

NNHS NEWS LETTER

Northville Northampton Historical Society

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Editor
Gail M Cramer



NORTHVILLE KNITTING MILL



The business gradually declined until it ceased to operate in 1909 - 1910

In 1910 George Washburn started the first motion picture theatre in this mill. Charles Peek ran the projectors, Helen Willard played the piano and Mrs. Jake Mertes ran the ticket booth. According to John Bennis's book, the films not being continuous, the words, "One minute please to change picture" were flashed on the screen between reels."

Later the building was used as a basketball court since the school did not have a gym.

Today (when all this snow is gone) if you look closely you can find part of the old foundation of this building at the location on Division Street.

ELI VAN BROCKLIN

Eli was born in Amsterdam, NY. He worked with his father in the manufacture of knit goods. In 1886 he went into business for himself. In 1887 he took on a partner, and built a new mill in Amsterdam. In 1891 he sold out his share of the business and moved to Northville.

Eli served his country in the Three Hundred and Third Division Supply Company during World War I.

He married Mary C Mosher in 1869. They had three children; Mathias, Charlotte, and Charles.

Eli was very active in the community of Northville in many capacities.

The knitting mill was established in 1891 by Eli Van Brocklin. The building was 94 X 145 feet. It made fine underwear, shirts, sports clothes, a special item, "arctic socks". The daily output was valued at \$1200.

It was located on the corner of Division and Second Streets. It employed as many as 225 to 250 people.

It was the first building in Northville to enjoy electricity, which was produced by it's own generators.

Mr. Van Brocklin ran a wire/cable from the mill to his home he built on the corner of First Street and Division Street, so he could have a street light in front of his house.



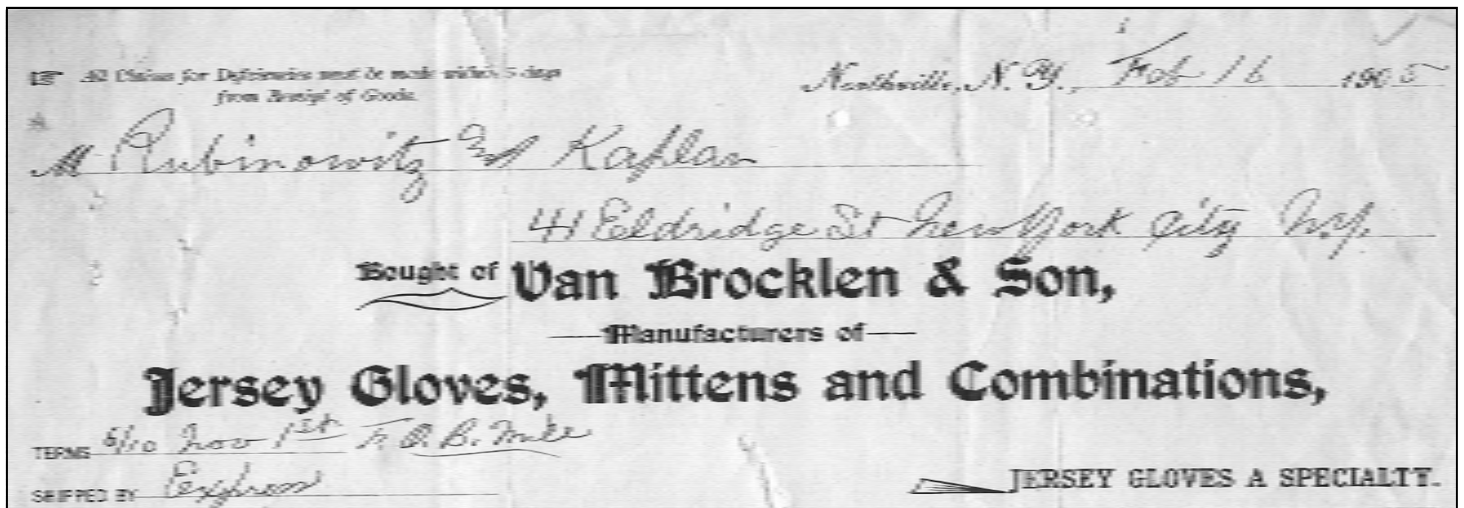
Eli Van Brocklin



The house that Eli and Mary had built on the corner of First and Division Streets. It was just one block east of the knitting mill.

