

NNHS NEWS LETTER

Northville Northampton Historical Society

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Editor
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WHAT USE TO BE LOCATED HERE?

Corner of Water Street and North Main Street



MUSEUM CLOSED UNTIL SPRING

Paper work, pictures , Textiles, some books, are all boxed up safe from “critters”.

The historical poster display has been placed in the Municipal building meeting room for the winter. Shutters have been closed.



In 1888 Rueben Willard II, built a 3 story brick-faced structure as a general store.
On the corner of Water Street and North Main Street

Rueben Willard II was born in 1828 in Luzerne, Warren County, NY. His father, Rueben Sr. and wife, Jane (Thomas) moved to Town of Northampton the year Rueben II was born. He was the uncle of John A Willard that built what is now the Inn at the Bridge.

Rueben II married Sally Harris in 1849. They had 5 children; Samuel, Lottie, James R, Sara, and Clarence. After Sally died he married twice more but all the children were from his first wife.

Rueben's first employment netted him one dollar weekly. He was early apprenticed to the shoemaker's trade, at which he worked until he had accumulated a little money. He was not content with being an employee and with his slender capital went to the village of Northville where he opened a shoe makers shop. He became known as a wide-awake young man of keen business ability. He had a wonderful ability to size up a piece of timber and judge its value in finished lumber. He used his knowledge to his own advantage and bought a great amount of timber land that returned him large profits. He had other lines of activity besides his store and growing lumber interest. He operated a stage line between Northville and Lake Pleasant. He was road commissioner, constable, trustee of the village, and one of the organizers of the first bank of Northville; becoming a director. He was a leading Methodist and helpful in erecting the church in the village. Other occupations that have been listed to his credit in the census records are: grocer, hotelkeeper, dealer in dry goods and groceries, farmer, U. S Mail agent and real estate

In 1888 he built the Rueben Willard brick building. He was 60 years old at the time. He eventually turned it over to his son, James R. Willard

This building occupied many different businesses over time., a few of them are: Fred Farhart's fruit market, Smith's Ice Cream parlor, James Van Ness had his Law Office on the second floor, Schaffer grocery store, Persse's Grocery store, Mike Greenhill's Oneida Market, Arthur Sands Radio Shop in the basement. At one time, 3rd floor was used as the town hall. In the year 1957 this building was destroyed by fire.

The above information from several sources including, "The History of the Willard Family by Edna Willard"



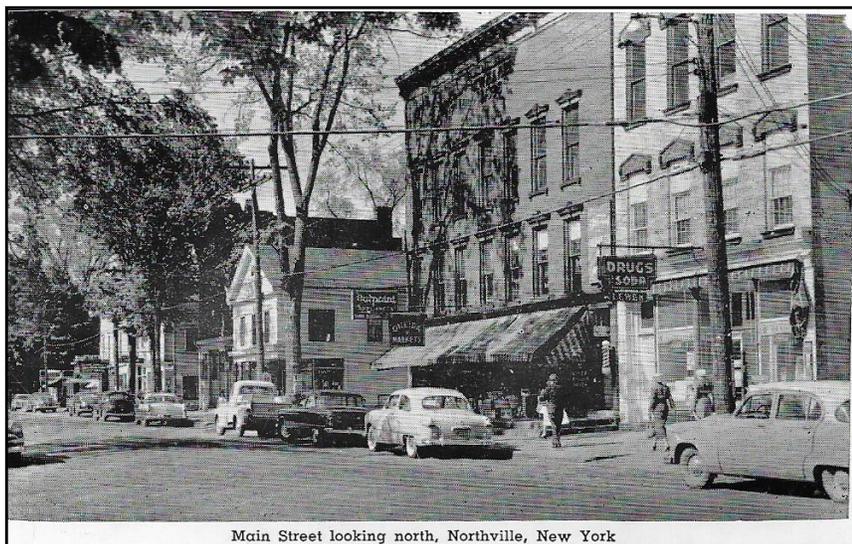
Real Food Values at **PERSSE'S**

Main Street NORTHVILLE, N.Y.

