

PALMYRA DISTRICT #3 SCHOOLHOUSE (Site)

HISTORY SHEET

General Information

Name of Structure: Palmyra District #3 Schoolhouse

Address: 116 Throop St

Tax ID: (543601) 64111-12-906651

Atlas: 1853: "G.G.Jessup"; 1858: unlabeled bldgs, 1874: "S Mills",
1904: "Burns Est"

Sanborn Ins Maps: 1884-1912: "Owen Burns, Stave Mill and Cooper Shop" and/or
"Burns Bros Cooper Shop"
1884: "Dwg", 1889: "Stge of Heads", 1906: "Storage of Hoops",
1912: "Storage"

When Built / Mason: c.1835; unknown mason (one of 3 cobblestone SH built in Palmyra in
1835)

When Razed: Unknown; >1925

NOTE: Used as SH until 1847 when Union SH was built

Original Owner: Palmyra's "board of education"

Subsequent: John Mills, Owen Burns, Harvey Bump

Original Use: Schoolhouse

Subsequent: Used as a residence by a shoemaker, then as a cooperage

Pictures: Yes, two

Description: Gable end faced street; center entrance w/1 window each side,
12-over-12 sash. Bricks set on edge as lintel over door; no lintels or sills
on façade windows. Multi-colored, shaped, sized field cobbles, 3/Q,
limestone quoins (10 quoins high). On left side, three windows, w/
narrow lintels and sills—probably of wood.
At some point the roof was raised, changing the pitch of the roof—the
exterior added space of wood (per postcard image from 1890s).
An undated photograph shows the opposite long side which appears to
be a mirror image (and the same altered roof pitch). Hand written note
on this image: "As late as 1930, one of three district schools in Palmyra—
this one on Throop St".
Both images too grainy to discern mortar details.

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RESOURCES

The primary resource for the following information is from Thomas L Cook's book, "Palmyra and Vicinity" © 1930 and a handful of articles in the local newspaper derived from "Thomas L Cook's scrapbook".

NOTE: "Palmyra and Vicinity" text is not available on the internet except for purchase from booksellers.

Palmyra Directories:

Gazetteer and Business Directory of Wayne County, N.Y. 1867

<https://wayne.nygenweb.net/gazetteer/palmyragaz.html>

Mills, John, shoemaker

Burns, Owen, cooper

<https://wayne.nygenweb.net/palmyra/1901palmyradirectory.html> 1901 Directory

Burns Brothers (Garrett F. and Owen, jr.), cooperage, 5 Throop

Cemetery Records:

Palmyra Village Cemetery — MILLS

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/109522680/john-mills> (1798-1884, age 85-86)

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/109522679/joanna-mills> (1802-1890, age 87-88)—wife

Obit at findagrave: "Mrs Joanna Mills died last night at the residence of Orson R Seely, 121 South avenue, aged 88 years ... The remains will be taken to Palmyra for interment." — (Ref: Rochester NY Democrat Chronicle 1890 - 0923.PDF (2/7/1890))

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/209239993/samuel-mills> (1836-1910)—son

Obit at findagrave (Canaseraga Times, 1/14/1910; Canaseraga NY Times 1930-1937 sp - 0312.pdf) "Samuel Mills ... Mr & Mrs G.C. Avery were called suddenly to Buffalo on account of the serious illness of Mrs Avery's brother, **Samuel Mills** who was being cared for at the State hospital ... the cause of death was an attack of acute pneumonia and owing to his feeble condition quickly overcame him. His remains were taken to his native town of Palmyra for burial ... Mr Mills was 75 years of age, is survived by a son S.A.Mills of Cleveland OH and daughter Katherine Mills of Boston MA and two sisters Mrs Geo Avery of this place and Mrs Louise Seeley of Rochester ... many friends in Canaseraga regarded him as a sincere and honest Christian man ..."

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NOTE: This is likely the "S Mills" reference on the 1874.

St Anne's RC Cemetery — BURNS

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/136534712/owen-burns> (1830-1903)

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/136534632/ann-burns> (1838-1913)

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/138324355/garrett-f-burns> (1860-1943)

Obit at findagrave: "Palmyra—Garrett F Burns died at his home here Saturday (Feb 6, 1943).

He is survived by ... brother Owen of Palmyra." (Ref: Rochester NY Times Union 1943 - 0996.pdf (2/8/1943))

"**Palmyra and Vicinity**" (book) and "**Thomas L Cook's scrapbook**" (newspapers)

Book—p 267, 268: "In 1835 the village was divided into 3 school districts and they built three new stone schoolhouses—one on the corner of Main and Carroll, one on East Jackson Street just east of the McLouth residence, and one on Troop Street. In 1846 or 47 the three school districts were consolidated into one district ... The old school house on Throop Street is still standing in 1925, and nearly a century old. For a number of years after the school had closed a Mr Mills, who was a shoemaker, lived here. His little shop is still standing on the south. The property has been in the Burns family a good many years." ... "This is the last of the old school houses built in 1835. It looks very much as when first built, only a little change has been made to accommodate its late owner."

[Palmyra NY Wayne County Journal 1928-1929 - 0409.pdf](#) (11/1/1928)

"John Mills... bought the old stone school house on Throop Street and moved his little shop there where Mr Mills occupied it as a shop the rest of his life. The little shop is still standing. Mr Mills lived in the school house."

[Palmyra NY Wayne County Journal 1928-1929 - 0377.pdf](#) (10/11/1928)

"Henry Addicott, a native of England, came here in the 30s ... Later he went into the coopering business, in this he continued until the 60's, when the Burns brothers came from Pennsylvania and bought him out."

