

NNHS NEWS LETTER

Northville Northampton Historical Society

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Editor
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HALLOWEEN THE WAY IT USE TO BE

What an exciting time it was, not that it isn't exciting today, but "it was different in so many ways". "Trick or treating" could last several days and there wasn't a designated time as there is today. Parents didn't walk around with their kids, only children who attended school went out trick or treating. It was safe for them to be out by themselves.

MEMORIES

School children dressed in costumes that were homemade. Rarely if ever did anyone buy a costume. Each class paraded across the auditorium stage. Prizes were given in several categories. I remember dressing up my little dog in baby clothes and pushed him in a carriage and I was dressed as a mother. I won first prize that year.

The school put on a big Halloween party in the school gym. Adults also attended and dressed up.

6th grade was the cut off for trick or treating. Older kids "were out there" but having fun committing pranks, with no fear of being arrested, but were also not out to harm or destroy anything.

PRANKS

Ring the church bells.

A jeep turned up in the hall at school. Cars were moved, pushed from one end of the town to the other.

We'd hang a bolt or nut on a thread from a thumbtack. Tack it to a window and pull it back and let it go with a long thread from the bushes, making a tapping sound on the glass.

Soaping windows

Moved porch furniture from one porch to another.

Out houses moved or tipped over.

Making noise makers from old notched wooden spools and running them on peoples windows.

Sticking car horns.

Ring the doorbells, then running.

Moved cement blocks from a foundation just being built.

Put Vaseline or axle grease on door handles (houses and cars).

Hoisted articles on the school flag pole. (tires, a dummy, clothing).

Toilet paper draped in trees.

Raided gardens of cabbages & tomatoes and threw them on to porches.

PRANKS

THAT REALLY HAPPENED

On Halloween evening in 1948 or 49, the village policeman, Clarence Davison was off duty and Clarence Simons, the deputy, who drove an old red Model A Ford pickup, was filling in for him. Someone complained that a group of boys were over at the school doing something. Clarence drove over there and parked his little

NNHS MUSEUM

The museum was officially closed at the end of August. It was open the weekend of the October 10th Festival. Several groups visited the museum but it was so cold our guide closed early.

Jon Van Alstine helped hang a large sign in the entrance room. Several more need to be hung.

It's time to close the window shutters, box up pictures, albums etc to protect them through the winter months

truck on the street near two trees. While he walked around back to check on things, the boys came out of the bushes and pushed and lifted the truck in between the two trees. It was wedged in so tightly, that it couldn't be driven away. The boys then hid in the bushes until Clarence returned to his truck. They then appeared and had a good laugh. Clarence also laughed and the boys moved the truck, so he could drive away.

PRANKS CONTINUED

One night a group of guys lifted Walker LaRowe's little 3 wheel Isetta car up on top of a well in Walker's back yard. The well had a small wall around it. The next day in school Clarence



Davison let it be known that the guys who did it, needed to put it back that day or they'd be in trouble. He said he knew who did it and he wouldn't report them if they put it back that day.

I was told that one night kids exchanged 2 duplicate cars from one garage into another garage. In the morning the owners couldn't start their cars because their keys wouldn't fit.

In the late 40's some guys piled an old outhouse from Bunker Hill Road, onto an old truck and brought it into the village. They put it on the village green. Wonder what ever happened to it.

What pranks do you remember being involved with? Does this bring back memories of Halloweening? They were fun times.. Great memories!



Clarence Davison, the best "cop" any town could have. He loved the kids, was dedicated to his job. He was always fair and he let the kids have fun, but also kept his eye of whatever they were up to. Thanks for being there for us kids!!!



SAMUEL B. BENTON AND FAMILY

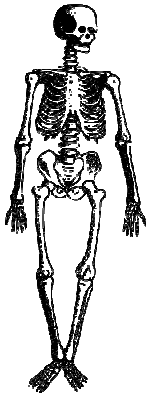
Samuel was the First President of the incorporated village of Northville

A meeting was held at the old M. E. Church, May 20, 1873, and by a vote of eighty-one to thirty-five it was decided that Northville should become an incorporated village.

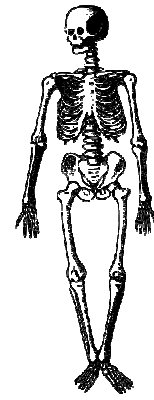
The amount proposed to be paid out for ordinary expenditures the first year was \$50. The first annual election was held at the old M. E. Church, June 26, 1873 and the following officers elected by a unanimous vote, the total number cast for each candidate being forty-two. President, Samuel B. Benton, treasurer, Hiram J. Resseguie, collector, William Carpenter; trustees, Amos Van Arnam, Aaron C. Slocum, and Thomas H. Rooney.

