

TOWN TALK



CELEBRATING 230 YEARS

Established 1792

News from the Town of Elmira

2022 Tree Project *Let's Grow Together!*



Ivory Silk Lilac

The goal of the Town is to plant 100 trees along our streets and in our park over the next two years. To help fund this effort the Town will pursue grants to access funds in NY State's budget for urban forestry projects. Our Town also has a goal to become a "Tree City USA", based on the requirements of being certified by The National Arbor Day Foundation.

If you would like to join our effort, and would like to have a street tree planted near your home between the sidewalk and curb, please contact the Town Clerk, Tammy Stein, by emailing her at townclerk@townofelmira.com or by calling 607-734-2031.

A large tree in our region will provide \$5,870 in environmental and additional benefits over its lifetime. According to U.S. Forrest Service Data, a tree that is properly cared for is worth four times its investment.

Our town trees are part of the green infrastructure of our community. The Town of Elmira recognized this over twelve years ago. Concerned residents in the town noticed that the tree canopy was disappearing. Our street trees were becoming victims of old age, diseases and insect damage that had made them unhealthy and a potential safety hazard.

A call to action was sounded. The Town hired a Certified Arborist to evaluate existing public trees in question, using data from the Street Tree Inventory prepared by the Cornell S.W.A.T. Tree Inventory Team in 2010.



Hot Wings Maple

It was recommended by the Certified Arborist that we develop an urban forestry plan and be more proactive in care and management of our existing tree canopy and also plant additional trees with diversity of species to avoid future disease and insect issues. The Town formed an Ad hoc Community Tree Board to work in conjunction with our Town Highway Dept. The goals were to include strategic planning of tree choice to be planted along our streets and public places. The town has planted about 50 new trees since 2010.

*2022 Tree Project
continued on page 12*

SUPERVISOR MESSAGE

by Dave Sullivan

It is an honor to present this special edition of Town Talk. This year marks 230 years since the Town's founding in 1792. I am sure our founding citizens could not imagine what everyday life for townspeople would be like in 2022. Things have sure changed -a lot! This issue is full of historical items and throwback photos, as well as some useful information that can be used right now.

Please let me take this opportunity to also salute the West Elmira Fire Department as they

celebrate 50 years of service to Fire District 1. The Firefighters, Commissioners and the members of the Auxiliary have protected us, supported us and improved the quality of life in our Town. Thank you!

The Town Board and staff appreciate your feedback and we encourage residents to attend our meetings which occur on the third Monday of each month at 7 PM. Information and schedules are available on our website at www.townofelmira.com.



West Elmira Volunteer Fire Department *1972 to 2022*



50 Years of Service to West Elmira

The West Elmira Volunteer Fire Department opened its doors on January 1, 1972, as a "great experiment" to see whether the department could provide better emergency services to the Town of Elmira. The Fire District #1, Town of Elmira, is served by an elected Board of Fire Commissioners responsible for providing fire protection to the West Elmira community, which encompasses some three and a half square miles. The Board of Fire Commissioners consists of five Commissioners, a secretary, and a Treasurer. The Fire Chief and Deputy Chiefs are nominated by the Fire Department membership and appointed by the Board of Fire Commissioners. The same is true of volunteers who are elected or nominated by the department and may then be appointed by the Commission. The Commission sets policy for the district, provides a station and equipment, and contracts for fire protection.

Prior to 1972, the Commission contracted with the City of Elmira for fire protection by the Elmira Fire Department. This service did not include any emergency medical services. The concept was that a dedicated town fire department could provide quicker response times and a wider range of services, at a lower cost. Plans for the department were drawn up and presented to the people of the town in a referendum. The department incorporation was established in

April 1970. One of the elements that helped sell the plan was that the new department would be a combination department; that is, part paid and part volunteer. Our department has a station which is manned 24/7/365 days per year. This maintained insurance ratings affecting insurance premiums.

When getting started the department had the benefit of individuals such as Hugh Walker, Ben Eisenhart and others, some of whom worked for American LaFrance, which produced fire apparatus and extinguishers in Elmira. Ed Moshier, who owned the gas station at the point, was the Chief of the planning group. Ron Mengel was the first Chief of the operating department. Herman Granger, Mark Miles, Pete Mazzaraco and Ralph Sheen were the first paid firemen. Volunteer membership was set at 100 members and there was a waiting list. Charter members still living are Rocco Fredo, Hugh Reynolds, Fr. Roy Kiggins (from Our Lady of Lourdes at the time), Dick Woodhouse and Steve Dovi. Members of the department were instrumental in helping to build and equip the new fire station.

This includes member's memories of going up in a bucket lift with the new fire siren and installing it on the roof. At the start, the department dispatched its own calls, and the paid staff would activate the tones and send the radio message concerning the call before they took the first piece of apparatus to the call. Volunteers

would receive the call on their assigned Plectron. In 1972 Plectrons were bigger than a cigar box and had a long antenna which made portability to remote locations (such as attending church) challenging.

The master running plan was that the person manning the station would take the first piece of apparatus to the call.

The district was split down Hendy Avenue for response purposes. Volunteers on the side of the district where the call was located would respond directly to the call, while those on the other side of the district would respond to the station. Those at the station would be available for other calls or to respond with additional apparatus. The siren was activated for fires or "big truck calls."

The first department trucks consisted of two American LaFrance Pioneer pumpers and a Chevy panel truck which was the rescue truck. As the district has both hydrant and non-hydrant areas, each pumper had a 1000-gallon water tank. Later, the members purchased a 1935 American LaFrance "antique but operational" ladder truck, with heavy wooden ground ladders. That was replaced with an American LaFrance quint truck (quint - having 5 purposes - aerial, pumper, water supply tank, ground ladders & fire hoses). A boat and trailer were added, as the Chemung River runs through the district.

*50 Years of Service to
West Elmira*

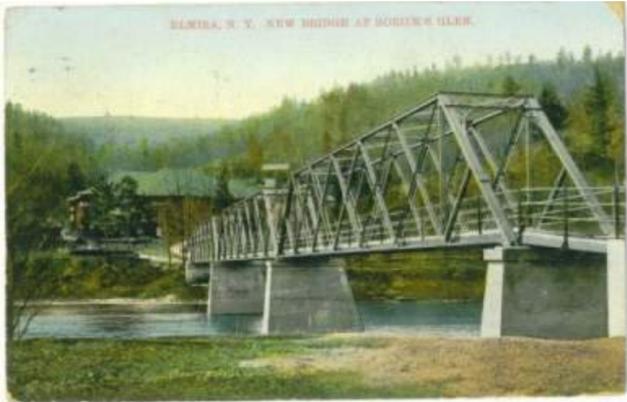
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Rorick's Glen Park

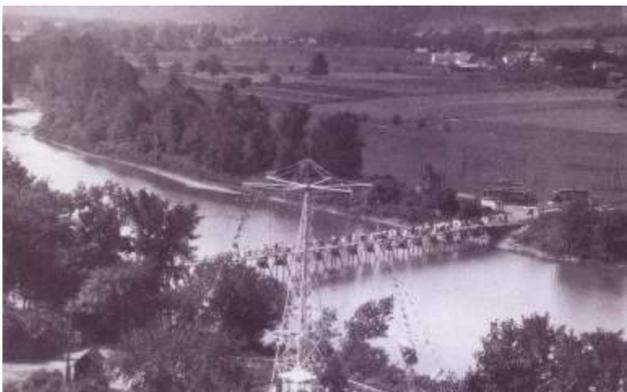
1900 to 1918 by: Scott W. Deming - Town Historian



Trolley car to Rorick's Glen



The new steel bridge at Rorick's Glen with the theater in the background



A photo from the park looking at the West Elmira farmland

The recent reopening and resurgence of Eldridge Park brings back memories of previous amusement park days in Elmira. In the early 1900's Rorick's Glen Park was the final destination on the Elmira Water Light and Railroad Company (E.W.L. & R.R. Co.) trolley line running into West Elmira.

Remnants of the original park still exist today just east of Rorick's Glen Parkway on the south side of West Water Street. Between 1503 and 1467 West Water Street there still stands today two large stone pillars that once marked the Water Street entrance to the park. Today the old entrance is a well kept and maintained lot. The park itself was located on 125 acres on the south side of the Chemung River and was originally accessed from West Elmira by crossing a wooden foot bridge across the river. Prior to John Hendy (the first white settler) building a log cabin nearby, the land had been used by the Iroquois Indians as a meeting place and a vantage point to survey the vast Chemung Valley.

Rorick's Glen Park first opened on Memorial Day in 1900 as a summer theater for residents of the area and customers riding on the western most leg of the trolley line and was designed to promote and increase ridership on the trolley line. Those riders that arrived by trolley received free tickets to the theater.

The land the park was built on was originally owned by William and Polly Rorick and was used for lumbering for over fifty years. It was sold in the late 1800's to the E.W.L. & R.R. Co. It was most popular from 1900 to 1917 until the growth and popularity of the automobile allowed Elmira residents to become more independent and venture further for their entertainment. The park was unique in that it was liquor free and promoted good family based entertainment. Some of the park's popular attractions included a large 1200-seat theater, a restaurant, attractive picnic grounds, canoe rides, a circle swing

ride, dance pavilion, roller coaster, children's playgrounds, fine gardens and fountains to name a few.

The open air theater was advertised as the largest, most elaborate open-air playhouse in the country and initially featured vaudeville and minstrel performers and later featured the famous Manhattan Opera Company. The theater burned to the ground in June of 1904 but was quickly re-built to accommodate the busy summer performance season. Rorick's Glen Park soon became known across the country as one of the top summer performance theaters in the country featuring Broadway quality productions.

Once you departed the trolley car you had to walk across the Chemung River and up the hill to the park. The wooden foot bridge across the river was prone to being washed out by the flood waters of the Chemung and was replaced multiple times over the years. In 1907 a more substantial steel bridge structure was built to replace the wooden foot bridge. The steel bridge stood for 39 years before being washed out by the flood of 1946. At some point after the flood of 1946 a temporary bridge was built and that stood until the Hurricane Agnes flood of 1972 washed it out.

