

DIARY OF HENRY SHELDON

1868

March: The past year I have been able to attend partially to My business. My Clerk Harvey Jenne thought he must earn larger wages than I could pay & left me in the spring, got a place as conductor on a street car in Buffalo, was absent just 4 months & brot home a corps, so uncertain in life with all its bright prospects. George worked at Somerville on a farm through the summer, in the fall came into the store to help me through the winter but in January got married and I got along alone till March when I disposed of My stock in trade to G.G. Dains and he to John Whitney amounting to about \$3000 when I commenced settling My acts and working in My Garden through the summer, only Apl I spent in New Jersey in various parts of the state.

Note: Henry sold his book store in downtown Gouverneur, New York, to G.G. Dains. G.G. Dains was a minister and around the time of the sale was the President of Gouverneur Wesleyan Seminary. It seems that Rev. Dains quickly sold the store to John Whitney. According to Henry Sheldon's diary entry of April 5, 1869, Henry rented his store to Evan Mosher, for \$200 around the 1869 date. Evan Mosher owned and/or operated the store when it was damaged in the 1875 fire that struck a number of businesses in downtown Gouverneur. I do not know whether he re-opened the store after the fire. Evan Mosher moved to California in about 1891 or 1892, and died there in 1921 at the age of 81. He seemed to have been well regarded in Gouverneur.

The underlined portion above was underlined in the diary entry.

(No date): The 26 August self & Wife Gray & wife left home for a visit in Western NY Ill Mich & Wisconsin among our friends, were absent 8 weeks & reached home (self & wife) the 23rd Oct in season to Vote for Grant for President.

But the 20th May was a day never to be forgotten by our family. Our dear honord Father passed from Earth in a fit of apoplexy at about 6 oclock in the morning, being unconscious from the time he was taken about 2 oclock in the morning. Thus closed a long and toilsome life providing for a large family of children who all except Calista & Timothy survive our parents. He lived to a good old age over 80 years and he often said life was a burden to him in all human provability. My turn will come next and a good life in christ will not make it unwelcome tho there are many ties of an earthly nature most dear to be severed. Our Sister Marian Sheldon was also called from earth the 4th of July at Manitowoc Wis. & her remains were brought here and deposited on my lot in our Village Cemetary by the side of her beloved companion our beloved Brother Timothy. So our family circle has become broken and we shall all soon have passed away.

Note: The phrase "self & wife" is in parentheses in the diary entry. The underlined portion above was underlined in the diary entry.

The father of Henry Sheldon was Timothy Sheldon, born in Pautucket, Rhode Island, and one of the earliest settlers in Gouverneur.

Attached to the entry above is a separate piece of paper with the following information:

Inscription by Mrs. Klock to be cut on Timothys Monument:
Marian Wife of Timothy
Sheldon. Died July
4th 1868 Aged 31 years

They loved her most
Who knew her best.

Note: Several loose newspaper clippings were found pinned together with a straight pin in Henry Sheldon's diary. One clipping is from a newspaper with the handwritten date on it of 1868. That clipping contains two items of interest.

The first item, with spelling as is:

DIED

Of Apoplexy on the morning of the 20th of May TIMOTHY SHELDON aged 80 years. Mr. Sheldon was one of the earlist settlers of this town having resided here nearly 60 years. Thus one after another of our Pioneer fathers an passing away, but few remains.

The second item, spelling as is:

FOR SALE – The subscriber wishing to find a milder climate Wishes to sill his Dwelling House Store and small Dwelling back of Store and pasture or Meadow lot of 4½ acres, all in the Village Corporation and well located, for further particulars Enquire of
H. SHELDON.

Gouverneur, May 21st, 1868. 27-3m

November 11: Daughter Julia & myself left our home for New Jersey, she for Passaic & I for Vineland. 2 days after my arrival, the 19th Nov. H.K. Spencer one of our best citizens in Gouv., died here at V. & I was called to accompany this afflicted family & corps home to Gouverneur. But the 26th after Thanksgiving I started again for Vineland, having arranged with My Wife to get our family in readiness to come here to spend the winter while I went down & rented a house & got things in readiness for them & Mr. I.P. Fisher going up to G__, we arranged to have them come down with him and on the 22nd of Decr they reached Vineland, having had a quiet and safe passage here & Thursday we went to living by ourselves in a hired house belonging to Mr. Crowel on South Side Landis Avenue West of 4th Street. We have got things comfortable for housekeeping.