

# Orleans had talented carriage painter

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**O**ur photo, taken around 1900, shows Leon Barrus working on a carriage. On the back it notes: "Leon Barrus for Mr. Sherwood, Casey Blacksmith Shop in 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." 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 sawhorses. 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 Direc-

tory lists a Charles A. Sherwood as a carriage painter at 333 Main St. It's perhaps fair to assume that Charles Sherwood and Leon Barrus both worked for Michael Casey.

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 20s. If the picture was taken around 1900, it all fits.

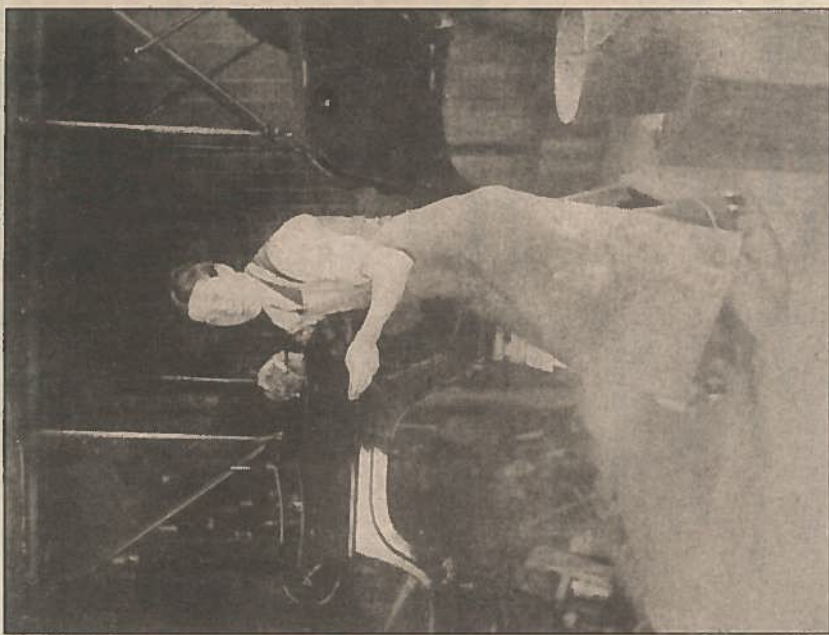
As to Michael Casey, he was buried in St. Mary's Cemetery. He was born in Medina in 1852 and died there in 1916. His wife Mary, died at the age of 86 in 1940.

The earliest mention of

a Michael Casey Blacksmith Shop, which I've found is in the 1887-1888 Directory, the last is in the 1915 Directory. The 1903 Business Directory lists under Carriage, Wagon and Sleigh Makers, Dealers and Repairers, 30 different businesses in Orleans County at the time, including Michael Casey at 333 Main St. Medina.

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.

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