Van Brocklin's also made gloves and mittens, note sign on the side of the house and the receipt below.

This house was later used as an apartment house. After it was torn down a mobile home was placed on the lot by Bob and Natalie Murphy.



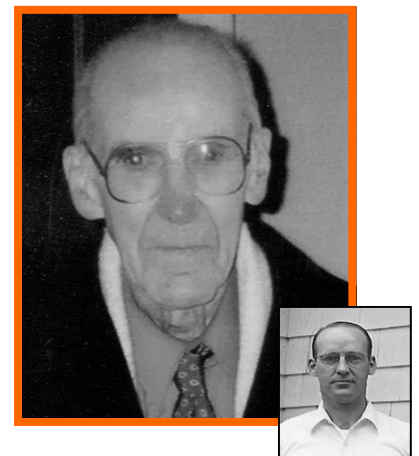
Newton Street Follow Up

From Darlene Holubetz

Last month Newton Street was a feature in the NNHS Newsletter. Since that article, Darlene has added a few neat comments about Newton Street. Darlene and her husband lived in the "Mahar" house for many years. They added new rustic aluminum cedar shake siding to the original metal siding and a new roof. One of her favorite memories is about **Mayor Bob Van Arnham of Newton Street**. Actually Bob appointed himself to that position.

Bob and his wife lived on the corner of Second and Newton Street. He was very proud of the little short street. He made sure walks were cleared of snow, and the streets were never littered, and often took in neighbors garbage cans for them. He checked in on the neighbors on a regular basis. His sister, Marion Mosher lived on the corner of First and Newton. In later years they ate their meals together about every day. As a neighbor and "adopted daughter", Darlene was very helpful to Bob, looked out for him, took him goodies, as she called him, my "Dad across the street".

MAYOR OF NEWTON STREET



Bob Van Arnham

SACANDAGA SPECTATOR

There were several local newspapers printed in Northville, SACANDAGA SPECTATOR being one of them. The first issue of the Sacandaga Spectator was December 10, 1936. The following articles are copied from some of the earlier issues. I do not know how many years this newspaper was printed.

Paul A Jones, Editor
Brook Jones, Pres. And Treasurer
Velma R Jones, Secretary

Subscription Rates
One year , mail or carrier.....1.50
Six months, mail or carrier..... .75
Single Copy..... .03

SACANDAGA SPECTATOR
DECEMBER 17, 1936

Northville Police In Raid on Still

Confirmation that a 5,000 gallon capacity still had been operating for several weeks in Northville was revealed late yesterday after a search by local police and state troopers of the Randolph property on the road to Wells.

A local resident on passing by the property became suspicious on account of telltale odors emanating from the vicinity and reported the matter to Clarence Davison, Northville chief of police, who with Sergeant Hilfrank and associate of the local state police staged a raid on the house.

It is altogether probable that if the matter had been reported to the local authorities directly as there was suspicion of its existence, the operators of the still would have been apprehended.

A plumber, who gave his name as Sam Gernigan of North Creek, said that he had been engaged to do some work at the premises, but that he was unaware of the true meaning of it all.

There have been several clues left by the operators which police believe may lead to arrests in the near future as well as to the finding of the new location of the illicit equipment.

Other local newspapers I'll write about at another time.

THE NORTHVILLE
ADVERTISER
CIRCA 1916
THE SACANDAGA PRESS
CIRCA 1890'S

DECEMBER 31, 1936

Star Theatre Reopens With Gala Program New Year's Day

The Star Theatre, under new management, reopens New Years Day, completely transformed - a show place the community may well be proud of.

A complete change of both the exterior and interior has been achieved with the result that catchy lighting effects and pleasing colour attract and delight the theatre-goer.

A brilliantly lighted marquee is suspended over the sidewalk and new display frames ornament the exterior. Within the theatre has been carpeted and a pleasing arrangement of subdued lighting has been installed.

