

[A Tour of Main Street: #3707](#) By Dorothy French

Editor's Note: This is the 3rd in a series of stories spotlighting the businesses and homes on Main Street. The tour begins on the west side of the four corners and travels south.



The tan-colored building at 3707 Main Street has a varied history of uses dating back approximately 180 years. According to legal records, family history, and folklore, the house was possibly used as a general store or trading post during the 19th century and later as a sport shop. Local residents know it as the home of Harold and Virginia Ginegaw and their eight children for 68 years.

Two of their children, Greg and Nancy, recently provided us with a wealth of information about their parents and the family home. Harold Ginegaw was a life-long resident of Walworth and was born here May 17, 1924. Virginia Clark Ginegaw was born August 22, 1916 and raised in Rochester. Her grandparents lived in Macedon and she would ride the trolley to frequently visit them; during the winter months she skated on Craggs Mill pond.

According to Dick Roland, the house was built in 1835 by Theron G. Yeomans. Virginia told her children Theron built the house so his family would have a place to live while their home, Evergreen Place, was being constructed on High Street. When Harold and Virginia purchased the house in 1946 Nancy said the first floor consisted of a large room at the front (east) with a small room to the north side. Several small rooms completed the first floor. There was a steel spiral staircase to the second floor toward the back of the house. The cellar beams were split timbers. Virginia told her daughter Carol the front door was so big to accommodate a casket.

Greg remembers the cramped living conditions for his parents and their family. Six of the children are now scattered around the country: Seanna (South Dakota), Greg (Ontario, NY), Nancy (Gorham, NY), Carol (Walworth/Florida), Virginia (North Carolina), and Amy (Williamson, NY). Daonna and Clarence have passed away. Greg and Nancy said the October 1946 house fire caused the house to be unlivable for several months. Sam McKee saw the fire and notified Virginia, who was hanging up laundry in the back yard. The firemen were quick to respond, saved the main structure, and were able to carry out most of the furniture. While repairs were being done, the family stayed with Clarence Ginegaw, their paternal grandfather, at his farm on the northwest corner of Routes 441 and 350. Later, when Harold was remodeling the house, the hand-hewed beams in the dining room were exposed, showing the char marks from the fire.



Nancy said three dormers were added to the house in the 1950's. Greg remembers a coal stove in the old kitchen, along with a copper tub that was used for bathing before the installation of a bathroom. Prior to 1952 the family used the three holer in the back yard. That "facility" later became the hen house for the chickens Harold bought at Easter time from Abe Almekinder's feed store to raise for food. The chickens were killed, cleaned, and then taken to the cold storage building in Fairport until needed for a meal. Harold always had a huge garden in the back yard, which would get smaller as the kids grew up and left home. There was a swimming pool in the back yard also. When Greg was three years old he was allowed to visit the businesses on the west side of Main Street: the feed store, the post office, Howard Triou's grocery store, and Gordon Youngman's store. When he was five years old Greg was permitted to cross the street and visit the east-side stores.

According to Nancy, there were many kids to play with, not only in her family but also in the neighborhood. In the summer time they played hide and seek outside until the street lights came on. Grandpa Clarence Ginegaw's farm was a great place to visit; one or more of the children would tag along with Harold on his almost nightly visits to see his father. Nancy said a two-story barn at the west end of the property was torn down in the late 1940's or early 1950's. Her father operated Harold's Sport Shop from 1960 – 1974 on a part-time basis while working full-time. The first shop was located in the family's living room – until it became overwhelming and Virginia protested; it was then moved to the garage. At the April 2006 Walworth Memories program, Harold said at one time he decided to sell ice skates for \$2. Business was so good he then also sold skis and golf clubs and sharpened ice skates on a machine. He said he bought 300 pairs of canvas golfing shoes at a close out for \$2 a pair and sold them for \$5 each; one Saturday he did \$1,000 worth of business. An auction was held when the store closed.

Harold died Feb. 21, 2007 and Virginia remained in their home until her death May 8, 2013. The following Information was obtained from the abstract:

1863 – 1865: Property owners are J. D. Bennett and his wife.

Feb. 27, 1875: Hugh and Hannah Jane Atkinson, Jr., to William A. Baker.

July 6, 1926: Catherine T. Baker, widow of William A. Baker (died July 6, 1921), warranty deed to Mary E. Sheil of Rochester; on Jan. 17, 1931 she signed the warranty deed to Raymond F. Sheil.

Jan. 10, 1934: Warranty deed to Douglas and Celia VanderBurgh and Antoinette Thomas.

Feb. 28, 1934: Mortgage to Jennie Faas.

Dec. 30, 1937: Property sold for taxes by Wayne County Treasurer.

Dec. 19, 1938: Jennie Fass quit claim deed to Anthony and Louie Scheele, who never lived in the house. Per the deed: "and being the residence formerly owned by Douglas L. VanderBurgh, Celia VanderBurgh, and Antoinette V. Thomas, which said premises are founded on the north by the lands on which is located the Grange Hall; on the east by the highway; on the south by lands now or formerly of Peter VanHee; and on the west by lands now or formerly of Will Crane."

Mar. 30, 1946: Harold and Virginia purchased the property from the Scheeles.

Nov. 2014: House sold to 3707 LLC as part of the Clarence Ginegaw Estate; Clarence was Harold and Virginia's son and had owned the house since 2001.

Next building to be featured: 3701 Main Street.

If you have information about this home, contact Dorothy French at 315-986-1098. We are always looking to update our museum files about people and places in the Walworth area.