Rorick's Glen Park

continued on page 5



The old stone pillar entrance to the park on West Water Street today



TOWN BOARD AND ATTORNEY



Scott Moore (Attorney), Tom Milliken, Ron Allison, Al Lucarelli, Scott Bush



Tammy Stein (Town Clerk), Stacey Walburn (Deputy Clerk) Becky Carpenter (Assessor Aide), Eric Crandall (Code Enforcement Officer)

COURT CLERKS AND JUDGES



Liz Lucarelli, Honorable Jim DeFilippo, Honorable Kim Middaugh, Gabriella Cloke



Scott Deming, (Town Historian)



Patty Carozza, (Community Center Director)



Damon Chalk (Caretaker)

TOWN HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT



Corey Ripley, Matt Mustico, Chad McDonald, Matt Davis, Jim Watts, Steve Draht, Jim Wagner

Clerk's Office - 607-734-2031
 Assessor's Office- 607-734-1486
 Court Office- 607-734-5971
 Code Office- 607-734-3608

Police- emergency- 911
 Non-emergency 607-735-8600

Supervisor's Office- 607-734-2031

1255 West Water Street
 Elmira, NY 14905

The Cobbles *By Scott W. Deming*

Ever since I was a young boy growing up in West Elmira I have been intrigued by the cobblestone house located in the middle of the block between Cobbles East and Cobbles West behind the Congregation Shomray Hadath at 1008 West Water Street. Over the years the large home sat vacant for periods of time which was very mysterious to me. In thinking about the next article to write for Town Talk, being inspired by Keith Vaughn (a co-worker of mine at Corning Inc.) and seeing some recent restoration activity there I started the research on The Cobbles.

The Cobbles, as it has come to be known, was built by Judge Hiram Gray in 1849 with convict labor which could be rented out back in those days. According to the book about Chemung County, *Our County and It's People*, the cobblestones were gathered from surrounding fields and gauged to be the correct size by passing through a ring. The house was an extremely well built structure and doesn't look anywhere near its 160 years of age. Judge Gray had a large tract of property, said to be 100+ acres, which ran from the Chemung River bounded by Wall Street and Fairmont Avenue with the property running north into the hills. The Cobbles, at the time it was built, was the fourth house west from Hoffman Street with the other three being the Foster house at 722 W. Water St, the Dininny mansion between Foster Ave. and Dininny Ave. and the Guinnip home which was located where the Congregation B'nai Israel is now located. Judge Gray also built other homes in the Town of Elmira. The Victorian home at 1061 West Water Street, was built in the 1860's by Judge Gray and was most likely built for one of his children.

Judge Gray was one of Elmira's foremost citizens for over sixty years and very well known across New York State. He was frequently honored by the citizens of Elmira and his wisdom and advice were sought by many. Gray Street in Elmira is named after Judge Gray. The western end of Gray Street used to end at his eastern most property line at what is now known as Wall Street. His driveway being an extension from Gray Street running through the still standing cobblestone pillars leading to the house. Judge Gray drove his horse drawn carriage from his home to the court house in Elmira and back. It is believed that Wall Street is named after a cobblestone wall that was built along the street by Civil War prisoners. Remnants of a cobblestone curb still exist on the corner of Wall and Water Street but it is unclear if this curb is related to the wall that once existed there.

Hiram was the ninth child of ten born to John and Margaret Sloan Gray and with the Gray family being of Scotch decent. He was born on July 10, 1801 in Salem, New York. He went to high school at the Salem Academy and upon graduation entered Union College in 1818 graduating in 1821. Upon graduation he entered the law office of Chief Justice Savage of Salem and was admitted into the bar in 1823.

He first came to Elmira, a village of 600 inhabitants, in 1825 and formed a law partnership with Theodore North. In 1828 the village of Newtown changed its name to Elmira and Hiram Gray was one of the first officers of the newly named Elmira. In 1830 he married Aurelia Covell the daughter of Robert Covell of Elmira. He and his wife had four children Margaret Gray, Mary Gray (Hotchkin), John Gray and Stephen Gray. In 1836 Hiram was elected Congressman of the Twenty Fifth Congress and was appointed by Governor Silas Wright to the office of Circuit Judge and vice chancellor of the Sixth Judicial District. In 1847 he was elected to the office of State Supreme Court Justice and served in this capacity for twelve years. His written opinions as an appellate judge, many of which were reported in books, were models of their kind.

He also had a very high respect for written law. In 1867 Union College conferred on him the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws. In 1879 Judge Gray was elected President of the Newtown Monument Association which was formed to honor the one hundredth anniversary of the Battle of Newtown. In his honor, his portrait still hangs in the New York Court of Appeals hall in Albany, New York.

Judge Gray died on May 6, 1890 at the age of 88 years and is buried in Woodlawn National Cemetery. His son Stephen C. Gray died in 1897, his wife Aurelia C. Gray died in 1901, his daughter Margaret Gray died in 1902 and daughter Mary G. Hotchkin died in 1907. It is believed there are no direct descendents of the Gray family left in the area since Hiram and Aurelia Gray's only grandchild Aurelia C. Hotchkin died in 1941.

On December 17th, 1898 the Gray family sold a strip of land across their property to the Town of Elmira for the proposed extension of West Church Street beyond Wall Street to the Point. In 1906 Aurelia C. Hotchkin sold the entire



The Cobbles in 1919

property to the Cobblestone Land Company who then subdivided the land into building lots. At the same time The Cobbles was sold to Charles Phillip Myers and his wife Elizabeth who raised their two sons, Phillip Myers and Lewis "Crary" Myers, there. Charles ran the Merchants Oil Company, an oil distributor, in Elmira for many years. The Myers family modernized the home by installing plumbing and electricity. Mrs. Myers sold the frontage on West Water Street to the Congregation Shomray Hadath which built their Synagogue on the site in 1956. Mrs. Myers continued to live in the home until her death in 1963. Mrs. Myers grandson, Lewis "Crary" Myers Jr., still resides in Elmira. Crary has a photo album filled with many family photographs of The Cobbles over the years his father, uncle and grandparents lived there. Crary remembers going to the home on numerous occasions, as a child, to visit his grandmother.

In 1968 the property was sold to Dr. and Mrs. William H. Burke who completed a beautiful restoration of the property and the grounds. They lived in the home until 1976 at which time they sold the home to Congregation Shomray Hadath who went on to own the property for the next 28 years.

In 2004 The Cobbles was purchased by Mike and Mia Devlin who became the fifth owners of the home. Mike and Mia have done a wonderful job of restoring the historic home. While restoring the home they have found 13 of the supposedly 20 original fireplaces and have found an old pair of shoes in one of the walls that was gutted as part of the restoration. An unusual feature of the house is a trap door in the center of the large dining room and currently located under their dining room table. This trap door leads to a bricked in room in the basement of the home and is thought to be a hiding place for runaway slaves seeking freedom as a stop on the Underground Railroad.

It is great to see historic homes in the area restored to their original glory rather than being torn down. Many of these homes represent the history of our town and preserving them helps preserve a piece of our history.



Judge Hiram Gray and Mrs. Gray at The Cobbles in 1888



View of the smokehouse in 1945



Elizabeth Myers on her horse at The Cobbles in 1918



Judge and Mrs. Gray at The Cobbles with their children in the 1800's



Lewis Crary Myers Sr. in his basketball uniform with his dog "Rags" at The Cobbles in 1919



The Cobbles in 2009

Pirozzolo Park Town of Elmira - by the Recreation Department

The history of the Town of Elmira Recreation Park (now Pirozzolo Park) goes back to before 1962 which was the same year the new Elmira Town Hall was completed.

The first baseball fields in the town were completed in May of 1962 while the Art Whirt Memorial concession stand was completed later that same year. In addition to the new baseball field there was a regulation high school basketball court, two clay tennis courts, horseshoe courts, shuffleboard courts, playground equipment and a picnic area. During those early years the Cain family had a farm including horses and pastures on the west side of the town property that could clearly be seen and enjoyed by park goers.

The Summer Cohesion Camps began in the 1950's near Hendy Avenue School, then moved to what is now the location of Pirozzolo Park. These camps included arts and crafts, with an "opened ended" garage to accommodate the camps in rainy weather, miniature golf, sports including volleyball and soccer, and nature walks. In December of 1960 the Town Recreation Department introduced the ice-skating rink, where the current parking lot behind the town hall is located. This parking lot was flooded with water and frozen during the cold months of the winter and it was enjoyed by many of the town residents over the years.

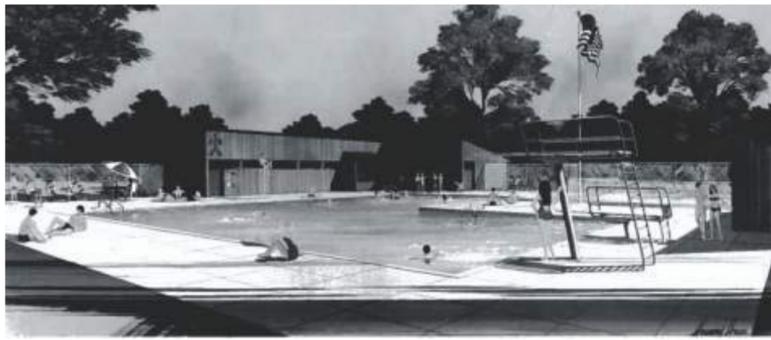
The Recreation Department held its first Easter Egg Hunt in 1971 followed shortly thereafter by the excitement of the town's first above ground pool that was placed next to the Art Whirt Memorial between the building and the parking lot. The addition of the town's current above ground pool took place with a groundbreaking ceremony held in November of 1977.

Over the years the Town Recreation Department has hosted many activities that were not highly publicized such as dog shows, bicycle parades and playground picnics. During the winter season, along with the ice-skating rink they added morning basketball which the Town Recreation Department worked with Hendy Avenue School to use their gym. One of the favorite events was the high school bonfire that was held at lower end of the park, in anticipation of the local high school's Erie Bell football game!

