

Village of Clifton History

by *Norma Meier*

Conrad Sorensen in poem Memories of My Old Home Town

Described Clifton's Main Street beginning with far north block – Clifton Garage & Machine Shop selling Goodyear Tires. Next was Lars Jensen, well driller. On the corner of Third Avenue and Main streets was T.C. Brown, implement dealer [John Deere] and furniture. Next is the north block, and on the corner is First National Bank. Next is A.L. Morel's store and next to it is Beardslee, Sanderson's Hardware along with Sanderson's undertaking parlor. Next building is billiard hall of Bill Reid who sold tobacco and candy. Next door is poolroom owned by John DeBreau auctioneer who also sold cigars and tobacco. Next is lunchroom of Charles Rochel who also sold fruit, candy and ice cream. Over all is Henrotin Hall.

In South block [he fails to mention corner tavern] is Vialta Theatre, then Ed's Barber Shop, next is Ole Lauridsen's butcher shop. Next door is Hobson & Lutton's grocery store. C. Jensen & Son own place next door and sell dry goods, groceries, shoes. Next building is Barber Shop run by Meyer. Next is post office. Next is Palace Hotel run by Mrs. Fournier. A. E. Kuhn run pharmacy next door, sold school supplies [Chester Reid bought this drug store from heirs of A. E. Kuhn in November 1944]. Frooninckx ran a hardware shop next door, sold cooking utensils, stoves etc. Next was general store of Smith Brothers. In far South block was Monroe Brothers garage on the corner of 5th and Main.

Clifton Centennial Book – Far north block, about center, was The Clifton House, a village landmark which was destroyed by fire 19 January 1894. It was owned and operated by Fred Hoyland. Later Nels Jensen owned a garage which stood on the spot. North of the Clifton House, where the vacant Standard Oil Station was located in 1957, was the original site of the Henrotin house. "This house was moved later to the northeast corner of that block and was remodeled and enlarged and became the Henrotin mansion.

The Comet, Clifton, Illinois, 8 November 1901, "George Bilado went to Chicago Monday to purchase fixtures for the new butcher shop which he will soon open up in the old Henrotin building on Third Avenue."

Banks

Farmers' State Bank was organized 20 December 1920 and operated until 4 March 1929 when it was closed under the moratorium. The board of directors met on 8 June and voted not to reopen the bank. Shareholders were Richard R. Meents, Robert L. Lutton, L. E. VanSant, Alma M. Ruckrigel, Willard Meents, Nora Stien, Millie R. VanSant, Durl M. Meents, Harold R. Meents, Donald Lutton, Frank C. Hobson, Marybelle Hobson and George Sanders Jr.

18 January 1952 "After furnishing banking facilities to the Village of Clifton for over fifty years, the Gleason and Morel interest in the First National Bank passed into the hands of twenty-seven new stockholders, all merchants and farmers of Clifton and vicinity. Maurice Morel and Robert Morel retain a 10% interest. At a stockholders meeting January 9, 1951, directors were elected and organized as follows: Chester W. Reid, president; Louis Hansen, vice-president; Maurice L. Morel, cashier; Maurice Laurent, Arthur Speckman and B. J. Wallace, directors. Mrs. Virginia Shirley and Mrs. Ruth Christensen were appointed assistant cashiers."

Doctors

Dr. Guy Just, son of Henry Just, died 2 November 1918, Sheldon, Illinois, age 44 years; he was a Clifton physician ca1900-1910.

Dr. Flavius Lebel was a Clifton physician at the time of his marriage, 22 June 1910, to Leona Dubreucq of L'Erable. They lived on south Main Street in Clifton. His cousin was Dr. Bergeron of Kankakee. Leona was the daughter of Francoise Clemence Lamotte and Benedict Dubreucq.

Elevators

South elevator

R. R. Meents & Sons – Grain, Coal, Lumber (Advocate, Clifton, Illinois, issue of 20 October 1927 carried an ad showing the Meents business office which was a small brick building just to west side of railroad tracks (between Elliot street and the railroad tracks) and fronting on Fifth Street. On 19 October 1921 a fire in R.R. Meents & Sons grain office destroyed much of the interior in the office; the office was built in 1914 to replace an earlier office destroyed by 1914 tornado. Much of the office equipment was also destroyed. At the time Clifford Dutour was night telephone operator; he roused citizens with the fire alarm of five short rings.

Cummings - huge 1800s building torn down 1988

"L. E. Nelson came down from Clifton to attend the Beveridge rally at Watseka. He has about finished the work of superintending on R. F. Cumming's new 70,000 bushel elevator at Clifton (Advocate, issue of 20 October 1900, reprinted from Gilman Star) From same Advocate issue – New corn is being contracted at thirty cents per bushel. Robert Fowler Cummings [Cummings family came to Clifton in 1864] entered the grain business in Clifton in 1877. At the time of his death 31 December 1914 the R. F. Cummings Grain Company conducted grain elevators in Clifton, Chebanse, Martinton, Otto, Irwin, Gilman, Pittwood and Papineau. For years he was a director of the Grain Dealers National Mutual Fire Insurance Company at Indianapolis. He was vice president of Hyde Park State Bank, director of First Trust and Savings Bank of Watseka, director of Martinton State Ban and member of Chicago Board of Trade. His daughter, Irene, died in Iroquois theater fire in Chicago in 1903. His grave is marked by the tall obelisk in Clifton Cemetery.

Clifton Grain Company doubled grain handling capacity in 1946 according to Advocate, Clifton, Illinois, issue of 5 September 1946. (This is north elevators.)

B. J. WALLACE GRAIN LUMBER COAL, this business located on Elliott street about where Rabideau Grain Office now located.

The Advocate, Clifton, Illinois, March 1920 issue – “Meents Transfer Ownership – A big business deal was made Monday, March 1st, when R. R. Meents & Sons became the owners of the grain, coal, lumber and banking business of M. R. Meents & Sons. The firm, since the death of Mr. M. R. Meents, has been composed of Richard, Frank and Arthur Meents. The latter two have sold out and Richard takes into partnership two of his sons, Harold and Durl. Harold managed the Cullom grain business until recently, when it was sold to a farmers company. Durl has been connected with the Clifton office for some time. The Advocate editor has not been able to interview the retiring members and cannot say anything as to their plans. The Meents family ranks high in the business circles of Iroquois County, and the new co-partners have all the qualifications, the experience and the good will that is needed to continue the business on its well established successful basis.”

S. B. Walton came to Clifton in May 1865, shortly after receiving his discharge from the 124th Pennsylvania volunteers in the Civil War. He built the first elevator and dump in 1871. He sold 20 August

Garages

Advocate, Clifton, Illinois, issue of July 1921 – “Central Garage – A new garage has opened in Clifton under the name of the Central Garage. The firm is composed of Geo. J. GEnotte and Garrett H. Christensen, both of whom are experienced mechanics and garage men. They have an advertisement in this issue of the Advocate.”

H. K. White, Illinois Central station agent, was operating a grain depot and handled lumber and hay during the Civil War. He sold to S. B. Walton about 1865.

