



Township of Sheldon Historical Society & Schoolhouse Museum Newsletter

Volume 2, Issue 4

Aug. 2013

*"An update on our progress as a Society and a Chartered Museum &
"A new look at old news from our town."*

Sheldon Historical Society Officers Board Members & Curators

10/ 2012 - 10/2013

Pres.-Michael Szucs

Vice Pres.- Mary Ann Bartz

Secretary - Elizabeth Reisdorf

Financial Secretary. - Donna Kirsch

Board Members: PJ Almeter; Chairman, John McCarty,
Jeanne Mest, Elaine Almeter, Janet Kirsch, Marilyn Smithley

Classroom Curator -Elizabeth Reisdorf

Archival Curator - Jeanne Mest

Museum Curator - Marilyn Smithley

Email - SheldonsHistoricalSociety@hotmail.com

Museum Telephone - 1-585-457-7033

Alternate Email - mametzger@rochester.rr.com

Alternate telephone -716-474-3156

*Meetings are held the third Thurs. of the month through Oct.
Nonmembers are also welcome to attend. We will be open
from 1:00 to 4:00 on Tues. June through Sept., by
appointment, or by chance when we are working at the
museum. Watch for the **OPEN** sign on the porch railing.*

Attention: The museum will be closed on Tues. August 13 due to the County fair. Look for our exhibit at the fair.

There will **not** be a meeting in Aug.

Regular meetings **Sept. 19, 2013** (nominations of officers) and **Oct. 17, 2013**, (election of officers.)

The Town board will hold their monthly meeting at the school house museum on Tues. **Aug 20, 2013** at 7:30. All welcome to attend. *Meeting on next year's garden walk will be **Aug. 19** at 7:00. All are welcome to join and plan for next year's event.*

"Show us a farmer who is trying to look into the reason of things, and we will show you a man who will grow in ability every day of his experiences. It takes that kind of a man to be a successful farm manager.

Written by W. D. Hoard, founder of Hoard Magazine 1885

Welcome new members since last newsletter:

Jim Stewart, 421 Navajo Ave., Shabbona, IL

Donna Ellis from Sardinia joined in June.

KEHL—DRILLING.

Miss Helen M. Drilling of Bennington was married to Frank W. Kehl of Sheldon on Tuesday at the East Bennington Catholic church at 10 a. m., Rev. Father Franz, officiating. Only the immediate members and friends of both families were present. The young couple took a short wedding trip west, and will return sometime next week. They will go to house-keeping at Sheldon. Their many friends wish them a long life of happiness and prosperity.

About 1901

Town of Sheldon Historian- Barb Durfee

Phone- 585-535-7322

E-mail- SheldonHistorian@aol.com



Bill Metzger and nephews bringing in a load of timothy hay at Sheldon's Straubs Corners in 1951; this was back in the day when making hay took all summer. Bill was trying out his brothers' new Ferguson, purchased for \$2200. Prior to this Bill and many farmers depended on their horses to do the job. It wasn't long before Bill purchased a red Cockshutt. *(Both tractors far different from the farm machinery seen in Sheldon today.) Farming methods were changing rapidly in this rural community, proving Mr. Hoards quote above to be true.*

IT STARTED IN THE CEMETERY

You might wonder why so much talk about cemeteries. For some people, they bring sad memories to mind; others may think of them as being haunted; but for me, the cemetery was just a special place we visited frequently, to remember those who had gone before. From an early age, I remember planting flowers in big clay pots to decorate the graves for Memorial Day. The lilacs were always in bloom then and we would pick them & put them in a mason jar full of water, with stones to keep them from tipping over. It is still an impressive sight when you see all the flags flying over the headstones, honoring our country's veterans. Years ago it was not unusual for whole families to go to the cemetery together on a holiday, such as Mother's Day. Someone told me they used to pack a lunch basket & take the train to Forest Lawn, for a picnic. Recently I saw a young bride who came to the cemetery in her wedding gown, with her new husband, to stop for a moment on her wedding day at the grave of someone dear. So many stories...you are surrounded by them at a cemetery, and you know that many of them will never be told. Just reading the names and dates on the stones gets you wondering; especially when you see a young mother, or several children, and you wonder what happened to them. Living in our modern world, it is hard to imagine a time when people didn't have the medical care we do today, but it wasn't that long ago.

