

NNHS NEWS LETTER

Northville Northampton Historical Society

Issue 44
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Editor
Gail M Cramer



THE FRY BLOCK

Circa 1860

162 South Main Street

It isn't for certain the exact year this building was built, but we can assume by the following information that Mr. Scidmore must have owned the property and probably built somewhere around 1860.. An 1868 map shows a building at this site and it was owned by H. N. Scidmore. Henry N Scidmore was born at Lake Pleasant, Hamilton County in 1831. The 1860, 1870, 1880 and 1900 census, shows him living in Northville and his occupation was "dealer in Jewelry". That would explain the notation on the 1868 map that he was a watch repairer. (See map on next page). The 1860 census states that H.N. Scidmore's occupation was a jeweler, and that he lived next to Dr. Blake who lived on Main Street next door to what was later called the Fry Block. Scidmore's real estate was worth \$1000 and also Dr. Blake's real estate was worth \$1000. Mr. Scidmore died in 1905 and is buried in the Village Cemetery on South Main Street.



1906 postcard



Flewelling's Brass Rail late 40's or 50's



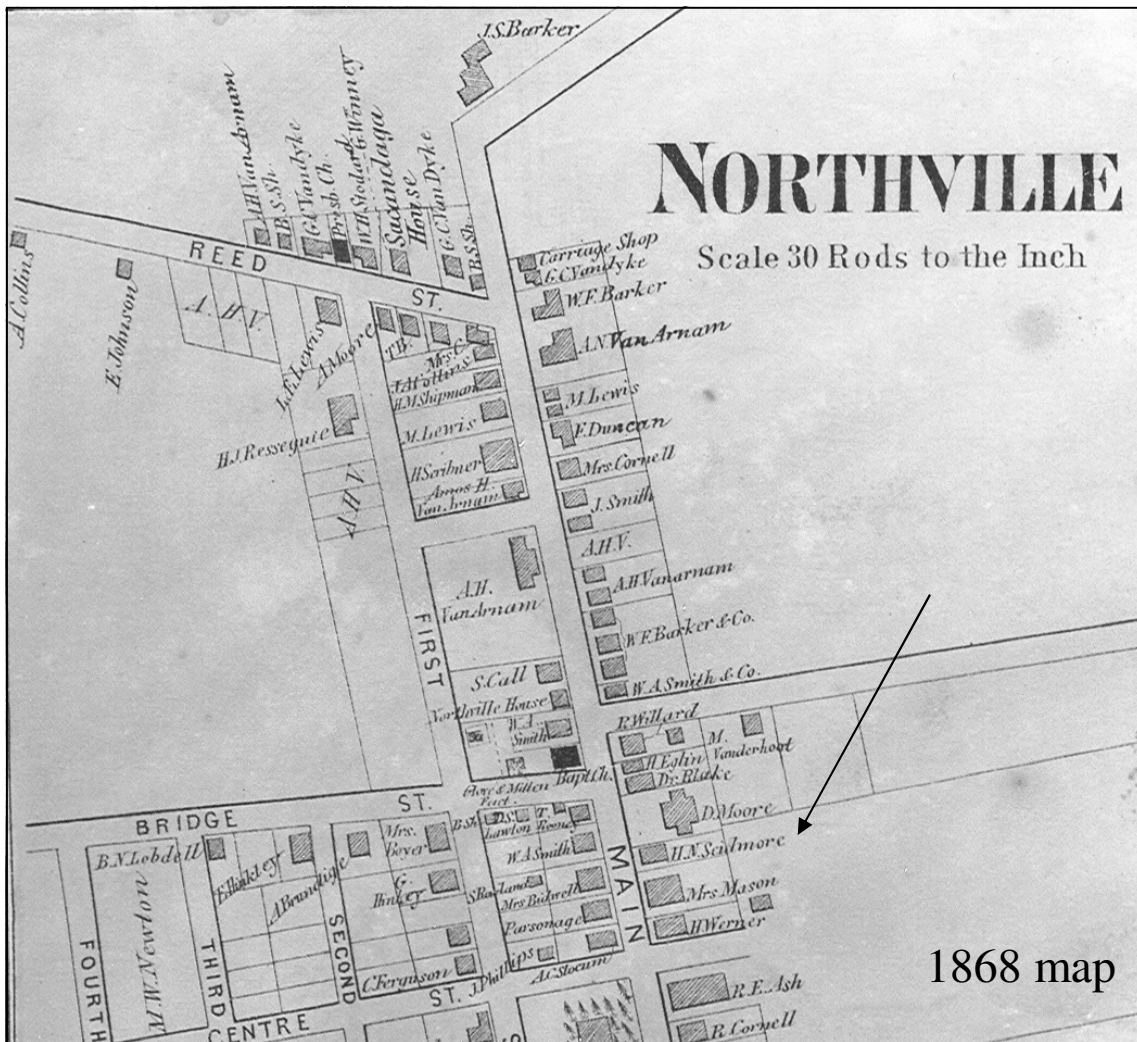
Timeless Tavern Christmas 2013
162 South Main Street

MUSEUM NEWS

Our museum will be open for the Trail-Fest celebration . June 7 and 8th in the Waterfront park . We will have a table set up to make available some historical books. There will be some local authors' books and also books for the donation to the Historical Society.