Gold Medal Flour	1.10	White House Coffee	.28
Pillsbury "	1.10	" "	.31
Old Home "	.89	Beechnut "	.32
Gran. Sugar 10 lbs	.49	Graham Crack's, 2lbbx	.22
Evap. Milk 3 tall cans for	.27	Wh. Kernal Corn cn	.12
Roll Butter, per lb $\frac{3}{4}$.33	P & G Soap, 5 cks	.18
Kirkman's Soap	.03	Spaghetti, 3 lbs	.25
Minute-Mix Bis. Fl.	.15	Macaroni "	.25
A Good Coffee	.15	Mothers' Oats lge	.19
Break O'Morn Coffee	.21	Eagle Cond. Milk	.19
Bonita "	.25	Yerdons Ice Cream pt.	.20
Chase-Sanborn "	.26	" Brick "	.20



Schaffer Grocery Store



Main Street looking north, Northville, New York



1979

Mike and Helen Greenhill and their two sons; Martin (Marty) and James (Jerry).

Oneida Market

By Marilyn Rhodes Greenhill

In 1940 Merrill "Mike" Greenhill came to Northville to manage the Oneida market on the corner of Water Street and Main Street. The company offices were on Railroad Ave in Albany. The building that housed the market was built in 1888. There had been many things on the second and third floors; a barber shop, law office, dance hall, and meeting rooms for organizations. (continued on page 4)



ONEIDA MARKET AS MOST OF US REMEMBER IT
Remember the steps up ?



Merrill "Mike" Greenhill Manager of the Oneida



Helen Greenhill and Clayton Weir



Marilyn Greenhill and her mother Julia Rhodes



Mike and stock boys; John Dence, Jimmy Morgan and Larry Cramer



Brian Thompson and Mike Greenhill



The fire; February 14, 1957

ONEIDA MARKET BY MARILYN RHODES GREENHILL
(Continued from page 2)

In the basement Arthur Sands had an electrical business. He sold and repaired electrical appliances. When televisions first came to Northville he set up a TV set on the store steps showing a boxing match and invited people to come watch on a little eight inch screen.

Mike's wife Helen was the cashier and other ladies from the village were also hired. Young men from high school were hired as stock boys.

Green stamps were given with purchases and could be redeemed for merchandize, electrical appliances, and toys. Some people gave them for Christmas gifts after saving them all year.

In February 1957 a fire started from an electrical source in the basement shop and the three story building burned to the ground during the night.

The Oneida company built a new cement one story building on the same site. Today it is "Lakeside Gifts".

Marilyn married Jerry Greenhill in 1957. He died in 2004. They have 3 children; Tony, Teresa and Stephen.



Brass sign date unknown found by Ken Hurst

Local Northville Ladies. Is one of them your relative?



List of names: Laura W. Scribner, Edna L. Barker, Nancy Brownell, May Straight, Margaret Chequer, Emeroy Dennie, Belle Brownell, Amy Olmstead, Ella Barker and Leona Harris.

A former local Dentist's son, Warren Meter died recently at age 96. He met his wife Janet Winne at Camp of the Woods in Speculator and they were married in Johnstown in 1950. Their son Mel and daughter Lupe survive him. A son William passed on in 2000. Warren attended Wheaton College and was a degreed engineer. He worked for GE and Honeywell for many years and retired in the 1980's. Warren, Janet and family made their home in Arizona. They had lived on the corner of Reed and 4th Street while in Northville.



Dr. Frank Meter and his children



Elwyn Tennant's Sunoco Station on Bridge Street and 5th Street Extension. It was torn down and replaced by gas pumps for the village trucks and school busses.

Recently Ken Hurst with his high powered metal detector found and unearthed a metal sign that had been presented to Elwyn Tennant for his service with the Sunoco Dealership. Ken donated the sign to the NNHS museum.

SUNOCO

PRESENTED TO
ELWYN TENNANT
IN APPRECIATION OF
()
YEARS OF
CORDIAL BUSINESS RELATIONS

SUN OIL COMPANY

Missing some NNHS Newsletters? Very soon all back issues will be on the Northampton website. You will be able to down load them.