Real Estate/Insurance

Advocate, Clifton, Illinois, issue of Friday, 1 August 1902, reported, “Edward Hargreaves and L. G. Rorer have formed a partnership for the purpose of conducting a real estate and insurance business. They have secured agencies from several old line life and fire insurance companies of known and tested reliability. They also have agencies for northern, western, and southern lans in addition to transacting a local real estate agency, so that no matter in what locality an investor may wish to buy a farm, they are prepared to serve his wants. Messrs Hargreaves and Rorer have been residents of Clifton so long that recommencations from us are entirely unnecessary. Suffice to say that they intend to stay and consequently do no propose to have any but fair, courteous, honest dealing with any who may patronize them. Their business office is

located in the old photograph gallery east of Smith's store." [South block, across alley from southwest corner of block.]

Earliest sales were 240 acre farm, 2 ½ miles from Clifton, know as Compton farm. Also 7 miles from Clifton, the Jake Ponton farm. And an 80 acre farm ¾ mile from Clifton known as E. Hargreaves' place.]

Pool/Billiard Halls

The Advocate, Clifton, Illinois, issue of 19 January 1906, reported, "Arthur Dacosse and Louis Linton bought out Chris Sorenson's billiard and pool hall, and lunch counter yesterday. They took possession at once. The boys are A1 fellows and will no doubt make the business a financial success."

Main Street

South Block

After fire destroyed wooden business buildings on Wednesday, 26 September 1894, "Martin Johnson laid the cornerstone for the first brick building to be erected in Clifton. It will be two stories high and will be pushed up rapidly. W. A. Viets is the proprietor and the structure is located south of Smith's store. Let the good work go on." (From 20 Sep 1894 issue of the Comet, Clifton, Illinois)

Corner of East Fourth and Main – South Block:

John B. Lombard had a wooden, one-story, saloon on this corner. It was destroyed by fire in 1898. He rebuilt 1898-99 on this location, a two story brick building. He was in business here in 1901. Comet, Clifton, Illinois, issue of May 1893 reported, "Petit & Lombard dissolved partnership, Mr. Petit retiring. Mr. Lombard continued to run the saloon business. At a meeting of the board of trustees dram-shop licenses were granted to John Lombard and Chas. Rochel, at \$850.00 each."

Clifton Local News Item in Kankakee Daily Republican, issue of Wednesday, 30 April 1924 reported, "David Gagnon and family have moved into the flat over his barber shop in the Lombard building." Harold Blasey purchased the Lombard building in 1935 and ran a tavern there for many years. Donna Hildebrand owns the tavern in 2001 and lives above it. Advocate, Clifton, Illinois, issue of 6 April 1972 reported, "A surprise party was held for Harold and Dorothy Blasey Friday night, March 31, in honor of their retirement after nearly 37 years of operating "The Corner Tavern" in Clifton. The tavern was recently purchased by Mr. and Mrs. LaVerne Mathy, also of Clifton."

Probably in south block – Advocate, Clifton, Illinois 22 April 1904 – "Bran and middlings in 100 pound sacks and Red Dog in 140 pound sacks at Hobson & Lutton's."

Pete Rabideau had a creamery in south block, next door to corner tavern.

Advocate, Clifton, Illinois, 15 May 1980, "Eugene Colombe operated a hardware store in Clifton a number of years ago in the building on Main Street now occupied by Petrolane Gas."

December 1924 Advocate carried ad for "Watchmaker's shop over drug store. Operated by A. E. Kuhn."

Advocate – 30 April 1914, "The Collins & Frooninckx hardware and furniture stock, on both floors of the Colby building, was damaged to the extent of \$100. Insurance was carried. J. L. Frooninckx, Ben Laurent, Chris Sorensen and Andrew Pedersen were in the building and escaped being injured by wreckage by getting in the east end of the store."

Advocate, Clifton, Illinois, 22 April 1904, "Schroeder & Arnold have moved their stock of pianos and organs from the Henrotin building to Charles Rochel's building, south of Jensen & Madison's general store."

The Advocate, Clifton, Illinois, Tornado edition of 30 April 1914 reported, "William Yarneau's bakery, south of Smith Bros. store was put out of business for the time being. The brick oven was ruined and the baking outfit, such as pans, etc. was carried away. Of course the windows went out. Mr. Yarneau has been having trouble getting workmen to repair his plant, and is thereby suffering in loss of business as well as damage to his property." In 2002 this is the Sunshine Café, owned and operated by Sharon Welge and Linda Hess. This building is on east side of alley with old Monroe garage bordered by alley and main street. The Monroe garage is in 2002 owned by Central Unit #4 and used as a maintenance building.

Smith & Jensen is the title of the new general merchandise firm in the Smith building. It is a consolidation of the firms of Smith Bros. and C. Jensen & Son. The Jensen stock has been moved into the Smith building this week. The partners in the new firm are Weldon C. Smith and Chris Jensen, both well known Clifton business men, to whose reputations The Advocate could not add by fulsome, unnecessary comment. The Smith store is a 'landmark' in Clifton. Away back in 1868, Smith & Gage, a firm including Weldon's father, Charles W. Smith, conducted a store on the corner now occupied by the Morel store (north end of north block). In 1869 they went to the present Smith corner (south end of south block). In 1872 the firm became Smith & Gage Bros.; later, Gage, Smith & Co. Then Joe Gage sold out and Charles W. and Z.K. Smith made up the firm of Smith Bros. In 1885, Weldon C. and Elza E. Smith became the firm of Smith Bros. This firm name has continued until the present merger, although E. E. Smith died about a year ago. The name Smith Bros. has always stood for reliable, conservative, courteous and accommodating business methods. Mr. Jensen clerked for Smith Bros. Many years before engaging in partnership with K.P. Madison as Jensen & Madison. He left Smith Bros. Feb. 15, 1900. Mr. Madison retired in 1913 and the firm became C. Jensen & Son. In recent years, the son, Leo A. Jensen, has been with Carson, Pirie, Scott & Co. Chris Jensen is known as a hustler, alert, ambitious and enterprising. He is naturally a hard worker and will add to the good qualities of his partner the vigorous energy of fewer

years, with a strong desire to go forward in every legitimate way. Clifton is well equipped with good store – far better than most small towns – and there is every reason to expect that Smith & Jensen will continue to be one of the flourishing institutions of the town. (Advocate, Clifton, Illinois, 12 February 1920)

STROUGH APPLICANCE STORE, DRI-GAS, BULK & BOTTLED GAS (Advocate ad from July 1953.)

The Advocate of July 1953 advertised HENDRON'S KITCHEN & SUPPLY, also selling roofing, siding & insulation. Hinrich expanded to the north of their shop when Perry Froidcoer went out of business as a body shop; before Perry was a paint shop run by Beulah Wallace and before that Hazel Reid had a beauty shop in that location.

POST OFFICE, located on southwest corner of Main Street and Fifth Avenue until into 1980s when new postoffice was built on southeast corner of First Street and Sixth Avenue. The old postoffice had a room at the back (on alley) used by CLOKE & CROXEN FUNERAL HOME for casket storage and ? In Clifton Centennial book Lily Brandt says "The printing office [The Comet] was in the rear of the Henrotin building in which the post office was located, the third building from the south corner of the north block on Main Street."

