



Warrensburgh Historical Society Quarterly

VOLUME 24 ISSUE 4 & VOLUME 25 ISSUE 1

WINTER 2019 & SPRING 2020

GET TO KNOW THE BOARD

Liz Sebald has been a resident of Warrensburgh for 52 years, though her family history goes back much further than that. She is related to some of Warrensburgh's earliest residents, including the Griffings, Herricks and Osbornes. Liz works with the clothing collection at the Museum, and as a greeter. She has been a long-time member of the Society, and a Board member for 3 years. She will be stepping down at the end



of her term later this year. She has served as Board Treasurer, and has organized some wonderful refreshments for all of the Museum events. Thank you for your service, Liz. ♦

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WARRENSBURG CENTRAL SCHOOL CAFETERIA—1947

By Mark K. Brown

The Warrensburgh cafeteria employed a cafeteria manager, Miss Lucille Murdock, a cook, and between 12 and 15 girls for one or two class periods each day. They fed on average about 400 students and teachers for 180 to 183 days per year which amounted to 73,200 meals a year.

This was the lunch menu for Warrensburgh Central School for the week of June 9th to 13th in 1947:

- ♦ Monday: Spaghetti, green vegetable salad, nut muffin, butter and milk.
- ♦ Tuesday: Creole soup, peach salad, potted meat sandwich and milk.
- ♦ Wednesday: Chow Mein, orange juice, tomato juice, cheese, muffin and milk.
- ♦ Thursday: Homemade vegetable soup, mixed fruit salad, cottage cheese and pickle sandwich, bread, butter and milk.
- ♦ Friday: Salmon wiggle, carrot and pineapple jello salad, bread, butter and milk.

It was exam week. So the following messages were added to the menu for the students:

Good luck with exams!!!
A hint for you: fruit and vegetables are rich in important vitamins and minerals you must have to keep you strong and healthy. ♦

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO THE MAPLEWOODS BASEBALL TEAM PLAYERS?

By Sandi Parisi

The Maplewoods were a local baseball team formed around 1910 and comprised of local players. It lasted until 1915. They played most of their games at the fairgrounds, but also on the land that is now the Fish Hatchery. Their main rivals included North Creek and the Sagamore Team from Bolton Landing.

- ♦ Albert 'Corky' William Bennett, 3rd Base. Born in 1894 in Warrensburgh, and died in 1976, and served in WWI. He was a shirt cutter at the shirt factory.
- ♦ Marshall 'Burt' F. Burt, Short Stop. Born 1891 in Warrensburgh, and died 1973. '61 Year Member of Masons. Painter and Paper Hanger.
- ♦ Albert Louis Emerson, 'Batboy'. Born in 1902 in Warrensburgh, and died 1963. Graduated Dartmouth College. Upon his father's death, he took over his various interests, which included the Emerson National Bank, Woolen Mill, A.C. Emerson & Co., and the Schroon River Pulp and Paper Mill. Warrensburgh Supervisor.
- ♦ Stewart 'Tootie' Alden Farrar, Pitcher. Born 1892 in Warrensburgh, and died in 1983. He worked in the woolen mill and pants factory. He was appointed Postmaster in Warrensburgh in 1934 until his retirement in 1962.
- ♦ Earl 'Tunk' J. Herrick, 1st Base. Born in Warren County in 1893, and

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

The New Year is often a time to reflect on the passage of time. For many of us it's a reminder that we aren't getting any younger. But this past holiday I was struck by how many New Year's Eves the town of Warrensburg has seen - certainly far more than I have. Warrensburg isn't getting any younger, and hasn't been for over 200 years!

It's easy to see the area we live in through the filter of time in which we live. I was acutely reminded of that as I was doing research for the Graveyard Walks this past fall. In 1919 Warrensburg was facing developments and challenges that made me realize I was investigating an entirely different place from this town I thought I knew so well.

Seeing Warrensburg from a different perspective deepened my respect for it. It was no longer just the town where I grew up. I could no longer take for granted the familiar landscape: the beautiful architecture; the businesses that have been here since before I was born; and the government, schools, churches, roads and other pieces of what make up a town. People we now walk past in the cemetery, (and maybe have represented in the Graveyard Walks), invested their lives to give Warrensburg that foundation, and the future I now enjoy.

