

ALFRED HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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VILLAGE OF ALFRED, 1916

A PAPER PREPARED FOR

THE ALFRED SEVENTH DAY BAPTIST CHURCH

SESQUICENTENNIAL OBSERVANCE, NOVEMBER 12, 1916

BY

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OTHER MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

JOHN W. JACOX
GEORGE A. PLACE

M. ELWOOD KENYON CAME TO ALFRED IN 1913 FROM WESTERLY, R.I., AND HAS BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH THE ALFRED MUTUAL SAVINGS AND LOAN ASSOC. SINCE 1928.

ALFRED, NEW YORK

" T H E F O L D "

The Village of Alfred, in 1916, was known as a quiet and friendly community where everyone knew and said "hello" to each other.

What was said to be the best water-bound macadam road in the county, if not in the state, led to Alfred Station. The streets and roads were gravel with flagstone sidewalks. Gas lights illuminated the streets and homes. The main source of heat was from open gas stoves. Coal was used for the few central heating systems. The sidewalks were kept open in the winter by a wooden snow plow drawn by one or two horses driven by Mont Collins who also brought freight by team from Alfred Station. There were a few automobiles, and walking was not yet a lost art and pleasure.

Most of the homes used village water from the wells and springs on the Water Wells Road. Many homes, however, still used their own wells and springs. Some had and used cisterns in the cellars to catch rain water.

In 1916 the water well on Reynolds Street was drilled to provide for the growing need for more water. At the Village election held that year \$1,500 was voted to install an air compressor and engine to pump the new well. A proposition to do away with the poll tax was defeated 10 to 8 at the same time. The following officers were elected: W. F. Burdick, President;

Frank A. Shaw and Curtis F. Randolph, Trustees; Ernest G. Greene, Collector; and E. P. Saunders, Treasurer.

The Red Bus Line was started January 1, 1916, with frequent trips to Hornell. Horse drawn stages met the Erie trains at Alfred Station.

Firemen's Hall housed the horse and hand drawn fire apparatus. It was also the community center where movies, plays, fairs, wrestling matches, banquets, and suppers were frequent and common occurrences. The Parish House was distinguished for the dinners and suppers of the Ladies' Aid Society.

The first place of business on Main Street was the photographic studio of Henry and Bessie Hunting in the large house on the corner of Main and West University Streets.

The corner grocery store was run by D. D. Randolph. B. S. Bassett owned the clothing and shoe store. Mrs. J. L. Beach ran the millinery and notions shop. The Rosebush Block was erected in 1912. Leonard Bremen's shoe repair parlor and the barber shop of Truman and Farley were in the basement. On the first floor were Carl Hurlburt's Alfred Cafe and the Post Office with Archie S. Gould as Postmaster. Eight suites on the second and third floors, managed by John Wolfe, served as a hotel.

The Susan Burdick Block was built also in 1912. The drug store of Fred H. Ellis was on the ground floor, and the insurance office of D. S. Burdick was upstairs.

Button and Bradley ran the meat market in the Fraternities' Building. The Odd Fellow Lodge and the Masonic Lodge, which started under dispensation in 1916, used the second and third floors. Ray W. Wingate owned a music studio in the front part

of the second floor.

Next was the University Bank Building with the dental office of Dr. W. W. Coon on the second floor. A hall on the third floor was used by the Alfred Grange.

Frank E. Stillman ran a general store. On the corner of Main and Church Streets was the hardware store and tin shop of Eli E. Fenner.

The local telephone office with its observant and friendly operators was located in the tailor shop of William H. Bassett.

The Rogers Machine Shop, the undertaking parlor owned by Phil S. Place with its famous exhibit, and the tin shop of Charles E. Greene brings us to the end of the business places on the west side of Main Street.

Across and lower down on the east side of Main Street, the kilns and tall chimney of the Celedon Tile Company were still standing. Also on the east side of the street was the bakery of H. E. Peters and the Alfred Mutual Loan Association building. The latter of these housed the Fidelity Co-operative Fire Insurance Company, whose officers included William C. Whitford as vice-president; E. O. Reynolds, Secretary; and Welcome F. Burdick, Treasurer. Frank A. Crumb was President of the Alfred Mutual Loan Association; E. P. Saunders, Secretary; and F. H. Ellis, Treasurer.

A. A. Shaw and Son owned the jewelry store where watches and clocks were also repaired. The Greene Block was occupied by V. A. Baggs' general store, where everything from groceries to furniture was stocked and sold.

Behind the Greene Block was the livery stable of William W. Sheldon.

Carnegie Library was new and used extensively. The office of the University President and Treasurer occupied the south half of the basement. Prexie's Bath Tub with its toads and occasional frosh was next. The last business block on Main Street was occupied by the Alfred Sun Publishing Association with Frank A. Crumb as Manager and Editor.

Back of the Corner Store was the small building now moved across the street and occupied by the Box of Books. In 1916 it was occupied by the "Fix It Shop" of George A. Stillman. We believe that the building, formerly a feed mill on the corner of Mill, West University, and Church Streets, was then vacant or used for storage.

At the intersection of West University and Church Streets were Frank S. Carnes' farm machinery sales room and the blacksmith shop of Al McOmber. Across the street from the church and in back of the present parsonage were the sheds, used by those who drove horses and carriages.

William I. Langworthy did teaming and draying, and John F. Langworthy provided ice from his pond.

There were three doctors. Dr. George A. Burdick had his office in the Hunting Building; Dr. E. W. Ayars was located in the present Community House on Church Street; and Dr. Daniel Main lived and had his office in the small apartment in the rear of the Alfred Mutual Loan Association Building.

Frank Sisson was the local constable and police officer.

The campus of Alfred University, starting with the Carnegie Library, consisted of Burdick Hall used as a dormitory; Kanakadea Hall; the old brick veneer Babcock Hall of Physics which had a small gym in the basement; the blacksmith shop of William H. Thomas,

who taught blacksmithing and welding; the Ceramic School; the New York State School of Agriculture; the residence of Charles F. Binns; Kenyon Hall with its auditorium on the first floor and class rooms in the basement and on the second floor; the Steinheim with biology, geology and natural science class rooms; the Rogers Observatory; Alumni Hall, which housed until June, 1915, the old Alfred Academy; the Gothic, the home of the Alfred Theology Seminary, with class rooms and living quarters for theological students; and the Brick with its large front porches.

Boothe C. Davis was President of Alfred University; A. B. Kenyon, Dean; and Curtis F. Randolph, Treasurer.

Arthur E. Main was Dean of the Theological Seminary.

Charles F. Binns was Director of the New York State School of Clay Working and Ceramics, and William J. Wright was Director of the New York State School of Agriculture.

Faces, names, and living conditions have changed; new homes and buildings have been built; and there is a campus on each side of the valley. Alfred, however, is still Alfred.