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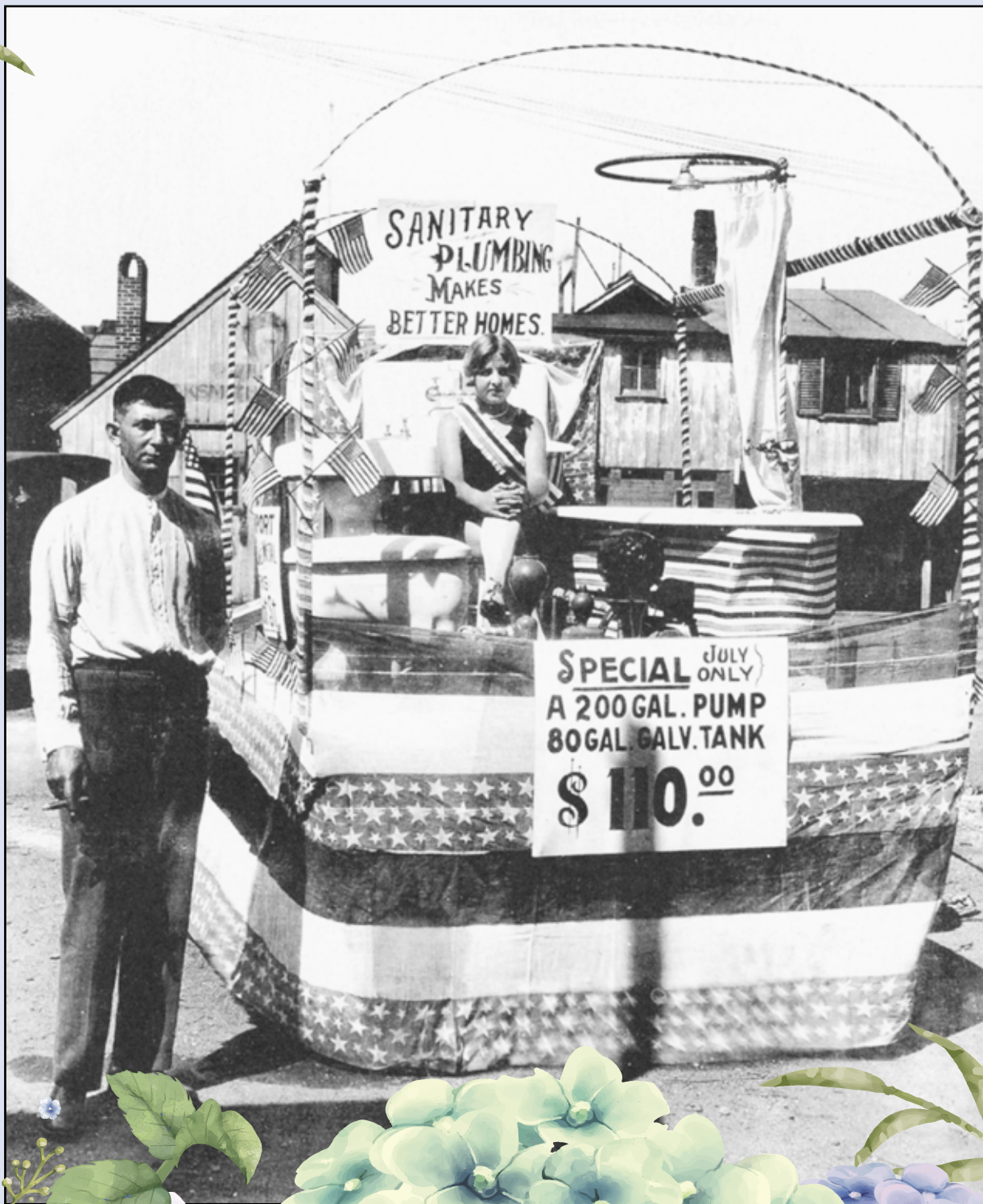


CENTERFOLD MAP



With Children Aboard, Adults Are Off to Apollo Hall page 3
Installment Six of Miss Mayme Tanner's Primary Class
The Mattituck Public School, September 1897 - June 1898

calendar of events, page 17





Peconic Bay SHOPPER ...preserving North Fork History

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On Our Cover...

The Luxury of Bathing...

Sanitary sewers were finished and connected in Greenport in June 1894. Although the Greenport Water Company was begun in 1887, it was not until 1930 that 95 percent of the village received a public water supply. That left some homes without indoor plumbing. There was a time when one could rent a space on Main Street to take a bath or shower.

