

*Newspaper articles that I have found concerning  
Downsville and surrounding areas while doing my  
research into my Grandmother's Holmes line:  
Submitted by Dawn Carew, e-mail [res0wnnp@verizon.net](mailto:res0wnnp@verizon.net)*

***The Following are from the Middletown Daily Argus, Middletown - N.Y.***

*Friday August 9, 1895*

\_\_\_\_\_ Collin Campbell received a telegram, Tuesday, that his brother Duncan, who was on a visit in Iowa, was dead, and that the remains would be brought to Downsville for burial. Deceased was a son of Archie Campbell, of Campbell Mountain.

*Thursday July 12, 1894*

\_\_\_\_\_ Obituary - Mrs. Mary Downs. Dr. W. E. Douglas received, to-day, a dispatch from Denver announcing the death in that city, this morning, of his cousin, Mrs. Mary Downs, a former resident of Downsville, N.Y. and later of this city.

Mrs. Downs was the daughter of Sherman M. and Serena Hine. She was born in Otego, Otsego county, July 12, 1840, and was therefore exactly fifty-four years of age. Her husband, John A. Downs, died some years ago.

She is survived by her mother, Mrs. Hine, of Franklin; two sisters, Mrs. Henry Saunders, of Oneonta, and Mrs. Alice Edwards, of Franklin, N.Y.; a brother, Charles, residing in Texas; also three sons, Rev. George W. Downs, assistant pastor of the Central Methodist Church, of New York City; Augustus A., business manager of the Rocky Mountain Voice, and William A. Downs, with Fisher & Daniels, dry goods merchants of Denver, Col.

The cause of death was not stated in the dispatch but it is supposed to be heart disease from which Mrs. Downs had been a sufferer for some time.

The remains will be brought East for burial.

*Monday July 16, 1894*

\_\_\_\_\_ Many Friends Pay the Last Tribute of Respect to Her Memory - A large concourse of people attended the funeral services of the late Mrs. Mary A. Down's, at St. Paul's Church, last evening. Rev. B. H. Burch, of Newburgh, conducted the services, assisted by Revs. Darwood, Gordon and Cochran, of this city, and Cole, of Bridgeville. Revs. Burch and Cole in their remarks paid glowing tributes to the memory of the excellent Christian lady.

The remains were viewed by hundreds of people at the close of the services and the floral offerings resting upon and about the casket were extensive and beautiful. At 10:40 the funeral party left for Walton, and this morning proceeded by wagon to Downsville, where the interment took place. The pall bearers were W. G. Hull, Wm. Budd, W.G. Tice, Robert Cochran, J. G. Harding and Robert Lawrence.

*Thursday August 23, 1894*

\_\_\_\_\_Downsville and the East Branch Valley don't get a railroad yet, and probably never will. It looked at one time as if they would get one sure. The only way out for the people of the East Branch region is an electric road to connect with the O and W. It would be fourteen miles to Downsville on an even grade, and the water of the river could be harnessed to do all the work. Such a road would add \$2 and acre-in value to all the land for four miles on each side of it, and that sum would more than build and equip it. The present highway bridges at East Branch could be utilized to cross the river on. If thought best not to use water for power the plant could be located along side the O and W tracks, and owing to its close proximity to the Lackawanna coal fields the cost for coal would be greatly reduced. What say you, neighbor Peck?

*Thursday October 4, 1894*

\_\_\_\_\_Mrs. Erastus Bogart, of Middletown, is visiting at James Reynolds' and other relatives and friends in this town. - *Downsville News*

\_\_\_\_\_The Colchester correspondent of the Downsville News says: "Mrs. Thomas Fuller, of Middletown, is spending a few weeks with relatives and friends in this section."

*Thursday October 11, 1894*

\_\_\_\_\_C. C. Bogart and daughter and Mrs. Erastus Bogart, who been visiting friends in this vicinity for some time, returned to Middletown, Wednesday. - *Downsville News*.

*Thursday October 18, 1894*

\_\_\_\_\_Miss Minnie Baker is in Middletown, this week, a guest of Mrs. M. K. Wilson and other friends in that city - *Downsville News*.

\_\_\_\_\_Ira Soules and Joseph Ward, of the town of Liberty, who were charged with assisting a man named Lewis in abducting his illegitimate daughter, nine years old, from Mrs. Charles Moshier, of Pelner Hollow, near Beaverville, on Sept. 28<sup>th</sup>, were arrested last week and after an examination before Justice Campbell, of Downsville, were committed to Delhi jail on the technical charge of assault. They were released, Monday, on \$250 bail, Lewis and another man who participated in the abduction have not been arrested.

*Thursday October 25, 1894*

\_\_\_\_\_The Downsville Presbyterian Church celebrated its sixty-ninth anniversary, Sunday.

