The following is a presentation of a special supplement edition that ran in the Brockport Republic newspaper. The supplement included a general history of the community, of businesses, civic groups, churches and other bodies, early Main Street and so on. It is a vibrant contemporary account of the village early in the last century. The microfilm of the old Brockport Republic has been digitized and is available online, but this supplement is historically significant enough to warrant greater accessibility. This document does not attempt to recreate the look and layout of the original, but does faithfully reproduce the text, and where available, the images, with additional material as seems helpful.

The photographs for the supplement were taken by George Guelf, who in addition to his work for the Brockport Republic as photographer and printer was a keen amateur naturalist, taxidermist, yachtsman and firefighter. He used the old fashioned 5x7” glass plate negatives then commonly used. Many of the plates survived the passage of time and today are housed in either SUNY Brockport’s Drake Memorial Library or the Brockport Village Museum. Mary Jo Gigliotti, librarian and archivist at Drake (retired 2011,) obtained grants to have approximately two hundred of these plates digitized, amongst which some of the photographs from the supplement were found. Thus after a century of time it is possible to reproduce the supplement with many of the original images.

If the original photograph is used this is indicated by simply giving the reference number, e.g. (image A009, ed). If the original image was not found but another contemporary image from the glass plate collections was available and used that is indicated as an alternate; if a photograph or image did run but there was no original and no substitute found, this is noted also. Other supplementary information has been added, such as a map of Main Street in that era, identification of locations etc.

Clarifications and corrections of locations are welcome and will be incorporated in subsequent versions of this document. Please email or phone Charlie with any corrections or suggestions.

Lastly, the supplement included a brief reprint of the history of the Normal school, based on an 1892 speech given by Daniel Holmes. As the original of that “Quarter Centennial” document is available on the college’s Digital Commons it was not included here. See:

[http://digitalcommons.brockport.edu/student_archpapers/34/](http://digitalcommons.brockport.edu/student_archpapers/34/)

Charlie Cowling
Librarian and Archivist
Drake Memorial Library
The College at Brockport
ccowling@brockport.edu
Spring 2013
Contents (Within headings all entries are in alphabetical order.)

Businesses & Stores

Churches

Civic & Other Organizations

Individuals

Main Street in 1860 History

Village of Brockport History
ALLANSON & DUNN

Although the firm of Allanson & Dunn, furniture dealers and undertakers, has been among us only two years, they have easily been recognized as live wires in the town. The three story building with its 4500 feet of floor space is well adapted to the purposes of such a business and the entirely new stock of goods kept by these young business men makes as fine a display as may be found anywhere. For several years before the organization of this firm a furniture and undertaking business was conducted in the same place by J. F. Dauchy.

E. W. Allanson is a native of Cato, N. Y., and for ten years conducted a business in his home town. For four or five years after leaving Cato, he was head embalmer for the large undertaking establishment of John Harrigan Sons in Albany. He was in Albany at the time that the city experienced the terrible Meyer’s Building tragedy when the fourteen story block which was undergoing repairs, collapsed burying many clerks, customers and passerby in the debris. It was a terrible scene and the undertakers of the city were kept extremely busy. Thirteen of the cases came under Mr. Allanson’s supervision. While with Harrigan Sons Co., he conducted numerous state funerals. He is also a member of the State Embalmers Association.

George Dunn is a Brockport boy, the son of James Dunn, the harness maker of this village. After his graduation from the Normal school he spent several years in Chicago in the clerical department of Armour & Co. But even such a city as Chicago lacks in attractions to a Brockporter and Mr. Dunn us now devoting his efforts to making Brockport homes comfortable and artistic.

(image GP112, 3 Main St., ed.)
BRENNAN & ADAMS

This firm has made a specialty of high class plumbing and the installation of heating plants. They carry the celebrated Red Cross range, Boynton and Ajax furnaces, any steam or hot water boiler you want, besides a general line of hardware, plaster, cement, tile, and B. P. S. paints.

Mr. Brennan has held the office of village president and might many times more if he would consent to let his name go before the people. He is now village treasurer.

Of the many business places in Brockport that have an established reputation for first class service the firm of Brennan & Adams, which was established in 1884, is among the best known.

Jas Brennan was an employee of D. Hinman and Geo. Adams held a similar position with Chas. Vanepps when they decided to unite forces. For a year they occupied the corner store where the Smead café now is but finding it too small they removed to their present location.

(image GP100, Main St...ed.)

BROCKPORT DEMOCRAT

Brockport has for many years boasted of two newspapers. Our esteemed contemporary, P. J. Willson, has four about twenty-five years been owner and publisher of the Brockport Democrat, the name testifying as to the politics of the paper.

The paper was sold to Messrs. Kuck and Willson by Jospeh Campbell, who later became associate editor of the Republic. Mr. Kuck’s interest was soon purchased by Mr. Wilson, who has since that time successfully conducted the business alone.

Mr. Campbell, who will be remembered by his many friends, is now a Medina Newspaper man and is often a Brockport caller.
The picture of the works of the Brockport Gas Light Co. represents an institution with which every resident of Brockport is perhaps familiar. The works are located on Perry Street at the foot of the West Bridge, and were built on its present site in the year 1859 by Issac Palmer. It has changed hands been rebuilt several times since Mr. Palmer’s day. It was being improved and brought up to date at the time of the disastrous explosion on July 4th, 1910. This accident was a serious set back to the company as they had just completed improvements which were substantially a rebuilding of the whole plant. The explosion left this new work almost a wreck.

The machinery and plant destroyed at that time were replaced as quickly as possible and further modern ideas and apparatus adopted until now the equipment is right up to date and the service is reliable and efficient.

Manager Walker says he is highly gratified with the business encouragement and support he has received since taking charge here three years ago. He says the only reason and excuse for a modern Public Service Corporation is “efficient and reliable service” and that he has been endeavoring to give the people of Brockport as good gas service as any place on the map.

(image B007, south side of canal, just west of Smith St. Bridge, where today’s RG&E site is located, ed.)

THE (BROCKPORT) REPUBLIC

It is often said in trade papers and elsewhere that the local newspaper is a mirror reflecting the community in which it is published, and we may be pardoned perhaps, for intimating that the Republic shows Brockport to be an enterprising and up-to-date village.

This paper was established in October, 1856, by the late H. N. Beach who remained in active charge until succeeded by his son Lorenzo T. Beach in the early ’80s. The latter’s sudden death Dec. 21, 1897 threw the management of the paper upon his wife, Mrs. Nellie Beach, who remained in charge until it was sold to the present owner Jan. 1, 1899.
Under the Beaches the Republic was a strong virile paper, its founder hewing closely to the line in its editorial columns. Its business policy was run right, its subscriptions being paid invariably in advance, and we are pleased to mention elsewhere the name of one who has been a subscriber since the very first issue of the Republic.

Under its present owner the paper has been favored in a marked degree by the generous support of our wide awake business men who have found its advertising columns an ever increasing source of profit. In order to accommodate the increasing demand for space the paper has been twice enlarged in recent years – to a six column quarto in October 1903, and again in October 1906, three years later, to a seven column quarto.

To keep pace with its increasing job business and to handle the large amount of local news every week that almost human machine – the linotype – was installed last April. This with three modern job presses and a large book and job cylinder press give the Republic an equipment equaled by few country newspaper offices in the state. In June, 1911, the Republic moved into its own building and a large addition built expressly for the purpose, on the ground floor in what was known as the Peck Block next to the M.E. church.

The circulation of the Republic has had a steady, healthful growth for a number of years until now it numbers nearly twice as many as we set as the goal of our ambition in the early days of ownership. In this connection we wish to give credit to the faithful corps of correspondents who have sent us letters with marked regularity and especially to the painstaking employees in both office and mechanical department.

If any errors in the ancient history of Brockport have crept into these pages we ask the older residents to be lenient as much of the old material has been difficult to obtain even from the persons concerned, and the writers have not been residents of the village for enough years to make them in any way infallible as to the history of Brockport’s past. The supplement idea did not materialize until a few days ago and Mrs. Sterns, local editor, has been obliged to do some rather deep historical study in that short time, besides assisting with the numerous modern difficulties incident to photography and the manufacture of cuts. If it had not been for our “staff photographer,” George Guelf, these pages might yet have been a blank.

(Accompanied by a photo of the editor, P.A. Blossom; original not available, Main St., ed.)

DEAN L. BUTLER

In 1905 Dean L. Butler, a popular mail carrier of the Brockport Post Office awoke to the realization that a postman’s round in winter is cold and long and also that numerous homes he visited received frequent calls from the coal dealers wagon. He decided that there was money in black diamonds and therefore kept his eyes open for a suitable location in which to open up a business. He found it a difficult matter to find the right location until one day in passing the Henry Harrison property on Market Street, he conceived an idea of what its value must be if adapted to his purposes.

It was only a matter of a short time before an office and the coal sheds stood in their present location, and Mr. Butler was sending loads of coal to many of the homes where he formerly carried mail.

The business has known a steady increase and has proven Mr. Butler’s choice of location judicious, being situated on the New York Central switch of the Harrison Grain warehouse tracks within a block of the
business section of our Main street. It also stands on the banks of the raging Erie Canal by which route coal might be shipped and landed at their back door if the New York Central failed to run.

Two teams are kept busy all the time and third is used during rush seasons. Mr. Butler’s customers always feel confident that their orders will receive prompt and efficient attention and full weight.

(South side of the canal, approximately where today’s welcome center for boaters is located, off Market St., ed.)

W. F. COOPER

With the passing of the wheel factory Brockport gained a hospital—much wanted and long needed—for the sick furniture of the town. Mr. Cooper found himself so stuck on Brockport as a residence that he could not be induced to go elsewhere and so, to keep out of mischief, he opened a shop in the old Gleason building for tool grinding, saw filing, and furniture repairing. At the end of six months his business needed so much more room that he moved to the Johnston Block at No. 10 King Street where in connection with his shop work, he carries a line of second hand goods. Here you can find everything from oil paintings to stoves and many a broken back, leg or arm has been made as good as new under his skilled treatment.

His motto is, “If I can’t fix it, I can fix it so no one else can.” But so far he hasn’t found anything that will not yield to his gentle ministrations.

(North side of King St., in between Main & Queen, ed.)

P. F. CORBETT CO.

One of the earliest organized business houses in Brockport was that of the Elijah Upton and Charles Warren feed store which in the years following its opening in October, 1863, not only did a fine business but was the headquarters for many fiery political discussions. After 1893 Charles Warren conducted the business alone until 1912 when it was purchased by P. F. Corbett and F. G. Gillespie, two Brockport young men who for several years had been interested in the active business life of the village. The business has continued under their joint management. Both young men are native Brockporters and received the educations they are so successfully applying in practical life, in the
Normal School. Mr. Gillespie not only has an interest in the feed business but does a large amount of auto and carriage painting during the season. The flour and feed business is in a prosperous condition and their storage capacity is supplemented by storage at the Rayburn warehouse. During this last fall Mr. Corbett has devoted part of his time to assisting the Henry Harrison Co. through their rush seasons.

(From GP103, Main St., ed.)

F. G. CURVIN

There is probably not a better known place in the village than the F. G. Curvin lunch room. In fact it is often remarked that probably a third of the male populace of Brockport leave their wives and mothers peacefully snoring and steal away from home in the early light of the morning to snatch a hasty breakfast from its hospitable counters before the whistles blow.

About ten years ago Mr. Curvin started in where the Brockport Republic is now located. He carried a line of newspapers and stationary. Noting the apparent needs of the hungry people he tried out the lunch room proposition and the rapid growth of his business proved his judgment right. From a coffee pot and a one-griddle gas plate, his business has developed until he now uses annually something like 3000 dozen eggs, 20,000 pounds of meat and other things in proportion. He is sole agent for Rochester Ice Cream and during the past season according to their records, his orders showed that Brockport people had only one town outside of Rochester their equal in the consumption of that frozen dainty.

This last spring Mr. Curvin realized the necessity of opening up some place suitable for women and persons desiring lunches served in a more tasty manner than the counter variety so the rooms directly above these on the ground floor were fitted up and Brockport now boasts of a very good Tea Room. This department is under the supervision of Mrs. Bradley, a cateress of much ability, and although the main part of the meals arrive via the dumb waiter route (with a squeak by the way) from the kitchen below, she is able to serve many extras upon request. During the past summer they have successfully served numerous suppers and banquets and this part of the work is constantly increasing. They are prepared to do this kind of work in an up-to-date and first class manner.

Mr. Curvin is also proprietor of the bowling alley on Clinton Street which is largely patronized by lovers of this popular winter sport. In connection with his store and other interests, Mr. Curvin has 16 people in his employ. He has been the originator of many advertising features which have become quite famous around the village in connection with his lines of cigars. Many people still use as a by-word, the phrase, “Bill Smith’s in town” or “Have you seen Germaine?” His last one, “Look me squarely in the eyes, plank down a nickel and say ’44,” became so popular that when the arrival of Frank Curvin, Jr. was announced last spring it was confidently expected that his doting parent would name him “44”. While auctioneering is a side line with Mr. Curvin, he conducts a great many sales in the surrounding territory.

(Main St., ed.)
A. D. DAILY

About thirty years ago A. D. Daily came to this village from Spencerport where he had for several years conducted an undertaking establishment and purchased the business of G. S. Thorn on Market Street where the Postal Telegraph is now located and which had become one of the best established business in the village.

Here Mr. Daily continued the business until about twenty-five years ago when the entire stock and building was destroyed by a fire. In search of an immediate location, he moved into the Smith block and put in a stock of furniture. The office was located in the south side of the building occupied by Brennan & Adams and the sales rooms were up stairs. Here he continued for a few years but eventually purchased the business of H. N. Johnson and afterwards, the store and stock of Ed. Smith and with D. L. Walker and W. W. Wilcox the Spencerport undertakers conducted businesses in Spencerport, Churchville and this village. Later Mr. Wilcox withdrew from the firm and it was conducted by the other two members until about five years later when Mr. Daily purchased Mr. Walker's interest in the Brockport concern and continued in the business alone.