Our cover photo shows a parade float c. 1920 advertising sanitary plumbing. There was at least half a dozen plumbers in the village at that time that, along with the hardware stores, could benefit when “sanitary plumbing” was installed.

Photo and info from our archives, courtesy of the late Southold Town Historian Antonia Booth.

Reader Feedback...

I just wanted to tell you how fascinated I was about this article. I have been going to Peconic in the summer since 1939 as an infant. I have always heard about Rose Case Newell and read many stories about her but this one fascinated me.

On Page 14 where she says she and her husband lived for 20 years in the New Jersey suburb of Haworth, I was flabbergasted! I lived in Haworth in the late '50's and have been the municipal clerk and administrator for a very long time here.

I just thought it was so incredible that two small towns many, many people don't know about have a connection – at least as far as I am concerned! – Ann Fay



FLAG INSTALLATION IN SOUTHOLD VILLAGE

Cadets from Southold, Mattituck and Greenport NJROTC helped the Southold Village Merchants prepare the flags for display in Southold Village.

LOOKING FOR....

...photos/info about hydroplaning in Pipe's Cove, Greenport (c.40's/50's)

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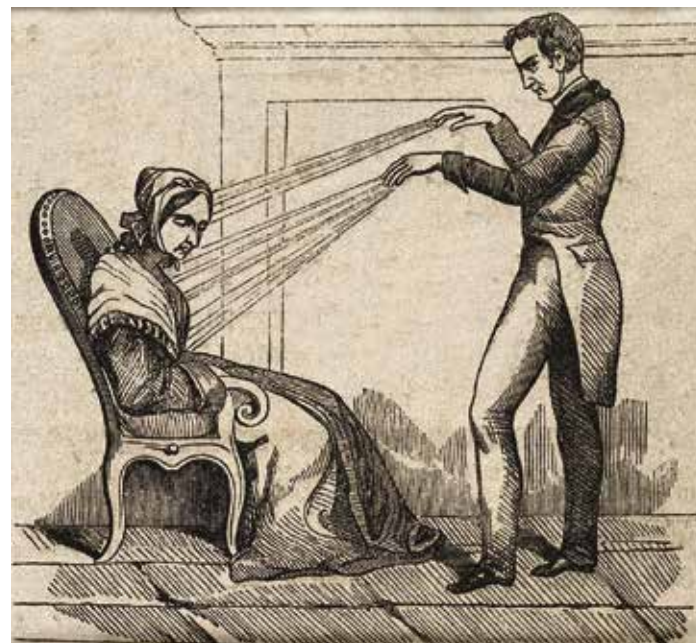
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With Children Aboard, Adults Are Off to Apollo Hall

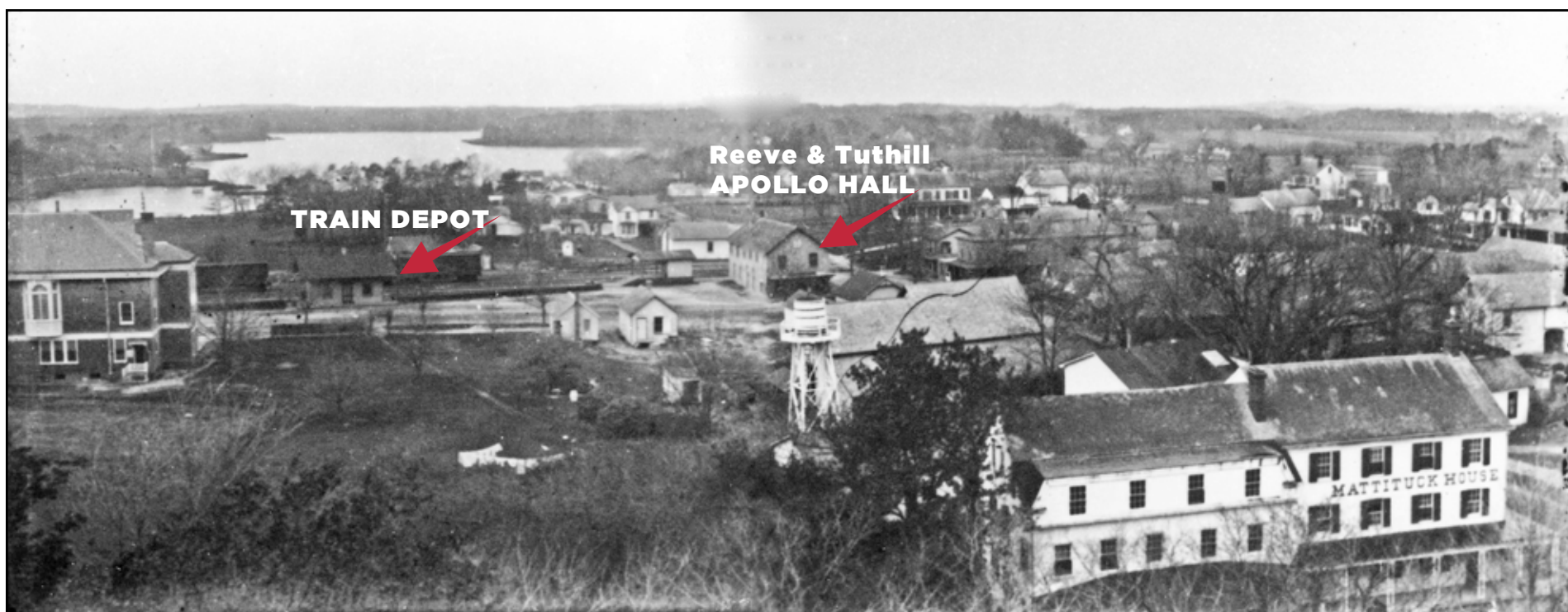
Installment Six of Miss Mayme Tanner's Primary Class
The Mattituck Public School
September 1897 – June 1898