Due to liability concerns many of these early recreational activities were discontinued but the Town Recreation Board works very hard to



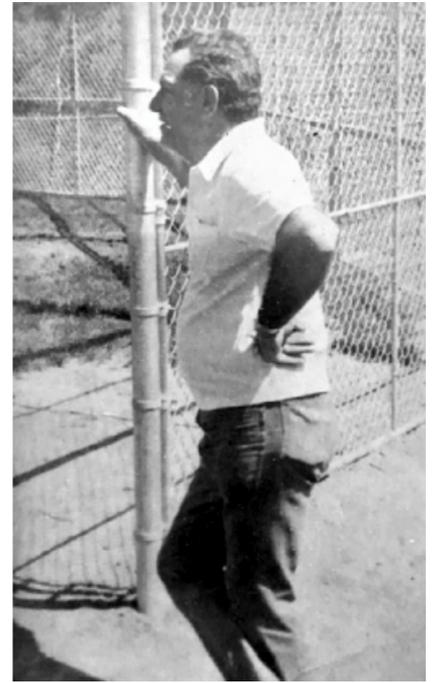
Circa 1975; From the left,
Row one: Mike Hogg, Tom Milliken, unknown, Scott Carpentier, Matt Sofia, Glen Mallette, Jeff Scanlan.
Row two: unknown, Pat Cornacchio, Don Michalko, Mike Reynolds, unknown, John Hogg, Doug Morse.
Row three: Coach Howard Lapple, Coach Glendon Mallette.



make the town park a place for everyone to enjoy.

As the Town of Elmira acquired more land behind The Town Hall, the park was expanded with the addition of:

- Three baseball fields, two softball fields and one shared field
- Two full basketball courts
- Six tennis courts with lights on 3 of them
- Two mutli-purpose fields soccer/lacrosse
- An updated playground area
- The Chris Fredo Pavilion with picnic tables
- In-ground pool facility



Louis Pirozzolo

- Pickle ball courts
- Community Gardens with 32 beds
- Walking track
- The Town Community Center, an event space, for rent and home to the summer camps

Pirozzolo Park Continued on page 11

From the Clerk's Office

By Tammy Stein, RMC

New York State laws mandate many duties for the Town Clerk, but our team strives to go well beyond those mandates. We want to be a resource for any resident that reaches out to us. Town Clerk Tammy Stein is assisted by Stacey Walburn, Deputy Clerk.

Here are just some of the functions that the Clerk's office performs: Dog Licensing, DEC Licenses, Marriage Licenses and management of Town Records. We also issue Handicapped Parking Permits, Soliciting permits and Compost Permits.

Our duties vary, as we collect town taxes from January through March, and issue pool passes throughout the summer. We are here to assist and help you to the best of our ability.

For Town information please visit the Town's website at www.townofelmira.com or always feel free to contact our offices at 607-734-2031.

Here's a fun look back at the people who have served as Town Clerks since 1900.

| | |
|--------------|-------------------|
| 1896-1907 | Elmer Baldwin |
| 1908-1913 | Charles W. Mead |
| 1914-1915 | Harry C. Knapp |
| 1916-1919 | Harold Stinson |
| 1920-1923 | Arthur J. Keefe |
| 1923-1931 | Mame Keefe |
| 1932-1956 | Clinton J. Case |
| 1956-1959 | Milton Burt |
| 1960-1972 | Muriel Y. Day |
| 1972-1980 | Betty E. Mitchell |
| 1980-1995 | Regina M. Granger |
| 1995-2019 | Joann Sherwood |
| 2020-Present | Tammy Stein |

Assessor's Office

by Bruce A. Stanko

We receive many calls concerning the payment of tax bills, the Assessor's Office does not bill or collect tax payments, below is information on paying your tax bills and who to call with questions concerning your bill.

School Taxes:

Elmira City School District
 Payments are in two installments due October 31 and March 31
 Mail to:
 School Tax Collector,
 P.O. Box 5504,
 Binghamton, NY 13902-5504

Elmira City School Tax
 Collector phone number is 607-795-5333

After March 31 contact the Chemung County Treasurer at 607-737-2927

Taxes can be paid by Credit Card as well.

The School District tax page is <http://www.elmiracityschools.com/taxes.cfm>

Elmira Heights School District
 Bills are due September 30 each year.

Payments can to be made at any Chemung Canal Branch or call the School Tax Collector at 607-795-5333

Town and County Tax:

Town of Elmira and County Taxes are on one bill due January 31 each year. Questions about your Town and County bill can be answered at 607-734-2031.

Bills are payable online: <https://townofelmira.com/>

You can also pay in person or by mail at
 Elmira Town Hall, 1255 West Water Street, Elmira, NY 14905

Contact the Assessor's Office for Address changes and Exemption information.

Village of Elmira Heights Tax

The Village tax bills are sent out on May 31st, and are due July 1st. Payments can be made at any Chemung Canal bank or at the Village office.

Village Tax Collector can be reached at 607-734-7156

Bruce A. Stanko
 Assessor -Town of Elmira

Town of Elmira Fun Facts Answers
 from page 7

Across

4. shoes
5. Marktwain
6. trolleyline
8. Schornstheimer
10. formed

Down

1. Bush
2. Weaver
3. firedepartment
7. Pirozzolo
8. sidewalk
9. reading

Colonel John Hendy

Soldier, Pioneer and Early White Settler

By Scott W. Deming

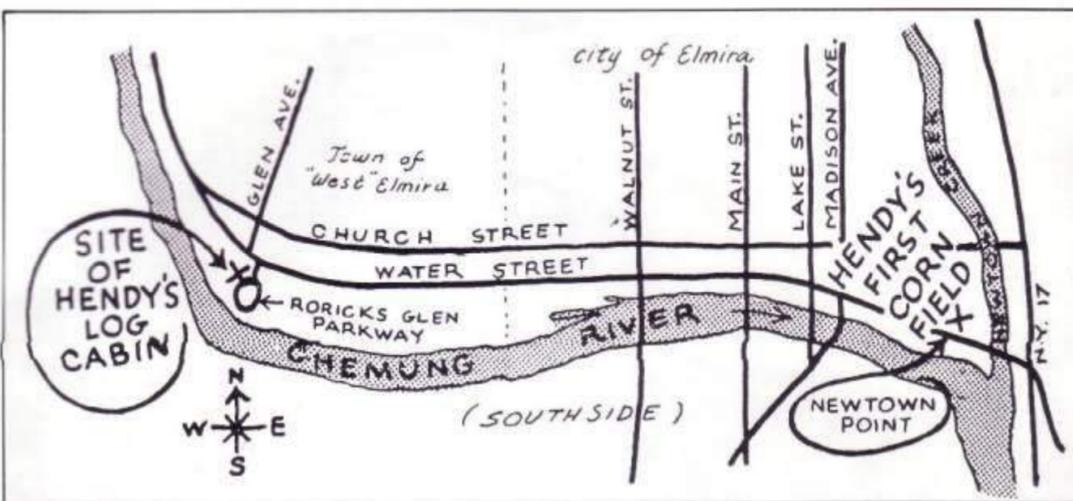
To many residents of West Elmira the name Hendy evokes a vision of the local grade school by that name, or the street next to the grade school or possibly the road leading to Golden Glow or the creek by that name that runs through Golden Glow. To many local historians the name Hendy brings to mind the first white settler of Newtown (now Elmira). Colonel John Hendy was a veteran of the Revolutionary War under General John Sullivan. He was born on September 3, 1757 and it is believed he was an only child of Samuel (born in New Jersey on 4/6/1733 and died 9/20/1808) and Rebecca Hendy (born in New Jersey on 1/4/1735 and died 4/20/1814). His ancestors originated from a small island off the coast of Ireland and the family name was originally spelled Hendee.

Colonel Hendy's first visit to the area was as a Captain in General Sullivan's army around 1779. Under General Sullivan he fought in the battles of Bunker Hill, Princeton, Trenton and Monmouth. He returned to the area in the spring of 1788 some nine years later than the first visit. Many soldiers who fought in the area during the war were attracted back to the area by the topography and soil of the fertile Chemung Valley. Col. Hendy came up the Susquehanna and the Chemung Rivers from Wyoming, Pennsylvania. He landed at the point where Newtown Creek meets the Chemung River near the present Kennedy Valve location on the east side of Elmira. He set-up camp among the Indians of the area and his nearest white neighbor was located at Tioga Point in Athens, Pa.

John was married to Mary (Polly) Baker (daughter of Henry Baker) who originated from Shawnee Flats, Pa. near Wilkes Barre, Pa. but was born in New Jersey. John and Polly had eight children; Samuel, Thomas, John Jr, Rebecca (wife of John Culp), Sally (wife of William Bartlett), Hannah (wife of Cushing Snow), Elizabeth (wife of John Rhodes) and Polly (wife of Joseph Beidelman). In the fall of 1788 John returned down river to bring Polly and their three children (at the time Samuel, Rebecca and Sally) to their new home at Newtown.

Colonel Hendy was a tall athletic man at six foot seven inches with long flowing hair. The Indians nicknamed John "Shinawanee" or the "Strong One" probably because of his size and stature. Escapades of Col. Hendy and his family with the Indians; some friendly, some hostile and tales of his bravery and prodigious strength became legend in the vicinity of Newtown.

On April 12, 1791 John bought 800 acres from James Clinton for 1 schilling an acre. He relocated his cabin from the original site at Newtown Point which was somewhat of a swampy marsh and overflowed with water during the wet weather to a



location near what is now Rorick's Glen Parkway where he felt the land was better suited for growing wheat and other crops.

The First Presbyterian Church, one of the oldest churches in Elmira, was organized in the Hendy cabin in 1795. John's wife Polly and daughter Sally were the first two members of the church. For over 50 years John farmed the land he lived on planting corn, wheat and tobacco. He was a man greatly respected and esteemed for his honesty, integrity and kindness of heart. John also is known to have thrown the first shovel of dirt for the building of the Chemung Canal in 1831. Polly died on January 20,

1828 at the age of 69 years. John died on March 15, 1840 at the age of 82 years 6 mos 12 days.



