

Bethinking of Old Orleans

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CARRIAGE PAINTER

Our photo from the turn of the last century is labeled on the back as follows: "Leon Barrus for Mr. Sherwood, Casey Blacksmith Shop Medina" The 1903 Orleans County Directory lists a Leon C. Barrus as simply a painter. The same directory also lists: "Casey, Michael, general blacksmith and wagon repairer, stabling 333 Main, h 179 Glenwood Ave (see adv. page 262)" That ad from the 1903 Directory is also included here. The 1913 Atlas shows 333 Main St. as bordering the canal about opposite the end of Pearl Street.

A young Leon Barrus is shown here appearing to be polishing a very fine carriage. The carriage minus the wheels is set up on saw horses. It is a three seater with the two back seats facing each other. The collapsible roof, although barely visible, is up. It looks like Mr. Barrus is using a chamois or sponge. Note the long heavy apron he is wearing. Now as to Mr. Sherwood whose name is noted on the photo, the 1903 Directory lists a Charles A. Sherwood as a carriage painter at 333 Main St. It's



M. CASEY,



General
Blacksmithing

All kinds of CARRIAGE
and WAGON repairing.
HORSE SHOERING and
and JOBBING a Specialty.

RUBBER TIRES

Put on CARRIAGES of all kinds.
WORK GUARANTEED.

333 Main Street.

MEDINA, N. Y.

perhaps fair to assume that Charles Sherwood and Leon Barrus both worked for Michael Casey. I also believe that the photo here and the 1903 ad are of the same vintage.

In checking the Boxwood Cemetery records, I found a Leon Barrus born in 1882 who died in 1968. The gentleman in this picture could certainly be in his early 20's. If the picture was done around 1903 it all fits. As to Michael Casey, I find him buried in St. Mary's Cemetery. He was born in Medina in 1852 and died there in 1916. His wife, Mary, died at the age of 86 in 1940.

The earliest mention of a Michael Casey Blacksmith Shop, which I've found, is in the 1887-88 Directory, the last is in the 1915 Directory.

The 1903 Business Directory lists under Carriage, Wagon and Sleigh Makers, Dealers and Repairers thirty different businesses in Orleans County at the time, including Michael Casey at 333 Main St., Medina. Of these, nine are noted just as dealers. I also find listed one carriage trimmer who was Simon Servoss at 333 Main St. This job would have been, I believe, the highly skilled technique of painting, pin striping on sleighs and carriages by free hand as was done. The address suggests that Mr. Servoss also worked for Michael Casey, indicating quite an enterprising business at the time.

By comparison, the 1903 Directory lists only one automobile dealer who was W.J. Copping at 609 Main St., Medina. Indeed, all this information sets us in a day and age when carriages were the major conveyances of local transportation under horse power.