Army of the Republic, issued General Order No. 11, designating May thirtieth, as a day to decorate the graves of deceased soldiers, and expressed the hope that the same date might be used for a similar purpose in the years to come. Under date of May 25th, A. W. Benson, Commander of Post Sheldon, No. 40, issued Special Order No. 1, for the members to assemble at the Post headquarters May 30th, at two o'clock, for that purpose. The comrades met as ordered and marched to the cemetery, headed by the Panama Cornet Band, composed of the following: D. Randall, F. A. Powers, E. Smith, S. Davis, H. H. Cook, B. F. Dowd, H. Blake, J. Robson, E. Scofield, N. Sperry, and B. Davis. A. Thompson and A. P. Barnes of Mina, assisted the band on this occasion. So large was the crowd that when the head of the procession reached the cemetery, the rear was on Main Street, a mile distant. The address was given by A. W. Benson, then a young lawyer of Sherman, and was conceded to be one of the best, and the first ever delivered in this place on a similar occasion. Mr. Benson afterward became a Supreme Court Justice in Kansas, and for a few months represented that State in the U. S. Senate.

The following named clergymen assisted in the exercises as Chaplains: Rev. L. W. Day, Rev. A. S. Merrifield. Miss Helen Gibbs read a poem entitled, "The Return of the Volunteers". After the addresses and so forth, the graves were decorated by Misses Linnie Sheldon and Nannie Dickson. They were dressed in white with sashes

of red, white and blue. There were sixteen graves in the cemetery to be decorated, but not all were filled with deceased comrades, as some bodies were never brought here for burial.

The day's exercises were closed with a banquet which Mrs. William Westley and Mrs. W. E. Thorp served to the veterans at the former's home on East Main Street, now occupied by the Misses Swezey. It was a day long to be remembered, and very much unlike the holiday features of later years.

SHERMAN'S PARKS

On September 9th, 1845, Elijah Miller and Louisa E., his wife, Benjamin H. Kipp and Esther, his wife, deeded the property later occupied by the Presbyterian Church to Dennis Hart, William R. Jaquay and Barney Bradt, as trustees of the First Congregational Society of the Town of Sherman, consideration \$66.00. In this deed appears the following clause: "Also the right of way across a certain piece or parcel of land, thrown open as a Public Square. The said parties of the first part for themselves and assigns, agree that they will not erect or cause to be erected any building or buildings on said Public Square. Same is bounded as follows: On the north, two chains (2.00) by the above deeded lot; on the east, one chain and eighty-five links (1.85), by a line parallel to the east bounds of James Street and two chains east therefrom; on the south by the north bounds of Fayette Street; on the west, one chain and eighty-five links (1.85), by the west bounds of James Street."

From the above it would appear that Mr. Miller and Mr. Kipp intended deeding this plot of ground to the town as a Park, but so far as known the deed was never executed.

SHELDON PARK

In the spring of 1920, A. B. Sheldon purchased of Abram Wallace, A. H. Wilcox and Mrs. Margaret Card Peake, three pieces of land on Railroad Street at a cost of \$1,700, and presented them to the Village of Sherman for a public park, to be called Sheldon Park. The property was duly accepted by the Board of Trustees and the property was deeded to them and their successors in office. Not much was done for a year or more in the way of improvement of the property, except the laying of large tile across the park on the west end to connect the sewers across Railroad Street near Columbia Street with the creek. This cost several hundred dollars, which was raised by contributions of individuals and a few organizations.

In the summer of 1922, a number of the progressive citizens of the village and a few former residents, living elsewhere, contributed five hundred dollars or more for the purpose of draining and grading the west end of the plot for an athletic field. The work was not com-

pleted that year for lack of funds, but in 1923 the matter was again taken up. A. B. Sheldon offered to build a grand stand at a cost of \$675, if the village authorities, outside organizations and individuals would complete the drainage and grading of this field. This has been done, and the contract for building the grand stand was let to S. F. Tillotson, who contracted to finish the work by August 15th of this year. At this writing, the work is progressing finely and will be completed on time.

THE SMALLPOX SCARE

In November, 1853, Chester Bullock, a local merchant, returned from New York and soon after came down with a light case of varioloid but was not seriously ill. He lived in a house now occupied by Mrs. John Fawcett on East Main Street, later owned and the home of Dearing Dorman, the first settler. In 1853, it was considered one of the finest residences in town. James Barker who lived in a part of the Owen house, located where the Corbett furniture store now stands, contracted the disease and died there. (Some reports say he was taken to and died at the pest house). A daughter of Burnett Osborn, who lived a short distance east of the Owen house also died from the dread disease. There were probably other cases but, if so, they are not recorded. The excitement over these deaths was intense. A Board of Health was organized of which Hiram N. Gleason and Charles C. Palmer, Justices of the Peace were members, which established a pest house in the woods north of the present greenhouses, probably on the creek which still runs there, for a water supply, and ordered all cases to be taken there for treatment. We believe that Mrs. Lyman Wilcox, mother of Perry Wilcox, who had had the disease previously, was the nurse in charge. There is no record of the number of cases taken there. A Lodge of I. O. O. F. had rooms in the second story of the Owen building and were driven out by the disease and it is stated went out of existence for this reason.

Probably nothing ever occurred in Sherman which caused so much ill feeling and even frenzy as this "Smallpox Scare" for it never reached the stage of an epidemic. There was even talk of shooting officials who attempted to take suspected cases to the pest house. Trouble continued after the disease had been driven out, over the payment by the town, of the costs made during the time, which was referred to the Board of Supervisors in its session of 1854.

B. J. Coffin was elected Supervisor in the spring election and it is probable that the events of the previous winter had an influence on this result, as he was known to be a man of good judgment and capable of settling the differences resulting from the affair. Several times in later years, there have been cases of this disease in the place, but it had ceased to be the terror which caused so much trouble at that time.

Addenda. Since the above was written one of our old residents has told the writer that a young woman named Lines who worked at the hotel, had the disease, was taken to the pest house and died there. Also, that the goods in Mr. Barker's store were burned as the authorities would not allow them to be sold.

OLDEST BUILDINGS IN SHERMAN

The house now occupied by the Misses Zahringer on Osborn Street, is probably the oldest building in Sherman, having been built in 1831. The next house on the north, owned and occupied by James V. Wood, was built shortly afterward and was used as a hotel for some years by Jeromah Fields and Walter Strong. The present residence of W. L. Nuttall on Miller Street, was built by Otis Miller more than 75 years ago, though it has been extensively rebuilt in more recent years. The store house next to Harry Jeffers' garage, is the oldest business building in town having been built for a carding mill about 1834, by Miller & Kip. They also built the gristmill (or one on the same site) now owned by the Mohawk Condensed Milk Company.

SHERMAN CHAIR COMPANY

A chair company was at one time quite an important branch of Sherman's manufactories. It was organized in 1902, the stock being mostly taken by local parties. The company purchased C. E. Cobb's mill near the depot and put in the necessary machinery. H. C. Cheney was the manager. The first machines were started February 1st, 1903, and the first car of chairs was shipped April 16th. The company was reorganized about two years later after the death of his father, with L. I. Cheney as president; his mother, Mrs. Ellen P. Cheney, financing the movement, putting in about \$40,000, which was entirely lost. The business continued under this management for about six years, when it passed into the hands of Clyde Emery and the Gulick Brothers, but it could not be made to pay, and after five years of trial the plant was moved to Jamestown, and a year or two later went out of business entirely.

SHERMAN CANNING AND PRESERVING CO.

This company was formed in March, 1905, with a capital stock of \$20,000 which was largely taken up by the business men of Sherman and the farmers in the surrounding country. It was a "promoted" affair, and William Penn-Davis Co., put up the building and equipped it. The first officers were: C. W. Myrick, President; A. C. Imbery, Vice-President; H. W. Sperry, Treasurer; L. F. Covill, Secretary. The plant opened July 27th, 1905, with P. C. Sheldon manager, five hundred cans of string beans being put up the first

day. Besides the beans, corn and pumpkins were canned that year. But the plant was not properly equipped with machinery and most of the work was done by hand, so it could not compete with large plants, and it was a losing venture from the start. Later, the property was sold to Fink & McLaughlin of North East, who greatly enlarged it, put up a storehouse and a shed for pea vines, and added machinery of various kinds and it became a profitable business. February 3rd, 1916, a fire destroyed the two storehouses and damaged the main building, but these were rebuilt that year. About 1918, the plant was sold to M. W. Clark & Co., of Rochester, who operated it two or three seasons, mostly on peas, with J. W. Hourne, manager. This company still owns it, but it has not been operated for the past two seasons.

ELECTRIC LIGHT PLANT

October 3rd, 1898, a stock company was formed to build an Electric Light Plant.

J. L. Thayer was President; Frank L. Cornish, Vice President; T. J. Newell Secretary, and C. H. Corbett Treasurer.

Stock to the amount of \$3000.00 was sold, and a contract was made with H. F. King & Co., of Corry, to build the plant.

A contract was made with W. A. Edmunds, to furnish the power to operate the plant, from his mill, and two direct current generators were placed in an addition to the mill.

In 1899 the company incorporated with a capital stock of \$10,000.00, with C. E. Cobb, President; T. J. Newell, Secretary.

In 1902 the company bought a lot on the south side of East Main Street, and built a complete power house, equipped with two 250 light General Electric Co. generators.

On April 25, 1917, a special election of the village was called for the purpose of voting on the proposition of buying the electric light plant then owned by the Sherman Electric Company at a cost of \$9000 and to improve it at a cost of \$2000 and bond the village these amounts. This was voted down by a vote of 100 against to 18 for. On May 2 of the same year the board entered into a contract for the purchase of the company of which C. E. Cobb was president at \$9000. This was made possible by a gift to the village of Oliver W. Norton of Chicago. A special election approving this purchase was held on June 1, 1917. It was a unanimous vote there being 147 votes, in favor of the purchase.

On January 27, 1920, a special election was called for the purpose of voting on the proposition to purchase new alternating current generators direct connected with oil-burning engines. The

site of the proposed plant was to be near the railroad. The cost was to be \$25,000. It was voted down 54 for and 82 against.

The condition of the old plant made it necessary to continue the consideration of better electrical facilities. and September 21, 1920 another special election was called to vote on the proposition to purchase two new alternating current generators directly connected with steam engines. The site of this plant was to be on the corner of Mill and Hart Streets on land donated by the Mohawk Condensed Milk Company. It was to cost \$20,000, of which amount \$5,000 was the residue of the Norton Fund. This proposition carried by a vote of 154 for and 54 against.

This is our present plant and gives the residents of the village continuous dependable service. It has a capacity which will handle double the present load easily.

THE WATER SYSTEM

On September 22, 1908, at a special election called for the purpose, the voters decided in favor of bonding the village for \$20,000 to establish a system of water works. The property of the Sherman Water Works Company was purchased at \$1550. A contract was made with S. T. Benson & Co. of Falconer to build a system in accordance with the plans prepared by E. A. Wilder. The plan provided for laying a pipe to a spring on the farm of Lloyd Vincent, a mile and a half north of the village. This conducted the water to a small reservoir near the old electric light plant. It was pumped by a gasoline or oil engine to a large reservoir located on the hill back of the residence of S. B. Wood. This afforded ample pressure in all parts of the village and also water of superior quality for domestic purposes.

After some years the pipe near the spring became clogged with roots and the water supply failed to meet requirements. Again the generosity of O. W. Norton expressed itself in a practical way in assisting the reconstruction of the water works. An auxiliary pumping station was erected and other improvements which cost several thousand dollars were made in order to bring the system up to needs of the village. Later the water has been pumped by a steam pump located in the plant of the Mohawk Condensed Milk Company.

THE VILLAGE HALL

On March 19, 1901 the village voted to build a Village Hall at the cost of \$2500. The building was erected on the corner of Miller and Railroad Streets. It is our present hall and contains the village lockup, the fire apparatus and an assembly hall which is used for election purposes.

The following are the Village Presidents since its organization:

J. T. Green—1890 to 1896 inclusive.
H. A. Thayer—1896 and 1897.
J. L. Thayer—1898 to 1901 inclusive.
T. J. Newell—1902 and 1903.
C. H. Corbett—1904 and 1905.
H. W. Sperry—1906.
W. L. Bates—1907 to 1909 inclusive.
W. A. Edmunds—1910 and 1911.
I. O. Ottaway—1912.
P. E. Marshall—1913.
L. H. Stanton—1914 to 1918 inclusive.
E. N. Myrick—1919 to 1922 inclusive.
D. H. Stanton—1923.

VILLAGE CLERKS

T. J. Newell—1890 to 1900 inclusive.
S. H. Skinner—1901 and 1902.
R. D. Adams—1903.
C. H. Newell—1904 to 1910 inclusive.
F. L. Morris—1911 to 1913 inclusive.
D. H. Stanton—1914 to 1919 inclusive.
J. G. Pratt—1920 to 1923 inclusive.

Thus the village has grown from a mere handful of people of twelve families in 1839 to a community of nearly a thousand inhabitants. Through the perseverance and sacrifice of its people and the generosity of friends we have today a village equipped with excellent school building, a large and thoroughly equipped library, an up-to-date electric lighting system, a good water system, with a pavement extending from one boundary of the village to the other, a public park that is being rapidly developed and active religious and fraternal societies. Certainly we have reason to feel proud of these accomplishments and may each one of us be ready to do our share toward the improvements which it will be our privilege to provide for the future generation.

SHERMAN BANKS

It may be a matter of interest to many to know that in one of the old Sherman papers, examined for material for this book, the statement is made that at one time there was a bank at Mina Corners, called the Bank of Mina. The writer has been unable to find anyone who could verify the statement, and it may be considered as tradition only, though Mina probably had a store, a tavern, a physician and perhaps a postoffice before Sherman, that town being settled in 1816, seven years before this town.

WILDCAT BANKS

In C. M. Dow's article on "Commerce and Finance" in the Centennial History of the County, published in 1904, we find this statement: "Following the enactment of the General Banking Law of 1838, Wildcat Banks were organized through western New York. One was located in Clymer, one in Sherman, one in Ellery and another in Dunkirk. * * * * These Wildcat Banks eventually all failed. These institutions were not banks of deposit and were organized solely for the purpose of circulating their bills."

No one is able to recall any such bank in Sherman and we are unable to give any details or to say how long it lasted.

THE SHERMAN EXCHANGE

The first bank in Sherman of which we have any record was the Sherman Exchange, started probably about 1865, no one now being able to fix the date with certainty, and there are no records available. It was in operation April 1st, 1868, under the name of Henry Sheldon & Co., with the following officers: H. Sheldon, president; C. L. Sheldon, vice-president; W. F. Green, cashier. Its place of business was a front room in the second story of the American block on the south side of Main Street. After the fire of 1869, the firm bought a lot and erected a brick building on the north side of the street, which was burned in 1876. This was rebuilt in 1877, and is the building now occupied by the State Bank of Sherman. Following Mr. Green as cashier were Jerome J. Dean and George Sheldon. May 28th, 1884, during a period of commercial depression which ruined many private banks in the country, the Sherman Exchange closed its doors and Henry, Chancey L., George Sheldon and the firm of Sheldon & Ripley made assignments to A. B. Sheldon. The general creditors received in June, 1885, about sixty-one per cent. of their claims.

BANK OF SHERMAN

In November, 1884, the Bank of Sherman was organized with these officers: Archibald Calhoun, president; W. F. Smallwood, cashier. The other members of the firm were James Vincent and Hiram Parker, and the building owned by the Sherman Exchange was purchased and occupied by the new firm. A few years later Mr. Smallwood sold out his interest and retired from the firm, and W. F. Green was appointed cashier.

The State Bank of Sherman was organized in 1890, and as the business then did not require two banks, we find in the Chautauqua News of June 2nd, 1893, this item: "The State Bank of Sherman has bought out the Bank of Sherman, and the two will be consolidated. Mr. A. Calhoun and Mr. James Vincent take a certain amount of the stock of the State Bank and are to be appointed directors. The State Bank will move at an early day to the Bank of Sherman building, which they have bought with the fixtures, etc. Mr. Sidney Hart will remain for the present."

The furniture and fixtures were sold to the First National Bank of North East, Pa., a newly organized institution. The State Bank moved into its new quarters and began business there July 24th, 1893.

On account of heavy loans of the Bank of Sherman to parties who could not pay, the officials were unable to meet the obligations of the Bank, and August 22nd, A. Calhoun and James Vincent made an assignment to C. W. Myrick. Hiram Parker, one of the original stockholders and founders, was dead, and Mr. Smallwood had sold out some years before. Mr. Myrick closed up the affairs of the Bank and paid the creditors about eighty-five per cent. on their claims.

STATE BANK OF SHERMAN

The State Bank of Sherman was organized January 23, 1890, by the active and representative business men of the town, who, realizing the need of a bank under State or National supervision, met in Workman Hall and organized by electing Mr. J. E. Ottaway, chairman, and W. H. Homewood, secretary.

This meeting decided to organize as a State Bank with \$25,000 capital, divided into two hundred fifty shares of \$100 each. At this meeting the stock was all taken by thirty-four subscribers, and the organization completed by the adoption of articles of association and the election of a board of directors.

