

NNHS NEWS LETTER

Northville Northampton Historical Society

Issue 54
March 2015
Editor
Gail M Cramer



TAILOR SHOPS

When was the last time (if ever) you had a suit made or altered in a Tailor shop? There have been several Taylor shops in Northville. Two of them were Herman Werner's and Laurent Beltzer's.



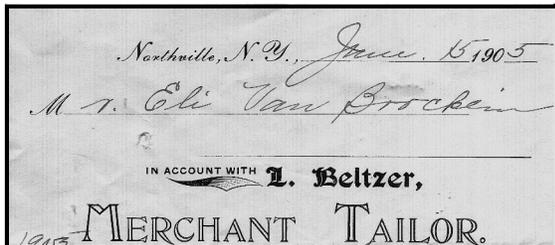
Laurent Beltzer



**Beltzer's French Tailor Shop
Circa 1890**



Laurent and Emma Gifford Beltzer's home on First Street. The Baptist Church tore it down for a parking lot in 1968.



The Tailor Shop was next door/same building as the George E Van Arnam and John A Willard's Grocery Store on North Main Street.



Margaret Beltzer Cook, Laurent Beltzer, Eva Beltzer Scribner
On the left of this picture is the Foote House, Barbara Foote Draffen and her husband now live in the old Foote House.



Background is the Tailor shop and Van Arnam/Willard Grocery Store. This building was built in 1888, many years later was Hollerans Grocery Store. Torn down to built RiteAid.

July 14th 1914

LAURENT BELTZER DIES AFTER LONG SICKNESS; WAS FRENCH SOLDIER

Resident of Northville for Fifty Years Passes Away Showing Bravery That Characterized His Life—Prominent Mason and Charitable Worker.

Laurent Beltzer, a veteran of the Franco-Prussian war and a resident of the village of Northville for nearly half a century, died at his home in that place last evening at nine. Death came after an illness extending from the first of the year. He was afflicted with Bright's disease and valvular heart trouble and during his long illness had made a gallant fight for life. Mr. Beltzer was 72 years old.

He was one of the best known men in Fulton and Hamilton counties. A merchant/tailor of the village for many years, he had established a good business and held the confidence of all with whom he dealt. He was strictly honest in his dealings and a man of charitable instincts, always doing many secret acts of charity. Many times he gave comfort to those less fortunate than himself, and his loss will be severely felt in the village.

Mr. Beltzer was born in France. When a young man he entered military life as a soldier of France, and served faithfully. He went through the Franco-Prussian war, acquitting himself as a true and brave soldier. He received three severe wounds in one engagement and was wounded several times during various other engagements, carrying the scars of battle to his death bed. He came to this country half a century ago, residing in New York several years and then removing to and making his home in Northville. At first he entered the employ of Herman Werner, a merchant tailor of the village. He learned the business thoroughly and in a short time entered business for himself. He did well from the start, establishing a reputation for square dealing, which remained until he was forced to retire owing to ill health.

Mr. Beltzer was a prominent Mason and one of the oldest of the fraternity residing in the village. He joined Fish House Lodge, No. 298, F. & A. M., in 1881 and had been a faithful member ever since. He was also a member of Sacandaga Chapter, No. 116, Royal Arch Masons and Sacandaga Tribe, No. 122, I. O. R. M. He was an attendant of the Baptist church in that village.

He leaves his widow and two daughters, Mrs. Alfred Cook of Northville and Mrs. A. C. Scribner of Gloverville; also one step-son, Robert, who resides at home. The funeral arrangements are not yet complete.

Herman Werner's Tailor Shop

Men's suits, vests and coats
South Main Street Northville, NY

1905



Wm. Werner



Inside Werner's Tailor Shop

Seated: Mr. and Mrs. Herman Werner

Standing: Wm. Werner, Lena Olmstead, Mrs. Wm Werner, and Lib Olmstead. Lena and Lib worked in the Tailoring shop.



The Werner's House was next to where the firehouse is today (2015). Their shop was in the north side of the house. The house was torn down in 1977 to make way for the new Stewart's Store. Herman died 1920, his son William continued his father's business for many years.



Herman and his wife were active in the community and taught Sunday School in the Baptist Church.

Herman was born in Germany in 1828. He made suits, coats and vests for men and was known to make uniforms for the railroad personnel.

Bits and Pieces of Interesting Facts (from village records)

1902 Village Corner lot (Bridge and Main) Was purchased for \$3,000. from the Baptist Church. The lot had formerly held the Baptist church until it was hit by lightning and burned.