By Jerry Matovcik, Reference Librarian, Mattituck-Laurel Library, and Joe O'Brien, Researcher
(Note to our readers: If readers are interested in further information about the families we describe, please visit the Mattituck-Laurel Library for the complete research.)

The children in Miss Mayme Tanner's primary class were an average age of seven, with some children as young as two. Parents hoped that after the children had attended school, played outdoors, and perhaps done some chores, they could put them to bed early and attend some entertainment. The only entertainment for adults, before radio and television, was live entertainment that they could provide themselves or perhaps purchase from some traveling companies or showmen. At the turn of the century, for the people of Mattituck and Laurel, the venue for entertainment was Apollo Hall.



A practitioner of mesmerism using animal magnetism on a seated female patient, c. 1845. A mesmerist performed at Apollo Hall.



In this photograph probably taken from the spire of the Presbyterian Church, we see an aerial view of Mattituck, c. 1909. In the foreground, at the southwest corner of Love Lane, is the Mattituck House hotel, immediately north is the peak of DePetris's vegetable market, then the Riley Barns with a water tower; just barely visible on the northwest corner of Love Lane and Pike Street is the roof of the Post Office, and directly across the street, is the Reeve & Tuthill Merchandise Store with Apollo Hall occupying the second floor.

Those who attended the grand opening of the Apollo Hall in 1879 (at the time, the store was owned by Wilson & Reeve) saw a beautiful room, twenty-six by fifty-five feet, finished in walnut wainscoting, with a high acoustical ceiling painted in lavender and blue. The waxed hardwood floors were a splendid surface for dancing. Three handsome chandeliers and side-lamps lit the hall in a golden glow. On the southern end of the hall's interior was painted an image of Apollo, the Greek god of the arts, with instruments of music in his hands.

Apollo Hall was the center of activity for many community meetings, lectures,

dances, and church suppers as well as plays and concerts. The Village Improvement Society met there, the Sons and Daughters of Erin, and the Presbyterian Sewing Society. In 1890 about one hundred farmers gathered there to discuss the feasibility and profits that might come from erecting a local pickling factory for cucumbers and cauliflower.

The Literary and Social Club performed plays and there concerts often, with vocal, instrumental, and acting talent from local families – the Reeves, Duryees, Luptons, Tuthills, and so on. There were theater companies from New York,

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LETTIE, a maid.....	MISS NELLIE A. WELLS.
PIOUSGOOD, a minister.....	L. C. YOUNG.

A playbill from one of the first programs at Apollo Hall in 1879.

brass bands from Southold, musicians from Riverhead and Greenport, and unique programs such as the magic show of Signor Bosco, and "Professor Moore, skilled in ventriloquism and mesmerism, who performed a number of tidings such as holding converse with eleven different supposed persons" (*Mattituck Historical Society Scrapbook*, p. 121).

At the turn of the century, Apollo Hall and the merchandise store on its ground floor was the business of Thomas Reeve and William Tuthill, and Thomas Reeve was the grandfather of the Reeve siblings, Charlie and Gertrude, who attended Miss Mayme Tanner's primary class in 1897. Below are their stories and those of some of their classmates.