The first Board of Directors were: E. Sperry, C. H. Corbett, W. H. Homewood, W. H. Hart, J. E. Ottaway, A. B. Sheldon, A. J. Dean, J. L. Thayer, J. C. Page, J. A. Slotboom and E. Jaquins. Immediately following this meeting, the Directors met, organized, adopted by-laws and elected E. Sperry, president; C. H. Corbett, vice-president, and appointed committees to decide on location, purchase furniture and all needed supplies, and apply for a charter.

A charter was granted by Charles H. Preston, then Superintendent of Banks of the State of New York, and by March 1, 1890, rooms had been secured and fitted up on the corner of Main and Miller Streets. Mr. H. F. Young had been elected cashier, and Mr. O. F. Jeffords, now assistant cashier of the Seaboard National Bank, New York, had been engaged to assist in opening and starting the bank, and on March 5th, 1890, it opened its doors for business.

In 1893, it bought the building it now occupies, No. 116 Main Street, where it had more room and more convenient quarters. During the summer of 1909, this was entirely rebuilt inside and fitted up with new steel furniture and fixtures.

During its thirty-three years of existence, four presidents have presided over the affairs of the institution: Enoch Sperry, 1890 to 1894; A. J. Dean, 1894 to 1900; J. L. Thayer, 1900 to 1919; I. O. Ottaway, 1919 to date. The other officers are: L. D. Gale, vice-president; William H. Phear, Jr., cashier; Jennie D. Ottaway, assistant cashier; Alice Legters, bookkeeper; Directors, L. D. Gale, F. L. Cornish, A. B. Ottaway, J. G. Brightman, E. J. Bellinger, G. F. Ottaway, Harry H. Wake, Mrs. J. F. Phear, O. J. Ottaway, A. C. Imbery, I. O. Ottaway.

The 133rd quarterly report, issued June 30th, 1923, showed deposits of \$619,231.76, and a total capital, surplus and reserves of \$71,520.02.

TELEPHONES IN SHERMAN

Probably the first telephone line in Sherman was built by A. G. Saxton from his home to his place of business. C. E. Sheldon also had one about the same time from his house to the News Office. These were simply light wires without batteries, insulated to prevent destroying the vibration of the wires which carried the sound from one end of the line to the other.

In February, 1885, a contract was made with Corry parties to build a line to the depot, phones also to be installed in the Dean House, J. L. Thayer's store, W. H. Homewood's residence and the Sherman Milling & Creamery Company's office. It was owned by the stockholders and no fee was to be paid to the Bell or other system. It was completed soon afterwards, but there is no record as to how long it was operated.

THE BELL LINE

In 1890, the Bell Company built a line from Sherman to North Clymer to connect with a line there to Clymer and Jamestown. Sherman citizens contributed several hundred dollars toward the cost, receiving in payment coupons good for tolls over the line. The arrangement was not very satisfactory, as the service was not good and few of the subscribers received much value for the money invested. In 1920, this line was purchased by the Sherman Telephone Company, and a portion of it is still in use between this place and North Clymer on a Jamestown circuit. The last of the poles were taken down this year, the wires being transferred to the local company's poles.

THE SHERMAN TELEPHONE COMPANY

November 19th, 1898, a meeting of citizens was held at W. J. Corbett's Furniture Store. At this meeting A. J. Arnold was elected chairman and H. H. Corbett, secretary. A finance committee was appointed and a resolution was adopted that supplies and phones be ordered to start a small co-operative telephone company in which each subscriber and patron should be a stockholder. However, at a meeting held December 15th, 1898, it was decided to incorporate with a capital of one thousand dollars divided into fifty shares of twenty dollars each, and the following five directors were elected: A. J.

Arnold, C. H. Corbett, C. E. Sheldon, W. H. Homewood and H. H. Corbett. At a subsequent meeting the Board was increased to seven members by adding W. B. Whitney and T. J. Newell. A. J. Arnold was appointed superintendent of construction. The company received its incorporation papers January 29th, 1899, and the construction of lines began. In April, 1899, Mr. Arnold resigned as superintendent of construction and W. H. Homewood was elected in his place. August 27th, 1900, at a meeting of stockholders, the capital stock was increased to five thousand dollars to be able to supply the demand for phones. March 22nd, 1901, the capital stock was again increased to twenty-five thousand dollars, which is the present amount. In April, 1903, Mr. Arnold resigned and Mr. Homewood was elected president and F. L. Cornish director in his place. Under the efficient management of Mr. Homewood and F. L. Cornish, lines were rapidly extended and many phones installed.

On the death of Mr. Homewood in March, 1906, Mr. Cornish, vice-president, acted as president, and at a meeting of Directors in April, H. H. Corbett was elected general manager. About this time a majority of the stock was sold to Rochester parties, and George R. Fuller of that city was elected president. Later, the stock was bought back and distributed among former owners. At one time its lines extended to Clymer and French Creek, but when the Clymer Telephone Company was instituted in 1915, the Sherman Company turned over most of the phones in those towns to the new company.

January 15th, 1908, C. E. Sheldon was elected president and H. H. Corbett, secretary, treasurer and general manager. In 1921, two additional toll lines were built to complete two circuits from Fredonia via Westfield and Mayville to Jamestown.

The present officers are: C. E. Sheldon, president; W. H. Newell, vice-president; H. H. Corbett, secretary, treasurer and general manager. The other directors are: A. B. Sheldon, L. D. Gale, W. H. Rater, A. M. Douglass, Frank Hemeline, Mrs. Florence Stebbins.

Since the organization of the company, the stockholders have received dividends averaging about six per cent.

VARIOUS ORGANIZATIONS

SHERMAN GRANGE

Sherman Grange was organized January 9th, 1874, by State Master George D. Hinckley and Deputy Ira Porter, both of Fredonia. The following were Charter Members: S. P. Hall, Charles Hall, E. C. Hart, C. C. Lewis, Frank Dutton, T. W. Skinner, Richard Willing, Hiram Parker, Otis Skinner, Joseph Boorman, L. R. Dewey, Edwin Boorman, J. B. Hart, F. E. Miller, J. E. Ottaway, H. L. Kendrick, Mrs. Charles Hall, Miss Fannie Hall, Mrs. E. C. Hart, Mrs. J. B. Hart, Mrs. F. E. Miller, Mrs. Richard Willing. Only two of the charter members are living—Otis Skinner and Lester R. Dewey.

The object of the order is to better manhood and womanhood, and is the first order where woman was considered the equal of man. In this order she is eligible to vote with her husband and brother and to hold any office to which she may be elected. All members of the Grange are entitled to the benefits of the insurance in the Chautauqua County Patrons' Fire Relief Association. The amount of insurance carried by Chautauqua County Grangers, January 1st, 1923, was \$18,618,815.00.

Among the many things which the Granges of the country have proposed and aided in bringing about are: Rural Free Delivery, Postal Savings Banks, the Parcel Post, Federal Aid for Improved Roads, the Land Bank and Farm Loan System, Agricultural Experiment Stations, Anti-Trust Legislation, etc.

The following is the list of officers in Sherman Grange for the present year:

Master, Leroy Calhoun
Overseer, Fred H. Newell
Lecturer, Mrs. S. B. Wood
Stewart, C. D. Vrooman
Ass't. Stewart, E. R. Swezey
Chaplain, Mrs. Leroy Calhoun
Treasurer and Secretary, Mrs. Fred H. Newell
Ceres, Grace Ottaway
Pomona, Mrs. Frank Crump
Flora, Mrs. William Walton
Lady Ass't. Stewart, Mrs. Harry Tryon

I. O. O. F. Lodges

The first lodge of I. O. O. F. in Sherman was instituted about the year 1849, and was called E. R. Sheldon Lodge, after a well known farmer and stock dealer of the town of Westfield who lived on what is known as the Russell farm, now owned by E. J. Bellinger. Later, the name of the Lodge was changed to Arbor Lodge. It is current history that this lodge was driven from its rooms in the Owen Block by the case of smallpox below, and that it went out of existence in the late fall of 1853. It is interesting to know that this lodge purchased the first hearse ever owned in Sherman, and built the old hearse-house (which many of our older citizens remember) at the north end of the Baptist sheds. When the affairs of the lodge were settled up, James Schaeffer purchased the hearse and house and both were used for many years thereafter.

Benjamin J. Coffin, Ezra R. Sheldon, M. J. Moulton and S. H. Myrick were among the members of this lodge.

SHERMAN LODGE NO. 645

Sherman Lodge No. 645, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, was instituted September 29th, 1892, by H. J. Shepardson, D. D. G. M., the charter members being as follows: Emmet B. Arnold, Arthur J. Arnold, Frank A. Larkin, Perry C. Wilcox, Clarence J. Palmer, Henry P. Sears, Alfred M. Dorman and Frank A. Ferguson.

At the institution of the lodge the degree work was performed by Cambridge Lodge, I. O. O. F., of Cambridge Springs, Pa. The first officers of the Lodge were: Henry P. Sears, Noble Grand; Emmet B. Arnold, Vice Grand; Frank A. Ferguson, Recording Secretary; Arthur J. Arnold, Financial Secretary; Alfred M. Dorman, Treasurer. The Noble Grands officiating for the Lodge since its institution are as follows: Henry P. Sears, Emmet B. Arnold, Almon B. Smith, Edwin Ripley, Arthur J. Arnold, Clarence J. Palmer, Perry C. Wilcox, Andrew H. Fraser, Charles Jaquith, Albert J. Stevens, Clement J. Losee, Samuel A. Webber, Wellman L. Bates, Warren B. Whitney, Fletcher D. Bliss, Philip J. Reynolds, Sidney L. Hart, Willis W. Benjamin, James Taggart, Irvin W. Baker, Henry A. Thompson, Fred D. Benjamin, William J. Bement, Nelson Whitney, Arthur J. Taggart, Clair M. Ketchum, Pratt E. Marshall, James W. Rice, Edward Erickson, Lawrence J. Karges, William H. Casler, Perry G. Hillburg, James H. Carter, Milton J. Mead, Don Wilcox, A. Lee Hart, Mervin E. Reynolds, Edward J. Hunt, Jesse C. Munsey, Claude Barnhart, Fred Legters, Frank Titus, J. Lloyd Vincent, Elton H. Moore, Clyde C. Fowler, Fred Roy, Arthur Erickson, Truman E. Smith, Jay L. Smith, C. Herbert Hart, William A. Thornton, Clarence L. Davis, Bert E. Dille, Ludwig A. Newberg, Charles T. Rothe, Ray Church, J. Fred Scheller, William Murray, Allen H. Wilcox,

Henry Rothe. The present officers are: Noble Grand, Ray H. Blakeslee; Vice Grand, Arthur Bock; Warden, Lewis Titus; Conductor, James Tallman; Chaplain, Edward Erickson; R. S. N. G., M. E. Reynolds; L. S. N. G., Bert Dille; R. S. V. G., O. L. Dorman; L. S. V. G., Willis Straight; R. S. S., Ernest Pratt; L. S. S., W. H. Casler; I. G., Charles Rothe; O. G., Wayne Bull.

The present membership is one hundred fifty-five.

The Lodge owns the building in which its meetings are held, F. K. Newton occupying the lower story. The property on the corner of Main and Willard Streets was willed to the Lodge a few years ago by A. M. Dorman, and was sold this year to O. L. Dorman.

FLORAL REBEKAH LODGE

Floral Rebekah Lodge was organized June 14th, 1895, with forty-eight charter members. Mrs. Addie Ripley was the first Noble Grand. Those who succeeded her were: Fannie Wilcox, Adah Arnold, Mary Benjamin, Bennie Fraser, May Whitney, Bertha Bates, Harriet Bliss, Anna Coveney, Anna Taggaret, Mary A. Webber, Ida Rice, Francelia Reynolds, Anna Wilcox, Myrtie Hillburg, Katherine Ketchum, Mable Karges, Blanche Bates, Lucy Wilcox, Edna Taggart, Ruth Cave, Ione Sheller, Hilda Wilcox, Ethel Bock, Nellie Donaldson, Bernice Fowler and Effie Myrick.

The present officers are: Noble Grand, Effie Myrick; Vice Grand, Clara Casselman; Recording Secretary, Frances Coon; Financial Secretary, Anna Manison; Treasurer, Julia Schaefer; Right S. to N. G., Edna Taggart; Left S. to N. G., Bennie Fraser; Right S. to V. G., Ada Newburg; Left S. to V. G., Gertrude Smith; Conductor, Alice Newton; Warden, Ruth Cave; Right S. S., Velma Blakeslee; Left S. S., Louise Karges; Chaplain, Mary Buss; Inside Guard, Maggie Murray; Outside Guard, Eva Voigt; Trustees, Anna Coveney, Katherine Ketchum and Barney Smith.

The present membership is 150.

MINERVA CLUB

Probably no organization in Sherman, outside of the schools and churches, has done more for the uplift of the Community than Minerva Club, which was organized at the home of Mrs. C. E. Sheldon, February 25th, 1897, with the following Charter Members: Mrs. Harriet S. Marsh, president; Mrs. Lida R. Waterhouse, secretary; Mesdames Emily M. Sheldon, Carrie Lawrence, Sarah Newell, Mary Adams, Harriet Bliss, Lurancia Cornish, Alice Blair, Kate M. Page, Nora Russell, and Miss Edith Corbett.

Its name at first was the Ladies' Literary Club, but at a meeting a few weeks later it was named Minerva Club. Its motto is, "In Great Things, Unity; In Small Things, Liberality; In All Things, Charity". Its colors are violet and white.

On the twenty-fifth anniversary of its beginning, the remaining charter members placed a bronze tablet in Minerva Hall, giving the names of the women who organized the Club, and it may truthfully be said of them, "They builded better than they knew".

The Club joined the Western New York Federation in 1899. Its purpose as stated in its Constitution is, "a higher culture both socially and intellectually".

Aside from its splendid work as a literary club, its Reciprocity Days and annual banquets have extended its influence to other places and have been a force in the social work of the Community. It also has to its credit the creation of Minerva Free Library and the Village Improvement Committee, both of which are mentioned in separate articles in this volume.

The membership at present is sixty-nine, of which thirty-eight are active members, twelve associate and nineteen honorary. The officers are: Mrs. Nina C. Hall, president; Mrs. Sue T. Pratt, first vice president; Mrs. Clara Casselman, second vice president; Mrs. Ethel S. Erickson, recording secretary; Mrs. Elgie B. Russell, corresponding secretary, and Mrs. Katherine Hawley, treasurer.

MINERVA FREE LIBRARY

The Minerva Club, having at the close of its fiscal year in May, 1906, \$15.00 in its treasury, voted to use it to purchase books as the nucleus of a long desired free library for the town. Fourteen books were purchased and the following Christmas, thirty books were given by members of the Club.

Early in 1907, a board of trustees (five in number) was elected, consisting of Mrs. J. L. Thayer, Mrs. G. W. Strong, Mrs. A. J. Peck, Mrs. C. H. Newell, and Miss Jette Phelps. Thus the Minerva Free Library Association was formally organized. This board applied to the State for a provisional charter, which was granted by the Board of Regents. At first the books were kept at the home of Mrs. C. H. Waterhouse and she acted as librarian.

The Club women raised money, during the summer for the purchase of books and on September 21 of that year the library was formally opened to the public in the assembly room of the Town Hall with 500 volumes on the shelves. The town provided book cases and furnished light and heat.

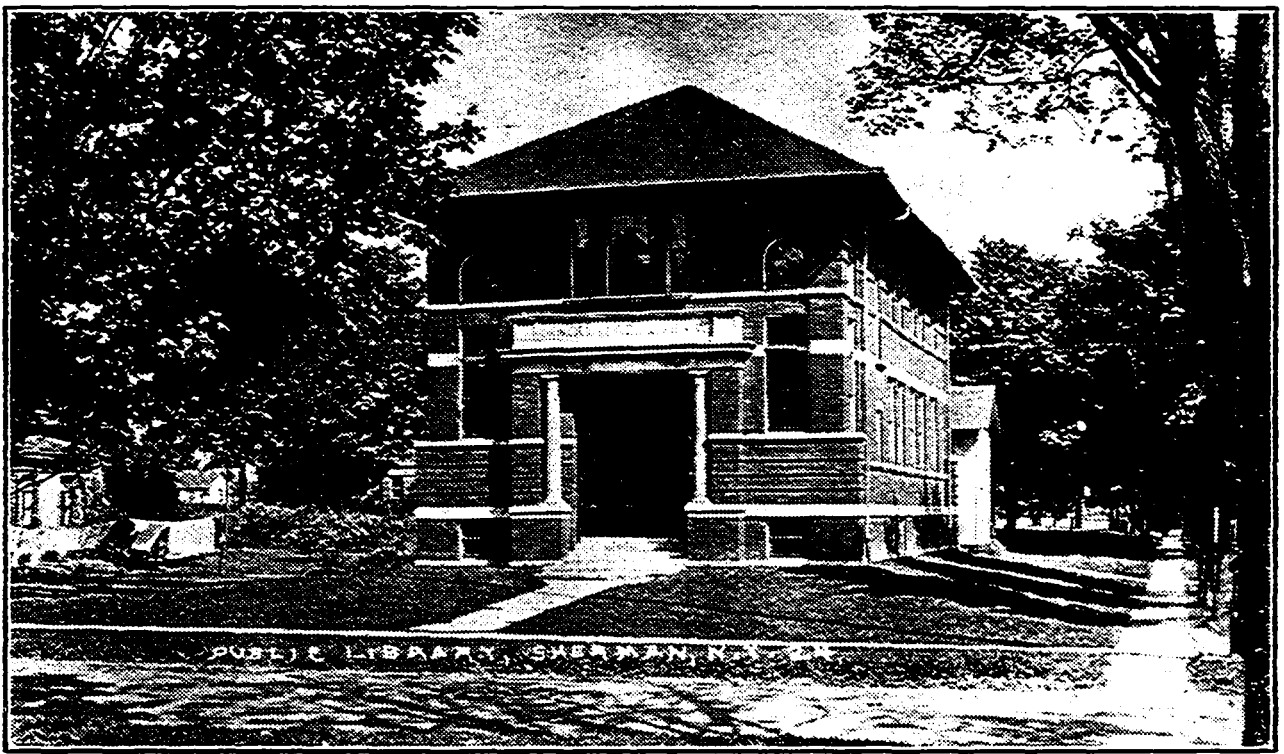
The library had at this time a librarian, Mrs. Myrte Rice Haynes and an assistant, (neither receiving a salary). Other members of the Club donated their services as needed. The library, at this time was

open on Wednesday and Saturday afternoons of each week and on Saturday evenings.