*Tuesday November 13, 1894*

\_\_\_\_\_M. R. Dodge, one of the best known men in Sullivan county, better known as "Gum" of Rockland, is dangerously ill from inflammation of the bowels. Dr. Bassett, of Downsville, has just been telegraphed for as I write, Monday noon. The sick man is in a critical condition.

*Thursday January 31, 1895*

\_\_\_\_\_Mrs. Wm. Warren, of Middletown, Orange county, visited her father, Gideon Miller, of Campbell Mountain, several days last week. - *Downsville News*

*Thursday February 28, 1895*

\_\_\_\_\_The village of Delhi has been sued by Mrs. Allaben to recover \$4,000 damages for injuries

alleged to have been sustained by falling on a sidewalk.

\_\_\_\_\_ "Darwood recovers his cheek" is the headline used by the Downsville news over a paragraph relating to the pastor of St. Pauls M. E. Church, this city.

*Monday March 4, 1895*

\_\_\_\_\_ It looks now as if the East Branch Valley of the Delaware would never have a steam railroad. The prospects were good eighteen months ago, but the financial stringency Put a damper on the whole railroad schemes of that section. The only way out would seem to be an electric road between the O and W at East Branch and Downsville. The only objection to this is that between Harvard and Downsville the valley is thinly settled, and the main support of the road would have to come from Downsville. Enough people have left that village during the past fifteen years to make another equally as large, owing to its being isolated from the rest of the world. Give Downsville railroad communication and it would be one of the liveliest villages in Delaware County.

*Thursday April 25, 1895*

\_\_\_\_\_ The Downsville News says that there is still enough snow in the vicinity of Campbell mountain to make another rafting freshet in the Delaware. (*Definition of freshet as I have never heard this term - 1.. A sudden rise or overflow of a stream. 2.. A fresh-water stream emptying into the sea.*)

*Thursday July 18, 1895*

\_\_\_\_\_ A Downsville, N.Y. Minister and a Woman fined for Living Together - United Press - Boston July 18 - The Rev. J. C. Stinson, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church at Downsville, N. Y., and Miss Emma Lindsley, also of that place, were in the Roxbury District Court, yesterday, charged with unlawful cohabitation. Both were convicted and fined \$30 each.

Mr. Stinson came from Downsville last Thursday to attend the Christian Endeavor Convention. He secured quarters at 10 Marcella street. On Saturday Miss Lindsley called and was introduced as Mr. Stinson's wife. She did not remain long, but on the next day she returned and shared the same room with Mr. Stinson. The boarding-house proprietor suspected that they were not man and wife, and upon investigating he became convinced of the true relations of the couple.

Several ministers advised him to make a complaint to the court. A warrant was procured Tuesday night, and as Mr. Stinson and Miss Lindsley were preparing to depart for New York they were placed under arrest.

Mr. Stinson had but \$10 with him, and his fine had \$30. The only way out of the difficulty was to dispose of his gold watch. A herdic driver gave him \$15 for it, and Miss Lindsley furnished the other \$5.

Stinson, returned to New York, last night, and according to his own statement will resign his pastorate. He is thirty-three years old, has been married twice, and has two children.

*Friday July 19, 1895*

\_\_\_\_\_ The Visit Will Probably Be Deferred Indefinitely - Miss Emma Lindsley, the Downsville woman who, while attending the Christian Endeavor Convention, in Boston,

was arrested and fined for unlawful intimacy with Rev. J. C. Stinson, pastor of the Downsville Presbyterian Church, is well known to many people in this city, and was expected to visit friends here on her return from the convention. It is probable that her visit will be indefinitely postponed.

Saturday July 20, 1895

\_\_\_\_\_A Victim of Circumstances - The Downsville Parson's Version of his Boston Experience with one of His Fair Parishioners - Pleaded Guilty Through Innocent. - *From the Walton Reporter*. Rev J. C. Stinson, of Downsville, came up from New York city, Thursday night. He registered at the Central Hotel, where he was seen by a representative of the Reporter, yesterday morning. Mr. Stinson had heard nothing of the newspaper reports until shown a paper Thursday evening.

He realized fully the position in which he was placed, and made a straightforward statement of the case from the beginning. He said: "This is a terrible thing. It is a lie, the worst kind of a lie, because it has the semblance of truth and has some truth in it, Miss Lindsley and myself were the only people at the convention from Downsville. She boarded with relatives twenty-one miles out and came in every morning on the train. I stopped at a private house in the city.

"Sunday morning Miss Lindsley came in on an excursion. The various services of the day were not concluded until 10 o'clock in the evening. Trains do run regularly to Sharon on Sundays. Miss Lindsley missed her train. She went with me to the place where I boarded and stayed there that night. The only unoccupied room in the house was a large double parlor with two bedrooms off. It was late. We were to start for New York State the next day. Neither of us retired. Before we Monday morning we were arrested and brought into court on the charge of adultery. I was so stunned and surprised that I hardly knew what I was doing. I took counsel with one of the best lawyers in the city. If we stood trial the case must go to the Grand Jury, which did not meet until September, and go through a long, tedious and painful process. If we pleaded guilty we were assured of a private trial, or rather the form of a trial, and avoidance of publicity and the construction which the public would put upon the matter, and on the lawyer's advice, while not admitting guilt for one moment, for, as God is my judge, we were innocent of anything wrong in thought or deed, we pleaded guilty and paid a light fine. This matter is more than unfortunate; it is terrible. I shall have a full investigation made. A prominent member of the church will go at once to Boston to right the great wrong as far as possible.