The Comet, Clifton, Illinois, issue of 11 March 1893 reported, "Henry Krumweide has rented his store building and will go out of the restaurant business. Miss Mary Petit will occupy the building with a millinery and dressmaking establishment in a shore time."

Carl Coash, Clifton historian, wrote an article for 15 November 1979 issue of The Advocate, Clifton, Illinois, "The Denis family. . .left their native Paris. . .got off of the train in Clifton. . .the Denis sisters (were) Ida and Elise. After Phil (Fournier) and Elise were married, Mrs. Denis financed the purchase of property on Main Street in Clifton, and they built a frame building to accommodate a restaurant and hotel for the Fourniers. Elise ran the restaurant and hotel. During the small hours of the night, May 23, 1898, tragedy struck. A saloon, a few doors north of the Fournier building, caught fire and by dawn the entire south block of Main Street was in smoking ruins. By mid-afternoon, the acumen of Mrs. Fournier had her back in business. She had borrowed Harvey Brickett's portable barber shop, and somehow 'found' another small building, both of which were moved into the railroad park, and by evening she was serving supper to the hungry workers. During the following months, new construction boomed on Main Street. A fine two-story brick building was erected in the south business block, and the Fourniers were among the first to be ready for business – in the Palace Hotel. As the 20th century got under way, Mrs. Fournier enjoyed a good business and managed to raise and educate her two daughters, Leona and Augusta. Late afternoon, April 24, 1914, a tornado ripped into the southwest corner of Clifton and tore a path of destruction diagonally across the village. The south business block bore the brunt of the storm. The Palace Hotel, scarcely 15 years old, sustained considerable damage, but the next day Mrs. Fournier was hard at work serving the many people who came to see the storm damage. During the ensuing years, the Palace Hotel prospered. The ice cream parlor handled a fine assortment of candies, cigars and ice cream. The hotel dining room was adjacent to the ice cream parlor, so Mrs. Fournier had to shuttle back and

forth to handle the patrons' needs. She was 'fortunate' to have the services of a local youth (Carl Coash) who was a sort of 'adopted grandson.' His pay in money was not nearly as important as his privileges in the kitchen, the candy case and the soda fountain. The Fourniers tried to retire on two occasions, but had to take over again when the new owners failed to satisfy the trade. "

From 1945 Chebanse Herald, "Mr. and Mrs. Joseph E. Robins have purchased the Miller hotel building on Main street in Clifton. We understand the Robins will move to Clifton shortly and occupy their new possession. They will live in the apartment to be vacated by Mr. and Mrs. Albert Miller, and use a portion of the front as an insurance agency office. Mr. and Mrs. Robins have a host of admiring friends here who regret their leaving Chebanse, but wish them unlimited success in their new field of adventure."

North Block, Main Street

Morel Building – included First National Bank, corner of Main & Third, grocery on east side of bank; drygoods on south side of bank; hardware was on south side of these businesses and ran from Main street to the alley. Above were offices, the opera house, telephone office, meeting halls (such as Danish Hall). 1935 edition of Advocate advertises A.L. MOREL & SONS HAPPY HOUSE STORES (groceries) DRY GOODS DEPARTMENT and MEAT MARKET. Advocate of 1953 advertises CLIFTON FARM & HOME STORE – this was in above location, comprised of IGA groceries, hardware and dry goods owned by Earl Janssen.

Gleason & Morel marked their 20th anniversary of the firm Gleason & Morel in 1902. The Advocate, issue of 14 November 1902, told, "Tuesday was the twentieth anniversary of the firm of Gleason & Morel, of this place. November 11, 1882 John C. Gleason and Alfred L. Morel opened their general store to the public, and have enjoyed an unusually successful and prosperous career ever since. By a liberal system of treatment these gentlemen have been enabled to increase their business until it compares very favorably with that of any similar institution in the county. We will venture to say that it is the largest in the county. Their first store was on the same corner they now occupy – corner of Main street and Third avenue. Later they moved to the corner of Fourth avenue, but in 1895 they built a splendid two story and basement brick occupying nearly half of the block. Their store rooms are large and the well arranged stock consists of everything in the line of general merchandise."

The Comet, issue of 16 November 1895, "Gleason & Morel expect to take possession of their new building in a few days. The fixtures are being placed in position and the work will soon be completed."

GLEASON & MOREL dealers in DRY GOODS, NOTIONS, CLOTHING, GROCERIES, HATS, CAPS, BOOTS, SHOES, CARPETS, TRUNKS etc., CLIFTON, ILLINOIS Highest Price Paid for Produce in Exchange for Goods – This printing, along with a picture of the large two story brick building on corner of Main Street and Third Avenue is found on a section of brown wrapping paper used by the store shortly after it was built.

GLEASON & MOREL, according to article in Past & Present of Iroquois County, "was established in 1882, occupying a building twenty by eighty feet, and from the beginning success attended the new enterprise. In 1891 they enlarged the scope of their activities by opening a hardware, furniture and undertaking business under the firm name of Beardslee, Sanderson & Company. In 1895 the firm of Gleason & Morel opened the first and only bank in Clifton, conducting it as a private banking institution until 1902, when it was converted into a national bank. The firm probably controls the most extensive interests in their line in the county, occupying twenty-five thousand feet of floor space in a brick building which they erected and own, and in addition to their mercantile and banking interests in Clifton, they are interested in a general mercantile enterprise at Ashkum, conducted under the name of H. G. Morel & company. The partners are the firm of Gleason & Morel and H. G. Morel, of Ashkum, and comprise what is known as the Doddsville Land & Mercantile Company, of which J. C. Gleason is president and A. G. Morel, treasurer. This company owns a plantation at Doddsville, Mississippi, of twenty hundred and fifty acres, on which are nine dwellings, while eighteen hundred acres are under cultivation, the principal crop being cotton, while the output was onethousand bales in 1906, worth fifty dollars. In addition to his mercantile and banking interests Mr. Gleason is the owner of two hundred acres of land in Milks Grove township, Iroquois County, a quarter section in Arkansas and a small farm in western Kansas. He is also one of the directors of the Federal Life Insurance Company, of Chicago, in which he owns some stock. He was mayor of Clifton village for one year. He was 23 years old when he entered upon his business career as a partner in Gleason & Morel. Hobson Motor Sales occupied the building on south side of Morel building. They were in business in 1946, 1953 Louie Frooninckx said a priest lived above the Morel store. Was it really the Morel store or was it in wooden building previous to Morel store?

Advocate, Clifton, Illinois, issue of 28 October 1937, "Gus Lamotte has taken out a license and will operate a tavern in the room formerly occupied by Beardslee and Sanderson undertaking establishment. Fixtures and equipment are being installed this week."