The report of Treasurer Resseguie at the end of the first year, showed that there had been collect from taxes, fines etc. \$831.90 and there had been paid out on orders, \$817.79, leaving a balance on hand of \$14.81.

*The above taken from "The History of Fulton County"
By Washington Frothingham. Published 1892*



FUNERAL PARLORS AND UNDERTAKERS

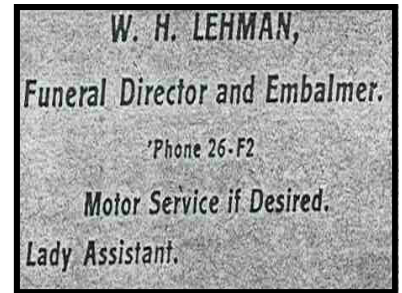


Very often at Halloween we think of skeletons and caskets, so I thought it might be a good time for some history about our local funeral parlors and undertakers.



One of the first undertakers in Northville was John Wesley Foote. He also made caskets in a cabinet shop behind his house on South Main Street next to the cemetery. The house was torn down a few years ago.

William H Lehman moved from Edinburg to the village about the same time as Heath. He built a home on Main Street where he conducted his undertaking business. The house was torn down when the new Water Front Park was built.



Orlando F Heath came to Northville in the late 1800's and built a 3 story brick block in 1883 where the fire department now stands. He conducted a furniture and undertaking business there. This building was destroyed by fire in 1932.

FRED B. HAY,
Funeral Director.
 Lady Assistant.
 Telephone 15-F2.

Fred B. Hay moved to Northville from Green County in the early 1900's and went into the furniture business with Hiram Denton. Later he established a funeral home in the yellow house just north of the present Tops Grocery Store

William P. Yates moved to Northville from Amsterdam and first worked for Fred Hay before opening his own funeral business at 301 Bridge Street. Herbert Corey also had worked with Hays and upon Hays retirement joined with Yates to form Yates and Corey. In 1938 they purchased the Wm. P Harris home on the corner of Bridge and Third Street. Corey retired in 1959. Yates's son Bill, took over the business with Dennis Cline after Bill's father died. Bill left the business, then Dennis Cline and Bill Mackey merged partnership. Cline retired in 1994. Bill Mackey's son Brian, worked with his Dad and then joined as business partner with his father in 2012.



William P Harris house



Claude A. Lipe purchased the former Frank L. Barker home at 231 N. First Street and converted it into a funeral home, where Claude and his wife Mary Emma conducted a funeral business. Claude sold the business to Mackey and Cline and merged with them until his retirement.

A GREAT PLACE TO EAT AND CHAT WITH FRIENDS

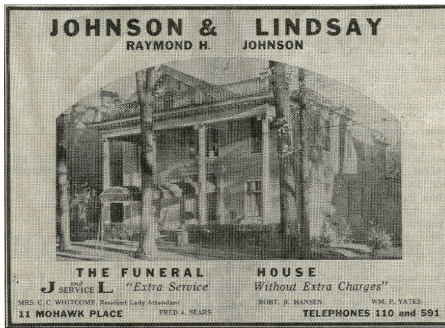
Where did it come from and when?

The diner started out in Glens Falls as the Miss Glens Falls Diner. The diner was moved to the Northville area in the 1950's and sat unopened for ten years. In 1965 Florence Wilson had the diner moved to its current location. It was called Done Dozin Diner. The Morehouse's bought it in 1988 and it's been in the family ever since.



Photograph courtesy of Betz, Rossi, Bellinger & Stewart Family Funeral Homes

Above, a 1913 picture of a horse-drawn hearse owned by Johnson & Lindsay Funeral House in Amsterdam. The business traces its origin to 1860 and its successor firm is still in operation today. Below, an advertisement for Johnson & Lindsay Funeral House from the 1932 Amsterdam City Directory. Raymond H. Johnson pioneered locally in getting people to move their wakes and funerals from their homes to funeral parlors.



This is the funeral home that William P. Yates was working for when he left Amsterdam and moved to Northville.. If you enlarge the picture you can read his name in the lower right corner.



Picture taken while in Glens Falls, NY



Chambers Bakery before it became Van Arnam's Garage on Third and Division Streets. The 1900 and 1910 census, shows Nelson Chambers, as a Baker on Third Street in Northville. It appears he lived over the bakery with his wife Mamie, and children, Dewitt, May, and Philo.



While it sat on the corner of Route 30 and Mt. Road. Note Hodlin's Market sign. (where the tree restaurant was)