

MIDDLETOWN MILEPOSTS

Spring 2011

Middletown Historical Society of Steuben County: Towns of Addison, Cameron, Rathbone, Tuscarora & Woodhull

This newsletter is dedicated to our local firefighters who selflessly answer the siren's call sacrificing their time and energies to protect our lives and property

1884 Fireman's Certificate



**The Addison Advertiser
Thursday, April 12, 1877**

Hook and Ladder Company. The project of organizing and equipping a hook and ladder and bucket company, in this village, is being pushed forward with energy, and is meeting with such encouragement from the citizens as to almost warrant its speedy success. In view of the fact that a special election of the taxpayers has been called to vote upon an appropriation for this purpose, we publish the following papers, that our readers may know what is being done and who are doing it. We reserve all comments for the present.

THE COMPANY

We, the undersigned, residents of the village of Addison, Steuben county,

New York, do hereby agree to and with each other, for the purpose of organizing and sustaining a Hook and Ladder and Bucket company, to become members of said proposed organization, and aid and sustain the same to the best of our ability

(Provided, the authorities of said village procure for the use of said proposed company the necessary and suitable equipments for said company).

Addison, N.Y., March 29, 1877

**C.D. Williams,
Geo.I. True,
Chas. W. Gilet,
S.A. Bailey,
C.H. Knapp,
C. E. June,
M.C. Cowley,
E. D. Curtis,
E. E. Mallory,
F. N. Stephens,
David Phillips,
E. D. Root,**

**G. H. Brewster,
C. W. Sackett,
D. M. Darrin,
B. C. Wilson,
Ira Darrin,
Wm. Stacy,
Geo. H. Simons,
Almon Beeman,
F. Balcom,
R. C. Baldwin,
Geo. W. Farnham**

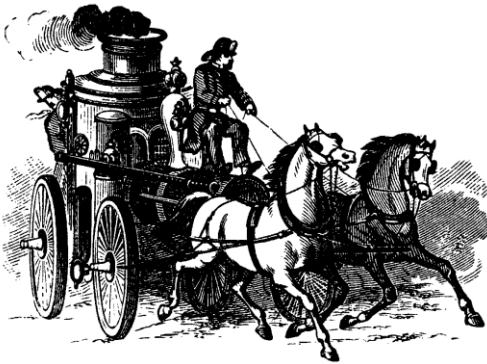
“Resolved, that we learn with pleasure that many of the young men of this village are contemplating the organization of a Hook and Ladder and Bucket company, and that in this endeavor we extend to them the right hand of fellowship and goodwill, and pledge them our sympathy and support in the movement.”

Which is respectfully submitted with the kind regards of

Your Ob't Serv't,

M. Kinne

Sec'y Phoenix Fire Co., No. 2.



