



25. Blacksmith Shop Enfield Center

CHAPTER 8 - Businesses and Doctors

Taverns

Enfield had its share of Taverns. Taverns were important to everyone. Travelers used them on their way east or west; local people gathered at taverns and inns to hear the news, pick up mail and socialize.

Information may be found on the following hotels/taverns in Chapter 6 – Buildings: VanMarter/Teeter Travis, Wallenbeck, Applegate, and VanDorn. The last three have New York State Historic Markers near the site where the building was located. Halfway between Applegate Tavern and VanDorn Tavern was located a farm used as an overnight resting stop for livestock drovers. It was said to be quite the sight to see the drovers come out in early morning to recapture their turkeys amongst the pasture trees.

Businesses

Enfield Center

Agriculture Implements: S.V. Graham (1888-1895); Henry Graham (1894-1895); J.L. Marshall (1894-1895); L.H. VanKirk (1876)

Attorney and Counselor at Law: William Bagley (1868,72,76)

Blacksmith: Timothy Crass 1872; D.F. Brown 1873-74; Corydon Breese 1872-74; John P. Broas 1864, 72; George Tucker 1868; William Barber 1868; John Ehle 1868; Charles Budd 1868; Ezra Tucker 1868; Daniel Barber 1864; Edwin Grant 1868; William Barber 1868, 73-74,76; James Updike & Brother 1876

Boot and Shoe Maker: Jas. Marshall 1864; Henry Hason 1888-1895; James Hine 1894-1895

Cabinet Maker: John G. Wortman 1864, 68

Carpenter: S.V. Graham 1864; John Rumsey 1864; Daniel Aiken 1868; Stephen Griffen 1868; Benjamin Budd 1868

Cooper: Sylvester J. Wright 1868,76; Wm. H. Jones 1876

Country Store Jas. Marshall 1864; Samuel D. Purdy 1864; Jason G. Jones 1872-74; Charles Wright

1876; J.G. & O. Wortman 1872-74,76

Dressmaker: Louise Jones 1868

Produce Dealers: James H. Marshall and Nelson Kellogg 1868

Grist Mill: Robert Halsey 1864; R.S. Halsey - 1876

Harness and Saddle Manf.: H.C. Wright 1864,72-74,76

Hotel Keeper: Aaron VanMarter 1868; L. Rumsey 1876; O. Williams 1876

Painter and Farmer: William Dean 1868

Physician: James A. Hovey 1864, 68; Peter Head 1864; Rufus Talmage 1864; W.H. Kyle 1876

Physician, Botanic: Peirson VanRensalaer 1868

Postmaster and Blacksmith: John Broas 1868 **Sawmills:** O. Bostwick 1864

Music Dealer : S.B. Rolfe 1876 **School Teacher:** Gertrude Marshall 1868

Shoemaker: Samuel Loomis 1868

Tailoress: Sophia Auble 1868 **Wheelwright** Edwin Rumsey 1864

Enfield - 1868-69:

Blacksmith Charles VanDine **Postmaster** Lewis VanKirk

Grist Mills William Culbertson and William C. Snow

Hotelkeeper Albert Rumsey **Moulder:** Austin Williams

Enfield Falls

Enfield Falls Hotel Mrs. Henrietta Wickham 1868; Charles Budd 1888-1895

Hotel James Bowen 1872-74; W.C. Snow 1876 **Blacksmith** Charles Budd 1872-74,76

Country Store William Duncan 1872-74,76 **Miller** W.C. Snow 1872-74

Saw Mill Wm. H. Drake 1876 **Grist Mill** A. Rumsey 1872-74,76; Robert Halsey 1876

1904¹

Dry Goods and Groceries boots & shoes, clothing & Syracuse Plows

Chas. Wright, Enfield Center

Undertaking: W.H. Jones, Jr., Enfield Center

Machinery: F.A. Nobles – D.M. Osborne, Enfield Center

Physician & Surgeon – Minor McDaniels, Enfield; A.S. Knight, M.D., Enfield

Wheels, Axles –wagon repairs Frank H. Barber, Enfield Center; W.V. Rumsey – Enfield Center, N.Y.

NOTE: The following Enfield businesses have their history here because they shared it with our Town Historian's Business History Collection.

Johnny's Wholesale, Inc. (1996) by Alice Neno

Johnny's Wholesale, Inc. was preceded by several enterprises. John A. Neno, Sr. originally started out as Johnny's Welding Service in March 1952 in a garage located in the rear of 201 Center Street in Ithaca, N.Y. After a year or so, he purchased the property at 716-720 W. Green St. and moved the welding shop to that location.