Beardslee & Sanderson had an undertaking establishment at east end of Morel building on Maine Street, then apparently located to a store front on Main Street. This time period would be from earliest 1900s. They purchased a house on southeast corner of East Fifth Avenue and South First Street. This house may have been used as undertaking establishment and was sold in 1937 to William and Lillian Cloke who ran Cloke and Croxen Funeral Home along with their daughter Gladys Cloke Croxen. The Clokes retired in 1961 and the business was sold to Wayne Knapp who then built a new funeral home on north Main Street.

The Comet, Clifton, Illinois, 8 November 1901, "George Bilado went to Chicago Monday to purchase fixtures for the new butcher shop which he will soon open up in the old Henrotin building on Third avenue."

Comet, Clifton, Illinois, issue of 3 October 1896 reported, "The application of Eugene and Louis Petit for a license to conduct a billiard and pool hall in the old Beardslee & Sanderson building was received and petition granted."

Clifton Advocate, 22 April 1904 – “Schroeder & Arnold have moved their stock of pianos and organs from the Henrotin building to Charles Rochel’s building, south of Jensen & Madison’s general store.”

Advocate, Clifton, Illinois, issue of 18 July 1940 – “Edmond Irps Hobson last week completed preliminaries for the purchase of the Marston building on Main Street. It is the north half of the building that was erected jointly by Chris Werkau, Sr., and James Marston near the turn of the century. The place is now occupied by Fred Johnson who operates a tavern. He will continue there until such time as the new owner gets ready to occupy the place himself.”

Advocate, Clifton, Illinois, issue of 8 September 1905, in report of town board meeting, told, “The board considered the application of Oliver Leggott, asking to be granted a license to operate a bowling alley in the Henrotin building on Third avenue for the balance of the fiscal year. The license was granted.”

Clifton Centennial Book – “The printing office [The Comet] was in the rer of the Henrotin building in which the post office was located, the third building from the south corner of the North block on Main Street.”

Beckwith’s History of Iroquois County says, “J. B. Duclos, a Frenchman, built a store on the corner south of the hotel, and was appointed postmaster” – this would be the corner of Third and Main where later Morel built brick store. “John Barland soon after put up a store next to the one Duclos has built, but both were burned two years later.” Also, “Isaac Van Duzor came here from Orange county, New York, and built the Clifton House in 1858, which he kept for fourteen years. He also built the store east of the hotel.” Also, “A. S. White now has the hotel and it is still one of the nicest public houses on the line of this road.” Also, “H. K. White was the first to engage in the grain trade. He was prominent in advancing the interests of the place and served the town as supervisor and in other official capacities. He died in 1865.”

The Advocate, Clifton, Illinois, issue of Thursday, 20 December, 1990, reported “New Floral Service – Floral Plus is the name of Clifton’s newest business. Ron and Sandy King of Ashkum opened the full-service floral store on Main Street, in the former Hobson Motor Sales building. Kari King assists in the flower shop.”

Bakery

Located on 5th Avenue, west side of alley, first block east of main street. Owned and operated by Yarneau. The Clifton Advocate, Clifton, Illinois, issue of 14 January 1960, reported, “Two old Clifton landmarks have been torn down and one is being replaced with a new structure. The brick building at the rear of the Clifton Cabinet Shop, used many years ago to house the ovens for a bakery, was torn down recently and a new 28 x 46 cement block building is being erected there. Dick Humblet, who recently purchased the building from the late Earl Strough, is using the lower portion for a cabinet shop, but needed additional space for his business. When the addition is completed he will use the space for cabinet building and the front portion of the building will be used for a display area.” In 1980s the building was a ceramic shop. In 1990s it became the Sunshine Café operated by Sharon Welge and Linda Hess; Robert

Frooninckx owned the building. Damage from a plumbing leak halted the business in 2010. The early bakery was owned and operated by Yarneau.

Drugstores/pharmacies

George H. Hargreaves, "dealer in patent medicines" – cigars – candies – notions – stationery, according to bill for copy paper sent to Clifton school 15 August 1893

E. C. Pawley & Co. – Druggists and Jewelers, Clifton, Illinois "prescriptions carefully prepared" according to bill for supplies sent to Clifton school 31 January 1894

A.E. Kuhn Drug Company where Bernard Ritter was pharmacist about 1907

REID DRUG COMPANY advertising in 1935 Advocate. In south block, occupied by Herd House Tavern in 2002. Advocate, Clifton, Illinois, 8 November 1944, "A deal has been Made and necessary papers completed whereby Sgt. Chester Reid became the owner of the drug store building on Main St. here. Sgt. Reid formerly conducted a drug store in the building until called for army service over two years ago. He is now stationed in Italy.

The building was purchased from the heirs of the late Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Kuhn."

Doctors

J. L. McDonald, M.D. – from return address on envelope sent to local school district in 1890s.

Chiropractor

Deidre Mathy Deany's office was first in Central Unit #4 office building on 4th Avenue; about 2009 she relocated her office to Main Street on corner of 6th Avenue.

Dentists

Dr. W. M. Cohan, Dentist, with office in Morel Building, according to 5 September 1946 issue of Advocate. Dr. Richard Sullivan later had his practice at this location (upstairs in Morel building, corner location). Later Dr. Sullivan had his office on Main Street just north of Frake & Mayo John Deere, whose business was on corner of 3rd Avenue and Main.

Grocery Stores

Advocate, Clifton, Illinois, issue of 30 May 1963 – "Mr. and Mrs. Earl Vilven announce the closing of their grocery store and meat market. The Vilven's have operated the store on Main street known as Vilven's Market for 25 years, having purchased it from Ole Lauridsen. Ill health of Mr. Vilven is forcing discontinuance of the business."

Advocate, Clifton, Illinois, issue of 14 Oct 1920, "Hobson & Lutton have sold their grocery business and their building to Ole Lauridsen, who will move his meat market and conduct the two in one building." Advocate, Clifton, Illinois, issue of 12 April 1979, article by Carl Coash, "Ole Lauridsen purchased the Hobson Bros. meat market, about 1915. With the help of his sons, the meat market prospered, and Ole bought the

adjacent grocery store from Hobson and Lutton (Tom Lutton and Robert Lutton). The two stores were merged and operated as a grocery and meat market, in the building now occupied by the Figurine gift shop (Gene Bolte's Country Companies in 2002?). (Meat furnished by slaughter house located about a mile west of Clifton on the Old Tile Pit Road.) Ole's obit in 24 Jan 1957 issue of Advocate tells, "In 1901 he commenced employment with the Hobson Bros. livestock business and meat market in Clifton. In 1911 he bought the meat market and in 1921 he bought the Hobson & Lutton grocery which he operated until 1948, the last 10 years in partnership with Earl Vilven. February 1938 issue of Advocate advertises OLE LAURIDSEN GROCERY MEATS. 1946 issue of The Advocate, Clifton, Illinois carries advertisement for LAURIDSEN'S MARKET and GEORGE BRANIGAN GROCERY and MARKET. Advocate issue of 3 February 1938 shows FRED MATHY ROYAL BLUE store at Branigan spot (southwest corner of north business block) and this store later owned by Tommy & Leona Miller. Henry Johnson and William Werkau conducted a grocery and meat market on main street for two years. Werkau then joined with his brother to own and operate Werkau Bros. grocery and meat market until William Werkau died in 1916.