Addison Advertiser Thursday, February 15, 1883

Large Fire in Woodhull

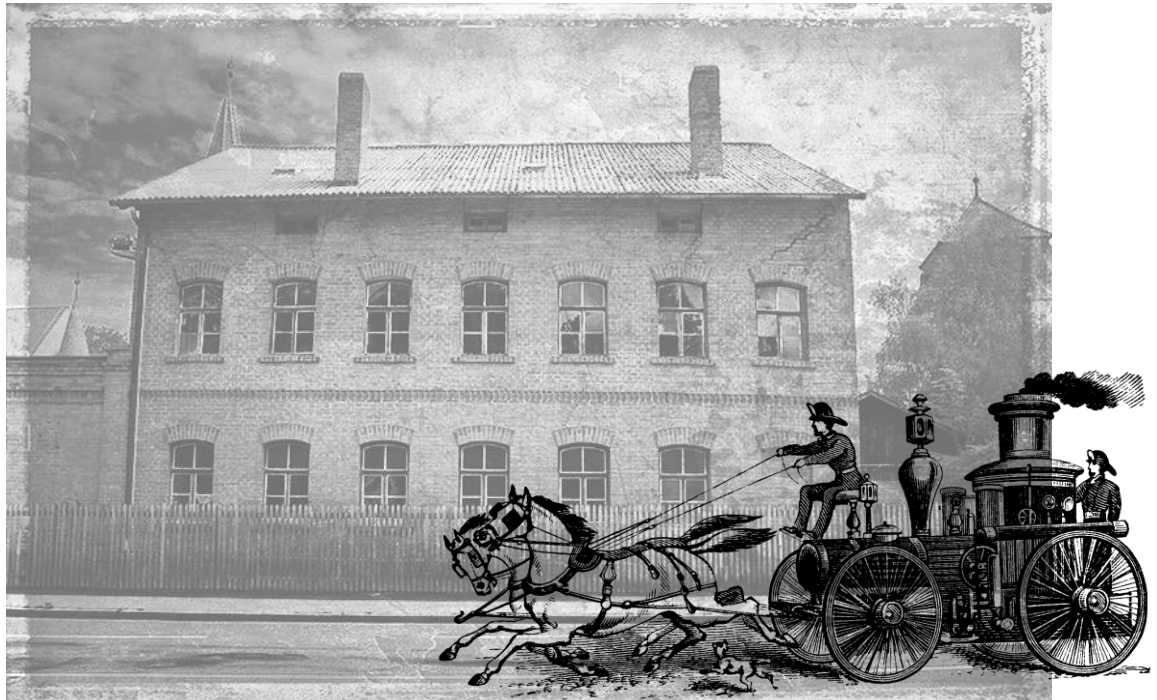
About twelve o'clock last night the citizens of Woodhull were aroused from their slumbers by the cry of fire. Smoke and fire was seen issuing from the large steam grist mill and sawmill, situated in that village and owned by Col. H. Baldwin of this place, which was entirely

consumed, together with about two thousand bushels of grain. The origin of the fire we are unable to state. Loss from ten to twelve thousand. No insurance.

Addison Advertiser Thursday, December 4, 1884

On Tuesday night last about half past nine, fire and smoke was seen issuing from the sash, door and blind factory of A.G. Crane & Co. of this village, and in less time than it takes us to tell it, it was completely enveloped in flames. The alarm was given and our firemen with their paraphernalia was quickly on the spot, who with the assistance of the citizens of the village succeeded in saving the surrounding houses, lumber sheds and

lumber piles. The factory with its entire contents was consumed entailing a loss of about \$20,000 with an insurance of but \$8,000. This loss falls heavily upon the owners and throws forty men out of employment. The origin of the fire is unknown.