So it was a cemetery that first sparked my interest in family history; something I had had never given much thought to. That is, until one day in late winter, when I was walking my dog and something caught my eye. I had never really paid attention to the large headstone that was jutting out of the tiny cemetery in the field across the road. Most of the year it was hidden by brambles, but it really stood out on this bleak day. Suddenly I realized I didn't even know who was buried there, even after living here so many years. It turned out that my husband didn't know either, so I said maybe it was some of his ancestors. That's when he told me "No, but it could be the people who lived in the house that used to be across the road from us." What people? What house? There is nothing there but a large field. Those questions lead to many more, such as "Well, where are your ancestors buried then? What do you know about them? Who in your family lived here first? Where did they come from?" My questions started me on a search that involved the census, the old maps of Sheldon from 1853 & 1866, some old newspapers, Ancestry.com and of course a few trips to the Sheldon historical museum.

I never knew there were old maps with the names of the families living in each house. (They are called plat maps; we have several at the museum) It turned out there were actually four houses in the 1800's, in that now empty field. I found the Hedges family, as well as our ancestors and other neighbors. To think we had been living in the midst of our own family history for so many years, yet knowing nothing about it! From then on I was on a quest to learn and record whatever I could, for future generations.

But for some reason, this tiny cemetery across the road and the family buried there continued to intrigue me. It was hard to imagine all those houses and families, and I kept wondering what happened to them all. There is something special about Sheldon, the way families have remained here for so many generations. Maybe that is why it just bothered me so, to think that a family had completely disappeared and no one seemed to know anything about them.

A friend at work showed me how where to find old census records & do research on microfilms at the LDS Family History Library. It

was there I found an old letter and a partial list of the people who were buried in the Hedges Family Cemetery. Years before, historian Anita Ripstein Hayes had visited the cemetery and deciphered what names she could. Then nothing would do but that I had to get my husband to take me over there to look at it myself. That meant a bumpy but fun ride on a 4-wheeler, as that was the only way to reach it. Originally the Hedges cemetery was much larger, with at least 27 graves, mostly of children, encircled by a black iron fence, but over time it had been pushed together until it was just a mound with one large tombstone (N.P. Hedges & his wife Harriet) and a few smaller stones.

According to Beer's History of Wyoming Co., Edward Hedges & his family had moved to Sheldon in 1806 from Phelps town, Ontario Co., NY, which meant he was one of Sheldon's pioneers (the first settlers came in 1804). When the War of 1812 broke out in this area, he moved his family back to Phelps town, served in the war, and brought them back to Sheldon when it was over. Eight children were born to Edward & Nancy: Nathaniel Parker (N.P.), Sarah, Edward Jr., Nancy, Joseph, Naomi, John & James. James and Naomi died in childhood and were buried in the family plot; Edward followed in 1832. The 1850 census records for Sheldon showed a widowed Nancy living with her sons Joseph, Edward Jr. & John. Her oldest son, Parker, was married and listed in the Bennington census, because his home was set back further in the field, putting it in the town of Bennington. By 1860, Joseph & Edward were married, each with several children.

It was only recently when I came across an old newspaper clipping from 1882 that I learned about their sisters Sarah & Nancy. (<http://fultonhistory.com/Fulton.html>) They were not listed with the family on the 1850 census, because they had already married. The notice in the newspaper was to summon family members from NY, Iowa, Illinois & Nebraska to hear the will of N.P. Hedges; but the surnames of Baldwin & Crum were unfamiliar to me. Then I remembered seeing a Thomas Baldwin Jr. buried in the cemetery, the 7 year old son of Thomas and Sarah Baldwin. That took me back to the census, where I found Thomas & Sarah Hedges Baldwin & their son Cicero, living alongside the Hedges family. Listed next to them were James & Nancy Crum, along with his parents & their young son. There were two daughters that I didn't know existed!

James & Nancy Hedges Crum left Sheldon before 1860 and headed to Iowa. Joseph & Edward Jr. and their families followed a few years later. So three of the Hedges children were pioneers like their father & mother. When their parents came to Sheldon in 1806 it was a wilderness; then their children traveled much further west, probably in a Conestoga wagon. I wondered why they would have left, until I read about the Homestead Act of 1862, which encouraged people to migrate west by granting them free land. I didn't remember that from school, but when you research your ancestors you try to learn more about the times they lived in, to get a better idea of what their lives were like, and you end up learning a lot of history that never seemed relevant before.