At the close of the year 1907, sixteen of the leading magazines were added to the library to be placed in circulation.

On April 17, 1908, an offer was received from O. W. Norton of Chicago, to put up a building for the library, providing the town would raise \$500 annually for its support.

On May 19th, at a special town meeting, Mr. Norton's generous offer was accepted, with a practically unanimous vote and three trustees were elected by the town to act with the six women already elected by the Club. The Executive Board of the Association thus formed



Minerva Free Library

consisted of W. A. Edmunds, S. H. Skinner, F. L. Cornish, Mrs. J. L. Thayer, Mrs. C. H. Newell, Mrs. G. W. Strong, Mrs. Eva Norton, and Miss Jette Phelps.

Mr. Norton chose the northeast corner of Railroad and Miller Streets as the site of the building. This he purchased from the heirs of the John Olin estate. The building, valued at \$25,000 was completed and opened to the public on February 13, 1909, with nearly 2000 volumes on its shelves and 25 magazines on its tables.

Mr. Norton continued his interest in the library up to the time of his death on October 1, 1920, when Minerva Free Library lost one of its best friends.

Upon the opening of the new building, the services of a paid librarian were secured, that of Miss Florence Hawley, who is still serving in that capacity. An absolute charter was also granted by the State Board of Regents at that time.

The library is now open on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays of each week, both afternoons and evenings.

There are 7,542 books and 45 magazines now in the library with a circulation the past year of 19,167 volumes.

Special care has been given to providing for the needs of the schools, books on the High School reading lists and for the eight grades having been provided and grouped for the use of the students. Over 400 volumes were also loaned, for a lengthened period of time, to the teachers of various district schools during the past year.

The present Board of Trustees consists of the following members: Mrs. Clara Homewood, president; Mrs. S. H. Skinner, vice-president; Mrs. Moran, secretary; Miss Edith Corbett, treasurer; Mrs. E. J. Bellinger, Mrs. Fred Miller, J. L. Thayer, C. E. Sheldon and A. C. Imbery.

VILLAGE IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE

The Village Improvement Committee is one of the standing committees of Minerva Club. It was appointed at a special meeting June 22, 1910, with the following members: Mrs. Jennie W. Bly, Mrs. Lena B. Dorman, Mrs. Emma J. McCartey, Mrs. Maude V. Wagner. The late Miss Jette M. Phelps was president of the Club at that time.

With the desire for Village improvement work, which could not be carried on without funds, came the decision to give the town a series of entertainments during the winter; out of this grew the Lecture Course, which was started in 1911, the first number occurring October 9th of that year. The entertainments and Lecture Course have been successfully carried on for twelve consecutive years, without any financial deficit during that time. The following committee has had this work in charge: Mrs. Jennie W. Bly, Mrs. Florence G. Bligh, Mrs. Geraldine G. Bellinger, Miss Alice Dunbar, Mrs. Clara A. Homewood, Mrs. Elizabeth L. Moran, Mrs. Ella V. Skinner, Mrs. Maud V. Wagner and Mrs. Mary S. Phear.

The proceeds of the entertainments have been largely devoted to Village improvement. The total amount of two thousand dollars has been expended, among which the following sums are mentioned: two bronze drinking fountains, \$142; Athletic Association, \$125; electric light fixtures for school auditorium, \$100; walk to the cemetery, \$100; Park Improvement Fund, \$150; Library Trustees, \$400; ornamental street lamps, \$100; school lunches, \$50; Young Women's Christian Association, \$40; other organizations, \$75; library flag, \$50; school equipment, \$60.

Several children in the village were enabled to have help for physical infirmities through the financial aid of the Village Improvement Committee.

ELIZABETH L. MORAN, *Chairman*

It is interesting to note here that on December 13th, 1869, a meeting was held in Benson & VanDusen's office for the purpose of making arrangements for a course of lectures for the ensuing winter. Rev. J. F. Severance, minister of the Presbyterian Church, was elected president of the organization and William H. Sperry, secretary. The following committee was appointed to secure lectures: Messrs. VanDusen, Horton, Mark Sheldon, S. H. Myrick. Season tickets sold for two dollars. Messrs. Harrington, Westley and William H. Hart were appointed to sell tickets and procure a place for the lecture. The first lecture in this course was given Tuesday evening, December 28th, 1869, by Rev. Anson G. Chester of Buffalo—subject, "Old Boys and Girls".

Order of the Eastern Star

IVY CHAPTER, U. D.

The first Chapter of the Eastern Star in Sherman, was organized October 29th, 1875, and was named Ivy Chapter, U. D., but it never received a Charter. A traveling representative of the Grand Chapter of New York came to Sherman and organized the Chapter. Its first and only officers were: Worthy Patron, B. J. Coffin; Worthy Matron, Mrs. Samuel Little; Associate Matron, Mrs. W. F. Green; Secretary, Mrs. J. M. Payson; Treasurer, Mrs. A. B. Fenner; First Conductress, Mrs. B. J. Coffin; Second Conductress, Mrs. W. J. Donnell; Warder, Mrs. W. G. Martin; Sentinel, D. D. Peabody; Adah, Mrs. Gilbert Seymour; Ruth, Mrs. Edmund Jennings; Esther, Mrs. C. E. Sheldon; Martha, Mrs. Louise Bligh; Electa, Mrs. W. E. Thorp.

In the proceedings of the Grand Chapter in 1876, there is a record of "Joy Chapter, U. D., Sherman, N. Y.; Matron, Anna Little; Patron, B. J. Coffin; Associate Matron, Anna Green". As these officers are the same as those of Ivy Chapter, and the latter was still in existence, this record must be in error as to the name of the Chapter.

In the proceedings of 1877, there is this record: "Ivy Chapter, No. 46, Sherman, Chautauqua County; the Charter was granted at our last meeting. Bro. Coffin notified me that the Chapter has not met since last fall and it is not likely it will ever convene again. The Charter is in the hands of the Grand Secretary". Ivy Chapter, therefore, only existed about a year, but why it was given up no one knows. There is an impression in the minds of some of the members now living that there was dissension between the Grand Chapter of New York and the General Grand Chapter, which might have been a cause of the suspension.

ACACIA CHAPTER

Acacia Chapter, No. 96, O. E. S., was instituted July 12th, 1893, with thirty-two charter members, twelve of whom are living. It is

the oldest Chapter in Chautauqua County and also in Western New York, outside of Buffalo. The first elected officers were: Mrs. Harriet S. Marsh, Worthy Matron; C. E. Sheldon, Worthy Patron; Mrs. Julia H. Thayer, Associate Matron; Mrs. Emma W. Sheldon, Secretary; Mrs. Narcissa Corbett, Treasurer; Mrs. Myra Corbett, Conductress; Mrs. M. Alice Hall, Associate Conductress; Mrs. Ida E. Young, Warder; Mrs. M. Rosa Miller, Mrs. Dea A. Waterhouse, Mrs. Florry C. Ellis, Mrs. Genie Cornish and Mrs. Mary E. Adams, the five points of the Star.

Besides those mentioned as officers, the following were Charter Members: Mrs. Kittie H. Sheldon, Mrs. Jennie W. Bly, Mrs. M. Louise Bligh, Mrs. Cordelia A. L. Hinckley, Mrs. Susan Strong, Mrs. Lydia Smith, Mrs. Maria Green, Mrs. Harriet S. Green, Messrs. Frank E. Miller, H. F. Young, George D. Marsh, Charles H. Waterhouse, Charles A. Ellis, F. H. Hall, Charles H. Corbett, W. F. Green, Joshua L. Thayer, A. B. Smith and A. N. Strong.

Since that time there have been the following Worthy Matrons and Worthy Patrons:

Mrs. Harriet S. Marsh, 1893, '94, '95
 Mrs. Julia H. Thayer, 1896, '97, '98
 Mrs. Gene L. W. Cornish, 1898
 Mrs. Jennie W. Bly, 1899, 1900
 Mrs. Katherine M. Cobb, 1901, '02
 Mrs. Sarah E. Newell, 1903, '04
 Miss Nella A. Sheldon, 1905
 Mrs. Lida R. W. Waterhouse, 1906, '07
 Mrs. Mabel M. Davenport, 1909
 Mrs. Minnie D. Edmunds, 1910, '11
 Mrs. Hattie L. Benjamin, 1912
 Mrs. Fanny R. Corbett, 1913
 Mrs. Mabel B. Reed, 1914
 Mrs. Mabelle E. Miller, 1915
 Mrs. Nina C. Hall, 1916, '17
 Mrs. Louisa M. Jones, 1918
 Mrs. Sue T. Pratt, 1919, '20
 Mrs. Grace E. Wake, 1921, '22
 Mr. C. E. Sheldon, 1893, '94, '95
 Mr. I. H. Russell, 1896, '97
 Dr. G. D. Marsh, 1898, 1900
 Mr. J. L. Thayer, 1899, 1901, '02, '04, '10, '11
 Mr. F. R. Dutton, 1903, '04
 Dr. C. H. Waterhouse, 1906, '07
 Mr. S. S. Travis, 1905, '06
 Mr. W. W. Benjamin, 1908, '09
 Mr. E. O. Buss, 1912, '13
 Mr. P. F. Marshall, 1914
 Mr. David H. Stanton, 1915, '16
 Mr. Herbert E. Perkins, 1917
 Mr. James G. Pratt, 1918, '19, '20

Acacia Chapter has been greatly honored in the Grand Chapter, having had as Grand Officers: Mrs. Julia H. Thayer, Grand Matron, 1911-'12, and Grand Trustee, 1915-'17; Joshua L. Thayer, Grand Patron, 1904-'05; Seward S. Travis, a Past Patron of Acacia Chapter, now a member of Sterling Chapter, No. 216, Grand Patron, 1921; Mrs. Harriet S. Marsh, District Deputy Grand Matron, 1895-'96-'98; Mrs. Julia H. Thayer, District Deputy Grand Matron, 1902; G. D. Marsh, Assistant Grand Lecturer, 1898; J. L. Thayer, Assistant Grand Lecturer, 1901; H. E. Perkins, Assistant Grand Lecturer, 1919; J. G. Pratt, Assistant Grand Lecturer, 1921; Mrs. Sarah E. Newell, Grand Representative, 1904-'06; Mrs. Nina C. Hall, Grand Representative, 1919-'22.

The Chapter has one hundred forty-four members, a large number being located in different parts of the country and Canal Zone, and has now for its officers:

Worthy Matron, Mrs. Ethel H. Phear
Worthy Patron, William H. Phear, Jr.
Associate Matron, Mrs. Nan C. Stanton
Treasurer, Mrs. Mabelle E. Miller
Secretary, Mrs. Nina C. Hall
Conductress, Mrs. Nettie S. Legters
Associate Conductress, Mrs. Ethel S. Erickson
Chaplain, Mrs. Mary B. Buss
Marshal, Mrs. Grace E. Wake
Historian, Mrs. Sue T. Pratt
Organist, Mrs. Clara A. Homewood
Color Bearer, Miss Alice Legters
Adah, Mrs. Nellie G. Dressler
Ruth, Mrs. Elgie B. Russell
Esther, Mrs. Mabel B. Reed
Martha, Miss Flora R. Edmunds
Electa, Mrs. Ida J. Wallace
Warder, Mrs. Clara S. Fawcett
Sentinel, William H. Phear, Sr.
Trustees, Mrs. Allie J. Imbery
 Mrs. Lida W. Waterhouse
 I. O. Ottaway

The Grand Army of the Republic

The first G. A. R. post was instituted in Sherman, October 16th, 1867. It was named Sheldon Post No. 40, with W. E. Thorp, Post Commander. In 1868, A. W. Benson was Commander; W. E. Thorp, Adjutant. Other members were B. D. Southworth, W. C. Glazier, W. R. Pelton and J. C. Page. It is stated that this Post had forty members, but aside from those given above, their names are not known as all have probably answered the last roll call. In 1871, the charter was surrendered, but the reason for this action is not known.

SHELDON POST, NO. 295

This Post was organized in October, 1882, with Benjamin J. Coffin, Commander. Since its organization there have been sixty-one members enrolled. In 1911, the following veterans lived in Sherman: Luman Clark, A. B. Smith, Abram Wallace, J. T. Leonard, J. C. Page, Jason McCray, Abram Clute, John Smith, William Robbins, Frank Dutton, Hiram Marshall, W. H. Hubbard, D. H. Stebbins, Charles Peck, Henry Mina, Charles Greeley, Wm. S. Phelps, Peter Casler, Tyler Dewey, Albert Adams, Wilbur Peck, D. C. Robbins, Darius Ketchum, C. W. Fowler, Levi Gates, H. A. Reynolds and A. J. Vidal. Of these only seven are now living: Abram Wallace, Jason McCray, Henry Mina, Charles Greeley, Peter Casler, Albert Adams and H. A. Reynolds.

The present officers of the Post are: Abram Wallace, Commander; C. W. Greeley, Quartermaster; Jason McCray, Adjutant.

THE WOMAN'S RELIEF CORPS

Sheldon Corps No. 17, of the department of New York and auxiliary to Sheldon Post G. A. R., 295, Sherman, N. Y., was instituted April 28th, 1894, at Columbia Hall on West Main Street. Miss Ella Stearns, past president of James M. Brown Corps of Jamestown, N. Y., was the instituting officer. At this meeting seventeen members were obligated as charter members and these officers were installed at this meeting: President, Mrs. Elizabeth G. Coffin; Sen. Vice Pres., Mrs. Adell Reynolds; Jun. Vice Pres., Mrs. Martha C. Tillotson; Sec. Mrs. Kate M. Page; Treas., Mrs. Eliza H. Overton; Chaplain, Mrs. Rosalia D. Bly; Con., Mrs. Lovinia S. Robbins; Guard, Miss Jane Skinner; Ass't. Con., Mrs. Nancy J. Bloomer; Ass't. Guard, Mrs. Effie P. Myrick. The other charter members were: Miss Myrth Reynolds, Miss Ada Robbins, Mrs. Rebecca Peck, Mrs. Minnie Reynolds, Mrs. Ellen Lull, Miss Bessie Coffin, Mrs. Ada Sperry. The charter members who are in the corps at the present are: Mrs. K. M. Page, Mrs. Effie Myrick, Mrs. Adella Reynolds and Mrs. Martha C. Tillotson.

Since its organization, thirty-two members of the Corps have passed away, leaving twenty-one now living. The present officers are: Mrs. Emily Douglass, president; Mrs. Addie Coffin, senior vice pres.; Mrs. Kate M. Page, junior vice pres.; Mrs. Emily M. Sheldon, secretary; Mrs. Sylvania Wallace, treasurer; Mrs. Emma Greeley, chaplain; Mrs. Adell Reynolds, conductress; Mrs. Mary Wallace, guard; Mrs. Effie Myrick, ass't. guard.

THE HOME MISSION SOCIETY

This society was organized November 1st, 1876. The first officers are not known, but at the annual meeting in 1877, the following were elected: President, Mrs. B. J. Coffin; Vice-President, Mrs. S. D.

Adams; Secretary. Mrs. Edmund Jennings; Treasurer, Mrs. Frank Thayer.

The society has never had large financial resources, mostly received from the collections at the yearly Thanksgiving services. The greater part of its work has been sewing for sick or needy families, and the furnishing of new and second hand clothing for the same. During its existence of nearly fifty years, the society has rendered many hundreds of dollars worth of help, although Sherman has never had a large number of needy poor. The present officers are: Mrs. C. H. Waterhouse, president; Mrs. F. L. Morris, Vice-President; Mrs. A. R. Sears, Secretary; Mrs. C. E. Sheldon, Treasurer; Mrs. F. L. Cornish, Mrs. A. H. Fraser, Mrs. E. J. Bellinger, Mrs. Clara A. Homewood, Directors.

HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

The first class graduated from the Sherman School, that of 1878, organized with the following officers: President, Isaac J. Huntley; Secretary, Clara A. Sperry; Treasurer, Mabel Adams; Committee of Arrangements, Eva R. Ames, Mabel Adams, Orinda Relf.