It's true - Warrensburg isn't getting any younger, and how well of a foundation and future our town has at this point is up to us. We can't just rest on what those long gone provided for us. We need to take the baton they have extended to us and help Warrensburg keep running its lively and action-packed race.

I invite you to get involved. The Historical Society is a great place to pitch in - we need Board members and active Society members who want to help in a variety of ways. But that's not all. I encourage you to attend town meetings, (the second Wednesday of the month, 7:00pm at

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT Elizabeth Kinghorn
VICE PRESIDENT Paul Gilchrist
TREASURER Candice Healy
SECRETARY Margaret McMahon
 Mark Brown Liz Sebald
 Dot Langworthy
TOWN HISTORIAN Sandi Parisi
MUSEUM DIRECTOR Steve Parisi

SENIOR EDITOR
 Elizabeth Kinghorn
QUARTERLY EDITOR

Serena Stone
 serrie@zoho.com

RECORDING SECRETARY
 Sharon Stone

MEMBERSHIP

CURRENT: 226

IN MEMORIUM:

Jeanette (Parisi) Maass



the Town Hall), and let your voice be heard. Other organizations, like Warrensburgh Beautification, are always looking for participants as well. Pay attention to what is happening in Warrensburg and what needs to happen in order for its future to be bright. This is our town and our time in it. What will future Graveyard Walk participants hear about the lives we led and the legacy we left for them?

The Society closed out 2019 with a great turn-out at the Holiday Dinner at our Historic Grist Mill. Thank you, everyone, for making it such an enjoyable evening! The Board has been hard at work getting the schedule for 2020 in place. We look forward to, among other things, offering programs from Adirondack Architectural Heritage (AARCH) on tax benefits for owners of historic properties, making improvements at the old Tannery property on Electric Avenue, and engaging with the next generation around Warrensburg's history and future.◆

See you around Warrensburg!

Beth Kinghorn

SOCIETY PAGE

CONTRIBUTORS TO ISSUE:

Mark K. Brown, Paul Gilchrist, Beth Kinghorn, Sandi Parisi, Liz Sebald, Serena Stone

BECOME A CONTRIBUTOR

Please email Serena with new submissions at, serrie@zoho.com! Be sure to send copies to Beth too at, elizabethkinghorn@gmail.com!

UPCOMING EVENTS 2020:

◆ Wednesday, 3.4 – Board Meeting, 6:30pm at the Town Historian's Office
 ◆ Sunday, 3.29 – Understanding Warrensburg's Zoning, 3:00pm at the United Methodist Church

BOARD MEETINGS

The Board of Directors meets in the Town Historian's Office at 6:30pm on the FIRST Wednesday of each month in the Shirt Factory Building at 100 River Street. Email Beth to confirm: whs7396@yahoo.com

Warrensburgh Historical Society

Website: www.whs12885.org

Email: whs7396@yahoo.com

MEMBERSHIP RATES

Students	\$5.00	Contributing	\$55.00
Individual	\$15.00	Business	\$50.00
Family	\$25.00	Institutional	\$100.00
Senior (62+)	\$10.00	Life (Individual only)	\$300.00
Senior Family	\$18.00		

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

If you would like to join and receive the Quarterly by mail, please send a check for the amount of the membership classification, with name, address, and phone number to:

Warrensburgh Historical Society
 P.O. Box 441,
 Warrensburg, N.Y. 12885

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HISTORIAN'S BITS AND PIECES

By Sandi Parisi

In 1902 there were four barbers in Warrensburg. They got together and agreed to raise the price of a haircut from .15¢ to .20¢. They were E.C. "Kid" Manzer, Fred Patnode, R.D. Baker and Frank G. Stone. All shops closed at noon on Friday and remained closed until Saturday morning.

In 1894 a men's only Athletic Club was organized. Objects of the club were to promote physical culture and provide pleasant and healthful amusement for the members.

In 1893 a women's only Shakespeare Club was organized. It was started by the ladies of the Union school and graduates to study the poet's work.

In 1940 the U.S. Department of Agriculture came to Warrensburg to take a motion picture for use in a new educational film on the white pine blister rust disease. Noble H. Harpp, District Blister Rust Control Leader cooperated in selecting sites to be shot. It ended up as a 12-minute color film. It showed that blister rust endangers the white pines and must be stamped out or controlled to preserve our white pine heritage.