The Hedges cemetery record did not show if Edward Jr.'s first wife Betsy was buried there, but he had a new wife and more children when the census of 1870 Iowa was taken. I wondered, what happened to Betsy; did she not survive the trip? That same year, Edward was issued a land grant at Fort Dodge, Iowa, for 264 acres. Eventually he had 11 children & may have been divorced from his 2nd wife, Lucy. (She shows up later, married to someone else, while Edward was still living.) According to Edward's

obituary, he was an eccentric character who became known as Dr. E.R. Hedges. It was said that for a time he had an extensive medical practice in Omaha, before he was compelled to leave, on account of having no diploma! He spent his final years alone, wandering about the Iowa countryside & peddling his homemade medicines.

Joseph Hedges, his wife Jane & their 4 children settled in Illinois. They left one of their twin daughters behind in the Hedges Cemetery; little Cemra (or Sambra) had died at age 4.

During the Civil War, James Crum was a sergeant in the Iowa 4th Cavalry. After Nancy died in Iowa in 1868, he ended up in Washington State. One of their sons, Elroy, became a gold miner in California and appears to have been very successful.

Back in Sheldon, John Hedges married Cordelia Farwell, but she died in 1860. John served in the Civil War and died shortly thereafter. Whether they had children is unknown. Sarah Hedges Baldwin and her son Cicero appeared in the census of 1870; after Sarah died, he married & moved to Marilla, where he raised his family. That left only Parker and Harriet living in Sheldon (Bennington). They had five children, but by 1880 they were alone again, having buried them all in the family cemetery. Victoria,

Violetto & Virginia had become teachers like their father, but all died of consumption (tuberculosis) at a young age. So when N.P. died in 1882, he had no heirs other than his wife. Therefore the notice appeared in the paper, to make sure his nieces & nephews knew about the reading of his will.

It is still sad to see the old cemetery & know it held so many young people whose lives were cut short; but now at least I knew the family didn't completely disappear. On the contrary, those who survived led some very interesting lives. In just one generation, this family crossed the entire country from the east to west coast. They were pioneers; veterans of the War of 1812 & Civil War; a surveyor, several teachers, a traveling medicine man, and a gold miner! Perhaps more of their stories will emerge in time. I'm glad I Violetta and Virginia had become teachers like their father; but all was able to learn about their history, so it won't be forgotten. And to think, it all started in the cemetery.

Submitted by Jeanne Mest, Archival Curator

Life is not simple, and therefore history.
which is past life, is not simple.
David Shannon



Picture taken from Paul Mest home directly across the road from the **Hedges cemetery**. This is located on Big Tree Road, or Route 20A, in the Town of Sheldon. This shows the location of the cemetery in the middle of the field, set back from the road. The little white dot in the middle of this mound in the middle of the field - that is the big headstone for National Parker and Harriett Hedges. Many small stones are scattered all about on this mound and are still readable. Many more cannot be located, possibly 27 graves or more originally.

Please note: In our last newsletter I forgot to make a notation after the poem as being written by "author unknown", until my son told me what a good poem I had written! Thanks but I can't take credit for that or for the following. But I hope you enjoy it.

Jeanne Mest

THE STORYTELLERS

We are the chosen. My feelings are that in each family there is one who seems called to find the ancestors.

To put flesh on their bones and make them live again; to tell the family story and to feel that somehow they know and approve. To me, doing genealogy is not a cold gathering of facts but instead, breathing life into all who have gone before. We are the story tellers of the tribe. All tribes have one. We have been called as it were by our genes. Those who have gone before cry out to us: Tell our story. So we do.

In finding them, we somehow find ourselves. How many graves have I stood before now and cried? I have lost count. How many times have I told the ancestors "You have a wonderful family and you would be proud of us"?

How many times have I walked up to a grave and felt somehow there was love there for me? I cannot say.

It goes beyond just documenting facts. It goes to whom I am and why do I do the things I do. It goes to seeing a cemetery about to be lost forever to weeds and indifference, and saying "I can't let this happen."

The bones here are bones of my bone and flesh of my flesh. It goes to doing something about it. It goes to pride in what our ancestors were able to accomplish. How they contributed to what we are today. It goes to respecting their hardships and losses; their never giving in or giving up; their resoluteness to go on and build a life for their family.

