

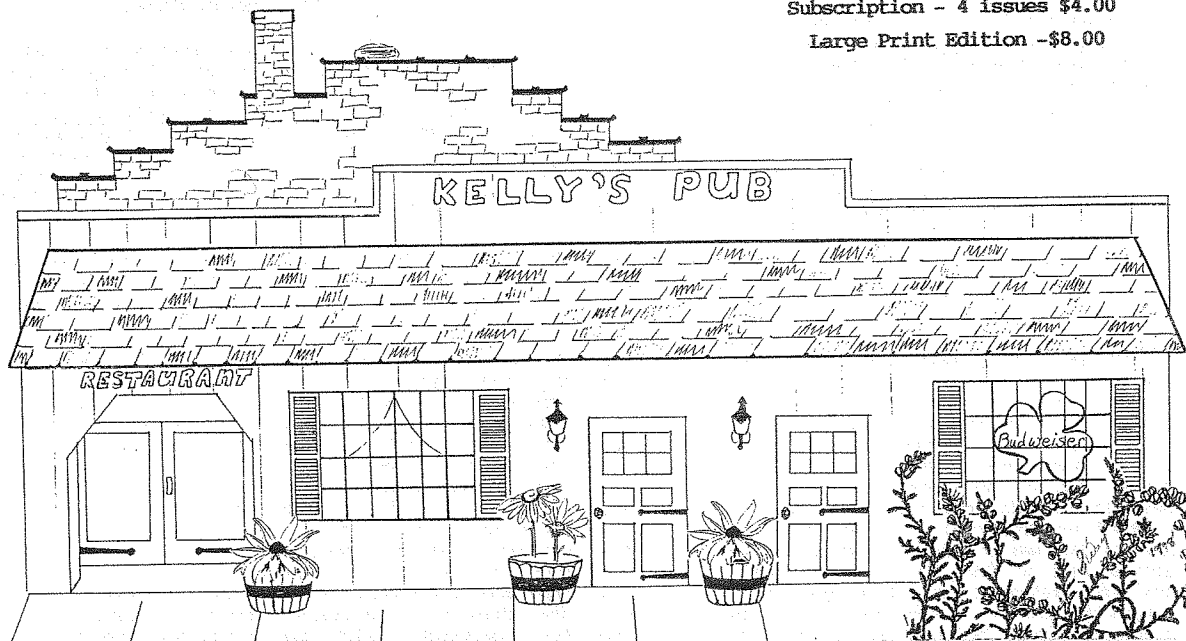
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Kelly and Sissy Kellehan - The Pub is open Mon.-Thur. 11:00 AM to 1:00 AM; Fri. & Sat with live music on Friday nights, and Sundays right now 11:30 AM-8:00PM.

While working on the story called "Music in Buckland" for "The B.T." #11 I stopped at Kelly's Pub on North St. I knew they offered some music and dancing and wondered about their history. The owner Annette Kellehan who is known as Sissy very kindly answered all of my questions and gave me a grand tour of Kelly's Pub. Sissy and her husband Charles Patrick Kellehan leased the building in 1970, and bought the building in 1978. Kelly was her husband's nick name. Kelly was born in Patterson, NJ, and passed away in April of 1996 after a difficult battle with cancer. Sissy and her children carry on the business.

As she showed me around she remembered all the time and effort she and Kelly had put into maintaining and improving the building together. In fact it's now 3 generations of her family who have cared for this business and 52 years since Sissy's parents Stanley and Mary Gill bought the property in 1946, eventually they moved to Manchester from East Hartford. From 1946 to 1970 it was known as the White Eagle Restaurant.

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The White Eagle Restaurant

Stanley and Mary Gill served lunch here daily to about 40 customers. They served a lunch of turkey, pork chops, meatloaf and vegetables real mashed potatoes and gravy all prepared from the basics. There was a wall at that time that divided the dining room from the bar which had a neon sign in the window which said "Men's Bar". That's right, women were not allowed in the bar. I asked Sissy what her first job was, "Whatever my Mother told me to do. Go get this, bring me that." she replied as if I should have known, and I guess I should have. As we walked around Sissy pointed out some of the interesting features of the building and furnishings that had been there as long as she could remember. Of course her parents rented out the reception hall too. Sissy has just hosted her first 50th wedding anniversary for a couple who held their wedding reception there in 1947! It was my first glimpse of a building with a very interesting history.

The Kellehans have left the ticket window and projection booth that have always been a part of the reception hall and have left the old piano that has always been on the small stage. It began to dawn on me that the piano might have been used to accompany silent films, and perhaps this was a very old movie house! You who have been reading "The Buckland Times" have finally figured out the answer to my question - where was Turn Hall. It was right here. Part of Kelly's Pub was at one time known as Turn Hall. That solves part of "The Turn Hall Mystery". I found the building listed as that from 1922 until 1932 in the City Directories. Since then I have been trying to piece together the history of this building. How has it been used; when was it built; by whom and for what purpose, and why was it called Turn Hall? This is the rest of "The Turn Hall Mystery". I've found some answers, talked to a lot of very nice people, and learned a lot of very interesting things. Kelly's Pub has a history which seems to tie the cultural threads of North Manchester's history together.

Manufacturing Co. It built the dams that created Union Pond and at one time owned most of the land between the pond and river and North Main. Company housing was built, with much of the work force coming from Ireland. This section of town might qualify as Manchester's first ethnic neighborhood.

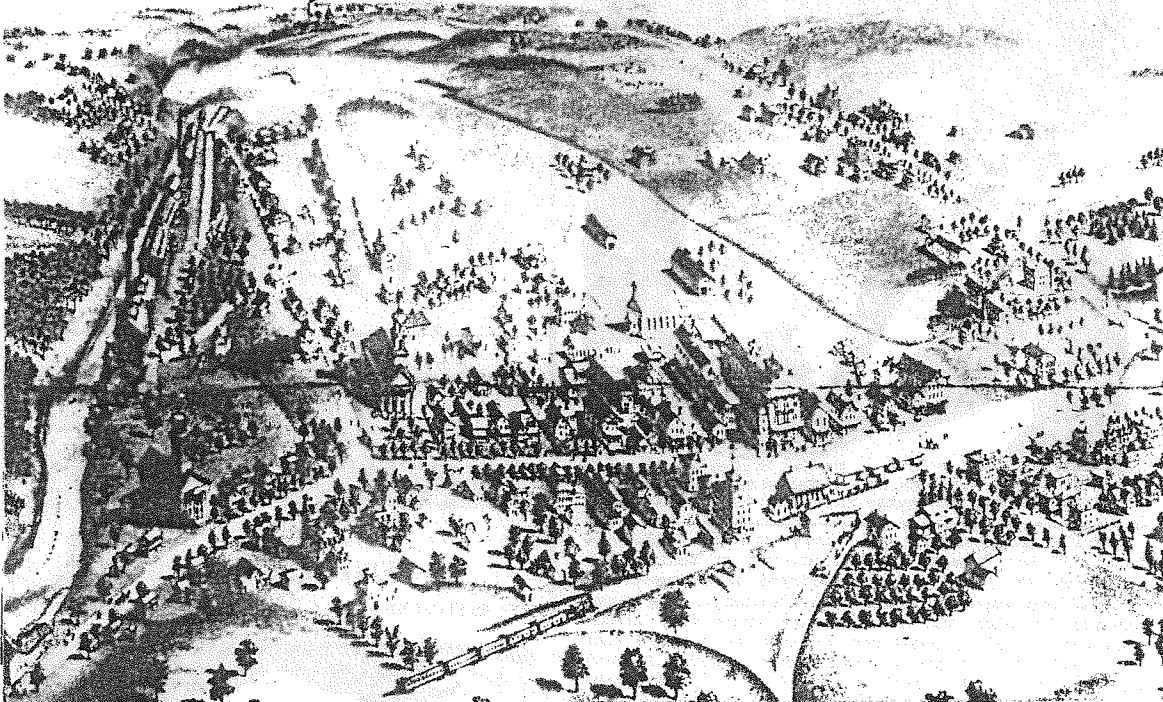
If you'd like to get some feeling for what it might have been like to live in Union Village in those days, and work long hours in a cotton mill, Mary Cheney Library has a copy of Halfway Down Paddy Lane. This is a novel written by Jean Marzollo. Her grandparents William and Norah (Toohy) Smith, lived on Golway St. She uses Union Village as the setting for her story. I called her to ask if any of her story was based on things she had been told by her grandmother. No, the story is fictional based more on the research she did on other New England mill villages, but her descriptions of Union Village and the life of the mill workers may help you to picture life here before 1900