As there was no graduating class in 1879, and some of the members of the class of '78 were gone, there was no meeting the next year. So far as can be learned, there was no meeting of the Alumni until 1889. The graduating class of that year gave a banquet, inviting all Alumni, the Board of Education and other guests. There were seventy-three present, twenty-six of the number being graduates. There was a fine program of toasts and music and it was so much enjoyed that a new Association was formed and officers elected. This was the beginning of the Alumni reunions and banquets, which have been held nearly every year since that time.

THE EAST SIDE CLUB

The East Side Club of Sherman, New York, was organized in the fall of 1890, with the following members: Mesdames J. G. Bly, N. A. M. Day, C. E. Cobb, W. H. Freeman, F. W. Edmunds, E. C. Monroe, W. H. Phear and W. B. Whitney. After organization, the Club took up C. L. S. C. work which was continued for four years.

In 1869 through the influence of Miss Avery, then connected with the Stoll Library Department, the club was registered with the department at Albany, and secured its first traveling library. Several years were taken up with the study of American and English Literature.

In 1901, following Miss Avery's suggestion, the East Side began the study of the History of Art, little dreaming this line of work would prove so fascinating that the next ten years of club study would be devoted to it. Five years of absorbing interest were given

to Italian Art and Artists. These years were so full of profit that the members were reluctant to leave the subject of art and decided to continue the study devoting a year each to Spanish and French, Dutch and Flemish, and English Art. The present year will be given over to American Art and Artists.

Having in mind that children whose tastes are rightly directed unconsciously become lovers of beauty, and believing that the best place to inculcate a love for the beautiful is in the school room, the East Side Club in 1905, became interested in placing pictures of merit in the Sherman High School. Two pictures were rented from the State Department at Albany for the school year. The following year more pictures were secured through the assistance of the Minerva Club. The next year the East Side alone took up the work which was continued until 1910, when the High School itself was able to place several pictures of value on its own walls.

The following ladies have also at some period of its organization been members of the club: Mesdames G. W. Strong, Burdette Johnson, Lowell Brown, James Rice, F. W. Plato, T. J. Miles, C. A. Ellis, L. R. Dewey, R. L. Foulke, F. L. Greene, Leon Bligh, W. S. Phelps and A. B. Sheldon.

At this time the East Side Study Club has been continuous for thirty-three years. The personel has changed so much, it is no longer known as "The East Side Study Club" but as the "Current Events Club". Meetings are held each Tuesday evening.

The present members are: Mrs. J. G. Bly, Mrs. W. H. Phear, Mrs. Clara Homewood, Mrs. Ella Skinner, Mrs. Leon Bligh, Mrs. E. E. Moran, Miss Alice Dunbar and Mrs. E. J. Bellinger.

Three loved members have passed away within the last five years, viz., Mrs. N. A. M. Day, Jette M. Phelps and Mrs. A. B. Sheldon.

This Club has a fine record for good work.

SHERMAN REVIEW, NO. 183, L. O. T. M.

The Ladies of the Maccabees were organized in October, 1894, by Mrs. Leota F. Becker. The ladies present at the first meeting were: Mesdames, Rebecca Peck, Mary Strong, Ella Bell, Sarah Newell, Marcia Dewey, Hattie Howe, Mary Brewer.

The following have been Lady Commanders of this organization: Mesdames, Rebecca Peck, Florry Ellis, Viola Brown, Sarah Newell, Mary Phear, Sabra Willing, Rose Benjamin, Hattie Howe, Sarah Taggart, Anna Wilcox, Effie Myrick (two terms), Rose Davis, Francelia Reynolds, Mary Webber, Joseph Erickson (two terms).

The following are the present officers of the Order: Josephine Erickson, Lady Commander; Ada Barnhart, Lieut. Commander; Effie Myrick, Past Commander; Edah Himes, Collector; Anna Gibbs, Record Keeper; Ettie Wood, Chaplain; Bennie Frasier, Lady-at-Arms;

Velma Blakesley, Sergeant; Ettie Casler, Sentinel; Anna Coveney, Picket; Jessie Gifford, Musician; Cora Buckley, Captain of Guards; Anna Manison, Color Bearer No. 1; Frances Coon, Color Bearer No. 2; Bernice Fowler, Ensign No. 1; Susie Park, Ensign No. 2; Mildred Tallman, Platoon No. 1; Florence Morse, Platoon No. 2. There are forty-nine members at the present time.

THE CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY FARMERS' MILK PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION

This body with the long name was incorporated in May, 1916, with the following directors: William B. Enos, John P. Hall. Herbert D. Buss. The authorized stock was \$25,000, divided into shares of \$5.00 each, and is still owned largely by the dairymen in this vicinity.

The cement block chair factory building was bought and fitted up to ship milk to Philadelphia, and a large number of the dairymen, being stockholders, sent their milk there. This business did not prove a success as it took so much time to get the milk to the consumers, and the shipping of milk was abandoned, and a contract made with the Mohawk Company to take the milk. The Company purchased the large chair factory building later, and both are used in connection with the grist mill, feed and fertilizer business which the Association now carries on. The present officers are: S. T. Sternberg, President; Leon Buss, Secretary; Fred Newell, Treasurer and General Manager.

OLIVE LODGE, NO. 575, F. & A. M.

In 1864, a few of the prominent residents of Sherman, French Creek, and Mina, who had recently become members of Summit Lodge of Westfield, petitioned the Grand Lodge of the State of New York for a charter to organize a Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons to be known as Olive Lodge. The application was not acted upon till early in 1865, at which time a Dispensation was received authorizing Lyman S. Harrington, as Worshipful Master; Sheldon B. Miller, as Senior Warden, and Sylvenus H. Myrick, as Junior Warden, to proceed with the organization of such lodge.

On March 1, 1865, by summons of the W. M., the first meeting was held. The place of meeting was on the second floor of a two-story frame building owned by John T. Green, and situated on the north side of Main Street, in the location where Myrick's drug store is situated. Those present at this meeting were: Lyman S. Harrington, W. M.; Sheldon B. Miller, S. W.; Sylvenus H. Myrick, J. W.; Delevan Adams. Lewis T. Harrington, James M. Coveney, and Thomas R. Coveney. The only business transacted at the meeting was the reading of the Dispensation from the Grand Lodge with the by-laws of Summit Lodge, which it was proposed to adopt with some alterations.



South Side of Main Street Looking West

At the next meeting, held March 8, 1865, the by-laws were adopted. S. Delevan Adams was appointed S. D.; Lewis T. Harrington, J. D.; Thomas R. Coveney, Sec.; Lyman S. Harrington, Treas., and Alfred Thorp, Tiler. There were presented at this meeting the petitions of Elmore Myrick, Phineas S. Page, William H. Keeler, and Fernando C. Lewis to become members of the Lodge. At the next meeting, which was held on March 22, 1865, William H. Keeler, Elmore Myrick and Fernando C. Lewis received their first degree in Masonry, and the petition of Frederick L. Dutton for membership was presented. One week later, Phineas S. Page received his first degree and petitions were received from Chester P. Holdridge, Horace N. Grover, John Beeman, Franklin Fox and Benjamin J. Coffin. On the 19th of April, following, Fernando C. Lewis was raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason, being the first member of Olive Lodge to receive all three degrees. The next brother to receive his third degree was Elmore Myrick. Then followed William H. Keeler and Frederick L. Dutton.

During this time the Lodge was designated "Olive Lodge, U. D.", and it was not until July 6, 1865, that the Charter from the Grand Lodge was actually received. The Charter was signed by Robert D. Holmes, Grand Master, and James Austin, Grand Secretary. There was no meeting held after the receipt of the Charter till December 6, 1865, at which time the first election of officers occurred. The same officers who had been acting under the Dispensation were elected, except that William H. Keeler was elected Treasurer and James Coveney and Elmore Myrick, Senior and Junior Masters of Ceremonies. Two days later, on the 8th day of December, these officers were regularly installed by Past Master G. A. Hall of Summit Lodge, and at the same time Olive Lodge, No. 575, was solemnly consecrated and dedicated in due form, with the following Charter Members: Lyman S. Harrington, Sheldon B. Miller, Sylvenus H. Myrick, S. Delevan Adams, James A. Merry, Samuel Little, Lewis T. Harrington, Thomas R. Coveney, William E. Thorp, Alfred Thorp and James M. Coveney, and with the following members received under the Dispensation: Fernando C. Lewis, Elmore Myrick, William H. Keeler and Frederick L. Dutton.

At this meeting there were present a large number of visiting brothers from Summit Lodge and from Columbus Lodge. By request of Lyman S. Harrington, W. M., the officers of Summit Lodge took the chairs and conferred the third degree on Brothers Phineas S. Page, Chester P. Holdridge and Horace N. Grover. The next regular communication was held on the 13th of December, at which time Brothers John Beeman and Franklin Fox received their first degree and Brother Benjamin J. Coffin his second degree.

During its fifty-seven years of existence, there have been received into the membership of Olive Lodge, either by initiation or affiliation, including the Charter Members, 397 Master Masons. Of this number, many were either filling at the time or have since risen to places of honor and distinction in the various walks of life. None, from the

viewpoint of Masonry, has been so highly honored as our deceased Brother, Charles W. Mead, who became Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of the State of New York, and in this connection, we should also mention our esteemed Brother, Joshua L. Thayer, formerly District Deputy Grand Master of the Fortieth Masonic District and Most Worthy Grand Patron of the Order of the Eastern Star.

Those of our number who served in the World War were: Rollin T. Brewer, Clarence E. Beach, Guy L. Granger, Willis Meabon, George E. Miller, Howard H. Strong, Willis F. Stevens, John Hubert Wild, Grant S. Norton, Henry V. Aldrich, Park E. Young, Devillo Babcock, W. H. Phear, Jr., B. F. Scudder, L. H. Legters, G. D. Edmunds, C. C. Cornwell, R. L. Pelton, G. D. Gibbs, D. F. Swartz, R. B. Watt, N. I. Brookmire, G. P. Bates. The only one of this honored number to make the supreme sacrifice was Brother Grant S. Norton, who was with the Lost Battalion in the Argonne Forest.

Since its formation, thirty-four Brothers have served this Lodge as Masters. The present membership is 176. The officers are: William H. Phear, Jr., W. M.; Lyman H. Legters, S. W.; N. Ivan Brookmire, J. W.; I. O. Ottaway, Treasurer; James G. Pratt, Secretary; Willis R. Doering, Chaplain; Herbert H. Corbett, Marshal; Frank A. Erickson, S. D.; Jay F. Phear, J. D.; Devillo M. Babcock, S. M. C.; George D. Edmunds, J. M. C.; Edward I. Moore, Tiler; H. H. Corbett, F. W. Miller, and David H. Stanton, Trustees.

Olive Lodge has always maintained a high standard of excellence in its work and under the efficient administration of its present officers that standard is still being very highly maintained.

THE UNION SEPULCHRAL SOCIETY

The Union Sepulchral Society, of Sherman and Chautauqua, was organized on the Fourth of February, 1836. On the first of July, 1836, Alanson Weed and Polly, his wife, conveyed by deed to the trustees of the Society 98 rods of land for cemeterial purposes, the said land having been measured and designated previous to the execution of said deed, and a few graves opened thereon.

In 1848, the population of Sherman and vicinity having greatly increased, and the cemetery becoming too small for the accommodation of all the inhabitants, who found it necessary properly to inter their dead, a public meeting was called to devise means of enlarging the grounds of the cemetery. At this meeting a reorganization of the Society was effected, and lands lying west and south of the old grounds and adjoining were procured of Lester Dewey for the purpose of enlargement. On April 8th, 1848, Lester R. Dewey and Fanny, his wife, conveyed said lands to the trustees of said Society for cemeterial purposes, amounting to 123 5-10 rods of land. The whole was by the Society duly enclosed by a substantial fence, and surveyed into lots of suitable size by Ava Hart, surveyor. The price of individual lots was fixed at two dollars. In 1860, the lots in said cemetery were mostly sold and graves had been opened and closed on nearly all of them. Feeling that an enlargement of the grounds would soon become necessary, Hiram N. Gleason, at this time president of the Board of Trustees, purchased from Lester R. Dewey for the use of said Society, for one hundred dollars, two and eighty-four hundredths acres of land. Said purchase was immediately accepted by the Board of Trustees, and said land was on the 8th of November, 1860, duly conveyed to the Society for cemeterial purposes. In 1861, this last purchase was surveyed and plotted by Enoch Sperry, with lots, avenues, terraces and carriage ways.

On the 8th of November, 1861, Joseph Skinner and Lydia, his wife, conveyed by deed to the Society a tract of land eight feet in width by eight chains seventy-two links in length along the north bounds of the Society's grounds, for the purpose of a carriage way, west from the northeast corner of the cemetery.

The price of the land last purchased of L. R. Dewey was paid for by a subscription from the inhabitants of the vicinity, who cheerfully and immediately bestowed a sum sufficient for that purpose and for the erection of a fence and gates.

On the 3rd of March, 1862, the following resolution passed by unanimous vote at the annual meeting of the Society, and is one of the By-Laws: "There shall be a book of record provided for the use of the sexton, in which shall be inscribed, so far as can be ascer-

tained, the name, age, and date of interment of each individual heretofore interred in this cemetery, and from this time forth it shall be the duty of the sexton to enter, without further compensation than is allowed for attendance at interments, the name and age of each and every person interred in this cemetery, the date of such interment, the last place of residence and the number of the lot upon which is the grave of said deceased. The said record shall be the property of the trustees, and shall be at all times subject to their inspection, individually or collectively.

March 10, 1862.

H. W. GLEASON, Pres.
ENOCH SPERRY, Sec."

The foregoing account is taken from the old record book in possession of the Society. Numerous additions to the cemetery grounds have been made from time to time, the property transferred having been in nearly every instance purchased of L. R. Dewey.

In January, 1923, a meeting of the lot owners of the Union Sepulchral Society was held and at that meeting it was deemed advisable to incorporate the Society in order to place it on a firmer basis and to facilitate needed improvements and records. At this meeting it was decided to incorporate the Society and the following lot owners were duly selected to incorporate said cemetery, to-wit: Charles E. Sheldon, Jay F. Phear and William Raspas. On April 9, 1923, the papers were duly ratified and acknowledgement of incorporation received from the Secretary of State. The directors at present are as follows: E. O. Buss, F. L. Cornish, Freeman L. Morris, Jay F. Phear, F. W. Miller and H. H. Corbett; and the officers: E. O. Buss, president and superintendent; H. H. Corbett, secretary, and Jay F. Phear, treasurer.

The Society as now organized and incorporated, is on a more substantial basis than ever before in its history and its perpetuation and advancement is assured. The Society has been greatly aided in the last few years by the Ladies' Auxiliary, to whose efforts for the improvement of the grounds and the building of a cement walk to the cemetery, a much needed work, we wish to give full credit.

H. H. CORBETT, Secretary

WOMAN'S AUXILIARY OF THE SHERMAN CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

The Maccabees at a meeting in May, 1921, discussed the conditions of the cemetery and pledged a fund and their help to improve it. At a meeting of ladies called June 14th, 1921, definite plans were perfected for actual work. Membership dues in the Auxiliary were fifty cents. The officers were: President, Mrs. Nellie Donaldson; Recording Secretary, Mrs. Florence G. Bligh; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Lida W. Waterhouse; Treasurer, Mrs. Anna F. Manison.

A collection was taken at each meeting; baked goods and fancy work sales; street lunches and election dinner were held to raise funds for the work. Lot owners, organizations and individuals contributed liberally, and Sections I and VI were so improved that everyone became interested.

A walk from the railroad tracks to the cemetery was greatly needed; a committee with Mrs. Florence G. Bligh was appointed and funds to the amount of \$850 raised; and two hundred eighty-two blocks of cement walk were laid, each costing \$2.50. Of this amount \$130 was contributed by out of town people, and \$720 by home organizations and individuals. In all, more than one thousand dollars has been raised by this organization for the improvement of the cemetery.

The work expanded and at the suggestion of the President of the Auxiliary, a meeting of the lot owners was called, which resulted in the incorporation of the Cemetery Association.