Mr. Daily had had a vast amount of experience both in the undertaking and furniture business. In the latter profession he was among the very first who practiced the art of embalming having taken it up about twenty-eight years ago under the instruction of Dr. H. G. Udell of Spencerport. In this he preceded even large Rochester firms. In the furniture business, Mr. Daily is not only a dealer but has been interested in the actual manufacture of furniture parts, especially the art of carving and cabinet making. About forty-three years ago when carved furniture was at its height, Mr. Daily secured the contract and furnished all the carvings for the bedroom furniture of the Grand Union Hotel at Saratoga Springs. About this time also, he secured a contract from the Sturdevant Furniture Manufacturing company and furnished all the carving that they used during several years.

Both Mr. Daily and his capable assistant A. V. Fowler who has been with him for the past sixteen years, are members of both the New York State and National Undertakers' and Embalmers Associations. Mr. Fowler took up the profession through the Champion School of Embalming in Rochester and his natural ability supplemented by the experience he has received during the past years, has made him one of the most popular members of his profession in this vicinity and he is frequently called in difficult cases not only in the surrounding towns but in the city of Rochester.

(image B002, 81 Main St., ed.)
Among the oldest of Brockport concerns and the largest in Western New York is that of Wm. Dailey, grain and produce buyer. In 1865 he established the business on the canal bank near the East Bridge. This was in the days when traffic on the canal was at its height. With the transfer of activities to the railroad the business location was changed in 1880 to the property now occupied by their warehouses on the east side of Park Ave., next the N. Y. C. tracks.

From this and other western New York points, they ship annually over a thousand car loads of stock. They deal in grain, beans, wool, cabbage, apples, potatoes and general produce of all kinds.

For many years they maintained an office in the Minot block on Main St., but during the past summer a fine modern, concrete office building was erected on their Park Avenue property, in this way combined their office and that of the Dailey Coal Co. which business is conducted by Donald Dailey, a son of Wm. Dailey. On July 21, they moved into their new business home and that night occurred the big fire that destroyed five of their buildings. Their new office building was not touched by the flames that made such a spectacular fire and destroyed some 4500 empty barrels and about 7500 bushels of beans, besides quantities of other stock in storage, in the big substantial grain house warehouse which was among the first buildings built after the removal of the canal.

The new fruit or apple storage building is an up-to-date affair of concrete. It has a capacity of about 15,000 barrels. The bean storage building is about 30x62 feet and is one of the most modern in western New York. Plans were so arranged that this building contains all facilities for handling wheat until a steel elevator can be constructed for permanent use.

The pictures of the Dailey property taken only a day after the fire, show very plainly the conditions they had to contend with at that time and the view of the new buildings as they are today will verify the most remarkable record they established in being able to handle produce in their new warehouses on August 30th, not six weeks after the fire. Plans are already underway for the construction of four more buildings and, in accordance with their progressive policy, these buildings will give Brockport the best of storage facilities at hand.

*(image B009, South bank of canal East side of Park Ave., ed.)*
JOHN R. DAVIS CO.

One of the first grocery stores in Brockport the writer can remember was located at the corner of Main and Market Streets and was run by Prentiss and Davis. While this could be classed as one of the oldest yet it was one of the best and most popular stores of that time. The members of the firm were the late W. B. Prentiss and his brother-in-law John R. Davis, Mr. Davis coming here from Unionville (Hilton) where he had been in business with Peter Bush.

With the changing years Mr. Prentiss withdrew and was succeeded by M. S. Stewart the firm doing business as such until, in 1903 the partner dissolved and each opened a store of his own. Mr. Davis continued in the trade until his unexpected death in April, 1911, when his heirs formed the John R. Davis Co., and placed the business under the able management of his son Ray P. Davis who still remains at the helm. Having grown up in the business under the tutelage of his father, Mr. Davis is able to avoid many mistakes of the inexperienced while at the same time it is only second nature for him to anticipate the wishes of his customers and provide them with a class of goods to suit the most fastidious.

(Main & Market Streets, ed.)

CHAS. DECKER CO.

A. W. Cary & Brainard, A. T. Wells, Wells & Minot, Morton Minot, Minot & Decker and last but not least, the Chas. Decker Co., who succeeded Minot & Decker in 1900, have been names to conjure with in the past forty or fifty years in the hardware business in Brockport.

In connection with this enterprising firm has grown up the saying that if you cannot get it at Decker’s there is no use looking as they carry one of the largest stocks of all kinds of hardware between the Genesee and Niagara rivers.

In addition to their regular stock they are manufacturers of undoubtedly the best sprayer on the market. The Perfect, Jr., are general distributors for the New-Way air cooled engines. They have also been making a tractor which has passed the questionable stage, as work they have done in this vicinity amply demonstrates.
At a meeting Monday night Mr. Decker was re-elected president of the Brockport Chamber of Commerce, a position he has filled wonderfully well since reorganization.

(image GP093, west side Main St., in between King & Clinton Streets, ed.)

D. W. EDWARDS

Early last spring a midnight fire removed the greater part of the plant of the B. F. Gleason Cooling Board Manufactory, a concern manufacturing embalmer’s couches, and owned and managed by Philip F. Swart, of this village. Being offered the management of a Rochester business, Mr. Swart decided not to rebuild his plant, and our Chamber of Commerce finally completed successful negotiations with D. W. Edwards School Supply Company of Seneca Falls, to move their business to this village and locate in the building which still remained of the Gleason plant. This company is a branch of the Weber-Costello Company, of Chicago, and manufactures a special line of globes and other school supplies. The business is under the management of Mr. Edwards, who has had twenty years experience in his line of work.

(Spring St., ed.)

J. H. ENGEL

One of the most complete lines of jewelry and optical goods may be found at the store of our enterprising Jeweler and Optician, J. H. Engel. Mr. Engel learned his trade in Springville, N. Y. from his father, who is an expert watchmaker, having learned the trade in Europe over forty years ago and who has
been following the business ever since. After leaving his father’s store, Mr. Engel worked for some time in Buffalo for King and Eisele one of the largest wholesale and manufacturing Jewelers in the state. Here Mr. Engel gained a great deal of valuable experience after which he went to Bergen and entered into business on his own account.

Being very much interested in optics he took up a special course in optometry (fitting glasses) and has been practicing since with very marked success, having patients in Buffalo and Rochester as well as the immediate vicinity while will call on him for glasses. He belongs to the N. Y. State and Rochester Optical societies and has an opportunity to attend all the lectures given before these societies by the leading men in the profession.

Mr. Engel came to Brockport in 1905 after purchasing the jewelry business of S. S. Rowley who had been conducting the same for seventeen years in the present location of the store. After seven years of successful and growing business he found the quarters too small for his large stock of watches, clocks and jewelry and moved to the south side of the building where he is always glad to greet all of his old and many new customers.

(Main St., ed.)

FAGAN MILLINERY STORE

One of the most popular places in town about Easter time or in the fall is the Fagan Millinery store which is always resplendent with the latest styles in the line due to trips made twice a year to the New York market by the Misses Fagan. This shop has been most successful from the beginning owing to the experience and ability of these ladies who are conversant with every style and change in millinery modes.

(image GP104, Main St., ed.)
FIRST NATIONAL BANK

The First National Bank of Brockport is one of her oldest institutions having been organized 49 years ago. The first president was Luther Gordon who served at the head of its affairs from 1864 until 1881. He was succeeded by his son, George C. Gordon, one of the best known of Brockport’s business men who started his banking career as a boy in the old banking house of Bishop and Waters. From 1881 to 1898 he stood at the helm until in turn succeeded by his son, Luther Gordon who has since that time filled his office. The steady increase in the bank’s deposits is readily seen by a study of the figures from 1893 to the present year. Between November of that year and the same month in 1898 the bank’s deposits increased from $109,639 to $140,039. In November 1903 after another interval of five years the deposits showed a total of $529,472; in 1908 they were $772,883 and the books of the present year show the deposits to have reached the sum of $970,371. In August of this year the bank lost one of its oldest members in the removal of the old vault door which had been in use for 38 years. In its place a new four-ton door equipped with two combination screw locks and a delicately adjusted time lock safeguards the contents of the vault. The bank property is a three story brick structure at the corner of Main and King Streets and is as fine a property as that occupied by many city banks.

(\textit{image B013, 66 Main \& King Streets, building shown now gone., ed.})

FOYE \& McCool

To many residents of Brockport it is interesting to watch the process of unloading coal at the fine, modern coal yards of Foye \& McCool. The business has been conducted by them during the past two years at the old Model coal yards. The location of the west side of Main Street, on the property adjoining the New York Central tracks is an ideal one for the handling of coal. A trestle with a capacity of 1000 tons storage facilitates rapid unloading by means of a large conveyor. As the coal leaves the conveyor, it passes over a five-inch screen, which insures a thorough screening before it goes into the bins. After the screening process it is conveyed into the separate compartments.

To load the two wagons, which are kept busy all the time, they are driven up to the bins, a lever is pulled and the coal passes over a three-inch screen to the wagons. This description of the process of unloading and
loading coal readily shows why they are able to promptly serve their numerous customers with the best of Lehigh coal.

(204 Main St., by railroad overpass, ed.)

FROST & GOFFE

The Frost and Goffe business house is one of the oldest in Brockport, the late Stephen P. Frost having come here from Attica, N. Y., in 1867 and brought out the tailoring concern of Jonas Minot which was located in the Minot block at No. 23 Main Street.

In 1881, J. Harry Goffe became connected with the establishment and in 1891 he was taken into partnership and the firm of Frost & Goffe formed. Mr. Frost died in 1908 but the firm name has never been changed and place of doing business has continued in the same location at No. 23 Main Street without interruption for over forty-six years. Mr. Goffe having assumed the entire management during the past five years.

The firm has always conducted a tailoring line and gent’s furnishing goods business and in 1894 they added a side line of bicycles. Later they took the agency of the Edison Phonographs and Victor Talking machines.

Last October Mr. Goffe bought out the business of Sherman G. Simmons at 101 Main Street in the Odd Fellow building. This he has been managing besides the old Frost & Goffe store, each being independent of the other. About the first of the year, however he expects to discontinue the business at 23 Main Street with which he has been connected for so many years.

During the time Mr. Goffe has been in business here he has made many friends and his popularity extends among every class of people. One of the most amusing of scenes was depicted one day when a customer desiring evening clothes found Mr. Goffe’s attention engaged by an Italian surrounded by his wife and five little ones earnestly laboring over the selection of a suit for father. It was afterwards learned that that same Italian was a regular customer, purchasing a number of $30 or $35 suits in a year while his wife was a typical shawl and scarf type of Italian woman.

(No. 21-23 Main St., ed.)

L. G. GORDON

In the fall of 1885 a retail shoe business under the firm name of Collins & Gordon was opened on Main Street in the quarters now occupied by the Lowry Grocery the business being conducted by Js. C. Collins and Lewis G. Gordon. In 1889 after the partnership had been dissolved Mr. Gordon who continued in the ownership, removed his store into the location now occupied by the E. Harrison Clothing store. At the end of five years in these quarters, Mr. Gordon closed out his business and removed to Niagara Falls where he engaged in the shoe business for nearly ten years, in the meantime acquiring and managing stores at Tonawanda, Albion and Suspension Bridge.
In 1903, believing that none of these places could excel Brockport as a home, he returned to this village to reside. At that time he did not intend to again engage in business but a favorable proposition presented itself in the shape of the smaller shoe business which had been conducted for nearly twenty years by William Ryan. He purchased an interest and within a few years the business outgrew its quarters in the store now occupied by the People’s Store and the stock was removed to the Benedict Building where it has since remained.

After the death of Mr. Ryan in 1908, Mr. Gordon purchased the entire interest in the concern.

(Main St., ed.)

GUELF SEED STORE

In 1890, Charles P. Guelf, believing that great oaks from little acorns grow planted a young seed business in the Snider Block on Market Street in the quarters now occupied by the Brockport Electrical Supply Company. Here he very successfully carried on a business for 21 years under his own personal management, dealing in a complete line of garden and flower seeds and bulbs. Besides conducting this store with the assistance of his brother, Fred. P. Guelf, he acted as traveling salesman for the Jerome B. Rice Seed Company. His duties in that capacity, however, during late years became so extensive that in 1911, he sold a controlling interest to his brother who has been extremely successful in the work.

His accommodating manner and general cheerful disposition has won him many friends even while trying to explain to some enthusiastic young landscape gardener that bulbs will not grow if planted upside down. As the 57 varieties and then some, of poultry foods begun to come into the market and chickens began to be hatched unto the world in incubators instead of under hens, the store took on a supply of these necessitates for the poultry of this vicinity.

The firm having a flourishing trade in Brockport, believe in expansion and now reach almost every state in the Union with their seed catalogues annually, not to mention a few foreign countries besides.

(Market St., ed.)

GEO. B. HARMON

One of the early settlers in the village was Austen Harmon, who came here from Vermont in the year 1828 and engaged in the monument business. He conducted this business alone until 1877, when his son Geo. B. Harmon (the late postmaster) was taken into partnership, and the firm name changed to A. Harmon & Son. This was continued until 1885, when the elder Mr. Harmon retired. In 1892 Geo. B. Harmon purchased the C. N. Winslow fire insurance agency and carried on that business in connection with the marble and granite business until 1901 when he, in turn, retired and was succeeded by his son Geo. B. Harmon, the present proprietor. Since 1868 the business has been conducted in the building on Market Street, shown in above cut, the front part being used for office purposes and the rear for monumental show rooms and workshops.

(no image available, Market St., ed.)
The clothing business conducted by this firm was founded in Brockport by its present senior member, Edward Harrison, in 1858. Mr. Harrison is still active in the business, and his long career, extending over fifty-five years, is said to be the record for an individual in the clothing business in the State of New York.