Friday July 26, 1895

\_\_\_\_\_A Know-It-All Editor Wrong for Once - from the Deposit Courier. We refrain from publishing the particulars concerning a scandal, going the rounds of our exchanges, about a Downsville pastor and a highly respected young lady of that place, who recently attended the district Christian Endeavor convention as Downsville Delegates, because we are confident there isn't a word of truth in it.

Wednesday July 24, 1895

\_\_\_\_\_Man Denies, Woman Confesses. - Miss Lindsley, of Downsville, Acknowledges that She and Parson Stinson Sinned in Boston. Rev. J. C. Stinson, of Downsville, whose

escapade in Boston has brought him and Miss Emma Lindsley into unenviable notoriety, has resigned his pastorate of the First Presbyterian Church of Downsville.

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While Mr. Stinson, upon his arrival at Downsville, emphatically denied any improper relations with Miss Lindsley, the latter, we learn from a private letter from Downsville, upon her return to her father's home, confessed that all particulars as published in the Boston papers and dispatches were true. She has resigned as teacher in the Sunday School, and has withdrawn from membership in the church.

*Saturday, July 27, 1895*

\_\_\_\_\_ The newspapers have had much to say concerning the case of Rev. J. C. Stinson, the Downsville pastor, and Miss Emma Lindsley, the member of his flock, who "went wrong" while attending the Christian Endeavor convention in Boston, but nothing has been said concerning the part played in exploiting the scandal by the sniveling descendants of the Puritans, who had the couple dragged to police court and their shame exposed to all the world. According to the Boston Globe's version of the affair, a Mrs. Grindell, to whose house Parson Stinson had been assigned by the entertainment committee, became suspicious after Miss Lindsley's first to her pastor's rooms that she was not his wife, and made haste to tell her husband of her suspicions. That night, after Mr. Stinson and Miss Lindsley had returned to the house, the Grindells, inspired by an exalted sense of Christian duty, listened at keyholes until they heard enough to satisfy them as to the true relations of their guests. A rum-selling tavern-keeper or a man whose heart was not full of Christian charity and heavenly thoughts would have turned the erring couple out of doors and drawn the veil of silence over their transgression. Not so with the pious Grindells. It may reasonably be assumed that they made their keyhole discovery the theme of prayerful consideration during the night watches. At any rate, morning found them nerved to do their duty according to the strictest Puritanical standards. Grindell consulted with his pastor, who seems to have been of the stuff witch-burners were made of, and the result of the consultation was that the machinery of the law was set in motion, and under an old, obsolete and almost-forgotten statute, Stinson and his paramour were arrested, locked up and fined. Shame and sorrow were thus brought on two families and the Christian religion was publicly disgraced to just the extent that it can be disgraced when those who profess it depart from its teachings. And the canting, latter-day Puritans who have done all this, wrap their mantles of self-righteousness a little more closely about them, for they feel that they have done it in the name of Him who said, "He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her."

*Saturday, July 27, 1895*

\_\_\_\_\_ Incendiary Fire in Downsville. A fire, supposed to be of incendiary origin, exploded fifteen pounds of powder in Hoag's hardware store, Downsville, early Thursday morning. The store was badly wrecked and many windows in W. R. Wright's store adjoining were

smashed. The new water works made it possible to extinguish the fire before very heavy loss occurred.

\_\_\_\_PARSON STINSON TO "LIVE IT DOWN." His Boston Escapade Not His First Misstep - Suspended by a Canadian Presbytery. Rev. J. C. Stinson, who has been deposed from the pastorate of the Downsville Presbyterian Church because of his escapade in Boston with Miss Emma Lindsley, is still in Downsville, and is reported to have said that he will "live it down."

It seems that this is not his first misstep. The Toronto News of July 13, 1893, gives an account of his suspension from the ministry for a year because while pastor of the church at Horning's Mills he was very attentive to the young ladies, representing himself as unmarried, and later as a widower, though he had a wife living.

*Saturday, August 3, 1895*

\_\_\_\_Parson Stinson Gets His Watch Back. Rev J. C. Stinson, of Downsville, has bought back the gold watch which he sold for a small part of its value to a cab driver in Boston, in order to raise money with which to pay the fine imposed upon him for his escapade in the city with Miss Lindsley.

*Friday, August 23, 1895*

\_\_\_\_Charged With Arson. E. B. Hoag, of Downsville, was arrested in Hancock, Friday, charged with arson in setting fire to the hardware store of C. & E. B. Hoag, in Downsville, on the night of July 25. The evidence against him was furnished by John Cole, an East Branch negro. Hoag was held in \$500 bail.

