

Editor's Note: *Our tour continues to the north, spotlighting the stores and homes located on the east side of Main Street. The building at #3700 was the site of many businesses owned by Nathan Hacket, John Baker, Joe Finley, Gordon Youngman, and, currently, Dan Hall. Part 1 features ownership by Nathan Hacket and John Baker and Sons. Thank you to Gordon Youngman and his grandson, Aaron Fernaays, for sharing their memories and for the time they spent researching and documenting the information about the stores located at 3698 and 3700 Main Street.*

From 1855 - 1899 John Baker and his wife, Lucy, operated a grocery and general store under the name of J. W. Baker. The main products for resale included dry goods – groceries, wallpaper, hardware, fancy goods, crockery, patent medicines, paints, oil, glass and dye stuffs. This information was taken from a sales slip issued to a Mr. Jones. In a March 8, 1902, letter to Mrs. Jones, Mr. Baker wrote the following: “Dear Madam: Are your hens laying? Are they merely supplying the table or have you eggs to sell? Anybody's chickens will lay 10 ¢ eggs but we will guarantee that your hens will lay more, when eggs are high, if you come in at once and get a package of Dr. Hess' Poultry Pan-A-CE-A, and add it to the feed each morning as directed. J. W. Baker's Sons, General Merchandise, Walworth, NY.”

After the death of John Baker on October 29, 1899, the store remained in Lucy Baker's control. The business was carried on by the Baker's two sons, William A. and Charles H., under the name of J. W. Baker's Sons. Following the August 9, 1912, death of Lucy, the property was deeded to the two sons and a daughter, Laura E. Chase. At the time of the final transfer on October 6, 1914, Lucy signed her share to her brothers. On April 21, 1915, the Baker sons sold the business to Charles W. Clark; this also included the home next door.



Left photo: *Late 1800's: J. W. Baker Store. Photo courtesy of Gordon Youngman.*

Right photo: *This circa 1902 photo shows the K.O.T.M. building on the right and the J. W. Baker general store on the left. Photo courtesy of Gordon Youngman.*

Many years later Gordon Youngman purchased both properties and they became known as Walworth Hardware.

The following are excerpts from information documented by Gordon in March 2000:

The first records I could find for this property was the transfer of a lot from Nathan Hacket to John W. Baker on October 29, 1855, for \$1,200. The store John built eventually became Walworth Hardware. The purchase price also included the house to the north of the lot.