


# SMITHVILLE- THEN AND NOW

Historical photos from the Town of Smithville,  
Chenango County, NY

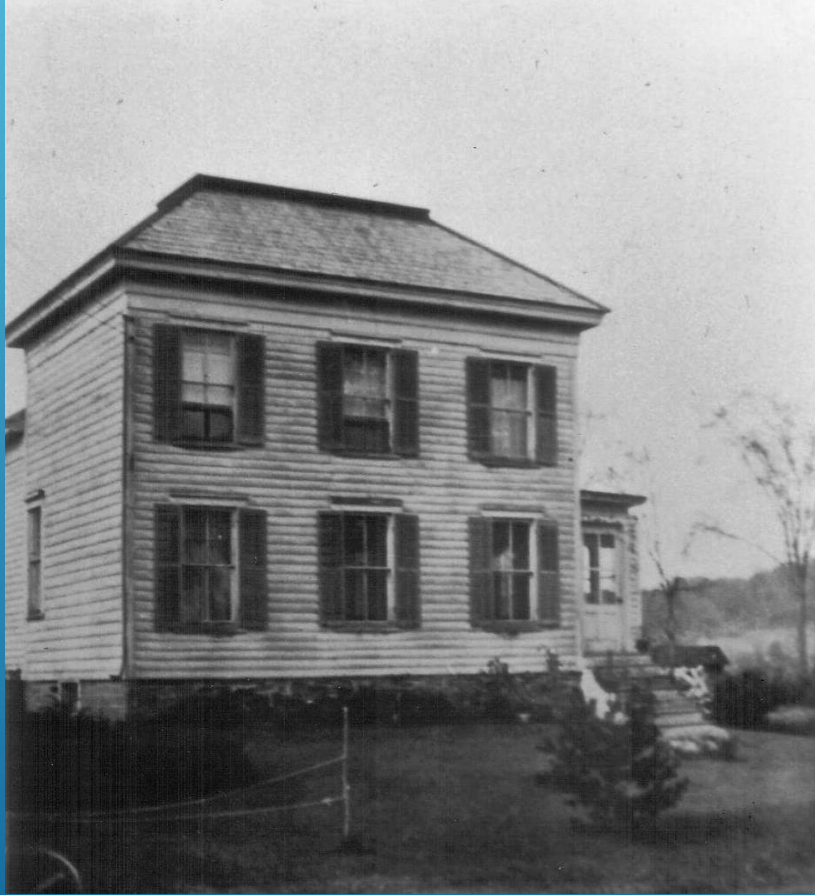
Alison Owens, Town Historian  
Smithville Historical Society – 11/7/15



# Selected Topics:

- Community Center
  - Book Store (Halecki Building)
  - Telephone House
  - Seebers Tavern
  - Smithville Flats Hospital
  - Smithville Center Methodist Church
  - Edward Loomis Homestead
  - Cowles Cemetery
- 
- A series of three parallel white diagonal lines extending from the bottom right towards the top right of the slide.

# SMITHVILLE HOSPITAL



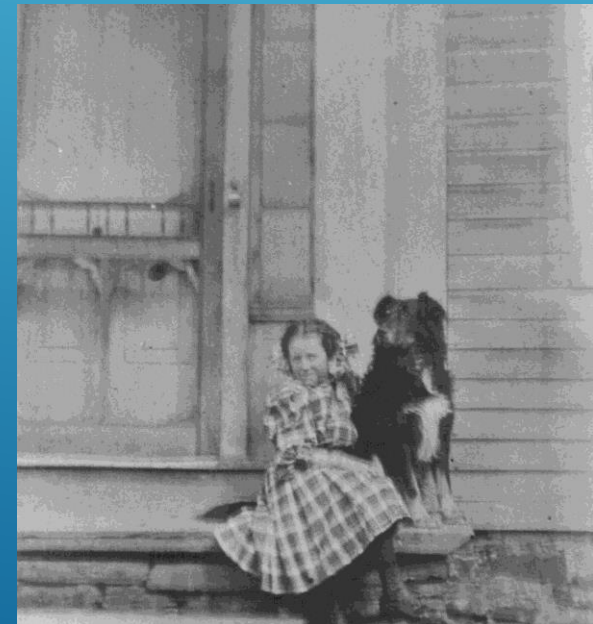
Established by Marjorie  
Barnett Stone circa 1929

# Marjorie Barnett in her Youth

Born 1899, daughter of Herman Barnett  
and Ella Baker.