Rorick's Glen Park *continued from page 2*

The theater officially closed in 1918 and continued in disrepair until a fire burnt it to the ground in 1932. The dance hall continued to operate with big band music into the late 1930's. In 1944 a 95 acre portion of the park was sold for \$4,500 to five businessmen from Elmira deeply interested in scouting. They then deeded the property to the Boy Scouts of America.

In 1956 the newly built Frank Tripp Training and Administration Center was dedicated on the site. Frank Tripp was an avid supporter of both Rorick's Glen Park and area scouting.

As a young Boy Scout in the mid 1960's I remember hiking across the Rorick's Glen bridge and into the old park with my fellow troop members and camping for the weekend in the Rorick's Glen hills above the Chemung River. To this day I remember the scenery and perspective from the top of the hill was amazing and I understand why it has been such a special place for so many years.

The information for this article was taken from the Chemung Historical Journals, the Images of America Chemung Valley, information found on the internet and articles found at the Steele Memorial Library in Elmira.



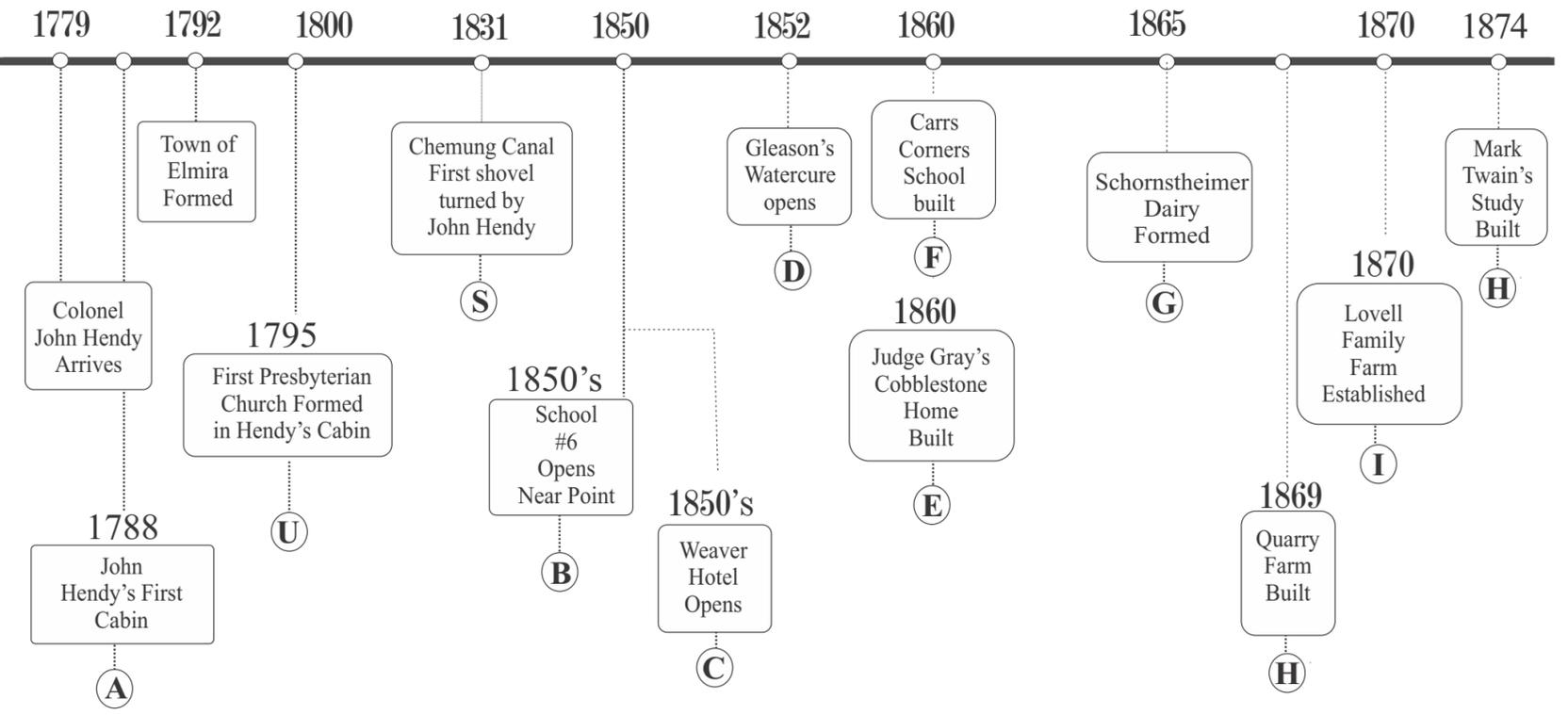
One of the original foot bridges looking from the park at the un-developed West Elmira farmland



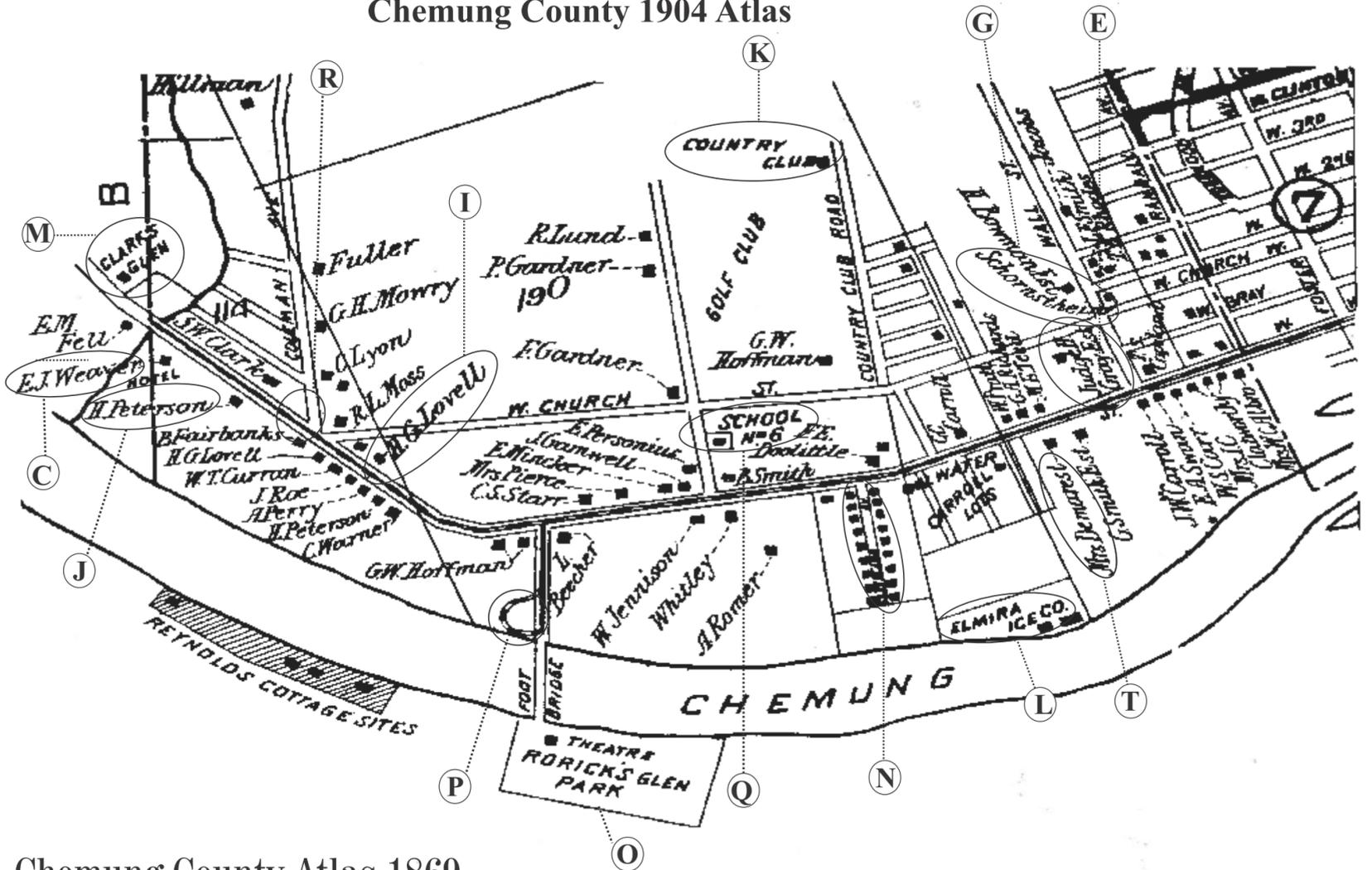
The Boy Scouts crossing the bridge into the park in the 60's