*Saturday, August 31, 1895*

\_\_\_\_Has Quit Preaching. J. C. Stinson, the Downsville pastor who went wrong while attending the C. E. Convention in Boston, has quit preaching and is now general agent for the Pennsylvania Insurance Company. It is reported that he intends to remove from Downsville to Walton.

*Friday, September 13, 1895*

\_\_\_\_David Anderson, of Downsville, died, Wednesday, aged about seventy-four years. Deceased was one of the best known men in that locality, having kept the Eagle Hotel in that village for many years. He was a member of Downsville Lodge, F. and A. m., and will be buried by the fraternity, Friday.

*Thursday, October 17, 1895*

\_\_\_\_Downsville farmers have subscribed for \$600 of stock in the creamery which it is proposed to build at that place.

\_\_\_\_A number of dairies of Delaware county butter have been sold of late for eighteen cents a pound. Some farmers are holding out for twenty cents.

*Monday, October 28, 1895*

\_\_\_\_There is some talk that the Rev. L. W. Hones, of the Roscoe Presbyterian Church, will accept a call from the Presbyterian Church at Downsville, which has been without a pastor

ever since Rev. J. C. Stinson went wrong at Boston, last spring. Should the Downsville people secure Mr. Hones they can rest assured that they will have a talented and able worker in Christ's cause, and that Downsville's gain will be Roscoe's loss.

\_\_\_\_\_Downsville wants a butter and cheese factory. An establishment of that kind would no doubt be a fine thing for the business men of the village and the farmers who live close by, but I question whether it pays to deliver milk twice a day from a distance of three or four miles at the price such a concern can afford to pay. Hauling milk a long distance is more expensive than most people imagine until they have tried it.

*Friday, February 14, 1896*

\_\_\_\_\_The Downsville News says that it is reported on good authority that fifty farmers in the town of Colchester, Delaware county, are practically cut of hay and cannot carry their stock through to spring.

*Thursday, February 20, 1896*

\_\_\_\_\_At a recent auction sale near Downsville, Delaware county, cows averaged \$30.86 per head and hay sold for \$16.75 per ton.

*Saturday, May 2, 1896*

\_\_\_\_\_Taken to Downsville for Burial. Post Master Elwood started, this morning, for Downsville with the body of Mrs. Adeline VanGaasbeck Shaver, who died suddenly Wednesday morning. The trip will be made by train to Rockland and thence to Downsville by wagon road.

The Illinois friends of the deceased came east as far as Hancock by rail and drove from there to Downsville where the funeral and interment will take place.

*Thursday, May 28, 1896*

\_\_\_\_\_The jury in the Downsville arson case failed to agree, standing ten for acquittal and two for conviction. It is very doubtful if young Hoag is again placed on trial.

*Thursday, January 28, 1897*

\_\_\_\_\_Struck By An O. And W. Train. A Downsville Man Very Badly Injured Near East Branch. Chandler Sutton, driver of a meat wagon for a Downsville market, while crossing the O. and W.'s track at Hall's Island, midway between East Branch and Peakville, Friday, was struck by train 9. One of his horses was killed and the other badly hurt, the wagon was completely wrecked and Mr. Sutton was very seriously injured, his right shoulder blade having been broken and terribly crushed, while his body was terribly bruised.

*Thursday, March 18, 1897*

\_\_\_\_\_New maple sugar is selling for seven and eight cents a pound in Downsville.

\_\_\_\_\_Twenty-five members were received by the Downsville M. E. Church, Sunday, on probation.

*Thursday, April 15, 1897*

\_\_\_\_\_A great many ties were run down the East Branch of the Delaware to East Branch

village, last week. E. T. Smith of Downsville, ran eight floats, each containing 450 ties.

*Thursday, January 20, 1898*

\_\_\_\_\_The stockholders in the Downsville creamery have voted to ship the season's make of butter to the Philadelphia market, better prices being obtainable there than in New York.

\_\_\_\_\_A. J. Holmes, of Middletown, is in town this week making friends and acquaintances a visit. - Downsville News

*Thursday, March 17, 1898*

\_\_\_\_\_New maple syrup sold as low as sixty-five cents a gallon in Downsville, last week.

\_\_\_\_\_Seventeen cents a pound is the railing price paid for new butter at the stores in Delaware county, villages.

*Tuesday, March 22, 1898*

\_\_\_\_\_John T. Reynolds, a well known cattle dealer of Downsville, Delaware county, is in town. He expects a carload of Delaware county cattle which will be sold here. He is the guest of Charles L. Elwood.

*Friday, November 11, 1898*

\_\_\_\_\_A Shavertown farmer delivered 2,000 pounds of butter at Downsville, a few days ago. The Holmes Milling Co., of that village, has been making large purchases of butter during the past few weeks.

