

# NNHS NEWS LETTER

Northville Northampton Historical Society

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Editor  
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## WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Women's History Month is a celebration of women's contributions to history, culture and society and has been observed annually in the month of March in the United States since 1987. Women's History Month is dedicated to remember and reflect the contributions of women like Abigail Adams, Susan B. Anthony and Rosa Parks. Those are names we all are familiar with. Also, there are local women like our own teachers, moms, nurses, local government positions, church leaders etc. Let's focus here on some of our own women in Northville that has made a huge difference in our community. Most of these were also Moms, and they served their community as well.

### EDUCATORS



**NCS Teachers:** Emma Brownell, Anna Lindsay, Sally Favier, Martha Davison, Emma McCoullough and Josephine Schuyler.

### GENEALOGIST



**Helen Fyvie**

Helped many local families research their family history .

### TEACHER



**Frances Williams**

Many former students have memories of her playing softball with her students during recess and lunch period, and learning arithmetic problems.

### SCHOOL BOARD



**Grace Grant**

She was instrumental in the building of the new NCS school auditorium in 1930.

### AUTHOR



**Annabelle Melville**  
Author of "Rue the Reservoir" a historical novel based in Northville which she used the name Eastville.

### COACH



**Jean Frasier**

Highly respected and loved by the girl athletes

### MUSICIAN



**Verna Osterhout**  
NCS Music Teacher  
Organist and choir director in the Baptist Church. Involved in community musicals and groups

### GLOVE MAKER



**Gaynell Spencer**

Gaynell represents all the many ladies in our area that spent hours working in the local glove shops.

### **NURSE**



**Pauline Langr**

Civil Defense nurse during WW II, Girl Scout Leader, Pianist and choir director at Methodist Church, Member of Pocatotas.

### **FOSTER MOM**



**Hilda Fuller**

Many children called Hilda "Mom" over the years. Fostered over 100 children. I remember her dressing them up for church. They'd all sit very orderly during church, dressed nicely, ribbons in the little girl's hair, and all well taken care of.

### **HISTORIAN**



**Charlotte Russell**  
Teacher

Compiled a local historical book "Northampton, Times Past, Times Present"  
Town of Northampton and Village of Northville Historian

### **TEACHER**



**Edith Cunningham**

Elementary teacher for 41 years. In one family she taught 3 generations.  
Town of Northampton Historian.  
Eastern Star Member

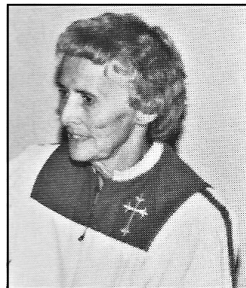
### **SECRETARY**



**Leona Warner**

NCS Office Secretary for the Principal and all the staff. She had a telephone on her desk which was probably the only phone in the school. Students could ask permission to use it to call home.

### **MUSICIAN**



**Helen Russell**

Music Teacher  
Very involved with the community: choirs, church, school, weddings, piano, and solos.

President and Founder of the Anna Denton Democratic Club 1955—1995

### **TEACHER**



**Hazel Corey**

School Teacher  
Office of Commissioner of Appeals.

### **POLITICIAN**



**Anna Denton**

### **NURSE**



**Etta Buyce**

First public health nurse in Nathan Littauer Hospital. Helped to deliver many local babies, (including my husband)  
A gentle compassionate, humble spirit which served her well in her profession, in her church, and family.

# They say, "History Repeats Itself"

Bank Robbery in Northville NY October 1911 and a repeat performance March 2022

Most of us in the area know about the latest bank heist that happen to our local bank on Bridge Street this past Saturday. I'm sure you've read the papers and listened to folks talking about it Did you know it wasn't the first bank robbery in Northville?

THE GLOVERSVILLE

## YEGGS BLOW OPEN OUTER DOORS OF NORTHVILLE BANK SAFE; NO BOOTY

<sup>Northern</sup>  
Northern Village of the County Thrilled This Morning by the Discovery of an Attempt to Steal the Funds of the Institution—Several Heard Muffled Explosion Shortly After Two This Morning, But Robbers Were Not Seen—Theory That Robbers Made Their Get Away in a High Power Automobile. Safe Was Wrecked Beyond Repair—Late Investigation Proves That Inner Doors of Safe Were Also Blown, But Attempt Failed of Its Purpose.

A sensational raid was made last night or early to-day on the Northville bank by a gang of professional cracksmen who practically wrecked the safe with dynamite or nitro-glycerine, but left before they secured any booty. From all appearances the thieves had been in Northville several days looking over the territory preparatory to starting operations. The get-away was made in a high power automobile which left a "diamond tread" impression in the street in front of the bank. The authorities in this city and Albany were notified and are looking into the matter.

The intruders effected their entrance by forcing open the rear window of the bank, breaking the catch entirely off the sash. Prior to entering the bank, the blacksmith shop of C. B. Chequer was broken into and a number of crowbars and sledgehammers were taken out. The livery stable of George Van Arnham was also broken into and the thieves carried away all the blankets in the place, which were used to deaden the sound of the explosion.

The thieves even went so far as to strip the blankets off the backs of the horses in the stables. About thirty blankets were carried to the bank. Four holes were drilled around the combination and filled with the explosive. While there was a smell as of exploded dynamite about the place this morning, the presence of putty on the wrecked door would indicate that nitro-glycerine had been used. In addition to filling the holes drilled, the bottom of the outside doors had also force of the explosion tore on the outside doors, wrecked the bottom of the safe and also welded the inner doors together, jamming them in at the same time. Owing to the condition of the inner doors, it is impossible to state whether or not any instruments, such as crowbars, had been used on them.