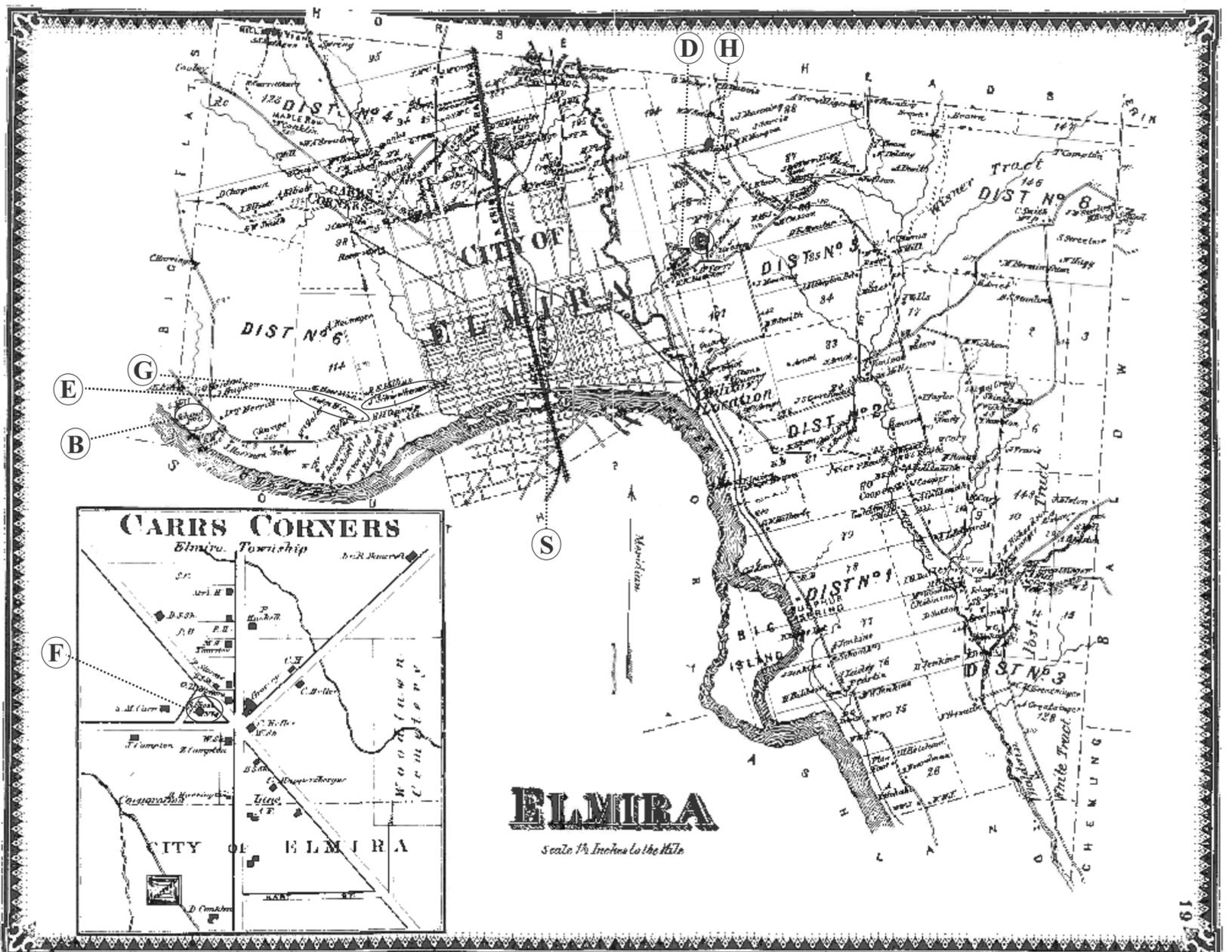
The Rorick's Glen Theater



Chemung County 1904 Atlas

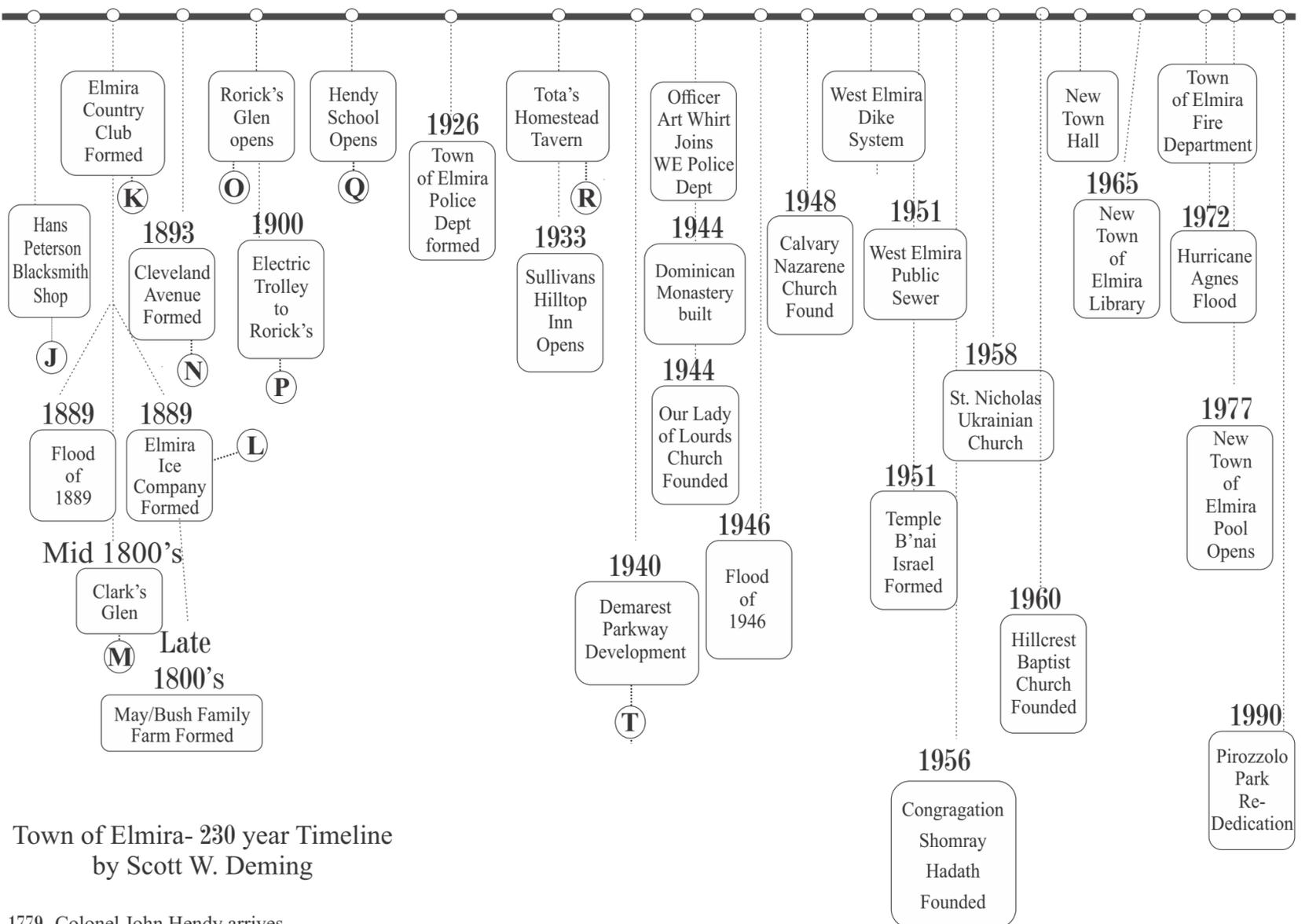


Chemung County Atlas 1869



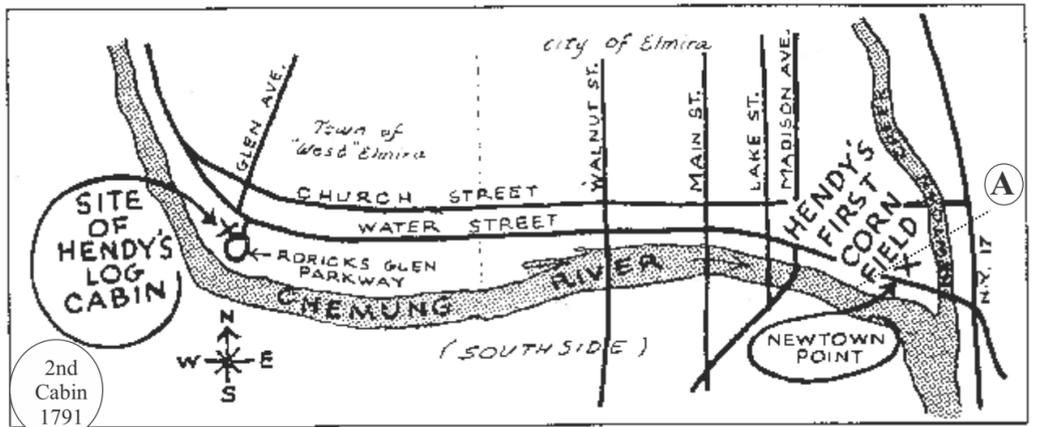
Chemung County Atlas of 1869 shows route of the Chemung Canal and Erie Railroad. Chemung County Historical Society Archives.

1876 1889 1893 1900 1906 1926 1933 1940 1944 1948 1950 1951 1958 1960 1962 1965 1972 1990



