

# NNHS NEWS LETTER

Northville Northampton Historical Society

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Editor  
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## ICE RACING ON THE SACANDAGA

Last month as I was driving across the Northville Bridge I couldn't help but notice all the snowmobiles on the ice down near Lanzi's. As soon as the ice is thick enough the snowmobiles and 4 wheelers will be out on the frozen lake. They have races out there on weekends sponsored by local establishments. I remember reading in a 1899 Adirondack Newspaper, the **Adirondack Herald** about racing horses on the ice at Northville. I looked up the article that I had scanned to be sure of my memory of it. I also found a poem in one of the same ADK newspapers about the ice races over at the Town of Day. When Caperton Tissot was writing her book, "Adirondack Ice" she made a copy of the poem and put it in her book.



Racing on the Sacandaga 2013

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Photo by Carla Kolbe

**RACING ON THE SACANDAGA.**

**NORTHVILLE AND BENEDICT  
HORSES TROTTING ON THE ICE  
TO-DAY.**

From Saturday's Leader.

The weather to-day was most favorable for the ice racing on the Sacandaga river at Northville, and at 2 o'clock this afternoon about four hundred people from Northville, Benedicts and vicinity had gathered on the river to see the contests between trotters from the river village and the rival town. The Benedicts horsemen were reported as not showing up in the numbers expected, but there was a sufficient number of horses from Northville to fill out the events, and the sport was reported as excellent.

The purses offered were \$50 for the fastest class and \$25 for the second class. The ice was in excellent condition for the races and fast time was expected.

### ADIRONDACK HERALD Wells, Hamilton County February 3, 1899

#### The result of Saturday horse race at Conklingville Best two of three

Today the sporting crowd of Conklinville  
Lined the ice for a mile or more  
To witness the horse race long arranged before  
It was rather late when Albert Shippee came  
down the line  
And the crowd they gave a cheer.  
Then followed William Mosher and Aaron Deitz  
Who said, "You see us over-river fellows, are here."

We then had to wait a little time  
For Rutherford W. Kathan and Chas Jenkins,  
Who always are behind  
They all went up and got their place  
When the judge, Eli Dunkle, called, "Time to race".

At the start off, Kathan and Deitz seemed  
to be slow at going to the score  
But the second time down they came faster than before  
And the starter, Dr. Reed, shouted "go"!  
A word all the horses seemed to know.

Continued on page 2

## Poem Continued

Down they came with lightening speed  
With Mosher at least two rods in the lead  
While Deitz had went to a break  
And gained the place of third  
Then Jenkins' began to holler  
And old Mike sailed out like a bird.

At this Mosher's mare went up  
But Shippee was following Old Mike close  
When Jenkins raised the whip  
And gave him another dose.

Old Mike he forged ahead  
When he saw the whip  
And passed the stake without a skip  
Passed the stake and down the line  
He let old Mike climb  
Little Bennie comes rushing up  
And shouts unhitch,  
and rub him out for fair  
Will the crowd stand back and give him air?

Charley says I have got them on my hip.  
Next time down I'm going to make them skip  
Now, Bennie, you put up all your dough  
For the next time I'm going to let him go.

Tom Crozier comes rushing down  
And says, Shippee, can you win?  
All right, says Tom, I put up my tin  
They then called on Deitz his fee to pay  
And Deitz says it's money thrown away  
For old Shippery seems to be off to-day  
While Kathan says, the son of gun,  
I'm bound to pace.  
I am afraid I have lost the race.

Smith says to Mosher, what was the matter with that heat?  
Did you go so fast you couldn't keep your seat?  
Mosher smiled and said,  
Some horses went off slow  
Others take the pace  
But you can't always tell  
Which horse will win the race.

The next heat was soon called on  
And as Jenkins went along up he said,  
I'll win on a walk as before  
Shippee heard what was said, and acted sore  
Kathan drove along behind and took it in  
As he saw the state of things  
He gave a sarcastic grin  
They managed to come down even  
On the seventh time of score,  
And the Starter shouted, "go'er".

Before we thought the race had begun  
They had passed the quarter in 31  
And down the stretch they came, swift as a deer  
With Jenkins bellowing like a steer.

But it was soon found Kathan was in the race  
For we could see he was giving Old Ace a brace.  
And at this he cut him loose,  
And he went through the bunch like milk through a goose.

Shippee came in second, but only by a hair.  
While Jenkins said it was foul driving and wasn't fair  
And went to the Judge and protested him.  
And his little black mare.

At the close of the second heat,  
Deitz pulled out his horse,  
Exclaiming this is a dead lose.  
I'm out my fifty, bet my entrance fee  
And what the horse has cost.

The next heat there were only four to start  
And when they got the word, they weren't far apart.  
They went to the half in 32  
And about there Mosher's mare threw a shoe.  
A trotter always does the best  
With some good running horse abreast.  
And Mosher bound to win a heat, let her run.  
Down the home stretch he let her come.

But with him down the straight,  
Kathan held his own.  
The fastest quarter ever known.  
The eager watching crowd would shout  
But for fear t'would throw him out  
And as they passed the line,  
They almost beat old Father Time.

The judge said the King is high card,  
But it can't beat the Ace.  
R. W. Kathan wins the heat and race,  
Jenkins second, Shippee third, and Mosher fourth place.

R.K.