It goes to deep pride that they fought to make and keep us a nation. It goes to a deep and immense understanding that they were doing it for us. So, as a scribe called, I tell the story of my family. It is up to that one called in the next generation to answer their call and take their place in the long line of family storytellers.

That is why I do my family genealogy, and that is what calls those young and old to step up and put flesh on the bones.

*Author Unknown
Submitted by Jeanne Mest*

Big day 100 Years ago in Strykersville

A BIG DAY

Strykersville Church-Picnic Drew Large Crowd

Wednesday August the twentieth was an enjoyable day for Strykersville and for the many visitors from Sheldon, North Java, Java Centre, East Aurora and Buffalo. The village donned its holiday attire and one and all helped very generously to make the Church-picnic a success. Even non-catholics helped along not only in spending their money but even in working in harmony with the various committees.

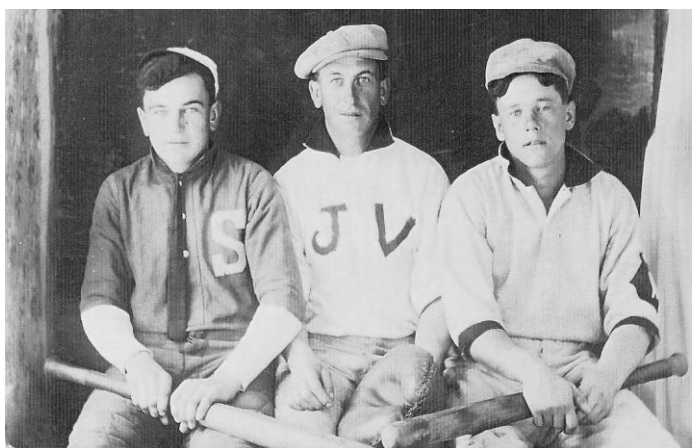
The principal feature of the afternoon was the base-ball game between North Java and Strykersville. Sad to say, but history must repeat itself, the Strykersville contingent was a little too much for our neighbors. The Nationals could not have played better: the score-board pointing to only one run to nothing in favor of Strykersville. But then came the inevitable balloon-ascension: three men on base and pitcher "in the air", in despair North Java changes pitchers but all in vain, the vociferous rooting of the enthusiastic fans puts consternation into all their players; the "up in the air disease is contagious and two wild throws result in a complete havoc for our friends, the enemy of old. After this inning, however North Java sums up courage

and shows its true colors by holding Strykersville down. With the exception of this one inning so fatal to North Java it was a well played game with star plays on both sides. Special credit must be given to the exceedingly good pitching of Elsworth Homes for Strykersville. Score Strykersville 15, N. Java 9.

At night there was a dance and supper. Never before was the throng so well pleased with the special music. This was rendered by the Tepas, Union Orchestra of Buffalo, which certainly deserves all the credit that can be lavished upon it. Especial praise must be conferred upon its leader, Mr. Norman Tepas, who played the drums, the tubaphone and the large chimes.

Through the columns of the Wyoming County Times, Father Dehlinger wishes to thank one and all for the help afforded to make the picnic a success.

Church Picnic held at St. Mary's, Strykersville, Aug. 13, 1913. Keep in mind this was the year the Fire Co. was started. It is pretty obvious Strykersville was an active Community in more ways than one. The people worked hard, were dedicated and knew how to have fun. Many of the people who put in their time for the Church picnic also helped in forming the new fire Co. The men, women and children worked very hard, but still it was a big social event of the season. A town that works and prays together stays together.



Alton Hyman, Ed Hyman and Grover Musty
Java and Strykersville baseball players

Chili Sauce

- 1 peck tomatoes
- 8 onions
- 8 peppers
- 1 hot pepper

Grind above ingredients. Sprinkle with $\frac{1}{2}$ c. salt and let set overnight.

Drain for 2 hours.

- Add 4 c. vinegar
- 3 lbs. white sugar
- $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. cinn.
- $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. allspice

Boil until thick.

Adding a few chopped apples helps hasten thickening process.

Please feel free to submit a favorite recipe, maybe an heirloom favorite or family tradition.

This is a very popular recipe Marilyn has shared with many in the area. Making it this time of year gets you in the fall spirit, smells wonderful when cooking. Jars are colorful on shelf.

Marilyn Smithley's recipe

Mystery picture



Can anyone identify any of these students or the teacher?
Picture taken at School Dist. #6 Plants Corners.