131 Water Street





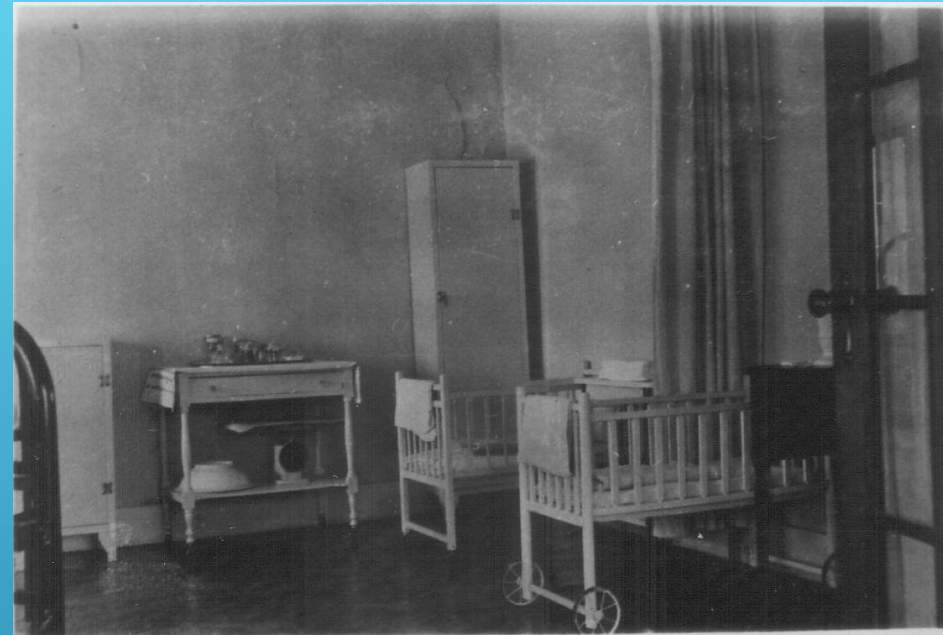
# Marjorie Barnett as an Adult

- Married Walter Stone in 1919
- Started Hospital in 1929
- Married Fred Harrison, Christmas 1937



# Marjorie Barnett Stone Establishes the Hospital

- Became a nurse and midwife
- Operated the Smithville Flats Hospital
- Approx 200 babies were born between 1929-1951



# Marjorie Barnett Stone's Incubator

She developed an incubator for premature babies, and although not the 1<sup>st</sup> of its kind, was a useful prototype for future incubators.





# Other Incubators

The incubator for newborns had its beginnings in the 1880's in Germany. A display of incubators with real babies was actually shown at the New York World's Fair in 1939.





# The Hospital, Then and Now



The Hospital on Water Street, as it looks today. It is the home of Gary and Carol Huttleston. Gary was born in the hospital.

# SMITHVILLE HOUSE (SEEBER'S TAVERN)



- Erastus Agard built the hotel about 1830.
- In 1850 the hotel was known as the Wiles Hotel, with John Wiles as innkeeper
- About 1880 Alonzo Adams was innkeeper, then known as the Smithville House
- Other names included the Casey House and the Lower Hotel
- John Seeber started operating Seeber's Tavern at some point prior to 1929



# W. A. ASHLEY MURALS



- Inside Seeber's Tavern are pictures painted in 1929 by Willard A. Ashley (1860 – 1932).
- Town of Greene Historian, Peg Ross, wrote an article in the 10/8/2009 issue of the Chenango American titled "Greene Artist, Once Lost and Now Found".



