NNHS NEWS LETTER

Northville Northampton Historical Society

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Editor
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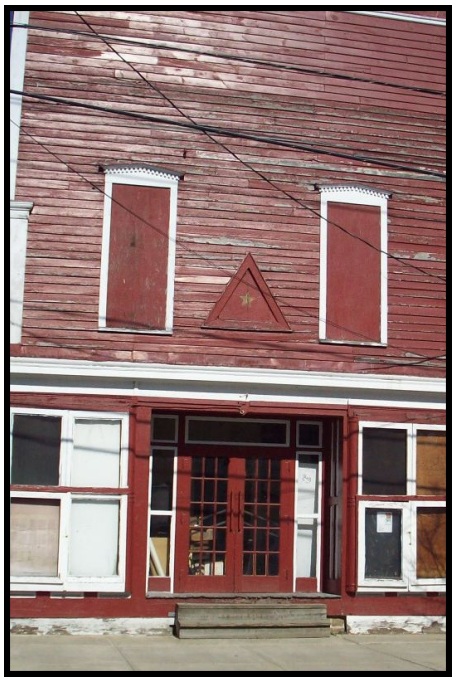
Do you remember this? What do/did you think it was a symbol of? I always thought it was a symbol for the "Star theater". It was over the door of the theater, which made sense to me.



THE TRIANGLE AND STAR
A historical icon in Northville

It was placed on this building well over 100 years ago. It was on the Hardpan store in 1892 and before that the Barker's Grocery store which was there in the mid 1800's. It could have been on that store because the Golden Rule Lodge #384 (Masons) met upstairs and put their symbol on the building.

Records show the Lodge met in Daniel Potter's house in 1823. Mr. Wm. Barker bought the house and had his first grocery store there. It burned and the building we call the Hard Pan Store (and the theater) was built in it's place, where he continued his grocery business. The Lodge then met upstairs in this building.

Currently this building is being re-sided by the owners. The Triangle and Star was removed (for first time in over 100+ years) but thankfully the owners allowed it to be saved and it will soon be hanging in our historical museum. Thank you Teresa G for hanging around when it came down to make sure it was safely preserved.

The History of Why a Star and a Triangle

The Star is called a Blazing Star. Throughout history this star has been an ancient emblem of Faith. It's also a symbol of Divine Providence, the symbol of Deity which represents Omnipresence (that God is always present in our lives) and Omniscience (that God knows every thing about us including our thoughts and secrets of our heart.)

The Equilateral Triangle is a significant symbol of importance through out the entire Masonic system . Records show that the Golden Rule Lodge #384 of Free & Accepted Masons, Chartered 1823, and Sacandaga Chapter #166 Royal Arch Masons Chartered in 1826, met upstairs in the building, that occupied this location. (Warren Hyde)

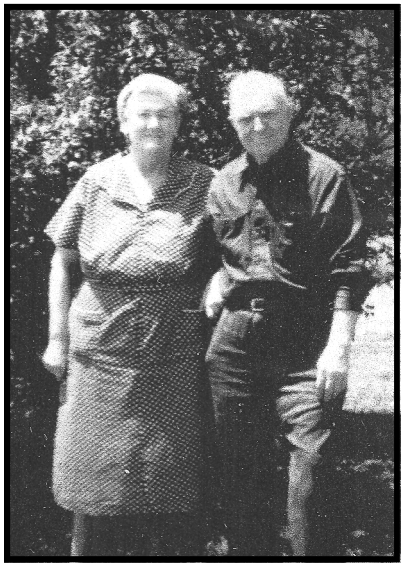
JOHN P GRUET

October 7, 1897 - September 4, 1971

The Adirondack Craftsman/Artist - Printer

Graduate of Fanwood Military Academy in Queens, NY 1918

The John P. Gruet that most of us remember



Florence and John

John Gruet lived in New York City as a boy, and his mother sang in the Metropolitan Opera. John studied printing and wrote poems and stories for small booklets. He won awards for his paintings and poems, received a scholarship to Fanwood School, which was a military academy for the deaf and became valedictorian of his class.

John summered in the Adirondacks and became a successful woodsman, learning to hunt and trap. He carried a small compass which guided him in and out of the woods. His love of rural scenes and the out - of - doors is reflected in his paintings.

Although he was accepted in college, John chose to move to the Adirondack country, get married and set up his printing business in Northville (from "News from the Northampton United Methodist Church,1994.)

John married Florence Dane and had 8 children: Eva, Robert, Jean (Junior), Ellen, Charles, Mary, Shirley, and Walter (Gib)

He owned and operated a printing business in Northville for 49 years.

(1922 - 1971) He had studios first in the Fry Block and lastly on the second floor of the Mosher Bros. Feed Store on Bridge Street.