SACANDAGA SPECTATOR
DECEMBER 24, 1936

Students Home For Christmas

The following college students are home for the Christmas vacation: Robert Morrison, University of Richmond; Grant Morrison, Springfield University; Albert Strobel, Wesleyan College; Sara Mosher, University of Rochester; Martha Meter, Wheaton College; Lucia Meter, Wheaton College; Carl Conklin, Clarkson Tech.; Gordon Gjord, Clarkson Tech.; Ray Heath, University of Rochester; Ina Young, Albany State College; Betty Denton, Syracuse University; Max Fowler, Albany School of Pharmacy; Linda Sweet, Oneonta Normal School; Clare Ellen Roberts, Eastman School of Music; Howard Denton, University of Richmond; Wilson Pulver, Green Mountain Junior College; Preston Torrey, Green Mountain Junior College; Martha Van Arnum, Russell Sage College; Imogene Lawton, Russell Sage College; Elron LaRowe, Moody Bible Institute; Richard Carsland, University of Alabama.

Special
Turkey Dinner
Sunday

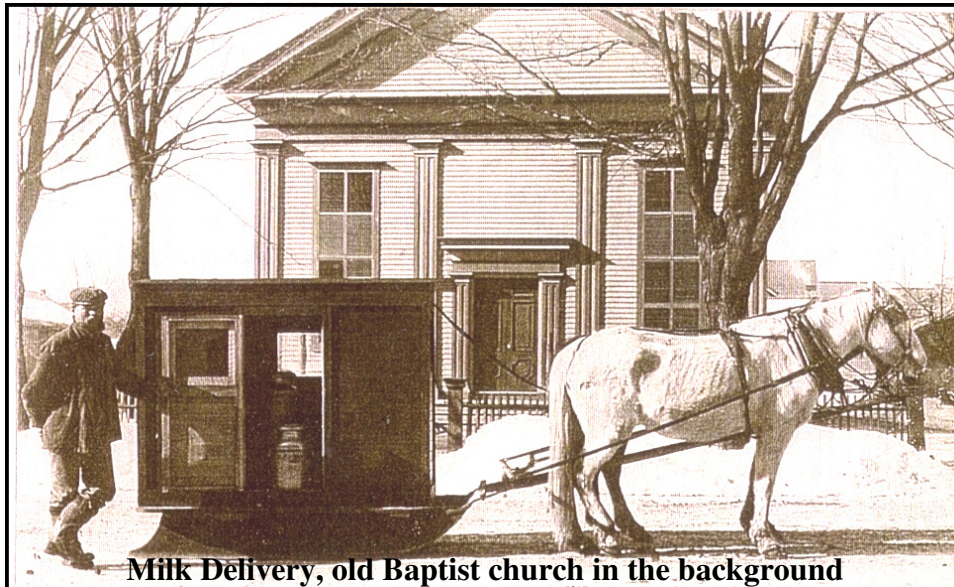
50c

ICE CREAM 29c QT

Persse's

Restaurant and Fountain
Telephone 31-R

MISCELANIOUS PICTURES FROM THE PAST



Milk Delivery, old Baptist church in the background



**Late 1940's
The old Fire Station which now houses the Village Café
and former office of Dr. Gruet.**



Parade in the late 1940's. Does anyone know these kids?

Genealogy

Many of us today are interested in researching our genealogy. It can become addictive because once you start it's hard to stop. We find many people we never knew we were related to and maybe wish that we hadn't found out (smile here). I ran across the following story that I thought those of us who are writing about our ancestors would enjoy and hope the rest of you enjoy it too.

The Editor

The Smiths were proud of their family tradition. Their ancestors had come to America on the Mayflower. Their line had included senators, pastors, and Wall Street wizards.

Now they decided to compile a family history, a legacy for the children. They hired a fine author. Only one problem arose: how to handle that great-uncle who was executed in the electric chair. The author said not to worry, that he could handle that section of history tactfully.

When the book appeared, the family turned to the section on Uncle George. There they read, "George Smith occupied a chair of applied electronics at an important government institution and was attached to his position by the strongest of ties. His death came as a real shock."