



South Main Street in Woodstock was a busy place when this postcard photo was taken in the 1930s. The three-story Woodstock Hotel and its Coffee Shop were operating on the east side along with at least two grocery stores and a barbershop. On the west side, the New York Restaurant was a favorite eatery located adjacent to the Uptown Theater, one of two movie houses in town. At least one grocery store was on that side of the street and a beer parlor and pool hall operated just south of the theater. In those days before shopping centers and before every household owned three cars, Woodstock's commercial district was confined to the four-block area of Main and Court streets. On Saturday nights, when the farmers finished their chores, all businesses along Main and Court streets were open until 9 o'clock and business was brisk. Old photos are needed to continue this series. Persons with photos to loan are asked to bring them to The Free Press office.

Pages from newspapers past

12/11/03

Aug. 29, 1890

Mr. Ran Gillock's new house on Church street in Woodstock is about completed. Mr. Jno. W. Fravel, the painter, having just put on the finishing touches. It contains ten nice rooms with a goodly number of closets and pantries and a large double hall. The wood work is certainly a credit to Messrs. Ben. Hottel and W. L. Dosh, the builders.

On Tuesday night about 8 o'clock as Sarah Bullet, a rather too well known colored woman of Woodstock, was passing the corner at the Disciples church, she was attacked by a woman, or, as she claims, by a man in woman's clothes. The assailant was armed with a club which he use unmercifully, cutting a deep gash in her head and painfully bruising her arm. Her shrill cries of murder aroused Capt. J. C. Baker, the Commonwealth's Attorney, who was but a short distance away, ran to the rescue. She accused Geo. Stephenson, one of the hardest working, best behaved and respected colored men of the town. A brief investigation proved him entirely innocent.

Died. Mr. Joseph Sweeny, an old citizen of this county, died at Laurel Hill, the home of his son, on the river on Saturday after a long illness, aged 74 years. He leaves a son, Mr. Jno. Sweeny, and two daughters, Mrs. Philip Smoot and Mrs. David Smoot, both residing in the Alonzaville neighborhood.

Mr. Geo. W. Woodrow, of Columbia Furnace informs us that his 16 years old daughter, Isabelle Elton Woodrow, and Robert Fadeley, a 15 year old boy, eloped from that place on Sunday afternoon, taking the train at Woodstock or Hagerstown, since which nothing has been heard from them. The girl is large for her age, while Fadeley was small and delicate looking, fair complexion, blue eyes and light hair. The mother's grief over her daughter's conduct has caused her to be ill, and any information will be thankfully received by Geo. W. Woodrow, Columbia Furnace.

Sept. 5, 1890

Married. Near Headquarters Aug. 31st by Rev. O. C. Beall, Mr. Samuel B. Helsley and Miss Mary A. Grove, both of this county.

Died. Amanda Alice, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Clarke, Aug. 10, aged 8 years.

Sept. 11, 1890

Married. Sept. 14th at the residence of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Siram P. Rupert, by Rev. J. Paul Stirewalt, Mr. Arthur F. Halterman and Miss

Ophelia C. Rupert

At St. Mary's (Pine) Church Sept. 11 by Rev. J. Paul Stirewalt, Mr. Samuel P. Miller (of Paul), and Miss Mollie E. Good.

The county jail has now six inmates. Two of these are charged with the crime of horse stealing, one with attempt at rape, one (a negro) on the ground of lunacy, and two with assault and battery. One of those charged with stealing a horse, George Evy, in default of a safe room in which to confine him, is hand-cuffed, hobbled and chained to the floor. *Virginian*.

County Court Proceedings. S. V. R. Clower, Clerk of the Overseers of the Poor, has been ordered to bind Russell Martin, an inmate of the Poor House, aged nine years to James R. Singhass to learn the business of farming.

Same order as to Edward S. Wilt, aged 10 years, to Jas. L. Afflick. Same as to Henry A. Reedy, aged 10 years, to Joseph Maphis.

Mr. R. S. Rinker of Rinkerton has invented, and is now testing a machine for cutting, carrying and shocking corn. It cuts two rows at a time, securely binds it with twine and then drops the bundles in rows in standing position.

Sept. 19, 1890

Married. On Sept. 4 near Hamburg by Rev. L. A. Mann, Mr. Geo. F. Garber of Augusta County and Miss Ida V. Clem of Shenandoah County.

On Sept. 11 by Elder John Clanahan, Mr. John H. Cullers to Mrs. Mary Ella Shifflett, both of this county.

At Toms Brook Sept. 17th by Rev. R. Byrd, Mr. Henry H. Haun and Mrs. Sidney S. Sibert.

Died. On Saturday last, Levi Cullers, only son of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Cullers of Powell's Fort, about 16 years.

Sept. 26, 1890

Edinburg Notes. The telephone line between Edinburg and Liberty Furnace is completed and is in working order.

Mrs. E. M. Belew, wife of Dr. P. Belew of Edinburg, died at her home Tuesday morning, aged about 65 years, sons being Dr. A. P. and A. L. Belew, her 2nd son George H. Belew dying very suddenly several years since. Her daughters are Mrs. E. V. Riddleberger and Mrs. John E. Boehm and Miss Laura Belew.

Married. At Hawkinstown by Rev. W. R. Berry, Mr. Lee Franklin Carper and Miss Lucinda Wetzel.

On Sept. 24th at Strasburg by Rev. J. S. Hopkins, Mr. Samuel H. Koontz and Miss Mary C. Jones, both of Mt. Jackson.