Obit 1909 clipping

The funeral of Mrs. Peter Logel former resident of Sheldon took place at St. Cecilia church at 10 o'clock Monday morning. The deceased died in Buffalo and the remains were interred beside those of her husband who died here several years ago, and on Tuesday occurred the burial of Peter Reisdorf an aged resident of Strykersville and for many years a member of Sheldon parish. Funeral services were held at Strykersville before being brought to Sheldon. His remains were laid to rest in the St. Cecilia cemetery beside those of his former wife, who died some years ago. The deceased was 85 years of age.

Below clipping from Aug. 6, 1936 clipping

Plans Completed For Convention

ANNUAL CONVENTION BANQUET FOR MEMBERS AND DELEGATES WILL BE HELD ON TUESDAY EVENING AT 7:00 O'CLOCK.

Plans are complete for the 22nd annual convention of the Wyoming County Volunteer Firemen's Association which will be held in the village of Strykersville on Tuesday and Wednesday, August 11th and 12th.

The annual convention banquet for members and delegates will be held on Tuesday evening at 7:00 o'clock in the fire hall. Following the banquet the business meeting of the Association, with election of officers, will take place. Among the speakers at the banquet will be Mr. Eugene Braun, Eggertsville, N. Y., president of the Firemen's Association of the State of New York; Assemblyman Chauncey B. Hammond, Elmira, and others. A program of entertainment will be presented by the firemen of Strykersville and will

the firemen of Strykersville and will bring the evening's activities to a close.

Wednesday will be given over to the grand parade and sports. The County Association is sponsoring cash prizes for the best band, the best drum corp, and the best appearing company in the line of march. The C. H. Hain Memorial Cup will be presented to the company having the most number of men in line in relation to the certified list of active members.

The parade will move 2:00 p. m., standard time, with all companies, a number of bands and drum corps and fire apparatus in line. Reports indicate that every company in the county will be in line and that the parade will be the largest ever held. There will be a band concert during the afternoon and evening and dancing in several of the village halls. The firemen of Strykersville will entertain all bands and drum corps at dinner on the day of the parade.

The officers of the Association are: President, T. D. Chase, Wyoming; vice president, N. F. Marzolf, Strykersville; secretary, R. F. Schornstein, Castile; trustees, E. C. Karstadt, Warsaw, Blain Rice, Arcade, and Roy Calkins, Varysburg.

Description of Strykersville in the era when the Fire Co. was started 100 Years ago in 1913.

The late Howard B. Bennion, Arcade, who lived in the village from 1876 to 1919, prepared a memo of recollections some years before his death in 1951. Following in his words.

Then, as now, the village limits extended about a mile, going south into the Town of Java about one-fourth of a mile; the center being at the location of the district school and the two portions being known as Up Town and Down Town. The original frame school, long inadequate, was replaced by the present two-room building; the old building was sold at auction and bought by the Independent Order of Good Templers, and from them passed into the possession of the Odd Fellows. Several years later, the store keeper at East Arcade purchased the building, demolished it and rebuilt there and donated the Strykersville land to St. Mary's Church. Mr. Bennion remembered that the site of the Catholic Church and school was an open space, and opposite, his father, Owen Bennion, erected a hardware store, a dwelling and barn. The hardware continues in operation and includes the village post office. Three-quarters of a century ago, leading business men were Peter Reisdorf, who ran a saw mill, cider mill, and cooper shop, and later a grist mill, all by steam power. Enos P. Clapp ran a sash and blind factory on the Wales Road (Route 78), his power being created by a team of horses traveling on a large round wooden wheel or platform set at an angle; this property was used by several enterprises after Mr. Clapp, and wound up also as a cider mill. By the Civil War period, Thomas Bettendorf, a brewer from France, established a beer-making business at the north end of the village. On April 10, 1870, the brewery, and adjacent house burned at a loss of \$7,000. It was rebuilt soon after by John Metzger or *Frank Glaser at a cost of more than \$9,000 for a hotel, barns and other buildings. There was a large hop yard on the property. Beer was peddled in eighths, quarters and halves as far east as Hermitage, north to Cowlesville, south to Arcade, and west to Sardinia. The product was aged in large hogsheads in deep cellars, some one-half mile in length; ice was always put up in the winter in ice houses, packed in sawdust, and when the season was mild with little ice forming, the brewery would cut snow hanks into squares to store in the cellars to save the ice crop. Mr. Glaser continued operation of the brewery until August 13, 1909, when again fire swept the large hotel and brewery nothing remained but the hotel sign. The brewery was rebuilt and flourished but a brief time until Prohibition closed its doors forever. Lastly, the buildings were used as a GLF branch of the Java Village feed mill, then closed. Cider was made there seasonally also. Today, the edifice remains untenanted, a mute reminder of a colorful local industry.

