

BEYOND RAILROAD BUSINESS



Mary Louise Goodwin

The railroad business was hardly the only thing taking up Samuel Goodwin's attention in the 1850s and 60s. His daughter was growing up and turning into a young woman. In all likelihood, she would have attended Mercer Academy, a two-story schoolhouse on Shenango Street. Built in the late 1840s, the school contained two classrooms and was an easy walk from the Goodwin home—a third of a mile following the roads or a quarter mile as the crow flies. Two essays have survived from her school years, one titled "Perseverance," and one titled "Industry." Both extol the virtues of hard work in attaining and retaining status. I'm sure the message was drummed into all the students, but I can't help but think that it was especially important to Mary with the stain of illegitimacy on her social standing. The fact that these are the only two essays that were saved by her and passed down suggests that they had particular significance.

"Perseverance"

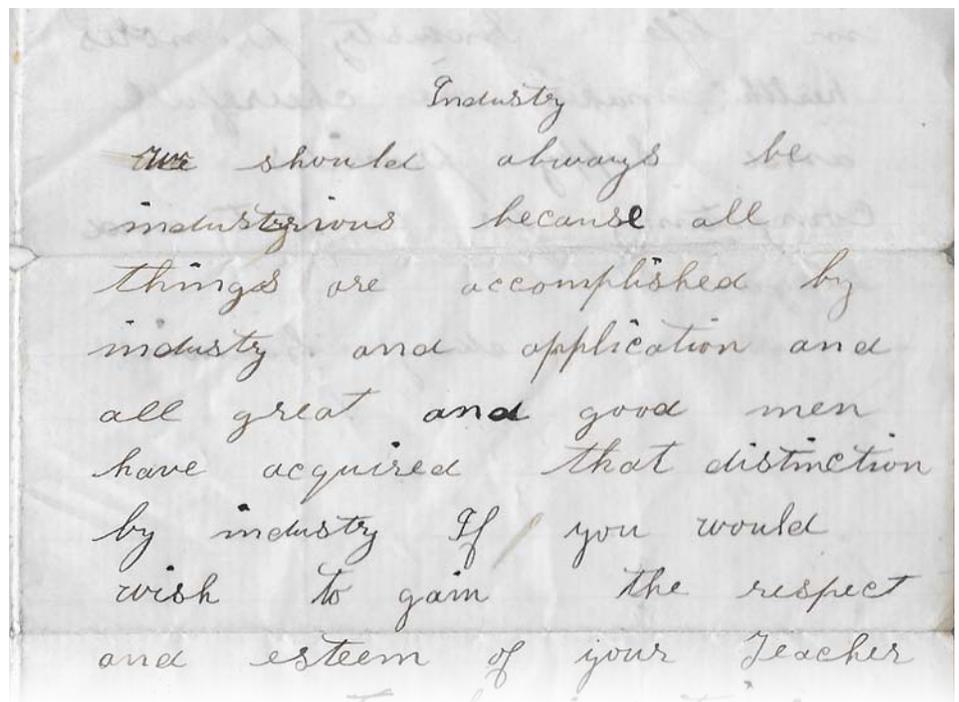
"It is said that many things are accomplished by perseverance, then if that be true, I doubt not but that I can write my composition. If at first I don't succeed I will remember that good motto 'try try again.' I have difficult lessons in Grammar and Geography to commit to memory, also hard sums in Arithmetic to solve, and oftentimes I think, and say that I cannot get them, and can't do my sums, and it is of no use for me to try: then I think that cant never did anything yet. So it is by perseverance that I overcome the difficulties in my lessons, and succeed in retaining them in my memory. If I would ever arrive at the top of the hill of science, I must persevere in my studies, and improve every moment at school. All the deeds which great and good men have accomplished were done by their unwavering perseverance. What others have done I can do."

"Industry"

"We should always be industrious because all things are accomplished by industry and application and all great and good men have acquired that distinction by industry. If you would wish to gain the respect and esteem of your Teacher you must be industrious and get your lessons perfectly to enable you to retain your place at the head of your class. It is only by industry that you can ascend the hill of science. It is only by industry that you can gain celebrity in any profession or station in life. Industry promotes health, makes one cheerful and happy, provides a competency for comfort and elegance." [commas added to final sentence for clarity]

On January 5th of 1863, a fellow by the name of Clark Blodgett Evans made his first visit to Greenville, arriving on a construction train, driving engine #29 for the Atlantic and Great Western railroad. Having displayed a strong mechanical aptitude from a young age, Clark had signed on with the Lake Shore Railroad as a fireman when he was eighteen, rising quickly to the position of engineer.

