

BEYOND THE GRAVE

11-4-10

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The accompanying photo, taken in 1897, shows an interior of D.D.

Holdredge's store in Medina. The Medina Tribune in a special edition from June 1897 also published the following article:

"Continued success in any business is an indication of integrity and well directed ability. Notwithstanding the fact that there is usually more than one furniture store in every village, yet there is always one that has attained a supremacy not accorded to others. That store in Medina is conducted by Daniel D. Holdredge for more than 20 years. He occupies commodious quarters in the Holdredge block, which he purchased some years since, on Main Street.

"The four floors, each 33-by-100 feet, being more than ordinarily well stocked with all classes of furniture, crockery, glassware and the usual assortment of other goods found in a well-conducted store of this description. An illustration of the interior of the first floor is given herewith.

"By buying goods in carload lots he is enabled to make prices on furniture and crockery which cannot be equaled except by the largest jobbing houses. He also conducts an extensive wholesale department, shipping large quantities of furniture and crockery to many points along the Central Railroad, including Buffalo; and has for several years conducted a branch



INTERIOR VIEW OF D. D. HOLDREDGE'S STORE.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Vol. XXXII, No. 43

Bethinking of Olde Orleans

store at Lyndonville.

"Mr. Holdredge is a graduate of the United States College of Embalming of New York City, and as a consequence his methods are the latest and most scientific. He is well-known to the people of Medina and vicinity, and by courteous treatment and fair dealing has acquired an extensive and ever increasing patronage."

As was the custom, furniture dealers were also the undertakers years ago. This came about because cabinet makers were the tradesmen who had the right tools and materials to make coffins.

Not only do we see furniture in the picture of the store, but also an array of lamps. These include hanging lamps and parlor lamps as well as lamp and plant stands. These sorts of table lamps became known as "Gone With The Wind Lamps" after the famous movie of the same name from the 1930s. The movie set used these kinds of lamps even though this style of lighting came after the Civil War.

On a recent guided walk through Boxwood Cemetery conducted by Medina Mayor Adam Tabelski, he told the story of Daniel Holdredge's son who was flying a kite on top of the business block, from which he fell to his death on Main Street. The body is encased in the Easlick Mausoleum at Boxwood.

In 1908, Daniel Holdredge moved into a fine house he had built on West Center Street. This brown sandstone residence now serves as the Cooper Funeral Home. However, by 1914, the Holdredges had sold out and moved to Los Angeles, Calif.