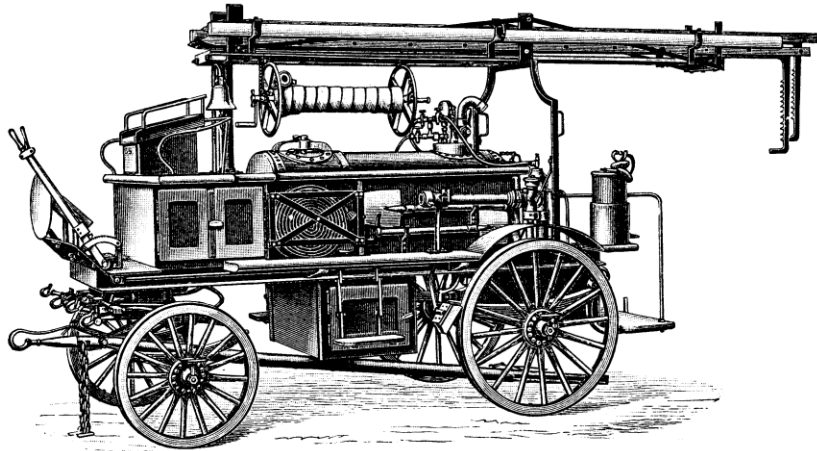


Addison Advertiser Thursday, November 26, 1885

About 7 o'clock Sunday night an alarm of fire was given, and the fire companies quickly responded. At first it was thought the fire was in the lower part of the village, but after going a short distance it was ascertained to be outside the corporation, and the firemen returned. It proved to be the grain barn and tobacco shed of Frank C. Jones, about three miles below the village. Frank and his brother had gone to the grain barn to get hay to feed the stock, and while there hung the lantern which they had with them on a peg. They each took an armful of straw and carried it to the horse barn (only a short distance away) and were returning when they discovered the barn to be on fire. Mr. Jones's brother sprang into the barn and grabbed the lantern from the peg, and it was found that it had exploded, tearing off the bottom. The barn was soon in flames, and the fire communicating with the tobacco shed, which stood near by, that building also was soon enveloped. This shed contained the tobacco from ten acres of land, which was all destroyed. In the grain barn was about fifteen tons of hay, a quantity of straw, and several bushels of wheat, buckwheat and oats, and all of his farming implements, consisting of plows, drags, cultivators, and mowing machine, which had been put in the barn but a few days before. In a shed adjoining the barn was stored two pleasure sleighs and three cutters, belong to Mrs. James E. Jones, of this village, having been taken there this spring. They were saved by cutting a hole in the top of the shed, through which they were taken out after much difficulty. It was by the most strenuous efforts that the horse barn was saved, being on fire several times. Mr. Jones estimates the loss at over \$4000. He was insured for \$2100.

Addison Advertiser Thursday, October 11, 1900

What was the matter with the Baldwin Hook and Ladder company at the fire last Friday night? They were all there, but in the excitement of the moment they forgot their truck and left it in the firehouse on Wombough street. When ladders and pikes came in demand some cool head thought of the truck and a few of the Hooks went and hauled it to the fire. When an alarm sounds, however trifling the fire, a ladder can generally be used. There are enough members in the hose companies to handle all of the hose, so if the Hooks will attend to getting their truck to a fire, it would expediate matters.



Addison Advertiser Thursday, February 12, 1903

It is said that the Baldwin Hook and Ladder Co's barge, which was washed down the river, during the high water of a week before last, and which was afterwards located near Elmira,

has again gone adrift, and was seen by railroad men near Smithboro. Small hopes are now entertained of recovering it. The big boat was the source of a great deal of pleasure, and will be missed this coming summer, not only by the Hooks, but their friends, Sunday schools and others who were want to picnic up the river. It was gross negligence, in the first place, that it was left in the last fall, and we don't know whose duty it was to attend to it. Probably a case of "what's everybody's business, is nobody's business."

Addison Advertiser Thursday, February 18, 1904

Water Tank on Fire.

About ten o'clock this morning the fire department was called to the Erie depot by an alarm and the unusual sight of a fire burning merrily in the frame work of the big water tank just west of the depot was met. Connection was soon made with a hydrant but it was found to be frozen up. Another hydrant was tried and that also was frozen up.

The Erie employees then set to work carrying water and the fire was soon extinguished. The feed pipe had become frozen up and the fire which had been started to thaw it out becoming too hot caused the timbers to catch fire.

Fire at Cameron

The large warehouse belonging to W.O. Hallet at Cameron, caught fire about 2 o'clock yesterday afternoon from a spark from a passing train.

Prompt work on the part of the bucket brigade was all that saved the building from destruction. As it was many bushels of grain were damaged by water and about twelve tons of hay. The building is one of the largest of its kind in the county being 150 by 40 feet in dimensions and it was filled with thousands of dollars worth of produce.