# EARLY 1900'S MAIN STREET PHOTO



*SMITHVILLE FLATS, N.Y.*

Note horse & carriage and early auto

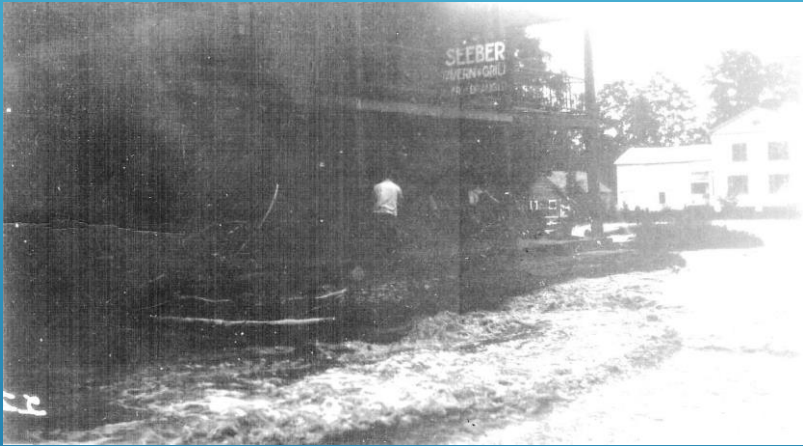


# John Seeber and Horse

Seeber began  
operating the old  
Smithville House before  
1929.



# 1935 FLOOD



Seeber's during flood

A later newspaper account noted that Seeber's was painted white and was probably the oldest building in Smithville Flats.



Smithville Main Street  
during flood



# Seeber's Tavern in the Early 1950's

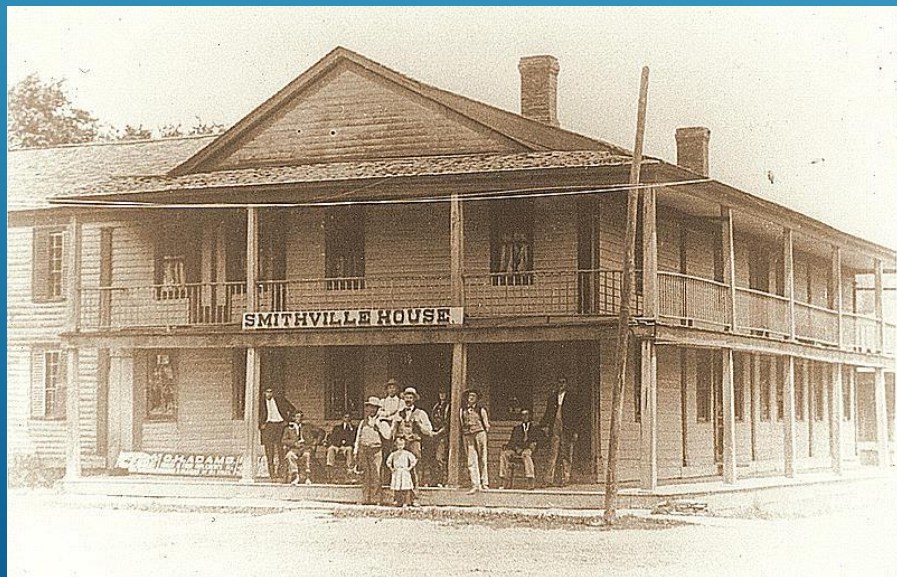
(from postcard series)