The Clifton Advocate, Clifton, Illinois, issue of Thursday, 6 July 1944, "ROYAL BLUE STORE CHANGES OWNERSHIP – A deal was completed Tuesday whereby Mr. and Mrs. Fred Mathy sold their Royal Blue store to Mr. and Mrs. George Branigan of Chicago. The new owners took immediate possession of the business, although they probably will not move here until the latter part of this week. The Mathy's will assist them in the operation of the store for several weeks, and Mrs. Eleanor Hemenover will be regularly employed there. The new owners and their three children have rented the Belle Nation home in the southwest part of town. Mr. Branigan was formerly a railroad man in Chicago. Mr. and Mrs. Mathy and daughter Eleanor have faithfully served the people of this vicinity for the past eleven and one-half years, and have made many friends who will miss seeing them daily at the store."

Butcher Shop

The Advocate, Clifton, Illinois, issue of 5 September 1935 in Horse and Buggy Days column reported, "The first bunch of bananas came to Clifton along about 1882 or '83. A. B. Cummings, who kept a butcher shop, was the enterprising merchant offering them for sale. . .Mr. Cummings charged 5c a piece for them."

Hardware

The Clifton Advocate, Clifton, Illinois [undated clipping ca1901] reported, "Another Burglary – John Colby's hardware store was robbed last night. Burglars gained entrance by cutting a pane of glass out of the rear door. They secured a revolver, some cartridges, knives and the contents of the cash drawer – seven cents. Mr. Colby locked the door and sent for trained blood hounds, but was unable to secure them. He has been the victim of burglars several times in the past few years and Cliftonites regret that it was not possible to apprehend the burglars and treat them to a portion of the justice which they richly deserve."

Implement Dealers

Rorer Brothers sold their implement business in late 1880s to Timothy F. Donovan. Donovan sold the business to T. C. Brown and Co. in 1909.

Main Street Houses

S. B. Walton house, second house south of Aloha Theater. Later owned by Ole and Edja Lauridson. Owned by Burke family just before it was razed in 1980s.

Illinois Central Railroad section house was located in the railroad grounds, east side of tracks, on 6th Avenue. The White family lived here in 1940s. The house, along with several out buildings, was razed in January of 1960.

Restaurant & Taverns

"Gus Lamotte has taken out a license and will operate a tavern in the room formerly occupied by Beardslee and Sanderson undertaking establishment. Fixtures and equipment are being installed this week." The Advocate, Clifton, Illinois, 28 Oct 1937

Helen and Bill McGivern operated the Clifton House restaurant and tavern from 1962-1972 (main street, middle of south block)(Advocate, Clifton, Illinois, 7 Feb 2002 obituary

of Helen McGivern; died 19 January 2002, age 88; gives name of restaurant and years)

Mrs. Wiggs Café and Greyhound Bus Terminal. Operating in 1938 according to Clifton Advocate of that year. This is site of Perry Wallace café and later Eddie and Ada Klonowskis Café. Advocate, Thurs., 20 Oct 1949, "Mr. and Mrs. Duane Miller have sold their restaurant here, located just north of the Midwest store to Mr. and Mrs. Edward Klonowski of Kankakee. The new owners took over on October 3rd, and are residing in rooms at the rear of the building. Mrs. Klonowski is the former Ada Peck and resided here several years ago. Mrs. Duane Miller is assisting the new proprietors at present."

Phil Fournier has disposed of his restaurant to Victor Robin and will hereafter devote his time exclusively to conducting his billiard hall. Possession is given today. (Comet, Clifton, Illinois, issue of 2 February 1895) About 1925 Agnes Warmbir Lamotte worked for her keep at Fournier hotel and restaurant. Agnes said she fixed all the vegetables, washed the dishes, scrub the stairway, made the beds. Agnes was getting her beauty salon business started at the time.

Advocate, Clifton, Illinois, issue of 15 January 1959 – Chronology of Events during 1958 – "May 3, 1958 Fern and Leroy Savoie have opened their new restaurant and bar in the new cement block building located on Third Ave. near the Frake and Mayo Implement Co." In 2002 this building is owned by Ron Krum who has an office on the top floor

which he added in late 1990s. It is located on Third Avenue in the far north business block.

Culligan's Restaurant is listed in 1936 Clifton phone book.

Edward Godfriaux kept a saloon in Clifton about 1878-1879. He came to U.S. in 1871 from Belgium.

"Johnson's Tavern, Route 45, Clifton, Ill." Give-away advertising booklet in shape of violin. Where was it located?

John B. Lombard ran a saloon at the corner of Main and 4th for 20 years. He retired in 1906. The Clifton Advocate of August 1907 ran an item reporting John B. Lombard was adjudged insane and was being treated at a private asylum in Wisconsin. Lombard's first saloon was a one story wooden framed building destroyed by fire in 1898. It was rebuilt as a two story brick building in the same corner spot. For years it has been known as "The Corner Tavern."

Implement Dealers

Clifton Advocate, issue of 31 March 1905 – Implements For Sale Cheap – Riding gopher, riding cultivator with gopher attachment, Deere disk, 3-section steel drag, Plano binder, Champion mower, Sterling seeder, Betterdorf wagon. These implements, with the exception of three or four articles, are practically as good as new. Inquire of Jensen & Madison.

Livery Barns

The Advocate, Clifton, Illinois, issue of 28 February 1930, reported, "FOR SALE – I will offer for sale my Livery barn, 92x52 feet situated on two lots, to interested party. Reason for selling have gone out of the livery business. . ." (Strahl?)

Clifton Centennial book – "In March, 1903 Thos. And T. P. Collins built the Klondike Barn, located on Fourth Avenue. Reid Bros. And Arthur Dacosse operated the Klondike Livery Stable in 1905. Peter Mathison bought the barn from Collins and Collins about 1909. On March 1, 1911 the Klondike Barn burned to the ground. The horses were saved but the hay and contents of the barn were lost, In its place a frame building, 40 x 90 feet, with sheet iron siding, was built." In 1957 it was used to store machinery and feed grinding outfit owned by E. L. Jones. In 2006 it is the site of Jensen's IGA.

Advocate, 10 February 1938 – "A. J. Berns has bought the large Mathiesen barn next to the Advocate office, and originally built as a livery stable. Mr. Berns is making alterations and repairs, upon the completion of which he will occupy it himself as a place of business. What that business will be he has not yet definitely decided."

Harness Makers

Comet, Clifton, Illinois, issue of 27 Oct 1894, "D'Estay Asline has resumed his old position building harness at A. Caron's factory." The Advocate, Clifton, Illinois, issue of

Thursday, 30 April 1914 (in reporting on tornado in Clifton), "D'Estay Aslane's harness shop in the old photograph gallery south of Smith's store was completely demolished. His stock was practically all lost, as well as his account books. Some damage was also done to the Aslanes' square house occupied by Dave Hoffman." There was a photograph gallery (Mary Sanderson's) on south side of south block, on east side of alley. An advertisement in Comet, Clifton, Illinois, issue of Saturday, 10 February 1900 said, "NEW HARNESS SHOP – I have opened up a new shop in the basement of the Lombard building, and am prepared to do ALL KINDS OF HARNESS REPAIRING promptly and at a reasonable price. Give me a call when in need of anything in this line. D. ASLANE."

