

Hawkinsville, A Thriving Community In 1855

Several factories, three churches, three schools, two hotels, four blacksmith shops and a live community spirit made up the village of Hawkinsville

Bustling Village Fades To Hamlet With One Mill

Once Bright Prospects for Growth Changed With Construction of Railroad, West of Section

By MRS. LENA M. SCHEIDLEMAN

Boonville, Oct. 11.—A busy, thriving, industrial town, with prospects for a bright future was Hawkinsville, shown in the picture above taken about 1855, but the course of the Black River Railroad completely changed the picture.

Hawkinsville in the early days was larger than Boonville and had every prospect of growing steadily, until the railroad was built through Boonville, leaving Hawkinsville entirely off its course. Gradually the mills closed until now the little hamlet can boast of but one mill.

Factories Once Made Thriving Village

Hawkinsville was settled in 1824 by Sterry Hawkins, David Porter and Moses Johnson, who, as partners, built a sawmill and a dam on Black River. The next year they built a grist mill and about 1832 a carding mill and a fulling mill. It was not an unusual sight to see yards and yards of cloth stretched on the frames to dry, the frames reaching from 75 to 100 feet. The frames were across the road from the mill at the right of the bridge. The mill was operated for many years by Orra Martin, an eccentric character. In 1869 the saw mill was carried away by a freshet.

Shown in the picture, which is the property of Mrs. Mae Hevener, Hawkinsville, is a chair factory on the opposite bank of the river where chairs and tables were manufactured and disposed of in New York City. Ten hands were employed and the annual business of the mill averaged from \$5,000 to \$6,000 with flattering prospects for the future. The chairs were made of maple and the tables of birch, and cherry, all obtained from nearby forests.

A tram railroad ran from the sawmill on the bank of the river to the bank of the Black River Canal, where the lumber was loaded onto canal boats.

Was Called 'Slab City' The Hawkinsville post office was established in the neighborhood of 1850 and Sterry Hawkins was appointed first postmaster. The village was called "Slab City" before the post office was established. This name originated, it is believed, on account of the large amount of slab wood turned out at the mill, and of the road from the river to the canal built of slabs.

The only industry in the town at present is the excelsior mill, located on the site of the old grist mill. D. C. West of Lowville built the mill and about 15 years later, Walter C. Brant, the present owner, bought the mill and built a new dam on the river. About eight hands are employed here in making excelsior which is shipped to various points within the state. This excelsior is used mainly in packing, for mattresses, cushions, casket work, also for filtration in glue factories.

Three Churches Flourished Hawkinsville once had three churches: The German Lutheran Church, clearly shown in the picture in the center background; was later torn down, each piece labeled and was moved to Otter Lake a number of years ago and rebuilt in its original form and used as a community church. The German Catholic Church, located at the western end of town, was built about 1860; it has not been used in many years, but the walls and steeple still stand as a symbol of bygone days. There was also a Methodist Protestant Church, which was later torn down and removed to Port Leyden. The Methodist Episcopal Society was organized in 1860 but the society had no church edifice, so the meetings were held in the schoolhouse until in 1882, when the present church was built and is now used as a community church and has been active in late years under the pastorate of the Rev. William Eddy.

When the feeder to the Black River canal was being dug in 1840 and before, there was considerable "floating" or temporary population at this place. Theodore Dennison opened a small store and saloon about 1837-1838. The first regular store was

when this picture was taken 84 years ago. The place had bright prospects of becoming the largest village in the Town of Boonville until the Black River

lived, then one of the show places of the village with a white picket fence around it. It now stands alone with only a few stately elms around it; once it was in the midst of a lively settlement.

Three Schools Built

In the neighborhood were three schools, one near the church, shown in the picture, one near where the Selter camps now are, and the other near the tannery. There were about eighty children in each of the two schools and about sixty in the other, with only one teacher in each school. About 1884, the schools were consolidated and school was held in the Mechanics Hotel for a year until the present Union School was built in 1885. This building is still in use and up to about a year ago, two teachers were employed, each having four grades, but since many are being transported to the Boonville School, only one teacher is now engaged.

