

A WALK AROUND HAMBURG AT THE TURN OF THE CENTURY

A Slide Presentation by Elton R. Heath.

Hello Folks _____ The Voice you are hearing is that of Elton R. Heath,
a Village of Hamburg ^{HISTORY} buff, recording from memory in ~~October~~ 1978.

Please bear with me a moment for some necessary preliminary remarks.
Let us dedicate this program to the hardy citizens who established our
village and to my wonderful grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles B.
Sturdevant, who cared for me when I was young. I came to live with
them in 1899.

MAP This blown-up map shows the village lines during the period of
1902 - 1908, which I have chosen to talk about. The boundaries were
established in 1874 and not extended until 1925. I choose this particular
period because this was when I knew the residents, the businesses and
the scenes very well. I could call many men and women of the time by
their ~~first~~ names. The population was estimated to be between 1800 to
2200. After that the village grew, and in 1915 the number of village
residents had increased to 2744.

Some of the early presidents were C.J. Ueblacker (1902 - 1904);
Smith Colvin (1904 - 1906); Leslie Lake (1906 - 1908). You will see
some pictures that show flags decorating the buildings. These were
taken in 1912, the year of the Town Centennial. We do not have earlier
pictures but the buildings were the same in 1908.

The western boundary of the village ran through the corner of the Foit
house in which we lived, across the railroad tracks from the depot at the
foot of Union Street. The Tellners lived in part of the house.

SLIDE We will step across the tracks.

The old Erie depot. Mr. John Newell was the station agent and my grand-
father was the telegrapher. A long platform extends to the south
where many commuters are waiting for the 7:30 a.m. train that takes

them to Buffalo to various businesses. People ordered goods from Sears Roebuck, Montgomery Ward and the Larkin Company. All express and freight were handled at the depot. Heavy materials were delivered. It was also the Western Union office.

SLIDE We will begin our walking tour on the plank sidewalks of the beautiful village of Hamburg, N.Y. At the foot of Union Street we see a dirt road with a scaper leveling its surface.

On the northeast corner is a busy operation, the Richardson Feed Store and mill, now Abbott's. Behind it on Scott Street is one of Hamburg's first gas wells, where I sat many hours watching the drillers. Next came the foundry, a place of interest to us boys as we watched men pour hot metal into molds.

Across Pleasant Avenue on a hill stood the beautiful home of George Bensley, a banker. He maintained one of the few tennis courts in the village.

Let us return to Union Street. As we head east, we see on the south side, Drummer's Hotel. On the corner of Union Street and West Avenue, we notice Eno & Drummer's Coal, Wood and Tile business. The West End Hotel stands there now. Next door is Danheiser's home and bar. Then, Joseph Drummer's home and a few steps further, a harness shop. *Insert B1*

Going back to the north side of Union Street, we spot the home of Pat Moran, Hamburg's first constable

SLIDE Now up the street where quite a few Hamburg residents work.

The Hamburg Planing Mill. It was owned and operated by local people, namely Martin Seegar, Dan Connell, Louis Miller and the VanDuzee sisters.

On the end of the mill building, Mr. Schweigert ran a wagon shop.

The area where the Gas Company shops are now was the ball field. Baseball games were played on Saturday afternoons and many fans turned out. There

was no grand stand and everyone stood along the sidelines. We kids watched from on top of the lumber piles.

SLIDE This is the 1902 Town Team.

The large man with the bat was Tip White. He could hit a ball a mile. Seated in the middle is Roy Gunsolly.

Way back of left field was a building called the Wigwam, which faced Pleasant Avenue. It was of unusual design eight sided. It was used for storing wagons and farm machinery and was owned by Henry Baltzer who lived next door.

East of the Ball Park there was a small house where the Dimpfls lived. It is still there. On the south west corner of Union and Lake Streets, we find a grocery store run by a nice couple by the name of Eddy. You could leave an order and it would be delivered. When you went there, for kerosene oil for your lamps, you carried a can with a potato on the spout. When you paid the bill, the kids were given a small bag of hard candy.

Next door on Lake Street was Kruse's Dry Good Store, a popular shop for women who did their own sewing and dressmaking.

SLIDE . This was the Presbyterian Church on the West side of the street. Two of the ministers were the Rev. Jones and then the Rev. Robinson. Incidentally, all churches had sheds for the horses. *Event #2*

SLIDE Across the street was the Village Park with its fountain and band stand. An occasional concert attracted many people.