The welding business grew and we started selling recast concrete steps as a result of building the iron railings for the step manufacturers in Elmira, Utica and Syracuse. This necessitated the purchase of a truck with a hoist to deliver and install the steps.

A manufacturer of concrete septic tanks followed our truck through town one-day and since he was looking for someone in this area to sell his products, he convinced John to try selling septic tanks. Before long, it was necessary to purchase another truck to handle the volume of sales.

About this same time, many people were coming in wanting fireplace screens made. Soon we were into aluminum doors and windows. The next step was aluminum and canvas awnings. Ornamental and cast iron items were becoming popular. The second floor of the welding shop was remodeled and these items were displayed and sold from there.

That sales room rapidly became too small. When the Ithaca Tallow Co. building became available, John purchased that and remodeled it into a sales and display area. The name was changed to The Iron Shop.

Late in December 1969, there were so many facets going, the decision was made to break the business up. The gift shop and fireplace equipment was sold as one unit that continued on as the Iron Shop, which later moved to the Ithaca Commons.

The welding shop, steps, etc. were sold to another business enterprise, which was succeeded by what is today Finger Lakes Fabricating on W. Court St. in Ithaca.

John kept the septic tank and related concrete items and moved the business to his home on Mecklenburg road in the spring of 1970. The name was changed to Johnny's Tank Service.

Later, a line of PVC pipe and fittings was added. A couple years later, the name was changed to Johnny's Wholesale Service.

When the property on the corner of Applegate and Mecklenburg roads became available, a pole barn was erected and storage lots were moved to where the business is located today on South Applegate road.

John Neno Sr. retired in July 1990 and the name was changed to Johnny's Wholesale, Inc., managed by his son Richard Neno, Sr.

Rumsey-Loomis Machine Company (1992)

Stan Rumsey² was owner and partner in the Rumsey-Loomis Machine Company located at 1514 Mecklenburg road. His partners were Sid Rumsey and Dale Loomis. The business started in 1962 with Stan and Ernest Maser. They employed 3 part time machinists in 1992. They advertised for work of milling, turning, plastics, steel and aluminum.

The Rumsey family owned a Corn Broom Factory in Enfield before 1922. They purchased the broom-corn used in the making of the brooms. In 1922 the barn and house, located on Woodard Road burned stopping all production of broom making.

Note from an Enfield Resident: Mr. Rumsey raised the broom corn himself and purchased it from near by farmers. I have heard my father talk about Mr. Rumsey no doubt he had a shop and the near by farmers furnished the broom corn. He was well known for his excellent brooms "Rumsey Brooms".

More Information on Enfield's Undertaking Business - A conversation with Mrs. Nora Dodd (9/9/1979) by Helen Smith

Mr. Jones, Nora's father, became Assistant to the local undertaker, Mr. John G. Wortman in 1895.

The undertaking parlors were in the north side of what is now Newhart's Store. The hearse was kept in the basement. In those days the caskets came as bare wooden boxes covered with black cloth. The undertakers did all the finishing. Mrs. Dodd recalls watching her father and Mr. Wortman line the wooden boxes with padding, using a tiny magnetized tack hammer. Then the padding was covered with tufted satin from a bolt, which contained enough for one casket. At that time she recalls the average funeral cost about \$100-\$125. When Mr. Wortman died, Mr. Jones took over the business, which ran until his retirement in 1935, at which time he was the oldest licensed undertaker in New York State.

Al's Bakery By Eunice Beardsley

Elvin Beardsley husband of Eunice Beardsley, North VanDorn road, opened his own bakery in Trumansburg, New York in 1969. He sold retail. One of the department supervisors in the Nutrition Department at Cornell University, Ithaca, stopped by one day and asked for samples of bakery products and the prices on the products. They came back and said Willard Straight dining Department, Noyes Lodge, Myron Taylor Hall, Baker Hall, and Home Economics wanted our business starting in September. The place in Trumansburg was too small so we tried to find a place to rent. We could not find a place so decided to build on North VanDorn Road. First we got in touch with the Health Department as to abide with all rules and approvals. We built a Butler building, including a 12-foot addition. More equipment was ordered and we passed the Health Department inspection we were ready for business. After working for the University, The COOP Food Store wanted daily deliveries. Besides the bakery and fried products that Cornell wanted, they requested apple, cherry, and pineapple turnovers, Boston Crème pies, cakes, cookies, date nut bread, sliced white and whole wheat bread, jelly and glazed doughnuts, and sweet buns.