The Rafford / Crocker Half-Brothers

Albert and "Josie" Joseph Rafford were half-brothers; they had the same mother Martha but different fathers. Their mother was Martha Ada Bodge, born about 1864 in Connecticut, probably at Enfield, Hartford County. She was the daughter of Albert and Caroline Mariam Bodge. Albert Rafford (Age 9)

Albert Nelson Crocker was born February 19, 1888 at Hampden, Massachusetts, the son of Martha and George A. Crocker. Just two months after Albert was born, his father passed away from heart disease. In 1890, Albert's mother, about 1894, married Thomas Rafford and moved from Bridgeport to Mattituck. Albert used the surname "Rafford" until about 1910 when, as Albert Nelson Crocker, he married a woman nine years his senior, Lillian May Tyler.

"Lillie" May Tyler was born November 9, 1879 at Branford, Connecticut, the daughter of John Rogers Tyler and Emma Lucretia Farren. They had a son, Charles Nelson Crocker, in July 1913. Unfortunately, Lillie died eight years later in the Greenport Hospital, following an operation to remove a tumor. According to her obituary, she was "a very bright, vivacious character, beloved by all who knew her, and has borne her suffering with true Christian fortitude."

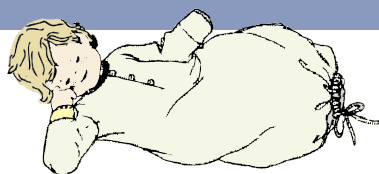


Martha Ada Bodge, mother of Albert and Joseph.

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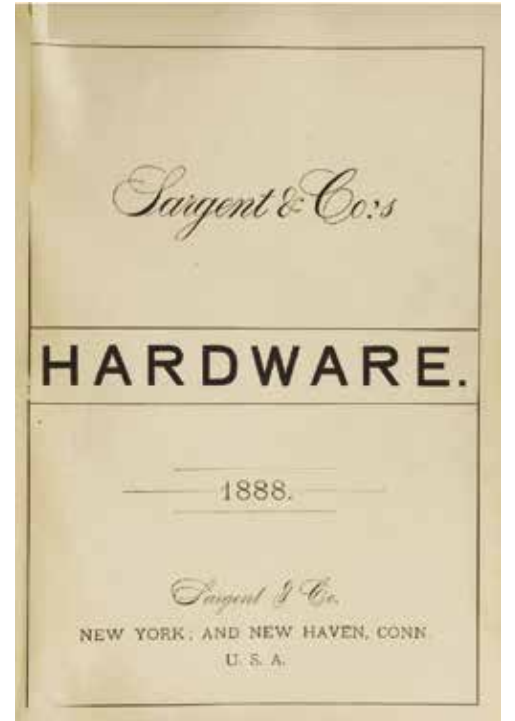
Left to Right: c. 1915, Lida A. Rafford (Albert's sister), Martha Ada Rafford (Albert's mom), Lillie May Tyler Crocker (Albert's wife), and Charles Francis Rafford (Albert's brother).

Albert worked as a farm laborer for William and Phoebe Tuthill, tried running his own farm and worked as superintendent at Robert Lupton's farm. Albert married a second time to Norma Nesbett Weeks. The couple lived in New Jersey where Albert worked in the export department of Mack Manufacturing Company, Somerville, and Norma worked as a school teacher and later principal at Monroe Elementary School. Albert passed November 17, 1954. The Monroe Township School Board closed the school for a day, in memory of Albert and for the sake of his wife – a tribute to both. Norma died in Brevard County, Florida, in 1996.

“Josie” Joseph Rafford (Age 7)

Joseph Henry Rafford was born December 6, 1890 in Fairfield County, Connecticut, the son of Martha and Thomas Rafford. Joseph's father, who was likely a carpenter or boatman, became a member of the building committee for a new Methodist Church which would be dedicated at Mattituck in 1897.

Joseph married Edna Salome Carr in June 1916 at New Haven, Connecticut. Joseph worked at Sargent & Co., one of America's largest manufacturers of hardware, tools, locks, and other products for the construction trade. Edna was born about January 1892 in Quebec, Canada, the daughter of George and Lutheria Blunt Carr. She was a school teacher and traveled with her in-laws to North Haven in late 1911. Edna passed away in 1960 and Joseph died in 1964.