SLIDE This is the store where William Froehly had a furniture business and a repair shop. Next to it on the West side of Lake Street stood Froehly's large brick home, which is now their undertaking business. Across the street, Dr. Lord's parents and brothers resided. Down on the corner of Lake Street and Pleasant Avenue was Minkel's wallpaper store. He was Dr. Minkel's grandfather. Further out Lake Street, John Knaak,

Anne Tiliner's father and Iola Kimmel's grandfather; built a large stone House in the early 1900s. He gathered stones for about 5 years before he began construction.

SLIDE Here is how it looks today.. Incidentally it was the second home in the village to have inside plumbing.

SLIDE. Let us return to Union and Lake Streets. This was the office of Wheelock's Coal and Tile business, later Knoche's. At election times residents of the area came thereto vote by paper ballot. Next door was the Christian Science Reading Room.

SLIDE Look what we have here. A little girl, all dressed up for her picture.. notice the clothes and shoes of the period.

SLIDE And now another cutie..

Diagonally across the street next to the Park was the large home occupied by the Rhems. ⁵³ A beautiful white house on the north side was Eno's, later Drummer's. The Robbins sisters lived nearby. Miss Lavina Robbins taught about 50 years in the Hamburg School.

SLIDE The Hamburg Academy, Notice the plank sidewalks. Boys entered on one side, girls on the other. A large bell tolled for school time. Many walked miles to attend. All teachers were women and discipline was well kept. Pupils bought and sold their used books. In the rear was a rough, hard and stony playground as well as two large outhouses -- His and Hers. There ^a is tremendous amount of history relating to the old Academy.

SLIDE. The High School football team of 1905. Note the uniforms.

SLIDE. The baseball team of 1908. Dr. Amos Minkel, Sr. on the right. Down there in front, is E.R. Heath, the Mascot, age 14 1/2

SLIDE Trinity Episcopal Church across the street from the Academy.

SLIDE The Methodist Church and Parsonage. The Rev. Piper, and later the Rev. Thompson, were the ministers.

SLIDE This was the end of the line on Hawkins Avenue at Union

Street, for the B & LET trolley. It ran from Hamburg to downtown Buffalo. Dr. Gunn's house and office was across the street.

Now we are walking down Hawkins Avenue. Around the corner on Pleasant Avenue stood John Salisbury's home. He was Postmaster during the Democrat Administration. Horace Hunt's residence was just beyond the school playground. Next came Hale's greenhouse. Going back to Hawkins Avenue, on the West side is Charles Avery's home. He was a rural mail carrier. Mr. Brown lived on Maple Avenue in what was at that time the only house in the area. He was Dr. Lord's grandfather.

SLIDE The old water works pumping station on Prospect Avenue.

Bert Faulring was the operator. It is now the Community Center, a real landmark. On the corner of Prospect Avenue and Division Street was the home of the Woodruffs, Silvia and Bessie. The Shepherds were on the corner of Maple Avenue and Division Street. They had a pony and cart. Now let us go east on shady Maple Avenue where there were some splendid homes. Now, we turn left out on Buffalo Street. Carleton Eno had a grocery store on the east side. Retracing our steps on Buffalo Street, we find the Kloepper home on the east side. Across the street was Dr. Bourne's office and home, recently Dr. Amos Minkel, Jr.'s headquarters. All doctors owned horses and buggies and cutters.

SLIDE Next door was Jacob Hauck's home where the Library is today.

SLIDE And now we see a large beautiful mansion, occupied by the Pfeffers. The Masonic Temple stands there today.

SLIDE As we go west on Union Street, we see B.M Fish's home.

Most homes were wooden frame houses. There were few built of stone or brick. They were heated by coal. Many had front and side porches. Flower and vegetable gardens were usual. There ^{WERE} wells to supply water for all purposes and some families had cisterns to collect rain water. More details about that later.

Back up Union Street to John Schoeflin's home then Dr. Howder's home

and office. He was a dentist.

SLIDE On the corner of Union and Buffalo Streets was the Milford Fish home and observatory. It was much admired by all the people.