He joined the A&GW railroad in the fall of '62. When he first visited Greenville he was a young man in his thirties enjoying his freedom. He held boarding house rooms in more than one town (for use depending on where that day's journey left him), had a circle of friends, visited his large family back on Ohio regularly, was active in the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, and attended lectures, plays, minstrel shows, concerts, and dances in his free time. He worked hard, and when he wasn't driving trains, he was in the shop at Meadville or Akron repairing them.



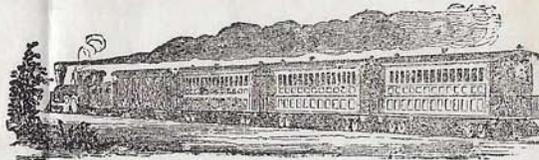


Exactly how or when Clark Evans met Mary Louise Goodwin is unknown, but it appears that he asked leave to court her in January of 1864. His diary entry on Sunday, January 24th reads: "In Greenville. Went to church in evening with M— 'Happy Day that fixed my choice.'" Admittedly, that last phrase could mean a lot of different things, but the beginning of an official courtship seems the most likely given that the couple didn't marry until 1866. The family holds a number of diaries kept by Clark; they cover 1864 through 1885 with two years missing, 1865 and 1882. The diaries are surprisingly uninformative, particularly about personal matters, but one gets the impression that the courtship may have been as much about pragmatism as passion. He was almost 32 in January of 1864, well past the average age of men to marry in those years, and here was a young woman who was the primary heir to a considerable amount of money. Not only that, but her father's businesses would offer him ready employment should he choose to leave the railroad and, until he did, his wife could remain part of her father's large and comfortable household where Clark would join her when in town.

Above: Restored tintype of Clark (standing) and buddies. Below: Membership certificate, Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers.

To the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers,

GREETING:



THIS IS TO CERTIFY,

That *Mrs. Charles B. Evans* the bearer hereof, whose name appears in this Certificate, is a Member in good standing of *Meadville* Division No. *43*, of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, and is entitled to the Friendship and Fellowship of all Members of the Brotherhood working under the jurisdiction of the Grand International Division of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers.

We therefore recommend him to the Members of any Subordinate Division to which he may apply, for the space of three months.

Given under our hands and the seal of the Brotherhood of *Meadville* Division, No. *43*, of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, this *4th* day of *Sept.* A. D., 1865.