*Friday, November 25, 1898*

\_\_\_\_\_Scarlet fever has made its appearance in Downsville. A strict quarantine is enforced in the hope of preventing spread of the disease.

*Thursday, August 24, 1899*

\_\_\_\_\_Miss Sarah Fuller, of Downsville, while at the conductors' clambake, at Liberty, Aug. 17, had the bad luck to trip on the railroad track and, falling, broke one of her arms.

***The Following are from the Middletown Daily Times - Press, Middletown N.Y.***

*Saturday, November 27, 1915*

\_\_\_\_\_Twombly Is Hit by Auto. Smaller Car is Badly Dented by Larger One Last Night. A Twombly motor car owned and driven by a local man, sustained considerable damage yesterday afternoon in a collision with a Meteor touring car, driven by Mrs. George Holmes, of Downsville, N. Y.. The accident occurred at Academy avenue and Genung street. None of the occupants of either car were hurt. Mrs. Holmes, who is a sister of Mrs. O. S. Henderson, was accompanied by Charles Ellsworth and Edward Hulse.

The local man was driving his machine toward this city. He was trailing a Ford touring car into town, and it is declared neither machine was being piloted at a rapid rate of speed.

Mrs. Holmes made the turn from Genung street in Academy avenue, turning on her left side, so close that neither car could pass, it is said. The smallness of the Twombly probably prevented Mrs. Holmes from seeing it in time to avert an accident. When the Twombly

was struck it was hurled close to the curb on the right hand side of the street. The Meteor machine was uninjured.

Representatives of a local law firm were summoned to the scene and an action to recover damage may be instituted.

*Tuesday, October 20, 1915*

\_\_\_\_\_Political Advertisement. He Should Be Elected (From Downsville News). Frank M. Shaver, who was born and lived many years in the town of Colchester, but who went to Middletown, N. Y., a few years ago and engaged in the grocery business, is the Democratic candidate for Supervisor of the Fourth Ward of that city. It will be remembered that Mr. Shaver was principal of the Downsville school for ten years. He devoted his best efforts to advance the school and his work was highly successful in all respects. His ability as a teacher was quick recognized, and he was nominated for school commissioner of this district, which comprised ten towns, and although the district was overwhelmingly Republican, he made a remarkable canvass. His opponent, three years before, carried the district by 1,800, but Mr. Shaver reduced this majority to less than 100. For five years Mr. Shaver was collector of the towns. Honesty and ability were the factors that contributed to his success while he was a resident of Colchester, and his success in the grocery business in the city of Middletown is attributable to the same factors. Mr. Shaver's many friends in his native town trust that the voters of the Fourth Ward of Middletown will elect him to the office for which he has been named.

*Saturday, October 2, 1915*

\_\_\_\_\_DOWNSVILLE WAGES WAR UPON RODENTS - Dr. Brittain Leads Crusade Against Germ Carriers and Sets Date For General Killing. Oct 6<sup>th</sup> has been decided upon as rat killing day in Downsville. The main reason for a special day is so that all may combine to exterminate as many rats as possible and give the property owners a chance to shut up their hens, cats and dogs and keep them from being harmed. Dr. Robert Brittain, son of Rev. Theron Brittain, has issued the following instructions. The best results can be had with rat paste, either Common Sense or Hobson, spread on buttered bread, crackers, or mixed with meal or flour, and put in the cellar, garret, coop or barn. Try the poison October 6<sup>th</sup> and report results in dead rats.

Commenting editorially on the Downsville crusade the Walton Reporter says:

The novelty of the crusade started in Downsville by Dr. Brittain for the extermination of rats, has occasioned some facetious comments from newspapers. Anyone who has been pestered by rats will welcome any plan that would relieve the situation. Here in the east the rat is regarded simply as nuisance. But on the Pacific coast where the danger of the bubonic plague is always present the rat is regarded as an element of danger to human life, for it has been found that an insect that infests the rat is the means of communicating the plague to humans. San Francisco has spent many thousands in fighting rats.

While no such danger has been traced to rats inhabiting Delaware county, there is no knowing but that they may convey germs of other diseases than the plague. Anyway, rats are a mighty big nuisances and about as desirable in a cellar or elsewhere as snakes, and if Downsville leads a movement that shows the way to be rid of them, many householders will rise up and give her thanks.

*Friday, September 10, 1915*

\_\_\_\_SHAVER FAMILY HOLDS REUNION - Downsville, Sept 10 - The first annual reunion of the Shaver family was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. H. G. Shaver, at Pepacton, on Sept. 6<sup>th</sup> . There were about on hundred present to enjoy this, the first of what is to be an annual occasion in the Shaver family.

The following officers and committees were elected: President, H. G. Shaver, Pepacton; Vice-Pres., Homer Shaver, Margaretville; Secretary and Treas., Dwight Shaver, Shavertown; Historian, John Thomson, Downsville; Poetess, Mrs. R. W. Wilson, Middletown.