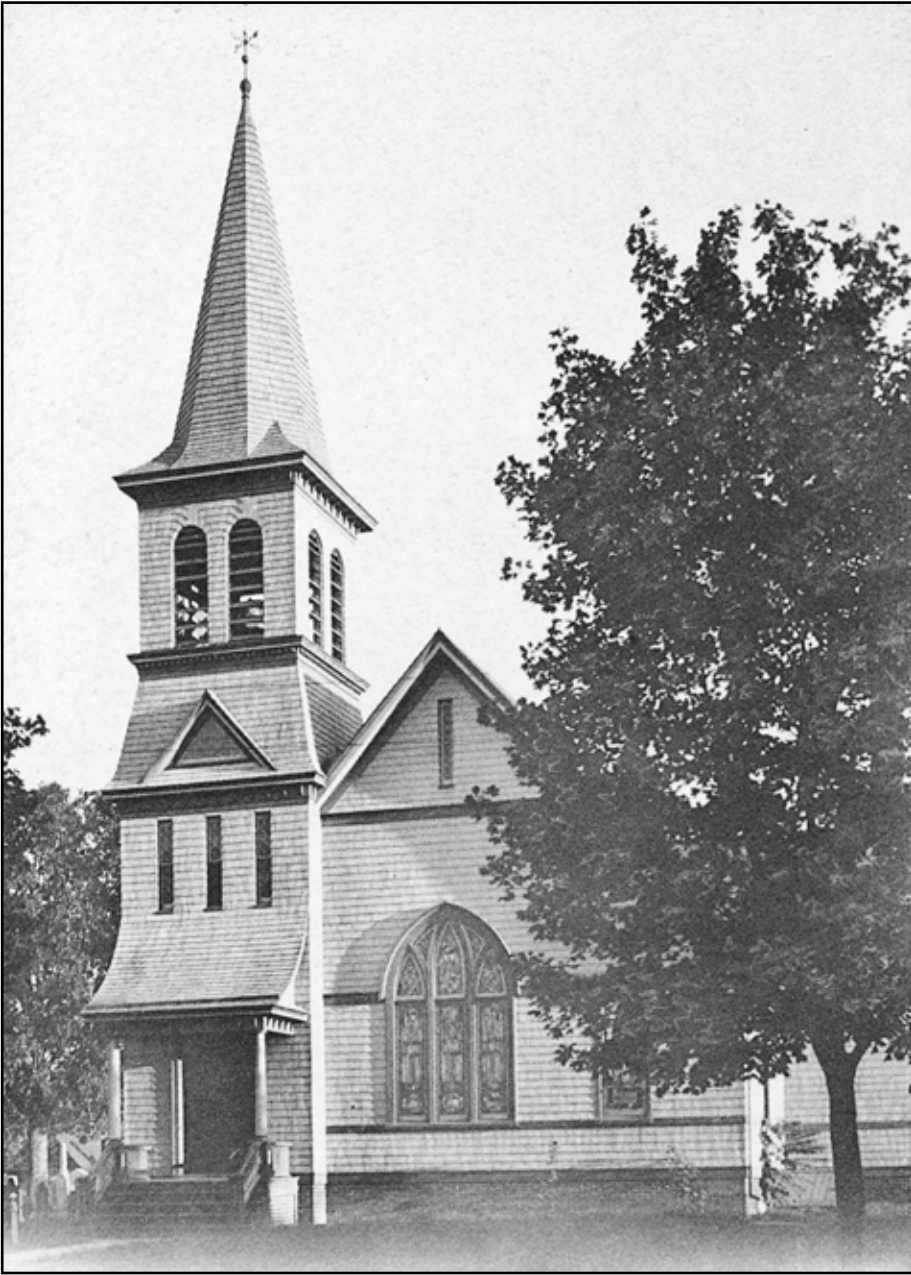
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Joseph Henry Rafford and Edna Salome Carr

*The front of the Methodist Church, c. 1897.
(Now the North Fork Community Theater.)
Joseph Rafford's father was a member of the building committee
for a new Methodist Church which would be dedicated at
Mattituck in 1897, the year Miss Mayme Tanner taught her
primary class at the Mattituck School.*