7. Main St., Smithville Flats, N. Y.



# Smithville House, Then and Now:





# EDWARD LOOMIS HOMESTEAD



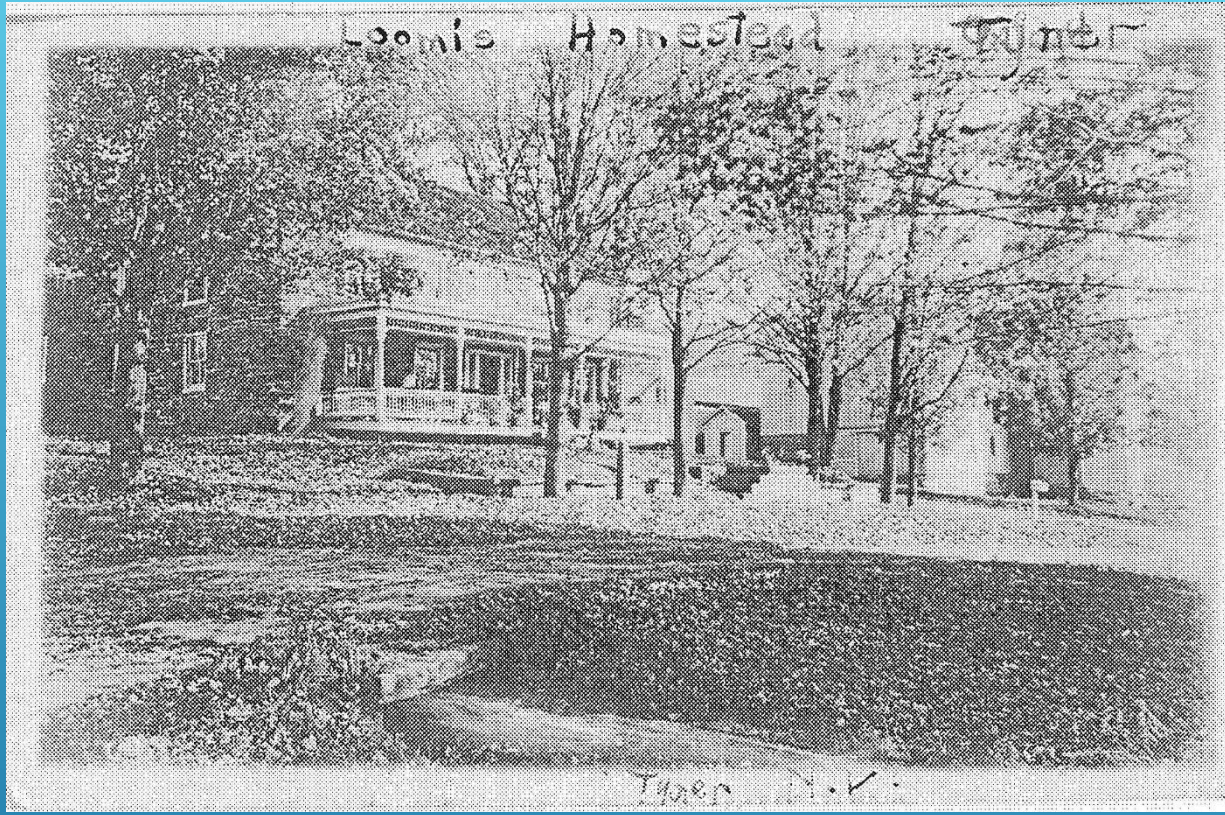
South Tyner Road

# Tyner (previously East Smithville)-1875



# Ed Loomis Home





Edward Initially lived in a log cabin nearer the creek but shortly after built a 2 story home and in 1832 the stone house you see pictured here. Additional property purchased all the way to Fred Wilcox Rd. Stone from the Quarry on that end of the property was used and a sister stone house was built by a family member on Buckley Hollow.

**Edward Loomis** moved from Egremont Mass to Oxford around 1790 and about 10 years later paid for 50 acres of land in Lot 25 in Smithville by cutting a road from Oxford to Smithville Flats. He married Polly Smith, daughter of Blodget Smith and were the parents of 13 children.







Descendents continued to live in the home until 2008 when Doris Lyon passed away and the property was sold to Nornew Gas Company. They in turn sold it to Richard Ridgway who has since restored the home and has done much work on the property.

Changes made were a total makeover: old wooden house was dismantled and the wood used in the stone house whenever possible.

