

## **Herkimer Then and Now June 20, 2018**

The black and white photographs were taken from the book “Panorama and History of Herkimer, New York 1725-1900” It was written and compiled by Thomas C. Murray and published by Miss Flora L Wood.

1. Herkimer County Historical Society was built in 1884 located on the Corner of North Main and Court Street. Dr. A. Walter Suiter built the mansion in memory of his parents Col. James A. and Catherine Bower Suiter.

2. Herkimer Reformed Church was built in 1835. IT is the fourth church on this site. The first was built in 1722, the 2nd in 1757, the 3<sup>rd</sup> in 1804, and the 4<sup>th</sup> in 1835. The sanctuary was redecorated in 1921 by Louis Comfort Tiffany Studios of New York. An addition to the church was made in the 1890's. The famous architect was Archimedes Russell.

3. **Gaylord Griswold** (1767-1809) This home is located at the corner of North Main and German Street. Doctor James Ferrill and Attorney Gaylord Griswold, had two houses built 1789. One was on the corner of Main and Mary Street and the other on Dorf Street. It was the understanding between the two men that the first of them to be married would have the first selection of the two houses. Dr. Ferrill won the race to claim a bride and selected the house on Dorf Street. Griswold got the other house. Upon his death in 1809 the house passed to his daughter and son-in-law Benjamin and Sarah Griswold Brooks. The Brooks moved to Utica and rented the house. It became a boarding house; the Episcopal Church owned it before it was moved to 443 North Main Street next to where the Lathrop Mansion is today. In 1908 it was moved again to its current location.

4. **Arthur Tappan Smith** (ca. 1857-1937) Home located 453 N. Main Street. Arthur was the Publisher and Editor of the Herkimer, Ilion and Frankfort Citizen, served as Secretary of the HCHS and Clerk of the Board of Supervisor in 1925.

5. **Hon. William C. Prescott** (1848-1931) Home located 433 N. Main Street. William was a lawyer in Herkimer. 1882 was a law partner with Abram B. Steele. He helped in the Roxalana Druse and Dr. Mortiz Richter Trials. In 1892-93 served in State Assembly.

6. **Abram Brooks Steele's Home** (1845-1913) located at 415 N. Main Street .PG. 31 where Masonic Temple is today. Abram served two terms as District Attorney of Herkimer County, 1879-1884 and prosecuting the famous Druse murder case, which ended in the hanging of Roxalana Druse February 28, 1887. Mr. Steele was elected to the State Assembly and served 1903-06. .

7. **Palmer House Block** located at 267 North Main Street was built by Chester W. Palmer (1837-1921) in 1889.pg. 57. On April 6, 1891 the Palmer Hotel and Block was formerly opened. Chester Palmer and Smith C. Harter, who were brothers –in-law ran a hardware store on the ground floors. C.W. Browne and his wife ran the hotel. The hotel office, café, dining room, and writing rooms were on the ground floor. The parlors, dining room and kitchen were on the second floor. Chester's wife Adele Brule (1859-1891) and her sister- in-law Cornelia Palmer Harter (1837-1914) had parlors on the second floor.

The architect was Frederick H. Houge of Utica. The brick work was done under contract by John Nelson and the wood work by William Lyon both of Herkimer. The plumbing was done by Wicks, Hughes & Griffiths of Utica.

8. **Cornelius R. Snell** (1840-1916) was located at 245 North Main Street. The home was built in 1836 for Dr. Andrew Doolittle. Cornelius bought the home in 1883. Cornelius owned the Snell Lumber yard on Albany Street. The Snell Family sold the home in 1956. It was razed in 1959 for Acme Supermarket which lasted until 1975 when the Basloe Library was moved there. The library was dedicated February 22, 1976.

9. **William B. Howell** (1844-1933) 206-208 N. Main Street. This building was known as the Howell Block. William B. Howell Sr. had a furniture store and was also the undertaker. Upon his father's death in 1883, he took over the business. He made the casket for Roxalana Druse. William served one term as Village President in 1887, one term as a village trustee and one term as town supervisor in 1899. In 1929 Howell sold the building to Frank J. Baslore. The building was torn down and a three story brick building was built for the Great Atlantic & Pacific Tea Co. both for retail and warehouse purposes. Smoker's Choice is there today.

10. **Thomas Monroe** (1839-1895) - In 1870 Thomas lived in the back of the house on the corner of North Main and Mary Street. In the front he ran confectionary store. He bottled soda in the back of the store. Eventually he only bottled and sold

soda. The bottling works was there until 1900. The Van Kirk Apartment building was built sometime after 1900. It is on the 1906 atlas.

11. **Monroe Block** 110-114 N. Main Street - Thomas Monroe had the Monroe Block built ca. 1887 which was next to the Nelson House which was on the corner of North Main and Albany Street. In 1900 a liquor store and fruit store was located there. Today Collis Hardware has expanded into this building. The finials on top of the building were removed.

12. **Nelson House** corner of N. Main and Albany Street – The structure started out as the Tower House. It went through several owners. Hawkins House and Edick House were among the names it was known by. In 1892, John Nelson (1843-1925) contractor and carpenter bought the Edick House. From 1892 to the present day it has been known as the Nelson House Block. In 1905 the block was renovated and enlarged and a fourth level was added to the former Tower House. A fire leveled the structure on March 16, 1915. After the fire at age 72 John Nelson rebuilt the structure using only fire-proof material. It was built of poured concrete during the years of 1915-1916. 15. Collis Hardware today.

13. **Manion Block which was at the corner of Albany and North Main Street.** The front of the building at the top has the dates 1835-1904. It was originally known as the Democrat Block where the Herkimer Democrat was published. In January of 1900 it was reported the John C. Manion of South Africa bought the Democrat Block from publisher Henry P. Witherstine and was going to remodel it. A new structure was erected out back of the block for the Herkimer Democrat. The Manion Block burned in February 22, 1975.

**Today Crazy Otto's Empire Diner** is there which is owned and run by Scott and Kim Tranter since 2006. In August 8, 1952 the Empire Diner was owned by John Manikas. The dinner was made in Singamac, NJ and was brought here from Little Falls, NJ by truck. It came fully furnished and took less than five hours to place it on the foundation. Gus Panarties ran the diner 1969-1975. It was moved from its location and went out of use. It was originally on the other side of State Street where Burger King is today. In 1980 Robert Castle bought the dinner which had been moved to where it stands today.