(*Frank Glaser was the proprietor of the Hotel and Brewery)

Richardson, Beebe Co., East Aurora, erected a large cheese factory by the 1880's, and was reported to have made 55 tons of cheese soon after it was put into operation. It was then one of six such factories in Sheldon. The Strykersville plant was quite properly located on the north bank of Buffalo Creek on Plant Street (named for a pioneer family). The old store at the corner of Main and Park (now Perry), was first run by Hall & Stephens (within Mr. Bennion's memory), then by Joseph Stanton, a former Supervisor, next by Avery & Fisher, John J. Challis and others. This store carried a general line of dry goods and groceries and ran a peddling cart on the road four days a week summers only. Up Town had an undertaker and cabinet maker by the name of Philip Humbert, who looked after Catholic people mostly. On April 24, 1883, a fire broke out in his place of business. Mr. Humbert helped his wife and two small children from the second floor, went back to get his papers, and fell through the floor and was burned to death. During the same blaze the harness shop and barn of B. M. Warner were destroyed.

Joseph Fisher's boot and shoe shop was a busy place in those days and he employed two or more helpers; Mrs. S. A. Case made hats and bonnets for the ladies; Truman Royce ran a marble shop, no granite was used but marble and grey stone for bases and slabs; Amos Fuller's blacksmith shop, about where the Legion building now stands, had stocks for shoeing oxen as those animals had to be lifted by these timbers in order to shoe them. An apple evaporator works was put into operation on Plant Street just west of the corner; it was a sort of stock company and survived many years; in 1881, for example, it took in twelve tons of dried apples. Just east of Pioneer Cemetery, on Perry Road, was a marble shop owned by a German. North of the village is Dutch Hollow Creek, which makes picturesque Johnson's Falls, and here was located an important shingle mill.

THE TOWN HALL

Residents of the village decided to build a Town Hall, funds being raised by subscription and stock was given to subscribers at the value of \$10 per share. The building became a two-story affair, the first floor was rented to any and all kinds of shows and entertainments; the upper floor was rented to the Good Templers until they bought the old school house, then the Maccabees moved in to be followed by the Odd Fellows until they too moved to the old school. The Hall did not succeed and was sold for debts, and a part made into the apple evaporator and other buildings. Across the street was the community's tin shop, started by X. Marzolf, and in the upper floor a photographer made tin types and other photos; the building became a dwelling and meat market. Mr. Bennion remembered many of the

emporiums of trade in the center of the village opposite the Baptist Church and extending down Mill Street to the cemeteries. Carriages, sleighs and wagons were turned out by two shops, one run by L. M. Fox. The Chester W. Davis general store carried a large stock and did a lucrative business, being successively operated by W. R. Hoy, Watson Brothers and R. J. Watson. This is now the Dole store, Main and Mill streets.

On the southwest corner of Main and Mill stood the old Andrew Kuster hardware and tin shop and Dutch grocery under the same proprietorship, where foods and beer were sold. Mr. Kuster erected a new store which contained the post-office, and he was elected as Supervisor of the town; a son, Andrew J. Kuster, succeeded in business until he sold his stock to Owen Bennion, who was conducting a hardware store opposite the Catholic Church. A new black-smith shop stood near the Baptist Church, run by S. Petz and later by Petz & Daniels. Also opposite the Baptist Church was a saloon and near by a hotel run by B. Marzolf, later by Michael Kirsch; the saloon was operated by William Simons. South of the hotel was another carriage shop, the last place of

business until Owen & Howard Bennion built and operated a furniture store, later selling carriages, wagons, farm tools, fertilizers, etc. Howard Bennion succeeded as owner and continued its operation until 1919.