According to Richard S. Childs as quoted from Old Manchester II The Story Tellers p.44 "North Manchester in the 1880's was a divided village. The Irish were a separate clan, living compactly in their own district without much intermingling, except in the course of employment." This of course is one man's remembrance, but he goes on to say, "They were Catholics, and we were protestants. My father, in those days, had a business rule of never hiring a Catholic! His idea was, as I heard him explain, that they considered their conscience cleared as soon as they made confession and were thereby less dependable than those of our religion, with whom a sense of guilt for a dereliction might linger and guide their conduct forever after. He forgot his rule after we moved to New York." Little wonder that a history of St. Bridget's Church, whose first building was built on North School St. in 1858 asserts that "The Irish were not wanted in any New England community. Actually they were social outcasts", and it took an "indomitable faith ...to crack the hard mold of Puritan

Bird's Eye View—1880—Manchester North

Old Manchester ... a Picture Book p.3

The original is at Mary Cheney Library

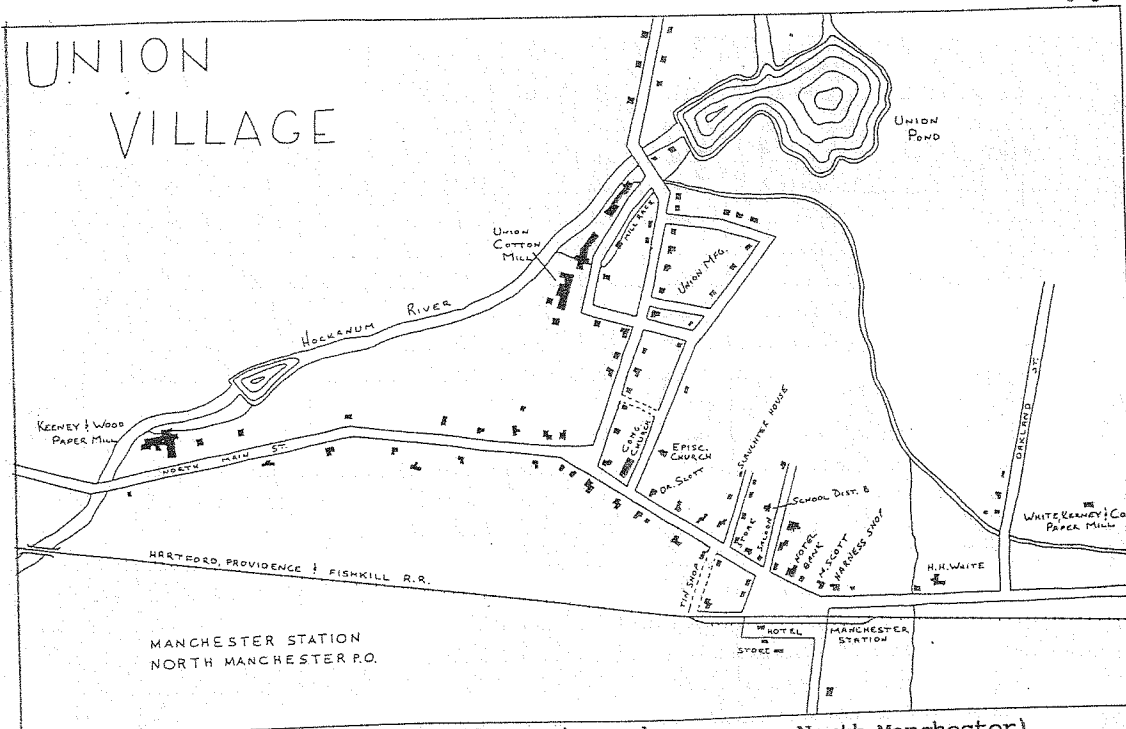


Union Village - Yankees and the Irish

North St. is not in Buckland of course, but is just south and east of the Hockanum River which today is the unofficial border between Buckland and what was at one time known as Union Village, now North Manchester. Union Village was a mill village, built around the first successful cotton mill in Connecticut established in 1794 by Samuel Pitkin. The machinery was designed by John Warburton with plans that he had smuggled out of England. The Mill buildings stood along the Hockanum between Union St. and North Main St. Eventually this company became The Union

provincialism." The first services were held in the home of John Kennedy and then James Duffy on Union St. (see "St. Bridget's Church" at Mary Cheney library).

I've also read that Union Village was settled by the Scotch-Irish who were mainly Protestant. One such account was written by Agnes Fuller Hayes in 1971 and can be found in The Storytellers p.47 -51. She writes, "My mother, Margaret Patterson, came from Ireland when she was 16. . . My grandfather was dead. . . They thought they'd have a better life here. . . My aunt and uncle had come over here. They liked it here in Manchester, so my grandmother and mother decided they'd come over. It was about 1850. Shortly



1869 Map of Union Village (now known as North Manchester)

after they came here, two of the children where my grandmother worked died. In those days, they didn't fumigate for contagious diseases as they do now, and these people who had black diphtheria in their family threw the bedclothes beside the road, and these children played in them. They, and the young woman who rescued them all died. About a year after that my mother and my grandmother went home again. They called it "home", but they didn't stay. . . . They lived down on North St. That was all settled by Scotch Irish. There was a mill down there. It was way up at the end of North St. across from the waterfalls."

It seems both the Irish and Scotch Irish must have settled in the area. Perhaps we can safely say that these two groups have not been known for the harmony between them, and both groups had their struggles in Manchester when almost everyone else in town belonged to a family that had lived in New England for 300 years or more - Yankees through and through. Union Village may not have always been as peaceful as it appears in these maps. It seems to me though that the Irish spirit and the best principals of American life have certainly prevailed, so much so that it's amazing to most of us to read some of these things and realize how different life was not so long ago. Truly remarkable are the close neighborly ties and harmony that developed in North Manchester that are so well remembered and that crossed all ethnic boundaries. With so much Irish immigrant history round about, it seems fitting that Kelly's Pub stands midway between Kerry and Golway Streets, three very Celtic names, but the story is not that simple.