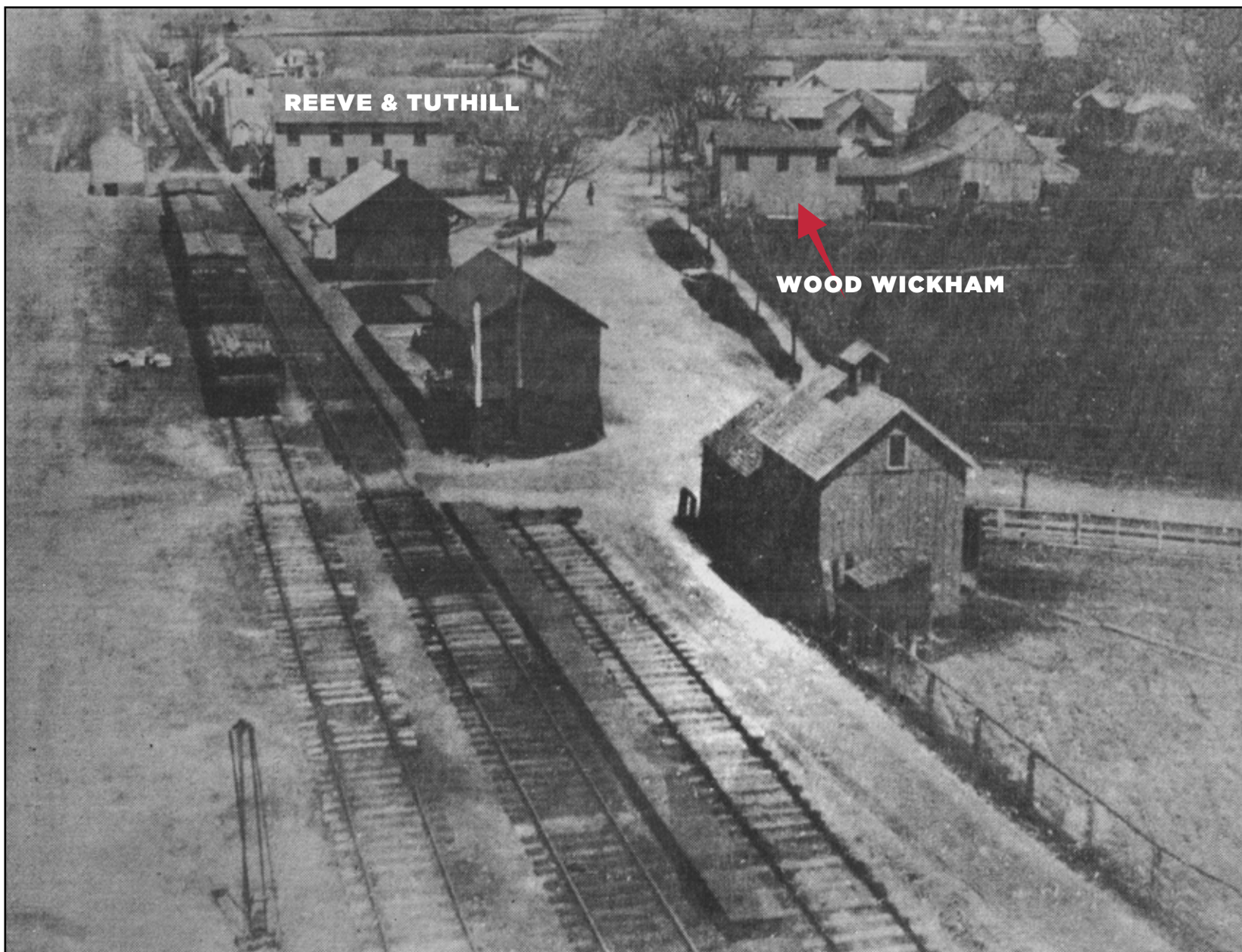
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In this panoramic view (c. 1895) from the old water tower at Mattituck's Rail Road Depot, we see a very early image of Pike Street looking east.

The Thomas Reeve & Warren Tuthill general merchandise store is in the far ground on the northwest side of Pike Street and Love Lane. The second floor of this establishment was Apollo Hall, the center for entertainment at the turn of the century. On the southwest side is Wood Wickham's tinsmith shop. (Mattituck-Laurel Library)

