

# NNHS NEWS LETTER

Northville Northampton Historical Society

Issue 128  
May 2021  
Editor  
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## FLOYD AND MABEL ARNOLD

Steam Laundry on the River Road, early 1920s - 1929

“We wash your duds in the river suds”

and

Boat Livery 1930 - early 1950s.



Arnold's Boat Livery painted from memory by Sally Gagne

### The Laundry

Being a railroad terminal town, Northville became the liaison point between down-state businesses, and local businesses. This resulted in many agents and representatives being located in the area, either temporarily or permanently. This, coupled with the area becoming a resort spot, caused a boom in the hotel trade.

This caused a laundry problem. Some hotels set up their own cleaning facility, others sent their laundry to Gloversville by train.

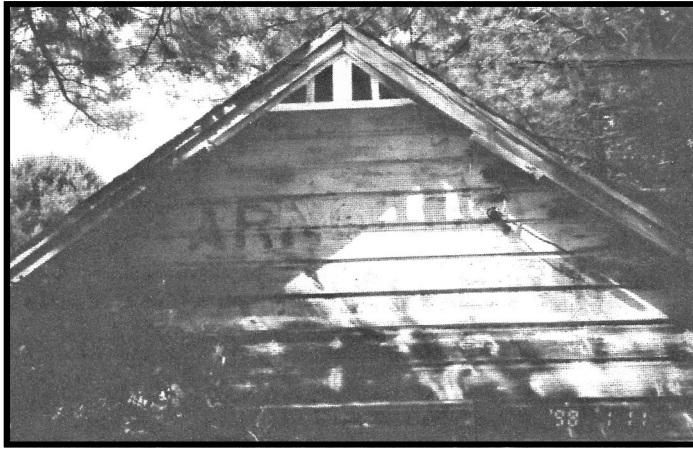
A local man and his wife, saw the need and the possibilities of a local laundry, and in the early 20's established Arnold's Laundry. The plant was located on a narrow strip of sloping land between the Benson Road

and the Sacandaga River, approximately at the present junction of the Route 30 and Gifford's Valley Road. The local families, as well as the hotels, welcomed the service and it did a lively business.

A few years later because of the establishment of motor routes and pick-up delivery of Gloversville laundries, the patronage of the laundry decreased. This, coupled with the fact that the land on which the laundry stood was to be flooded by the Sacandaga Reservoir, caused the termination of the business.

The Arnold's then established a boat livery in the bay where he rented out boats.

(above written by Carleton Nellis and used by permission)



A couple of Arnold's cabins overlooking the Great Sacandaga Lake

**Don Williams wrote the following in his book, "Adirondack Hotels and Inns"**

Arnold's Boat Livery and Cabins at Gifford's Valley near Northville, consisted of four cabins along with a boat house building and dock. The business owned by Floyd and Mabel Arnold, opened after the flooding of the Sacandaga Valley with the construction of the dam for the Sacandaga Reservoir, later named the Great Sacandaga Lake. Two additional cabins were brought in after the business became better known. Families who came, year after year, to stay in the cabins enjoyed some of the Adirondack agricultural experiences. They selected, picked, and purchased sweet corn from the adjacent Williams family farm, along with other seasonal vegetables. And they had their own private privy in a four-room outhouse, each with two holes. In connection with the cabins, patrons could rent boats at the boat livery and purchase other fishing needs and snack. (article used by permission from D. W.)



Arnold's store (pictured on the first page) was moved west up Gifford's Valley Road after the reservoir flooded the valley. It became a chicken coop behind Vern and Margaret Duesler's log cabin. Recently the Duesler's tore the old building down and donated the above upper part of the building to the historical societies museum, which will soon be seen at the museum. Thanks Vern and Margaret for helping to preserve some of our history.