Town of Elmira- 230 year Timeline by Scott W. Deming

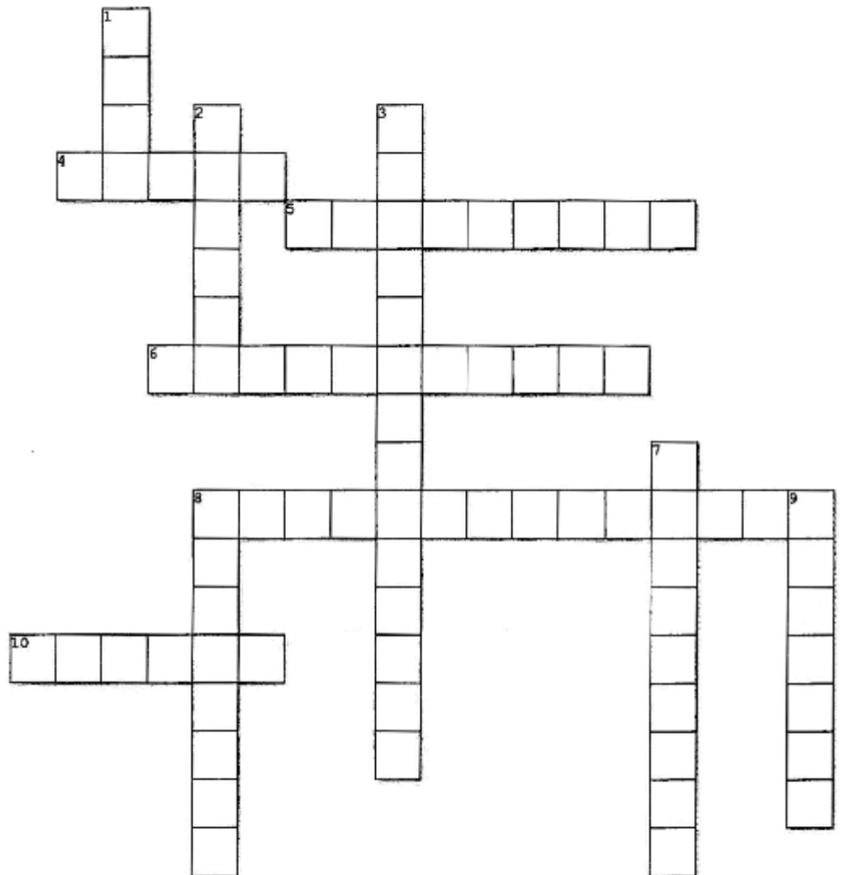
- 1779- Colonel John Hendy arrives
- 1792-Town of Elmira Formed
- 1795 First Presbyterian Church formed in Hendy cabin
- 1831 Chemung Canal first shovel turned by John Hendy
- 1852- Gleason's Watercure opens
- Mid 1800's Clark's Glen picnic area begins
- Mid 1800's- Weaver Hotel opens
- Mid 1800's- School #6 in West Elmira opens
- 1860's- Judge Gray- Cobblestone House built
- 1860- Carr's Corners School built
- 1865- Schornstheimer Dairy starts
- 1869- Crane Family Quarry Farm built
- 1870- Lovell Family Farm begins
- 1874- Mark Twain's study- built on East Hill , moved to Elmira College 1952
- 1876- Hans Peterson Blacksmith Shop opens
- 1889-Elmira Ice Company
- Floods- 1889, 1946, 1972
- 1893- Cleveland Avenue- West Elmira's oldest side street
- Late 1800's- May/Bush Family farm established on Jerusalem Hill
- 1898-Elmira Country Club founded
- 1900- Rorick's Glen
- 1900-Electric Trolley System- Rorick's Glen run 1900-1920
- 1906- Hendy Avenue School opens 1953 addition, 2005 addition
- West Elmira Population- 1910- 113, 1920-647, 1930-2730, 1990-7393, 2000- 7194, 2022 - 6848
- 1926-Town of Elmira Police Dept formed
- 1933- Tota's Homestead Tavern opens
- 1933- Hilltop Inn opens
- 1940 - Demarest Parkway development
- 1942 to 1950- West Elmira Flood Control Dike System
- 1944- Officer Arthur Whirt joins West Elmira Police Dept-1944 to 1961
- 1944- Dominican Monastery built
- 1944- Our Lady of Lourdes Church built
- 1948- Calvary Nazarene Church built
- 1951- West Elmira Public Sewer District formed
- 1951-Temple B'nai Israel built
- 1956 Congregation Shomray Hadath built
- 1958- St. Nicholas Ukrainian Church built
- 1960- Hillcrest Baptist Church built
- 1962- New Elmira Town Hall opens
- 1965- New Town of Elmira Library opens
- 1972 -West Elmira Fire Department formed
- 1977-Town of Elmira Pool opens
- 1990-Pirozzolo Park Re-Dedication



From Chemung Historical Journal, March 1959

Town of Elmira Fun Facts

Complete the crossword puzzle below



Across

- 4. Found in a wall gutted in the Cobbles Home
- 5. World Renowned Author
- 6. Elmira Water Light and Railroad Company
- 8. Dairy Formed in 1865
- 10. 1792, Town of Elmira was

Down

- 1. Family Farm
- 2. Hotel opens in 1850's
- 3. 50th year Celebration
- 7. West Elmira Park
- 8. Chapter 193 Ordinance
- 9. Club held in the Summer at the Library

Town of Elmira Fun Facts answers on page 4

Other historic United States events in 1792:
 George Washington is re-elected as President
 United States Postal Service is established
 United States Mint is established
 Cornerstone of the United States Executive Mansion (later known as the White House) is laid
 First United States Columbus Day celebration is held in New York City
 Kentucky becomes the 15th state in the United States

Mark Twain (Samuel Clemens) in the Town of Elmira

Town of Elmira Historian

By Scott W. Deming

The world-renowned author, Mark Twain, was a frequent visitor to our area where he spent summers on Quarry Farm located on East Hill in the Town of Elmira. Mark Twain's connection to the area began when he met native Elmiran, Charles Langdon (who was 14 years Twain's junior and the son of a wealthy coal merchant), in 1867 on a steamship cruise to Europe, Egypt and The Holy Land.

Twain had been sponsored on the cruise by a San Francisco, California newspaper to write about his travels during the five-month cruise. During the cruise Charles showed Twain a picture of his sister Olivia and Twain later claimed it was "love at first sight".

His first visit to Elmira was in 1868 from an invitation by Charles Langdon to visit the area and meet his family. This is when he first met Olivia, his younger sister, at the Jervis Langdon Home that was then located on the northwest corner of Church and Main Street in Elmira. It was during this first visit that Twain fell in love with Olivia. As he was leaving the Langdon home, after the week-long visit, Twain was thrown to the ground from the horse drawn surrey but was not seriously injured. He saw this "accident" as an opportunity to remain at the Langdon home a while longer and he was taken back to the house. Olivia proceeded to nurse Twain back to health after a four-week long extended stay.

Over the next year Mark and Olivia exchanged numerous letters with Twain proposing marriage in one of the letters and Olivia turned him down. After finally convincing Olivia and her father Jervis Langdon for his daughter's hand in marriage they were engaged in February 1869.



Mark Twain Study at Quarry Farm on East Hill



Quarry Farm on Crane Road in the Town of Elmira in the 1870's

Mark Twain continued on page 10

Code Enforcement Department



Eric Crandall

codeofficer@townofelmira.com
607-734-3608

We all want to keep our neighborhoods safe and beautiful. With that goal in mind, town residents should keep the following information in mind: The Town has a sidewalk ordinance (Chapter 193 of the Code of the Town of Elmira) that directs us to maintain the sidewalk in front of our property year-round. Summer is the perfect time to repair or replace broken and hazardous sidewalk blocks. This goes a long way towards keeping everyone safe as we are out and about in the nice weather!

We are seeing more and more properties with "stuff" tossed behind garages or in back yards behind fences. It is easy to understand that if it is out of sight, it is out of mind. But after a while, these piles tend to be forgotten. These are prime spots for small animals and rodents to make a home and soon enough they wander into our (or our neighbors!)

basements. This "stuff" can be a violation of the Property Maintenance Code of New York State so it will be much cheaper to have it hauled away than to pay a fine.

Speaking of yards...remember that the Property Maintenance Code says grass or weeds over 10 inches tall is a violation. Please make sure that your property is kept looking nice and neat by mowing it frequently. Be mindful not to mow or sweep any grass into the street as that can cause major stormwater problems during heavy rains.

Permits, permits, and more permits! Most projects require a permit these days, such as plumbing, electric, sheds, decks, porches, roofs, fences, and pools (and more!). Homeowners are encouraged to call the office at 607-734-3608 before starting any work to make arrangements to pick up a permit or just to make sure the work being done doesn't require a building permit.



West Elmira Volunteer Fire Department WANTS YOU!



The West Elmira Volunteer Fire Department Would Like To Invite You to Stop by the Fire Department Anytime To Learn More About the Rewards of Being a Volunteer Fireman or Junior Fireman

Our Regular Weekly Meetings are Monday Nights! Stop by and Let Us Show You Around

Did You Know That WEVFD Serves 4700 Residents?

Did You Know That We Have an Active Junior Fireman Program?

Did You Know That Our Average Response Time to a Call is 4 Minutes or Less?

Did You Know That WEVFD is the First Fire Department in Chemung County To Have a Drone Program?

Did You Know That WEVFD is Celebrating 50 Years of Service to Our Community?



Did You Know That We Need Volunteers to Continue Supplying Excellent Service?

Please Stop by or Call Us Today
West Elmira Volunteer Fire Department
607-734-2204
1299 West Water Street
Elmira, NY 14905

Thank You!

ELMIRA STAR-GAZETTE

VOLUME 56, NO. 46 ELMIRA, N. Y., Wednesday Evening, Sept. 5, 1962 SEVEN CENTS

Library to Seek New Westside Branch



The wooded area at right is the lot purchased by the Steele Memorial Library Association.

West Elmira Library

Though the library first started making inroads into West Elmira in 1926 with a temporary station, and later had shelving in the Town Hall, the real story of the West Elmira library as we know it began around 1965 with the construction of the West Elmira Branch Library. Since then it has become an integral part of town life. There are so many memories and never space enough to list them all, but I'll try...each memory does not stand alone, but is encased in the minds of legions of small children dressed in

animal costumes or with their fingers sticky with glue from crafts...of library staff doing just about everything they can think of to make each visit to the library a very memorable event...from dressing up as animals themselves (in the contest between who likes to dress up as animals more, kids or library staff, the score is even!), or to being dunked repeatedly in a dunk tank...it creates a core memory for townfolk.

In 2005, the West Elmira Library nearly closed due to budgeting shortfalls. It

was saved by a grassroots campaign by Town of Elmira residents actively lobbying for the library.

West Elmira Library continued on page 11



STAR-GAZETTE

and ADVERTISER

ELMIRA, N. Y., MONDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1964



Near Completion

The West Elmira branch library at W. Water St. and Westmont Ave. is expected to be completed within a month and opened in January. Still to be installed in the \$81,978 building are carpeting and fixtures.

THE SUNDAY TELEGRAM

ELMIRA STAR-GAZETTE SUNDAY EDITION

Elmira, N. Y. Sunday, Aug. 25, 1963 Page 1B



Elmira and State Prototype

This is the design for a small branch library produced by the Elmira architectural firm of Hitch and Caswell, which has been approved by the State Education Department as a prototype to be offered for use throughout the state. The design will first be implemented as the West Elmira Branch Library, subject of a special meeting of the Chemung County Board of Supervisors Monday night at 7:30 at the board room.

The Schornstheimer Dairy

Corner of Church and Wall Street, Town of Elmira 1865 To 1980

The Schornstheimer name in the Town of Elmira can be traced back to the early dairy farms in both the City and Town of Elmira. The first Schornstheimers to arrive in the area were Conrad Martin Schornstheimer and his cousin Peter Schornstheimer. Peter was born in Hesse Darmstadt, Germany. He came to America in 1850 at 23 years of age and located in Elmira. Conrad arrived in America from Bodenheim, Germany around 1860 at 24 years of age. Many of the Schornstheimers living in the Elmira area can trace their roots back to Conrad or Peter.