Mill Street, dropping sharply from Main and going west to cross Buffalo Creek, was a beehive of industry for several generations. Conrad Hyman ran a grist and saw mill near the creek, and during the early 1880's renovated the establishment at a cost of \$5,000 to the extent that his grist mill had a capacity for grinding 400 bushels a day, and besides excellent water-power had a steam engine for contingent use. The industry was later known as C. Hyman & Sons. Like so many small town industries, it was burned not many years ago and not rebuilt due to changing economic conditions. Across the creek was a cooper shop whose history went back to Civil War days or earlier, and one of the best-remembered proprietors was Peter Herrmann.

(Thus concludes Howard Bennion's memories, presented just as he wrote it.)

Bits and pieces of Folklore help preserve segments of Strykersville's History
A Fire Co. must be formed

Few will remember Bert Glaser, son of Frank who owned the "Glaser Hotel and Brewery" at the North end of Strykersville. In his later years, he tried to run his 44 acre farm on the corner of Rte. 78 and Dutch Hollow Rd. When in the field with his two horses, "Tom and Bill," getting hay in, one has to wonder just what thoughts were in his mind. Perhaps he was thinking of the big fire in the field adjacent to where he was working, a fire on Aug. 13, 1909 that destroyed the famous brewery that his father and his brothers ran. It was a popular place for visitors to stay, for the townspeople to gather and a place for the traveler to dine.

The fire started in the ice house sawdust on the east end, it was Sunday and hot and dry with an east wind. There were some fire hoses but the fire swept from the east and the horse stations were unmanageably hot and were abandoned. It became obvious that the entire place would go up, efforts to save items were frantic. Frank Glaser, a man of good character, lost it all but said, "Well, at least nobody got hurt."

Compiled by Mary Ann Metzger

From the Aug. 20, 1909 Wyoming Co. Herald Strykersville News

The most disastrous fire this village has ever known occurred on Fri. afternoon, Aug 13, 1909. The large brewery with Hotel attached, owned by Frank Glaser, also his horse barn, icehouse and sheds were all laid in ashes, also the home of Frank Brass, in which they were just cozily settled and recently purchased of C. Waltz and his barns were destroyed. The fire broke out in the ice house, but its origin is unknown. All the property was partly covered by insurance.

Folklore is that after this fire, serious discussion began on starting a Strykersville Fire Dept. It is very possible that this event enticed the community to band together, and by 1913, they were successful in forming an ongoing efficient Fire Co.

Congratulations go out to the Fire Co. on their 100 Year Celebration



Glaser Hotel and Brewery BEFORE



AFTER



PO Box 122,
Strykersville, NY 14145

"History is the witness that testifies to the passing of time; it illumines reality, vitalizes memory, provides guidance in daily life and brings us tidings of antiquity."

CICERO, Pro Publico Sestio

The Historical Society welcomes new members! If you find local History interesting, we hope that you make a membership contribution and join us. It is open to anyone with an interest in the history of Sheldon, or a desire to volunteer services without restriction to age or place of residence. We maintain a School House Museum that is state chartered. There is always work to do to maintain this structure and to continue our research of data and archives and preserve treasured artifacts.

(Attention: If you are not a member and wish to receive your copy of the newsletter please join)

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

DATE: _____

Make check payable to The Town of Sheldon Historical Society.

Mail To:

Donna Kirsch, financial secretary.
4458 Richardson Rd.,
Arcade, NY 14009



A nostalgic tabloid; you won't want to miss it.

Attention:

The date on the address label signifies the due date of your membership. Don't let your subscription lapse. Dues are \$5.00 a year and \$50.00 per person for lifetime membership. This helps us continue Historical research of the Town of Sheldon.

Highlights inside this issue include:

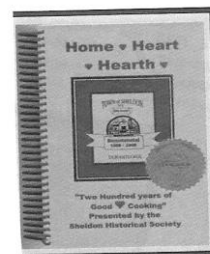
Article on Hedges' Cemetery.

Note: **No meeting in August**

Next Meeting **Sept. 19, 2013** @ 7:00 at School house Museum; also mark your calendar for meeting on **Oct. 17, 2013**, we really welcome your attendance.

Queries are welcome. We are here to help you with your genealogy or facts of past history in Sheldon.

Email us at Sheldonthistoricalsocietv@hotmail.com



We still have award winning

Bicentennial Cookbooks for sale. \$16.00

Do you have one for members of your family, they are very nostalgic.

The contribution of your time, sharing your artifacts and archival material along with monetary donations are deeply appreciated.