J. A. Weston C. E.

H. D. Brown F. A. E.

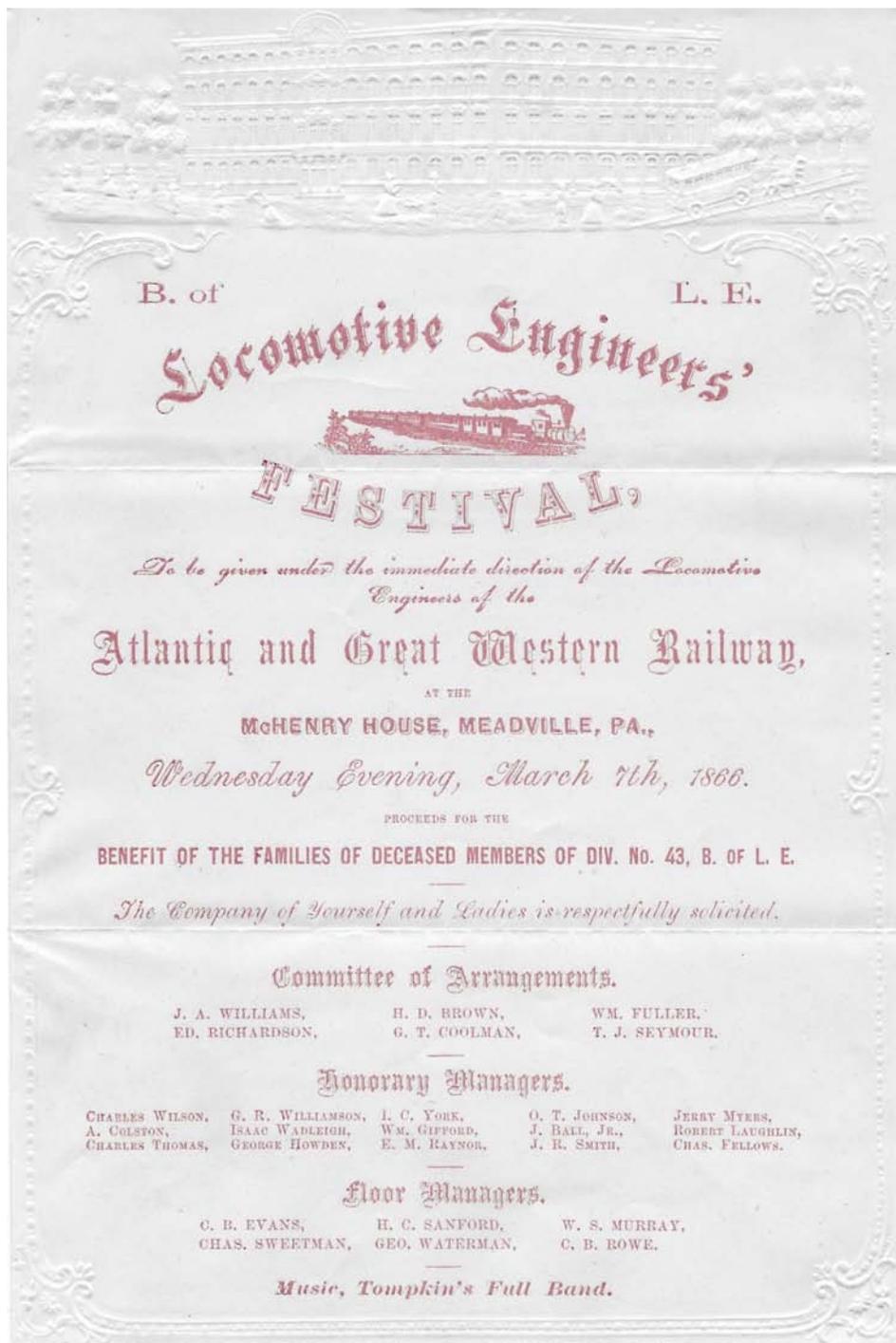


For Mary's part, marriage would give her legal standing; she would be Mrs. Clark Evans, not simply Goodwin's bastard daughter. Whatever gap there may have been in the social standing of a railroad man and the daughter of a local blue blood, it was easily bridged by Mary's peculiar situation and the Evans family's own respected standing in Ohio.

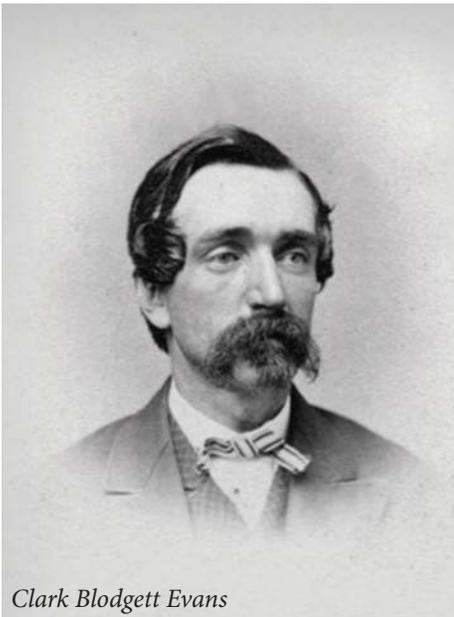
Or perhaps I'm being unfair, and it was truly a great romance. It would help if there was a diary for 1863, or if the one for 1865 had not gone missing. In any case, the diary for 1864 is filled mostly with which train Clark had driven that day— usually the mail train from Akron to Meadville or Meadville to Akron—what the weather was, what lecture or show or dance or meeting he'd been at, what friends he'd seen or heard from, which bill he'd paid, which boarding house he'd slept or eaten at, and what delay or disaster had befallen which train. But scattered among the pages are little snippets of his courtship with Mary: "Called on M in afternoon," "This was written in M's house, Greenville," "Saw M at depot in Greenville," "Spent the evening at M's." And, every few days, at least in the early months of the courtship, it's invariably noted: "Wrote letter to M." There are lots of stops in Greenville in the diary, and lots of visits to churches while in Greenville, so one might guess those involved seeing Mary as well but it's never specified.

Clark's diary for 1865 is missing, but by 1866, Mary barely appears among the notations. One intriguing entry on February 20th states: "Mail East. M went to Meadville. Went home with M. Stayed over night." On the 27th the entry says: "Mail East. Went to Greenville on Train 3 with M." And in May, Clark is furnishing and fixing up a new room in Meadville: "In Meadville. Fixed up Room. Laid down carpet and so forth." The significance of these entries is that, put together, excursions with his betrothed and fixing up new rooms hint at the possibility of cohabitation. And the reason that cohabitation is significant is that there is no record of the actual date of Mary and Clark's marriage. Clark's obituary years later states they married in 1866, but nowhere in the diary for 1866 is such an event mentioned. In fact, their wedding anniversary isn't mentioned in any of the nineteen subsequent diaries. Nor is it mentioned in the New Year's Day entry for 1870 where Clark lists the significant events of his life, all of them about railroading.