Hardware Store

The Advocate, Clifton, Illinois, issue of 14 November 1935, in Horse and Buggy Days, reported, "The building now occupied by Will Strahl where he lives with his dogs – that doesn't sound right, but let it go – was occupied sixty years ago by the Pierces, who had living rooms below and a hardware store above, a porch running along the front at the second story level, with long flights of steps leading up from the outside. What we remember best about the elder Pierce was that he used to burn charcoal, selecting for the purpose good sized willow trees, which were cut into suitable lengths, piled up, fired, and then covered with earth allowing vents here and there to prevent the fire being completely extinguished. Someone had to be in constant attendance to keep the fire from breaking out, the process requiring several days and nights." Was this building on west side of tracks between 4th and 5th Avenues?

Blacksmith/Tin Shops

The Advocate, Clifton, Illinois, issue of 16 June 1938, reported, "Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Miller moved their household goods from the H. P. Hansen residence to the Cnudde building where Mr. Miller has his tin shop. They will live upstairs."

Billiard Halls

Phil Fournier has disposed of his restaurant to Victor Robin and will hereafter devote his time exclusively to conducting his billiard hall. Possession is given today. (Comet, Clifton, Illinois, issue of 2 February 1895)

Mercantile Firms

North Block

Bernard Ritter became affiliated with mercantile firm of A.L. MOREL & SONS in 1908 and continued there as an active partner until the business was dissolved in 1947. Earl Janssen owned and operated this establishment until, "Cook" Beardslee was employed

by Janssen in the hardware portion of the store. Harry Weakley purchased the grocery business; Vernon Meier, Louis Frooninckx, Clarence Hendron purchased the Morel building and the dry goods and hardware business in early 1960s. (Did they buy from Janssen?) Dry goods was called Mary's Towne Shoppe; hardware was called Leader Hardware. First National Bank was in northwest corner of the building, grocery was on the east side of bank (next to alley), dry goods store was south side of bank and hardware ran from main street to alley on the south side of building. Above these were offices on north side of building (in 1946 Dr. W. M. Cohan, then later Dr. Sullivan had dentist's office above bank), telephone office on south side of building (front), Danish Brotherhood Hall on south side of building (middle) and Sanderson's undertaking business on south side (back) with hand operated elevator to take caskets up and down. This room had racks of wooden and gold leaf picture molding stored for hardware downstairs. When did Beardslee and Sanderson have their store here? The Advocate, Clifton, Illinois, issue of 12 September 1935 has advertisement for BEARDSLEE, SANDERSON & CO, funeral directors. In the middle of the building, upstairs, was the Opera House, with gas lights in front of the stage. The white plaster walls behind the theatre curtains were signed by hundreds of locals and professionals who had played on that stage.

The Comet, Clifton, Illinois, issue of 16 November 1895 said, "Gleason & Morel expect to take possession of their new building in a few days. The fixtures are being placed in position and the work will soon be complete." The Advocate, Clifton, Illinois, issue of 14 November 1902 reported, "Tuesday was the twentieth anniversary of the firm of Gleason & Morel, of this place. November 11, 1882 John C. Gleason and Alfred L. Morel opened their general store to the public, and have enjoyed an unusually successful and prosperous career ever since. By a liberal system of treatment these gentlemen have been enabled to increase their business until it compares very favorably with that of any similar institution in the county. Their first store was on the same corner they now occupy – corner of Main street and Third avenue. Later they moved to the corner of Fourth avenue, but in 1895 they built a splendid two story and basement brick occupying nearly half of the block. Their store rooms are large and the well arranged stock consists of every thing in the line of general merchandise." The Advocate, Clifton, Illinois, issue of 3 October 1935, Horse and Buggy Days column, "When Gleason and Morel erected their brick store building in 1895, Clifton acquired the luxury of a real opera house. The local dramatic organization had the honor of opening the Clifton opera house to the public with 'The Irish Volunteer,' a conglomeration in three acts thrown together by the undersigned. . .Emilie Compton, Belle Chapman, Estella Morrill, Nellie Hargreaves, Isabel Sheldon, Bill Sellers, W. H. Chapman, Dr. N. T. Stevens, E. O. Sheldon, Charles, Joe and Jimmie Trimble, Frank Sanderson and C. E. Johnson."

September 1935 edition of The Advocate advertises LeMASTERS HARDWARE, near Post Office, Quick Meal Stoves, Windmills, Stove Repairs.

STROUGH CREAM STATION – advertising baby chicks, chick starter, calf meal, hog supplement in February 1938 edition of Advocate.

Depot

Horse and Buggy Days column, the Advocate, Clifton, Illinois, issue of 31 October 1935 reported, "Before any building started in Clifton, and while it was in the process of being surveyed, plotted, and streets laid out, there was a landing platform at the first crossing north of town, what we are accustomed to calling the Sheldon crossing. Here lumber and building material of all kinds, as well as supplies of other kinds were unloaded from the freight trains, until some time in 1855, when a station was built about half a block south of where it now stands."

E. C. PAWLEY & CO had a store in Clifton in December 1896 according to the Comet, Clifton, Illinois in a local news item describing theft of a new boxed Bible from the store.

MONROE BROS. GARAGE, 2nd block south, on northwest corner of Main and Fifth, a ceramic brick building built in 1917.

Theatres

VIALTA theatre was advertising in 1935 Advocate newspaper; Howard Reid announcing the schedule; was he manager or owner? In November of 1925 George J. Genotte purchased the Vialta Theatre from W. H. Chapman. Chapman purchased the theatre from E. O. LaRoche in 1922. The final "picture show" under the ownership of Chapman was a Harold Lloyd comedy "The Freshman."

ALOHA theatre was running in by 1949 on northwest corner of Main Street and Sixth Avenue.

Orvan and Rose Yohnka managed the Aloha Theatre from 1950-1956.

Far North Block – Main Street block with Third Avenue on south side and Second Avenue on north side. FRAKE & MAYO – This store carried ad in The Clifton Advocate advertising SHEET METAL WORK, FURNACES, GUTTERS, PLUMBING, OIL BURNER, STOKER SERVICING.

Across the street from James Hansen's Laundry was an old store building. In one of the store rooms Louis Gravelot Sr. had an outfit for hackling flax straw. A farmer would bring in a load of straw and Mr. Gravelot would hackle it by hand and then bundle up the tow and ship it to market (Advocate 1935)

Advocate, Clifton, Illinois, issue of 13 February 1964 told, "A new sidewalk was poured Tuesday along the west side of the new Frake & Mayo building, from the corner of Third Avenue to a point just north of the new office being erected for Dr. Sullivan (dentist). Al Hendron was in charge of the work."