1902 A franchise to operate a steam powered electric generator to furnish electricity for the village and street lighting was granted to Wm H. Harris . Street lights to be not less than 25 candlepower and at cost of not more than \$12.00 per light per year. The plant was situated on the bank of the Sacandaga river about 1000 ft south of the old river bridge. (When the water is low in the lake you can see part of the foundation)

1903 a nine o'clock curfew law was passed.

1907 a steel cage for the village lock up was purchased from the Stuart Iron Works of Cincinnati, Ohio for \$95.00. (The door can be seen in the Northville Northampton Historical Museum.)

1918 A strip of land was purchased from George E Van Arnam to become a street connecting South Main Street with South Third Street at a price of \$200.00. The street is now known as Van Arnam Avenue.

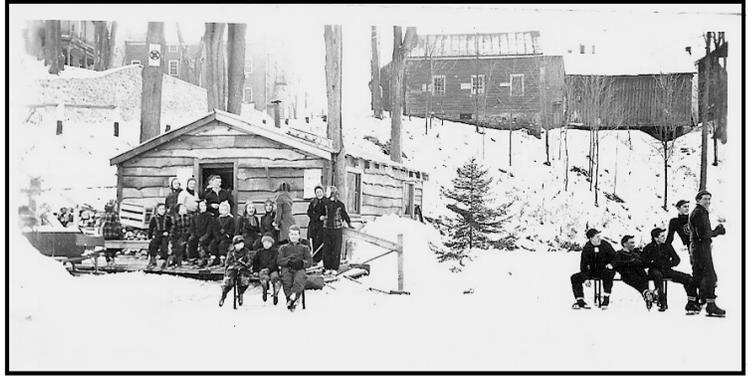
1934 An ordinance was passed to eliminate all outside toilets in the village limits.

1937 A special election was held following a public hearing at the Central School, relative to granting Sunday motion pictures in the village. Proposition defeated by a vote of 185 to 43.

1940 a resolution adopted that all streets in the village not paved be graded and oiled thus creating a semi permanent paving.

WINTER MEMORIES

On the Little Lake in mid 1940s



Water Street



Mystery picture from last months newsletter



Harry Mosher, Libbie Van Arnam, Rusty Mosher
And Tiny Tim circa 1949

THE HARD PAN STORE



L. Nathan Johnson

This store was originally owned and operated by William F Barker.
In 1892 L. Nathan Johnson bought it and conducted the business until 1915

Some examples of his poems

For many years preceding the first World War, L. Nathan Johnson operated a general store known as THE HARD PAN STORE. “Uncle Nate” was a bachelor and a man of enormous girth. It is said that he weighed upwards of 300 lbs. He seemed to have been a sort of Scattergood Baines of his day, a man of considerable influence in the community.

His advertisements in the local paper were frequently accompanied by poems of his own composition. They had little literary value, but people looked forward to “Nate’s latest”.

I have often found these little poems as I’ve done research in old newspapers. A Mr. Strobel took it upon himself to record a few of them in a small booklet.

Why “Hard Pan Store”? He claimed that his prices were so low it was like hitting hardpan, which is the hard dirt you hit when you can’t dig any deeper. Today we often say, “hit rock bottom”

*Some die of too much leisure
Some die of over work,
Some people work for pleasure,
While other always shirk;
Some blow in all their money, some
save for rainy days;
But all trade at the HARD PAN
Because they know it pays.*

*I bought me a pair of shoes one day
And they wore and wore and wore;
And the neighbors said, when they
heard me tell,
It was nothing strange that they
wore so well
If they came from the HARDPAN
STORE*

*She told me to buy some coffee,
She mentioned the HARD PAN STORE
I thought some others would do as
well.
I don’t think so any more,
For when I again became conscious,
I found myself on the floor
While the club in her hand
Made me understand*

*When I was a little fella
Often Grandma use to say;
Do not put off ‘til tomorrow
What you ought to do today.
When in need of hats or stockings,
Shoes or rubbers, let me say,
Do not wait until tomorrow
Seek the HARD PAN STORE today.*

*A gift from a friend at Christmas,
How happy it makes the day.
It comes like a ray of sunshine
To gladden us on life’s way
It need not be very expensive,
A trifle if nothing more,
It’s certain to give satisfaction
If it’s bought in the HARD PAN STORE.*

*Come in the evening or come in the
morning,
Come when you’re looked for or
come without warning;
You will find a kind welcome at the
old HARD PAN STORE
And the oftener you come, we’ll
adore you the more.*