An original poem, written for the occasion by Mrs. R. W. Wilson, was read.

*Friday, June 17, 1892*

\_\_\_\_Liberty - Correspondence of the Times - E. E. Peck, of the Downsville News, is helping in the Register office for a short time.

*Tuesday, July 29, 1919*

\_\_\_\_CITY SUSTAINS HEAVY LOSS - In the Death of Archibald J. Holmes - Head of Music Co. - Prominent in Business Here Many Years - Archibald James Holmes, whose death while on a business trip to Canada, was noted in last night's Times-Press, was of Scotch ancestry. He was one of a family of four children of Samuel Holmes and Phoebe Campbell. He was born at Downsville in Delaware county, N. Y., June 21, 1863. At an early age he lost his mother, and when about five years old he was deprived of his sight.

Mr. Holmes was educated at the New York Institute for the Blind, at Batavia. His innate ability allowed him to perfect himself in very many branches of education; more particularly in music where his proficiency enabled him, at an earlier date, to maintain himself independently, and later to establish a flourishing business in this city.

It was in 1896 that Mr. Holmes came to Middletown, as the manager of the music house of James Munn, established here at that time. In 1904 he purchased the Munn Business and organized the Holmes Music Company in conjunction with F. R. Alford and F. E. Hall. This business flourished and is continued under the name Holmes Music Corporation with branches in several surrounding towns.

In December 1898, at Binghamton, N. Y., Mr. Holmes was wedded to Mary Adams, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James H. Adams. A happy home was established by this union, around which cluster many sincere friendships and where there has always been maintained the most generous hospitality.

Business did not entirely absorb Mr. Holmes' attention. He enjoyed travel. In 1906 in company with Mrs. Holmes and party of friends he made a journey of some months' duration to Europe, and in 1913 he made a trip to Cuba. It was while on a trip to Grand Prairie, Province of Alberta, that he was seized with his last and fatal illness.

Mr. Holmes was a supporter of the First Presbyterian Church in this city, and had been associated with that denomination in Downsville before coming here. He was a member of the Orange County Golf Club, the Middletown City and the old Orchard Club. His interest in affairs was intelligently keen. He was classed as an independent Democrat in politics. He kept abreast the affairs of the world both in literature and in current news.

Surviving him in his home are his widow, with her mother Mrs. Mary Adams and his

nephew George Fetherolf lately of the 107<sup>th</sup> Regiment U. S. Infantry. One sister (*Lula M. Holmes*), a half sister (*Juanita S. Holmes - daughter of Jane E. Stoddart, second wife of Samuel Holmes*) and two brothers John (*John Daniel Holmes*) and George (*George W. Holmes*) of Downsville also survive.

Mr. Holmes will be remembered as a modest, progressive citizen, whose in affairs was keen, whose business ability was above reproach; and about whose home there centered a beautiful spirit of serenity and comfort.

*Wednesday, July 30, 1919*

\_\_\_\_Remains of A. J. Holmes taken to Downsville - Funeral services for the late Archibald J. Holmes were at the residence, 109 West Main Street, at 9:30 this morning. The Rev. Robert O. Kirkwood officiated. The services which were private, were attended by relatives and close friends of the deceased. There were many beautiful floral tributes in evidence.

Interment was in the family plot at Downsville.

*Wednesday, April 4, 1917*

\_\_\_\_Died - Bogart - At rest, April 4, 1917, Mary Elizabeth Bogart, in her 81<sup>st</sup> year. Funeral services will be held from her late home, No. 23 Beacon street, Thursday evening, at 8 o'clock. Interment at Downsville, N. Y..

*Monday, February 27, 1922*

\_\_\_\_Announcement is made by two Hancock barbers of a reduction of 10 cents on a hair cut, making the new price 40 cents. Prices of other barber work remain the same. In Downsville the price at both shops for a really good hair cut is only 25 cents. - Downsville News

***The Following are from Hornellsville Weekly Tribune, Hornellsville, New York***

*April 27, 1894*

\_\_\_\_Joseph C. Miller was born in Delaware County, New York, September 21, 1815, and died at his home in Rockland, New York, April 9, 1894.

He married Frenetta Harrows (*Elizabeth Faynetta Harrower - daughter Dugald Harrower & Sally Allaben - Sally was also the wife of William Holmes*), who died a little more than twenty-one years ago, leaving him nine motherless children, six of whom still survive and mourn their father's loss. One of the six is Mrs. L. L. Vernoid of this city. Brother Miller early in life dedicated himself to the service of the Master, and from the time of his conversion till death lead a consistent christian life, and leaves to his children the memory of a Godly father's righteous example and wise counsel. He was stricken with paralysis April 4, and died April 9. Thus suddenly was he called home, and God says to each of us "Be ye also ready."

The funeral was attended by Rev. Hones of Rockland and the interment was at Downsville, N.Y..