PRINTING

I'm amazed at the superior printing that he did (without a computer yet). I wish I could have witnessed him at work. He printed all our school report card, or anything else the school needed printed. He printed most all the advertisements in town, restaurant menus, personal Christmas Cards, Wedding invitations, etc. Do you remember this parent excuse we always had to have when we were out sick?

PARENT'S EXCUSE

Northville Central School

Kindly excuse ..... who was
Pupil's Name

Absent .....
or
Give Exact Date

Tardy .....
Give Exact Date

Reason .....

Signature of Parent or Guardian.....

Legal:		
Sickness (see other side)		
Sickness or death in family	F	
Impassible roads or weather making travel unsafe	R	
Religious observance	C	
Quarantine	Q	
Required to be in court	Co	H. R. Teacher.....
Illegal:		
Unlawful detention	0	
Truancy		
Illegal employment	X	

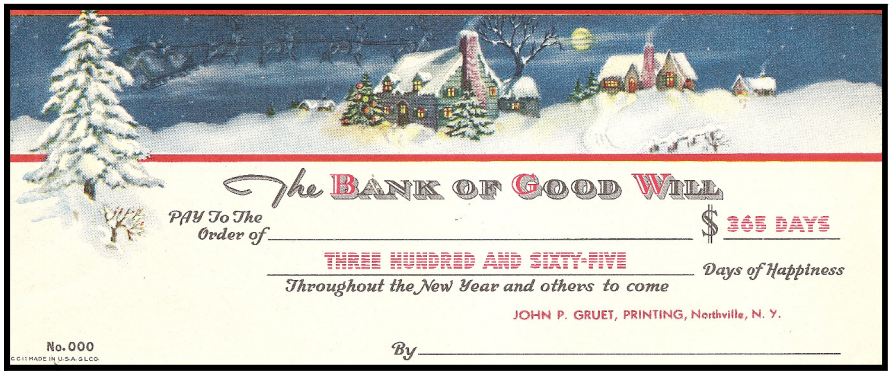
PAINTINGS

John was a very talented painter and his works are very valuable today. His love for the great out doors is reflected in his painting.

His family thinks he may have painted over 100 paintings. They know where a lot of them are and still keeping an eye out for any that are out there and might be for sale. I know I always look for the name John Gruet on paintings that I see in garage sales and antiques shops.

His 1935 painting, "Winter in Benson" was shown in a New York City gallery and written up in The New York Times. John preferred oils and did few water colors. He loved capturing the Adirondacks in his paintings.

John was truly a family man. Loved to talk and spend time with his children, he could even sing to them. His demeanor was quiet. His daughter, Shirley, told me he had easels set up in the parlor and painted every chance he got. John became totally deaf at age 7 as a result of spinal meningitis. He used sign language and all his children learned it.



POETRY

John was obviously a very talented man to also compose poems and short stories. Here is an example of one of his poems.

FAITH
What is so nice as a morning in May?
A morning in June.
What is so sad as a motherless babe:
A young widowed bride.
What is so grand as the top of a mountain?
The crest of a wave.
What is so fearful as a forest on fire?
A flood in the spring.
What is so tranquil as soft, passing clouds?
A choral in song.
What is so uplifting as planes in formation?
The Flag in the breeze.
What is so comforting to those who are ill?
Faith in our Lord.

John P Gruet

NOT SOOOOOO LONG AGO
1959 - 60 Tri County Champions

Back Row: Coach Meade, Jerry Wildermuth, Will Loveless, Bruce Fountain, Doug Blowers, Manager Frank Eddy and Hutch Toal., **Second Row:** George Edwards, Joe Artikowski, Nels Morgan, Rick Horton, Charley Thum, Harry Mosher, Jim Lewek, Zanella, Skip Mead
First Row: Dave Mead, Rick Ellsworth, Bill Davis, Pete Barker

BITS AND PIECES OF LOCAL HISTORY AND STORIES

Union Free School

Wayde Foote was asked why he was late for school. He replied that it was so icy, he slipped back words two steps for every step he took forward.

Asked how he finally got to school, he said he turned around and started for home.

Sacandaga

means "much water" or "crooked water".

Vlaie

Means "drowned land and is pronounced Fly.

A Chinese Laundry occupied the basement of the Mosher Grocery store in 1890.

The way it use to be in NCS school

Never walk on the grass. Detention !!!

No shoes ever on the gym floor.

No food or gum unless in cafeteria

Students never used the front door.

Roller Skating
1940s and 50s

Remember the old skates that we wore on our shoes? A key was needed to tighten the skate to fit our shoes. The skates could be lengthened or shortened to fit the size of our shoes. We skated on all the sidewalks in the village. A favorite place, was coasting down the sidewalk at the school.