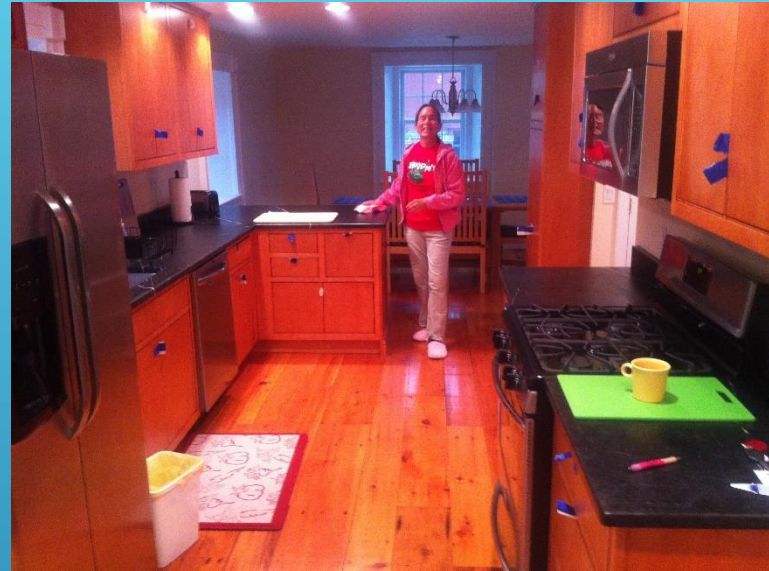




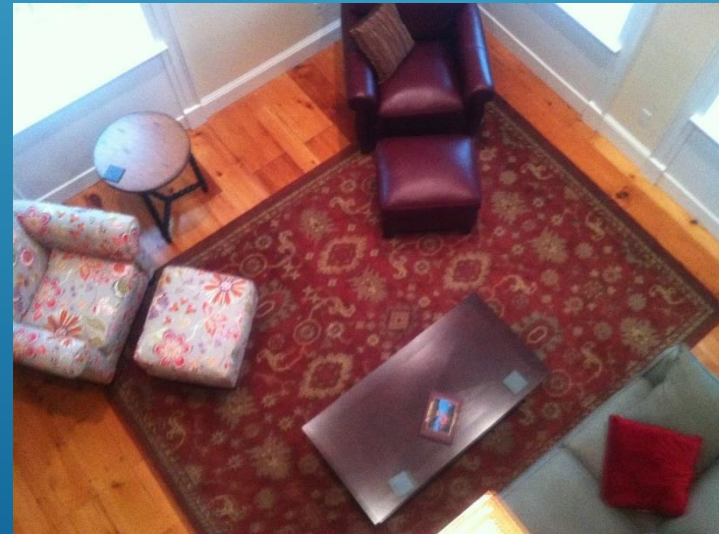
# Loomis Interior, Then and Now:



Kitchen



Living room



# Loomis House Interior Renovations:



- Stairway was moved from north side of house to near front entry
- Juliette balcony added



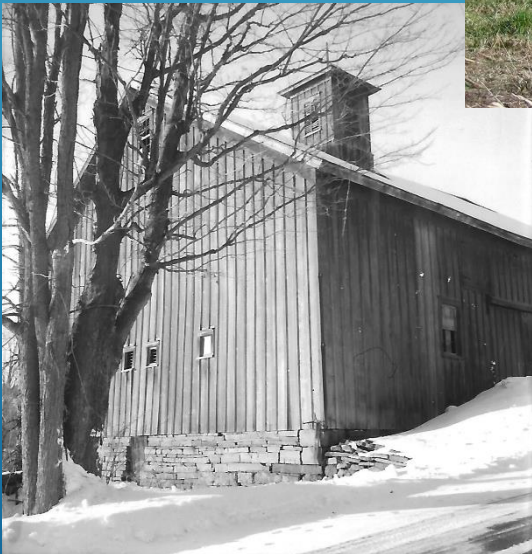




2015



Apr 2008



1976

This barn was donated to Chenango County  
Historical Society at their museum in Norwich, NY.