SLIDE Across on the corner, where the Learn Building is now was Espenscheid's wagon shop and Endre's Blacksmith Shop. Nearby were Thurber's Livery Stables. There was a terrible fire there and many horses were killed. Towns people could rent a horse and buggy from Mr. Thurber.

SLIDE Weber's Hotel, a stopover for farmers going to and from the Buffalo Market. Note the hitching post and watering troughs.

SLIDE Here is Koch's harness shop where a wooden horse was in the window. Every kid in town either bought or had repaired their skate straps there.

SLIDE Buffalo Street looking north.

SLIDE The Buffalo Southern Railway. It was known as the Sunshine Line because it only ran when the sun shone.. or so commuters said.

SLIDE One of the trolleys stuck at the end of the line. On the east side of the street was Stolting's law office and next to it was Palmer's Barber Shop and Pool Room.

SLIDE. Here's the famous Kopp's Hotel and Opera House. Wenner's Men's Wear and Zuber's Jewelry Store occupied part of the ground floor. The Library Ball, bazaars, plays, political caucuses, dances and banquets all took place here. The first telephone in Hamburg hung on the wall of the bar. You turned the crank and got Central. When more phones were installed, they were all on party lines. Of course, no one ever listened in.

SLIDE. Another view of the wonderful old building.

SLIDE SS. Peter and Paul's Roman Catholic Church and School located on the corner of East Main and Pine Streets. Father Shoeffels was the parish priest followed by Father Bornfeld.

4:20.25

16:9"

SLIDE The Ueblacker old house on Pine Street. It is still there. Near the outskirts of the village was a soft drinks bottling works called Niefergold's. Mr. Kast owned a large farm on the north side of East Main Street. (5)

(33) SLIDE We return on East Main Street. This house at 239 is over 140 years old. History tells us that it was at an early date moved from the corner of East Main and Pine Streets, where it had been a place of worship for the Free Will Baptists, Prebyterians and finally the Roman Catholics. Continuing ^{on} East Main Street on the south side stood Fink's Hotel operated by the Schunks.

SLIDE A well-known store. General Merchandise, B.M. Fish's. Old-timers will never forget Christmas shopping there. A door on the side led to the library upstairs. Miss Amanda Michael was the librarian. (10) Near-by was Moesch's Buffalo House. I recall that a few years later there were 13 saloons in the village.

SLIDE This is Eckhardt's Hotel and Federspiel's Grocery across from Fish's.

SLIDE. Another view of Federspiel's. A fire destroyed the building on this corner too.

We walk down South Buffalo Street. On the east side, the oldest house in Hamburg. Across the street, Barney Moritz's Blacksmith shop.

SLIDE Schoepflin's flour mill on Eighteen Mile Creek, originally Long's Mill.

SLIDE The creek above the dam. Some canoeing and row boating were enjoyed as well as skating above the ice cutting area.

SLIDE Men cutting ice

SLIDE ^{Pushing} ~~Pushing~~ ice to the conveyor and into the ice house. Mr. ^{Edward} ~~Edward~~ Haas, who lived nearby was the operator and delivered to homes and hotels. Kids asked for or helped themselves to small pieces of ice at the back of the delivery wagon. Residents had refrigerators (ice boxes) with drip

pans underneath, many overflowing.

SLIDE Let us return to Main Street. In 1904 it was being paved with brick.

SLIDE The well-known Bunting Block on the northwest corner. (16) V ↑ Horton's Drug Store with a soda fountain faced Buffalo Street. Next door was Baser's Bicycle Store and newsstand. The delivery boys covered the village from there. Notice the type of street lights. There were a few ^{THE VILLAGE} different corners around town. A lamplighter went about letting the globe down by means of a rope. Then he cleaned the globe and replaced the carbon burner. The Bunting Building burned down recently, and a vacant lot is there now.

SLIDE Here is a splendid group of men who served during the Civil War. They were the local post of the Grand Army of the Republic, G.A.R.

SLIDE An active Women's Relief Corps of local women. Ladies at that time wore long skirts and beautiful hats, kept in place with long pins.

SLIDE This picture shows Hauck's Shoe Store and Insurance Business and Kronenberg's Hardware and Plumbing Establishment. Everyone for miles around did business at Kronenberg's.

SLIDE This group of business men was photographed after 1908, but they all were in business ^{here} earlier. Men wore derby hats and vest suits with a watch and chain.