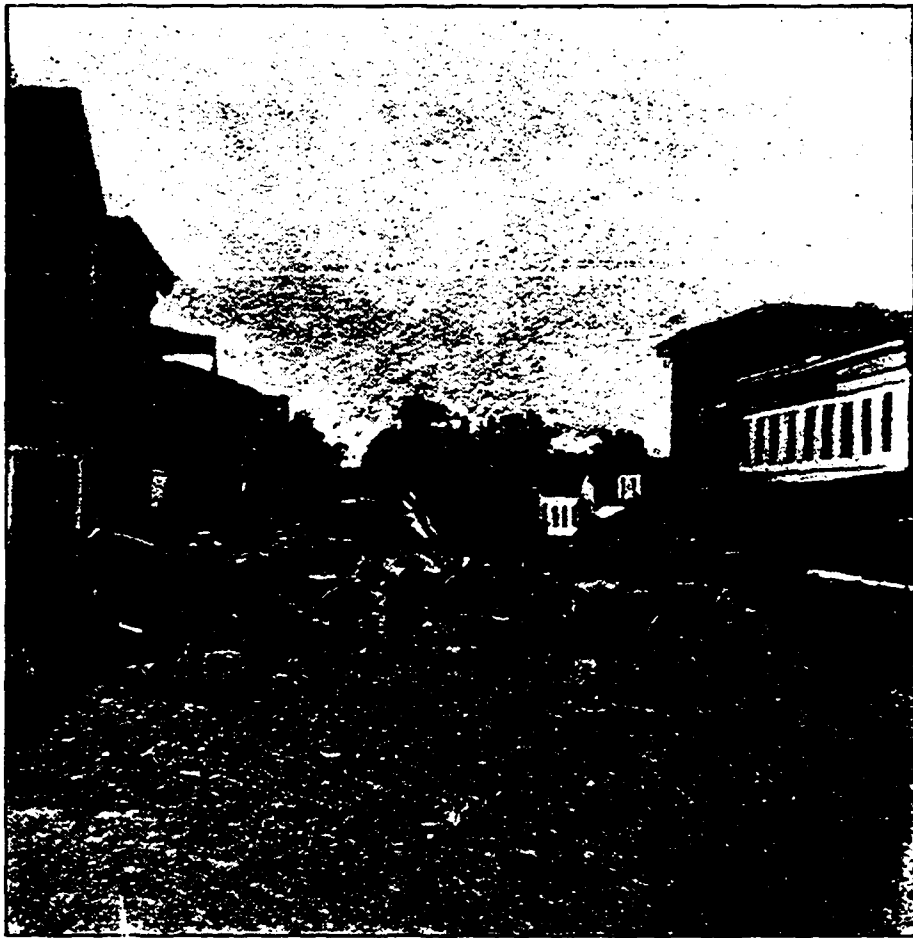
South Side of Main Street Before the Fire of 1890

SHERMAN FIRES

According to reports not fully verified, the first fire in a business place was in the early Fifties when the grocery store of Charles Sperry, which stood on the southeast corner of Main and Franklin Streets, was burned.

In February, 1865, the tannery and shoe shop of Platt S. Osborn, the store of Lyman Hoag (some say Chester Bullock owned this store), the post office, Elmore Myrick, Postmaster, and the Town Clerk's office with all town records were burned. Whether these offices were in the store building or another one the record does not state.

November 5th, 1869, occurred the "Great Fire", which destroyed the entire north side of Main Street from Church to Miller Streets and some buildings on the latter. The fire started about one o'clock P. M., in the Sherman House, Ross & TerHaar, proprietors, and was probably first seen by John Voigt who was in a store in the south side of the street. The fire started from a chimney in the garret and soon spread to the whole building. The wind being in the west, with no fire protection except water brought in pails from the creek, the whole block was in ashes in a few hours. The buildings and owners are given in order, beginning at Church Street: Sherman House, Ross & TerHaar; C. C. Thompson, drug store and dwelling; there was a vacant lot between this and the Dunbar and Sheldon Grocery, but the fire soon jumped across, and the building and much of the contents were lost; another vacant lot was passed and the fine three story building of S. B. Miller, known as the Metropolitan Block, was soon in flames; Adams & Lombard, dry goods, occupied the first floor, P. J. Morris, meat market, the basement, Mrs. Mary P. Dutton, milliner, in second story, with Metropolitan Hall on the third floor; next was S. T. Hawley's building and clothing store; on the second floor were rooms occupied by M. L. Ford, and Good Templar Hall; next came the store of Coveney & Hart, dry goods, and in the second story was Miss Nettie Tousley's dressmaking shop; then came the building owned by J. T. Green and occupied by him as a dry goods store, second floor, Benson & VanDusen Law Office, and Masonic Hall; the next store, on the corner of Main and Franklin Streets was owned by Hawley & Myrick and occupied by them as a dry goods store. The last three buildings were connected and known as Trinity Block. In the rear of this was a blacksmith shop, wagon shop and dwelling owned by Bates & Southworth. Most of the contents of the east part of the burned section were saved, but many goods were burned in the streets after being taken out. The total loss was probably \$50,000 with an insurance of less than half that amount.



South Side Main Street About 1865

SECOND FIRE ON NORTH SIDE

In December, 1876, two brick blocks and the wooden building of C. C. Thompson, occupied by him as a dwelling and drug store, went up in flames. One of the brick blocks was owned by A. B. Sheldon and was occupied by C. E. Sheldon as a hardware store. Above was the dwelling of Mr. Spencer, proprietor of the dry goods store which was in the other brick block owned by H. Sheldon & Co. The Sherman Exchange was in the front room of the second story where the fire probably started, but the cause is unknown. In the rear was the dwelling of W. G. Martin. The fire occurred in the middle of the night. The three story block of Hart & Corbett on the east stopped the fire in that direction, and the hotel on the corner had not then been rebuilt since the fire of 1869. In time all the lots between Church and Miller Streets, which were burned in the fire of 1869 and three of them a second time in 1876, were occupied by brick buildings which have withstood the flames of two large fires on the south side, although some of them were considerably damaged.

“ANOTHER SCORCHER”

Such was the heading in the Chautauqua News recording the fire of July 14, 1890, when the whole south side of Main Street from Franklin Street to and including the blacksmith shop of C. J. Palmer on the west, as well as I. K. Stebbins' Gallery and Excelsior Hall on

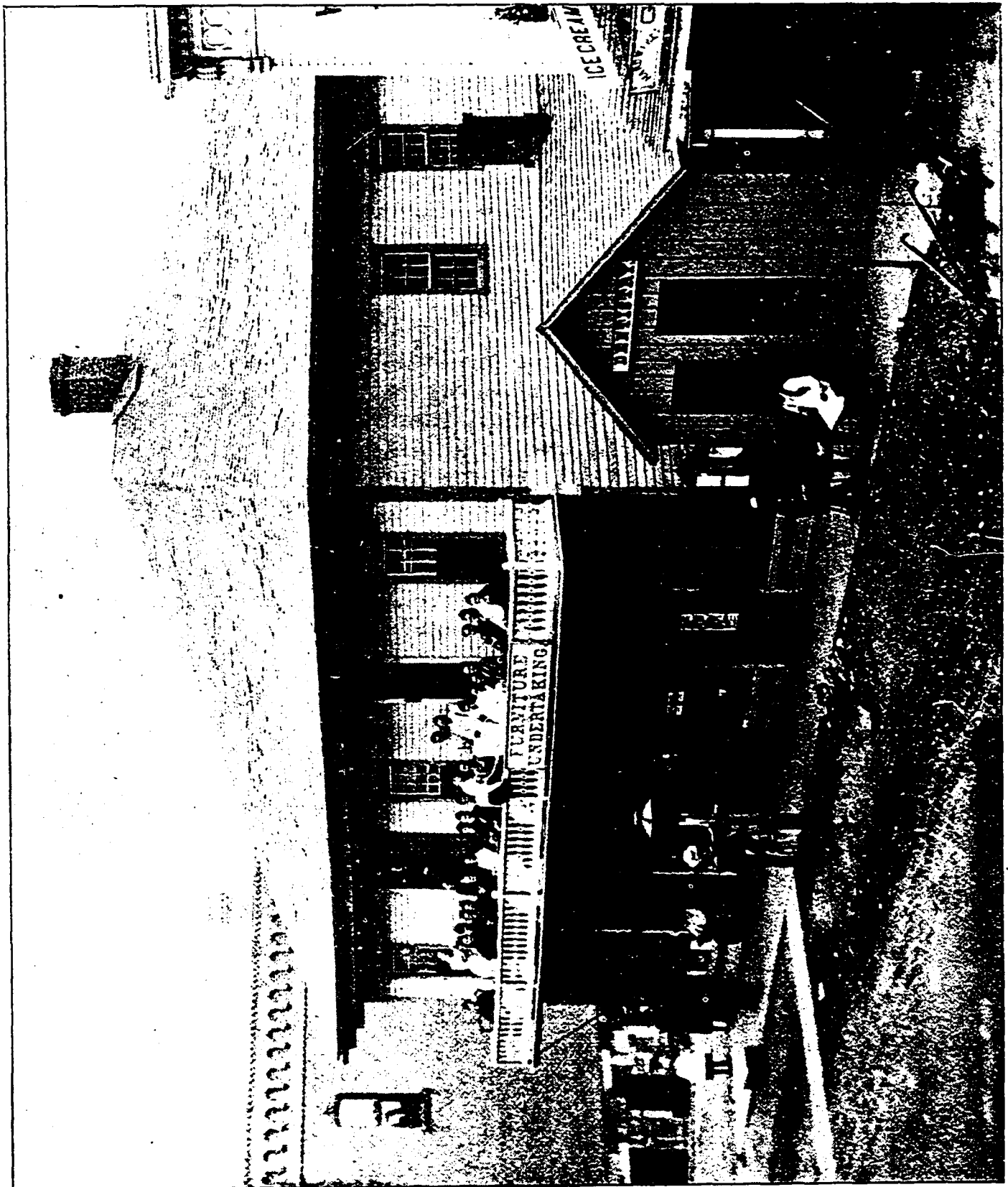
Franklin Street went down in smoke and ashes. The fire which broke out at four o'clock A. M., no doubt originated in a boys' club room in the second story of the Little building. The losers were: J. L. Thayer, Excelsior Hall; I. K. Stebbins, Photograph Gallery; Charles Hubbard, American Block; T. R. Coveney, postmaster, east half of American Block; A. J. Peck, clothing store in west half of American Block; Nichols & Ferguson, stationery and cigar stand; Mrs. E. Olin, dental office; G. W. Strong, hardware store; James VanTassel, residence over this store; Leonard & Reynolds grocery (this building and the one next to it, used for a barber shop, were owned by Lester Blair); W. H. Robertson, barber; C. C. Thompson, drug store and residence (his third fire in twenty-one years), the building owned by Horton & Dawson; B. J. Coffin, justice office on second floor; A. B. Sheldon building occupied by C. W. Fowler as a billiard room; G. J. Legters building and clothing. W. H. Robertson furniture upstairs; Samuel Little building, occupied below by Fire Company; Sherman Band and Club Room on second floor; Albert Dorman and Calvin Messenger, old hotel building, occupied by them as residences, and their barn in the rear; C. J. Palmer, blacksmith shop and dwelling above; John Bly, barn and contents. His house was saved after a hard fight. Every building on the north side of the street was damaged, and the loss on the Dean House was large, running into hundreds of dollars. The total loss by this fire was about \$40,000. A steam fire engine and forty men came up from Corry, arriving about 6:20 A. M. They turned the water on the ruins but the fire had reached its limits before they came.

SOUTH SIDE AGAIN BURNED

Shortly after midnight, January 2, 1895, fire broke out either in A. J. Peck's clothing store in the Ellis building, or the Advance office below, probably from a chimney in the basement. In an incredibly short time the buildings from Franklin Street west, to and including Enoch Sperry's hardware store, also I. K. Stebbins' building on Franklin Street, were in ruins.

The following were the principal losers: Charles Hubbard, building, household goods, insurance office, etc.; D. W. Adams, Post Office on first floor of Hubbard Block, boxes, fixtures and stamps; A. J. Peck, in west half of Hubbard Block, owned by F. A. Ellis, clothing stock; F. A. Ellis, store building; Advance Publishing Company in basement, printing material; E. V. Hetfield, law office and Sherman Millinery Co. (Misses Slotboom and Kniphuysen) on second floor, millinery goods; G. J. Legters, building and clothing stock; Dr. G. D. Marsh, store building; Enoch Sperry, store building; E. Sperry & Son, hardware stock; Newfon & Hemeline, barber shop; Sherman Grange, furniture and fixtures, second story of Legters Block; C. W. Fowler, billiard room; I. K. Stebbins, photograph gallery and dwelling on Franklin Street. Edwin Ripley and B. J. Coffin both had offices in the blocks burned and lost valuable papers and books.

The north side of Main Street also suffered severely from broken glass and scorched wood, and it was only by hard work that the flames did not cross the street. The principal losers on that side were the Dean House, A. B. Sheldon, State Bank of Sherman, T. J. Newell, Sherman Lodge I. O. O. F., Dr. James Murphy, Hart & Corbett, E. C. Green, J. T. Green, Green & Hart, Dr. Waterhouse, Edith Corbett, S. T. Hawley, S. D. Adams, J. L. Thayer, E. H. Bell. The total loss by this fire was probably above \$50,000.



The Old American Block, Burned 1890

SHERMAN NEWSPAPERS

THE WESTERN NEW YORKER

The first newspaper published in Sherman, was the Western New Yorker. Patrick McFarland and Amos Wheeler, editors and proprietors, the first number being dated April 28, 1853. Evidently it was not a financial success, for in the issue of January 26, 1854, the earliest in the possession of the writer, the following significant sentence stands at the head of the first column: "S. B. Miller, Assignee". January 13, 1854, Mr. Wheeler retired from the firm and a year or more later, the paper was sold to the Westfield Transcript. Thus Sherman's first newspaper venture was similar in some respects to several later attempts along the same line.

THE SHERMAN NEWS

B. D. Southworth issued the first number of the Sherman News, April 6, 1868, and was an active supporter of General Grant for President, against Horatio Seymour, the Democratic nominee in that campaign. Mr. Southworth was an able writer but rather inclined to be somewhat harsh with those who differed with him politically or otherwise. It is recalled that he once had the following item: "Dr. Olin purchased four quarts of apples last week". Later he had trouble with some business men over the Brewer-Bemus campaign and October 20, 1870, the paper was moved to Mayville and its name changed to the Chautauqua News.

WEEKLY RECORD

In 1872 the Weekly Record was started by James M. Bray. It should have been named the *Weakly* Record for it lasted only through the Grant-Greeley campaign and died with the early frosts of the late autumn of the year of its birth.

THE CHAUTAUQUA NEWS

March 22, 1876, E. W. Hoag from Youngsville, Pa., began the publication of the Chautauqua County News, which was soon changed to the Chautauqua News. The paper was printed at first on a hand press, two pages at a time. About a year later, Mr. Hoag purchased a cylinder press and a few months later added a small steam engine to the plant. December 12, 1879, the News and equipment was sold to C. E. Sheldon who continued its editor and publisher for nearly

39 years. For some time it was printed in the rooms over J. T. Green's store, but in 1889, it was moved to the Huntley block on the south side of Main Street. October 15, 1918, the subscription list and good will of the News, was sold to the Dorman Printing Company, who merged it with the Advance and have continued its publication to this time. The News is now in its 48th year, being one of the oldest if not the oldest business enterprise in Sherman.

THE SUNBEAM

Miss Nella Sheldon, when nine years of age, started the Sunbeam in February, 1883. It was a four-page, 6x9 monthly and had a circulation of several hundred, the subscription price being 25 cents per year. Notwithstanding the low price, it was quite a profitable venture for *her* as she set most of the type herself and the paper was printed at the News office without cost to her. The items of news were largely of doings of the children at that time and the bound volume of two years is very interesting at this time. In the last number dated February, 1885, the reason given for discontinuing its publication was the press of other work, especially her studies at school.

CHAUTAUQUA RURAL PRESS

May 1, 1886, appeared the first number of the Chautauqua Rural Press. H. F. Dorman, proprietor, and M. L. Dorman, editor and publisher. Only 51 numbers were issued when it too was placed in Sherman's newspaper cemetery.

THE ADVANCE

June 6, 1889, The Advance, prohibition organ of Chautauqua County, made its first appearance in Sherman. George Collier was the editor and F. A. Ellis, business manager. It had a large circulation and prospered until the plant was destroyed in the fire of January 2, 1895, and the Advance was given up in consequence.

THE SHERMAN CRESCENT

September 23, 1898, the Sherman Crescent made its first appearance in this place. Its editor was M. L. Dorman, and the Dorman Press, the publishers. It was a four-page, seven column paper, all home print and looked like a promising addition to Sherman newspaperdom, but December 23, of the same year, it joined the "great majority" after a fleeting existence of 14 weeks. The subscription price was only \$1.00 per year which might have had something to do with its early demise.

CHAUTAUQUA INDEPENDENT

For some years there was a lull in newspaper enterprises in Sherman and the News was without competition. But April 20, 1911, the Chautauqua Independent made its bow to the public. It was published by the Independent Publishing Co., at Jamestown, N. Y., M. S. and C. H. Newell, editors. Sherman, N. Y. It was an eight-page, six column paper and all home print at \$1.00 per year. It had a good circulation and a large advertising patronage, considerable of it being of business outside Sherman. The Independent continued for several years with varying success when the subscription list was sold to Sprague Brothers of Jamestown and in a few months its publication was discontinued.

THE SHERMAN ADVANCE

The Sherman Advance, M. L. and L. B. Dorman, editors and proprietors, was first issued October 6, 1916, and October 15, 1918, was merged with the Chautauqua News, which had been purchased of C. E. Sheldon by the publishers of the Advance.

Thus during a period of 63 years, ten papers started in Sherman, flourished more or less and all but one passed away. "only remembered by what they have done".

It is most unfortunate that complete files of all these papers were not saved, bound and in Minerva Library at this time. Much of historic value has been lost for lack of this, which can never be restored. It is hoped that all future publications here, will not fail to preserve files for the benefit of the future generations.



Old Time "Butter Day"

BUTTER vs. CHEESE

1861-1866

The great industry for the past century in Western New York, has been the production of milk, and it takes three times as much milk to make a pound of butter as it does cheese. At the beginning of the Civil War in 1861, with butter at twelve cents and cheese nearly half that price, farmers in all dairy sections put in money to build cheese factories, and in 1862, Mr. Coon built a factory on Hart Street, near the creek, and operated it for five years at a small profit to the producers. But before that time the war ended, and the difference in values was four to one in favor of butter, so the hundreds of cheese factories were closed and butter plants were soon built. Later on, these were superceded by condenseries and powdered milk factories. John Beeman made cheese two years at Mina Corners for Coon & Rundell, one year at Findley Lake, and then worked in the Sherman factory in 1866, that being the last year that it operated. In June, 1865, there was a flood which washed many of the hogs which were fed on whey at the factory, down stream, and some were drowned.