At one time this establishment engaged extensively in the manufacture of ready-made clothing, with headquarters in Brockport and outlets in Minneapolis, St. Paul and other western towns. For several years, in the eighties, the firm had upwards of two hundred employees at its Brockport plant, but since the specialization in ready-made clothing by big concerns, like Adler Bros. and Block & Co., this branch of its business was discontinued, and of late years the firm has catered exclusively to its Brockport trade.

Joseph Harrison, junior partner and active manager of the firm, received his early training in the clothing business in Brockport and Minneapolis. In 1896 he accepted a position as head cutter and designer with Jacobs Brothers, called the “Six Little Tailors,” of New York City, at that time doing the largest business in fine merchant tailoring in the United States. He remained with this firm two years, in charge of their stores in Broadway and in 14th street, and left to accept a similar position with Wallace & Co., the leading merchant tailors of Boston. Sometime later, when Jacobs Brothers opened a store in Philadelphia, Mr. Harrison was induced to accept the management, and also of their branch in Pittsburg, in which position he remained until he entered the present firm.

The policy of E. Harrison & Co. is to deal only in standard merchandise of established reputation for quality, and known price. The Adler clothing is equal to the best grades that are sold anywhere in the United States, and anyone wanting a high-class suit or overcoat can get it in Brockport at precisely the same price as in Rochester or New York City and with as great a variety for selection. The clothing of Block & Co., equal in quality of material, though lacking in finish of the Adler make, runs in medium and lower grades. In the hat department the firm has adopted the “Howard”, which runs in high and medium grades. This is a standard hat sold only in the best shops in large towns. One pays more for a Dunlap or a Knox, but no better hat is
made than the $3.00 Howard derby. Medium grades are sold at $2.00. In shirt, the specialized leader is the Cluett & Peabody, the same shirt and the same price as advertised and sold in New York and in London. And so on down through its extensive stock, knit goods, sweaters, the Glastenbury brand underwear, the Liberty brand rain coats, the Padlock brand working trousers, the Sweet-Orr overalls, the Arrow brand collars, neckwear, gloves, everything of established grade and fixed price. In fact, an up-to-date business in men's wear has become largely a distributing point for standard goods. Out-of-town and mail order houses may advertise lower prices, but their claims are misleading. The standard articles of men's wear, dealt in by Harrison & Co., are fixed in quality and price like postage stamps.

Another policy of this house is to turn over its entire stock every year. It is thus enabled to carry an enormous variety in grades and sizes of everything it handles, and its stock is always fresh, clean and up-to-date.

Mr. Harrison was asked to note some of the changes that have occurred in his business during his long career in Brockport. "In the fifties," he said, "a large part of our business was in the sale of cloth by the yard," the customer's wife making his suit at home. Sometimes we would cut the suit from their homespun and sell only the buttons and trimmings and these were usually paid for in produce. The shirt trade was in the same way. As for socks, we rarely had a sale of a pair in those days. Our custom tailoring was usually in swallow-tails, which required a skilled tailor. Probably from these began our custom trade and from the fact that a ready-made suit could be bought very cheap.

Up to a few years ago a ready-made suit on a man would be known at sight. They were of shoddy goods and of bad workmanship, without any attempt at tailoring. Custom trade was then at its best. Today the big specialists in ready-to-wear clothing have changed that again, and the best suit or overcoat, skillfully tailored and of perfect fit can be bought from the shelf. Of course, there will always be some who require their clothing made to order, but the high-class ready-made is gaining.

"To what single factor more than another do you attribute the success of your business?" asked the reporter.

"To being able to supply what is asked for. It used to be good business policy to try and educate our customers. Today they educate us. Most of our trade knows precisely what they want, the make, the grade and even the price. We are required to carry a much larger stock than formerly to meet this demand, but it turns over quickly and does not accumulate. I might add as a second factor, our policy of squared-dealing, and in this connection 55 years in one town speaks for itself.

(alternate image B006, east side Main St., in between Market & State Streets, building burned in 1916, ed.)

HENRY HARRISON CO.

The Henry Harrison Company which does a large bean business in this vicinity with warehouses in Brockport and several other near-by places and with office headquarters here, is the modern edition of one of the oldest and busiest of Brockport’s industries. The firm began many years ago as Harrison and King, who were succeeded by Belden & Harrison and later by the present company. Those who have resided in Brockport for fifty years remember that during the war and for many years thereafter our village was more than a “ringer” for Boston which then looked to us for her staple food as Brockport was at that time the
largest bean shipping market in the United States. Later other places came to know beans and wrested the distinction from us. The Harrison firm are headquarters for most of the bean sellers of this vicinity. The firm is under the general management of its owner, Henry Harrison, with Frank D. Hebbard as general office manager.

(Main St., ed.)

HOLLIDAY JEWELRY STORE

That little God of Luck, “Billikins” must have had a hand in things when A.W. Holliday, our jeweler decided to locate a business for himself and without having any particular place in mind or having heard of any place that might be bought he started on his search. His first expedition led him west to Buffalo and after investigating several stores in small towns in that vicinity with out success, he returned to that city and there met a friend whose salesmanship for a large wholesale jewelry concern gave him an insight into the amount of business done by the Wm. J. Arniel jewelry store of this village. It was this man who suggested the purchase of Mr. Holliday’s present business and the sale was consummated the next day. Since July, 1910, Mr. Holliday has been one of our leading business men and he hasn’t regretted coming to Brockport either.

It has always been his policy to study and satisfy the needs and demands of his customers. He buys the best grade of guaranteed goods on the market. He does not believe in substituting inferior goods at lower prices although they may have the same appearance as the standard lines. From his fast increasing list of pleased customers, it is evident his efforts to give them the best is appreciated.

No job however difficult that is placed in his watch and jewelry repair department, leaves his hands until he feels sure it is satisfactory. The confidence of his patrons is assured at the start. If you are not already well acquainted with his fine line of jewelry, silverware, watches, cut glass and diamonds, we advise you to investigate them at once.

(image GP102, Main St., ed.)
HOTEL BROCKPORT

The Hotel Brockport stands on the site of one of the oldest landmarks of Brockport, and besides offering spacious quarters for travelers, is the most conveniently located of any of Brockport’s hostleries, being within a half-block of the Central station. The hotel was known to patrons 25 years ago as the Getty House. After the Getty management it was at different dates under the supervision and ownership of Messrs. Nelligan and Giebel, and still later that of Caney, Cullen, and Edwards. Last October Mr. D. E. Church, formerly of the Hotels National and Bristol, of Rochester, and a hotel man of twelve years experience, assumed the ownership and management, and the hotel has, since that date, been thoroughly renovated and refurnished throughout. It now presents an attractive appearance to tired travelers arriving by the New York Central route, whom it aims to make comfortable and happy as possible. The dining room has been given special attention in the renovating process, and a new chief and cuisine are busy catering to hungry patrons.

HUDDSON CANNING CO.

The Hudson and Company’s Brockport factory is a branch of the Hudson & Company factory at Holley, N. Y., and there is still another plant owned by this company at Mattituck, L. I. The business was established over fifty years ago by William M. Hudson who was one of the first packers in the country. The plant in this village was purchased four years ago from the Batavia Preserving Company of Chicago. The main stone building represents all that is left of the plant of the Johnston Harvester Company which burned in 1882. The rest of the buildings with the exception of the vide shed and silo were erected by the Batavia Preserving Company. Since the purchase from them however, modern and up-to-date machinery has been installed. A viner and a pea shelling machine have been put in and now, instead of the old methods of picking the pod from the vines and bringing them to the factory, the entire crop is mowed as soon as ready and is carried vine and all upon hay wagons to the vine shed. Here the vines and pods are fed into a viner which separates the peas from the pods. They are then run through a cleaner and washer before being canned. In the canning of tomatoes the process has been greatly improved. The tomatoes are first washed, then sealed to loosen the skins which with the cores are next removed and the fruit placed in the cans cold. The tops of the
cans are next put on by machinery and the cans placed in iron cages and lowered into a retort or iron tank of boiling water where the cans are left for about forty minutes, the fruit being thus cooked after it is in the cans. The cans are now taken out, cooled, labeled, and shipped.

Columbian and Cuthbert raspberries, strawberries, peas, Refugee string beans, tomatoes and apples make up the list of products of this factory. The season generally lasts from the middle of June until Thanksgiving and there are employed an average of about fifty women and about twenty men during the season. The factory contracts each season for about 80 acres of Alaska and Admiral peas, 15 acres of beans and 85 acres of tomatoes. In the past season the factory has handled 50 tons of Early Richmond and Montmorency sour cherries, 20,000 quarts of Cuthbert raspberries, 30,000 quarts of Columbia raspberries, and 2500 barrels of apples. The Brockport business is conducted under the able management of Mr. Elbert W. Johnston.

(North Main St., ed.)

ROSCOE C. HURD

The Roscoe C. Hurd Show Store was founded in April 1899 by Fred H. Shafer, a prominent business man of this village in the store now occupied by the John. R. Davis Co. The business was carried on in this location a little over a year when Mr. Shafer moved to the present location in the Decker building.

On the 18th day of February, 1904, Mr. Shafer formed a co-partnership with Roscoe C. Hurd, then a Utica shoeman. This partnership was carried on until August 1, 1905 when Mr. Shafer sold his interest in the business to Mr. Hurd who since that time has carried on the business alone.

That his untiring efforts to please the public and to sell only “Shoes of Quality” have been appreciated by the people of this vicinity is shown by the large volume of business that is done yearly in this progressive store.

On the first day of January, 1909, Mr. Hurd retired from active management of this store to accept a position as assistant buyer and sales manager for the Hurd and FitzGerald Shoe Co., of Utica, N. Y., which position he now holds. Upon his retiring, he secured the services of Mr. Charles Lawrence of Wolcott, N. Y., to act as manager. Mr. Lawrence filled this position very successfully until the following October when he resigned, owing to the fact that he purchased an interest in a large department store in Palmyra. While in Brockport he gained a great many friends who will be glad to learn that he is doing a large and prosperous business. Since going to Palmyra, Mr. Lawrence has added a show department to his store and the rapid growth of this department has been wonderful.

At the time of Mr. Lawrence’s departure, the management was turned over to George D. Bloomfield, better known as “Bloomie” who was a native of Cambridge, Pa. his jovial disposition and good nature won him a host of friends. On January 1st, 1912, Mr. Bloomfield resigned and then the management was given to Harold. A. Richards, a Brockport young man who has been a clerk in the store for over four years. At the present time Mr. Richards holds this position.

Honest merchandising, courteous treatment and “Shoes of Quality” have won this store an enviable reputation.
They hope this history will reach all of their friends and that they will be pleased to celebrate with them the 15th birthday of the store next April. Watch for their special anniversary day notice in the April issue of the Republic.

(Main St., ed.)

JEWETT BUTLER

For several years two sisters, the Misses Martin, conducted a fancy work and notion store business in a building located where the present Winslow block stands.

In 1897 two of Brockport’s enterprising young men Fred H. Bonnell and Jewett Butler became tired of working for others and purchased the little stock owned by these two ladies and moved it soon to the store occupied by the Holliday Jewelry Store.

The business gradually expanded through their energy and ability until in 1902 it was found necessary to again enlarge their quarters and they removed to the south side of the Benedict building where they have been doing business ever since.

In 1899, however, Uncle Sam found it necessary to secure the services of Mr. Butler on the Post Office force and the dry goods business was, after that time, carried on under the management of Mr. Bonnell. Mr. Bonnell was a tireless worker in the business and his death which occurred in August, 1908, after a short illness was a great shock to all his friends.

After his death his widow, Mrs. Louise Nye-Bonnell assumed the management and continued in this capacity until the spring of 1912 her health demanded that she should take a complete rest. This necessitated that Mr. Butler give up his position at the Post Office.

Since May of 1912 he has been licking stamps on his own advertising, serving customers with his usual courtesy, and filling their orders with as fine a line of goods as may be found in Brockport and doing a mighty good business thereby.

(Main St., ed.)

W. S. LEE

Among our “younger” grocers perhaps none is better known than Willis S. Lee who has been in business here for nearly nineteen years. The Lee Grocery was founded by W. S. Lee and his brother Charles after a short experience in the same line in Lockport. After a year here W. S. Lee bought out his brother’s interest and continued the business alone, on his nerve, as he says he started in with scarcely a dollar to his name. His success in the enterprise is therefore, all the more marked showing what hard work, economy and enterprise can do. Mr. Lee who is in Florida on a business trip does not know a word of what we are writing about him or we would not be doing it. On a former trip to the South Mr. Lee shipped large quantities of oranges and grapefruit direct to his store which has caused a remarkable sale of those fruits ever since as well as of the regular staple lines.

(Main St., ed.)
LOUISMANN-CAPEN CO.

Among the oldest and most widely known of Brockport’s manufacturing businesses is that of our Piano factory whose small beginning was made in buildings about one-third the size of those today.

To the late George Witney under whose general management the business continued until his death a few years ago ago.

Large measure of the success is due. Mr. Witney was well versed in the art of piano making even before he came to this village having been engaged in piano manufacturing in Philadelphia, Pa., and Gloversville, N. Y., before that time.

Since the death of Mr. Witney, the company known as the Brockport Piano Mfg. Co., has become the Louismann-Capen Co., the management having been taken over by Louis S. Kurtzmann who as a son of Christian Kurtzmann, the famous manufacturer of Kurtzmann pianos has consequently grown up in the business. Mr. Kurtzmann, Sr., is ably assisted in the promotion of efficient factory methods by his son, Christian Kurtzmann, vice-president and secretary of the company.

Some very handsome new styles and designs have recently been brought out of improved mechanism making the local output every bit as good as anything on the market approaching it in price. To Brockport people, S. Jay Davis, one of our own Brockport boys, has become known as one of the permanent fixtures in the office of this concern.