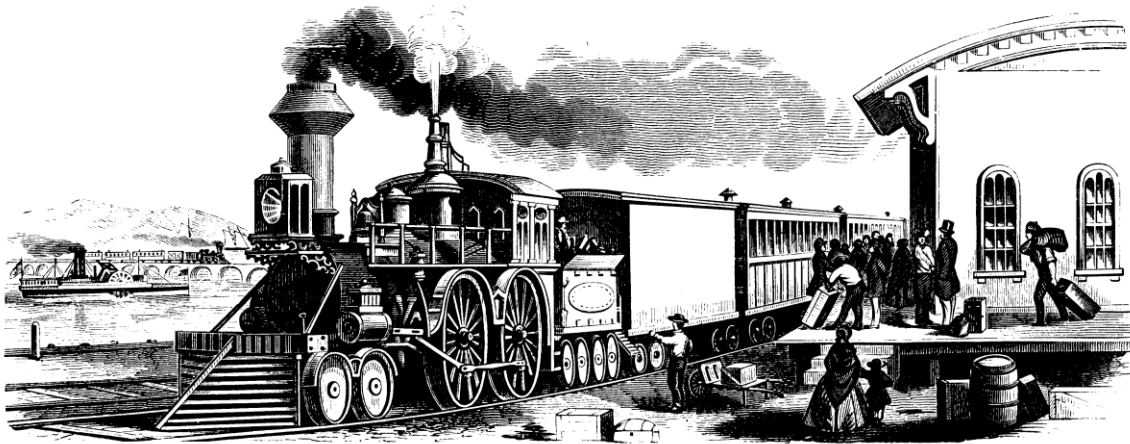
Addison Advertiser Friday, January 25, 1907

Midnight Blaze

Erie Tower at Main Street Crossing Fired by Explosion of Lamp.

Monday evening the citizens were awakened by the ringing of the fire bell at about 11:30 o'clock. The fire was in the Erie tower at Main street crossing, and was caused by the explosion of a lamp.

Shortly before the fire night operator John Holleran and night ticket clerk Milton Orr left the tower to go to the depot a few rods away. While on the way they heard an explosion and looking back, saw flames bursting from the windows and shooting up the sides of the tower. An alarm was quickly turned in and the few persons yet in the business section of the village responded in a very short time with the hose cart, and a stream of water was soon playing on the fire. The interior of the tower was burned somewhat and the telegraph and the telephone communications were destroyed. As a result the operator was unable to communicate with the train dispatcher's office and traffic was delayed to some extent, all the trains being compelled to stop and wait until signaled to proceed by the operator.



Operator Holleran succeeded in communicating with the train dispatcher's office in Hornell and a gang of telegraph repair linemen and carpenters were immediately sent out.

At 3 o'clock Wednesday morning both of the train dispatcher's wires were in working order and business was again resumed. The damage done is estimated at about \$200.

It is fortunate that neither Messers. Holleran or Orr were in the tower at the time of the explosion, as they would probably have been covered with the blazing oil and badly burned.

The inadequacy of the fire alarm was again evident as very few were wakened by it. At any rate very few responded to the alarm.

Addison Advertiser Friday, March 15, 1907

Old Landmark Scorched Tuesday Nigh, Show on at the Opera House

Fire broke out in the old Blakeslee house on Main street about 10 o'clock Tuesday evening, and did considerable damage, before being extinguished. Had it not been for the thoughtfulness of those who first discovered the fire a panic might have occurred in the Opera House which was crowded at the time. "A Thoroughbred Tramp" being the attraction. Before ringing the fire bell those in the rear of the Opera House were informed of the location of the fire so that the hall was partially empty before the alarm was sounded.

While the exact cause of the fire is unknown it is believed to have originated from a gas jet in the rear of the building. It quickly spread to the adjoining rooms and when discovered was blazing fiercely. The flames were held from breaking out by the iron roof. The firemen responded to the alarm quickly but the flames had gained such headway that it was over an hour, with two streams of water playing on the house, before the flames were subdued.

The handsome bachelor apartments of J.R. Reynolds on the second floor were almost totally wrecked, as was the drying and cleaning establishment of Martin Schill, the part not destroyed by the fire being ruined by water. The office of the Addison Gas & Power Co., was also damaged somewhat by water and in the moving of the furniture.