# Loomis Barn, Then and Now





# Loomis House, Then and Now:



# Cowles Cemetery

(Harbor Road)



- Early settlers from the center of Smithville were buried here including the Cowles/Coles, Browns, Houghs, Reids.
- At one time there were 117 markers, although some may have been footstones.
- 67 headstones had readable names in the *Guide to Abandoned Burial Grounds*, Lloyd, 1980.
- Earliest burial recorded was Jerediah Brown in 1813, the latest in 1910 (Porter).
- The Warren family has 2 burials here within the last 15 years.



# Cowles Cemetery Prior to Project:



- The cemetery was overseen by various neighbors and the Town of Smithville for many years.
- The Brown family and the Town wanted to restore the Cemetery, and Scott Lord took this on as an Eagle Scout project.

2014



# The Eagle Scout Project

- Brush removed
- Path from road improved
- Stone wall rebuilt
- Cemetery mowed and weed whacked.





# Cowles Cemetery



Sherry and Charlie Brown with  
Scott Lord

The Brown family has sponsored restoration work for several of the gravestones in the cemetery and the work is underway.

The family has established a perpetual care fund for upkeep of the Cowles Cemetery. If interested, Charlie Brown can be contacted via the Smithville Town Historian or the Historical Society.



# Cowles Cemetery, Then and Now:



End of Presentation





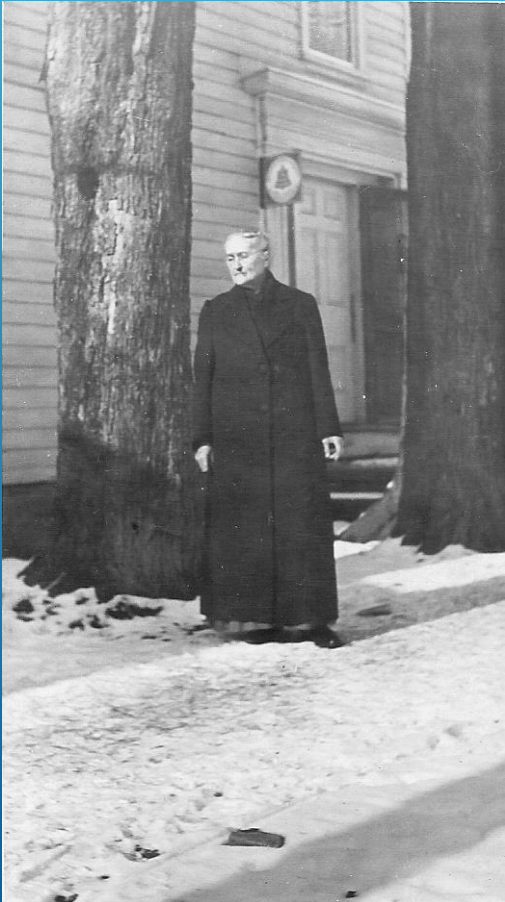
# Telephone House



Rt 41 (Main St.)

- This building housed the Smithville Northern Telephone company from 1904-1931 when it was sold to the Chenango Valley Telephone Co for \$150.
- Much of the information of what it was like living in a house which also doubled as the “Communications Center” for the Town, came from Ruby Eggleston White whose comments are in “Working Lives”.
- Ruby’s mother, Pearl Eggleston operated the switchboard.
- Ruby’s father Ben Eggleston was a Blacksmith and the Town Clerk

# Telephone Company Sign



Prank played on Eldon Bailey's model T



# Telephone House After Flood



- The 1935 flood which shows the devastation of the bridge over Rte. 41
- NYS is now evaluating how to replace this 1935 bridge in next year or the year after

- Telephone House Over the Years



1950s Postcard



1978

- The house was owned for many years years by Neal Root who recently passed away.
- Now owned by John Lance.
- In the basement of this house is the date Dec. 7, 1841.