Cheese was valuable for our soldiers and price went up in 1863-4 to twelve cents, but two years later it fell to eight cents, and with

butter at thirty-five to fifty cents, the milk in most states went into butter plants. Henry and A. B. Sheldon bought the old factory for two hundred dollars, and made it into two barns.

The first settlers of the town soon found that dairying was one of the most profitable occupations as the climate was naturally adapted to the production of forage crops for the cow. The cows were milked through the pasturing season only. Butter was an article of barter at the stores. Soon it was found profitable to pack the summer's make of butter in tubs and firkins and hold until fall for a higher price. Gradually the butter buyer came to be an important person and butter day, the great day of the week.

About 1863, Ed Coon operated a cheese factory on Hart Street, near Main. This factory was in operation for several years. In 1865, a New York buyer paid 4c per lb. for the cheese.

Ira Marshall had the next milk factory, making both butter and cheese.

In 1878, Jay Williams built a cheese factory at Pleasant Valley.

The next one was built near the Swezey Schoolhouse, and operated by Fred W. Edmunds, who also managed the Pleasant Valley factory. This was the starting of the Edmunds combination of 22 factories.

In 1887, the milk netted the farmer at one time only 48c per cwt.

In 1885, it was thought that a higher price could be received by making the milk into butter and cream separators and churns were put in nearly all the factories and for several years a few carloads of creamery butter were shipped each week.

In 1910, the Powdered Milk Company of America, bought the creamery property and the milk was made into powdered milk.

The present milk condensery in Sherman was built in 1908 by the Mohawk Condensed Milk Company. It has offered a permanent market to the dairyman for his milk and has been an incentive to dairying on a greater scale. The surrounding country is especially suited to dairying, as compared with grain growing, and the possible profits are greater.

The dairyman receives returns for his milk every month, which enables him to base his expenses on a definite income from month to month.

The Sherman Condensery distributes an average of about \$40,000.00 per month to its patrons. The product, the famous "Sweet Clover" and "Red Cross" brands of sweetened condensed milk is shipped to various parts of the country and abroad, bringing in "New" money for distribution to patrons.

In August, 1911, the sum of \$20,000.00 was paid for milk.

A community boasting a substantial milk condensery is invariably a prosperous one and that is particularly true of Sherman.

A large addition to the Sherman plant is now under construction, which will considerably increase its capacity.

In May, 1921, the Mohawk Condensed Milk Company was merged with the Carnation Milk Products Company, but is operated under its original name.

HOTELS OF SHERMAN

The first hotel, or tavern, as it was then called, was kept by Jeremiah Fields in the building across the creek where James Wood now lives. It was probably about 1843, and he was there for six or seven years. It is said that Walter Strong also kept a hotel there, as he lived in the house for some time.

SOUTH SIDE HOTELS

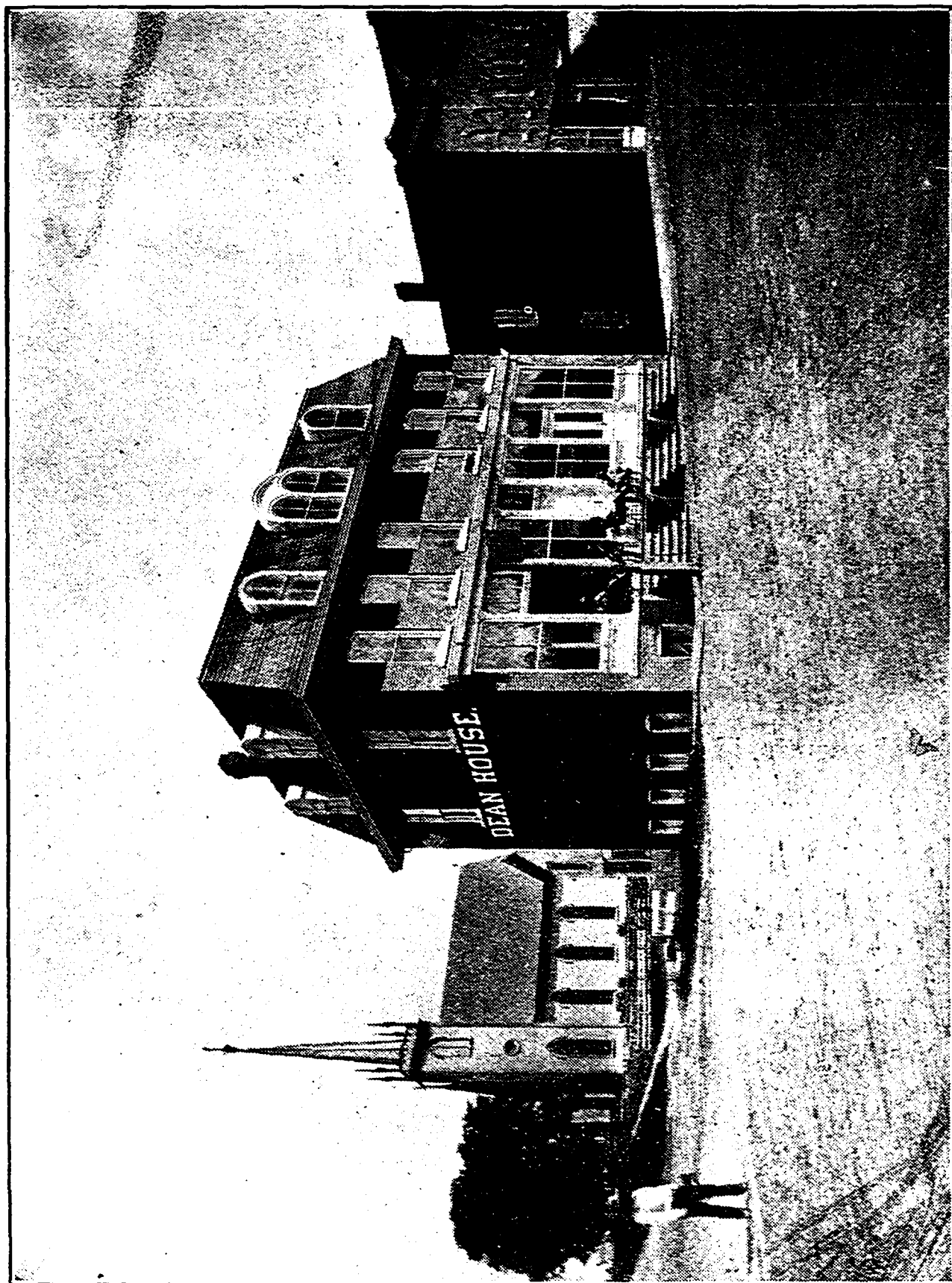
On the south side of Main Street on the site of the Corbett Furniture Store, a hotel was kept at various times, but not continuously. Among those who were in the business there were: Henry Dutton, C. W. Fowler, S. W. Bond, H. L. Roberts, Mr. Stanley.

At one time G. W. Price had a hotel in the Haynes building across the creek, with a livery and bus line in connection.

E. N. Myrick also had a hotel in the building now occupied by W. C. Straight as a news room and dwelling.

NORTH SIDE HOTEL

What is now the Sherman Hotel on the corner of Main and Church Streets, has been a permanent feature of Sherman's business for nearly ninety years, except for the time between the fire of 1869 and the building of the present brick structure in 1878. From the abstract of the title in possession of David Edwards, the present owner, we have taken the following records: Holland Land Company to Miller & Kipp, October 14, 1835; Miller & Kipp to James Barker, April 18, 1837. From the amounts named as consideration it seems quite certain that James Barker built the first hotel on this site. Following are the owners after Mr. Barker and the dates of their title:



Dean House in 1879

Walter Strong, April 5, 1844; Oliver Dutton, May 1, 1848; Miles J. Clark, June 20, 1857; Oliver Dutton, December 29, 1858; Nathan S. Harrington and L. Spencer Harrington, March 27, 1865; Frank Thayer and Charles O. Babbitt, April 18, 1866; N. S. and Lyman S. Harrington, March 31, 1866; Frank Thayer, August 1, 1866; Edmund Jennings and Dwight Dutton, December 30, 1867; Edmund Jennings, September 17, 1868; Derick TerHaar, March 10, 1869; Elihue Francis, July 2, 1869; Mortgage Sale to Alvah F. Jennings, January 11, 1870; Mary Frances Dean, November 13, 1876; Jennie J. Dean, January 1, 1878; Otto K. Dean and James D. Dean, November 25, 1882; Otto K. Dean, September 16, 1884; Allan J. Dean, April 12, 1886; Sanderson & Haynes, April 27, 1895; A. J. Graham, 1896; Henry C. Francis, June 11, 1907; W. B. Whitney, June 30, 1908; James Eggleston, December 12, 1910; Alonzo Meabon, September 1, 1914; Amos G. Abrams, October 11, 1918; William J. Bement, January 31, 1920; O. L. Dorman, October 2, 1920; David Edwards, September 19, 1921.

During these years the hotel was leased and kept by William Fowler in 1854; Mr. Shelmadine, about 1855; Dell Bliss in 1887.

Sherman Boys as Hotel Men

The large number of Sherman boys, who have won great success in the hotel business, seem worthy of notice in these pages. They include the following, and many of them started their careers in the Dean House of this place.

Henry C. Orr went to the Everett Hotel, Jamestown, which he operated very successfully for several years. He then went to the Arlington Hotel, Buffalo.

Charles Voigt went from the Dean House to Davenport, Neb., where he purchased a hotel which he still owns, and has been very prominent in the business.

J. Dell Dean left the Dean House and went to Wichita, Kan., as chief clerk of the Metropole Hotel; later, he became Manager of the Carey Hotel, Wichita. From Wichita, he went to the Goodlander Hotel, Fort Scott, Kan., the Stillwell Hotel, Pittsburgh, Kan., the Metropole Hotel, in St. Joseph, Mo., the Baltimore and Savoy Hotels in Kansas City, and the Connor Hotel of Joplin, Mo.

Allen J. Dean sold the Dean Hotel, Sherman, and went to Kansas City, where he became associated with J. Dell Dean in the operation of the several hotels of that city and also the one at Joplin, Mo. Mr. Dean was also associated with the dining car service of the Kansas City Southern Railroad.

Otto K. Dean followed his brothers to the southwest at a later date, and operated the Stillwell Hotel at Pittsburgh, Kan., most successfully.



North Side of Main Street Looking East, 1923

Elmore C. Green, known to everyone as "Morey" Green, started his career as a hotel man in the famous St. Charles Hotel, at New Orleans. Later, he became associated with H. M. Gerrans in the Iroquois Hotel, Buffalo. Mr. Green is now the very popular manager of the New Statler Hotel of Buffalo, the largest and finest hotel in that city. Mr. Green has also most successfully filled the position of President of the New York State Hotel Men's Association.

George Relf started his hotel career in the Hotel Athenaeum at Chautauqua; later, he joined Allen J. Dean in the operation of the hotels in Kansas City. He then went to the magnificent Utah Hotel at Salt Lake City as manager.

Harry Dutton for several years filled the arduous position as comptroller of the famous Knickerbocker Hotel of New York City.

Sam F. Dutton, after working in various capacities in the hotels about Chautauqua Lake, went to the Crescent Hotel, Eureka Springs, Arkansas, and later was associated with the Fred Harvey System of Eating Houses as Superintendent; in 1903, he went to Denver and took the Albany Hotel, which he still operates. Mr. Dutton for three years was the very popular President of the American Hotel Association.

Frank R. Dutton went to Denver in 1903 and was interested in the Albany Hotel with Sam F. Dutton; he also was President and General Manager of the Standish Hotel, Denver.

SOLDIER BOYS OF SHERMAN

CIVIL WAR

The first four volunteers who went out of Sherman at the beginning of the Civil War were: Ira Jay Sheldon, Dan Howard Sheldon, W. Elmer Thorp and Fernando C. Lewis. They went to Buffalo and enlisted in the 21st N. Y. Volunteers, early in 1861, but the date of leaving for the front is not known. Of these, Ira J. Sheldon was killed at the battle of Antietam, September 17th, 1862. His death is believed to have been the first of the Sherman boys in the Civil War. His father, Henry Sheldon, went after the body and the funeral in Sherman was largely attended. Dan Howard Sheldon, a cousin of Ira Jay, fell at the second battle of Bull Run, during the last days of August, 1862. His body was never found as the Union forces were obliged to leave the field and the dead were buried by the Confederates with nothing to mark their graves. In honor of these two, Sheldon Post, G. A. R., and Sheldon Corps, W. R. C., were named. Thorp and Lewis came home safely and lived for many years after.

These first enlistments were followed by many others, the 49th and 112th N. Y. Infantry and the 9th N. Y. Cavalry, being well represented from Sherman, besides a number in other regiments. We would be glad to give the names of all those who went from this town to help preserve the Union during those four years of fraternal strife, but it is impossible. Their names are inscribed on the Soldiers' monument in Sherman and on the official records of the State. Some future historian may be able to make them a part of the history of Sherman.

WAR WITH SPAIN

During the Spanish-American War in 1898-9, but few Sherman boys were in the Service. Charles E. Manison, a graduate of Sherman High School, enlisted September 25th, 1899, in the 42nd Regiment, U. S. Volunteers, and was sent to the Philippines. At the expiration of his time in 1901, he joined the Constabulary and remained in the Islands. He became a Captain in that organization, and on September 23rd, 1904, was drowned while on duty. His body was never brought home for burial. Merton Thompson was also in the Service in the Philippines, but returned in safety.

Sherman and the World War

Sherman made a great record during the World War, not only for the boys it gave to the Service, two of whom made the supreme sacrifice, but in its wonderful success in raising money for the Liberty and Victory Loans and in its donations to the Red Cross and other agencies for the needs of those in the Service.

The following facts have been collected by Mrs. Ethel H. Phear for this volume:

A patriotic meeting was held Sunday, April 8th, 1917, in the school auditorium to give the people an opportunity to express their loyalty to the government during this time when our country was at war. A patriotic program was prepared with the address by Rev. W. A. Thornton and resolutions of loyalty to our country were adopted.

On April 20th, J. G. Pratt and H. G. Clothier attended a meeting of District School Superintendents to receive instructions from the State Department of Education regarding the mobilization of school children for agricultural work.

The Home Defense Committee of Chautauqua County met in Westfield, April 26th. H. M. Keith was appointed to represent Sherman on the general committee for organization of patriotic committees.

Sherman's branch of the Red Cross was organized May 24th, with 229 members, with Mrs. Mabel Davenport, chairman. The speakers were Rev. F. J. Dressler, Rev. C. C. Cornwell and Rev. W. A. Thornton. The first meeting was held July 24th.

On May 29th, the Surgical Dressings Committee, which had been working quietly during the past year, reported that they had completed nearly two thousand pieces of surgical dressings for the French soldiers.

Early in June, at the call of their country, one hundred three of Sherman's young men registered for service with no word of protest. (For list, see Chautauqua News, June 12, 1917, in Minerva Library.)

On June 11th, I. O. Ottaway, Chairman of the Military Census of Sherman, instructed the following ladies, who were to do the work in Sherman: Mrs. C. H. Waterhouse, Mrs. Clara Homewood, Mrs. John P. Hall, Mrs. E. J. Bellinger, Mrs. Guy Granger, Mrs. Frank Newton, Mrs. Lura S. Andrews and Miss Ella Hart.

On July 20th, ten million men were drawn for service. Thirty men, whose postoffice address was Sherman, were among the number. (For names see Chautauqua News, July 24th, 1917, next draft list in August 14th, Chautauqua News). Another call for soldiers came

early in September, when nineteen more Sherman boys were summoned for examination. (For list, see Chautauqua News, September 18th).

September 29th, Sherman gave a great send-off to the Sherman boys leaving for Camp Dix. (For list see News, October 2nd).

During the last week in October, Sherman raised \$60,650 for Liberty Bonds. I. O. Ottaway was general chairman; Mrs. Bellinger, chairman of ladies' committee.

In the last week in November, the Men's Club of Sherman, raised in two days, \$2,500 for Y. M. C. A. work. The two teams, the Reds and the Blues, were captained by Rev. F. J. Dressler and I. O. Ottaway.

On December 25th, the Community Christmas offering was sent to the Armenian Relief Fund—the sum was \$148.72.

At a patriotic meeting Sunday, April 14th, 1918, the Community Service Flag was unfurled with appropriate exercises. The flag had thirty stars and one triangle.

In the Third Liberty Loan, with a quota of \$34,160, Sherman went over the top with a subscription of \$83,600.

Beginning May 19th and ending May 26th, there was a big drive for funds for the Red Cross. Sherman's quota was \$1,000 and \$3,800 was raised in five days.

During the last week in June, occurred the drive for the sale of War Savings Stamps, with Mr. Bates as chairman. Stamps sold to the amount of \$23,093.

The Fourth Liberty Loan Drive was launched about October 1st, 1918. Sherman's quota was \$68,320 and \$70,000 was subscribed in a few days and later the amount was raised to a total of \$76,700.