"Nearer My God to Thee," "What a Friend We Have in Jesus" and "It is Not Death to Die," were sung, the first of these being a great favorite with Brother Miller.

Thus ends a long and useful life. "He rests from his labors and his works do follow

him.”

*July 22, 1858*

\_\_\_\_ Many parts of the country were afflicted with meteorological disturbances last week. In Colchester, Delaware county, a storm came up suddenly, and in two hours the village of Downsville was flooded, bridges, saw-mills, dams and fences were carried away, stock drowned, and many persons narrowly escaped the same fate. Some of the inhabitants were obliged to wade through deep water women and children in their arms, to save them from the flood. A party of young people, returning from a picnic excursion during the storm, the young men had to carry the ladies in their arms from the wagons to the houses, and then found some exertion necessary to save their horses and wagons from being swept away.

***The Following are from Oneonta Daily Star, Oneonta, New York***

*Friday, June 30, 1922*

\_\_\_\_ Mrs. W. E. Holmes of Downsville, has a Bible that is over \_80 years old and is still in a good state of preservation. In it is recorded the death of a resident of the town of Colchester who was over 107 years of age. (*This would be Frances D. Bassett - wife of William E. Holmes, how I wish I had that Bible.*)

*Friday, October 5, 1917*

\_\_\_\_ ***SPEEDING MOTORIST FINED - Big Packard Twin Six Shoots by City Officials at Good Pace*** - Yesterday afternoon, about 5:30 o'clock, Special City Judge E. B. Holmes, Chief Blizzard and Motorcyclist Officer Brown stood in front of the Municipal building chatting when onlookers saw a big Packard Twin Six touring car, bearing an Ohio number plate, No. 118,611, shoot by the building east-bound at considerably better than 25 miles an hour, apparently indifferent to the crowded condition of Main street, which was filled with all sorts of vehicles, pedestrians, etc.

Without hesitation, but with an affirmative nod from Chief Blizzard, Officer Brown was on his mount, but ere he could get under way the big car was out of sight above Maple street. In a few minutes, however, back he came trailed by the big Packard. The chauffeur and apparent owner got out with a frown upon their respective faces, each mumbling something about “not over 15 miles an hour.”

When they left the court room, after an interview with Acting Judge Holmes, the supposed owner, who gave the name of A. C. Wells, had left ten planks for the city treasury. It is surprising that people will be so indifferent to their own and others safety when they enter upon such a narrow and much congested business section, will not reduce speed to something nearer safety.

***The Following are from The Evening Gazette - Port Jervis, New York***

*Thursday May 20, 1869*

\_\_\_\_ Heavy Robbery at Hawley - Burglary and Horse Stealing. Yesterday Chief-of-Police Tibbetts, of this village, received a dispatch from Hawley, Penn, stating that on the previous night, the store of Cromwell & Solliday in that village was entered by burglars, and robbed

of about \$1,000 worth of dress goods, silks, etc. Also that there was stolen on the same night, from William C. Conklin, a span of bay horses, lumber wagon and harness, probably used by the burglars to carry off their property. The amount of the reward offered for the capture of the thieves is not stated in the dispatch. (*William C. Conklin is my grandmother's great - grandfather*).

*Tuesday, February 22, 1881*

\_\_\_\_ 19 DEATHS - 14 FUNERALS, Remarkable Fatality Prevailing in Delaware County - Nearly A Score of Deaths Within One Month and a Half in a Sparsely Settled and Heretofore Healthy Community - No Epidemic Prevailing - (From the Middletown Press)

A strange fatality has prevailed since the new year began in the usually healthful two of Colchester, Delaware county, which adjoins the town of Rockland, Sullivan county. There have 19 deaths in the sparsely settled town since the first day of January, 1881 and since the fifth of January there have been 14 funerals in the village of Downsville, which is a place of 500 inhabitants. The 14<sup>th</sup> funeral was that of Mrs. J. H. Lane, the Methodist ministers wife who was buried in Middletown last week.

There has been no particular epidemic in the town, although there have been a few cases of scarlet fever, typhoid fever and a fatal form of croup, both of which are believed by some to have had their origin in the scarcity of water in that section. The wells were all very low or entirely dry, the springs failed and the brooks were frozen solid almost to the bottom.

The croup was not of the membranous form, which is considered most dangerous, but it attacked grown people and children alike, and proved fatal with both. In one case a prominent citizen named Samuel Holmes was attacked with croup. He was only saved from choking to death by inserting a silver tube in the windpipe through the neck. He recovered from croup, but erysipelas set in and resulted fatally, his body being covered with sores. His death was followed by that of two women and one child from the same disease. Both these women were attended in confinement by the physician who attended Mr. Holmes, and the child that died was the baby of one of them.

Several other persons were attacked with erysipelas in the face and nose, and it is believed by some that in their cases it was caused by the burning of the clothing of the first patient, which is supposed to have poisoned the air.