My husband was the baker with years of experience in all types of baking. I was the helper - learning. We put in 18 to 20 hours a day. He even delivered all the goods.

When it came Trumansburg Fair time he made and delivered to them 15 chocolate and 15 lemon pies — 9-inch tins for the pie-eating contest. The business closed eventually, due to the failing health of Mr. Beardsley.

Weaving with Ruth Place³ by Hilda Amberge

Ruth Place made her first coverlet 50 years ago. She sent fleeces to a company in Maine and received skeins of yarn in return. She made coverlets and wool blankets. She also made many fine weave items: table runners, place mats, sets of curtains, and fabrics from which she made clothes; wool shirt, wool sweater, cotton skirt.

Seven looms at least remain in the family, one made by Hulse Smith, and one made by Diane Lawrence from pieces of old looms. Ruth Place often went to help people put up and repair looms; she went to the Dewitt Historical Museum in Ithaca, to set up the loom there.

She started weaving in 1923. The major part of her work was weaving rag rugs. This she continued right up to the winter of her death in 1984.

Nina Linton⁴ by Rhoda Linton

Nina will probably be most remembered for her quilts, but there was so much more to this much faceted person. More than 26 quilts were given to relatives at a reunion a few summers ago. Many others were made and used while her children were growing up. She worked at quilting bees and on the Senior Citizens raffle quilts for the Enfield Community Council for many years.

While on a trip to Hawaii she took a class in Hawaiian quilting and taught the technique on her return. She also made many quillos - a quilt within a cover to look like a pillow, but ready for use. She taught ceramics for years - pouring, painting and glazing. Her garage had hundreds of molds on shelves.

Many Afghans were made and given away. Hundreds of baby hats for the newborn were made for Tompkins Community Hospital.

In 1928 Nina went to Norwich normal school. Her first teaching job was in Chenango County. After raising her children she taught in one and two room schools while earning a specialty in reading at various colleges. Her degree was granted in 1962. She taught from 1950-1972. Among her schools were the one room school at VanDorn's Corners and the two room at Bethel Grove. She finished her career in teaching as a reading specialist.

As her children were growing up she was active in 4-H, Grange, Eastern Star and piano playing for Church and Choir practice.

Blacksmith Shop - Clarence Fitchpatrick (1940's) was located on the corner of Enfield Center Road and Enfield Main Road. **Blacksmith** Otho Newman - located on Bostwick Corners and Enfield Main Roads. He would come to shoe horses at homes after dark. Charlie Wright's (approximately 1930-40) **Peddling Wagon** traveled from house to house through out Enfield selling from his wagon - groceries, household items, and a few clothes (men's overalls). Eggs were used as a bartering unit along with money. Some families would sometimes have over 12 dozen eggs to trade at once. Charlie would give 12 to 15 cents a dozen eggs and sell the lot at a store in Jacksonville. A **Slaughter House and Meat Market** was located on West Enfield Center Road east of the Methodist church (approximately 1930-1940) on the northwest corner of Enfield Center Road and Main Road. John Thall raised five boys four of whom are still living (2000). He had a general store and meat market there plus a truck, which he used for delivering fresh meat and fish (packed in ice) to people in Pony Hollow and Enfield Falls area. He would give the dogs a piece of hot dog so he was always welcome. "Jack" had a slaughter house between the store and church. The family lived in the back of the store and upstairs. The building is still standing.

Physicians

The people of Enfield had their share of practicing physicians in the town. These early physicians would go to their patient's homes for sick calls. The Physician was also involved in the town by means of holding a representative Health Officer position of the town.

"Medicine Shows" visited the town in the 1920's. One remembered show was set up at Miller's Corners. A big tent was set up with "Circus seating" set up inside the tent. People came in horse and buggy to the show. The show consisted of the showing of "snake oils" - liniments advertised as fit for man or beast. Rumor says the liniment smelled to "high heaven". 2-3 bottles of liniment would sell for a dollar. Shows would come and go over night.

Tompkins County Medical Society - Registered Physicians

In 1880 the "Registration Law" was passed, which required all physicians to personally register with the county clerk, their name, place of birth, proposed residence in the county, the institution or society by which they were licensed, and the date of such license or diploma.

Samuel E. Clark practiced in Ulysses and Enfield 1829.

O.C. Comstock practiced medicine in Enfield (Ulysses) 1818.