The United War Work Campaign began about the time of the signing of the Armistice. Sherman's quota was \$2,200 and the amount and more was raised in one day—total amount raised, \$2,700.

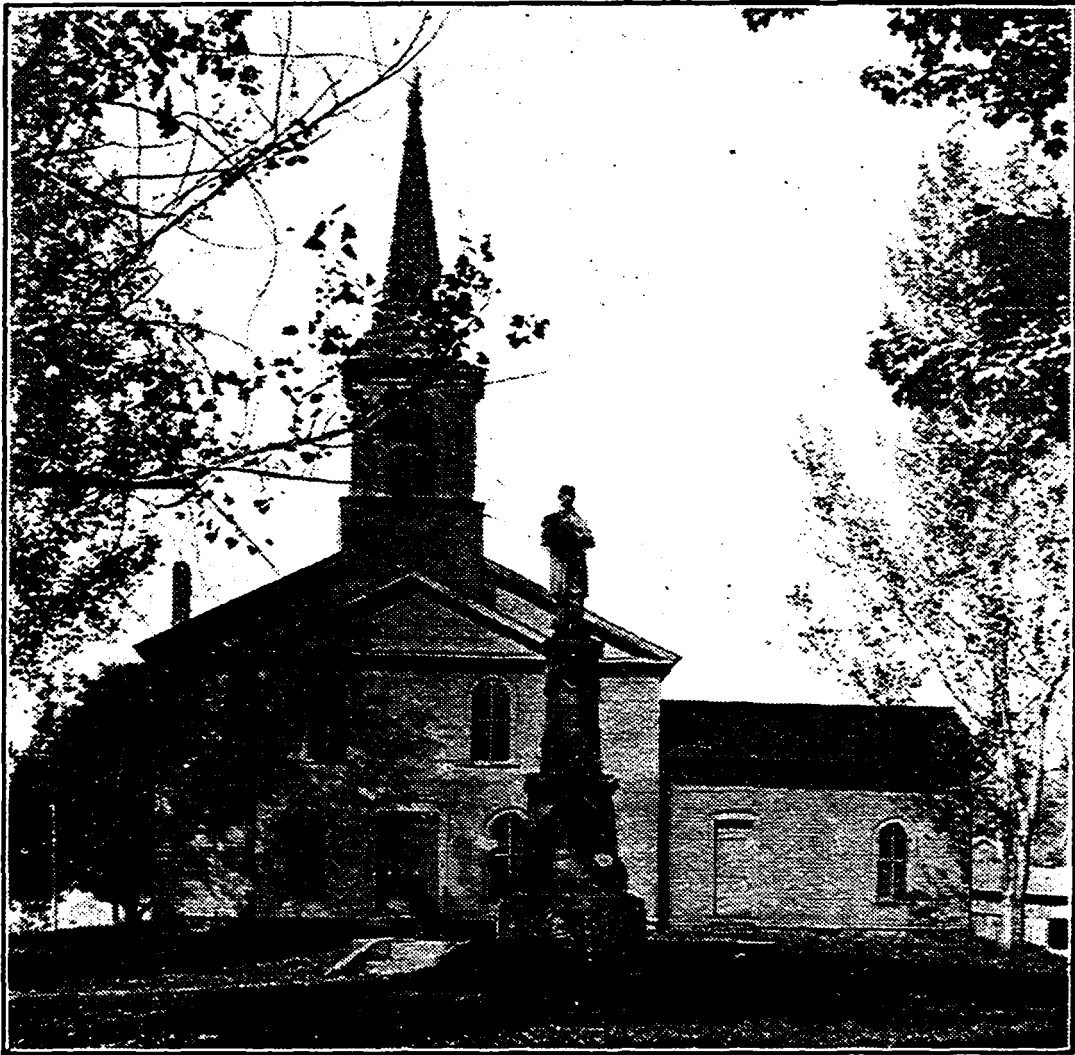
On Thursday, November 14th, news was received of the death of Corporal Grant S. Norton, killed in action on October 7th. Soon after this, word was received that Arthur Jones, a French Creek boy, but a graduate of Sherman High School, had also made the supreme sacrifice.

In 1919, Sherman's quota for the Victory Loan was \$51,200, which the State Bank of Sherman assumed and bonds to the amount of \$54,350 were sold here.

THE WORLD WAR

The following names prepared by officials of Norton-Raspas Post, American Legion, is believed to be a correct list of Sherman people who were in the U. S. Service in the World War, and their rank and the organization, so far as possible:

Name	Rank	Organization
Deville Babcock	Sgt.	Ship Repair Unit 301 Q.M.C.
Lewis Baker		U. S. General Hospital No. 9
George Palmer Bates		Organization Park School, Unit No. 1. Q.M.C.
Edward Benson		Co. B. 108th Inf. 27th Div.
J. Arthur Bock		S. A. T. C.
N. Ivan Brookmire	Ensign	U.S.N.R.F., U.S.S. West Alcajon
Franklin Bushnell	2nd Lieut.	Troop E., 2nd Cavalry
Kenneth Cornwell		12th Aero Squadron
Calegero Disalvo		Bat.A. 307th F.A. 78 Div.
Forrest B. Edmunds	Sgt.	Bat.A. 307th F.A. 78 Div.
George Edmunds		S. A. T. C.
Guy Granger	Capt.	Ordinance Training Camp
George Gibbs		Co.C. 10th Bat. U.S. Guards
Edward Himes		Co. A. 332nd Garden Fire Co., Camp Mills. L. I.
Frederick Johnson		Bat. A., 307th F. A., 78 Div.
Fred Kelley		Co. B., 2nd Casual Bat. U.S.M.C.
Harry Kelley		
Lyman H. Legters		
Reuben Langworthy		
Willis Meabon	1st Sgt.	Bat. A., 307th F. A., 78 Div.
George Miller	2nd Lieut.	Motor Truck Co. 538. Motor Supply Train 426.
Ralph B. Moore		Bat. 8, Camp Jackson
John L. Moran		S. A. T. C.
L. A. Newberg	Cook	Co. 20. 153rd Depot Brigade
Howard Nopper	CPL.	5th Regt. Signal Corps, U. S. Marines
Grant S. Norton		Co. B. 308th Inf. 77 Div.
Ray L. Pelton	CPL.	Bat. D., 106th Inf., 27 Div.
William H. Phear, Jr.		Co. 83, Bat. 20, Syracuse, N. Y.
Frank Philbrick		
Orlando Philbrick		
Merle W. Raspas		Co. H. 309th Inf., 78 Div.
J. Lee Savage		Co. B. 108th Inf., 27 Div.
Downs Shaffer	Sgt.	39th Balloon Bat., Signal Ser.
Willis F. Stevens		Motor Truck Co. 424. Q. M. C.
Lewis Titus		303rd Squad Aviation Corps
Harold Walton		2nd Bat. L.F.A., J.A.R.D.
R. Bruce Watt	CPL.	Troop M. 15th U. S. Cavalry
J. Hubert Wild	CPL.	Co. D. 108th Inf., 27 Div.
Asa Wilcox		S. A. T. C.
Park Young		Co. D. 74th Engineers



Soldiers Monument and Memorial Hall

RED CROSS

Miss Laura E. Miller, U.S.A. Base Hospital No. 4 and Gen. Hospital No. 9, France.

Y. W. C. A.

Miss Frances Norton, War Secretary, Jamestown, New York

Y. M. C. A.

Clifford C. Cornwell, Secretary at Fort Hamilton, N. Y.

Of these, Grant S. Norton and Merle W. Raspas gave their lives while fighting bravely under the Stars and Stripes on the blood stained fields of France. The former fell October 7th, 1918, in the terrific fighting in the Argonne Forest, and his body was never recovered. In the same battle, Arthur C. Jones of French Creek, a graduate of Sherman High School, was also killed. Merle W. Raspas was struck in the side by a piece of shell October 16th, 1918, near Grand Pre, after going through the Argonne Forest, and died the next day. At first he was reported "missing", then "wounded", and later came the sad news of his death. He was buried "In Fland-

ers Fields where poppies grow", but in July, 1921, his body was brought home and buried with suitable honors in the Sherman Cemetery.

These two boys are believed to be the only ones from Sherman who paid the "Supreme Sacrifice" in the World War, and their names and memories will be forever honored, alike with those who fell in the Civil and Spanish-American wars.

In addition to the above names, the following were Sherman boys whose residence was elsewhere at the breaking out of the War. This list of course is not complete, but is as nearly so as it is possible to make it at this time.

Name	Rank	Organization
Wellington Bacon		Co. 12, 164th Depot Brigade
Glen C. Bliss		Co. 1, 52nd Pioneer Inf.
Howard H. Brewer	Sgt.	Co. B, 16th Regt. Ry Engineers
Rollin T. Brewer	CPL.	Meteo Div. U.S. Signal Corps
Henry S. Edmunds	Capt.	Adv. Medical Depot No. 1, Camp Infirmery
John Howe		Co. F, 303rd Ammunition Train
George R. Legters	Sgt.	Bat. B, 340th F. A. 89 Div.
Jay Marshall		
Howard H. Strong	Sgt.	Headquarters Co. 307th F. A., 78 Div.

Fred W. Poate served with high honor in the British Army.

NORTON-RASPAS POST

Norton-Raspas Post, No. 898, American Legion, was organized March 22, 1920, being the youngest society in town. It was named in honor of Grant S. Norton and Merle W. Raspas, the two Sherman boys who gave their lives in the "Great War". The first Commander was J. Hubert Wilde, and the Vice-Commander, Park E. Young. There are at present 29 members, with the following officers: Forrest B. Edmunds, Commander; Lyman H. Legters, First Vice-Commander; Devillo M. Babcock, Second Vice-Commander; Lewis F. Baker, Adjutant; Ludwig A. Newberg, Finance Officer.

SCHOOLS OF SHERMAN

The first school in the limits of the present village of Sherman was taught by Otis Skinner in his own house, in the winter of 1828-9. It is also quite certain that Lydia Tanner taught a term during the summer of 1829 or 1830, in a log house with a bark roof, near where F. L. Cornish now lives. (One account says this hut was across the street near where S. K. Seager's house now stands, and that it was probably built for a trapper's cabin, as there was something of a cellar under it.)

The first building erected for school purposes in the town was near what is now Hemstreet's Corners. This, also, was built of logs and bark in 1826 or 1827. Simeon Park was probably the first teacher, followed by Sarah Park. It was burned in 1828 or 1829.

The present village school district, which has been enlarged since that time, erected a frame building in 1836 on the corner of Main and Kip Streets, now occupied by the residence of I. O. Ottaway. Besides being used for school purposes, several church societies held meetings there before their church buildings were erected.

In January, 1846, at a special school meeting, the district voted to build a new schoolhouse at a cost of \$400 and change the site to the lot on the corner of Church and Park Streets. The house was built in 1846, and is a part of the present residence of F. M. Conant. At this meeting William Williams was chairman and Elijah Miller, clerk. There were thirteen voters present and all voted for the new building on the new site. Later, fifty dollars more was voted for the work. The old schoolhouse was sold at auction to John P. Hall for twenty dollars and the money was used to buy a bookcase for the school.

In 1851-2, and perhaps longer, Amos Wheeler, who probably did more to advance the cause of education in Western New York than any other man before or since, taught several terms in this building. Even at this time, many old residents in this vicinity recall with pride that they were pupils of this noted teacher. Among the teachers who followed Mr. Wheeler were: Henry Bliss, who taught a term of four months in the winter of 1854-5, for \$120, and Sylvia R. Clark was assistant; Susan Morton, summer 1855; Edmund C. Hart, winter of 1855-6; Ellen M. Sargent, summer 1856, with ninety-two pupils; E. C. Hart, winter 1856-7, with one hundred fifteen names on the register and no assistant; two or more people have reported that S. Girard Nye taught one or more terms here in the Fifties, one fixing the date as 1855. There seems no doubt that he taught here but the date cannot be fixed. He afterwards studied law and went to California where he became prominent in his profession and in the civil affairs of the State.

Sylvia Clark is mentioned by some as Mr. Nye's assistant in 1854-5. David Osborn, a Miss Morton, V. A. Fenner and Jane Skinner were teachers in the old times, also, Cornelia Osborn (mentioned elsewhere) was said to have been especially successful as a primary teacher. Rebecca Scott and Lucy Ketchum taught in the summer of 1857; Henry M. Bennett and Nancy F. Durand, winter of 1857-8; Mr. Bennett and Nancy F. Durand, winter of 1857-8; Mr. Bennett and Martha E. Miller, summer of 1858; Mr. Bennett and Elizabeth Hart, winter of 1858-9; Mr. Bennett and Cynthia Osborn, summer of 1859, and winter of 1859-60; Cynthia Osborn and Adaline Sperry, fall of 1860. In this year several meetings were held to see about a new school house and it was finally voted to build an addition to the old one. This was done in the summer of 1861, at a cost of \$372. The teachers were Henry Bennett and Cynthia Osborn, winter 1860-1; Cynthia Osborn and Adaline Sperry, summer 1861; John Seymour and Helen S. Burnett, winter of 1861-2; Roxie O. Lazell and Mary Miller, summer of 1862; H. M. Bennett and Mrs. Kate M. Page, winter of 1862-3; Emily E. Bliss and Kate M. Page, summer of 1863; Edgar J. Pullman and Nettie (probably Cornelia) H. Osborn, winter of 1863-4; and Sarah M. Hall, summer of 1864. In 1866, the district was changed from District No. 12 to District No. 5, by order of Phin M. Miller, School Commissioner. November 28th, 1867, at a special school meet-



Sherman School House Erected in 1869

ing, the District voted to organize as a Union Free School, under the Laws of 1853, fifty-seven voting in favor and eighteen against.

The following teachers served between the years 1864 and 1867: Miss Helen Gibbs, Miss Cornelia Osborn, F. C. Lewis, Jettie Merchant, Sarah Chamberlain, V. A. Fenner, Alfred Dickson, Helen Donaldson, Miss Dutton.

The first Board of Education consisted of James Fenner, President; W. F. Green, Secretary; S. H. Myrick, S. D. Adams, J. T. Green, S. B. Miller, David Sheldon, B. J. Coffin, H. W. Sperry. The Board appointed John S. Dunbar, Treasurer and Moses Dutton, Collector. During the first two years of its existence, the Board hired five Principals, and voted that no one should be hired as a teacher who lived in the District. During the winter of 1868-9, many meetings of the voters were held to decide upon a site and a new building, and it was finally voted to expend \$8,000 for a new schoolhouse on the present site. It was built in 1869 and the school opened November 3rd of that year with Professor Haskell, Miss Jettie Merchant and Miss Mary Vincent, teachers.

In 1874, an Academic Department was organized and the school placed under the charge of the State Board of Regents.

In 1868, an addition to the house was built, giving four more rooms. In 1877, back stairs were built to the second story as a means of egress in case of fire.

The principals of the school since its organization as a Union Free School in 1867 were: C. W. Mead, winter of '67; Alice Gibbs, spring '68; Cyril Hannum, fall '68; Prof. Crosby, winter '68-9; Prof. Barnes, spring '69; Prof. Haskell, (first in the new building) 1869-70; Prof. Spencer, '70-1; Miss Clothier, '71-3; Prof. Brown, '73-6; J. H. Selden, '76-8; F. H. Hall, '78-80; Prof. Onthank, '80-4; A. N. Taylor, '84-89; I. H. Russell, '89-98; Prof. Wilson, '98-1900; S. S. Travis, 1900-6; J. F. Taylor, 1906-8; P. E. Marshall, 1908-9-10; M. J. Blanden, 1911-12-13-14; H. E. Perkins, 1915-16; Glenn C. Harris, 1917; W. G. Miller, 1918 to date, and is re-engaged for another year.

