

NNHS NEWS LETTER

Northville Northampton Historical Society

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Editor
Gail M Cramer



ALLEN AND PALMER BUILDING 1885



Museum is officially closed for the season except for special tours or will be opened by request when someone is available to show it. Call 863 - 2628

Today we refer to this building as the Allen and Palmer Hardware Store.. It wasn't always a hardware store. Andrew Palmer and Edwin Allen did have two different hardware stores but their's wasn't in this building.

This building was built as an investment as they rented it out to other businesses, many years before it became what we know today as the Allen and Palmer Hardware Store. The owners today in 2013 are Shawn Darling and Lee Robinson.

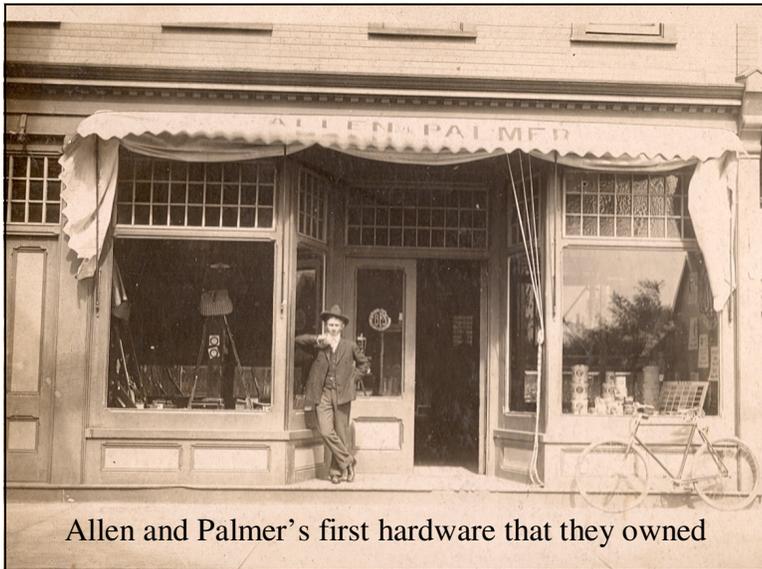
The rest of the story of this building continues on page 4

As I was researching the history of the Palmer and Allen Families I came across a John C. Palmer who is currently compiling the history of the Palmer Family. Benjamin Palmer was the father of the original owners of "Allen and Palmer Hardware." Benjamin moved to Northampton from Haverhill, MA around 1842 and settled in Parkville (a small settlement just north of Northville that is now under the Great Sacandaga Lake. Benjamin had a twin brother that was so identical that as a baby the parents had a gold ring put in Joseph's ear so as to identify the boys The Palmer genealogy is very interesting but I won't go into it here..



Mary Brown Palmer
Wife of Andrew
1849 - 1915

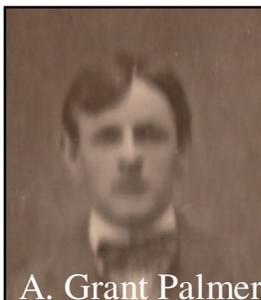
Andrew Grant Palmer
Son of Benjamin
1843 - 1891



Allen and Palmer's first hardware that they owned



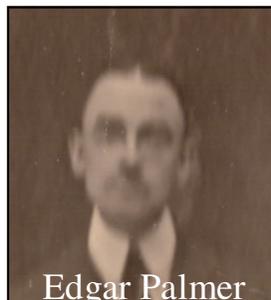
About 1904



A. Grant Palmer

Son of Edgar
1893 - 1972

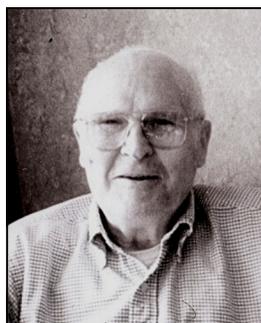
Always known as Grant



Edgar Palmer

son of Andrew
1870 - 1926

Edgar had a twin brother,
Frederick, that died at birth.



William Miller Conover
"Bill"

1922- 2005

Active in his community
and his church

Edwin Allen

(The following sketch written by an unknown writer)

Was born and grew up in Vermont. He was in the Civil War and served three days in the Battle of Gettysburg. He came to Northville, NY after the war and with Andrew Palmer, a native of Northville, opened a hardware store. They sold all kinds of stoves. They made their stove pipes and dampers by hand. The store was in the old James Willard block.

In 1870 Edwin Allen and Andrew Palmer started a Hardware business in Northville at the north end of the James R. Willard Block (which was where Rite Aid Drugstore is today). After a time the owners of the building needed the space so they were given four months to relocate the hardware store..

In 1882 a new building was erected which became the new Allen and Palmer Hardware store.

Edwin Allen and Andrew Palmer formed a partnership in 1875 and acquired Samuel B Benton's hardware business which he had operated since 1870. The store was next door to the Hard Pan Store, just north of what we now know as the Kitchenette.

These pictures on the left show the outside and inside of that hardware store.

After the death of the original owners, Edgar G., son of Andrew, ran the business. In 1911 DeForest H. Miller joined Edgar in the business of the Hardware Store.

A. Grant Palmer, son of Edgar, handicapped from contracting polio as a child, ran the business for 45 years. Many of us remember him. He retired in 1960 and sold the Hardware store to William Conover, DeForest Miller's nephew.

Remember Earl Vail? He was the book-keeper there for 25 years. Earl was also a fine violin player.

Information for this month's newsletter came from the archives of the historian, scrapbooks, John Palmer genealogy, Shawn Darling, and the Palmer photo album.