J.C. Hall practiced medicine in Enfield and Ithaca 1831.

Charles T. Kelsey - Registered September 25, 1880, Enfield; born in Enfield; graduated Jefferson Medical College, of the State of New York, February 3, 1874.

Dr. Charles T. Kelsey was a native of Enfield and lived there for 65 years. During the war he was surgeon in 64th New York Regiment of Volunteers and one of the wealthiest residents of the town. He had a wife, daughter and 2 sons. One of the sons graduated from Cornell University and the other attended. Dr. Kelsey died October 8, 1893 from injuries he received during a horse and wagon accident.

Archibald Knight was listed in the 1900 United States Census as a physician in the Town of Enfield. He was born November 1870.

Edmond H. Kyle registered September 15, 1880, Enfield; born in Harrisville, Butler county, PA, graduated University of Pennsylvania, March 13, 1876. He practiced medicine in Enfield from 1876 to 1881, he then moved to Ithaca. In Ithaca he became one of the leading physicians of the city. He died June 8, 1914 from cardiac asthma.

Dr. Minor McDaniels was born in Enfield December 13, 1872. He died in Ithaca, NY, June 6, 1937. He was a graduate of the University of Buffalo Medical College in 1904 and returned to Enfield to begin his practice. In 1911 he opened a medical practice in Ithaca. He was Tompkins County Assemblyman in 1910-1912. He held the presidency of the Tompkins County Medical Society. During World War I he was Captain of the Medical Corps for 6 months in France. Dr. Minor McDaniels visited the children in the local schools and gave them "check-ups" and administered the "shots" that were given to children at that time.

D.K. McLallen practiced medicine in Ulysses and Enfield 1833.

Edward Meany registered June 10, 1890, Ithaca; born at Enfield; the Medical Department of the University of Buffalo, March 1, 1887.

Joshua S. Miller practiced medicine in Enfield 1833.

Dr. David Robb was a native of Kingston, Ontario. He started general practice in Enfield in 1911 after completing his education from Queens University, Kingston, and internships at Perry City Hospital in Ontario and Willard State Hospital. During World War I he served as Captain Medical Corpsman. He retired as a physician in 1965.

A.C. Sherwood practiced medicine in Enfield and Newfield 1841.

John R. Selover was listed in the 1900 United States Census as a physician in the Town of Enfield. He was born January 1824.

Huldah Gould Smith,⁵ registered August 30, 1880, Ithaca; born in Enfield 1883; graduated Eclectic Medical College, New York, February 3, 1880. She practiced in New Jersey and later from her home on Iradell Road. She died at the home of her daughter in Rochester, May 19, 1903.⁶

Charles D. Vernooy, registered July 25, 1892, Enfield; born at Accord, Ulster county; graduated Syracuse University College of Medicine, June 9, 1892.

T. Lysander, registered April 7, 1883, Enfield Centre; born in Cayutaville, Schuyler County, N.Y. graduated University of Buffalo, February, 1869.

J.P.A. Williams practiced medicine in Enfield 1821.

Parvis A. Williams practiced medicine in Ulysses and Enfield 1818.

Leon Beardsley in the early 1930's.

Louis 'Doc' Humphrey by Helen Smith

On the 24th day of December 1923, Louis C. Leonard of Enfield, became Louis F.L. Humphrey. Louis was born April 27, 1887, the son of Carrie Rumsey and Parker Leonard. When Louis was thirty-six years of age he made the decision to change his name. He petitioned the court to allow him to assume the new name because there were so many people in his neighborhood with the same last name of Leonard. Mail was often mis-delivered and had been opened and read by others, and in other cases letters were never delivered at all. He stated in his petition that there were no other "Humphreys" in the area and he could be sure of receiving his mail. The petition took place on November 23, 1923 and was, by law, required to be published in a public newspaper. It was published in the "Ithaca Journal-News" on November 24 and became official on December 24.

According to hearsay, Louis was quite "taken" with Dr. Frederick Humphrey's patent medicines of the day and this may have contributed to his choice of name. The fact that he chose the initials "F.L." with his new name would indicate this might well have been among his reasons.

Some Enfield residents can recall that Lou Humphrey was often referred to as "Doc" Humphrey - it, also has been recalled that he "practiced" some so-called "medicine" in the community.

NOTE: Dr. Frederick Humphrey's M.D.V.S. sold medicine guides and patent medicines "For every living thing on the farm". This ad for Humphreys Witch Hazel Oil appeared in the Trumansburg Free Press April 13, 1985.