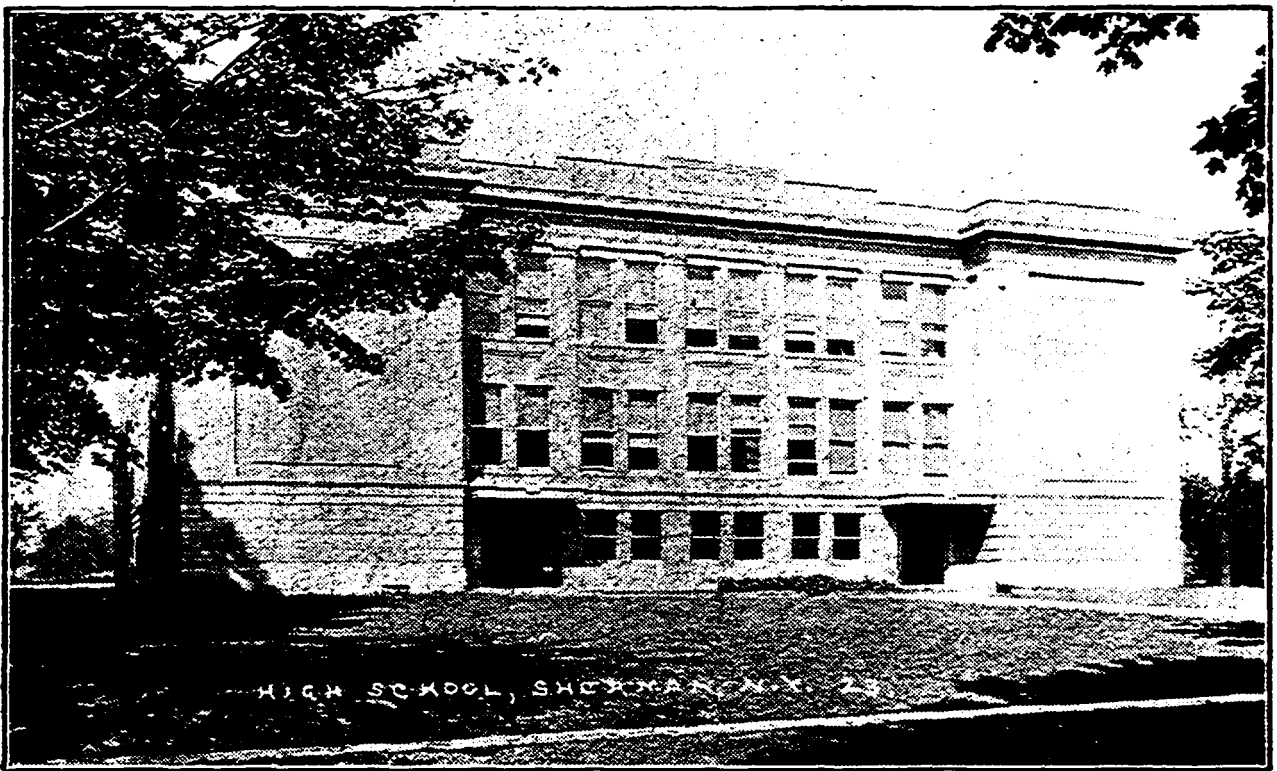
In 1914, the present fine school building was erected. The amount voted by the district for the new building was \$35,000 and the contract to build it was let to Orcutt Brothers of South Dayton, N. Y. Before the building was completed and furnished, however, nearly \$50,000 was expended, but it was fortunate that it was built at that time for it would cost \$100,000 or more to duplicate it now.

The Presidents of the Board of Education for the same time have been: James Fenner, S. H. Myrick, A. A. VanDusen, S. C. Horton, W. F. Green, J. J. Dean, B. J. Coffin, T. R. Coveney, C. E. Sheldon, Dr. B. Schermerhorn, W. H. Hart, G. W. Strong, T. J. Newell, Dr. James Murphy, J. L. Thayer, W. W. Benjamin, I. O. Ottaway, Dr. W. J. Wagner, C. W. Myrick; Township System: I. O. Ottaway, Jay Phear, C. A. Onink, Dr. W. J. A. Wagner. Of these, B. J. Coffin

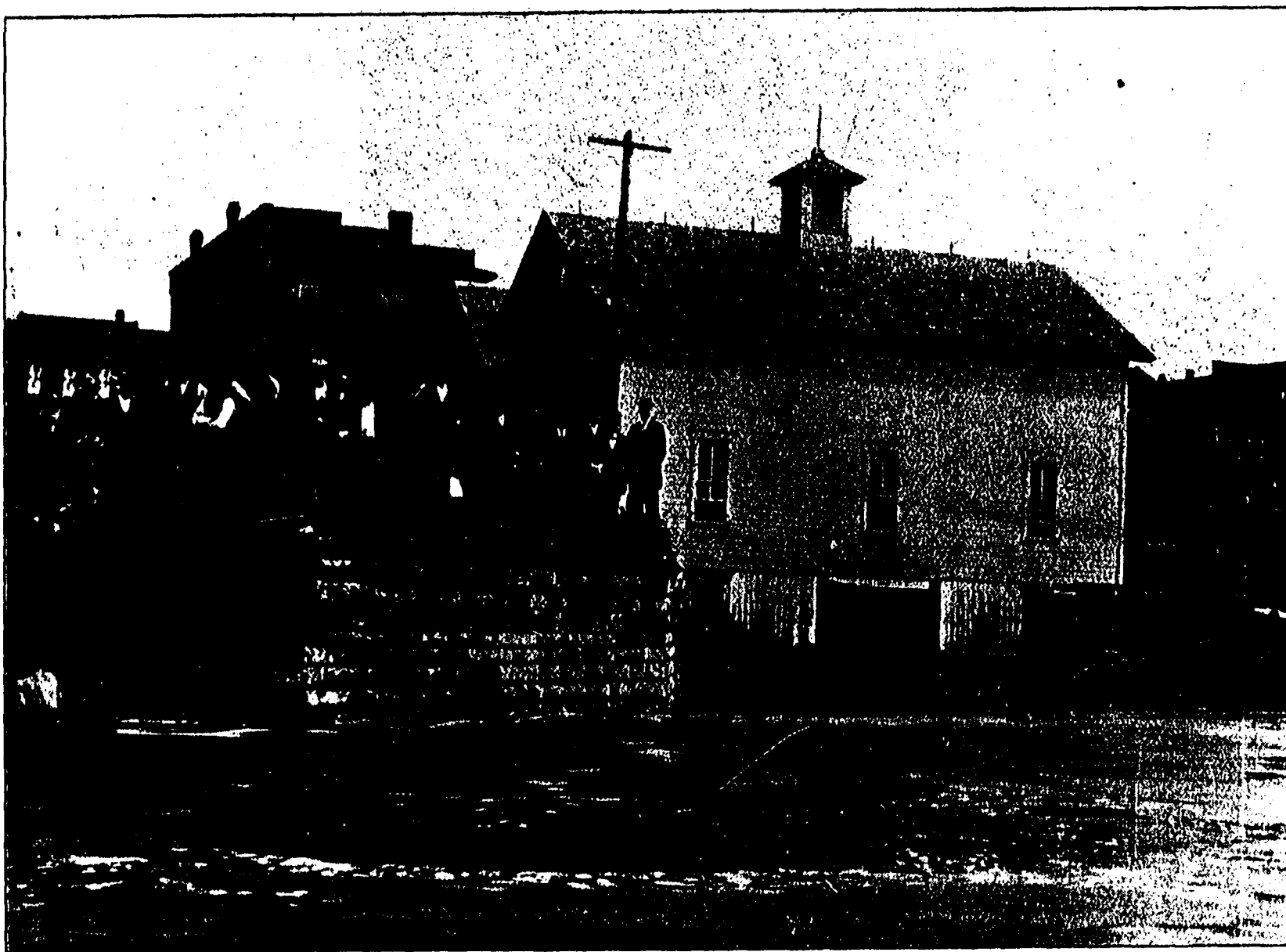
and J. L. Thayer served six years each; C. E. Sheldon five years; W. H. Hart four years and the others from one to three years each.

The present Board of Education is: Dr. W. J. A. Wagner, President; Arthur R. Sears, Clerk; A. C. Imbery, C. A. Onink, William Rاسpas, Frank Warnshouse, A. Lee Hart, H. H. Wake, Mrs. Mary Buss.

The next term of school begins September 4th, 1923, with the following teachers: Principal, W. G. Miller; Preceptress, Helen L. Reitz; Languages, Florence McKelvie; Science, Earl E. Brock; English, Marjory Lillie; Teachers Training Class, Clara E. Sheldon; 7th and 8th grades, Alice E. Sears; 5th and 6th grades, Louisa M. Jones; 3rd and 4th grades, Linda Warnshouse; 1st and 2nd grades, Verna A. Nuttall; Kindergarten, Elgie B. Russell; Agriculture, J. R. Robinson; Music and Drawing, Freda Newberry.



Sherman High School



Flood of August 24, 1892, Franklin Street Bridge Swept Away

CRONOLOGICAL HISTORY

1823

The first settler was Dearing Dorman on lot 32.

Archibald Dorman was the first white child born in the town, November 27.

1824

Dearing Dorman raised the first crop, 30 bushels of wheat.

1825

A saw mill was built on lot 31 by Alanson Weed.

Lester R. Dewey and Fannie Patterson were married March 23.

1826

Josiah R. Keeler settled in the south part of the town and built a store and an ashery.

1827

Spencer and Skeels built a saw mill at Pleasant Valley.
Baptist Church organized.

1828

Obed Aldrich built the first grist mill at Pleasant Valley.

1832

Elijah and Otis Miller and Benjamin Kip, bought all the land now comprising the village site.

1833

First Town meeting. Otis Skinner elected supervisor.

Miller and Kip built a saw mill and a cloth carding factory.

1834

Oliyer Dutton came and settled here.

1835

First frame school house built, at Main and Kip Streets.

1838

Miller and Kip built the water power grist mill, across the creek.

1839

Otis Miller died.

1841

Samuel Hawley opened the first tailor shop.

1843

First tavern kept by Jeremiah Fields.

First school meeting October 3.

1846

The frame school house, corner of Church and Park streets built.

1850

Benjamin Kip died June 1, age 53.

1851

Miles J. Clark built a blacksmith shop.

1852

Elijah Miller died November 21, age 46.

1853

Patrick McFarland published the first newspaper in Sherman.

1854

The Metropolitan block built.

1856

Henry Ransom had a Dulcimer factory on South Main Street.

1863

Ed. Coon built the first cheese factory on Hart Street, near Main Street.

Henry C. Bliss died May 8.

1865

Olive Lodge No. 575, F. & A. M. instituted July 6.

A big flood, taking out the bridges and washing away the hogs from the cheese factory.

First fire on south side of Main Street.

1866

Work on the Buffalo, Oil Creek & Crosscut Railroad begun.

1867

Union Free School District No. 5 organized.

1868

Old M. E. Church moved to Franklin Street.

Last liquor license granted in Sherman.

1869

First lecture course held.

Second big fire, all the north side of Main Street burned, Nov. 5.

First school building on present site built at a cost of \$8,000.00

1870

The three story brick stores on north side of Main Street built.

1872

Edwin H. Bell killed in Prospect railroad disaster, Dec. 24.

1876

John Karges opened a meat market in basement of J. T. Green's store.

Nehemiah Myrick died in August.

1878

Dean House, built by Jerome J. Dean.

Sperry block built, corner Main and Franklin Streets.

1880

Sheldon B. Miller died March 21.

1881

Platt S. Osborne died April 20, age 83.

1882

Oliver Dutton died December 30.

Jerome J. Dean died September 16, age 51.

Isaac Hawley died Jan. 17, age 76.

1884

Sherman Exchange Bank failed May 28.

Dearing Dorman died.

First fire engine bought at a cost of \$700.00.

1885

Henry W. Sperry died January 14, age 69.

Dutton and Pelton built the Opera House for a carriage house.

Henry Sheldon died July 13.

Dr. James Fenner died in November.

1888

Addition to the Schoolhouse built.

1889

Burnett Osborne died Nov. 6, age 86.

Dr. Sylvester Pelton died September 23, age 93.

James Overton died May 15.

1890

Sherman Village incorporated.

The State Bank of Sherman organized January 23.

Third big fire in Sherman, south side of Main Street, July 14.

First telephone built here from North Clymer.

1891

William A. Pullman died February 13.

Hiram Parker died March 4, age 56.

1892

Big flood, Aug. 31. All bridges over French Creek, swept away.

1893

Acacia Chapter No. 96, instituted July 12.

Bank of Sherman sold to the State Bank of Sherman, June 2.

1894

H. Q. Ames died, September 10.

Chauncey L. Sheldon died March 22.

1895

Fourth big fire in Sherman, south side of Main Street, January 2.

Sylvanus H. Myrick died June 26, age 62.

Peter Ripley died January 15, age 75.

1896

First Water Works Company formed, to build wind mill and tank, May 20.

1898

Electric Light Company organized.

W. J. Corbett block built.

1899

Electric Light Company incorporated with a capital of \$5,000.00.

1900

Milo A. Richardson died July 16.

Delevan Adams died Mary 20, age 69.

1901

Village Hall built. Cost \$2,500.00.

1902

Sherman Electric Light Company built a new power house on the south side of Main Street.

William H. Sperry died March 22, age 58.

1904

Frank E. Miller died October 9, age 53.

1905

Judge Amos M. Thayer died April 24.

1906

Henry P. Sears killed at the East Main Street crossing.
Benjamin J. Coffin died Dec. 11, age 85.

1908

Minerva Free Library built by Oliver W. Norton and presented to town.

Enoch Sperry died July 23, age 79.
John Bly died May 16, age 96.
Samuel T. Hawley died August 16, age 89.
Mohawk Condensed Milk Company built the condensery.

1909

William H. Hart died June 14, age 73.

1910

Isaac J. Huntley died August 3.

1912

John T. Green died March 6, age 84.
Charles H. Corbett died January 19, age 66.
Duane Adams died November 23, age 70.

1914

Soldiers Monument dedicated, cost \$1,600.00.
William J. Donnell died March 4.
Concrete dam built.
Elmore Myrick died August 13.

1915

Oliver W. Norton gave \$15,000.00 to repair and extend the water works.

Alfred D. Leet died August 15.
Frank D. Corbett died November 12, age 36.

1916

Judge A. W. Benson died January 1, age 72.
H. B. Osborne died October 7, age 75.
Fire in canning factory.

1917

The Village bought the Electric Light plant for \$9,000.00.

1918

George W. Card died March 3, age 72.
H. L. Kendrick died May 23, age 92.
Fred J. Legters died November 11, age 30.

1920

Oliver W. Norton died October 1.
A. G. Saxton died April 22, age 73.
Gilbert W. Strong died October 9, age 77.
Allan J. Dean died February 17, age 66.
Sherman F. Williams died April 25, age 82.
A. Jerome Peck died December 18, age 75.

1921

Main and Railroad Streets paved with concrete.
Walter Sperry died November 2, age 86.

1922

Charles W. Fowler died October 22, age 86.

1923

Walter J. Corbett died March 24, age 71.
Frost every month of the year.
The most severe and extended drouth ever recorded.

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

ATTORNEYS

FREEMAN L. MORRIS
DAVID H. STANTON

AUTOMOBILE DEALERS

JAMES J. BROOKMIRE
W. L. NUTTALL
HENRY RASPAS
NEWHOUSE & BEUSINK

AUTOMOBILE LIVERY

CHARLES DARLING

BARBER SHOP

BANKS

STATE BANK OF SHERMAN
Irving O. Ottaway, Pres.
William H. Phear, Jr., Cashier
IRVING W. BAKER
J. LEE SAVAGE

BILLIARD ROOM

L. W. L. PEARSON
J. LEE SAVAGE

BLACKSMITH SHOPS

BARNEY K. SMITH
WALTER PRICE
JOHN PARK
WILLIAM H. MILLS

BOOTS & SHOES

FRANK ERICKSON

CHURCHES

COMMUNITY CHURCH
Henry Clay Poland, Minister
BAPTIST CHURCH
C. F. Cornman, Minister

CLOTHING

GEORGE E. MILLER

CEMENT BLOCK FACTORY

JOHN G. COFFIN

COAL DEALERS

FRANK L. CORNISH
CHARLES E. COBB

DRY GOODS

HARRY H. WAKE
WILLIS R. DOERING

DRUG STORE

MYRICK & HAWLEY
Elbert N. Myrick
Norma Hawley

DENTIST

WILLIAM J. A. WAGNER

DRAYING

EDWARD J. HUNT

EXPRESS DELIVERY

HENRY DONALDSON

ELECTRIC WIRING

HARRY E. VIDAL

FARM IMPLEMENTS

LYMAN H. STANTON
NEWHOUSE & BEUSINK
Glenn Newhouse
David Beusink

FURNITURE AND UNDERTAKING

WALTER J. CORBETT EST.
John G. Boyd
Herbert H. Corbett

FACTORIES

MOHAWK CONDENSED MILK Co.
SHERMAN CANNING &
PRESERVING Co.
SHERMAN CIGAR FACTORY
Albert Rothe

GASOLINE AND OIL

CHARLES E. COBB

GREENHOUSE

ALLAN WILCOX

GRIST MILLS

SHERMAN STEAM MILLS

Walter A. Edmunds

Charles A. Onink

George D. Edmunds

FARMERS CO-OPERATIVE

EXCHANGE

Fred H. Newell, Mgr.

GARAGES

HARRY JEFFERS

THE STANDARD GARAGE

Samuel K. Saegar

MAIN STREET GARAGE

Leon Buss

Larry Buss

N. I. BROOKMIRE

GROCERIES

ALBERT J. GRAHAM

P. C. WILCOX & SON

Perry C. Wilcox

Lyman H. Wilcox

ARTHUR R. SEARS

EDWARD E. MORAN

FRANK K. NEWTON

KEITH & MOORE

William E. Keith

Elton H. Moore

PROSPERITY STORE

W. Jay Hooker, Manager

FRANK HUBBARD

Pleasant Valley

HOTELS

HOTEL SHERMAN

David Edwards, Prop.

HARDWARE

F. W. MILLER HARDWARE Co.

Fred W. Miller

George E. Miller

SAMUEL H. SKINNER

HARNESS SHOP

NEIL WHITNEY

INSURANCE

WILLIAM H. PHEAR & SON

William H. Phear, Sr.

Jay F. Phear

MACHINE SHOP

STANDARD IRON WORKS

Samuel K. Saegar

MILLINERY

EDITH CORBETT

MEAT MARKET

CARL KARGES & SON

Carl J. Karges

John Karges

MONUMENTS

T. J. NEWELL

WM. H. NEWELL

NEWSPAPER

CHAUTAUQUA NEWS

DORMAN PRINTING Co.

Miles L. Dorman

Lena B. Dorman

NEWS ROOM & RESTAURANT

P. C. HORNE

POSTOFFICE

SHERMAN POST OFFICE

Frank A. Erickson, P. M.

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