Our annual meeting will be held Wednesday May 28 at 5 p.m. in the Town Park gazebo. A picnic will be enjoyed before the meeting, bring a dish to pass and your own utensils. In case of rain we will meet in the community room of the Municipal Building.

Mr. Carl L Fry was a very active politician and business man. He was involved in many activities in Lake Pleasant, Wells, and Northville, such as the lumber business, real estate, insurance, and owner of a newspaper and other endeavors. Mr. Scidmore who owned the building that we call the Fry block, died in 1905 and according to what information I've found, Mr. Carl L Fry bought the building, probably from the Scidmore estate, which is how the name of the building became the Fry Block. His son William H. Fry inherited the business after his father died. Some of this is speculation because I could not find an actually transaction of the building from Scidmore to Fry. Wm H Fry did own the building after his father died in 1926.



H. N. Scidmore Manufacturer Fly, Trolling and Bait Hooks Watch repairing.

The Fry Block was occupied by many businesses over the years.
Mr. Scidmore's business being the first.

1896 the Sacandaga Press was printed on the second floor by John A Cole and by James B Moore in 1907. Later John R Carpenter ran it. John P. Gruet came to Northville in 1918 and operated his print shop on the second floor of the Fry Block and later at the Mosher Bros Feed Store on Bridge Street.

The insurance offices of Fry and Carpenter and William H Fry, Inc. on the second floor, later apartments were built on the second floor.

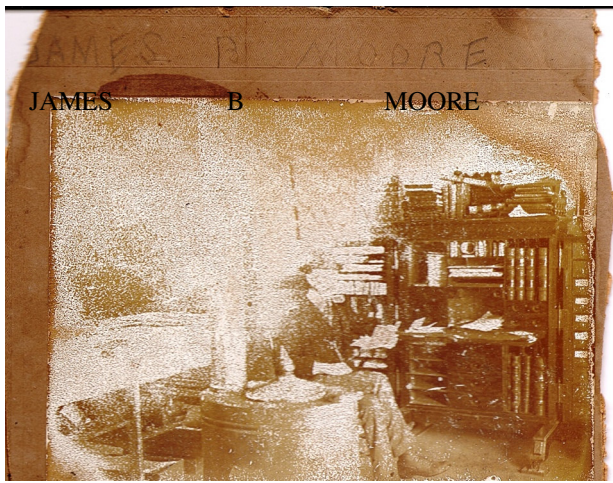
Other enterprises: The first floor was occupied by Ray Resseguie. Feed store. O.A. Harrington's Jewelry story and watch repair, Mrs. Lillian Delgado's Millinery and Ladies Furnishing, Daniel B. Taylor's newsroom and bicycle shop.

Abner's Burr's Poolroom, Oneida Market, Charlie Berry's pool room, Loren Crannell's grocery

store in 1935, Hugh Barker's Electric Shop and Roy Cruikshank's Hardware.

The Brass Rail restaurant was started by Percy Flewelling and ran from 1939 to 1966, when he sold it to Edward and Frank Bendl. Bendl's Brass Rail was in business for about 20 years. In 1997, Bendl sold the property to Michael Lastro. The Lastro's sold the property to Chris Ward in 2000. It was sold to Christopher Ward. He ran the restaurant until he sold the business to Mike and Ronnie Toohey. Toohey's named it "The Black Bear". The Toohey's conducted the restaurant and inn until 2004.

Currently (2014) the restaurant is the "Timeless Tavern". Owners are Tom and Lisa Wood. At first they rented the upstairs as apartments but in 2007 they completely renovated the inn into 6 gorgeous new rooms. They decorated the restaurant in a warm rustic style with historical décor.



James B Moore in the print shop in the Fry Block
This picture had been hanging in the cemetery maintenance building since before 1950's and just this week I acquired it from S. VanNostrand.

ANNOUNCEMENT

This is to advise that the Insurance Business of the late Wm. H. Fry, has been assumed by Mrs. Elizabeth H. Fry, and will be continued at the same address known as the Fry Insurance Agency, with the undersigned in charge as authorized local Agent.

