

1-4-02

Our wintertime picture was probably taken in the late 1890s at Millville in the Town of Shelby. This view shows the intersection of the Maple Ridge Road and the Millville East Shelby Road. The prominent stone building at the corner is Thomas O. Castle's store.

The 1903 Orleans County Directory lists T. O. Castle and Son (George D.) as dealers in general merchandise. It is interesting that the 1876 Niagara-Orleans County Atlas also lists T. O. Castle as a dealer in dry goods, groceries and hardware.

To the right of the store is a barn which was also a part of Castle's operation. In the distance, we see the spire of the Millville Congregational Church. This is now known as The Congregational Emporium.

The gathering of all the horses and people remains a mystery. Whatever was going on at the time must have

seemed like a worthy event for taking a picture. It would appear that at least one team of horses is hitched to a bob-sleigh.

There is an historic marker at Millville which denotes: "Millville 1815, Academy 1832. Quaker Meeting House 1841, Methodist Church 1834. Congregational Church 1870 and General Store." This historic marker, along with 77 other markers in Orleans County, is illustrated in a booklet published in May 2001 entitled "Historic Markers Erected During the 20th Century in Orleans County, New York." It is still available at the Medina Book Shop and Swan Library in Albion.

Finally, in our photo note the absence of any overhead wires suspended on telephone or electric poles. Yes, in some ways, this must have been a much more simple time in history when neighbors and friends gathered at the corner store.