An 1872 Business Directory listed 42 businesses. These are some items and their costs from an 1889 General Store Ledger in Warrensburg:

- ◆ 3 ¼ lbs. of palm leaf @ .30¢ per pound. What were they used for? I found an article that said Palm leaf and grass are by far the most important materials for making baskets and mats. I wonder who was making them.
- ◆ 20 dozen shoe strings, (laces) - \$4.00 or .16¢ each
- ◆ 4 ½ lb. baker's chocolate \$1.80 or .40¢ per pound
- ◆ 7 pairs velvet opera slippers \$1.00 each
- ◆ 4 ½ lb. snuff \$2.25
- ◆ 63 large spoons @ .02¢ each
- ◆ 57 ½ lb. tea \$18.24
- ◆ 1 Chair .50¢
- ◆ 50 spools of thread \$2.00
- ◆ 1 pair boy's lawn tennis shoes .70¢. ◆

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

By Serena Stone

Our new Museum exhibit, *The Trolley Comes to Warrensburg*, opened on Friday, December 6th. It started at 5:00^{pm} with refreshments, and holiday music preformed by Richie and Elaine Henzler of Courtly Music.

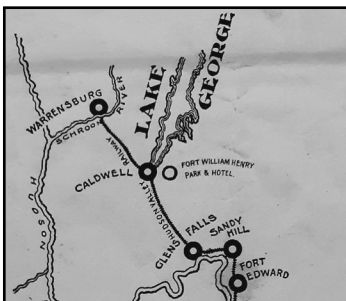


Plank Road Bridge.

How great would it be if the trolley, or something similar like a train came back! Even though the trollies stopped running in 1928 due the expensive infrastructure electric-powered mass transportation required, would a similar system be economically sustainable today?

If it weren't, is it something we can afford *not* to provide? Imagine how different peoples' lives would be if they could take a public train from North Creek to Saratoga or even Albany. Plenty of people would benefit from being able to access a larger job market, and having a guaranteed ride to more specialized forms of medical care, (which is often referred to towns just south of the Adirondacks anyway). Graduating high school students wouldn't have to pay for, or take out loans for expensive dorm rooms just to get a college education. Not only that, but think of the business and tourism a public transport system could bring!

Shouldn't our little mountain communities have the opportunity to connect with, and enjoy the many amenities that the bigger valley towns just south of us have to offer while still living in the place we all love most?◆



SOCIAL MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

By Beth Kinghorn

Now here is a building with quite a story to tell!



Built in 1860.

This building was originally known as the Pasko block, owned by Emerald Pasko and earlier by his father Alexander. A. H. Sherman sold wallpaper from this location until Ernest G. Rist replaced him, opening a boot shop.

In 1922 the building officially became the Rist Block when Ernest purchased the building. At that time there were three businesses in the building: Rist's shoe store, F. J. Mahoney's jewelry and watch repair, and Jack Lynn's coffee room and restaurant. In 1948 Rist retired and sold his shoe business to Aurthur and Vera Brown. In 1963 Brown purchased the building, making it the Brown Block. He retired in 2005.



Such a beautiful building, rich with Warrensburg history!

At this point the downstairs unfortunately remains vacant. Growing up in the 70's I remember creating a window display at Brown's, painting the windows for the Halloween window contest, and the florist shop next door. Do you suppose there's any takers for the next chapter of this building's unfolding story?◆



Warrensburg Historical Society Holiday Dinner—2019 at the Grist Mill



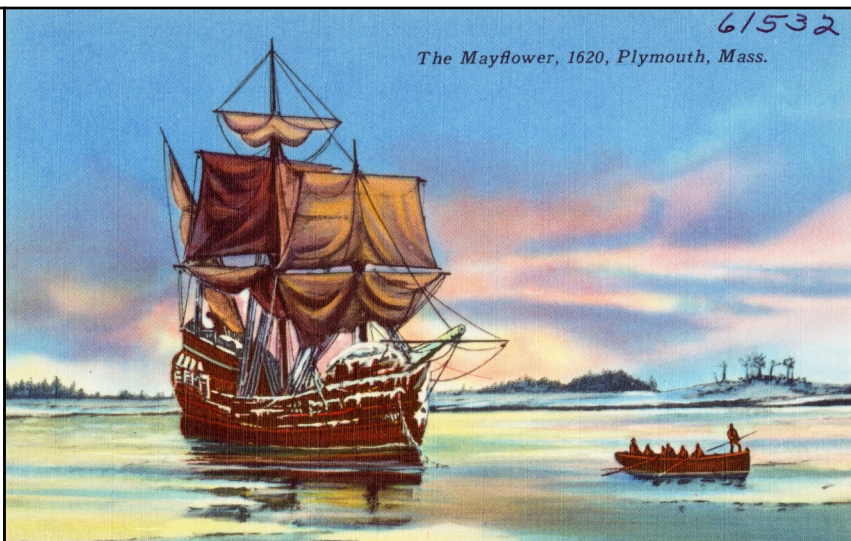
TELL US WHAT YOU KNOW!