Augustus U. Hopkins

Northville, N. Y.

**FRYE BLOCK IN NORTHVILLE
DAMAGED FOR THIRD TIME BY
BLAZE OF UNKNOWN ORIGIN**⁰¹

May 27-1934

A. L. Burr Pool Room, Roy Cruikshank Hardware Store, Frye Insurance Agency and Gruett Printing Shop Located in Building Damaged by Smoke and Water to Extent of About \$2,500

NORTHVILLE — For the third time in the past three years fire of an unknown origin swept through a portion of the block owned by W. H. Frye in Northville early yesterday afternoon. The blaze threatened for a time to sweep through the entire building, but the rapid work on the part of the firemen confined it largely to the first floor and in the partitions.

The fire was discovered during the early part of the afternoon by Mrs. William Lyke, who resides in the Lehman apartments near the rear of the Frye block. The firemen arrived on the scene a short time after the alarm sounded.

The first floor of the building is occupied by the hardware store of Roy Cruikshank and the pool room of A. L. Burr, while the second floor is taken up by the Frye insurance agency and the Gruett printing shop.



Crannell's Food Market in the Fry Block
Loren Crannell & Walt Weaver

December 15, 1931 NORTHVILLE FIREMAN OVERCOME BY SMOKE

Frank Howard

Northville firemen at 5:30 yesterday morning had extinguished the flames which started between 1 and 2 A. M. In the rear of the William H. Fry building in the village and swept, through a large portion of this structure and severely damaged the Eastern Star and Masonic lodge headquarters in the adjacent building. Loren Crannell, fireman, who

was temporarily overcome by smoke while battling the flame, suffered no permanent injury. Authorities last night had not solved the origin of the blaze. Disappearance of eight rifles from a case in the window of the Roy B. Cruikshank hardware store on the ground floor is thought to have had some connection with the fire on the block.

**CONGRATULATION
NORTHVILLE
As of May 16th 2014
Northville Historic District
is on the
National Register
of Historic Places**

Northville Folks we will not forget

Frances Williams
5th Grade teacher at NCS



1906 - 1991

Anyone that ever had "Miss Williams" as a teacher, never forgot her.

She was very strict and if you didn't "toe the mark" you got extra homework and probably didn't go outside for recess. I know of several of her males students have told me that they never got to go out for recess in her class. (now who's fault was that?)

Miss Williams was an excellent teacher, we learned well in her class.

One thing we all remember is that she loved to play softball and would go out at recess or lunch hour and play softball with her class. She always pitched and hit but never ran the bases.

She lived in the family farm house on Old State Route 30 north of Northville. She had 7 siblings. She taught school for 36 years, first in Benson and Hope before teaching in Northville. She retired in 1968

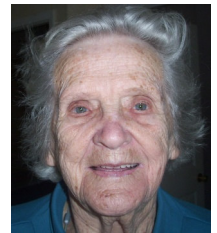
**Information
from a family member.**

Frances loved to travel and took many trips. She traveled to Europe, Mexico, Canada, all over the U.S., including Hawaii and Alaska.

She loved to play cards and was a mean canasta player. She had a loving soft side and loved to be around her family. She had a good sense of humor and was a jokester, especially when around her brother Carl, but could be serious and stern around us kids.

Follow Up on Parkville

Recently I learned of a lady by the name of Ethel Sweet Gifford, that was born in 1922 and lived there until the flooding of Parkville during the preparations of the dam in Conklinville. She thinks she's the last living person that lived in Parkville, she is 91 yrs old.



I went to visit her and I spent almost 3 hours chatting with her this week and looking at pictures she had from Parkville. She told me many stories; how she had to walk from Parkville to South Main Street Union School in the village. Quite a walk for small children.

She remembers them moving the houses from Parkville into the village. They'd use two teams of horses and roll the house or barn onto logs, when the building reached the end of the logs, they'd move the logs ahead so the building could continue on. She said she was born in her grand-



parent Groff's house, which was moved to south third street. It was torn down a few years ago.

George and Carrie Williams Groff and grandchildren at the house on third street that was moved from Parkville. The barn is still there.



Parkville

Northville's Town Basketball Team 1943 - 44
Sponsor was Serfis Glove Company



Front Row: Bud Darling, Jay Skiff, Doug Parker, Harold Blowers, John Harris
Standing: Bob Russell, Ed Mills, Walt Harrington, (?) and Herman Serfis



Sacandaga Park Swimming Beach in the 40's and 50's. It was open to the public as well as the Park Residence. I think I went there almost everyday in the summer. The Beachcomber was open where we'd buy a candy bar or a soda. The beach was well cared for , raked everyday, maybe even more than once a day.