Bankruptcy, Fire and Hard Times

In 1886 The Union Manufacturing Co.'s Treasurer, Thomas F. Plunkett, son of the mill owner at that time, disappeared after embezzeling enough of the company's money to force it into bankruptcy. I've been told he was never apprehended. Then in 1899

the Keeney & Wood Paper mill which stood just southwest of the Union Manufacturing Co. on the Hockanum and north of North Main St. burned to the ground and was not rebuilt. Skilled mill workers and papermakers began to find work elsewhere and move out of Union Village. The total effect on the local economy can easily be imagined. "The South Manchester News said that this company 'brought prosperity to the town while they prospered and ruin when they collapsed.'" (see Buckley p.161) Certainly this effect stretched into Buckland. The Union Mills employed 500 people at one time. Many of the houses on North Main west of the Hockanum (in Buckland) were built by and lived in by Paper mill owners and workers. The Adam's Paper Mill on Adams St. in Buckland had burned down only a few years before. The Keeney & Wood and Union mill properties were ultimately sold only for their water rights to the Cheney Brothers who built the Cheney electric power plant in 1900. That building still stands where the paper mill once stood, now added on to and made into offices. The granite blocks from the Union Manufacturing Cotton Mill were used in the foundations of the Cheney Brothers mills in South Manchester. Other mill properties were sold off with people moving and land being sold Union Village eventually called North Manchester became a natural place for newly arriving Polish and Lithuanian immigrants to settle. The 1900 and 1920 census records show the remarkable change in names that took place in just 20 years.

Levi Drake

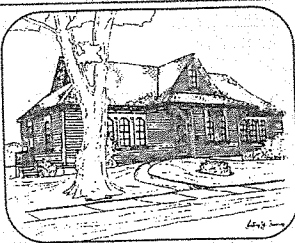
The Manchester assessors records show that the building at 69 and 71 North St. (today Kelly's Pub) was built in 1900. It has proven to be very difficult to confirm this. In fact there is very good evidence that the assessors records are wrong about the date of a building nearby. That evidence comes in the form of Sanborn Fire Insurance maps, but more about them later. Land records show that the property was owned in 1900 by Levi Drake who had bought a large

at the Cedar Street



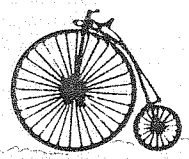
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10	83	104	Golway	Martha	Head	W	F	Aug 1826	13	Wd	2	2	Connecticut	Ireland	
				Arthur	W	N	1855	44	S				Connecticut	Ireland	
				Elizabeth	Daughter	W	F	Oct 1861	38	S			Connecticut	Ireland	
11	84	105	Anglin	Robert	Head	W	M	Mar 1868	32	M	5		Ireland	Ireland	
				Katharine	Wife	W	F	July 1868	34	M	5	2	Ireland	Ireland	
				Grace	Daughter	W	F	Sept 1897	2	S			Connecticut	Ireland	
				Robert P.	Son	W	M	Jan 1899	1	S			Connecticut	Ireland	
14	85	106	Washburn	John	Head	W	M	June 1846	58	M	29		Ireland	Ireland	
				Olivia	Wife	W	F	Dec 1849	50	M	29	7	Ireland	Ireland	
				William	Daughter	W	F	June 1883	16	S			Connecticut	Ireland	
				John	Son	W	M	Dec 1884	16	S			Connecticut	Ireland	
12		107	Gibson	James	Head	W	M	Aug 1842	57	Wd			Ireland	Ireland	
				Maria	Daughter	W	F	July 1873	27	S			Connecticut	Ireland	
				Patrick	Son	W	M	Feb 1895	25	S			Connecticut	Ireland	
				John	Son	W	M	Oct 1878	21	S			Connecticut	Ireland	
15	86	108	Prentiss	Bentham	Head	W	M	July 1866	33	M	11		Vermont	Vermont	
				Helen	Wife	W	F	Apr 1868	31	M	11	2	2	Connecticut	Scotland
				Hazel F.	Daughter	W	F	June 1889	10	S			Connecticut	Vermont	
				John G.	Daughter	W	F	June 1899	1	S			Connecticut	Vermont	
17	87	109	Gillison	David	Head	W	M	Sept 1859	40	M	12		England	England	
				Dennie	Wife	W	F	May 1866	34	M	12	3	3	Ireland	Ireland
				Charles F.	Son	W	M	Oct 1891	8	S			Connecticut	England	
				Vincent	Son	W	M	Apr 1896	4	S			Connecticut	Ireland	

Portion of the 1900 U.S. Census of Manchester - North St., the last two columns give place of birth and,

piece of vacant land on the east side of North St. from the bank in 1899. Levi Drake was born in Tolland and joined his wife Julia as a member of the 2nd Congregational Church in 1878. Their daughter Edith was born in 1879. Levi Drake had been in business at 14 & 18 North Main St. in the "Bissell Block" on Depot Square since at least 1880 when he appears in the Census. The business was known as Fitch & Drake, and later Drake & Co. This was a general store and grocery with Mr. Fitch operating the grocery. Levi Drake is listed as living on Main St., corner of Hudson. This I think would be the First Federal Bank building today. He served as Treasurer of the 2nd Congregational Church, and left a trust fund for the church which still produces an income that helps to pay expenses.

By 1900 Drake's Grocery and Dry Goods business has disappeared from the City Directory, perhaps because of the economic downturn in Union village,

father's birth. Martha Golway was actually born in Ireland. That is a mistake.

but there are still many more real estate transactions under his name in the land records. Perhaps he decided to invest his money in some of the property that was in the process of changing hands. Eventually he owned quite a lot of this land. He died in 1922 in Hartford. The Hartford City Directory lists him in 1921 as a Real Estate Agent living at 49 Kenyon. Why was the building on North St. built, and did Levi Drake build it? Drake was a successful businessman and perhaps this gives us our answer. But, to me quite simply this just doesn't seem like his kind of building. Kelly's Pub has actually been skipped over by Connecticut's Historical Commission in their survey of the area, I'm guessing because there is nothing very notable about it's architecture. The building was built in a functional and practical way. Not decorative or formal it hides it's colorful past very well. To try to find out more and to find out why it was called Turn Hall I turned to trying to solve that part of our mystery. Why Turn Hall? I looked

87	110	111	Rondel	William	Head	W	M	5-2	S	1886	19		no no	Lithuania	Lithuanian	Bethesda
			Lucas	Steve	Head	W	M	25	M	1912	01		no no	Polish	Polish	Poland
				Anna	Wife	W	F	20	M	1919	01		no no	Polish	Polish	Poland
				Charles	Son	W	M	23	S				no no	Connecticut	Polish	Poland
				Eva	Daughter	W	F	15	S				no no	Connecticut	Polish	Poland
				Martha	Daughter	W	F	24	S	1914	01		no no	Polish	Polish	Poland
				Frank	Head	W	M	50	M	1917	01		no no	Polish	Polish	Poland
				Mary	Wife	W	F	45	M	1919	01		no no	Polish	Polish	Poland
				Frank	Son	W	M	19	S				no no	Connecticut	Polish	Poland
				Joseph	Head	W	M	28	M	1913	01		no no	Polish	Polish	Poland
				Victoria	Wife	W	F	25	M	1915	01		no no	Polish	Polish	Poland
				David	Son	W	M	15	S				no no	Connecticut	Polish	Poland
				Frank	Head	W	M	32	M	1908	01		no no	Polish	Polish	Poland
				Mary	Wife	W	F	21	M	1906	01		no no	Polish	Polish	Poland
				Blanche	Daughter	W	F	17	S				no no	Connecticut	Polish	Poland
				John	Son	W	M	15	S				no no	Connecticut	Polish	Poland
				John	Son	W	M	12	S				no no	Connecticut	Polish	Poland
				Joseph	Head	W	M	28	M	1907	01		no no	Polish	Polish	Poland
				Walter	Wife	W	F	26	M	1909	01		no no	Polish	Polish	Poland
				Stanley	Wife	W	F	19	S				no no	Connecticut	Polish	Poland
				Joseph	Head	W	M	26	S	1914	01		no no	Polish	Polish	Poland
				Adam	Head	W	M	25	M	1914	01		no no	Polish	Polish	Poland
				Edmond	Son	W	M	23	M	1914	01		no no	Polish	Polish	Poland
				Manella	Daughter	W	F	16	S				no no	Connecticut	Polish	Poland
				Mary	Daughter	W	F	14	S				no no	Connecticut	Polish	Poland
				William	Head	W	M	19	M	1880	01		no no	Connecticut	Polish	Poland
				Mary	Wife	W	F	15	M	1880	01		no no	Connecticut	Polish	Poland
				Robert	Daughter	W	F	14	S				no no	Connecticut	Polish	Poland
				Thomas	Daughter	W	F	11	S				no no	Connecticut	Polish	Poland
				Thomas	Head	W	M	37	M	1910	01		no no	Polish	Polish	Poland

Portion of the 1920 U.S. Census of Manchester - Kerry St. & North St. The last 3 columns ask for place of birth, language spoken and father's place of birth.