During the past week, announcement was made of a change in the vice-presidency and sales management of the concern. E. F. Hawkins, who for ten years has held the position of sales-manager of the Foster-Armstrong division of the American Piano Company, and a man of many years experience is assuming the same.

The well known Capen life has become known all over the United States, and gives credit to one of our early residents, F. F. Capen.

The factory has recently undergone a thorough change in arrangements and methods, and may now be rated as one of the most modern in equipment and system.

(alternate image A062, Spring St., ed.)
LYRIC THEATRE

On August 15th, 1908 the Lyric Theatre was opened by Fred B. Whiting who has successfully managed it since that time. To more than one person in Brockport, the first class pictures shown in this pleasure house have been a source of delight that has become a habit regularly indulged in. From time to time Mr. Whiting has been fortunate in securing vaudeville acts to vary the general run of moving picture films. The pictures shown are supplied by the General Film Company and are of the highest class made in the world.

As a pleasing announcement, the patrons of the theatre will soon be enjoying new conveniences in the way of seats. The house will shortly be remodeled and every convenience put in to make it up-to-date. A stage and appliances are to be installed and vaudeville of the best class will be booked from time to time.

(image B001, Main & State Streets, today’s Strand Theater, ed.)

MONITOR CLOCK WORKS

During the past year Brockport has realized several important business changes and we consider the recent removal of the Monitor Clock Works to this place as one of our most fortunate acquisitions, bringing as it does a successful and fast growing manufacturing concern which promised to give employment to many of our citizens.

The history of the company is interesting to trace. It succeeded The Medina Manufacturing Co., which was originally started in 1906 by D. A. A. Buck, the inventor of the long spring Waterbury Watch, but who had unfortunately gotten away from his regular line and was struggling with the small and unsuccessful manufacture of Machines for the vending of peanuts, candy, etc. The failure of the National Bank in Medina was the indirect cause of the Company falling into the hands of the Sheriff at whose sale the business, such as it was, was purchased by B. A. Chubbuck, who dropped the old line and started to make Clocks and under whose individual ownership and management, the business was continued until its removal to Brockport.

The entire years output of the company in 1906 was less than $7,000.00. Since that time the steady and in fact remarkable growth of the business has made it necessary to remove to larger quarters four times and when the Chamber of Commerce became interested in the proposition, they were located in separate buildings on different sides of the street and over a mile from the Railroad.
The plant into which they have moved is complete and right in every detail, equipped with adequate dry kilns, railroad sidings, power plant, electric light plant, modern machinery and even their own water supply, in fact it is really the combination of the Phelps plant purchased complete with machinery and equipment and to which is added the two Medina factories complete and in one of which the company manufactured their own Clock movements. In fact every part of both movements and cases are made from raw material under the one roof. Quoting from Mr. Chubbuck’s description of the Phelps plant, “the builders did not limit the cost to build and equip but put up the plant and then footed the bill.”

Although actual work of manufacturing has hardly commenced, the pay roll shows over fifty persons engaged in settling and preparing for business. A number of businessmen of the street have purchased a small interest in the business and our former citizen Mr. F. S. LeVan, who left Brockport only last spring, has also purchased an interest and has returned to Brockport and will be actively connected with the factory.

It might be added that the company maintain permanent exhibits in both New York and Chicago, the balance of sales being made through salesmen and the mail order department of the business. As a matter of fact the company has been recognized for several years as headquarters for cheap and medium priced Hall Clocks. The added facilities will enable them to meet the demand for high grade pieces and to again take up the making of Mission Specialties for the furniture trade which has been practically dropped during the past year owing to lack of facilities.

(Spring St., ed.)

MONROE CO. CANNING CO.

The Monroe Country Canning Company with office and factory located on Clinton Street is now a little less than two years old. Though not an incorporated company its credit has never been questioned and its ability to market its products vindicates its right to be counted among the industries of the Village. The adaption of this section of the State to produce vegetables and fruits of superior quality is a well admitted fact. The finding of a ready market for all these products of the farm has often been a source of anxiety and many times the absence of such market has occasioned heavy losses. The organization of this Canning Company though not primarily in the interest of philanthropy has already proved of some considerable assistance to the farmers and in this respect if no other contributes to its share toward the welfare of the community. The success of the company is probably largely due to the packing of its goods in strict conformity to present day standards so that they become “ready sellers” in many particular markets under the name Mon-Ro-Co Brand which was selected to emphasize the name of the company.

During the busy part of the season employment is afforded 60 to 85 men and women who are under the active superintendency of John Foye, always vigilant to work the plant to its capacity and give every customer a fair chance and square deal. Miss Esther L. Morgan has active charge of the details of the office, in which position her work is greatly appreciated.

At least $50,000.00 during the present year has been circulated through this community as a result of the efforts of this practically new industry.

(Clinton St., ed.)
The present Moore & Kimball Department store was organized in 1894 by C.W. Carl and C.D. LeVan where the Smead restaurant is now located and was one of a chain of small variety stores operated by them in the towns of Tonawanda, Lockport, Medina and Albion along the Falls Road. In 1896 the business was purchased by F.S. LeVan and after a few months, removed to the building now occupied by the Davis Grocery, where the business was continued until 1899 when it was removed to its present location in the Shannon Block. For seventeen years Mr. LeVan built up the business until it reached its present standing as a department store.

Last winter when it was learned that the Moore Subscription Agency had consolidated with the Cottrell Agency at North Cohocton, N.Y., it was for a time feared that Brockport might lose one of her business men as Mr. Moore contemplated returning to rural life. However he decided to purchase the LeVan store and with the assistance of his son-in-law, A.L. Kimball conduct the business.

Mr. Moore has always lived in this vicinity having been raised on his father's farm in the town of Clarkson. About thirty-four years ago his brother, the late Wilson H. Moore started the Moore Subscription Agency. For nearly twenty-three years Philetus Moore gained invaluable experience along advertising lines in this agency which through its advertising policies became known over the entire United States.

A.L. Kimball, the junior member of the firm, first entered business life as clerk at the New York Central station under the later Jacob Wendover who for many years was station agent here. From this position, Mr. Kimball was promoted by degrees in railroad work and has held positions as General Yardmaster at Geneva, N.Y., and Freight Agent at Honeoye Falls. Through his work he has travelled considerably and found that even "all railroads lead back to Brockport." Since Messrs. Moore & Kimball have conducted the business, the stock has been rearranged and the floor space greatly enlarged until their three story building is a small edition of an up-to-date city store. The first floor is devoted to the smaller stock and the second floor is complete with a line of fine furniture and house furnishings. Three clerks besides the managers serve the patrons of this lively and enterprising establishment.

(image 111, Main St., ed.)
It is with considerable pride that we are able to present to our readers a brief sketch and picture of so important an industry to Brockport as the Moore-Shafer Shoe Mfg. Co., which none will dispute as being the foremost manufacturing concern of the village.

Followers of the “History” items in each issue of the Republic, will remember that it was twenty-five years ago that the Moore-Shafer Co. was organized to take over the plant of Ham & Rogers, a small concern that started in the Pease block, next to the canal. This concern early ran afoul of troubled waters and willingly gave place to the new men, neither of whom, however, had had experience in the shoe business.

The new concern builded wiser than they knew, no doubt, in securing the services of C. P. Lane, as manager, who is still with the company. The present credit man, W. B. Conkling, started with the company about the same time, as bookkeeper. Both are now members of the concern. But to two “demons” for organization, as it were, may be credited the survival of the industry during its dark day—we refer to the lamented Wilson Moore, who undoubtedly has done more for Brockport than any other one man, living or dead, and Manley A., Shafer, who is the present head of the company.

“Ultra” shows are world-wide in their renown, and justly so, for “quality first” is the motto on which they are made, and that being so the growth of the factory from the small, original quarters to the mammoth building, which is even now too small for their demands, follows as the night the day. The factory is unquestionably one of the most modern, up-to-date shoe plants in existence. The company makes a wide variety of styles, and keep sixteen or more salesmen on the road. Over 400 of our young men and women find profitable and congenial employment with them. The native modesty of the managers prevents our giving pictures of them, much to our regret.

(alternate image A051, west side Park Ave., next to today’s Stull Hardware, ed.)
NEW AMERICAN HOTEL

Since the New American Hotel opened its doors to the public last Spring Brockport has possessed a hostelry which many places of much larger population might be proud to claim, and in fact one that in its equipment probably is better than is often to be found in larger villages or towns. The property was formerly occupied by the Germains and was for years a landmark in Brockport. The present appearance of the Hotel American both inside and out would give little suspicion that it was in any way related to its predecessor. The building, although as yet not as perfectly complete as its owner and manager, Fred H. Grell expects to make it in the near future, has been thoroughly remodeled and refitted throughout. The management not only entertains large parties from neighboring towns and cities but also make an especial effort to please such of our country neighbors as wish to put up in the village for a day or a longer time. Mr. Grell scarce needs an introduction as a hotel manager to anyone who has lived in this vicinity as he has had an experience of over 23 years in different hostelries at Rochester, Sea Breeze and Charlotte. He spent four years in the management of the Sea Breeze Hotel at that popular resort and one year as manager of the Grell Pavilion at Charlotte. For 18 years he was manager of a high class restaurant in Rochester located on Main street, besides for a time managing the Genese Amusement Company on South Avenue. For a short time before his removal to this village he was in charge of his restaurant property at 36 State Street. His experience has ably fitted him for his present work as a successful manager of a high class hotel.

HARRY RAYBURN

Another establishment that does much for the joy and comfort of the masculine residents of Brockport is that of Harry Rayburn our well known tonsorial artist under whose soothing ministrations the cares and toils of many business lives are forgotten or new schemes or enterprises planned. The business was established by Hugh Cooper about seventeen years ago and conducted in the building now occupied by the Engel Jewelry store. Later he purchased the business of a Mr. Hollingsworth and removed to the present location in the building owned by Mrs. Millard which until about ten years ago was the “Pease residence”. The location with the fine wide plate glass windows extending the full width of the building makes an ideal room for tonsorial parlors.

Mr. Rayburn, who is one of our own boys, born and educated in Brockport took up his profession under the competent tutelage of Mr. Cooper about four years ago. Upon hearing of Mr. Cooper’s intention to remove to Florida, Mr. Rayburn purchased the establishment and for the past two years has successfully conducted his own business and possesses a fine up-to-date four chair barber shop. With his popular crude oil shampoo he has made hair grow on the bald pates of many of Brockport’s first citizens.

(no image available, Main St., ed.)
REVELAS BROS.

For many years the history of Greece has been recognized as most important in the education of the people but nothing in that country ever affected the lives of Brockport people as the coming of four of their native boys, Philip, William, Gus and Nicholas Revelas, to our town.

About four years ago they opened up a confectionary and ice cream parlor in the Winslow Block and have since that time been delighting the palates of young and old with their home made line of sweet meats. With their famous “Banana Split” they have comforted many a school girl subsisting on boarding house fare and deprived lunch rooms and restaurants of the price of many a good full meal, so alluring and generous is that frozen dainty. Before opening the store the interior was entirely refinished with mirrors and panels painted with scenes from picturesque Venice. An up-to-date white marble fountain was installed and electric piano to furnish their patrons with the latest rag time and tango music. At Christmas time the store presents an appearance of a beautiful, edible toyland.

Their popularity has spread and they are now serving residents of Albion, Medina, Lockport and Conneaut, Ohio from stores recently opened by these boys.

(no image available, Main St., ed.)

W. J. ROWE & CO.

W. J. Rowe & Co. coal yard was probably a direct result of the coal famine which this village experienced in the winter of 1903. Mr. Rowe having suffered with the rest of the residents of the town, decided that he would take ample precaution thereafter and keep warm if he had to open up a coal business to do it. For many years an office building had stood on the present location and during this time a coal business had been conducted by H. E. Webster who had, however, discontinued it some years previous to 1903. The trestle that had been built in connection with the business was torn down during the fuel shortage and used for fire wood. When Mr. Rowe first started in the business he used buildings on Fair Street for storage purposes but in 1906 he built the present coal trestle which is admirably suited to his needs.

Coal and wood—and plenty of it—is the specialty of this enterprising young business man. W. J. was the “devil” in the Republic office when we purchased it and we are proud of his present position of affluence while we are still plugging along at printing and publishing.

(no image available, South Main St., ed.)
SZER SHOE STORE

During the past year Brockport acquired a new “Home of Start Shoes” and regained one of her own progressive field and residential town ever than Rochester and opened his store in the building long occupied by Chas. Gartley. Mr. Sizer is a son of N. B. Sizer who for many years has been a resident of this village. He was born and educated in Brockport and has had nearly eighteen years experience in the shoe business. Nine years of this time was spent with the Regal Shoe Co. of Rochester where he received invaluable instruction and experience in the retail shoe business, as that firm’s policy of every month giving their employees the benefit of lectures and instruction by men who stand high in the trade is well known.

Mr. Sizer is a member of the Retail Show Dealers Association. His broad and varied experience gives people confidence in his ability and has taught him the policy of catering to home trade and meeting the demands of his customers with the things that they want, when they want them. He carries some of our Brockport-made shoes.

N. W. Osterhout has charge of the Sizer Shoe Repair Department. Mr. Osterhout has had about forty years experience in the shoe business and for the past fourteen years has given many Brockport people whole soles for broken ones and made run-down heels look like new.

SHAFER GROCERY CO.

In 1907 Fred H. Shafer having but recently closed out his show business decided to open up a grocery store in the Ward Opera House which since its erection by George Ward in 1884 has always housed a grocery business. For many years Mr. Ward himself was proprietor of the grocery store in this location.

Mr. Shafer entered into co-partnership with A. G. Coleman and the business was organized under the firm name of Coleman & Shafer. Together they did a thriving business until about two years later, when Mr. Coleman withdrew and later passed into the employ of the state as Chief Clerk in the department of Commissioner of Election, John Pallace.
In May 1911, a mere miracle saved the stock of this store from being wiped out by the big conflagration which started in the top floor of the Opera House Building and swept through the upper floors of the First National Bank building. For a number of weeks afterward, owing to improvements being made, the buildings were without roofs and if a severe rain storm had arisen, the store would have suffered considerable damage. Mr. Shafer has never dared breathe the fact that he prayed for dry weather at that time, considering the tempers of the people during the terrific heat of “Old Home Week” which followed shortly. No doubt, however, the weather conditions were in answer to such a plea.