The cheese factories were operated by William Sperel, on the river road by Cold Brook. In later years, Chris Zwahlen conducted a cheese factory near his home. Among the first settlers in Hawkinsville were Joseph Hull sr. and Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Hull jr. and a Miss Rhoda Grey, who came with the junior Hulls from Killingsworth, Conn., the men having come to work in the sawmill.

Miss Grey and the senior Mr. Hull were married. They were the grandparents of Charles Murray, one of the best known residents of that section.

Early Teachers Listed

Among the teachers in the Union School from 1885 to 1895 in the advanced department were: Herbert R. Tubbs, Miss Carrie Lee, Miss Harriet Rogers, George C. Hayes, Miss Jessie Post, Charles D. Kau, Miss Katie Cassidy, W. Jay Andrews, Miss Lettie Smith, Miss Joanna Cassidy, Alson Wheeler, Frank Neiss and Sarah Gallagher. In the primary department during the same years were: Mrs. L. Charbonneau, Miss Katie Brockert, Miss Katie Shaffer, Miss Lettie Griffith, Miss Libbie Burr, Miss Kate Cassidy, Miss Helen Bateman, Miss Anna Thorp, Miss Florence Burr and Miss Grace McGinis.

An old program of closing exercises held in Union Hall Feb. 17, 1888, gave Herbert R. Tubbs as principal and Lettie E. Griffith as assistant; C. Eli Joslin as trustee and Jerome F. Hiltz, Simon O'Connor and El Joslin were the Board of Decision. The pupils who entertained with recitations and songs were: May and Madge Potter, Arthur Joslin, Carrie Wood, Louis O'Leary, Ella Griffith, Willie Cannon, Libbie Ruth, Anna Thorp, James Griffith, Rosa Weidner, Carrie Haas, Freddie LaQuay, Kattie Weidner, Murta Murray, Flora Hoffman, Kattie Scanlon, Jay O'Connor, Charles Thorp and Charles Griffith.

Tannery Built in 1852 Not shown in the picture, but recalled by other residents, was the settlement on this side of the river, of which only two buildings are standing. It was here that the Eureka Tannery was built in 1852 by William Anderson and later owned and operated by his son, George.

This building was 316 x 40 feet, besides the beach house, engine house and boiler room; all that can be seen of this once thriving industry is a long depression marking where the tannery stood and a small portion of a wall of the engine room.

Fifty hands were employed here, 26 in getting out and hauling bark, and the others in the tannery. About 25,000 hides were tanned annually, valued at about \$250,000. About 5,000 cords of hemlock bark were used. Sole leather was manufactured exclusively and sold principally in New York and Boston. Power was furnished by Cummings Creek, although the tannery stood on the bank of Black River. At the upper right of the picture, can be seen the Anderson store house where the hides were stored before being shipped. Many were shipped by canal while others were drawn by team to New York.

In connection with the tannery and built near it, was a large boarding house, eleven tenant houses, a home for the superintendent, a store, a blacksmith shop and a carpenter shop. Of all these, only two buildings remain, with nothing to mark where the others had stood but small depressions in the ground which would be unnoticed by the casual observer.

West Leyden

West Leyden, Oct. 11.—Mr. and Mrs. Fred Weibel and family, Vernon White of Lee Center were Sunday guests in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Charles G. Ernst. Mr. and Mrs. Karl Kappler and daughter, Margaret visited relatives in Syracuse on Sunday. Supt. and Mrs. A. Winfield Trainor and son, Hugh are in New York City this week where Supt. Trainor is attending a convention of district superintendents of the New York State Association. There will be a donkey basketball game at the West Leyden Central School Tuesday evening, October 17 at 8 o'clock. The members of the Board of Education and the bus drivers will play against the men faculty members.

WAKE UP YOUR LIVER BILE

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Constableville. SCHOOL CLASSES SELECT OFFICERS

Constableville, Oct. 11.—The class officers for the Constableville Central School have been elected for the coming year: Senon class, Robert Anken, president; Leslie Felshaw, vice-president; Bernard Dolan, secretary and treasurer; Ruth Bassett and Roger Viennau, student council; class adviser, Mr. Kaskela.