Some claim that the thieves, after blowing off the outer doors, were frightened away, while on the other hand the theory is advanced that the thieves may have run short of their supply of explosives and were forced thus to abandon the job. It is very

evident that if the thieves really had enough explosive to finish the job, they would have had to spend some time drilling the inside doors, as there was no way to load the bottom of the doors. The safe was in such a condition that it was impossible to open it this morning when Cashier Burdette Eglin entered the bank for his day's work.

The bank is located on Main street, between Bridge street and Division. Mrs. William Chequer, who lives next door to the bank, stated this morning that she was awakened in the early hours by a dull sound, as of an explosion. She had no suspicion that the trouble was in the bank, however. She arose from bed, lighted a lamp and peered out the window, but saw nothing. Neither did she hear any more noise and therefore went back to bed. She looked at the clock at the time and noticed that it was 2:30.

The noise was also heard by William Foote, who lives a few doors from the bank. The sound, which was a muffled one, aroused him and he started out the door in his night-clothes to see what was the trouble. The chilly air caused him to return

to his room for more clothing, and after he had dressed he again stepped out doors, but could hear or see nothing and therefore retired to bed again.

A story told by Ernest Weaver, the night man at the F., J. & G. round-house, may or may not have a bearing on the burglary. Mr. Weaver states that at about one o'clock he observed an automobile at a point between the St. James hotel and the Palmer residence on the river road. There were several men in the machine. The chauffeur pulled alongside the road, stopped the engine and also put out the lights. He watched the machine

as well as he could in the darkness. Between the hours of three and four he observed a party of men climb into the machine. One of the number lighted the lamps and the car sped away towards Sacandaga Park.

He states that the chauffeur would run the machine for a stretch at high speed and then slow down again, which operation he repeated until the car disappeared from view. Of course this machine may have merely con-

the other hand it may be that it was the very car which the thieves used in getting away.

William Harris of Northville, who lives on Bridge street, states that he heard the noise made by a high power machine which passed his house about three. He was positive that the car was a high-power car, but knew nothing further about it. The affair created much excitement in the village and shortly after the discovery was made, quite a number of residents visited the scene of the operations. Cashier Eglin at once notified the Bankers' Protective association, who will detail detectives to investigate the robbery.

The Albany and Gloversville police were also notified of the matter. Sheriff Thomas Vill, who was informed of the affair through The Leader office, telephoned to Mr. Eglin offering his services, but owing to the fact that the protective association will look after the case, no action will be necessary on the part of the sheriff.

It was stated in Northville this morning that for some time past there have been strangers stopping in the village who have been making various inquiries. It is known that one of these strangers had inquired at a store

regarding the quickest route to Saratoga and also the road to Gloversville. It is not thought that the yeggmen made their escape by taking to the northern country for the reason that, at the present time, the roads are practically impassable.

The loss to the safe will be considerable, but it is fully covered against loss by burglary insurance.

Six years ago last fall the bank was broken into in a similar manner, but no money was taken. Two men were arrested afterwards, but nothing was proven against them and they were subsequently discharged. It is possible that the yeggmen have had the job in contemplation for some time past, but owing to the presence of many summer residents in the village and vicinity, it was deferred until the

close of the summer season. During the summer it would be practically impossible to traverse the vicinity secretly, owing to the possibility of detection by some belated summer boarders returning from the park to Northville.

The theory is also advanced that the machine in which the party travelled may have been a stolen one, but as far as known no such theft has been made recently in this vicinity. It has been a very common practice for yeggmen to press into service a stolen machine to aid them in making a getaway.

The discovery of the attempted robbery was made by Cashier Eglin at about 7:30 this morning. He was on the street at that hour and in passing the bank his attention was called to the fact that the curtains in the bank windows were all drawn. An unusual condition, inasmuch as great care was always exercised to give a full view of the interior all night. Instantly suspecting that everything was not as it should be, Mr. Eglin entered the place and found evidences of the crime.

The light, which is left each night in the bank, was still burning. The wrecked safe, with the stolen sledges, crow-bars and horse blankets were lying about everywhere and the method of entrance and exit, the open rear window, was found.

The attempted robbery only interrupted the regular business of the bank for a short time and about 10:30 it

was open for business as if

nothing unusual had occurred.

In an interview with Seymour Partidge, who acts as policeman during the summer at Northville, he stated that his period of regular patrol of the streets only extended during three or four months in the year. At other times of the year he holds himself in readiness to answer calls from the public in emergencies.

#### LATE DEVELOPMENTS.

Late this afternoon, the result of further investigation was received at The Leader office and some new points in the case brought to light. While it was at first thought that the inner doors of the safe had not been tampered with by the burglars, it was discovered later that a hole had been drilled through the inner doors and a charge shot off. This charge smashed the lock on the door and drove a piece of it through one of the most important books of the bank which was inside the safe and damaged it seriously. The yeggs were unable to open the doors because of a small catch which could not be raised after the destruction of the combination.

The officials of the bank had to use a heavy board this morning in order to pry the inner doors. They also had great difficulty in opening the inner money vault as the combination worked very hard but they were finally successful and found its contents intact.



The Northville Bank  
on North Main Street.