William  
Mosher  
And  
Yes,  
Rusty  
Is Related  
To him



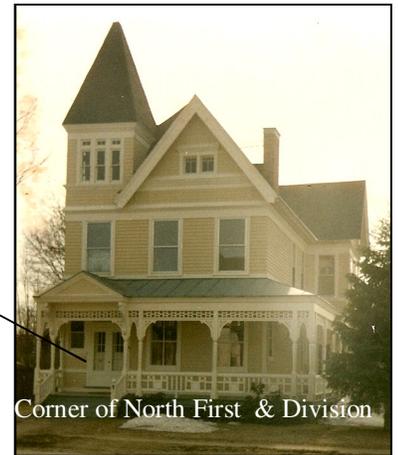
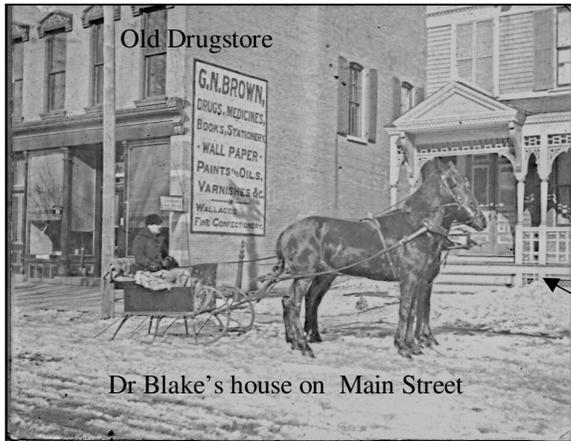
Ice Racing at Saranac Lake in the Adirondacks

# R.G. DEWITT & CO. 1914 - 1931

## NEWBERRY'S FIVE AND DIME STORE 1931 - 1997

### NORTHVILLE 5 - 10 - 25 CENT STORE

Dr. John F. Blake married Minerva Resseguie on March 6, 1860. He had been married before and had two children. Minerva and Dr Blake had 3 children. Dr. Blake built a house where the dime store is now located. That house burned in 1890. They replaced that house with a large Queen Anne Style house at the same location. Dr. Blake died in 1896.



The Blake's daughter Lulu married James Willard. I'm assuming that Lulu and James inherited the house or at least joint ownership. James Willard desired to build a large 2 story commercial brick building where this Queen Anne Victorian house stood. In 1912 he had the house moved to the corner of Division and First Street, then built what became the Five and Dime Store, which shows the date of 1914 above the second story. You will note the name Willard Bros along the roof line below the 1914 date.

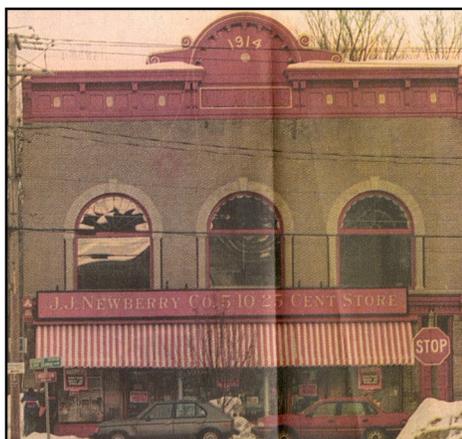


The first dime store in Northville was R.G DeWitt Co General Store. The Dewitt Co. General Stores also known as 5 - 10 and 25 cent stores was founded by R.G. DeWitt in 1907. The company sold out to J.J. Newberry in 1931.

On the second floor there were offices in the front of the building and a huge room behind the offices. The room was used for numerous community activities , such as dances, parties, dinners, drama etc. It was always advertised as Willard Hall.



J.J. Newberry (John Josiah Newberry) founded and opened his first store in 1911. The Northville store was not owned by Newberry until 1931. In 1972 Newberry and McCrory's merged. 1997 found McCrory's closing their stores of which Northville was one of them.



Today the store is basically more like a dollar store. A new sign was made in keeping with the old red and gold signs of the past.



Have you ever noticed the star on the floor as you enter the dime store? There's one by both front doors. During the winter there's a mat over the star to absorb the snow and wet.

There are 11 coins embedded in each star. The end of the points have quarters, toward the center are half dollars and the center coin is a silver dollar.



I'm sure you're enjoying some of the articles written by some of our local folks. There must be some of you that have "stories" to relate about Northville. Even if you only wrote a few paragraphs, or send a picture, it would be appreciated. Let's hear from you..email me and I'll include it the Newsletter. Thank You, The Editor

## **FAMILY TREE OF VINCENT VAN GOGH**

- His dizzy aunt ----- Verti Gogh
- The brother who ate prunes----- Gotta Gogh
- The brother who worked at a convenience store ----- Stop N Gogh
- The grandfather from Yugoslavia ----- U Gogh
- His magician uncle ----- Where-diddy Gogh
- His Mexican cousin ----- A Mee Gogh
- The Mexican cousin's American half-brother ----- Gring Gogh
- The nephew who drove a stage coach ----- Wells-far Gogh
- The constipated uncle ----- Can't Gogh
- The ballroom dancing aunt ----- Tang Gogh
- The bird lover uncle ----- Flamin Gogh
- An aunt who taught positive thinking ----- Way-to-Gogh
- The little bouncy nephew ----- Poe Gogh
- A sister who loved disco ----- Go Gogh
- The brother with low back pain-----Lum Bay Gogh
- And his niece who travels the country in an RV --- Winnie Bay Gogh

**I saw you smiling . . . there ya Gogh.....**

### **Genealogy** (Certainly a form of History)

←

Some of you know my love for local history and genealogy. I help local folks (and those who have moved away) with researching their family history/ genealogy. I thought this was a neat work of some genealogist. ( or jokester) GMC



James R Willard  
of Willard Bros  
Building