**Lewis Decker (former Fulton County Historian) wrote the following in the Leader Herald in 1993.**

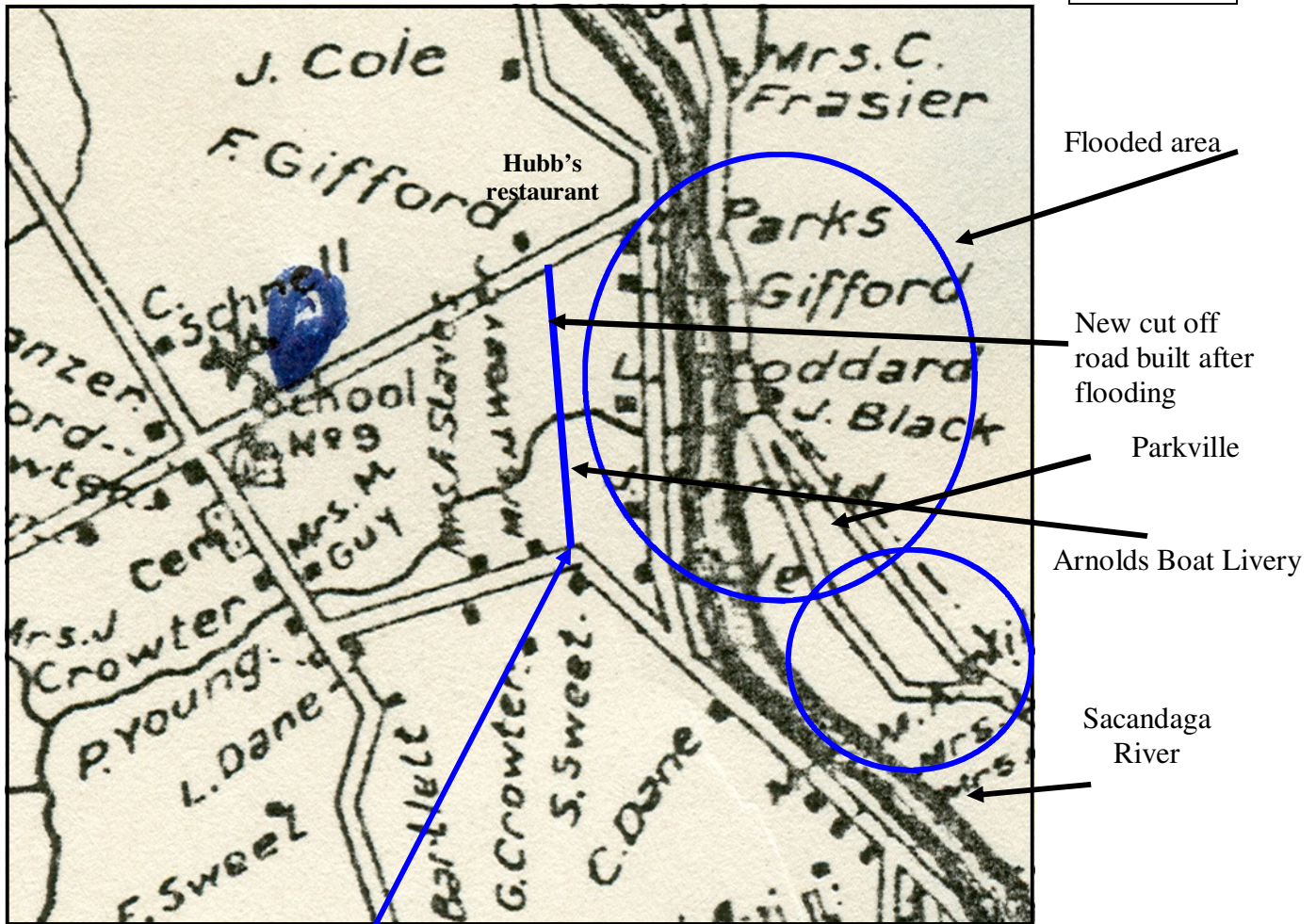
"I visited Mr. Arnolds establishment on a number of occasions during the summer vacation from school, buying fish line and hooks and occasionally helping him with his boats. He let me borrow a row boat when he wasn't so busy. His little store was the closest place for a boy to obtain a candy bar or soda in the valley. Mr. Arnold usually had a few local old timers in is store sitting around, reminiscing and just waiting for some green-horn kid or better still, some unsuspecting customer or person asking for directions. One day when a summer visitor stopped by and asked directions of one of these old timers that was sitting outside of the store. This outsider seemed to answer more of his own question than he was asking which was irritating the old timer. Finally the visitor made a remark, "Does it make any difference which of the roads I take to drive into the valley? Whereupon, the reply was given in a serious manner, "Not to me it doesn't" That ended any serious conversation with the visitor." Mr. Arnold used to have a sign outside his building which stated: "Mom's not here, but we've got pop on ice"