Advocate, Clifton, Illinois, issue of 13 February 1964 told, "The second location of the Comet was in the little building that had once been J.S. Trimble's marble shop. Next door, on the First National Bank corner, E.D. Lanoue had a general store. E.D. was once president of the village board. He was a nephew of 'Uncle Ed Lanoue', a pioneer merchant who, late in life, clerked for the Morel firm. E.D. Lanoue had his little joke with the writer. Beginning Monday morning and continuing daily, he would tap on the

print-shop window with his 'thumb hand' – being handicapped by the loss of his right hand digits. Then he would ask the little typesetter; 'Make my Comette yet?' He knew the papers were all printed on Friday, but he loved to kid the kid." (Which corner is the writer describing? First National Bank was in Morel building on corner of North block, but this brick building was built after late 1800's fire. Did Trimble actually have a marble shop or was it a pool parlor?)

Far North Block

From Clifton Centennial book – "On the night of January 19, 1894

Far South Block

The Clifton Advocate, Clifton, Illinois, issue of Friday, 24 October 1902, reported, "Wm. Yarno has returned to Clifton and will re-open the Clifton Bakery. He is now putting in a new oven and will be ready to sell good bakery products by the middle of next week." The bakery was located across the street from the Smith & Gage store. It was on east side of alley, across from Monroe Garage. In 2002 the bakery is the site of Sunshine Café, operated by Linda Hess and Sharon Welge. Monroe Garage in 2002 is the maintenance garage for Central School Unit #4.

Location unknown

Comet, Clifton, Illinois, 23 Nov 1895 – "A conflagration which would doubtless have been a serious one, was narrowly averted last Friday evening in Gagnon & Libert's building. A lamp hanging in the lower room set the wooden ceiling on fire and had burned through to the upper floor before being discovered. Only the presence of the family upstairs prevented a blaze which likely would have carried the most of the business portion of the town with it." Is this the same building where Chasers/St. Andrews is located in 2002? A Libert did have a saloon here at one time.

Advocate, Clifton, Illinois, issue of Sat., 7 June 1907 – "A. J. Libert will open the fourth saloon in Clifton in a few days. His permit will last less than eleven months and cost him \$1,000."

Comet, Clifton, Illinois, issue of 1 Dec 1900 – "The brick work on A. J. Libert's new building has been completed, and the place will soon be ready for occupation by the tenants, Hubert & Stull."

"About seven tons of dressed poultry were shipped to the city from Clifton Tuesday, the shipments were large Monday also." "The indications are that several brick stores will be erected in Clifton next season. Clifton is fast taking front ranks among the towns of this section." (The Comet, issue of 1 December 1900.)

Advocate, Clifton, Illinois, May 1903 – at this time there was an hotel named Palace Hotel in Clifton.

SIXTH AVE. – this was hard road (called “The Slab” going east out of Clifton. At the east edge of town Ezra Savoie started a gas station here (south side of road). Son of Mrs. Daniel Cardosi built the station. Sonny Bernard was to run it, but Ezra Savoie took over the business, but not the building. Ed Mathy was the second owner and Louie Frooninckx worked for him ca1940. It was a Marathon station. In 1955 Harold and Lawrence Bokker took over the station from Willard Kruger (and possibly Cecil Bull was a partner with Kruger). Bokkers had it until 1960-1961 then ____ Coon.

4th Avenue

Advocate, Clifton, Illinois, issue of 4 August 1894, “The Clifton Hotel is the way it reads on a new sign in front of Henry Krumwiede’s house.”

Gas Stations

Eldon Buff ran a Farm Service gas station on Main Street. Before him it was Christensens.

Advocate, Clifton, Illinois, February 1953 - Robert Jensen purchased Sinclair Oil Station.

Businesses in Unknown Locations

A cancelled check purchased on Ebay Auctions gives this information:

The Clifton Manufacturing Co., Clifton, Il July 10, 1883. Pay to the order of E R. Wallace, Administrator, One hundred & sixty Dollars. Signed by A. H. Troichell, Treas. National Park Bank, New York City. No. 1153. The check is endorsed E. R. Wallace Administrator. Further data on reverse side of check, “Pay A. S. Apgar Cashier, or Order, for Collection on Account of Merchants & Planters National Bank of Union SO.CA. (signed) E. R. Wallace President.”

The Advocate, Clifton, Illinois, issue of 8 August 1935 reported, “Before the Civil War, Henry Sylvester ran a hotel or boarding house here. It was generally believed at the time that he maintained a station of the underground rail way to aid run away slaves in getting into Canada.”

The Advocate, Clifton, Illinois, issue of 31 March 1905, reported, “I have opened up a new millinery establishment in the Viets building on Main Street, and invite the ladies to call and see my complete line of

Advocate, Clifton, Illinois, issue of 4 August 1894 “Some sneak thief effected an entrance into Mailloux & Tatro billiard hall Thursday morning while Mailloux was at breakfast and relieved the cash drawer of about four dollars. In some unaccountable manner he overlooked twenty cents, which he can have by coming after it.”

Sidewalks

Cost of Cement Sidewalks. A special meeting of the village board was held Monday evening. The only business transacted was in regard to the new cement sidewalks, which were accepted from the contractors and payment ordered. The total cost of the walks constructed this season was \$2326.79. Of this amount the village pays \$1408.89, and the property owners \$917.80. The reason why the share of the village was so much larger than the property owners was on account of the street crossings and

approaches, the total expense for which being paid by the village. While it seems like a large amount to expend for sidewalks in one season the village has frequently paid about as much money in the course of a year for lumber and cost of laying and had nothing of a durable character in the end. The cement walks are giving good satisfaction and none of our people would like to go back to the old rickety board walks again. (The Comet, 3 November 1900) From same issue – A section of sidewalk in the east part of town got on fire some way the early part of the week and some of it was destroyed before it was discovered. From issue of 20 Oct 1900 – The completion of our cement sidewalk work is very satisfactory to all citizens of Clifton and is especially gratifying to The Comet as this paper was the first to agitate this matter several years ago, and is not ashamed of it either. Something like nine blacks has been laid, besides some extra work in the line of crossings and approaches, or about twice as much as was first intended. To be sure, the expense has been quite an item, but it is done, and won't have to be replaced every few months, as has been the case with wooden walks. Permanent public improvements are always profitable.

Depot

One of the howling needs in Clifton is another waiting room at the depot. A decent place should at least be provided for the lady patrons of the company. Especially in the evening is this need evident. A lot of boys who have no business there and whose parents should keep them at home, congregate in the waiting room, smoke vile cigarettes and use language not the best. It is an abuse which deserves correcting. (The Comet, 1 December 1900.)

Frank W. Dougan was night operator at Clifton, Illinois, Illinois Central depot from February 1888 to 1890, from Clifton he went to Ashkum, then to Chebanse as agent. He was born at Loda 5 August 1863 and when a young man became a student in telegraphy under E. J. Wolfe then agent for IC at Chebanse – according to Horse and Buggy Days column in The Advocate, Clifton, Illinois, 8 August 1935.