The apartments of J.R. Reynolds were insured for \$300 which will hardly cover the loss. Martin Schill carried \$800 insurance, which will nearly make good his loss and the Gas Company's loss is fully covered. The old Blakeslee house, where the fire occurred is one of the oldest buildings in the town, and was built before the memory of the oldest inhabitants. It is owned by the Lattimer estate. The loss to the building is fully covered by \$2000 insurance.

Fires at Webb's Grocery and Wade's Concrete:



A fire broke out around ten PM on Wednesday, January 19th, 2011. at Webbs Deli and Market. Numerous fire departments responded and fought the fire throughout the night and into the next day. The building was a total loss leaving Addison without a grocery store. The fire was thought to have started in the basement. The owner does not plan to rebuild.

About four o'clock AM February 11th, 2011, residents of Addison were awakened by several explosions echoing in the valley. Flames were shooting above the trees in the vicinity of Wade's Concrete plant on W. Water Street where they fought a horrific blaze in freezing cold conditions. Many concrete trucks were destroyed along with the building they were stored in. Fire Investigators have determined an electrical fire originated in one of the trucks and quickly spread to the others. The owner, Mr. Steve Austin of Campbell, NY says he plans to reopen the plant by summer.



A "Firehouse Recipe"

Courtesy of Barbara Fudge, Erin Fire Department, Erin, NY

Pork Chops with Cheese

8 bone in or boneless pork chops, $\frac{3}{4}$ to 1 inch thick

Sea salt and fresh ground black pepper to taste

Mustard enough to cover one side of each chop

1 C grated Parmesan/Romano cheese (thin slices of Asiago cheese is good too)

While oven is preheating to 350 degrees, season pork chops on both sides with sea salt and fresh ground pepper. In a heavy skillet, heat cooking oil and sear chops several at a time. Don't crowd the pan. Remove from pan and blot off extra oil if necessary. Place chops on a baking sheet (with sides) and spread a light coating on each one and then sprinkle with the grated cheese. Bake for about 10 to 15 minutes. Serves 4.

2011 UPCOMING EVENTS:

March 26, Saturday: Second Anniversary Party at the MHS museum. At 1:00pm Helen Brink, President of the Steuben County Historical Society, will present a power point program on “Steuben County Cemeteries—Good, Bad and Gone”. Museum will open at 11:30am.

April: TBA (Civil War program?)

May 7, Saturday: 10th annual Victorian Tea. A delightful afternoon of tea, food and music held in a lovely home in Addison’s historic Maple Street district. If weather permits, a horse and carriage ride will be included in the ticket. Teatime will be at 12:30 and 3:00pm. Tickets \$15.00.

July 16, Saturday: Annual Picnic at the Northrup Hill Schoolhouse: Potluck picnic held at the restored one room schoolhouse on Northrup Hill at 12:00pm. Helen Brink (SCHS) will be sending out invitations to all Steuben county historians to come and enjoy the picnic and share ideas and issues.

We would like to thank all of our supporting members who sent in their dues and donations to the museum. Also, many thanks to Bonny Moore for her research material that was used in this newsletter.

Become a Member of the Middletown Historical Society of Steuben County

Our membership year runs from January 1st to December 31st each year

To become a member of the Middletown Historical Society of Steuben County, fill out or copy this form and send it with your dues to:

the **Middletown Historical Society, 41 Main Street, Addison, NY 14801 ph. 607 359-5070**

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE NO (_____) _____ DATE _____

Annual Dues:

- ____ Individual \$15
- ____ Family \$25
- ____ Senior Citizens \$10
- ____ Student \$10
- ____ Institution & Business \$50

Donations To:

- ____ Northrup Hill School \$ _____
- ____ Operating Expenses \$ _____
- ____ Academic Award \$ _____

If you prefer to receive your newsletter electronically include your correct email address legibly written.

Email: _____