Mr. Shafer continued the business as sole owner and proprietor until February 1912, when Lewis W. Udell purchased an interest in the concern and it became known as the Shafer Grocery Company. Mr. Udell has occupied a prominent position in this vicinity being known as a son of the “Apple King”, Foster Udell, whose farm and business they continued after his death in 1909. During the recent political campaign the grocery store has occupied an unofficial position as Republican Headquarters in this village on account of Mr. Udell’s candidacy as Member of Assembly and the loyalty of his many customers brought him a large vote at the polls this fall.

The store has won for itself a reputation of unfailing courtesy, promptness and an unexcelled stock.

(No image available, Main St., ed.)

PERRY C. SHAFER CO.

The feed business now known as the Perry C. Shafer Co. was originally the Charles E. Shafer feed store which was acquired by the late C. E. Shafer in 1898 at which time it consisted of a stock of about a thousand dollars worth of feeds and flours.

During the eight years Mr. Shafer conducted the business it grew rapidly but his failing health in 1907 caused him to turn over the actual management to his son, Perry C. Shafer, and the original firm was succeeded by the Perry C. Shafer Co., which was incorporated during January, 1910, a year previous to his death.

To the original stock consisting solely of feeds and flours there has from time to time been added other lines of Seeds, Flowers, Fencing, Fertilizers and Spraying Materials. From the store proper, there has
been added the use of six buildings for storage. At the time of our numerous fires during the past summer four of these buildings were destroyed, however.

In the spring this store is the head-quarters of all kinds of flowers in bloom brought from the H. E. Rogers concern of Spencerport. It is also head-quarters for the latest Brockport baseball news through its able assistant, Gus. Bastian and its patrons, interested in either of these flourishing businesses, find them most satisfactory concerns.

(image GP106, Main St., ed.)

E. W. SIMMONS

For many years a drug business has been without a break conducted in the south side of the Capen block. The original business was started by W. P. Colvin of Wolcott, N. Y. A short time later Mr. Colvin sold a half interest to Morton G. Read of Brockport and they did business for one year under the firm name of Read & Colvin. Mr. Colvin then removed to Rochester and started the Drake Drug store. Mr. Read’s health necessitating a change of climate, Read & Colvin sold out to O. L. Howard of this place and Mr. Read went to Minnesota. A few years later Mr. Howard sold out to E. W. Briggs of Medina who later sold to Groves & Chandler. Mr. Groves was a Brockport man and Mr. Chandler came from Franklinville, N. Y. The firm was later dissolved, Mr. Groves removing to Batavia, N. Y., Mr. Chandler continuing the business until purchased by E. W. Simmons the present owner who since Nov. 1907 has conducted the business together with his drug business at Canandaigua. The Brockport concern was under the management of G. A. Palmer until last spring when Mr. Palmer decided to purchase a business in Unadilla, N. Y.

During the past summer Mr. Simmons has given a greater share of his time to the personal management of the Brockport store. On November 19, E. G. Aberle of Corning, N. Y., assumed the
management of the business and Mr. Simmons divides his time as he formerly did between the Canandaigua and Brockport stores. Both stores are in particularly prosperous conditions and furnish the residents with a first class and up-to-date line of drugs, books, toilet articles and cigars. Mr. Simmons has our thanks for several photo plates used in this issue.

(Alternate image GP108, 83-87 Main St., ed)

A. SMITH

There are few business men on the street that are better known in their line than Abraham Smith who since 1867 has conducted a bakery in this village. He is a native of Norfolk, England, a small town about a hundred miles from London and it was at a very early age that he commenced to learn his trade. Apprenticeships in England are very severe and probably to their rigid training, the practical foundation for Mr. Smith's later success may be credited.

He came to this country with his people in 1858 and spent the intervening years of his life until 1866 on a farm near Albion. In the latter year he finished his farm apprenticeship, arriving at the age of twenty-one years, and came to Brockport where he worked a year for Richard Mockford. The next year he and Mr. Wadsworth bought out the business and formed the firm of Smith and Wadsworth which existed about two years when Mr. Wadsworth retired and Mr. Smith continued the business alone. They were located in a building where the Wilson Implement store is now situated.

In the spring of 1885 several buildings of lower Main Street were destroyed by fire and among these was Mr. Smith's establishment. A new location being necessary, he bought out the business of Philip Hoffman in the building in which he is now located. From time to time improvements have been made on the property and the year after he purchased the business he built a new shop at the rear of the building thus enabling them to have the workrooms on the ground floor instead of in the basement as they has before that time been doing.
Through many years of hard labor combined with business ability and integrity of character Mr. Smith has built for himself a business that is not excelled in this village and has gained for himself the affectionate nickname given President Lincoln that of “Honest Abe.”

STATE BANK OF COMMERCE

The State Bank of Commerce of Brockport, New York, was incorporated under the laws of the state of New York, October 29, 1909, and began business under the state charter November 1, 1909. The banking business previously conducted by Minot, Crippen & Co. was absorbed by the new institution. The bank began with an authorized capital of $50,000.00 and paid in surplus of $10,000.00. During the four years of its corporate existence the amount of its deposits have gradually increased until they are now nearly twice the amount of its deposits of Minot, Crippen Co. at the time they turned over their assets to the State Bank. The resources of the institution now aggregate more than $700,000.00.

There are some thirty stockholders of the bank, and these at their annual meeting elect eleven directors, who at present are Dean G. Crippen, president; Harris Holmes, vice-president; Henry E. Hiler, cashier; John D. Burns, attorney; James E. Conley, John. F. Dailey, George E. Locke, Morton Minot, Manley A. Shafer, Albert C. Shepler and Leonard D. Trimmer. Wyatt D. Hull and Henry C. Hurley have been in the employ of the bank from its organization and have rendered very efficient service. Closely affiliated with the bank is the Insurance agency of Minot & Crippen Co., incorporated about the same time as the bank. This agency represents some of the strongest insurance companies, among which may be mentioned The Home of New York; German-American; Glens Falls; Phoenix of Hartford; and Travelers. The officers of the bank are ably assisted by Yale Forbes and Miss Kate Allan in taking care of the many lines of insurance written in this office. The State Bank of Commerce has repeatedly shown a vital interest in all the commercial affairs of Brockport and vicinity, and stands ready at all times to co-operate in every movement that will conserve and advance the prosperity of the community.
JOHN H. WELCH

The Welch Grocery is the oldest business house in Brockport, run continually under the same name for 62 years. Established in 1851, by John Welch who conducted it successfully until his death which occurred in May, 1903, when the business was turned over to his son, John H. Welch, the present proprietor. The Welch Grocery from its inception has been conducted along strict business lines, always apace of progressive times and ideas, it has made a name throughout a large section of Western New York for its integrity and sound business principle. The store in its furnishings is strictly up-to-date in every essential and its stock the best from foreign and domestic manufacturers. It is a common expression “if you don’t find it at the Welch Grocery, you can’t find it elsewhere.”

Mr. Welch’s knowledge of the grocery business appears to be a natural inheritance supplemented by service in the retail store, selling to the retail stores throughout New York State and later the Eastern Jobbery trade from the manufacturers.

One has only to look at the amiable proprietor to recognize the origin of his popular nickname “Honest Big John” and if we had not always known his “smile that won’t come off” we would fear he was plagiarizing that of his hero the leader of the Bull Moose party.

(No image available, Main St., ed.)

WELLS HARDWARE CO.

Some time about the year 1840, Charles Van Eps, one of the earliest residents of Brockport, began supplying the inhabitants with hardware from a store owned and managed by himself in the location now occupied by the Holliday Jewelry store. After doing business here for many years, he moved, in 1872, into the present quarters occupied by the Wells Hardware Company, who are the present day edition of this old business. Between Mr. Van Eps and the present business came two different owners, Mr. Van Eps’ son, William Van Eps, and R. V. Greenough, who bought the business from William Van Eps in the spring of 1907. In the spring of 1912, Mr. Greenough sold the business to the present owners, leaving to engage in bridge construction work. The W. D. Wells Company are a Spencerport firm, but added this store to their business there. Thomas Patterson, a Brockport man, and Burton Brown and W. D. Wells, both of Spencerport, became partners in the Brockport
business, under the firm name of The Wells Hardware Co. Two new members, L. G. Hunt and Ivan Wider, have been taken into the firm in the past year. The store is headquarters for all the utensils of the latest make which assist the housekeeper, as well as for some large articles, like the Menominee truck. Johnston Harvester farm implements and Oliver plows.

(image GP105, Main St., ed.)

MICHAEL ZERVAS

Such a busy man is our friend, Michael Zervas of the Olympian Candy Co., that we were unable to secure a picture of his store in time for this issue. It is really too bad not to show such an artistic Christmas display as he how has at his store but his many friends may be consoled by calling at his store and seeing for themselves. Since about 1905 “Mike”, who is a native of Sparta has been one of the most popular of business men on the street having catered to the sweet tooth of almost every resident of the village. For some time he conducted two stores in this place having bought out the business of G. Papapanon and until the fire about three years ago he conducted the store in the Winslow block. In his present location his eighteen tables are the headquarters for all kinds of ice creams, sodas, and during the winter, hot chocolates, etc., besides the line of confectionary he carries.

(no image available, Main St., ed.)
Churches

BROCKPORT NATIVITY (RC)

(No text appeared with this. It is the church that stood at Utica & Erie Streets, where the parochial school was later. Image A028, ed.)

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

The First Baptist Church of Brockport, N. Y., was organized September 1, 1841, with thirty-three members. Thirteen years before this time, in 1828, the Baptists of Brockport had organized a church. Which grew until a membership of one hundred and sixty-nine was reported. This church prospered and built and dedicated a house of worship. It stood on the same site as that of our present church.
building and was held by the Trustees of the First Baptist Church and Society of Brockport. The business depression of 1837 so affected this church that it became dissolved in 1839.

When the new church was formed in 1841 however it was composed largely of members of the former church. Naturally this new church was called the Second Baptist Church of Brockport, which name remained until 1879 when the necessary legal steps were taken to change the name to the First Baptist Church and Society.

Elder Ichabod Clark resigned at LeRoy and became the first pastor of the Brockport church, receiving a salary of five hundred dollars and donation. It was he also who raised the twelve hundred dollars necessary to buy the meeting house which, though built by Baptists, had become the property of the New York Life Insurance and Trust Company. This building was used for worship until 1863, when the present church edifice was erected at a cost of ten thousand dollars. At its dedication, December, 1864, the sermon was preached by Elder Ichabob Clark, the first pastor of the church. Undoubtedly it was the interest and untiring energy of Dea. Israel Starks, one of the charter members who had just moved to Brockport from LeRoy that made the success of the newly organized church possible.

The parsonage was built in 1879 at a cost of four thousand dollars. Extensive repairs and alterations were made to the building in 1903, largely through the generous gifts of Rev. Elnathan Sweet, who as then pastor.

The largest membership was reported in 1893-four hundred and twenty four. The present membership is three hundred and thirteen.

Among the women of the church there are four organized societies. The Ladies’ Aid Society had been for years and important feature in the work of the church. The church also has three distinct missionary societies-the Foreign, organized in 1880, the Home in 1881, and the Farther Light in 1908. Mrs. M. A. Walden, president of the Foreign society, has served the church in that office for twenty-three consecutive years. The young people of the church have maintained a Christian Endeavor Society since 1887.

(Alternate image A052, 124 Main Street, ed.)

FREE METHODIST CHURCH

The local Free Methodist Society at Brockport was organized by Rev. Ara Able in 1860 shortly after the organization of the society as a denomination at Pekin, N. Y.

The Brockport society was composed of those who had been involuntarily withdrawn from membership in the Mother church. The first membership was also increased by the converts of a camp meeting held in this village by Fay. H. Purdy in 1859. The charge was at first supplied by local members until 1863 when the Rev. Moses Downing was appointed regular pastor. For a short time meetings were held in what was then the Free Baptist church. Later these were held in rooms rented from John Latta where is now the Fagan millinery store. When John Latta erected a new block on Market Street a large hall was arranged specially adapted to their purposes. This was unfortunately burned later. They went back to the Free Baptist church until the appointment of Rev. S. K. Chesbrough through whose efforts the property on Perry Street
was purchased and the church building erected about thirty years ago. While building they occupied the west district school house.

For a short time, the congregation being decreased by many removals by deaths, the church was closed for a short time being financially unable to continue its support. It was opened again later by Bishop Pearce and others, after being renovated and refurnished inside and out.

The church growth has been rapid since that time and the work under the new pastor, Rev. L. K. Manning has already shown an increase in congregations and Sunday school.

(no image available; the church today is at 6787 Fourth Section Rd., ed.)

METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

As far back as the year 1820 we find that Methodist Episcopal circuit riders visited this village. In 1827 Rev. John Copeland was appointed by the Bishop as pastor at this place. On Dec. 10, 1827, the society was duly organized. Its first officers were: Trustees, Silas Hardy, Henry Ketcham, Henry Jones, Richard Tuttle, Hastings R. Beueler and Samuel Kingsbury. Stewards, Luke Rogers, Barnhart Mead and Silas Hardy.

The Methodist Episcopalian erected the first Church edifice of any denomination in Brockport. It was located on Market Street, and cost $3,000. The building was dedicated in January, 1829, and Rev. Abner Chase, a noted Methodist Episcopalian divine, preached the sermon.

The present building was erected in 1875-6. Rev. John Dennis was pastorate at the time of its dedication. The society has from the very beginning counted among its members some of the most prominent business men in the village, and today has a membership of 390 members, also a very large number of adherents.