What Warrensburg families have ancestors who arrived on the Mayflower?

This year marks the 400th anniversary of the sailing of the Mayflower. The Historical Society would like to focus the Graveyard Walks this year on connecting the history of our town residents to that remarkable journey.

Please contact Beth Kinghorn, (her email is listed on page 2), with any information you may have about your ancestors, (or general information—it doesn't have to be your family specifically), with regard to the Mayflower. It will be interesting to see how many connections Warrensburg has with that early settlement in the New World.

Information would be greatly appreciated by May 31st. Thank you! ♦



The Mayflower, 1620, Plymouth, Mass.

Photo courtesy of Wikimedia Commons, and the Boston Public Library Tichnor Brothers collection.

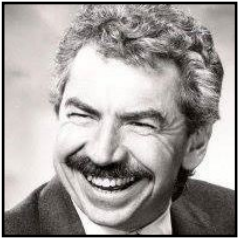


WARRENSBURG 11-12 YEAR OLD LITTLE LEAGUE ALL STARS

Photo & Caption provided by Mark K. Brown

They won the Warrensburg Tournament, beating Schroon Lake 34-18 in the Championship game. They lost to Lake George 8-7 in the opening round of the Lake George Tournament, but came back to finish 3rd by beating Fort Ann 5-2. Team Members from left to right: Top Row: ?, Seth Brown, Tim Connolly, Doug Roubichad, Farley Nelson, Jason Warne. Bottom Row: ??, Darrin Rafferty, ?, ?. ♦

(continued from page 1)



Steve Parisi

has been a long-time member of the Society, and Board member since 2003. He served as Board President from 2004-2010, and is the Director of the Museum. Steve's time in Warrensburg began at the age of 3, and he has a strong interest in the town's future as well as its past. Interesting fact: his step-father's step father was Lee Orton's uncle! You can hardly get more "Warrensburg" than that!◆

Margaret McMahon

moved to Warrensburg in 2015 from Staten Island. She is an active Historical Society participant, and has had a seat on the Board for 3 years. Margaret serves as Executive Secretary, and has chaired a number of committees, including the Program Committee, the Sticky Wicket Committee and the Historic Sites Committee. Margaret is also a greeter at the museum.◆



Sandi Parisi

has been a resident of Warrensburg for 46 years, during which time she has been a small business owner, run a community arts center, commuted many years to Lake George as the Town Treasurer, and is now our Town Historian. Sandi has been a long-time member of the Society and has been on the Board since 1998. On the Board she has served as Treasurer and Secretary.◆

Mark Brown

has been a resident of Warrensburg for 71 years. His family came to this area in the 1840's and his parents settled here perma-



nently after WWII. His father was a well-known Warrensburg business owner and his mother and aunt taught at Warrensburg Central School for over 40 years. Mark has been a Society member for over 15 years and Board member for 10 years. He has worked closely with the Education and Historic Sites Committees, and is a museum greeter.◆

Dottie Langworthy

has lived in Warrensburg since 1970. She was born in Glens Falls and grew up in Gansevoort, but has deep roots in this area from her husband's family. Dottie has been a member of the Society for 3 years, and a Board member for 2. She has served on many committees and is a regular museum greeter.◆



Beth Kinghorn

was born and raised in Warrensburg. Her Father was raised in Saranac Lake and he always admired Warrensburg when

he passed through town. He moved his family here in the late 50's and here they stayed until 1980. Beth left at that point to attend college, but returned to this area 2 years ago. She has been a Society member for about 2 years and has served on the Board for 1 year. She has been a museum greeter, Board President, and has served on a number of committees.◆

