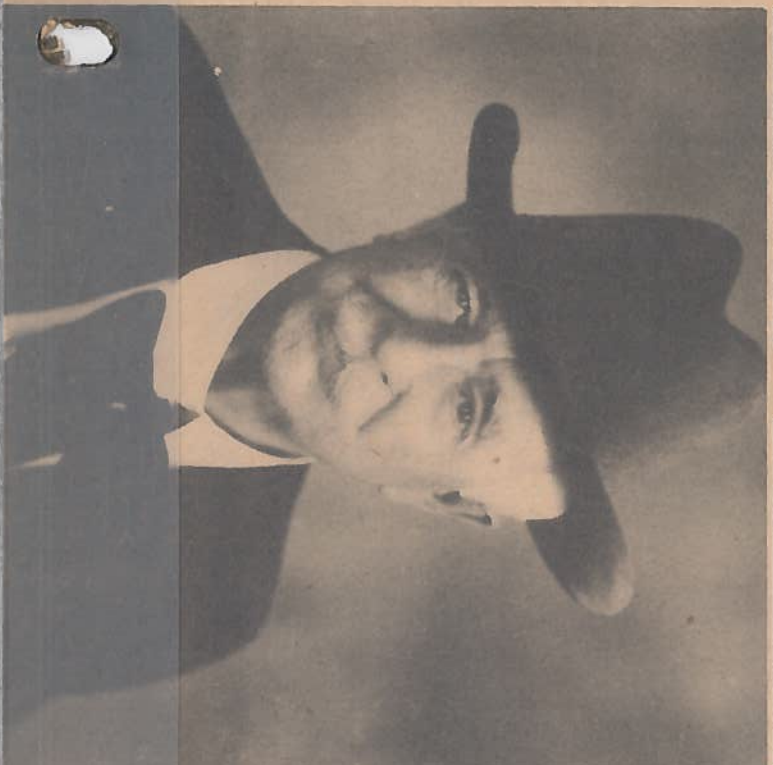


Re-thinking of Old Orleans

C.W.Lattin • County Historian



Through a long and active civic life of which he contributed wholly of himself, Charles Newton Hood became Medina's most distinguished citizen. Upon his death he left a heritage hard to emulate and attained by few.

He was born in Albion, the son of John Newton and Mary Jane Pratt Hood. Later moving to Knowlesville, then to Medina, he attended public and private schools there and was a graduate of the Rochester Business Institute. At age 18 he became a telegrapher for the New York Central working at Knowlesville and the Niagara Falls Suspension Bridge where he became yard master operator.

However, Mr. Hood had a proclivity for the arts and so left the Railroad to go on the lecture state as seen in the corresponding portrait. He was booked extensively through the middle and central western states and followed the Chautauqua Circuit for several years. With a fellow Medinan George Cooper, he leased the Bent's Opera House for twenty years. Under his management, Mr. Hood brought many well-known stage personalities of the day to Medina along with famous choral and instrumental groups. Shortly after the turn of the Century he and his wife, the former Mary Katherine Hunt, whom he married in 1890 embarked on a European trip. As a result of this venture Mr. Hood received his greatest acclaim as an author upon writing the book "Europe on \$4 per Day". He was a contributor to many magazines including Atlantic Monthly, Harper's Bazaar and others of nationwide distribution. As an author of numerous short stories and poems his works were of a homely nature. He wrote the plays "Quick Ignition" and the "The Rev. Dr. Luke" while in his seventies, both of which were presented by St. Johns Players around 1940. For many years Mr. Hood was the local correspondent of the Rochester and Buffalo daily newspapers. In 1909 he purchased an interest in the Medina Daily Journal and for several years was its editor, later being an associate editor until 1920. He also directed his attention to his fire insurance business while operating several farms near Lyndonville. He was extremely active for over 70 years at St. John's Church and had been on the Medina Village Board. He served as a Republican Committeeman and election inspector for a number of years along with being a commissioner for Boxwood Cemetery and a director of the Medina Savings and Loan Association. Membership in other organizations included Masons, Rotary, Elks, Chamber of Commerce, SAR and Red Cross. In later years with white mustache, wide Steisen hat, Windsor tie and cane of which he had a collection of over 100, he became known as "Colonel". The entire four walls and ceilings of his office he left appliqued with cut-outs from theatrical magazines telling the story of cultural entertainment activities of Medina for over 50 years.