The Park

The Comet, Clifton, Illinois, issue of 28 April 1894 reported that town board held special meeting on 21 April, Saturday evening, where it was decided to purchase property known as Lowther's Park for city purposes. It was the last action taken by retiring board. Price of \$2,000 with \$400 to be paid 1 May 1894 and four notes of \$400 each being given for the balance, each note payable 1 May until debt is liquidated. "Street commission E. Harling has been trimming up the trees and clearing up the rubbish this week and has already made a very noticeable improvement in the appearance. The remains of an antiquated fence have been removed."

Russell Reid, long time editor and publisher of The Advocate, remembered being a boy and sneaking under the band stand at night to smoke. There were dressing rooms underneath and they were unlocked.

Tornado April 1914

Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Bertha Wilson Brown lost a good part of their millinery stock from their store in the southwest corner room of the second floor of the Smith building. Their stock was distributed in every direction. They had left the store only a short time before the storm came. The shop has been re-opened in the Brown building on Main street. (Advocate, Clifton, Illinois - Tornado edition 30 April 1914.)

(1940 clipping from Advocate, Clifton, Illinois) – 1914 TORNADO – This month is the 26th anniversary of the disastrous tornado which struck Clifton on the afternoon of April 24, 1914. This was perhaps the most exciting occurrence in the history of the village with the possible exception of the great fire of 1899, which destroyed the business section. This little article is being published at this time in order to settle various arguments over the details of that storm, and we are quoting in part, the account of that episode as reported in the ADVOCATE, issue of April 30, 1914. 'A tornado formed a little southwest of Clifton Friday evening April 24, 1914 and at about a quarter after 6 struck the village, destroying and practically wrecking many buildings, inflicting fatal injuries upon Mrs. Hortense Collin Mottet, and injuring numerous person. The storm was a genuine twister, and its whirling motion and funnel shape was observed by many outside of its path. Its forward motion was not very rapid. Striking the Sill property first, it then ripped up the Meents elevator, struck Smith Bros. Store squarely, then proceeded northeasterly across town doing damage all the way. It rose after leaving Clifton and is not known to us to have struck earth again until it reached the woods on the Winteroth place. All kinds of estimates are hazarded as to the probable amount of damage in property. Newspaper reports range from \$100,000 to \$250,000. The ADVOCATE believes \$40,000 would cover all financial losses. Perhaps this is low among even the conservative estimates but we doubt if the figures can be made to total \$50,000. We have no further authority, however, than a list of figures compiled from reports made to the reporter, and a few have placed their estimate too low. This vicinity was visited by a tornado which passed just north of town two years ago, April 21, 1912."

Churches

"Sealed proposals will be received by Rev. D. O'Dwyer at the Palace Hotel, Clifton, Ill., until 1:30 p.m. Monday, May 18, 1903 for the erection and completion of the new church building for St. Peter's Congregation, Clifton, Ill. The plans and specifications may be seen at the Palace Hotel, Clifton, Ill., or at the residence of Rev. D. O'Dwyer, Chebanse, Ill., or at the office of the architect, Geo. P. Stauduhar, Rock Island, Ill. At any time after Friday, May 8th." (Advocate, Clifton, Illinois, issue of May 1903.)

Gas & Service Stations

By Wilson ran the Standard gas station located on Main Street in far north business block (bordered by Third and Second Avenues). Later Gene Miller ran the station and Rob Hepworth worked there.

Sinclair gas station was located on Sixth Avenue and Main Street and run by Johnson; later another Johnson ran the station. Across the street to the south was a gas and service station (possibly Shell) run by Al and Nell.

Standard gas and service station was located south side of East First Avenue, just west of I57 southbound lanes. Maguire ran this station and later Eldon Buff ran it.

Texaco gas station was located on Sixth Avenue, east side of village, on "slab" running east of town. It was owned and operated by Lawrence and Harold Bokker.

DX gas and service station was owned by Huot; it was located on Main Street, in railroad grounds between Third and Second Avenues. Wilbert Yonke drove a gas truck for Huot.

Cardosi, then Christensen, then Eldon Buff ran the gas and service station located in railroad grounds just south of Third Avenue railroad crossing. It had been a Marathon station and a FS station.

Schools

From the Advocate, Clifton, Illinois, issue of 10 October 1935, Horse and Buggy Days column, "A Bit of School History – Clifton's first school house was located on the northeast corner of the Congregational Church lot about where home plate is now on the Community Field. There had been a bitter controversy between the east siders and the west siders over the location of the building, the west siders finally emerging as victors, when the proposal to build the school house was voted upon. But the triumph of the west siders was of short duration; for not long after the building was finished a party of men, young and old, headed by Joe Gleason, who was a house mover, went over one night, jacked up the building, put some trucks under it and proceeded to haul it across the tracks to the east side while the good citizens of the village slept. Much was their surprise upon being awakened at dawn by some very raucous crowing which, upon investigation, was found to be proceeding from the throat of Henry Sylvester, who was perched astride the roof ridge of the building, flapping his arms and crowing lustily. The building was let down on some loose stones for a foundation and the raiders departed peaceably to their homes for a richly earned bit of rest while the west siders stormed and raved. There seemed to be no way of compromising the difficulty, and it was finally solved by dividing the district into two separate school districts, the dividing line being the I.C.R.R. Two separate two story buildings were erected and two separate schools conducted for years – until 1890, thirty years or more. Then an election was held to reunite the districts and the proposal carried. The buildings remained where they were, but under one management, first and second year pupils being taught at the west side building, and the others at the east side building. Three teachers were employed. This continued until 1896, when the upper room of the west side building was finished, it having never been finished or used from the time it was built until then. Four teachers were employed, the upper grades now attending the west side school, and the lower grades the east side. Enrollment and attendance grew steadily, being well over two hundred each year, and each teacher having over fifty children under her care, handling, or trying to handle two grades in each room. Agitation was started for a new building which would be large enough to accommodate all without crowding or overworking the teachers. This was brought to a vote in 1902, three elections being held, the first, to build, carried with little opposition; the second, to issue bonds also carried easily; and the third, locating the site where the building now stands, also carried. In the spring of 1903 work was begun on the new building, and the old buildings were sold. Peter Wright bought the west side building, moved it to his farm

west of town and converted it into a barn. It was struck by lightning and burned to the ground a few years later. The other was bought by Carl Christensen and moved to the west side, where it is still occupied by the owner in his shoe and harness repairing business. The upper part was made into a hall and occupied by the D.B.S. as a lodge room for several years. The old original school house still stands in our village, though many people do not know it. It is the building now occupied by John Bertrand, just east of Henry Swival's home, and is more than seventy-five years old. The writer's mother, Mrs. J. S. Trimble, taught the primary grades in the building now owned by Carl Christensen, in 1870. We know of only one person now living who attended her classes. That is Miss Etta Smith, now living in Chicago. What stories that old building of Carl's could reveal if it could but speak!"

Far South Block

Thelma Tatro owned and operated a greenhouse and floral business on the corner of Main and Sixth Avenue during late 1960s through 1970s. Norma Meier worked here part time, as did Beulah Blain who once owned a floral business in the South Block. Thelma sold the business to Larry and Judy Mahoney. In 1984 Cliff and Marge Brucker sold the business, named The Flower Co., to Kent and Patty Razzano Sanders.