Frank Yankowski's family (name spelled incorrectly) and Blanch their oldest daughter, known to many of you as Bernice.

in town vital records and land records and found almost no one with that last name listed. I also looked in the old Directories, and where they list organizations, no sign of Turn Hall before 1922. The existing collections of Manchester Directories are not complete before 1922, and those early years contain less information, but don't give up.

A Polish and Lithuanian Neighborhood

We'll skip now to the Polish chapter of this building's life which began officially when Felix Stumm sold the property to the St. John the Baptist Corp. in Oct. 1913. Felix Stumm was the baker on Kerry St. at that time. Incorporation papers describe the purpose of this organization in this way, "to provide a suitable building as a meeting place for its members; to cultivate the arts of music and singing; to observe Polish customs and keep up a knowledge of the Polish language; and to promote the mental, moral, social and physical welfare of its members." The papers are signed by Joseph Kaneski (president), Peter Balon and John Czapl. Other members of the Polish community came together in 1921 to form the Polish Grocery Coop. It too made it's home here at 69 & 71 North St. for about 10 years.

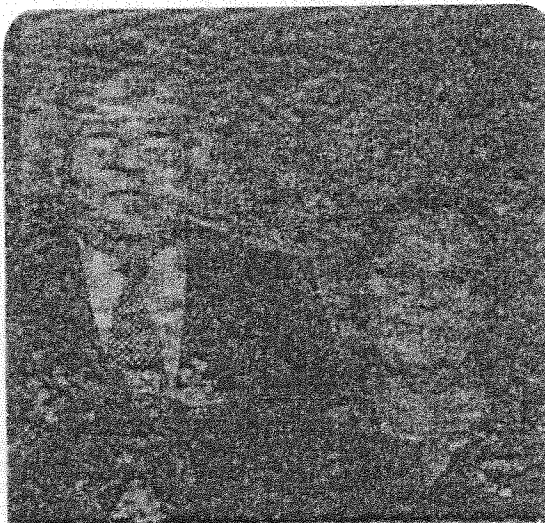
The Polish community in Manchester in the 1920's was of two minds. Some believed very strongly in preserving Polish customs and language and community control of the local church. The strength of their feelings seems to have grown out of the long struggle for Polish independence in Europe, and attempts by surrounding powers, especially the Russian Empire to wipe out Polish culture and absorb Poland into the Russian Empire. Polish customs and culture were bound very closely to the catholic Church. But others felt that close tie in a different way. Just as strongly they felt a loyalty to the Roman Catholic Church, and a belief that having come to America they should become American and embrace it's customs and language.

The group that you might call the Nationalists eventually decided to join a religious organization which had been formed in Scranton, PA in 1897, The Polish National Catholic Church. (Please see The Polish National Catholic Church by Paul Fox Ph.D., Mary Cheney Library) They incorporated in 1929 and held their first services at Turn Hall while they raised funds for their church built on Golway St. in 1930, which they named ST. John the Baptist Polish National Catholic Church. By then the Polish Grocery Coop had dissolved as these two groups went their separate ways, with accounts being settled finally in Bankruptcy court.

North St. is a quiet residential St. today. Kelly's Pub is the only business on the street, but at one time there were four grocery stores on North St., Two at one time operated by the Brazilskas (spelled in several ways) family beginning as early as 1915, and one operated by Charles Skrabacz (1923 Directory), and the Polish Coop. There was also the bakery on Kerry St. and some businesses on Union St. as well, including a meat market operated by John Kildish. Herb Bengston, Manchester's Town Historian suggested that I talk to Bernice Mordavsky about the Polish Grocery Coop., and she seemed delighted to to answer my questions about the street she grew up on. Her home was 93 North St., a house that her father built. She was born there in 1912. Her father was Frank Yankowski and he was one of the men who signed the incorporation papers for the Coop along with Ignac Wierzbidecki and John Bocek. According to other deeds

the group's president was Julian Zapadka. I went to Woodland Gardens, my faithful sponsors to ask Leon Zapadka if he might know who Julian Zapadka was. Of course he did, Julian was his grandfather. He didn't know that his grandfather had been involved with the Coop, so he was interested. I asked Bernice why the Polish community thought there was a need for the Coop if there were already several stores in the area. She explained that the Brazilskas family were actually Lithuanian, as was John Kildish. Charles Skrabacz who was Polish moved to the neighborhood a little later from Chicopee, MA. The Poles wanted a store of their own, where they could buy the foods they were accustomed to, and of course there was the language barrier. I have also been told by several people that there existed an historic animosity "no love lost" between Poles and Lithuanians. The Coop operated like other groceries at that time, except that members of the coop took turns doing the necessary work. The food was bought in bulk. A clerk would measure out and wrap what you asked for. Most people bought on credit, an account book was kept, and the bill would be paid after pay day.

Married about 1909 . . . Julian and Mary Zapadka



Zapadkas Wed 50 Years

The two earliest maps of the east side of North St. were done in 1915 by the Town of Manchester's Engineering Dept. (see page 9) and in 1919 by the Sanborn Fire Insurance Co. The Assessors records say that the front section and the reception hall were both built in 1900, but both maps seem to show that the hall was built first. Additions were made to the maps, and it's difficult to tell when, but I would be willing to guess that the front section of the building was added to accommodate the Grocery Coop because the 1919 Sanborn map (page 7) shows no front section, and the Coop was formed in 1921.

Silent Movies

The Coop operated the reception hall as well and apparently rented the hall to Bill Campbell o Sunday nights to show motion pictures. Yes, indeed silent movies. I've spoken to several people who remember it well. Bill Campbell lived on North School St. and during the week he was the clerk at the Depo Square Station, earlier he had been a Capt. on th

