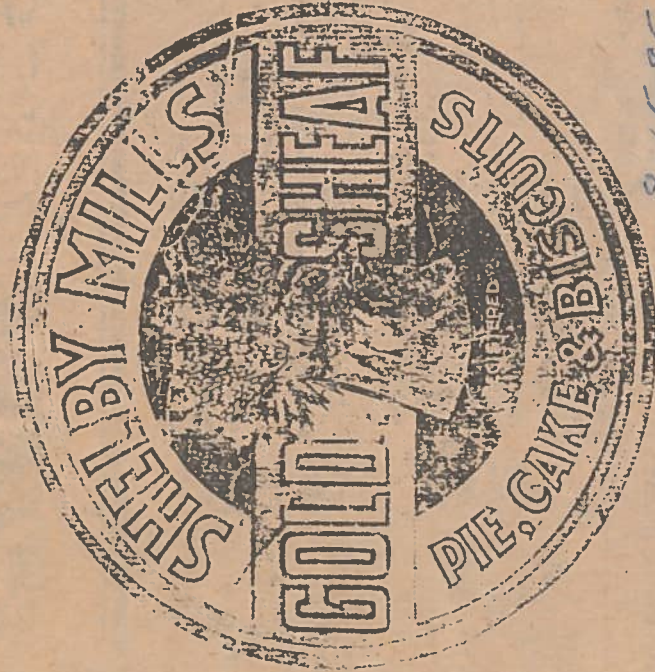


Bethinking of Old Orleans

C.W.Lattin • County Historian



8-15-85

Vol. VII

No. 33

YESTERDAY'S HERITAGE SHELBY MILLS

Recently Alice J. Zacher, Historian for the Town of Shelby, has edited a book entitled "Yesterday's Heritage - Shelby Mills". Only 500 copies of this volume have been printed. It measures 6x9 inches and contains eighty-two pages with twenty-three photographs and several illustrations. These books which sell for \$6.00 can be purchased from Alice Zacher directly or from the Shelby Town Hall, the Medina Historical Society or the Congregational Emporium.

I would like to share with you the Preface to "Yesterday's Heritage - Shelby Mills" which was written by Historian Zacher:

"I was appointed historian for the Town of Shelby in January 1981. In searching through the articles acquired through this position, the writings of Mr. Herbert S. Weet were discovered. These writings have laid dormant for over thirty years; however, it has been my feeling that his research should come alive and be in print for the benefit of the residents in this township. History should be shared and it was Mr. Weet's desire to gather these facts, put them down on paper and someday publish them. It is with this thought and reasoning in mind that I have asked and received from the Town Board of the Town of Shelby permission to have this information published.

It must be emphasized that the research and writings are entirely the work of Herbert S. Weet. It was done during his years as historian for the Town of Shelby, namely 1947-1953. It has been updated according to footnotes to the best of my ability. Mr. Weet, in his writings, gave thanks to his Town Board at that time of which Justin Roberts was Supervisor. He especially gave thanks to Mrs. Hattie Bentley (Town Clerk) and Mr. Joseph Achilles (County Historian) for their never failing and invaluable help.

"I personally believe that our young people should be aware of the 'bustling' hamlet that Shelby Center once was and totally aware of its history. Mr. Weet not only enlightened us with the history, but also gave accounts of daily living, sometimes in a most humorous manner. We as townfolks should be eternally grateful for the thought, time, and work he obviously put into this project. Any historian can especially appreciate the hours he spent and know it was certainly a labor of love.

It is with great admiration and respect that his book be published as a tribute to a fine historian, teacher, and humanitarian Mr. Herbert Seely Weet."

Let me mention that Herbert Seely Weet (1871-1953) was born in the Town of Shelby. He was educated at the Medina Academy and received his Masters degree from the University of Rochester. He served as Principal of North Tonawanda High School and later principal of two schools in Rochester. From 1911 to 1933 he was Superintendent of the Rochester Schools. He became a national figure in education by creating the first Junior High School System which served as a model. His work as an educator was always marked by excellence. During his retirement years in Shelby Center he devoted much of his attention to the research of local history.

Historian Zacher and the Shelby Town Board are to be commended for making Dr. Weet's work available to the general public.