Conrad Schornstheimer was born on January 6, 1836. He married his wife Frederika (Koop) in the old Grace Church (where the congregation of the German Evangelical Church worshipped prior to their new church being built) on Main Street. Their wedding was the first one held there. Conrad and Frederika had eight children. Their son Charles was born around 1869, daughter Ella born on Sept 9, 1873, son Edward born on June 28, 1875, son Harry born on June 23, 1880 (he married Eva Harvey), son William, daughter Elizabeth, daughter Rosey and an infant son who died young.

Shortly after his arrival in Elmira, Conrad became involved in dairy farming by managing several large farms including the Hoffman farm on Hoffman Street and the Foster farm on West Water Street in the

City of Elmira. Conrad started his own dairy by purchasing the Hoffman dairy business about 1865. The dairy was located on the corner of Church and Wall Street where the Elmira Savings Bank West Elmira branch now stands. This land was adjacent to the original Hoffman farm property.

According to Dick Schornstheimer (Conrad's grandson and the son of Harry and Eva Schornstheimer) of West Elmira the original dairy property extended from Church and Wall Street all the way south to the river. Tobacco was raised on the property along the river and a tobacco shed behind the barn at Church and Wall St. was used to dry the tobacco. The southern end of the Schornstheimer property was sold when the dikes were built along the river.

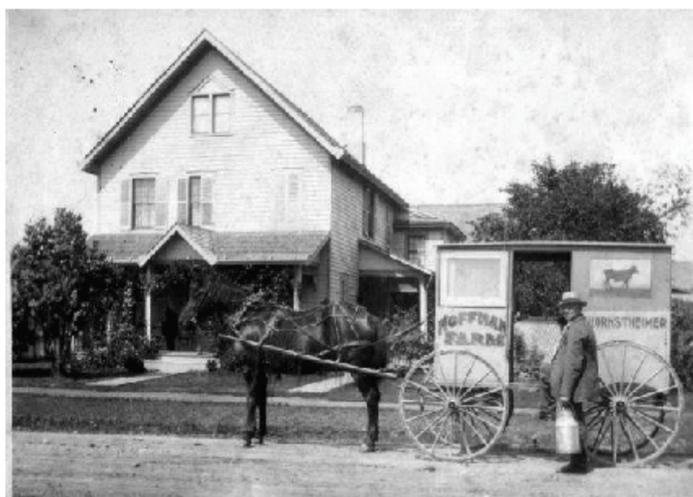
For many years Church Street, west of Hoffman Street, ended at Wall Street and was called Schornstheimer Lane. It was renamed Church Street when the street was extended to "The Point" at Coleman Avenue in 1898 after Judge Hiram Gray's family sold a strip of land for the proposed extension beyond it's end at Wall Street. Charles, Edward and Harry Schornstheimer took over the dairy when their father Conrad died on December 16, 1916.

The dairy continued to operate for many years with the processing of milk at the dairy ending in 1953. The grocery store continued in operation by Robert Schornstheimer (Dick's brother) until 1980 when the property was sold to Elmira Savings Bank for the expansion of the West Elmira branch of the bank.

Ralph Hoskins of West Elmira remembers his mother going down Wall Street to the Schornstheimer dairy store to get a can of fresh milk, ice skating on the pond behind the old dairy barn and the dairy cows walking from the barn to the north end of Wall Street (which ended south of Clinton Street in those days) to go to pasture in the open field. Ralph still has a Schornstheimer Dairy milk box on his back porch.

Conrad's cousin Peter Schornstheimer married Christina (Stampp) (from his native town in Germany) on August 30, 1855. They had seven children. Their names were Henry, Fred, Peter Jr., Ella, Carrie, Kate and Lena. Peter operated the Schornstheimerr-Stampp grocery store at the corner of Lake and Clinton Street in the city of Elmira for many years. Peter's son Fred eventually took over operation of the store. Peter died on December 27, 1914 and is buried in Woodlawn Cemetery.

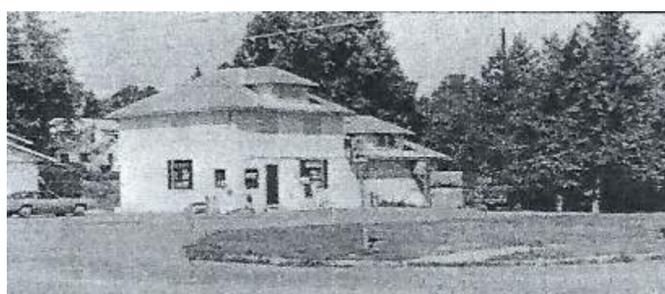
Conrad and Peter Schornstheimer were



Conrad Martin Schornstheimer- founder of the Schornstheimer Dairy with his horse drawn milk wagon used for delivering milk in the late 1800's. The sign on the wagon says Hoffman Farm and Schornstheimer.

involved in the founding of the German Evangelical Church (now known as the First United Church of Christ) on Madison Avenue in the City of Elmira. The church was organized in 1874 and the building was erected in 1876. Many of the early baptisms and weddings at the church were connected to the Schornstheimer family.

Information for this article was taken from Dick Schornstheimer, Ralph Hoskins, Elmira Savings Bank, the Steele Memorial Library and its website, US Census Records, Our County and It's People by Ausburn Towner, Chemung County 1890-1975 by Thomas Byrne and various other internet websites.



The Schornstheimer Dairy store as it looked prior to the Elmira Savings Bank West Elmira Branch locating there in 1980.



The German Evangelical Church (now the First United Church of Christ) on Madison Avenue in Elmira.

Five Generations of Bush Family Dairy Farming

Farming in the Town of Elmira has been a part of the town since before it was founded. The early settlers to the region raised traditional farm crops and produce for their own use and to sell to others. Some farmers grew tobacco which flourished in the soil along the flat lands of the Chemung River. Others had dairy farms that produced some of the finest milk in the region. Farms on the east side of Elmira in the early 1900's included family names like May, Elston, Arnot, Stannard, McInerney and Crane to name a few. As the town developed in the mid to late 20th century it has become largely a residential community with only a few farms still in operation.

Five generations of the Bush family have been engaged in farming in the town on East Hill for over 120 years. Adolph W. May was the founder of the original family dairy farm on May Road (just off Jerusalem Hill Road) in the late 1800's. Adolph was born in 1870 in Trout Run, Pa., and as a young man relocated to Elmira where he settled down and began raising his family.

Adolph and his wife Eva had five (5) children; Smith, Floyd, Joseph, Myrtle and Guy. Eva died in 1909 at thirty-seven years of age shortly after the birth of Guy. Adolph and Eva's daughter, Myrtle May, married Earl Bush in 1929 and they had one son Kenneth Bush. Unfortunately, Earl and Myrtle Bush also died at a young age and as a result Kenneth was raised by his grandfather Adolph. In addition to farming Adolph was also a member of the Elmira Town Board in the 1940's. He died in 1958 at the age of 88 years old.

Adolph taught his grandson Kenneth how to milk cows at the young age of 12 years old. Kenneth attended the one room schoolhouse (school #2) on Jerusalem Hill (located near the family farm) thru the 8th grade. Kenneth then went on to Southside High School where he graduated in 1948. Horses did a lot of the heavy work on the Bush farm until the development of farm tractors came along in the 1940's and 1950's.



Bushholm Farm May Road Elmira 1950

Milk and livestock sales were the main source of income for the family during this time.

Kenneth married Virginia Watts (also an Elmira native) in 1950 and they continued running the family dairy farm that his grandfather started. They raised a family of six (6) children Ann, Betsy, Jim, Scott, Carl and Cindy. They found that running the family dairy was a great way to raise a family. Their oldest son Jim worked with Kenneth on the farm after graduating from high school in 1972. Bushholm Farm on May Road currently occupies 200 acres of land and had 60 milking cows. Jim Bush raised his family on the farm and his son Ryan and family are presently involved in the farm operation. Kenneth and Virginia's son Scott and his wife Lisa also went into dairy farming. They own and operate Sco-Li Farm on Watercure Hill Road in the Town of Elmira. They currently have 400 acres of land with 100 milking cows.



Kenneth Bush
1931-2022

Community involvement has always been present within the Bush family. They have been actively involved with 4-H with Virginia as a leader for 30 years and Lisa as a leader for 13 years. The various Bush families have also shown their cattle and projects at the Chemung County

Fair for many years. Sharing their knowledge of local farming with other members of the local community has always been a priority. Farming has changed considerably over the past 80 years. Not long ago there were nearly 25 farms in operation within the town and now there are only two.

In addition to Adolph serving on the Town Board in the 1940's other family members have held various positions within the town and county through the years. Kenneth served on the Chemung County Legislature for 2 terms and for 22 years on the Elmira Town Board. He also served on the Chemung County Soil and Water Conservation, Farmland Protection, and Farm Bureau Boards. Along with Virginia, they were also members of Chemung County Holstein Club, Agricultural Society, and Farm Bureau for many years. Scott Bush has carried on the family's community involvement and is currently a member of the Elmira Town Board.

Mark Twain continued from page 8

Mark married Olivia Langdon on Feb 8, 1870 at the Langdon home. After their marriage they moved to Buffalo, New York for a year and one half and then relocated to Hartford, Connecticut. They went on to have four children, a son Langdon and three daughters Susy, Clara and Jean. Mark and Olivia were frequent summer guests of Mrs. Susan Langdon Crane (Mrs. Clemens' older sister) and her husband Theodore at Quarry Farm on Crane Road in the town. Prior to his summer visit in 1874, Mrs. Crane had the study built as a surprise for Twain. As a token of her admiration for Clemens she wanted her frequent summer guest to have a quiet place to do his important work while visiting. The study was designed as an exact replica of a pilot house from a Mississippi River boat. The study was originally located about 100 yards from the Quarry Farm house in a location with a wonderful view of the City of Elmira and the Chemung Valley. Many of Mark Twain's famous writings including Tom Sawyer and The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn among others were written over the 30 summers spent at the study.