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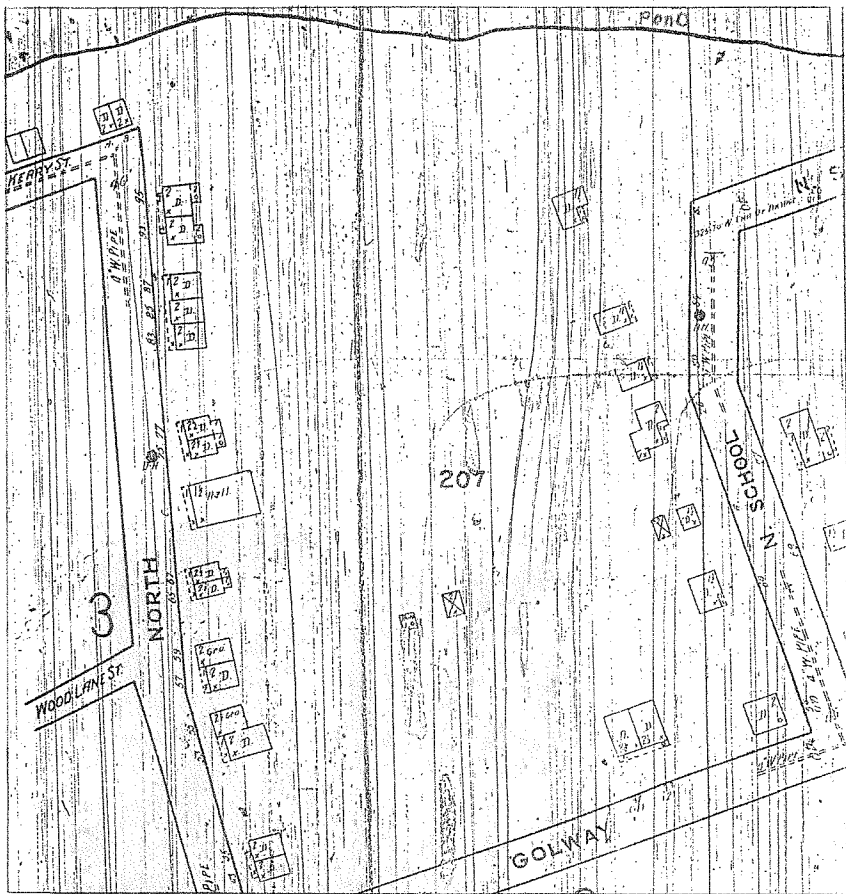
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Sanborn Fire Insurance Map 1919 these maps can be found at the Manchester Historical Soc. or the Conn. State Library

Oct. 30 OBITUARY 1908

BERNHARD C. APEL

Bernhard C. Apel of Manchester died at his home Tuesday evening after a lingering illness with a complication of diseases. He was confined to his bed but ten days preceding his death. His funeral is taking place this afternoon as we go to press. Rev. Charles N. Lovell pastor of the North Congregational church officiating. Burial will be in the Buckland Cemetery.

Mr. Apel was a native of Germany, was 64 years old and came to Manchester 35 years ago where he has resided continuously since. He has also conducted a furniture and undertaking business over north during all that time. He was a practical cabinet maker and undertaker, built up a large business and for many years was the leading furniture dealer of the town of Manchester. Twenty years ago he erected a large brick block for his furniture business and also added an opera house, the first of its kind in the Town of Manchester. This building was totally destroyed by fire about a dozen years ago, but Mr. Apel rebuilt it at once and has continued business steadily since. For several years his health has been failing and he was unable to give necessary attention to the many requirements of his calling. As a result he has not been able to keep up with the procession, as other men have since entered the furniture and undertaking business in this town and have made competition very active. Mr. Apel's enfeebled condition prevented him from keeping up with the younger men in the business.

Mr. Apel was a man who was fond of social life and mingled largely with fraternities. He was a member of the German Societies, Sons of Herman and Harugari, also of the Maccapees, and of the Ancient Order of United Workmen. He gave a great deal of his time to the interests of the several fraternities and aided them very much in their work. He was also a member of the German Lutheran Concordia Church.

He was a man of most generous impulses, very accommodating and obliging to the poor and always willing to help a man in distress. He was general, social, and compassionate and made many friends. He won the respect of all with whom he came in contact. Mr. Apel was a life long Democrat and served his party faithfully in all his years of residence in the Town of Manchester. He was willing, eager and ready to further the interests of the Democratic party and his name usually appeared on their ticket as grand juror.

A widow and eight children survive, as follows: Andrew, George, Charles, Lewis, William, Mary and Conrad, all living at home, and Mrs. Martha Bedford of Hartford, and also two grandchildren, William and Mabel Bedford of Hartford.

The South Manchester News
October 1901
MR. APEL'S BENEFIT.

Don't forget that there will be a benefit concert and dance given for Mr. Apel in Apel's opera house tomorrow evening in order to render as much aid as possible to him, owing to the heavy losses he sustained at the destructive fires that have almost ruined him financially. Mr. Apel has been doing business in this town for many years, has accommodated many persons in their hour of need and now he expects and believes that they will respond to his call and give him a rousing benefit tomorrow night. Apel's opera house should be filled on this occasion.

Bernice instead of Blanch. Need I say more. She is Bernice today. It was a very difficult first year in school. Her parents made sure that their younger children learned some English before they went to school.

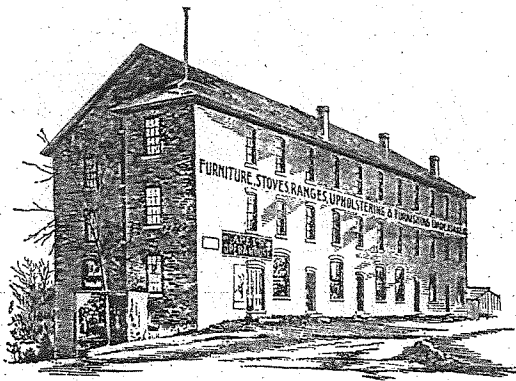
Turn Hall was the place of many a wedding reception, including her own and Bernice remembers well of course all the excitement in the neighborhood on the wedding day, and the preparation that went into a wedding. It was always a big occasion and involved the whole neighborhood. A Polish wedding I learned lasted all day and late into the night. The women started preparing foods such as bushels of angel wing cookies, chicken soup, soup noodles cold cuts and Keilbasa early in the morning. The turkeys for the main meal baked all day in the ovens of the bakery on Kerry St. When Bernice and Frank were married in 1937 the custom was for the service in their case to take place at St. Bridget's Church at 10:30 A.M. Then bridal party set off for Park St. in Hartford to have wedding pictures taken, and a very beautiful picture it is. Then they came back to the reception hall where the bride and groom were met at the door by their mothers. There was a symbolic taste of salt for the bitter part of life, and bread for the sweet, a taste of whiskey, she can't quite remember why, and then the couple made the grand march around the reception hall for the assembled guests. There was always a musical group consisting of a fiddle, an accordion, and a clarinet to provide accompaniment. Then the whole group would go

Manchester Police force. Admission was 5c, but if you didn't have your 5c and you happened to know one of the fathers who happened to be taking their turn at maintenance for the Coop, he just might find you a way to sneak in. This of course infuriated Bill Campbell who probably wondered why he was going to all the trouble. His wife Rose sold the tickets, and attempted to keep a close eye on the children; her husband ran the projector. Bernice remembers the piano player who accompanied the films, and she remembers his first name as Francis. Marge McMenemy remembers her friend Lolita Aitkin playing for the films a few years earlier perhaps 1917. As she recalls she received \$5 for her work which was very good pay in those days. Jean Marzolla believes her mother Ruth (Smith) Martin may have played piano for the films, too. Lenny Farrand remembers a serial movie of some sort. Mary McKeever remembers Carl Borst playing piano for the films and she remembers several serials that were shown, westerns and "The Claw". You had to come back next week to see the next episode, which I'm sure helped to keep those nickels rolling in. The reception hall was known as Turn Hall at that time as Bernice recalls, but she had no idea why. She was fairly sure the name had no Polish connection. No, I didn't think so either.