[Palmyra NY Wayne County Journal 1928-1929 - 0385.pdf](#) (10/18/1928)

As we go east our first house is the M. J. Gavin house. Adjoining this on the east is owned by the heirs of the late Owen Burns, who came to Palmyra with his brother from Pennsylvania and bought the Addicott cooper shop on Throop Street. Mr. Burns was a cooper by trade. In this shop he carried on an extensive business and employed a good many men making apple barrels and delivering them through the country. This once thriving business has somewhat

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changed, the business began to wane. Mr. Burns became old, the barrel factory was closed, the old shop was torn down and a dwelling house stands on the site and the name of Burns Cooper Shop has passed into history.

Book—p 19,20: “South of the Jessup house was the home of John Drummond who came here in the 30s ... Later Owen Burns, the cooper, bought the place and used the old house for a storehouse. About 1915 Charles O’Conner bought the property, made a good many repairs, when once more the old house became a comfortable dwelling house. It is now owned and occupied by Harvey Bump.”

John Mills

NOTE: No reference of any kind was found to John Mills in any newspapers of this time period; apparently he didn’t advertise and had an otherwise newsworthy life.

Owen Burns

Sanborn Insurance maps from 1884 through 1912 indicated “Owen Burns, Stave Mill and Cooperage Shop”; in 1884 already well established with several buildings on this site. The color-coded cobblestone is marked in the various years as follows: 1884: “Dwg”, 1889: “Stge of Heads”, 1906: “Storage Hoops”, 1912: “Storage”.

Canandaigua NY Ontario Repository and Messenger 1901-1903 - 1333.pdf (12/17/1903)

“Owen Burns, proprietor of an important cooperage establishment at Palmyra and widely known through Western NY died Thursday, aged 74.”

Lyons NY Wayne County Review 1905-1906 - 0077.pdf (4/27/1905): “In the matter of the estate of Owen Burns, late of Palmyra, ... the cash value of the estate subject to tax is \$10,899.04, the tax on which is \$108.99.”

Fairport NY Herald 1911 - 1915 Grayscale - 1035.pdf (Wed, 6/4/1913)

Mrs Annie Burns, widow of Owen Burns, died Saturday afternoon at White Plains, NY, aged 74 years. She had always resided in Palmyra. She leaves three daughters, Mrs P H Callahan of Palmyra; Mrs Elizabeth Lacasse of Los Angeles CA; and Mrs Annie O’Brien of White Plains NY; three sons, Garry, Edward, and Owen Burns, all of Palmyra. The remains were brought to Palmyra and mass was sung at St Anne’s church on Tuesday morning,

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Harvey Bump

"About 1915 Charles O'Conner bought the property, made a good many repairs, when once more the old house became a comfortable dwelling house." As of Cook's writing of "Palmyra and Vicinity" the cobblestone was still standing. Later newspapers make no mention of the schoolhouse or its fate or when it was razed.

NOTE: There is a small house on the site in the same spot as where the cobblestone schoolhouse is clearly indicated on the Sanborn Insurance maps.

About Thomas L Cook

Rochester NY Democrat Chronicle 1929 - 3214.pdf (4/7/1929)

Palmyra Man Quits Office at 91—After 30 Years' Public Service

Palmyra, April 6 — With record of close to 30 years in office, first as street commissioner of this village, then as town and village assessor, Thomas L Cook, now in his 91st year, this week resigned as village assessor. Cook has the distinction of having been the oldest public office-holder in Western New York, if not the oldest in the state.

Journeyed on Canal Boat — Born in Grafton County, NH on Dec 17, 1838, Cook left his native New England with his parents when 6 years old to seek a new home in the sparsely settled Genesee Valley country.

"My father hired a lumber wagon and a good team of horses and we drove with our household effects to Whitehall, where we struck the old 'Clinton Ditch'. The Clinton Ditch was the old Erie Canal and we found our canal boat, a very small craft as it would be called in those days, waiting for us. After loading our goods upon it, we began the trip to Palmyra and it took us two weeks to make the entire journey.

Cook also holds the distinction of flagging the first passenger train which came westward through the state on the New York Central Railroad, he then being known as the crossing boy at Walworth Station. The engines were of the wood-burning type, all bridges were constructed of wood and the rails were 15' in length. In politics Cook has always been a staunch Republican and he cast his first presidential vote for Abraham Lincoln in November, 1860. He married in 1887 and purchased a farm on the Canandaigua turnpike, located one mile south of this village. There he carried on his farming activities with success until he moved to this village 30 years ago. ...

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Rochester NY Times Union 1931 a - 0903.pdf (12/12/1931)

Death Claims Thomas Cook in 92nd Year

Palmyra—Within a few days of his 93rd birthday anniversary Thomas L Cook died here yesterday at his home in Jackson Street.

He was the oldest man in this village and was born in Lyme, Grafton County NH, Dec 17, 1838. He was a direct descendant of Francis Cook, being ninth in line and through collateral lines from Gov William Bradford, John and Priscilla Alden, Thomas Rogers and Stephen Hopkins, all of whom arrived at Plymouth on the Mayflower in 1620.

In November 1844, at the age of 6, he left New Hampshire with his parents and sister, traveling by horse to White Hall [sic], NY and then by boat through the Erie Canal to Palmyra. For more than 86 years Mr Cook has been a resident of Palmyra.

Mr Cook was always active in public affairs and was an officer of numerous organizations at different times. He served as an assessor of the town for a number of years. In 1930 he completed a 310-page history of Palmyra which has recently been published. His keen memory often settled disputes arising concerning events that had taken place.

He was a member of the Palmyra Grange and of the Baptist Church. His only immediate survivor is Irene Kent Osman, a niece, of Rochester, MN.