The last writing in the study was done by Mark Twain in 1903. He came to Elmira in 1904 to

bury his wife Olivia following her death during a visit to Florence, Italy. His final visit to Elmira was in 1906. Twain died at his home "Stormfield" in Redding, Connecticut on April 21, 1910 and he is buried in Elmira's Woodlawn Cemetery alongside his wife and their children. Mark Twain's study was donated to Elmira College by Jervis Langdon (Twain's nephew) and was moved in 1952 after 78 years at Quarry Farm to the Elmira College campus so that it would be more accessible to visitors of the area. Today the study is a popular destination for tourists to the area and is visited by thousands of people each year.

Information for this Mark Twain Study article were taken from various information from the Elmira Star Gazette articles, Elmira College website, Center for Mark Twain Studies and various sites on the internet.



Mark Twain Study Being moved to Elmira College Campus in 1952



Mark Twain on his final visit to the study in 1903

West Elmira Library Continued from page 9

In 2005, New York State gave approval to the creation of the Chemung County Library District, and the West Elmira Library was one of the libraries that was saved.

For years, West Elmira residents of all ages have visited the library during the summer to participate in the Summer Reading Club. Staff enjoys promoting this special event each year at the Hendy Carnival, during school visits, and on curbside signage seen as you drive by. Each summer, the library hosts a variety of themed programs for audiences of all ages, from adult and children's crafting events, to hiring musicians, balloon artists, and magicians. Families with young children can be seen walking in the beautiful weather to the library each week to enjoy a storytime presented by one of the many experienced storytellers that we've employed over the years. Now, with the convenience of online reading tracking, winning special prizes and gift cards is even easier! We look forward to having local patrons join us for in-person programming this summer that goes along with our theme "Oceans of Possibilities". For more information, check out our online events calendar, sign-up for our monthly events newsletter, or just stop by and ask us in-person!



Pirozzolo Park continued from page 4

The Town Recreation Board continues many of the popular traditions started many years ago while at the same time introducing new family entertainment.

Approximately ten years ago the Music in Pirozzolo Park started under the pavilion which seems to be a favorite for all. The traditional annual Easter Egg Hunt continued until the COVID pandemic hit in 2020. The Recreation Board thought that the children of the town still needed to see the Easter Bunny so they decided to host the Easter Bunny drive-by!

As the pandemic continued into the Christmas season of 2020, it was then Santa's turn to drive around town and share some Christmas spirit. To add to the excitement both the Easter Bunny, and Santa were accompanied by the West Elmira Police and Fire Departments. Other new events that started in the town park included the Halloween Spook House and the Movie in the Park which was created to allow residents to experience the park at night. This year's Opening Day Parade also returned to the park after a short hiatus due to the pandemic.

The town's baseball and softball programs have participated in State and District Tournaments over the years with many people enjoying Pirozzolo Park, its facilities, and surroundings. It is always a pleasure to hear the many people that come from outside the area comment on the park and its beautiful backdrop of surrounding hills. They also comment on the beautiful trail system along the Chemung River which is very popular and is used by the many people traveling on bikes or walking to and from the park.

In 1990 the "Town Hall Park" was rededicated and given the name, Pirozzolo Park, in honor of Louis Pirozzolo who served as the Chief of Police for the Town of Elmira and he was also actively involved in the sports programs in the town for many years.

The Town Recreation Board works hard to make recreational events that fit all age groups with an emphasis on the town's youth. The town continues to make Pirozzolo Park a place for people of all ages.

The current recreation board members include Dave Pirozzolo (Commissioner), Sean Coggins (Assistant Commissioner) Charlie Lechliter (Treasurer), Betsy Mattoon (Secretary), Mark Rose, Mia Devlin, and Rick Miller (board members).



First Easter Egg Hunt in 1971



Dog Shows



Pickleball Courts Opening Soon

Six pickleball courts will open in August 2022. They will be located in the southeast lower corner of Pirozzolo Park, adjacent baseball field number 5. The courts were funded by the Friends of Bob Edger, and will be dedicated in his memory. Mr. Edger was a longtime Elmira-area business man and community leader.



Night Baseball!



Halloween in the Park



New pickleball courts are nearly complete and will open by end of summer!

Celebrating 50 Years of Service to our Community
1972 2022

West Elmira Volunteer Fire Department

continued from cover

One of the department's Pioneer pumpers was purchased used and rebuilt after having been rolled in an accident in California. Both pumpers received special treatment while in the factory, being worked on by department members. As an example, the pumpers were the first to come from the factory with all adjustable hose nozzles. The current department fleet includes a 1992 Seagrave pumper, a 1997 Seagrave pumper, a 2007 Seagrave 75' Aerial, a 2021 Dodge Rescue Truck, a 2012 Chevy pickup, a 2010 Chevy Suburban, a 16-foot inflatable boat with 28-horse power Yamaha jet drive motor, a Polaris Ranger six-wheel ATV and a drone with camera and infrared capabilities.

The drone has been very helpful to locate hotspots, locate people within the fire structure, viewing ice jams and woods fires and has been used to assist at various locations in the county. The District has established reserve accounts for the purchase of new trucks. To date, the department has been able to purchase new trucks without interest costs, saving the taxpayers money. Reserve accounts are only tapped after a permissive referendum.

As prices for apparatus have skyrocketed, other arrangements may need to be made in the future. The department has a new Pierce brand pumper on order, which should be delivered later in the year. The fire department handles approximately 400 calls per year. Approximately 80% of those calls are EMS calls.

The department has mutual aid agreements generally in the county and with specific departments. The department covers the center section of the City of Elmira and provides a truck to reported structure fires or EMS calls in that area. Reciprocally, they send a truck for reported structure fires in our district. The department also has mutual aid agreements with Golden Glow, the airport, Wellsburg and to help protect the West Hill area. The department has always had a Fire Marshal and Fire Inspector and has added a Municipal Training Officer to our staff. Hurricane Agnes hit the area the summer that the fire department was formed in 1972. That event enabled the fire department to demonstrate its recently added capabilities. The department became the base of operations and the control center for community operations during the flood. They also fed people at the station, had immunization clinics, helped evacuate, guarded neighborhoods, and helped restore the town. It was our opportunity to serve and shine and that is exactly what the department did.

In the 50 years since its founding, there have been many changes in firefighting technologies. The fire fighter protective gear has changed dramatically



Training is a mix of both state and department training. Most training is taught locally. There is much more training than there was in 1972. The products of combustion involve more man-made products which requires additional training to keep up to date on the hazards of dealing with those types of materials. We now have airbags and energy absorbing bumpers, etc.

Today, all volunteer departments are crying for new members. We have added part time employees to help with coverage. The 50th Anniversary is a great time for VOLUNTEERS to commit to serving our community. New members will be amazed at what they can do and anyone can get involved. The ideal candidate is settled, established, committed and young enough to be able to handle the physical challenges of the role. The department is like any other living thing and is constantly changing, growing, expanding, and contracting.

We ask for your support, assistance, and volunteering as we enter the next 50 years. We have so many paid and volunteer members to thank for their dedicated service to the community over the past 50 years. The hours and efforts put forth are amazing – and it's all been done for our community.

We have a great community and are proud as a fire department to be at the center of our community. Each fireman deserves our thanks. Fire Chiefs have done truly yeoman's service. These include Ron Mengel, Ralph Sheen, Howard Stage, Rick vonHagn, Jack LeValley & John vonHagn.

The Auxiliary has also been an integral part of our fire department. They were the cooks who prepared meals and fed our community members following the Agnes flood. They help with providing food and drinks for firefighters at large fires. They also help provide for comradery, sponsoring events which bring us together.

Change is part of existing as a department and the WEVFD will continue to change and adjust while providing critical emergency services for our community. Thank you for joining us in this golden anniversary celebration. We are proud to live in and serve this wonderful community.

2022 Tree Project

continued from cover

The inventory identified that we have a disproportionate number of Maple trees that were aging and require more care to keep healthy. The town plans to continue planting trees along our streets ROW (Right of Way) that are compatible with our climate while not causing wire utility conflicts and to better manage storm water in our community.



Imperial Honeylocust

The trees are part of a vital resource, the urban and community forest. This forest is made up of the trees in our yards, along our town streets, beside our river, streams, creeks, in our park and along our green spaces, and around the buildings in our community. Because of their close proximity to

people, urban and community forests are dynamic ecosystems where we interact with trees, other vegetation, soil, wildlife, waterways, and other natural resources. Our community trees are the "Green Infrastructure".

Trees have tremendous economic and social value in our community, so Let's Grow Together!



David Cook, Anthony Faulisi, Tom Holden

West Elmira Police Department



Town Of Elmira, New York
Traffic District #1



**** MISSION STATEMENT ****

To provide dedicated service, vigilant protection and excellence in law enforcement function, contributing to the quality of life of the citizenry of West Elmira, making our town a great place to live.

The West Elmira Police Department provides police and law enforcement services to the more than 4,500 residents of the Town of Elmira, NY Traffic District #1. The Traffic District was established by the New York State Senate in the year 1921 and then renewed in 1980.

It is approximately 2.7 square miles in area, and is situated just west of the City of Elmira.

The West Elmira Police Department is comprised of both full and part-time officers to provide the local community with 24-hour service and protection. They are staffed with a chief, one sergeant and several patrolmen.

In order to address increasing calls for service, the West Elmira Police Department made history by hiring a fifth full-time officer in 2022.

The West Elmira Police Department stresses community

policing and public interaction. They provide a police presence at public events such as the Congregation Kol Ami Jewish Food Festival, the Hendy Avenue School Blacktop Carnival and the West Elmira Fire Department Open House. Its officers escort and provide traffic control to local funeral processions, charity marathons and the annual Pirozzolo Park Baseball Parade.

The department works closely with the members of the Town of Elmira Board and the West Elmira Fire Department to better serve our community. They also maintain a strong working relationship with their fellow Chemung County law enforcement agencies.

For the most current news on the West Elmira Police Department please check out our Facebook page.

Photo Unavailable of Rich Weed



Robert Richards - Chief, John MacBeth - Sergeant



Tim Dacey, James Samuelson



Tom Barr, Matt Saunders



Joe Marrone, Mike Marrone