When listening to and reading stories about the Immigrant experience I am struck by the difference that the attitude of one person could make. Bernice tells me that her mother and father were not allowed to go to school when they were children in Poland. Others have told me very similar stories. The Russian Empire was determined to wipe out dissent, the Polish language and political aspirations. There were clandestine schools, but the punishment was severe if you were caught attending one. Frank Yankowski taught himself to read and write in Polish and in English after he arrived in this country, but her mother never did, she was too busy with the children and the house, and boarders. They first lived in Pennsylvania and there her mother got some much needed help from a very kind Irish woman named Blanch. She named her daughter after this woman as you can see in the 1920 Census. When it was time for Blanch to go to school however she spoke only Polish, her parents and many of her neighbors spoke nothing else at home. The woman in charge of registering the children for school for whatever reason wrote down



B.C. Apel and his opera house—a north end landmark.
The side of the building tells the story: furniture, stoves, ranges, upholstery, undertaker.



downstairs for the main meal, and eventually upstairs again for more music and dancing which lasted until midnight.

I asked Bernice about Elizabeth Golway. At the time I thought she had at one time owned this building. Eventually I discovered that I had taken a wrong turn when trying to follow the deeds back. But, oh yes, she remembered Miss Golway. She lived on the southeast corner of Golway St. and North St. There was a crab apple tree on her front yard and it was the children's job to ask if they could pick the fruit for their mothers who then made crab apple jelly. The asking I'm sure was the hardest part of this job.

I'm Happy to be able to tell you it wasn't too difficult to learn a little more about Miss Golway. She was Elizabeth Jane Golway a teacher at the 8th district school for many years. Early City Directories call her Miss Lizzie Golway. Her family had lived in that house on the corner for many years. In deeds it's referred to as "the homestead". Her mother and father were born in Ireland, her father William was an "operative in the cotton mill". He bought his first piece of property (1 Acre) in 1843, and left two lots to his wife when he died in 1887. Lizzie's mother Martha left her 2 children 6 lots of land when she died in 1903. Lizzie and her brother Arthur followed their parent's example and invested in the real estate in her neighborhood. Her brother Arthur who lived in the house behind the homestead died in 1909. By then their accumulated real estate had left it's mark on Manchester's map - Golway Street! Miss Golway had no reason to move away from Union Village. She worked nearby at the 8th District School.

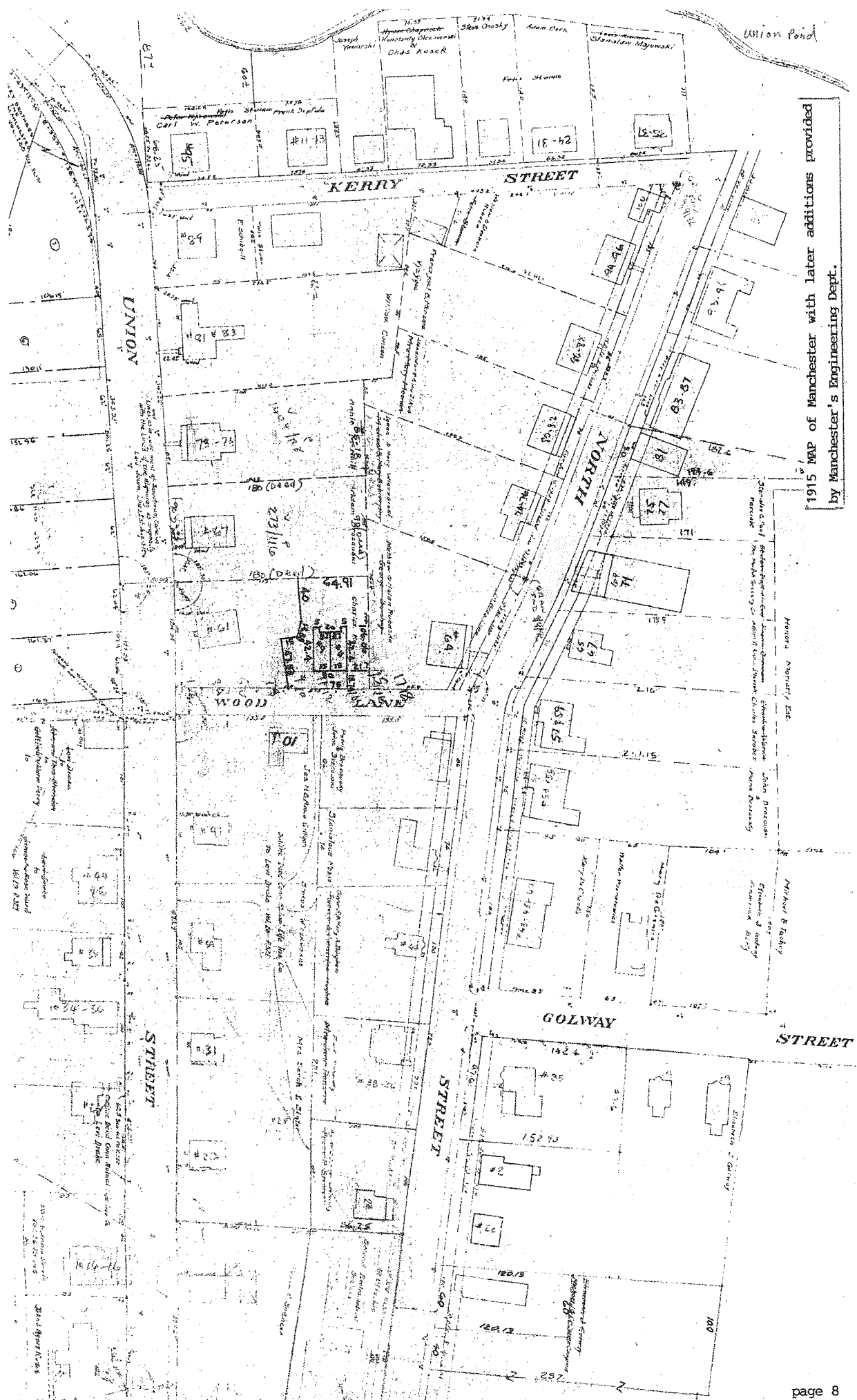
I wasn't sure where to turn to try to get to the bottom of the Turn Hall Mystery, and I was telling my parents all about it over Thanksgiving dinner. My mother said right away, "It was a German social club." Now I wondered how she would know that. She lives in N.J. I grew up in a small town in Northern NJ, but my mother grew up in the more

cosmopolitan Newark, NJ. Apparently there was a Turn Hall in Newark, NJ. Not one to pass up a clue I went to the library and learned that there is an encyclopedia of organizations. Sure enough there in their Key Word Index I found The Turn Verein a group that "Promotes family health and physical education." There was a group listed in Holyoke and another in Clinton, MA. The Clinton group met at a Turner Hall. My German dictionary listed Turn Verein as a gymnastics club. This certainly sounded like it might be the right group, but how to prove it?

I looked in the land records for a lease or incorporation papers with no luck. At that time I thought the Polish Grocery Corp. had leased the building from Stanislaus Moske, who bought the property from Henrietta Wisotski who in turn had bought from Elizabeth Golway, she I thought had bought from Levi Drake. I couldn't see a German connection there. So I went to the Spiess & Bidwell History of Manchester to see what I could learn about organizations and the German churches. They have a list of organizations, but no Turn Verein. I learned that the German community had settled mostly near Cooper St. and that the German Luthern Church was founded in 1890. Cooper St. seemed like a long way from North St. But, interestingly there was a division in the German congregation when the pastor of the newly founded church decided to adhere to certain rules that prohibited any member from belonging to certain organizations and secret societies. The division gave birth to Concordia German Lutheran Church which was built on Winter St. in 1897.

