

South Cook Street. M.B. McIntosh evidently owned the buildings and leased them. However, Parker moved to a location which would not approximate the north end of the Bob & Betty Shop. But that northeast corner of Hough and Main would remain a cattail slough until August Meyer built his first store there in 1892.

In 1890, the road leading north from the intersection of Hough and Main was still called Walnut Street, and interpreting both Emaline and Arnett Lines, the Bute house she refers to was on the site of Bartons. Lewis Bute had also married one of Gilbert Applebee's daughters, Polly. The home of Dr. Dornbusch was on East Station Street between Hough and Cook, on the south side. In those years, where the parking lot is now located behind the South Cook and Main Street buildings, there was a jumble of outhouses, a windmill, a barnyard, and the junk thrown out from livery stables and wagon shops. Horses and wagons were hitched at every turn in the village, and people loitered on every corner. There were six trains a day into Chicago, and milk, grain, produce and cattle were shipped out of Barrington. The wagon traffic from surrounding farms was continuous.

Joseph Brown made frequent trips into Chicago by train, Hattie, often with a friend, went into the city for shopping and to visit relatives. Emaline sometimes took the train in the other direction to spend a few days with her sister Addie Johnson in Nunda. The Browns also, often sent produce to Addie by the train, including sacks of potatoes. They grew corn, tobacco, potatoes, every variety of vegetable, also fruit trees, including Pa's fig tree. They kept chickens and sold eggs, and Pa had a pet rooster that used to come and look in the window of the "south pizaaz." While Pa spent most of his time working on the property and maintaining the buildings, he also contributed to the interior work of the household, and Hattie frequently mentions that he has helped with the wash and the cleaning.

The family also worked together on projects like wallpapering the kitchen and painting the pantry. Emaline knitted, and constantly mended socks and stockings. In fact she handled most of Laura's repairs by mail. In between, she visited her friends, or chatted with callers and gathered the news to pass on to Laura. Not all of it was pleasant.

In a letter of August 1889, which begins "Dear Little Girl beyond the Mississippi", Emaline reports the following.



The growing business district of Barrington on Main Street wasn't so grand in the eyes of residents of the 1890s.

"Rhoda has a dreadful time with hired girls, a short time ago one left to get married, then she got Amelia M., people told Rhoda that Amelia was in the family way but Rhoda wanted a girl so she thought perhaps there was no truth in the story, but she had not been there but three weeks when Rhoda saw that the poor girl was feeling and looking very miserable, one Monday she look so sick that Rhoda would not let her wash, and it so happened that the next night Hank took a notion to have the privy cleaned so after people had gone to bed (it was ten o'clock) he got nigger John to do the job while he held the lantern, when to and behold there was a half grown baby down in the vault, then Rhoda knew what ailed the girl. Rhoda asked Hank if he mistrusted anything the reason he had the privy cleaned, and he said he never thought of such a thing, how that poor girl could keep up is more than I could see, Amella owned that it was hers. Dr. Smith summoned a coroner from

Chicago, but they did not make any ceremony about it, they buried it and sent the girl home, she has been going with Charlie W. this summer and it is supposed to be his child."

"Judge Williamson is to be buried today, some of the men from here have gone down to Palatine to attend the funeral. Flora (Meyer) is quite well now and her baby Maud can walk. Yesterday, Grandpa Applebee was 90 years old, and they had the picture of their house taken and five persons standing out representing the five generations, little Maud and her mother, grandmother, great-grandfather, and great-great grandfather. They had a large party of their relatives there in honor of Grandpa's birthday. Martha and her husband have got back from Michigan, Martha had lots of fun over there shaking with the ague, he is going to teach where he did last year, they are going to housekeeping and keep a hired girl, she is so delicate.

"Thursday, August 15, Well Pa has gone on a fishing tour and expects to be gone until Saturday, and I will have to stay alone, I never staid alone all night but guess I will get along allright, he said he would not go if I did not want him to, but I know he wanted to go and Sharman (Billy Sharman, Pa's closest friend) wanted him to go so told him to go ahead. "Saturday 17th, I staid alone last night, Mrs. Farrar was here last evening. Pa came home today with lots of fish, two large pickerell and lots of perch, he has supplied three families with fish for their dinner, and we have enough left for four or five meals. I think you have quite a family. I am glad you have such nice crops, grain is very good around here. I suppose threshing will be your next big job-don't you dread it."

When "scandal" touches Emaline's own family, she is quite matter-of-fact about the way things should have been handled. she is writing about her niece Birdie Johnston:

"Addie was here yesterday, says Birdie has got a baby, a little girl they have been married six months. Mother Andrews feels terribly about it she blames Charlie as much as she does Birdie, she thinks they were both old enough to know enough to behave themselves. Addie is hopping mad,

1890 roll call of business

Some businessmen advertising in the Barrington Review-December 1890.

Miles Lamey, Insurance-this was also the Barrington Review office, at the location of Ask Mr. Foster Travel.

Barrington House Hotel-was Richmond or Bennett Hotel at different times, north side of Main-east of C & NW

A.W. Meyer-South Cook Street-part of present First National Bank site.

Barrington Roller Mills of Froelich and Sandman-north side of C & NW where Barrington Commons parking lot is now.

Barrington Bank in M.B. McIntosh Building on South Cook-present site of First National Bank.

and Mr. Johnston comforts himself with thinking she is married. I think Birdie was a big dunce that she did not get married just as soon as she found out she was in such a scrape, but she wanted all her wedding finery completed. Gracious I would have been married if I had been her if I had to stand up in a calico wrapper. Addie and Johnston are going down there this week."

The letter writing back and forth between Barrington and Fairmount, Minn. may have been a prearranged ritual even before Laura left Barrington, and both mother and daughter kept count of the letters exchanged, although they were probably numbered years later by other members of the family in the course of research. Laura's husband, Joseph Nightingale seems to have regarded the correspondence with benign amusement, but enjoyed passing along teasing remarks to Hattie, which she returned in kind. The letters were an almost daily journal between the Brown and Nightingale families. They were to become even more important when the Brown's first grandchild was born.

Next installment: Little Arthur, more about the Hawleys, and Hattie's first date with Ren (Lorenzo Porter).



A view of turn of the century Barrington looking south on Cook Street.