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The Reeve Siblings

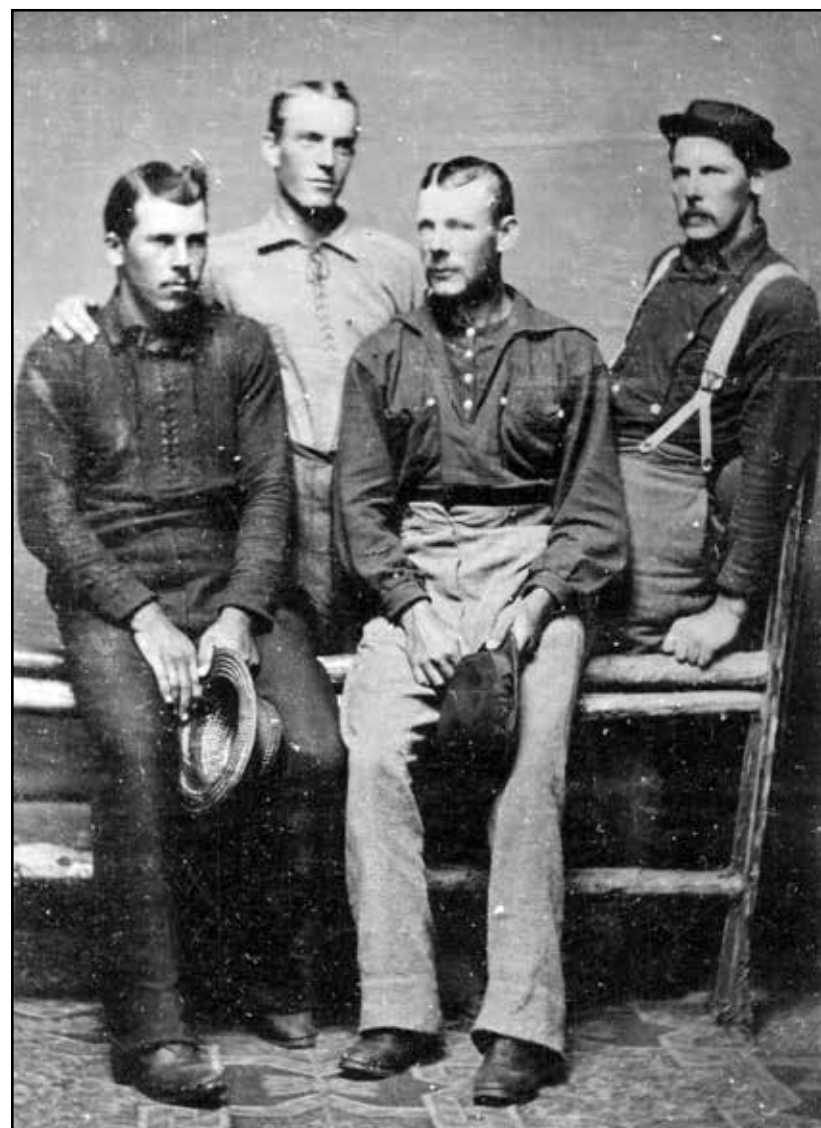
Charlie and Gertrude Reeve were the children of William H. Reeve and Selina Wells. Their grandfather, Thomas Reeve, with partner Warren L. Tuthill, operated the *Reeve & Tuthill* general merchandise store on Pike Street and Love Lane, starting in 1883. The second floor of their establishment was called "Apollo Hall," an entertainment hall with a dance floor, on one end a platform and dressing rooms for programs, on the other end an old potbelly stove for heat (Back Over the Years PDF, p. 359).

Charlie and Gertrude's father, William H. Reeve, was in the meat business for nearly fifty years, at first partnered with Mr. Herbert R. Conklin, and later with Mr. Leon Hall. Reeve and Hall were well known for furnishing sausage, according to their exclusive recipe, to a number of famous New York restaurants. Their place of business was on the east side of Love Lane in the present location of Love Lane Kitchen. William delivered meat and provisions in a horse-drawn covered wagon to the hotels in South Jamesport, keeping the meat cool in a box with Charles Wickham's ice from Lake Maratooka. Leon Hall delivered as far as Cutchogue.

Over the years, the Reeve and Hall butcher shop became a Mattituck institution, not only for its first class meat market but as a gathering place for many men of the village, where they met for congenial conversations, friendly card games, fishing trips, etc., and all held "Uncle Billy" in high esteem (Wm. Reeve, obituary, *Suffolk Times*, Oct. 14, 1943).



Reeve and Hall, c. 1944, on Love Lane, now the location of the Love Lane Kitchen. (Courtesy of the Southold Historical Museum)



Young entrepreneurs from Mattituck, c. 1885. Left to right: Back row, standing, William Herbert Reeve and Wood Wickham; front row, sitting, Leon Hall and Herbert R. Conklin. Reeve has his arm on Hall's shoulder.