I found a history of Concordia at Mary Cheney Library and B.C. Apel listed as one of their founding members. I had guessed that he might have been. I knew he was German, and I had read a story in Old Manchester II written by Mrs. Agnes Fuller Hayes p.47-51. She grew up on Oakland St. In a section on Apel's Opera house she says, "The St Bridgets people used to have a dance almost every Staurday night. There was a German Society, too. They used to have a dance. My neighbors were Germans and they used to go. They'd take their baby, feed it there and put it on a bench and dance. The Germans loved to dance." I wondered if Bernard Conrad Apel might have had some something to do with the building of "Turn Hall". His Opera House I knew hosted a wide range of cultural events from School graduations and masquerade balls to comic opera, "The Frogs of Windham", professional road companies "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde" "Ten Nights in a Barroom" as well as some burlesque shows with an audience of only men as you've already guessed. I also learned from William Buckley's A New England Pattern that "The first showing of movies locally was for a church benefit at Apel's in 1899. That date 1899 might actually establish the building on North St. as Manchester's first movie theatre, built for that purpose. Next earliest date that I've been able to find is 1908 for the Edison theatre on Main St. In any case this is without a doubt the oldest existing movie theatre in Manchester and a Silent movie theatre at that. B.C. Apel was a businessman with an interest in many things, some of which you can still read through the fading paint of a later sign. So, perhaps he took an interest in motion pictures, but I found no evidence of this. I did find his obituary in the South Manchester News Oct. 30, 1908. I'm reprinting it here because it describes Bernard Apel as "a man who was fond of social life and mingled largely with fraternities. He was a member of the German Societies, Sons of Herman and Harugari, and also the Maccabees." Close, but still no mention of Turn Verein. The obituary goes on however to mention several facts which seem to have been forgotten in Manchester history. Apel's Opera House suffered a disasterous fire about 1896. He rebuilt, but another article in "The South Manchester News" of an earlier date tells us that fire nearly led to his financial ruin. So I concluded that he was probably not in the position to be active in putting up another building. This fire in fact probably contributed to the economic difficulties that North Manchester was living with.

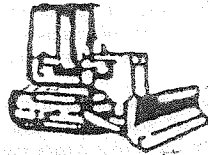
I was becoming discouraged when I remembered a paragraph in the Concordia Church history concerning the European origins of many of the Germans who came to Manchester and the geography behind the spelling of their names. It explained that many of the German families who came to Manchester were part of a group known as the Zipser Germans 'so called' who had immigrated from the Austro-Hungarian Empire from the southern foothills of the Carpathian mountains



1915 MAP of Manchester with later additions provided by Manchester's Engineering Dept.

German enriched by loan words from both Hungarian and Polish surnames have a distinct Slovak form: Turek, Mrozak, Zwick, Demko, Sibring, Noske, Wittkofske, Stavinsky, Winzler." I remembered Henrietta Wisotski whom I had assumed was Polish and whom I still thought had once owned this building. Now I wondered with misspellings and so forth perhaps Henrieta was German, and several records show that she was. But, I had begun to wonder if I had made a mistake in following the deeds. The lease that I had copied between The Polish Grocery Coop and Stanislaus Moske was for 50 North St. - the wrong side of the street and the wrong street number. Well I knew now that I'd never get this story finished in 1997, so I went ahead with stories that I had, and went over to Kelly's Pub to explain this to Sissy and to tell her about what I had managed to learn. Finally I said, "I've been trying to find out why it was called Turn Hall." She said, "Because it was a German Social Club. They came here to do their gymnastics." I said, "That's great! How do you know that?" We just hadn't talked about that the first time I talked to her, and I had forgotten that she has worked there for almost 52 years. She has served many people and some of them were at one time members of this German Social Club.

Well that was good enough evidence for me but I still had to correct my error at the Town Clerk's office, and I still thought it would be awfully nice to find something in writing or someone of German heritage with some connection to this club, or something a little more definite about this club. But, as you can see, this story has already outgrown this issue, so please pick up the next issue of "The Buckland Times" to read the last chapter of the Turn Hall mystery?

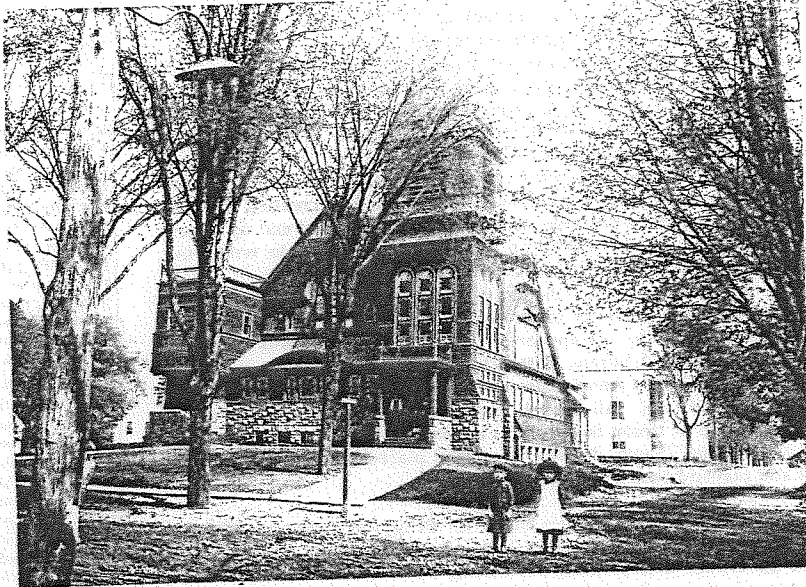


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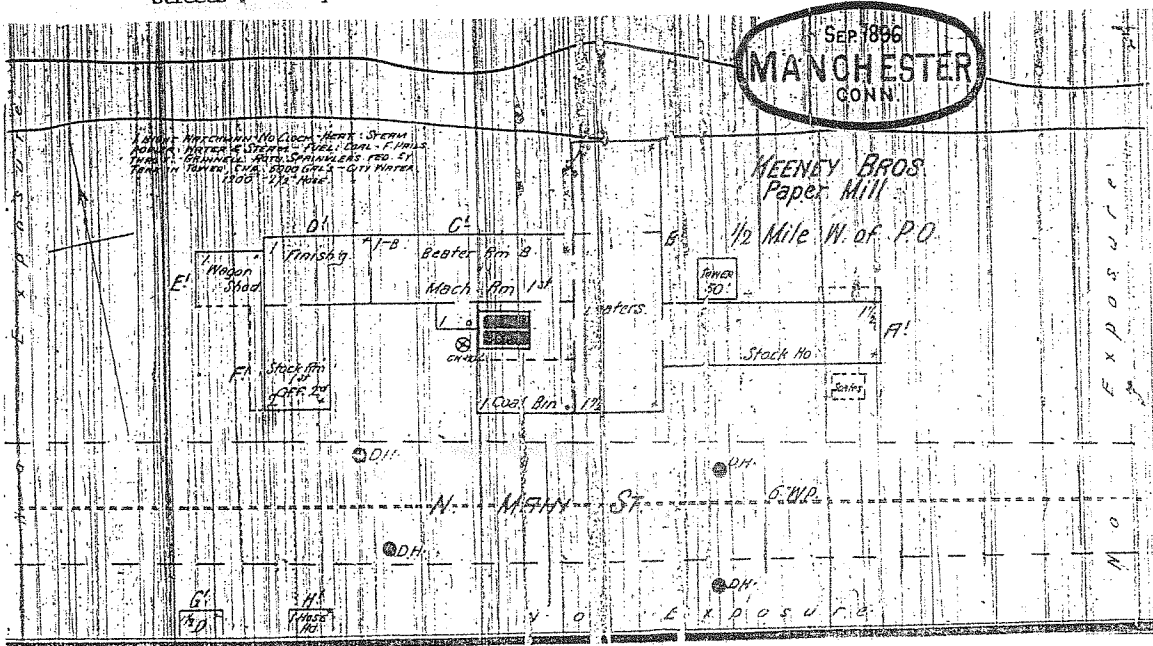
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Many Thanks for the contributions of many people.
You make this possible, and enjoyable. - *critic's note*

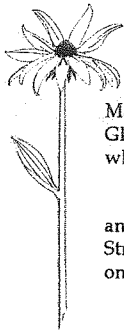


Second Congregational Church at North Main and North Streets (courtesy of Manchester Historical Society) built in 1888 photo before 1910



The View from Marble Street, excerpts from "A Memoir"

Marjorie is 95 this year!