SLIDE The Bank of Hamburg. The Post office occupied the west side of the building. William Froehly was Postmaster. Residents had boxes in the office and called for their mail. It came in from the depot by way of Gasper's bus which also carried passengers. Enos Nott's Drug Store was next door to the Post Office. Across the street was Hellriegel's Hotel and then came the Grange Building. Froehly's Furniture and Undertaking Parlor along with Momberger's barber shop took up the ground floor.

SLIDE Kloepper's Hotel. A damaging fire struck here also.

4:26:33

22:22"

SLIDE On the north side of Main Street was Andrew Stein's Meats, as it was known in this period, then Koelmel's and later Altes. You could leave a list and they delivered.

SLIDE Then came Zinn's and ~~Dominski's~~ ^{Dominski's} Tailor Shop and the DeGraff Jewelry Store. At one time there was a butcher shop there. The George B. Abbott family lived upstairs above the stores.

SLIDE The People's Bank. Smith Colvin was president. Notice the standpipe at the rear of the building. It was originally erected in 1889 and rebuilt in 1948. In the early 1900's water lines were being extended throughout the village. Gas lines were also being laid. Next came Rafter's, a veterinarian. The Post Office is on that lot today.

On the north side was Van Epp's Candy Store. He was known as "Johnny Peanuts". A bit of photography was one of his hobbies. He took many pictures of Hamburg. Next door was Demmerly's bar.

SLIDE The Huson's Hotel. It was a lively place.

SLIDE The Walker residence. He was editor and owner of The Erie County Independent, now the Hamburg Sun. The old papers are full of Hamburg history.

SLIDE The little old brick School House appears in the rear.

SLIDE Isn't she a dandy? And now to deviate a moment. Let us hear about girls in those early days. They wore shirtwaists and long skirts, long stockings and button shoes. Little girls played with their dolls and made doll clothes, learned other sewing skills plus cooking and they loved to dress up in Mother's clothes.. and lots of other things. Too many to mention.

To continue our walk-- There's Holdridge's Laundry, later Cook's.

SLIDE The Dietrich Building on the South side, a furniture and undertaking establishment. At one time a movie house was in the east end. I also remember a nickel movie in the building that was Young's and

Pritchard's Pharmacy. John Slater had a small store next to Dietrich's. He sold stationary, watches and bicycles.

SLIDE Saint James Evangelical Church and School. School sessions were on Saturdays.

SLIDE. ~~Still~~ On the North side is Walter's Meat Market.

SLIDE And here's the familiar Brendel Building and residence. A grocery. took up most of the space. Joseph Danheiser had a plumbing business close by. Across the way was Meyer's Shoe Store and residence. Mr. Koester, the Street Commissioner, lived next door.

SLIDE The Baptist Church, the first church in the village. Rev. Spencer was the minister. On the north east corner of Main and Center Streets was the Stratmeyer home, Mrs. Helen Temple's home. There is a gas station there now.

SLIDE Stratmeyer's blacksmith shop on Center Street. Nearby was a fire house and the jail. On the north west corner of Main Street was the Rittman House.

SLIDE The home of the MacMillans and Ashdowns. This is a picture of the house after it was moved to Oliver Street. The New York Telephone building now occupies the site.

Please listen to a few remarks about houses and homes. New houses were under construction frequently. Cellars were dug by means of horses and scoops. Out houses were a way of life. On Halloween nights the big bad boys pushed ~~them~~ ^{SOME} over. Pot belly stoves using coal were in the living room ^S of the houses. Parlors were only opened on special occasions. A large iron stove using wood and coal was prominent in the kitchen for cooking as well as heating. Kerosene lamps were a necessity and fly paper on screen doors in the summer was the usual rule. Some people raised chickens and a few had cows and barns. Residents shoveled their walks during heavy Winter snows.

We will walk south on Center Street. Pat Sullivan and his family lived on the east side. Let's continue past Long Avenue. Here we find Guenther's greenhouses and the much-enjoyed hill which was well-used in Winter. At the bottom of the hill ran Eighteen Mile Creek. Sleds were homemade.

SLIDE Let's retrace to Main Street. This is Professor Byron Heath's residence on the south side next to the corner. This picture shows it restored and occupied by our Mayor, Dorothy Meloy, and her husband, Charles L. Meloy. (F7)

SLIDE Across the street was the Day house, a real old one. A Mr. Boise lived there. He is said to have moved to Idaho where he became governor. It was Dr. Alvah Lord's home and office for many years until his retirement in 1975. The property now belongs to the telephone company.