Sharon Stone

is the Secretary at the Warrensburgh Historical Society. She handles the accounting, Facebook, and website for the Society, and attends Board meetings where she reports on the financials and takes minutes. She also works on flyers for events, and handles correspondence when necessary. She has been with the Society since the summer of 2015. In 1983 Sharon



graduated from the College of Saint Joseph in Rutland Vermont with a B.A. in Social Science In 1986 she met her husband Matthew and they moved to Minerva where Matthew was born and raised. In 1994 she returned to College at SUNY Albany and earned a Masters in Information Science. From 1996 to Present she has worked at Minerva Central School librarian.◆

Serena Stone

has been working for the Historical Society as an editor since March 2018. She graduated from SUNY Adirondack with an Associates in Liberal Arts with a Concentration in English later that year. Even though she did not grow up in Warrensburg in the traditional sense, being raised between North Creek and Minerva, meant a lot of long car rides south where she and her family would stop in town for doctor's visits, food, and thrift shopping. She did briefly get to live as a local from 2016 to 2019, and loved photographing the lumber mill, and taking her dog Merlin for walks on the Environmental Science & Forestry nature trails. She still makes regular trips to Warrensburg from Ballston Spa. She and her husband Michael are expecting their first child this March.◆



Candice Healy

moved to Warrensburg in 2012 with her family from South Glens Falls. She has been a member of the Historical Society since coming to town, and has been a member of the Board since 2018, where she currently serves as Treasurer. She has also been involved with the Graveyard Walks, the Finance Committee, and in planning the Society's program calendar. Candice is Regional manager of Glens Falls National Bank, and was Warrensburg Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year in 2018!◆

Paul Gilchrist

has been a resident of Warrensburg since he was one and graduated from WCS. His family



owned the Peletiah Richards home, (once where Tops now stands), and ran a guest house, motel and cottages there until 1968. He is a long-time member of the Historical Society, serving as President for 9 years, Vice-President 1 year, and Managing Editor of the Quarterly for 4 years. Paul is passionate about passing our history on to the next generation, creating and implementing programs for our school-age children. ♦

A SOLDIER'S LONG-LOST GRAVE

by Liz Sebald

While visiting our family plot in the Warrensburg Cemetery, my daughter, Romi Sebald, discovered nearby what was apparently a long-forgotten grave. The stone was completely hidden by a lilac bush. The stone reads:

ALVA J. WILLIAMS
of Co. B 22 REG.
N.Y. VOLS
BORN APRIL 11, 1842
DIED JUNE 17, 1896
(See photo on page 8)

Sometime later I mentioned the gravesite to the cemetery caretaker, Peter Haggerty, and asked if I could trim the bush. He was unaware of the gravesite and asked me to show him the location. With his permission, I trimmed the bush.

While raking the trimmings, I spotted two small green nubs sticking out of the ground in front of the gravestone. I had unearthed this original "GAR" Civil War marker. It was broken, so I called Gene Pierce c/o American Legion Post 446, and he promptly came to the cemetery with a new marker, and flag.

Gene suggested I contact the New York State Military Museum and Veterans Research Center in Saratoga Springs for any background information they might have about Alva's service.

I heard back from Jim Gandy, the Librarian/Archivist for the museum. This is the information available:

Alva J. Williams:

- ♦ Residence not listed; age 19 years
- ♦ Enlisted on 5.10.1861 in Albany N.Y. as a private
- ♦ On 6.6.1861 he mustered into "B" Co. N.Y. 22nd Infantry
- ♦ Wounded 9.14.1862 in South Mountain, Maryland—severe wound in right arm, amputated.
- ♦ Discharged for wounds on 11.18.1862 in Baltimore, Maryland.

Warrensburg Town Historian Sandi Parisi was very helpful in supplying genealogy information:

- ♦ Alva J. Williams was born on April 11th 1842. He died on June 17th 1896. He married Betsy Mead, who was born in November 1834 in Warrensburgh and died in 1880. They had two children.

- ♦ Henry Williams was born to them on May 10th 1869 in Pottersville, and died on March 31st 1963 in Warrensburg.
- ♦ Laura Ella Williams was born in December 1876 in Pottersville. Her date of death is unknown.