The building was enlarged and made almost like new last year at an expense of over $12,000, all of which was provided for on the day of re-opening. Its Sunday school has an enrollment of 465, and Mr. W. E.
B. Stull, the much loved superintendent, is assisted by a very efficient staff of officers and teachers-31 in number. It has a very strong Ladies’ Aid Society, Mrs. Perry Smith being its capable president. Mrs. F. E. Reynolds is president of the W. F. M. S., and Mrs. W. F. Cooper is president of the W. H. M. S. Both the societies are among the strongest in the central district. The society enjoys a very popular following among the young people of the community, having an Epworth League, which meets every Sunday evening, and a chorus choir of over 50 voices, under the leadership of Prof. Wm. Earl.

It also has a Queen Esther Society, and numerous other organized classes etc., such as an energetic church usually find necessary in the working of organized church life. The entire village, without regard to denominational affiliation, takes great pride in the equipment of the church for serving the public.

The church has had a leadership of very noble ministers, and has sent several of its members forth to do special religious work both at home and abroad. Its gifts each year for other purposes than self-support usually called benevolences, totals more than $1,000.00, and the church is known throughout the entire conference for its benevolent spirit.

Its present trustees of the church are S. D. Merritt, Fred Wishnack, Dean Crippen, P. P. Moore, A. W. Holliday, Fred W. Smith, A. D. Daily, W. H. Parks and W. E. B. Stull.


(image A032, 92 Main St., ed.)

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH The Presbyterian Church of Brockport was organized March 19, 1828, as a congregational church, with six members, and it remained Congregational in its form of government for the first six years of its existence. But in 1834 a change was made to the Presbyterian form of government, and six ruling elders were chosen, namely: Moses Nash, Simeon Benedict, Jacob Sutphin, Silar Judson, Ralph W. Goold and Calvin McQuestion. Some seven years later, the old church was dissolved, and a reorganization effected in the Presbyterian form, entirely new sets of officers being elected. The ruling elders chosen at this
time Jacob Sutphin, Hollister Lathrop, Ralph W. Goold, John Efner, Ensign Bushnell, Simeon Benedict and Joseph Ganson. The deacons elected were Daniel Belden and Charles Wicks. From this date the church has remained a thoroughly sound and firm Presbyterian organization.

Not long after its organization in the Congregational form, steps were taken to secure a house of worship. A suitable lot for such an edifice was donated to the congregation by Mr. James Seymour and thereupon, with commendable expedition, was built a substantial and convenient church at an expense of some $5000. After rendering good service for about a quarter of a century, this was taken down in order to be replaced by a better. This new church was erected in 1852 at a cost of $6526 and this substantially is the house now occupied by the congregation.

During the last ten or twelve years the church building has undergone considerable changes in the way of exterior and interior improvements. These have included a new and excellent pipe organ, for which an extension was built at the north end of the church, new pews, a complete set of new windows, a remodeling of the entrance to the church, changes in the heating apparatus, and a renovation of the rooms on the lower floor of the church.

In 1904 the manse which had served the church for many years, on the opposite side of the street, was sold, and the present manse located directly west of the church was purchased.

In recent years the improvements of the church has been internal rather than external. Mr. Moore introduced the Vesper services, taking the place of the former evening services. They are devoted largely to Sacred Music with short practical talks. The twilight hour of the Sabbath attracts many worshippers and thus the Vespers service has proven a blessing to the whole community. This success is largely due to Mr. Moore who after a very successful pastorate of four years resigned for a year’s study abroad and is now Instructor in Auburn Seminary.

The present Pastorate commenced with an impressive Installation Service at which noted Divines participated. The inspiring sermon of Professor Hoyt of Auburn will long be felt and remembered.

During the last year these has been a continuation of the campaign for spiritual education and development. For this end our Sunday School is equipped with a graded system of lessons which are taught by able teachers. The whole school is managed by capable officers. Last Easter there was a Lenten series of services consisting of a series of Lenten sermons Sunday morning on the subject, “Ancient Voices for Today,” also Passion Week services, and a mission study.

The Presbyterian choir has performed a very useful ministry in its rendition of sacred Music. The choir has been enlarged and under the efficient leadership of Mr. Whitcomb has rendered the Masterpieces of Sacred Music. The Easter Cantata of last Spring and the recent Harvest Cantata will be pleasantly remembered for a long time and by them our community life was spiritually uplifted. The choir is at present rehearsing for another Cantata which will be the Christmas Cantata to be given December 21st, at the Vesper hour.

The same ideal of spiritual education and development will be pursued this next year and along with this there will be an effort to deepen our social life. With this in view an elaborate program of social good times is being made. Our church parlors will be made the means of spiritually and socially deepening and broadening our friendships.
The Presbyterian Church of Brockport built upon the “one foundation of Jesus Christ, our Lord” with a record of nearly a hundred years of substantial growth and faith stands as ever ready and eager to minister the needs of all.

(image A031, 35 State St., ed.)

ST. LUKE’S CHURCH

On Sunday, October 19, 1913 the 75th anniversary of this Church was observed in a simple yet interesting manner, reference being made to the fact that on September 20, 1838, the Parish was organized with Elias B. Holmes, Jerome Fuller and Samuel H. Davis as the signers of the certificate of incorporation. Before this time it is understood that services were held occasionally, the first that we have heard about was said by Mrs. Delphia (Smith) Cornes, who died on April 3, 1909 to have been at her house by a clergyman whom she invited there for that purpose. She with Mrs. Elias Holmes and Edwin Cornes were the first to be confirmed in Brockport in 1842. The first Rector was the Rev. Tapping R. Chipman who was well known by our present Senior Warden, both having been born near Allen’s Hill. The first officers were Samuel H. Davis and Roswell Smith, Wardens, and Ansel Chappel, Herome Fuller, Adolphus B. Bennett, Elias B. Holmes, Stephen D. Baldwin, Wm. Downs, Peter Sweat and Seth L. King, Vestrymen. This Parish sebt delegates to the first meeting of the Diocese of Western New York at which the Rev. William Heathcote DeLancey was elected Bishop.

In Mr. Littell’s day the Parish house was built and a part of the house standing on the lot for which Mrs. Carey paid $3,000 was taken to the rear and fixed up for Janitors quarters. After Mrs. Carey’s death her heirs gave over $2,000 to be used in altering and repairing the interior of the church. From a fund left by Mrs. Greenough-Shannon the pipe organ was installed in 1902.

The present rector took charge of the Parish in December, 1906, moving here from Holley on the 2nd of January, 1907. There are about 450 persons identified with the Church. The officers now serving are, Mr. Daniel Holmes and Mr. T. H. Dobson, Wardens Mr. Philip Swart, Clerk, Mr. Thomas C. Gordon, treasurer and with these are Mr. Fred Gordon, Mr. Chas. Roberts, Mr. Gifford Morgan, Mr. Geo. Harmon and Drs. H. J. Mann and J. L. Hazen as Vestrymen, Mr. Geo Benson is financial secretary.
The organizations connected with the Church are the Ladies Guild comprising 8 chapters with Mrs. T. Henry Dewey as president, meeting on the 1st Wednesday of each month, except in the summer. The Silver Circle, Miss May Garrison, president, the Girls’ Friendly Society with Mrs. W. H. G. Lewis as Branch Secretary, the Men’s Club, Mr. Archie C. Brown, president, and the Sunday school, Mr. W. D. Bradley, being Lay Superintendent. Miss Marie Dean is the organist and Mr. Charles Paine director of the choir.

*(image A035, 14 State St., ed.)*
Individuals

SUPERVISOR E. W. BRIGHAM

Residents of the town of Sweden will not need a label on the above picture of our newly elected supervisor, Elbert W. Brigham, for he has been a resident here about fifteen years, having had the good sense to marry one of Brockport's fair daughters. Mr. Brigham has never been quite a stranger to Brockport, having been born in the neighboring town of Ogden in 1863, the son of Orville P. Brigham who was a son of John Brigham who moved to the town in 1812.

After an education in the common schools of his native town Mr. Brigham “finished” so far as schools were concerned at the R. B. I., but like other men of his stamp his school life was but the beginning of the education he sought. He engaged in farming in early life but for a few years before coming to Sweden he was on the road for the Bradley Fertilizer Co.

Mr. Brigham has always taken an active part in the social, political and other affairs of the town. For three years he was the efficient master of Brockport Grange, and while he has never held political office before, common expression is that he will more than make good on the board of supervisors where he takes his seat Jan. 1st.

(no image available, ed.)

OVER 50 YEARS IN BUSINESS (E. Harrison & John Owens)

The Republic takes great pleasure today in presenting to its readers half-tone pictures of two of Brockport’s business men who have catered to the people’s wants in this village ever since the Republic was started-over 57 years ago, and who still have their hands to the plow.

We refer to E. Harrison the head of the popular clothing emporium bearing his name, and to John Owens the head of the Owens Grocery Co. While both gentlemen show the modesty of youth and object to being held up as shining lights yet we know of no good reason why the good work they have done should not be mentioned as an example to the younger and rising generation.

In their business relations both have shown great aptitude and by close attention to business and fair dealing have succeeded where many have failed. Liberal hearted to a fault they have ever been ready to respond to the calls of the needy; if business enterprises were sought to be advanced they were always found to the fore giving their time and money.

Both have held many offices of trust and discharged their duties to the satisfaction and approval of their constituents. In their social life they have made many warm friends who will join with the Republic in wishing that they may be spared to us many years to come.

(no images available, ed.)
DR. WM. B. MANN

To the people of Brockport there probably is not a more familiar figure on our streets than that of our “Old Doctor Mann” and there are few of the homes of the older residents where he has not at some time been a visitor. To strangers he presents a picturesque appearance with his long white hair, cape and cane and the invariable question is “Who is that stately old man?” He is not only known in Brockport alone but all over the surrounding country, having been born in June, 1838, in Morton where he spent his boyhood. His early education was received in the schools of that district and at the age of sixteen years he became a teacher in those schools. Later he attended Hobart College in Geneva, N. Y., and Albany Medical College. In 1861 he graduated from the Medical Department of the University of Buffalo. After his graduation he settled in Medina N. Y., but remained there only a few months as, as a result of a competitive examination he received an appointment as Assistant Surgeon of the United States Navy, in which position he served all during the war and took part in numerous battles, including Richmond, Chesapeake Bay, and the Gulf of Mexico.

At the close of the war he resigned his position and returned to Brockport. Later he was married to Eveline S. Clark, daughter of Dr. Horace Clark of this place. Until several years ago he continued the active practice of medicine and has lived to see his son Dr. H. J. Mann take his place as one of the leading physicians of this village. Another son, Theodor is a prominent druggist of a nearby town and James Mann is our Assistant District Attorney.

Dr. Mann still takes an active interest in the affairs of the town and to see him enjoying summer sports at the lake one would mistake him for a young and enthusiastic naturalist.

(no images available, ed.)

J. M. MOORE

Above we give a fair likeness of Mr. J. M. Moore of Otis who has “taken” the Republic continuously from its very first issue, over 57 years, and lives to tell the tale. There may be others on the honor list but they are not known to us at present.

Mr. Moore is enjoying very good health for one of his age. He tells how Mr. H. N. Beach, the founder of the Republic visited him in a field on his farm at Otis and induced him to subscribe for three months, his future subscription to depend on how well he liked the paper. It speaks well for the Republic and for Mr. Moore that he has never missed an issue since.

(no images available, ed.)
Civic & Other Organizations

BROCKPORT GRANGE

Brockport Grange which is now in flourishing condition and which was at one time the largest Grange in New York State was organized in 1874 with F. F. Capen as Master. The charter members numbered twelve or fourteen. For a number of years meetings were held in Ward’s Hall and for a few years in Odd Fellows Hall. About 30 years ago rooms in the Capen Block were especially fitted up for the Grange’s use and meetings continued to be held there until the present hall on King Street was purchases two years ago from the Odd Fellows. J. E. Beadle is the present Master.

(no image available, ed.)

BROCKPORT YACHT CLUB

The Brockport Yacht Club was organized in the spring of 1904 with nearly one hundred charter members. In 1905 a club house was erected on the lake shore. In 1910 the building was moved to its present location on Sandy Creek and extensive improvements made, until now the Club has an ideal Club House, fully equipped with everything necessary for the entertainment of its members. There are but few towns the size of Brockport that can boast of a similar organization. The present officers are, George Guelf, Commodore; John L. Hazen, Vice-Commodore; Burton Avery, Captain; George Benson, Secretary; Wm Guelf, Fin. Sec.; J. E. Kinsella, Treas.; Gifford Morgon, T. C. Gordon and S. S. Nichols, directors.

(alternate image GP115, 7493 Sandy Harbor Dr., Hamlin, ed.)
The F. F. Capen Hose Company was organized in September, 1892, as an independent fire company. At that time all village apparatus was stored in the Village Building and in this way the south part of the village was left practically unprotected. This company was organized for the purpose of protecting the south end of the village and to help the regular companies of the department when called upon.


In November the company became a part of the regular Fire Department and was assigned Number 4.

In the early part of 1905 a piece of land was purchased at the junction of Main Street and Park Avenue and preparations made to build a larger building, as the old house was much too small for the needs of the company. After some delay the house was started and the first meeting was held in the new rooms December 4, 1905.

From a small beginning of twelve members in 1892 the company has grown until it now numbers about 80 members in all and it owns property including furniture and building worth $7500.00.

The present officers of the company are: President, Wm. Riley; vice-president, Frederick S. Guelf; recording secretary, Fred G. Gillespie; financial secretary, Harold A. Richards; treasurer, Louis M. Craig; foreman, Chas. Raleigh; 1st assistant, Marshall Bruce; 2nd assistant, John Palmer; trustees, Wm. W. Guelph, Edward S. Knowles, Wm. J. Rowe. New Years Eve the company will hold their annual banquet in the large dance hall on the second floor. The annual election of officers will take place Monday evening, January 5, 1914.