SLIDE Here is Gressman's Grocery, later William Kleinfelder's business. Next door lived the Jarvis's. He was an optician, Mrs. Thomas Bourne's father

SLIDE The H. Spencer home. It was partially destroyed by a fire which took the lives of Mrs. Spencer and her son, Dr. Whittemore, an osteopath, rebuilt it. Later the building was moved and the new Presbyterian Church occupies the area now.

SLIDE One piece of fire fighters' equipment in the old days. They were always on the job. (R7)

Across Main Street on the south side Dr. Paxton and his daughter, dentists, were busy.

SLIDE Colonel George Abbott's residence. An apartment complex stands there today.

SLIDE Dr. Barne's large home and office. The property has been recently owned by Albert Bowers. (F8) Vol 1 5 sec

SLIDE Back across the street. Here is Kronenberg's fine home and next door Dr. Hengerer's. Next Dr. Janes and later Dr. Braner, practiced medicine.

SLIDE Stern and Mohr's butcher business. In the west side of this building was Weibert's Confectionery and Ice Cream Store, later ^{McC}Hayker's. Then came William Gale's barber shop.

at the corner of Lake Street.
SLIDE. Here is the Center House, Kruse's then Burns', a busy spot in the lower end of the village. Mike Schmitt had a large livery stable on Lake Street near the Park where the Fire Hall is today.

Now, back again across Main Street, was Schummer's Hardware Store and Plumbing store. Next, Schaus, the blacksmith; Brodbeck, International Harvester agency, later the Buick garage. Chester Daetsch was the chief mechanic. On the corner of South Lake and Main streets was Leslie Lake's grocery.

SLIDE Another beautiful home, George M. Pierce's, was on the north side of Evans Street.

And now, a moment to review how boys of this era looked. They wore knickers, blouses and long stockings. In Winter, they donned long johns, caps with ear flaps, knitted mittens, overshoes with buckles or boots. Snowball fights were plentiful. Each side built a wall of snow. Boys shovelled sidewalks and ran errands. Summer activities included sandlot baseball, marbles and cracking horse chestnuts on strips of rawhide. Hiking along Eighteen Mile Creek was popular along with many other activities too numerous to mention.

SLIDE Looking down Evans Street is the Pease House. Notice the unusual architecture. At the corner of Evans Street and West Avenue stood the Bowers Hotel.

SLIDE The Hamburg Canning Factory.

SLIDE Many villagers were employed there. Some walked miles. When the beans on hand had all been "strung", they went home. As soon as more crops came in, you could hear a shrill whistle blow, calling them back to work.

SLIDE We return to Pierce Avenue. An old home, the Vannam's, on the southwest corner. Shoemakers lived next door. They also owned a pony and cart.

SLIDE Thomas Bunting's residence. He had the other tennis court that I knew about. The busy K of C hall is there today.

SLIDE D.C. Pierce's home on the corner of Pierce and Long Avenues. Mr. Pierce was the president of the Bank of Hamburg.

Now we will go to Central Avenue, which was the last street on the south side of the village. There lived a prominent attorney, Samuel Fleishman. Turning north on the corner of Long Avenue and South Lake Street lived Miss Newton, a school teacher. It is now the home of Mrs. Thomas Bourne. On the West side of South Lake Street was the Smith Colvin home. He was the president of the People's Bank.

For sure.. we have walked enough and seen plenty .. enough for today. Let us go to the Park and rest.

Before concluding I wish to take this opportunity to thank Duane Fischer, who has done so much to make this program possible. He made the slides, furnished the projector and screen plus the tape recorder. And he also synchronized the pictures with this recording. And here he is controlling the whole operation. Please give Duane a grand applause..

PAUSE!

I am proud and happy to have spent my youth in the beautiful village of Hamburg, and to have presented this special program for you. ^{of course,} There is much more history. I hope you have enjoyed this Walk Through Hamburg along with ^{four} ~~thirteen~~ year old boy that I once was. Thanks for your kind attention.

SLIDES 83 Years old on October 3, 1977

54.4.24.11

4:39.39
35:28 sec