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Charlie Reeve (Age 4)

Charles Reeve was born January 4, 1893 and completed eighth grade. He served overseas for a year with the 304th Field Artillery, Battery "F" in World War I. He married Augusta Marie Conrad of New Suffolk, November 7, 1926. Charlie worked in his father's meat market, and with his sister Gertrude, took over the business after his father's death. Charlie joined the Mattituck Fire Department at age fifteen, just one year after the department was formed. He retired as Chief and later served as Fire Commissioner. Charlie died November 22, 1949, and is buried in Old Bethany Cemetery, Mattituck. Augusta died May, 1977, and is buried in Cutchogue Cemetery.

Gertrude Reeve (Age 6)

Gertrude Betts Reeve, born August 5, 1891, completed four years of high school. She was a home keeper until 1912 when she took a job as a clerk at the Mattituck Post Office. After her father suffered a stroke in 1936, Gertrude took care of him as well as her ailing mother. She recounted how very disappointed she was when she was not able to visit the 1939 World's Fair in Flushing Meadows because she could not find anyone to care for her sickly parents (*Back Over the Years* PDF, p. 356). When her parents died, she joined her brother Charles to run the family meat and grocery business.

Gertrude recalled how her father smoked ham and bacon:

We smoked hams and bacon. People would butcher their own pigs and bring in the hams and bacon and they were smoked. We had a six by ten, possibly, building on the northeast corner of the Main Road and then they would bring them there and smoke them... They had rails with hooks in the smoke house, and papa used to tend that. They preferred hickory wood, but we couldn't always get hickory wood and we used apple wood. Hickory would make it the best smoke, the best flavor . . . you had a little fire in the pit and you put in logs. (Back Over the Years PDF, p.396).

At the age of fifty-nine, Gertrude married Clifton Garfield Raynor, who had been previously married. Clifton died December 9, 1972 and Gertrude December 9, 1980; both are buried in Aquebogue Cemetery.

The Traffica Siblings

Rose and Frank Traffica are the children of Anna nee Sapienza (the family name is more likely to be Traficante or Travascio). The father is probably a man identified as "Tony Trafigan" who died December 15, 1898 at Mattituck. In the

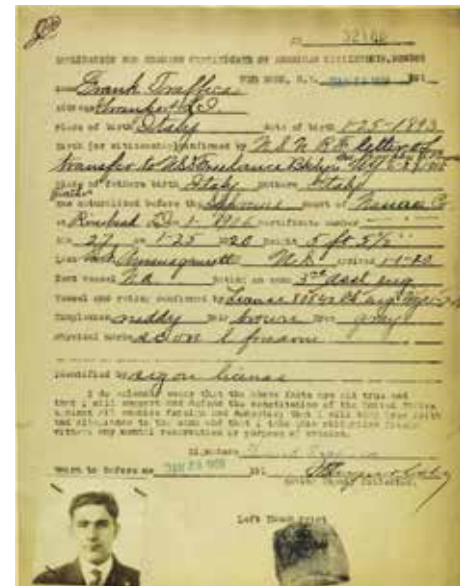
census of 1900, Anna is listed as living a few doors from the present library, with three small children and boarding two rail road section hands, Italian immigrants like her. Neither Rose nor Frank Traffica are living with her at the time. Anna soon marries Joseph Cafarelli, a rail road section boss, and probably one of the boarders that had been living in her house. Anna and Joseph have six children together, including two sets of twins, and they will live out their lives at Greenport.

Rose Traffica (Age 7)

Rose was born in Italy about 1890, the older sister of Frank. The only reason we know of Rose at all, is her sign-up for Miss Mayme Tanner's Class in 1897.

Frank Traffica (Age 4)

In the "Declaration of Intention" petition filed as part of his naturalization process, Frank testified that he was born January 25, 1893 at Barigiano, Italy, embarked for America at Naples aboard a ship (probably the "Iniziativa"), which arrived in New York that April. Frank and his sister Rose are not found in the 1900 census; perhaps living with relatives. Frank eventually went to live with his mother and stepfather in Greenport from 1910 through 1925. In 1917 he served in the U.S. Navy on the minesweeper *Amagansett*. There he learned marine engine maintenance and repair at Greenport, learned ocean-going ship engine maintenance in the service, and becomes Assistant Chief Engineer and Master Engineer. Frank moved to Brooklyn about late 1920's, and remains there; there is no indication that he married. He died August 8, 1976, probably at Brooklyn and is buried at Long Island National Cemetery, East Farmingdale.



Frank Traffica's Application for Seaman's Certificate of American Citizenship.

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