(alternate image GP051, Main St. & Park Ave., ed.)
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

No organization of men ever started at a more opportune time or under more propitious circumstances that did the Brockport Chamber of Commerce which was reorganized at a very largely attended meeting on May 20, 1913.

The Chamber has had a most rapid growth, some 250 live wires among the residents of the village being numbered among its members. The officers of the Chamber are: President, Chas. Decker; Vice-president, P. P. Moore; treasurer, Geo. E. Locke; secretary, P. A. Blossom. The directors are: A. D. Daily, W. B. Conkling, Geo. B. Harmon, Chas. Decker, L. G. Gordon, E. Harrison, M. A. Shafer, J. H. Welch, Gifford Morgan, J. W. Larkin, James Brennan, B. H. Avery, G. E. Locke, P. P. Moore, H. E. Conley, L. W. Udell, H. E. Hiler and Luther Gordon.

Besides its directors the Chamber has five general committees with the following members.


On Social Affairs-Chairman, A. C. Thompson, A. M. White, M. A. Shafer, F. A. Belland.


On State and National Affairs-Chairman, Geo. B. Harmon, H. Harrison, Gifford Morgan and James E. Conley.

That the Chamber is proving itself a very active body is shown as time passes the people of Brockport realizing more and more how many benefits the village is deriving from the tireless efforts of this organization. During its months of existence the corporation has taken many steps to accomplish the object of its formation which as set forth in the articles of incorporation is “to foster trade and commerce in the village of Brockport, to reform abuses relative there-to, to secure freedom from unjust and unlawful exactions, to settle differences between its members and to promote a greater and more friendly intercourse between business men.”

HARRISON HOSE CO.

In the year 1877 a fire company was organized in the village which gave service for five years as the L. J. Pease Hose Company. Due to some disagreement among the members it was disbanded and its entire equipment was given into the hands of James W. Larkin, who a few months later helped to organize a new company named for Edward Harrison the Harrison Hose Company. Formal articles of incorporation were drawn up May 3, 1882 and Mr. Larkin, Mr. Harrison and others went to Rochester and purchased the present cart which was manufactured by the Samuel Stewart Company. The apparatus has at different times been overhauled and replenished but is still active service.
The original rooms of the company were for many years in the National Building and were later moved to the present quarters in the Public Building. There were 13 charter members in the company which today claims a membership of about sixty-five.

(no image available, the building referred to was on Market Street where the present fire hall is located, ed.)

MONROE LODGE, F. & A. M.

The above cut of the Masonic Block represents the present home of Monroe Lodge, No. 173, Free and Accepted Masons. This building was erected by the late Benjamin F. Gleason expressly for Masonic purposes and was purchased by the Lodge from his estate at the time of his death, Aug. 24, 1903. Besides Monroe Lodge the building also houses Daniel Holmes Chapter No. 294, Royal Arch Masons, Mary Jane Holmes Chapter, No. 144, Order Eastern Star and the Acacia Club, a club for Masons only. Monroe Lodge was instituted March 19, 1850 and the original warrant in possession of the Lodge is dated June 21, 1850. The Charter Members were Joshua Field, William Cook, Henry Adams, nell, Lyman Warren, Albigeone W. Cary, William E. Skidmore, Edward H. Raleigh and James Benjamin. The first officers named in the Warrant were Joshua Field, Worshipful Master; William Cook, Senior Warden; Henry Adams, Junior Warden.

The present officers are S. Jay Davis, W. M.; James Mann, S. W.; Charles O. Beaman, J. W.; Louis B. Shay, Treas.; George Benson, Sec'y; Rev. W. H. G. Lewis and Henry Hiler, Chaplains; Carl P. Wadham, S. D.; Homer G. Chriswell, J. D.; George W. Witney, S. M. C.; Robert M. Gilliland, J. M. C.; James Brennan, Marshall; George W. Miller, Tiler; Theodore S. Dean, Organist.

Monroe Lodge now has a membership of three hundred and is in a very prosperous condition.

(image B006, east side Main St. in between Market & State Streets, ed.)
MONROE LODGE, I. O. O. F.

Brockport is exceedingly proud of the fact that some of her fraternal organizations own their own homes and among the first of those to set such a thrifty example was Monroe Lodge, No. 188, I. O. O. F., whose meetings were held during the first few years in the Hall over the Germain Hotel. The lodge was organized, May 16th, 1866, with the following charter members: Henry E. Doty, Miles Upton, Henry E. Hammond, Egbert B. Henion, Henry P. Osborn, Calvin S. Collins, Dewitt C. Sheldon, Jno. B. Henion, Charles Warren, Augusts Burroughs, Thos. Cooley, Powers Wicks and Henry McCue.

The first officers of the association were Charles Warren, N. G., Augustus Burroughs, V. G.; John Ford, Sec.; Clinton Sheldon, Treas.

After a few years the organization held their meetings in the Garrison Block and later purchased the Free Baptist church on King Street where they remained until January, 1911 when the property was sold to the Grange and the Capen Block became their own headquarters. The greater portion of the purchase price of $10,000 has already been paid. The great patronage the Fair which they held during the past summer, prophesies that any future enterprise they may enter into will soon wipe out all remaining debt.

The officers for 1913 are, Walter Pettit, N. G.; Leonard Palmateer, V. G.; F. N. Wilmart, Sec.; Walter Oakley, Fin. Sec.; Wm. W. Guelph, Treas.

POSTMASTER AVERY WITH HIS CARRIERS AND CLERKS

The cut on the first page of the Post Office and the present force of clerks and carriers, was taken at the side door on Market Street. This was the exact location of the old office at the time the present postmaster was a bare foot boy forty years ago. The office at that time occupied only the one room that is now used as the mailing room, and everyone in the village and surrounding country came to the office for their mail. Mrs. Baker was at that time postmistress. Among some of the older residents that held this position were Mr. Seymour, father of James Seymour, Mr. Harrison, the father of Hon. Henry Harrison and
Nelson Smith, all of whom are deceased, while on the of the earliest to hold this important office, Mr. James Adams, is still living in New York City.

While the records showing the year that the office was established are not at hand, it was long after the establishment of the Clarkson office, which was one of the earliest in Western New York, being one of the old post road stations. The mails were carried in those days, over one hundred years ago, by stage coach. The Brockport office was at that time not in existence, and later on when it was established was supplied from the Clarkson office, as that office is now supplied from here. Later on, when the canal packets were the fast means of communication across the state, the mails were brought on the boats. Later still, about 1850 at the time the rail road reached this then far western point, the service was transferred to the cars.

Postmaster Avery firmly believes that the Department will before another year rolls by, establish an aereoplane mail service for Brockport, as this mode of mail delivery seems to be quite common in some parts of the country at the present time.

Postmaster General Burleson has already given orders that on the first of next month, the weight of packages for delivery in the first zone shall be extended to fifty pounds, and that twenty pound parcels may be mailed anywhere in the United States. This is going to make the Post Office the greatest carrying company in the world, and one that is strictly on the cooperative plan, with every resident of the United States, a share holder, and while no mammoth “melons” in the shape of dividends will be cut, it is expected that every patron will notice a decrease in the H. C. of L. so much lamented of late.

P. S. Have you mailed those Christmas presents yet? If not, please do it now.

(no image available, ed.)
MAIN STREET IN 1860 (editor: a map and list of businesses follows this narrative description)

Through the kindness of two friends, we are able to furnish our readers with a word picture of our Main Street as it was in 1860. The buildings have all changed so much since that time that it is difficult to accurately state just who occupied the stores as they appear on the street today.

The land at that time, it is understood, was much more rolling that it is now in this day of modern pavements. The main part of the street was paved entirely with cobblestones of which we have a sample along our curbs. Up toward the New York Central tracks the land was marshy, and in times of severe rains it made an almost impassable street. Another, interesting fact, although a condition existing some years before 1860, is the information that the hill on which the Adams residence on Erie Street stands continued both north and south and at a point about where now stands the Roberts dwelling, a distillery once stood on quite a bluff. When establishing a street grade, the land was cut away from the hill, and the distillery having been abandoned, the dirt was simply dumped into the ravine, thereby forming what is now a most desirable dwelling site.

To give a descriptive article on the appearance of the buildings of Main Street in 1860 would occupy too much time and space, so the business then conducted in the stores of today are given. In the brief history of Brockport elsewhere given, the two hotels, the Eastern and Western are mentioned. Beginning on the east side of the street, where the Stirling Gartshore bakery now is, what was then called the “Green Grocery” was conducted by John Randolph; Allanson & Dunn building occupied by John Owens grocery; where Wilson Implement now is, Smith’s bakery was then; Schlosser saloon was then Solomon Kettner, ready-made clothing; Gillespie and Corbett was then Winfield Arnold, clothing; Frost and Goffe, then Jonas Minot, tailoring; Fagan sisters, then Jno. Latta, shoes; Smeads, then Jno. East, meats and groceries; Holiday, then A. Harmon, marble; Lampen, then E. Morrison, tailoring; post-office was then Wm. L. King, dry goods; Kinsella saloon, then office of Harrison, King and Elmore, grain buying; Heffron’s was then Josiah Harrison, hats; Caley barber shop, then Albert Holmes’ banking house; Engle’s jewelry store was then N. O. Randall, jewelry; Globe theatre, then Thos. Cornes, meat market (building burned about this time); Wells hardware, then Mesdames Wentworth and Ross, millinery; in the Beach Block, the Republic was located upstairs, Jas. Whelon where the Davis grocery now is; the present candy store, then the G. R. Ward grocery; Harrison clothing store, then Rush Reed, general store Brennan & Adams, then Jno. Smith, furniture; Grover bakery, then N. B. Baker, photographer; from this point on to the corner of Main Street there were no stores, and a brick house stood in the midst of a nicely cultivated garden which now forms the site of our numerous business blocks.

Going back to the canal and taking the west side of Main Street, the Welch grocery was located under the hotel building on the west dock; in the pool room of the American hotel of today was the Van Valkenburg saloon; Lowry grocery was then Skidmore & Follette, grocery; Bushnell’s, then Peck grocery; Welch’s, then Geo. Igo, general store; Hippodrome, I. Davis, general store; Owen’s, Randolph & Pease. In the next building was the Guy Chappell grocery, but a difference in the location of buildings makes a lapse from the order of the stores of today. Where the Gallagher market is now, was the S. Sidney Spaulding store, and again there was a break between the buildings, skipping the Ducy building. The Houghtailing saloon was then Sanford Cose, jeweler; Quackenbush market, then H. H. Hatch, shoes; Curvin, then Graces & Haight; Stock’s, then Benson, harness; Gordon, the Wicks & Benedict, shoes and general store; Butler, then Mott Morrison, general store; Hurd’s then Frye’s drug store; Decker’s, then Cary & Brainerd, hardware; Dobson, Jno. Spring, druggist; Moore & Kimball, then North, hardware; Lester’s, the E. Whitney, dry goods; First
National Bank, then Village Hall; Stanley, then Adams & Bro., crockery; Shafer grocery, then G. R. Ward, grocery; McDonald’s, then Mrs. Lyons, millinery; Rayburn barber shop, then Brockport Exchange Bank; Smith bakery, then or later, Gordon & Co., banking/ from this point on were vacant lots, expect about where the Brockport Republic now is, was a brick house. There may be mistakes in this order given, but the older residents will find it interesting to talk them over.
**Brockport businesses on Main Street ca1860:** based on the narrative in the 1913 Brockport Republic historical supplement, and using an 1872 plat map to illustrate. Note that some buildings were added or changed between 1860 and 1872. Thus while general locations are accurate, i.e. between certain streets, specific siting is approximate.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>West Side</th>
<th>East Side</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Canal to Clinton Street:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Canal to Water Street:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Welch, grocery</td>
<td>“Green” grocery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Van Valkenberg, saloon</td>
<td>John Owens, grocery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skidmore &amp; Follette, grocery</td>
<td>Smith, bakery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peck, grocery</td>
<td>Solomon Kettner, clothing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geo. Igo, ty general store</td>
<td>Winfield Arnold, clothing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Davis, general store</td>
<td>Minot, tailoring</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Randolph &amp; Pease, grocery</td>
<td>John Latta, shoes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Clinton Street to King Street:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Water Street to Market Street:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G. Chappell, grocery</td>
<td>John East, meat &amp; groceries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S. Spaulding, grocery</td>
<td>Harmon Marble</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S. Cruce, jeweler</td>
<td>Morrison, tailoring</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H. Hatch, shoes</td>
<td>Wm. King, dry goods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grace &amp; Haight, drugs, books…</td>
<td><strong>Market Street to State Street:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benson, harness</td>
<td>Harrison, King &amp; Elmore, grain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wicks &amp; Benedict, shoes</td>
<td>J. Harrison, hats</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M. Morrison, general store</td>
<td>A. Holmes, banking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frye, drugs store</td>
<td>N. Randall, jewelry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cary &amp; Brainerd, hardware</td>
<td>T. Cornes, meat market</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North, hardware</td>
<td>Wentworth &amp; Ross, millinery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whitney, dry goods</td>
<td>Brockport Republic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>King Street to Erie Street:</strong></td>
<td>G. Ward, grocery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adams, crockery</td>
<td>Rush Reed, general store</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G. Ward, grocery</td>
<td>John Smith, furniture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lyons, millinery</td>
<td>John Getty, candy &amp; restaurant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brockport Exchange bank</td>
<td>N. Baker, photographer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gordon &amp; Co. banking</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
VILLAGE OF BROCKPORT

“Home, the spot of earth supremely blest, A dearer, sweeter spot than all the rest.”

The town of Sweden of which Brockport forms an important part was incorporated in 1814 and was formerly a portion of what was known as the triangle tract included in its limits that portion of Orleans County known as the town of Clarendon. At present the town of Sweden embraces within its limits, 20,942 acres or about 32 ¾ square miles.