*Saturday, March 23, 1878*

\_\_\_\_ Terrible Adventure in Water - A Raftsmen Thrown into the River and Comes Up Under the Raft - The Hancock Herald says that Mr. Oscar Hawley of Downsville had a very singular escape from drowning on Thursday of last week. About twenty-five miles above Hancock, near Downsville, in the East Branch, is a place known as "Aunt Jemima's Twist." The river makes a very abrupt turn causing two currents of water. Mr. Hawley was on a raft and as they came around the "twist" and run out into the still water, he dipped his car and the impetus of the raft threw him overboard. He struck near the side of the raft and before aid could be given was carried underneath it. He came up and felt his head bump against the logs and had presence of mind enough to dive down and swim as only one can when life is at stake. Again did he come up and strike the raft and again did he strike out for the rescue that was awaiting him. He came out at the hind end of the raft and was caught by the hands on board, having nearly passed under the whole raft. He was very much exhausted, but

sensible.

***The Following are from Middletown Times Herald - Middletown, New York***

*Wednesday, May 8, 1946*

\_\_\_\_\_ Last week saw the end of a Delaware County newspaper, famous throughout this. E. E. and G. N. Peck announced that mechanical difficulties and age would force them to halt publication of the seventy-one-year-old Downsville News.

The Peck Brothers are now both past seventy-five. In addition to publishing the newspaper they did job printing, which they will continue to do. They had no employees.

The Peck Brothers have published, or assisted in publishing, the News since their father brought the four-page weekly into being in 1875. It was then a two-page paper, run off on a hand press.

Twenty-four years ago a linotype was installed, but today, it is "played out." During its years of service the machine turned some amazing copy into type.

The machine performed a creditable job, as did the Pecks, in offering to its readers reports on the activities of un-named individuals in The Committee Meets, a collection of anecdotes, real and unusual. One week it was pointed out that "The only difference between man and woman is that men put off things they ought to do and women put off things they ought to wear."

It was considered typical that on the day the last issue of the newspaper was published it carried the advice, "Subscribe Now."

*Friday, August 6, 1976*

\_\_\_\_\_ Clifford F. Shaver - Middletown - Clifford F. Shaver, 76, of 111 Academy Ave. here, died Wednesday at Horton Memorial Hospital.

The son of Francis M. Shaver and Jennie Bogart, he was a city resident for 68 years. He was married to the former Lula Smith, who survives him. He was born in Downsville, Nov 29, 1899.

A retired grocer with Shaver Brothers, he was a member of the First Baptist Church here and a member of Hoffman Lodge of Masons, Midland Chapter. Royal Arch Masons, and a member of Eagle Engine Company No.2.

He is survived by his widow, a daughter Mrs. Robert Vernoov, Middletown, a son, Leigh Shaver, Largo Florida, a brother, Basil B. Shaver, Middletown, a sister, Mrs. Elizabeth Cooke, Middletown and five grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

Services will be 10:30 am Saturday at the Cornelius and Dodd Funeral Home, 26 Grove St., Middletown.

Friends may call for visitation at time of the service on Saturday. The Rev G D Kessler will officiate.

Burial will be in the Walkkill Cemetery, Phillipsburg.

Memorial contributions may be made to the First Baptist Church of Middletown or the American Cancer Society.

***The Post Standard - Syracuse, New York - Tuesday, November 10, 1964***

\_\_\_\_\_ Mrs. Francis Wimmer - Oneida - Mrs. Marie Wimmer, 70, of Schoolheimer Road,

died Sunday night in Oneida City Hospital, where she had been a patient five days.

Mrs. Wimmer was born in Downsville April 23, 1894, the daughter of James A. and Eva Lindsley Shaw. She made her home here 25 years. She was first married to Arthur Crouch, Madison County Sheriff, who died in 1948. On Oct. 2, 1954, she married Francis M. Wimmer.

Mrs. Wimmer served a matron at the Madison County Jail and as matron of the Oneida Police Department and at the time of her death was a special deputy in the Madison County Sheriff's Department.

She was a member of First Presbyterian Church, Zonta Club, Mizpah Rebekah Lodge, Oneida Police Benevolent Association and the Downsville Chapter, Order of Eastern Star.

Surviving beside her husband, are three daughters, Mrs. Marguerite Burnham, Glens Falls. Mrs. Adelia Luscomb, Vienna, Va.. Mrs. Lillian Schultz, Washington, D. C.; one niece and one nephew.

Services will be at the Campbell-Dean Funeral Home, 260 Main St., at a time and date to be announced.

*New York Times, Jan 8, 1928*

\_\_\_\_ Leonard-Holmes. Mr. and Mrs. Frank T. Leonard of 94 Highlawn Avenue, Brooklyn, announced yesterday the engagement of their daughter, Miss Anne V. Leonard, to Dr. William E. Holmes, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles J. Holmes of Downsville, N.Y. No date has been set for the wedding. (*Dr Holmes born Jul 1898 - son of Charles J. Holmes and Lina M. Warren.*)