These are the most recent descendants Sandi had listed. If there are any other descendants who read this article and would like to visit Alva's gravesite, I will be happy to show them the location, and give them the original GAR marker. I can be reached via the Warrensburgh Historical Society.

I wish to thank Romi Sebald, Peter Haggerty, Gene Pierce, Jim Gandy, and Sandi Parisi for their assistance in this endeavor.

Additional notes by Paul Gilchrist

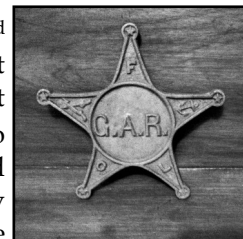
"GAR" stands for Grand Army of the Republic, a fraternal organization of veterans of the Union military services formed in 1866. The hotel that stood on the site where George Henry's is today was once called the Grand Army House.

The Battle of Antietam (Sharpsburg) occurred on September 17th 1862. Three days before that battle there were battles at three south mountain passes defended by the Confederates to prevent the Union Army to the east of the long mountain

range from crossing to the west side to meet the Confederates marching north in the Great Valley. The battle on September 14th at Turner's Gap involved Hooker's I Corps, of which Alva's regiment was a part, and was surely the battle in which he was wounded.

The 22nd New York was in the 1st Brigade, 1st Division of I Corps. That brigade was then known as the "Iron Brigade" before the more famous Iron Brigade in the Western Theater was formed.

The 22nd NY suffered almost 50% casualties at 2nd Bull Run two weeks earlier and took very heavy losses again in the



Battle of Antietam on September 17th.

(continued from page 1)

died in 1956. He was a Justice of the Peace in Warrensburg, and he and his wife owned Herrick's Corner Grocery from 1946 until his death.

- ♦ Cassius Logans 'Cash', Outfield. Born 1846 in Vermont, and died in 1917. During the Civil War he served with the United States Navy in the surgical department. He graduated from University of Vermont with a medical degree and became a doctor in Warrensburg.

- ♦ John 'Johnny' H. O'Connor, 3rd Base. Born about 1894 in NY. In 1940 he was a bartender.

- ♦ Maurice F. O'Connor 'Cap', 2nd Base. Born in Ireland in 1859, and died 1932. He ran the Warren House from 1906 until it burned down in 1921.

- ♦ Reuben 'Johnnie' Lee Orton, Catcher. Born in 1893 in Hoosick Falls. He died in 1966. He was a flooring salesman and a Funeral Director. Town Clerk from 1928 to 1944 when he was elected Supervisor and remained in that position for 20 years.

- ♦ Clarence 'Deak' James Potter, Outfield. Born 1893 in Warrensburg. He died 1966. He was a salesman for a garage.

- ♦ Lawrence 'Larry' Woodward, Left Field. Born in NY 1893. He died in 1969. He was an insurance agent. ♦



MYSTERY PHOTO

If you can identify this building, please email Paul at: prg12824@yahoo.com or leave a voicemail at 518-623-3162.



BONUS MYSTERY PHOTO

Can you identify this Bonus Mystery Photo? Please email Paul at: prg12824@yahoo.com or leave a voicemail at 518-623-3162.

LAST ISSUE ANSWER 1

The Mystery Photo on page 8 of the previous issue is a house at the north end of King Street. It is now a duplex residence, but originally it was the Methodist Church, built in 1840, it occupied the location of the current Methodist Church that was built in 1893. This necessitated it be moved to its current site on King Street. Here is a photo of it when it was a church.



Readers who correctly identified it as the house on King Street were Frank and Linda Bennett, Jim Hull, Ben Gurney (in Arizona), and Sarah Farrar. Sarah also identified it as having previously been the Methodist Church.



LAST ISSUE ANSWER 2



The Bonus Mystery Photo from the last issue on page 6 is located just north of the former Marco Polo's Pizza Shop and across the street from the parking lot of the Meat and Deli Store. Linda & Frank Bennett identified its location, as did Jack Toney, Ben Gurney, Fred Weiss, and Sarah Farrar. Readers knew that it had been a hat shop run by Jenny Cameron's mother (hence the big window where hats were displayed), and that Judge John Hall

had his law office there before he moved it a couple of doors north. Its greatest historical significance is that much earlier it had been the original Methodist Church before the 1840 one was built up the street.



Find out more about this long-lost gravestone on page 7.