Pictures copied from a Palmer Photo Album
that was donated to the archives of the Town/Village Historian



THE PALMER HOUSE 1898
South Main Street (still there today)



Edgar Palmer
and son A Grant Palmer



Mr. And Mrs. Edgar G Palmer and Son Grant
Mr. Walter Scott driving his surrey and team



A. Grant Palmer on the sled and Henry (?)



Esther and son, A. Grant

Esther and Grant Palmer
J. S. Dowman, NORTHVILLE, N. Y.

ESTHER COLE PALMER

Esther was Edgar Palmer's wife and mother of A. Grant Palmer. She was from a very prominent Cole family in Northville. Very active in social affairs in the village and very active in the Baptist Church. Esther's parents were James and Emeline Smith Cole. She had a sister Carrie that was married to Rev. Maurice Russell. Rev. Russell was pastor of the Northville Baptist Church and was the father of Walter Russell and grandfather to Maurice "Maurie" Russell and Robert Russell.

ALLEN AND PALMER HARDWARE STORE THAT WE KNOW TODAY 2013



Edwin Allen gave his nephew (by marriage) DeForest Miller a job in the hardware after he graduated from high school. Later Mr. Miller took his nephew, William Conover in to help.

In 1958 William "Bill" Conover bought the business from DeForest Miller and Grant Palmer and moved the hardware store to the 1885 brick building in 1969.

When Bill's health was failing he decided to sell the business and the building. Shawn Darling and Lee Robinson both had worked there in high school and then later on came back to work there, so knew the business and always worked well with Mr. Conover.

In 1997 Shawn and Lee bought the business and the building from Bill. It still has the old flavor and friendliness of an old home town store. A great place to have a chat with other customers and share about each others projects or a building problem they might have. They are always helpful and eager to serve their hometown folks and the many summer folks who also feel welcome.

As was mentioned before, this building started out as an investment by Mr Allen and Mr. Palmer. They rented it out to a number of businesses over the years before the a Hardware store moved to this location.

Among the businesses that occupied this building over the years were:

- Hiram Resseguie's Feed Store
- US Post Office
- Arnold Whitman's Barber Shop
- M. B. Auerbach Variety Store
- Henry Early's Jewelry Store
- Samuel Harris' Clothing Store
- Samuel Weaver's Jewelry store
- Rubicheck' Men's Clothing Store
- B. C. Sanford's General Clothing Store
- Ray Seidel's Jewelry Store
- Carl Bradt's Jewelry Store
- Jack Darby's Sporting Goods Store
- Ed Hannah's Sporting Goods Store
- Pool Room

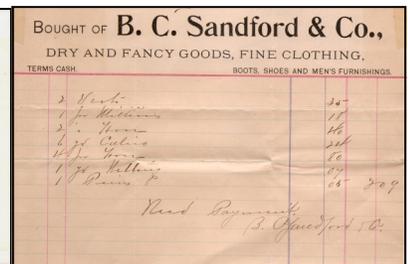
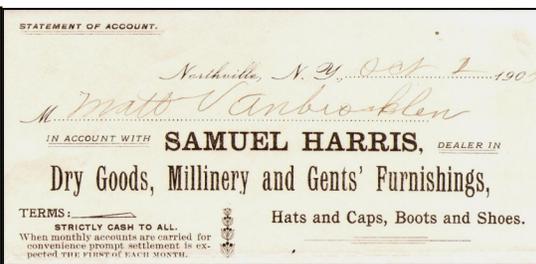
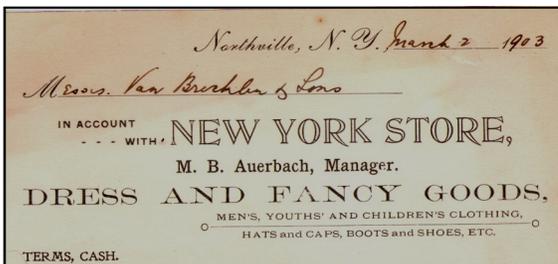
Upstairs:

The Broadalbin Electric Light and Power Co had an office

The telephone office was there for awhile

And also an apartment was on the second floor at one time.

Can you think of any that I've missed?



NORTHVILLE FOLKS WE WILL NOT FORGET



Board of Education in 1955

Seated: Norman Storer, Leslie Hayden, and Herbert Corey
 Standing: Ervin Angell, Robert Russell, Claude Lipe, Charles Owens

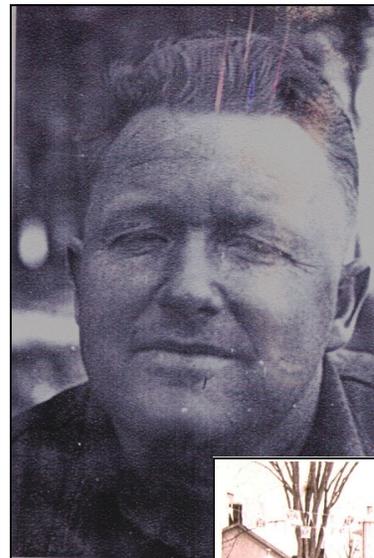


Mrs. Leona Warner

She was the school secretary and the only one. She answered the phone and was always the only office personel for many years. (1940's, '50's and maybe longer) She was married to Borden Warner and they had two sons, Gene and Richard. She knew everyone in town and was the local news reporter.



Evelyn Van Vranken Cramer
 and Marve Cramer



Elwin
 Tennant

Elwin owned and ran this gas station on Bridge Street for many years.

It was torn down a few years ago and the fuel station for the school buses and Village/town trucks replaced it.

