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JAMES A. HANLON 1841-1912

James Ardell Hanlon was born in Lockport, N.Y. Nov. 16, 1841. His brother Edward, with whom he was intimately associated, likewise was born in Lockport March 6, 1845. Their parents, John Hanlon, a native of Armagh, Ireland, and Mary McQueelan, came to America in 1837, first settling in Lockport.

By 1846 the Hanlon family moved to Medina. Here James spent his early years working as a farm hand and attending the district school during winter terms. His higher education was obtained at the Medina Free Academy.

Upon leaving the academy he began work in the hardware store of Whedon and Allen. While working here six years he acquired a thorough knowledge of this business and its related concerns. When Mr. Allen retired James Hanlon was then admitted to the firm as a partner under the new name of Whedon & Co. This continued in business for seven years. In 1876 Mr. Hanlon withdrew from the business and organized a new hardware store with his brother Edward which was known as Hanlon Brothers. They were located at 431 Main St. and at various times expanded their store to the rear so that it eventually reached a total length of 400 feet, extending over what was known as race alley to the canal. They were known to be the largest hardware store between Rochester and Buffalo.

The Souvenir Edition of the Medina Tribune dated June 1897 states: ".... the floor space of which is nearly 16,000 square feet. Besides a complete stock of hardware, they carry a line of the best bicycles, lumber wagons, buggies, road carts, etc. ... It is a sight to behold, the large stock of goods in the different lines, that is shown on the four floors of their building and the adjacent warehouse."

For many years Mr. Hanlon was recognized as a leader of the Democratic Party in Orleans County. He was a delegate to Democratic state conventions for over 20 years and in 1884 and 1892 a delegate to the National Democratic Convention. In 1886 President Cleveland made him Collector of Internal Revenue for the 28th District, which included 14 counties in Western New York, a position he held for four years. He also served as a trustee on the Medina Village Board and was appointed collector of tolls on the canal at Medina



in 1874.

James Hanlon was a member of St. Mary's R.C. Church and active in the Knights of Columbus. He was a member of the Chamber of Commerce and an advocate of his community by the organizations he supported. Mr. Hanlon was a personal friend of Samuel J. Tilden, Benjamin Field (Senator) and President Cleveland.

In 1874 he was married to Sarah Elizabeth Dawson of Toledo, Ohio. They had nine children, three of whom are mentioned in Mr. Hanlon's obituary. They included: Francis, Leo and Daniel. I think there were others living but the obit did not make any mention of girls in the family, which was often the case years ago. The Hanlons lived on Rock Street or what became known as Glenwood Avenue. In the 1911 Directory James A. and wife Elizabeth P., John, J. Leo, Daniel L. and Miss Mary are all listed at 100 Glenwood Ave. for their residence. The house built by Abram Stratton, in the Gothic Revival Style, was appropriated by the state during the Barge Canal expansion and was removed in 1914. It would have been located near the north approach to the Glenwood Avenue bridge.