The first town meeting was held April 5th, 1814 and town officers elected most of whom were afterwards closely identified with the formation rise and growth of Brockport.

In the early settlement of this section of the County, Clarkson village was the most important point west of Rochester at which centered all travel business and enterprise situated on the Ridge Road, the most important thoroughfare between Rochester and the Niagara River. Upon the opening of the Erie Canal traffic soon changed from stage coach, horse and ox teams to that great waterway and Brockport became the most important point in the county west of Rochester. A few years previous to the opening of the canal or in 1802 a road four rods wide and running from LeRoy on the South to Lake Ontario had been opened, and had since been known as the Lake road. At that time all that section of the county comprising now the town of Sweden, Clarkson and Hamlin, was an almost unknown wilderness and that portion north of the Ridge Road was generally spoken of as the black north.

The north and east part of the village grounds between the town line (now East Avenue) and Market street was purchased by James Seymour at $7 per acre. The Southeast corner from Market Street to the Parks Farm (now South Avenue) was bought by James Seymour, Abel Baldwin and Myron Holley. All the Village ground lying west of the Lake road was purchased by Hiel Brockway at $13 per acre. The lands bordering on the Lake Road were surveyed laid out into Village lots and business commence. Heil Brockway was the largest owner of land considered the wealthiest man in the community. By common consent the Village was named after him and called Brock Port. These men all offered liberal terms and large inducements to settlers to erect buildings and also gave grounds for the erection of Churches, schools and Public buildings and later on Mr. Brockway gave the grounds for the erection of the old Brockport College (which was burned in 1854) on the site of which was erected the Brockport Collegiate Institute and which again in 867 became the present Normal School. Mr. Brockway’s original gift was six acres of land and $3000.00 in money.

The Village was incorporated in 1829 and Charter adopted on April 6th of that year. A board of five trustees constituted the village government until 1852 when the charter was remodeled. Among those most prominently identified with the affairs of the village prior to the Civil War from 1845 were August F. Brainard, Thomas Cornes, Elias B. Holmes, H. L. Hood, Ralph Thatcher, Wm. Seymour, Dayton Morgan, Isaac Joslyn, Harry P. Norton, Jerome Fuller, George Benson, George B. Whiteside, George Barnett, John F. Latta, C. B. Whitney, Wm. Skidmore, Alva and Timothy Frey, Charles Brockway (son of Heil) and others too numerous to mention in this brief article.

The Erie Canal was opened through to Brockport in 1823 making this the western terminal thus opening up to the farmers along the Lake Road and those on the Ridge Road and the sections adjoining a market for their produce with greatly reduced rates of transportation. In 1825 the canal was opened through to Buffalo. Buildings were rapidly erected emigration began to come in through the facilities furnished by the canal and Brockport soon was known as one of the business centers of Western New York. James Seymour
who was one of the prominent men of the Village was the first Sheriff of Monroe County and held the office
for five years. Many of our Brockport pioneers eventually occupied prominent positions of trust and
confidence in both State and National affairs, as well as in the business life of the community. In 1828 Heil
Brockway established a line of Packets running on the Erie Canal from Albany to Buffalo and at the same
time established a boat yard and dry dock about where now stands the gas house in this village which dock
boats were built.

This yard, dry dock and several boats were destroyed by fire of incendiary origin in 1850.

In 1839 Elias B. Holmes established a new line of Packets called the “Opposition” and there was
much rivalry especially in the passenger traffic between the two lines the officers and crew taking it up. Those
feelings were most especially felt and known in Brockport where headquarters of both lines were supposed to
be.

The first brick store was built by James Seymour on the space now occupied by the Post office
corner. It was conducted as a general Grocery Dry Good and Hardware store until about 1840 at which time
Wm. King became the owner. From that time until about 1870 it was occupied as a Dry Good store. The
present building was built in 1871 by the late J. D. Decker. The finishing of the canal made Brockport a
commercial center and necessitated the building of numerous warehouses for the farm product which began
to find a ready market at Brockport. Shipping by canal furnished cheap and rapid transportation.

The first canal basin was built by James Seymour in 1823 at the opening of the canal, about where
the Butler Coal Yard now is. This formed only place for boats to turn around. On the south bank of this
basin facing on Market Street was a long line of Warehouses extending west from Park Avenue to the alley
that runs to Harrison’s warehouse and continuing west where the warehouses stand now. These warehouses
were owned in those early days by James Seymour, Levi Pond, W. H. Barry, James Bracket and others. They
did a large business in wheat, corn, wool and all kinds of farm products and were considered among the most
important industries of the Village until about 1867 or 68 when they were absorbed and taken over as a part
of the large manufacturing company of Mowers and Reapers carried on by D. S. Morgan & Co. Josiah
Harrison, father of our townsman Henry Harrison, was prominently identified with the growth and enterprise
of the Village, and was known as General Harrison on account of being commanding officer of the old State
Militia in general training days. He was engaged in the general produce business and owned the warehouse
now occupied by the Henry Harrison Co.

On the east side of the old or original Harrison warehouse was another small basin or slip. This was
filled in the eighties after the first which consumed the old warehouse. The present building stands on the
same grounds and in a measure preserves a link of the old times with the new. These old warehouses
extended from what is now Park Avenue on the east side of Main Street and again on the west side of Main
Street to the gas house bridge. They formed a vast and important part in the growth and upbuilding of
Brockport. Many however have been torn down. Up to about 1851 the canal was only 35 feet wide and on
the south side at Main Street a driveway extended from the East dock to the West dock passing under the old
Main St. Bridge. From Main Street down to each dock was a short slope and truckman could drive down
onto the docks and load up the merchandise received from the freight packets and boats. But in 1851-5 at the
second enlargement of the canal this was changed to the approaches as they now are. On the North side of
the canal were two of the most important hotels in the Village. The one on the east of the bridge was known
as the Eastern and the one west of the bridge as the Western Hotel. West of the last mentioned, were
Grocery and Dry Good Stores and a Meat market and then came the old line barn, commonly known as the
horse barn of the Comboline owned and controlled by old Ben Skinner. Here were kept the change horses of the Packet line and other boats. It was a grand sight in those days to see the Packets come in with their six horses on a round trot or perhaps on a gallop. Horns would be blowing and the docks both sides the canal and the bridge crowded with people.

Until about 1850 most of the business was done at the lower end of the Village, but at the enlargement of the canal in 1851 it began gradually to extend south along Main Street. In those days, Maple, Locust and other trees were common on all our streets and as late as 1865 or 6 there stood in front of the Harrison building now occupied by Holliday the jeweler, a large apple tree. The only building now standing on Main Street that retains its appearance as it was before the Civil War is this same building owned by the Harmon estate.

The first foundry in Brockport was established by Harry Backus and Joseph Ganson in 1828 south of the canal on what is now State Street. It was removed in 1830 north of the canal between Fayette Street and Main Street and combined with a brass foundry. The power used to run the machinery was the old fashioned tread horse power. There are only two persons living in Brockport today, who remember this old foundry, and one of them worked in the same when a boy. In the same year Backus and Ganson built and started a foundry north of the canal on Main Street and the firm’s name was changed to Backus, Webster & Co. It finally became the firm of Backus, Fitch & Co.

They were the pioneers in the manufacture of improved threshing machines with the old fashioned 8 horse revolving sweep power which continued in use until the advent of the steam thresher in the late sixties. Here with Backus & Fitch there was manufactured in 1844 the first McCormick reaper that was ever put upon the market. A first trial seemed like a success but after building 100 machines which did not meet the requirements, the manufacture of them was abandoned and the shops were mainly devoted to building threshing machines farm implements and stoves, while experiments were kept up on reaping machines, by the different firms that came into the business. Silliman Brown & Co., later Ganson, Huntley & Co., at least succeeded in manufacturing a successful machine called Palmer and Wilson Reaper. In 1868 these shops passed into the hands of Samuel Johnston and Byron E. Huntley who began in a small way the manufacturing of the Johnston Harvester. In 1870 the company was re-organized and from a small beginning in 1868 grew until the year 1882 the firm was employing between 600 and 700 men. These machines were known the world over and brought renown and fame to the village of Brockport.

The night of June 19th, 1882 about midnight the alarm of fire rang out. The Johnston Harvester works were on fire and a general alarm was sounded, but the works were doomed. The inflammable materials in the shops on the west side of Main Street where the paint and finishing shops were, was son one seething, roaring mass of flames, and inside of two hours the Johnston Harvester works of Brockport, N. Y. were a thing of the past and were never rebuilt in this place. At this fire the lives of John Heath a foreman in one of the shops and Freeman Board a day laborer were lost. The loss partially covered by insurance was estimated above $3000,000, but the loss to Brockport can never be estimated. In the following year the plant was removed to Batavia, N. Y., where it was located and is one of the largest manufactories of Harvest machinery in the world.

A second foundry and machine shop was established in 1844 by William N. Seymour and Thomas R. Roby in a little stone shop situated on Market Street which the following years was changed to Seymour & Morgan. Mr. Seymour was one of the first pioneers of Brockport, having come here with his brother James in 1822 and eas well known in the business affairs of the village. Mr. Morgan at that time was a young man who
but a short time previous to entering into business was a teacher in the old North District School located at what is now the corner of Fayette and Liberty Streets. The new firm began the manufacture of stoves and farm implements and in 1846 began manufacturing the McCormick Reaper. They built and sold the first 100 machines known to have been successfully manufactured in the world. Learning through experience the need of improvements, in 1849 the Company built an improved machine called the New Yorker. From 1846 to 1849 experiments were being made and improvements perfected which resulted in the quadrant platform which is in general use today and which to invention up to the present time has been able to supercede or evade. In the following year they introduced the first self raker and reaper manufactured in the world. These inventions which were subsequently consolidated into one were the joint invention of Aaron Palmer and Seymour and Morgan and was the source of much wealth derived from the sales of machines and royalties paid by other manufacturers to the inventors. In 1853 the firm became Seymour, Morgan & Allen, George H. Allen having become a partner in the business. This firm continued in business until the late seventies when Mr. Seymour retired and the business was carried on under the name of D. S. Morgan & Co., who continued the business in 1883. After the removal of the Johnston Harvester works to Batavia, D. S. Morgan & Co., bought of the Thomas Cornes estate about 20 acres of land situated on Spring Street extending south to the New York Central R. R. Here they built large and extensive stone buildings and removed the main part of their manufactory, building a branch rail road to connect with the works of Market Street. They continued to manufacture reapers, Mowers and Binders until 1904, when the entire plant was sold and the firm retired from business.

In 1893 the eastern portion of the works on Market Street or that portion which was originally the Barry warehouse was destroyed by fire, again removing one of the connecting links of old Brockport. The main stone building of these works was unoccupied until about 1888 when for a short time they were occupied by a shoe manufactory which soon went out of business. Again in 1900 this building was refitted and additions built by the Phelps Piano Case Co. This company which promised so much for Brockport was burned out in 1902 and entirely destroyed, thus obliterating the last of the original D. S. Morgan plant.

The Phelps Company subsequently purchased land and rebuilt their factory on lands adjoining the N. Y. Central R. R. at the termination of High Street where for the last 10 years they have carried on their business employing between 40 and 50 hands. They removed last August to Rochester, N. Y., and their factory is now occupied by the Monitor Clock Manufacturing Co.

In 1850 another foundry was established on Clinton Street by George F. Barnett and George B. Whiteside under the firm name of Whiteside & Barnett and manufactured chiefly farm implements. For years they did a large business employing between 20 and 30 hands. They went out of business in 1880. The large flourishing mill of Belden & Avery located where the Brockport Fruit Co., now is was burned in 1857. Hood and Walker’s lumber yards another old concern is still in existence having changed to Hood & Gordon and later Luther Gordon & Co. Luther Gordon, Sr. came here in 1859 and built the residence at the Corner of Main and South Street. He was engaged in the lumber business and founded the First National Bank in 1863. He was prominently identified with the affairs of the Village from 1860 until his death in 1882 or 3.

Another industry was the old tannery located on State Street in the east part of the village where the tanbark used to be piled in tiers 10 and 15 feet high. It was conducted by John A. Latta and Abraham Moore and employed from 15 to 20 men. It went out of business in 1862.

Where the east part of the Piano factory now is, thousands of hogs used to be slaughtered during the winter at the slaughtering house of Thomas Cornes. In 1849 7,000 sheep were butchered by this concern for
a Utica firm who only wanted the hides and hind quarters. The balance of the carcass was given away or
thrown to the hogs.

The Cary & Brainard Force Pump factory in the stone building now owned by H. N. Johnson at the
rear of the Chas. Decker Hardware store was one of the chief industries in the fifties and early sixties. Here
they employed between 20 and 30 men. They closed up business in 1865.

There have been many other industries in the village some of them transient but many of them
permanent and the other columns are devoted to a description of these.

A history of Brockport, however brief, would be incomplete if it did not recall the patriotism of its
citizens during the four terrible years of Civil War. There were few villages where the interest was more
intense and few places that furnished more good soldiers.

The first company to be organized in this village was old Co. K, 13th regiment New York Inf., Capt
Horace J. Thomas. They were enrolled for six months and at the expiration of their term were turned over to
the government for 2 years. They were rendezvoused on the old Fair grounds south of the railroad. There are
many living today that remember these soul stirring times, the war meetings that were held, the promises that
were made and our citizens stepped forward to enroll his name to fight for the preservation of his country.
The camp in Brockport the parting salute and the bursting of old Garabaldy are well remembered by the
middle aged person of to-day. The next company that was enrolled here was Capt. Geo. Barry’s Co. H. of the
8TH N. Y. Cavalry. Then came Capt. Eugene Fuller’s Co. C. 108th Regiment, N. Y. Inft., Capt. Starks Co. H.,
N. Y. Cavalry and Lieut. Joslyn’s Co. 21st N. Y. Cavalry and many others too numerous to mention that
enlisted from Brockport and vicinity during the war.

Altogether Brockport and the vicinity furnished over 1500 men during the Civil War.