(used by permission)

*Sally Sauve Gagne grew up in Gifford's Valley and remembers seeing the cabin and Arnold's store. She can't remember ever going inside the store but remembers the rocking chair and the cola machine on the porch. Sally and her husband Bill now live in the house that Floyd and Mabel Arnold lived in.*



1905 MAP



Between the upper and lower cutoffs to Gifford's Valley, from the Benson road, there was a section that had to be cut off for the "taking line" for the reservoir. A bypass was constructed around it. This bypass included a new road, connecting the upper and lower turnoffs in Gifford's Valley. This caused a bay known colloquially as Arnold's Bay. The new road went from the corner, to where the old Hubb's Point Restaurant was located. It allowed traffic to avoid going on the Gifford's Valley road past the cemetery, turning at the old school house, then back onto the Benson Road. Arnold's Livery and cabins were built on the new cut off road.

Years later another bypass (causeway ) was built, that dammed up Arnold's bay, now known as Arnold's Pond. Traffic to the north on route 30 is a more convenient straight-away, instead of taking the old by- pass by Hubb's Point Restaurant.

*Mrs. Floyd Arnold Northville, March 31 1951— Mrs. Mabel Ferguson Arnold, 71, widow of Floyd Arnold, died yesterday in the Kingsboro Nursing Home, Gloversville, where she had been a patient for several weeks. Mrs. Arnold was born September, 22, 1879, in the Town of Mayfield, the daughter of Sylvester and Mary Gulick Ferguson. She attended the Town of Mayfield schools and at one time was employed by the Christy and Wilkins Glove Co. and B. D. Brown Glove Co. She married Floyd Arnold June 16, 1909, and they moved to the Town of Northampton, where they lived on the river road opposite Northville. There they operated a laundry business until the Sacandaga Reservoir came into existence. Then they operated a boat livery and cabin business until they retired two years ago. Mrs. Arnold was a member of the Mayfield Presbyterian Church Besides her husband. Mrs. Arnold is survived by two sisters. Mrs. Alice Cole, Amsterdam, and Miss Sadie Ferguson. Northville; a niece, Miss Martha Cole, Amsterdam; one nephew, Lewis Cole, Gloversville R. D., and several cousins. Funeral services will be held will be in Prospect Hill Cemetery Gloversville. (Floyd Arnold died in 1953)*



To vaccinate or not to vaccinate  
We are again faced with the decision about another disease. (Covid 19)

## Clinic This Morning Will Be Held In Office of Dr. J. Edward Grant (1939)

### Diphtheria

A toxoid clinic will be held this morning in the office of Dr. J. Edward Grant in **Northville** all children from the ages of six months to ten years will be inoculated without charge. Dr. Grant will have charge of the clinic assisted by Miss Carrie Del Torto, public health nurse. The clinic is part of the special health program being carried out in the Township in an effort to eliminate diphtheria.