Junior class: John Felshaw, president; Ruth Kraeger, vice-president; Virginia Gawlekoski, secretary and treasurer; Janice Markham and Elizabeth Taylor, student council; class adviser, Mrs. Wendt.

Sophomore class: Harold Long, president; Mary Wynne, vice-president; Dorothy Crane, secretary; David Louis, treasurer; Ruth Taylor and Francis Kelly, student council; class adviser, Mr. Kent.

Freshman class: Leonard Gawlekoski, president; Ray Puchyr, vice-president; Benny Fields, secretary; Regina Hoffert, treasurer; student council, Shirley McConnell; class adviser, Miss Mandeville.

Eighth grade: Martha Jane, president; Janet Markham, vice-president; Audrey Roser, secretary; George Bassett, treasurer; Herbert Crane, student council; class adviser, Mr. Finnegan.

Seventh grade: Dorothy Murphy, president; Shirley LaFave, vice-president; Katherine Kraeger, secretary; Marion Bassett, treasurer; Gladys Crane, student council; class adviser, Miss Hnat. There will be no school in the Central School Thursday or Friday in observance of Columbus Day.

Constableville, Oct. 11.—A son

branch of the New York Central Railroad was opened with its line running several miles west of the section. Those persons familiar with Hawkinsville in

were born to Mr. and Mrs. George Rutledge of Highmarket at the Lewis County Hospital Friday, October 6.

Mr. and Mrs. Edward McGovern and sons spent Sunday with the former's mother, Mrs. Philip McGovern in Utica.

Chester Freeman of Ithaca was a recent visit of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Freeman.

Mrs. Margaret Dolan has returned home after a visit with relatives in Fabius and Cazenovia. Mr. and Mrs. Henry B. Taylor were Sunday dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Hughes in Utica. Principal and Mrs. Kaskela attended the Cornell-Syracuse football game at Ithaca Saturday.

Mrs. Agnes Latham of Rochester is visiting her daughter, Miss Mildred Reynolds. Mr. and Mrs. Charles Parkhurst Mr. and Mrs. George Spandt of Oneida were Sunday guests of Mr. and Mrs. Adelbert Parkhurst.

Dr. and Mrs. Homer J. Knickerbocker of Geneva called on friends in town during the weekend.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred J. Lighthall and family of Syracuse were weekend visitors of Emory G. Allen and family.

Mrs. Berntha Cavanaugh and son, Bernard have closed their house and will spend the winter with her son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Dunbar in New Hampshire.

Miss Anne Dolan was among those to be in Ithaca Saturday to attend the Cornell - Syracuse football game; she also visited in Skaneateles.

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Golt of Rowayton, Conn., who spent the past week at their summer home here, left Monday for Honolulu where they will spend the winter.

Mrs. Elizabeth Fineout has returned to her home in Phoenix; she was accompanied by Miss Anna Klett who will visit there for a few days.

Miss Helen Miller, student of

Holland Patent JUNIOR RED CROSS FORMED AT SCHOOL

New Unit Elects Officers to Serve for Year

STUDENT COUNCIL HAS SELECTED NEW STAFF

Future Farmers and Dramatic Club Reorganize

Holland Patent, Oct. 11.—An auxiliary of the Junior Red Cross is being organized in Holland Patent Central School. Delegates were sent to a convention held at the John F. Hughes School in Utica where they were told how to organize an auxiliary and learned much of what other chapters were doing.

Miss Wolcott, school nurse, suggested that two representatives from each room be elected to a Junior Red Cross Council, which would guide the auxiliary's activities. The following members were elected to offices: Chairman, Charles McArdle; assistant chairman, Dorothy Hall; secretary, Betty Bagg; treasurer, Clarence Ryckman.

Student Council Formed The Senior-High Student Council has been organized for the year. Members are from the post-

Syracuse University, spent the week-end with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Albert J. Miller.