My name is Marjorie McMenemy. I was born on Marble Street, Manchester, Connecticut, June 26, 1903. My father, John McMenemy, came from Glasgow, Scotland, when he was 19. My mother descended from John Hollister who came to this country in 1612 and settled in Glastonbury, Connecticut.

My cousins, the Rockwells, lived next door and my grandparents, Orrin and Gertrude Hollister, lived across the street. Grandpa developed Marble Street and built all of the old houses on it. At one time there were five houses on Marble Street all occupied by relatives.

There were eight children in our family: Edward, Mary, Christine, Olive, Marjorie (me), two boys James and Robert who only lived a short time, and then Ruth who was nine years younger than I. When Mary, then thirteen, heard that mother had had a baby girl she said: "What?! Another girl, we don't have enough petticoats to go around now."

Mother was a teacher, a graduate of New Britain Normal School. Dad was a bookkeeper and started with the BonAmi Company and after a short time went to Hartford and worked for the National Fire Insurance Company until he retired.

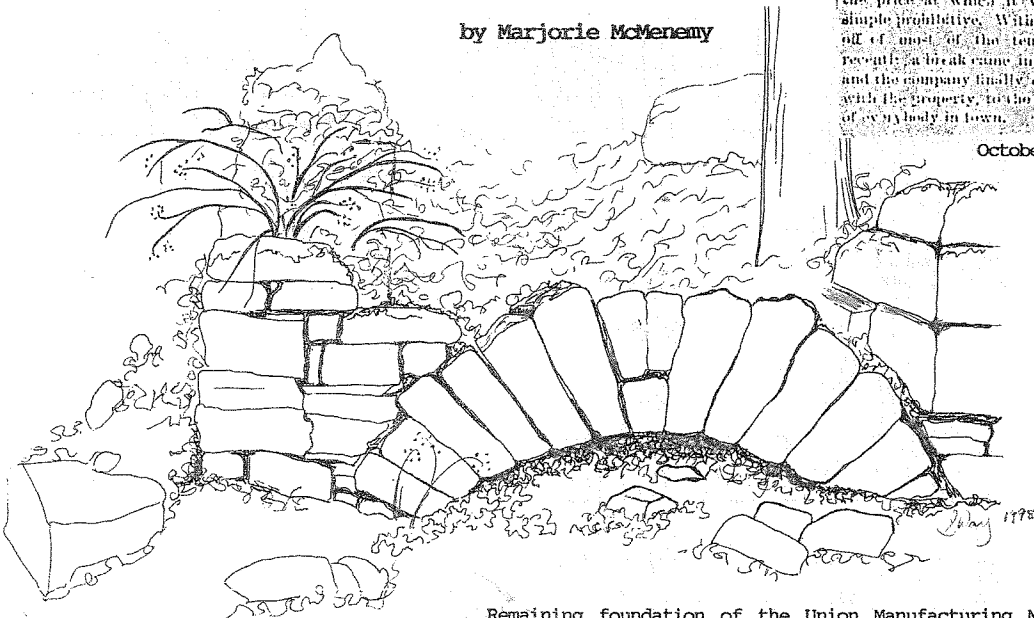
Life was very simple. We had no electricity, no phone, and no car. When we went anywhere we walked, or took the trolley car. Our life revolved around church, school, relatives, friends and neighbors.

Winter meant caps, coats, mittens, overshoes, boots, and long black leggings. Our radiators were always covered with leggings drying. We had one pair of skis, sleds, pigstickers (type of sled), and a double rip made by Ed and Ralph. Only one boy in the neighborhood had a flexible flyer. There were never enough sleds to go around, but it was more fun to go "belly bumpers" and have one or two hop on top. We had several hills right in our neighborhood. The best ride, I think, was starting at our hill, crossing the road and Rockwell's lawn, down their hill, into the garden and we'd end up almost at North Main Street. On the double rip you had to remember to wrap your legs around the waist of the one in front of you.

When the violets were in bloom it was time to run home and get permission to take off our winter underwear. Many wild flowers grew in the open fields and many have disappeared: arbutus, wild lily-of-the-valley, clover, daisies, black-eyed Susans, butter-cups, golden rod (not loved by hay fever sufferers), and Queen Anne's Lace were some, along with Lady Slippers and red and white trillium. All of these grew along the Hockanum River in a meadow that started at Union Street and ran along the pipe line, and ended in back of the Methodist Church. What a wonderful place to play, we paddled in the brook and played house under the trees.

The pipe line ran from Union Street to the power house for Cheney Mills. It had been there a long time and frequently sprung leaks making geysers in the winter time forming fascinating formations. The holes were frequently patched but, I'm told, the boys immediately made new holes. Eventually the pipe was removed. The pipe must have been five or six feet in diameter.

by Marjorie McMenemy



Remaining foundation of the Union Manufacturing Mill just south of the Union Pond Dam. Date- 1800? 1850? I don't know if anyone knows.

The South Manchester News

After many years of crumbling into decay, owing to the fact that it had alien owners, the Union Mills property has been purchased by M. S. Chapman of this town from the Connecticut Mutual Life Insurance Company of Hartford. Mr. Chapman secured the property at a bargain. It includes the water privilege, two mills, the office building, the old stone store, two tenement houses and 1.2 acres of land. The water privilege carries with it the right to raise the dam four feet. The privilege is estimated to furnish 200 horse power ten hours a day the year around, as it stands at present. Mr. Chapman is reported to have made the following statement regarding the purchase: "At the price I paid for it, the water privilege as it stands today would pay a handsome interest on my investment. Steam power cannot be produced in plants of ordinary magnitude for less than \$30 per horse power per year and at that rate the water now flowing over the Union mill dam would earn \$1,000 a year. If some manufacturing concern requiring not over 100 horse power to run its machinery should take the mill it would not have to haul a ton of coal to the mill. The water privilege transformed into electric energy would be sufficient to supply all the power, light and heat it would need."

NO DEFINITE PLANS YET

As to what Mr. Chapman intends to do with the property he says: "I have not even visited the property for five years. With the increased demand for American coal in foreign countries the price is likely to go up; and with the improved methods of transmitting electric power the demand for water privileges is increasing. I was able to secure this property at a low price and, therefore, I bought it and I consider it a safe investment. I have already been offered more than I paid for it, but it is not for sale."

People about town are highly pleased to learn that the property has passed into Mr. Chapman's hands, as, with his well known energy, executive ability and general push, it is likely to be put to some use which in one way or another is sure to redound to the benefit of the town, as well as to Mr. Chapman, and the maturing of plans for its speedy use will be anxiously awaited by all.

The Connecticut Mutual Life Insurance Company did not make any effort to put the plant into use. It has been on the market for years, but the price at which it was held was simply prohibitive. With the cancelling off of most of the tenement houses recently, a break came in the deadlock and the company finally decided to part with the property, to the great delight of everybody in town.

October 1901