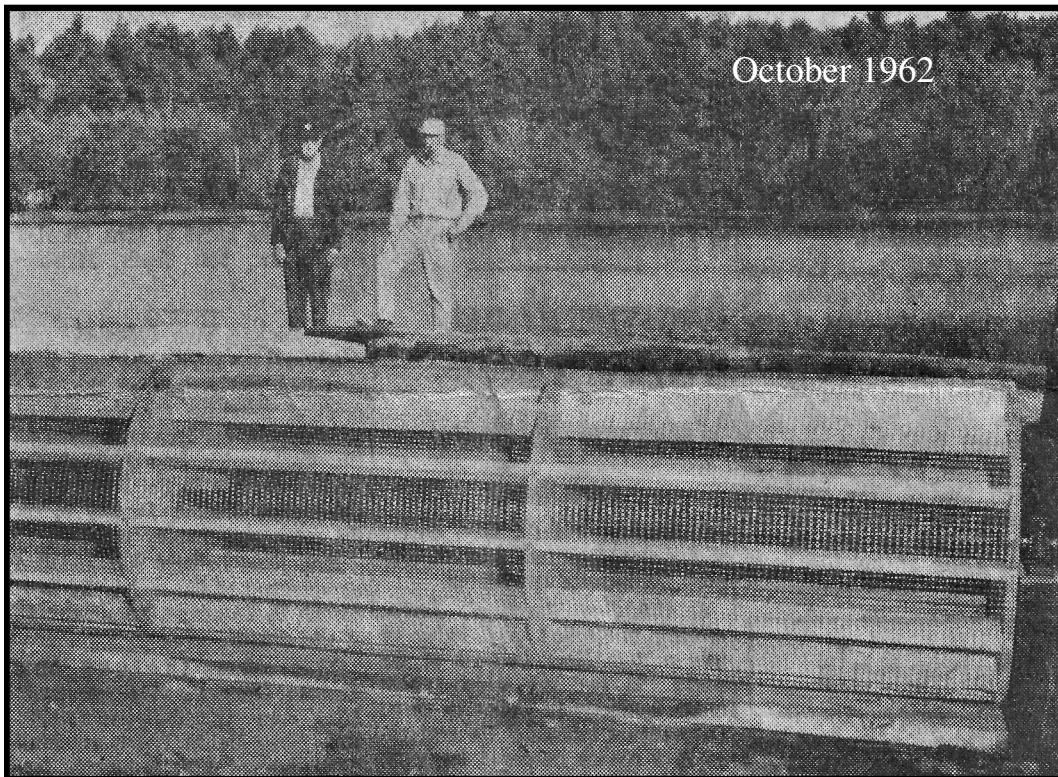


Before the introduction of vaccines, diphtheria was a leading cause of childhood death around the world, including in the United States. Due to the success of the U.S. immunization program, diphtheria is now nearly unheard of in the United States

## Small Pox

**The 1947 New York City smallpox outbreak** occurred in March 1947 and was declared ended on April 24, 1947. The outbreak marked two milestones for America. First, it was the largest mass vaccination effort ever conducted for smallpox in America, and second, it marked the last outbreak of smallpox in America. Within three weeks of the discovery of the outbreak, the U.S. Public Health Service, in conjunction with New York City health officials, had procured the smallpox vaccine and inoculated over 6,350,000 adults and children.<sup>[1]</sup> Of that number, 5,000,000 had been vaccinated within the first two weeks. The rapid response was credited with limiting the outbreak to 12 people, 10 of whom recovered, while 2 died

DO YOU REMEMBER LINING UP IN THE OLD  
NCS GYMNASIUM TO GET YOUR SHOT?



October 1962

**Northville  
Fish and Game Club**  
has constructed rotating, self-cleaning screens at the outlet of the Northville Lake. Inspecting the screens to keep trout from leaving the lake are Harland Wheeler and William F. Davison, members of the game club. The screens, designed by Wallace of Long Lake Fish and Game Club, were made by William Davison. Assisting Davison installing the equipment were Ora Darling Jr. Francis Rhodes, Harland Wheeler, Raymond Mercer and Robert Seavey