The Misses Amy Carpenter and Emma Hathaway, student nurses at Strong Memorial Hospital in Rochester, spent the week-end at their respective homes.

the distant past may recognize many buildings which made up the village at that time.

graduate, senior, junior, and sophomore classes. The representatives from each class are as follows: Elinor Cady, post-graduate; June Emhof, Leslie Dunn, senior class; Doris Lloyd, Leonard MacAllister, junior class; Albert Bagg, sophomore class.

Officers of the council are: Donald Pain, president; Leslie Dunn, vice-president; June Emhof, secretary; Elinor Cady, treasurer.

The purpose of the student council is to discuss what the students of the school like and dislike and try to regulate their problems by making uniform laws concerning them. Problems brought in by the teachers are considered. They have the power to grant charters to clubs.

Young Farmers Elect The young farmers of Holland Patent made an excellent account of themselves this year at the Syracuse State Fair, winning the first prize in the Dairy Herd Improvement Contest for the sixth straight year.

The following club officers have been elected for the year: President, Fred Ruffrage; vice-president, Bob Dicker; treasurer, Roland Schallenberg; secretary, Fritz Klossner; reporter, Edwin Slusarczyk.

The club conducted a domestic tree enterprise. All members of the club were encouraged to bring a common tree in this area to the school. This tree will be planted on the plot in the rear of the school and labeled for the benefit of new members coming into the club. This will serve as a means of promoting tree identification.

The club plot was harvested this year and the potato production was about 250 bushels to the acre. The club also renovated the old orchard in the rear of the school.

The Senior High Dramatics Club was organized Tuesday with a membership of twenty students. Election of officers was held with the following selected: President,

Edwin Slusarczyk; vice-president, Jane McIntosh; secretary, Bridget Ann Furlong; treasurer, Eric McQuaid.

The name of the club is "The Thespians". Idwal Jones is club adviser. The club plans to sponsor either a movie or play in the near future and will hold regular meetings each Tuesday at 3 p. m.

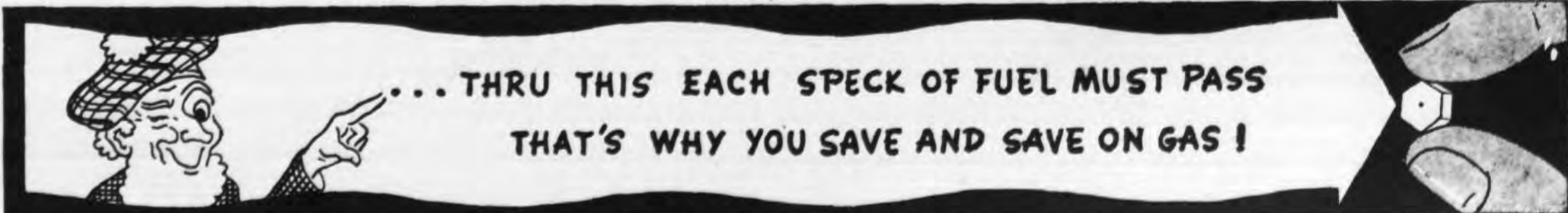
Utica Business Records Sharp Increase In 1939 Utica, Oct. 11.—Utica business recorded strong gains during the first three quarters of 1939, climbing the nine-month period with substantial advances in September, according to the business indicators compiled by the Chamber of Commerce.

In September, business forged ahead of August in eight of the 10 indices tabulated by the chamber, while the nine-month comparison with 1938 figures showed sharp gains in nine of 11 indices. The State Labor Department report on this industrial district showed that industrial employment advanced 4 per cent in September, while industrial payroll rose 1 per cent.

Sanzone Awarded 332 By Jury in City Court

A verdict of \$332.55 was awarded Samuel Sanzone, 304 W. Walnut St., against Steve Lorusso, 313 Ann St., by a city court jury yesterday. Sanzone sued for \$397.55, which he said was due him for fruits and vegetables sold to Lorusso.

One of the witnesses for the plaintiff was Surrogate E. Howard Ringrose, who produced records of the estate of Philip Sanzone, father of the plaintiff, these records showing the estate was in litigation from 1931 to 1939. This was the first time in memory of those present a county judge had been a witness in city court. Special City Judge Francis J. Lawler was on the bench.



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