Aforementioned breadcrumbs aside, I believe that Mary Goodwin and Clark Evans were actually married quietly at Samuel Goodwin's home on Mercer Street either the afternoon of Wednesday, November 7th, or on the morning of Thursday, the 8th. Clark's diary entry for Thursday states: "Took Wife & left for the East at 12:45 PM." This is the first time in the diaries



Above: Flyer for B. of L.E. Festival, presumably a ball. Clark is listed as one of the floor managers, which, given that floor managers helped organize and prompt the dancers, indicates that he was familiar with set arrangements and decorum and likely a dancer himself.



Clark Blodgett Evans

that Clark calls Mary “wife,” and the trip seems likely to have been their wedding trip. The excursion combined a mix of business and pleasure—a trip to Boston where Clark served as delegate to the Grand Division of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers Annual Convention, bookended by sightseeing stops in New York and a visit to Mary’s father’s family in North Berwick. An early November wedding would also fit right in with the birth of their first child the following August.

In May of 1867, with Mary six months pregnant, Clark reluctantly said goodbye to railroading and took a job in his father-in-law’s store. His obituary puts it thusly: “...in accordance with the wishes of his young wife, he engaged in the less dangerous position of trade, showing by so doing that kindness of heart which characterized his daily life.” Samuel Goodwin had recently built a new flouring mill on the Little Shenango and now he opened an outlet store and gave Clark a hand in the venture. Clark’s diary entry for May 28th reads: “Scrubbed out the ‘Flour & Feed’ Store this morning. Put in stock this afternoon.” The store made its first sale the next day: “First sale in Flour Store: 1 sck XXRR flour @ 4.25.” The business not only sold a variety of flour and feed, but offered cash for wheat.

Clark clearly had trouble adjusting to this mundane world of shopkeeping after years of riding the rails. Entries start appearing: “Dull, very,” or “Dull, lonesome day.” On the Fourth of July he writes: “Ninety-first anniversary of American Independence. And the dullest one I ever knew.”

For all that, Clark strove to make a good life with his new bride. His diary speaks of putting up wallpaper and curtains and of putting down carpet. And on August 9th he notes: “This morning at five minutes past two o’clock Unto us a child is born, a son is given. Ten pounds!” He and Mary name the child Samuel after Mary’s father. By winter Clark is taking the wife and boy on sleigh rides and out visiting, and he worries when the child is taken sick for a few days. In May of 1868 Clark sets the boy for his picture “and got a very good one.” Clark works diligently for Samuel Goodwin; when he’s not minding the store he’s working at the mill or taking on other chores and repairs.

During those years his diaries, though sparse, mention work and social happenings that would have been part of the entire family’s world. Sleighing and drives in the country. Events at Packard Hall in downtown Greenville—lectures and plays and concerts and dances and more. They saw “Our American Cousin” two years after Lincoln was struck down during a performance back East. They mourned the death of “Little Johnny Gunderman” who was killed at Samuel’s mill by being caught in the machinery. The family dealt with winter storms powerful enough to destroy the head gates at the mill and wash away the banks of the mill race. Circuses came to town each year and there were sometimes fireworks for Independence Day. Clark used leeches for a time for some ailment or other, and fires struck downtown businesses with disturbing regularity. Hay and coal needed hauling, and shipments of goods unpacking. The family watched elections come and go, mulled over President Johnson’s Impeachment, and Clark served jury duty. Attending church was a regular activity—although the church might be Presbyterian or Episcopal or Baptist or some other branch of Christianity. And Clark sorrowed over the death of his father in October of 1871.

During the late ’60s and early ’70s, Clark’s diaries mention moving the Flour and Feed store several times. After a fire in June of 1869, the store relocates to “Waugh’s Building” for a brief time. The following March the store moves into “McDowell’s Building.” By August he’s moving the Flour and Feed store again (and stopping up Rat Holes) although his



Samuel Goodwin Evans, May 1868

diary doesn't say to where. In March of 1870 Clark writes "Moved in to new store." It's possible that this "new store" was in the new brick building Samuel Goodwin had just completed at the corner of Race and Main Streets, but if it was, the business didn't stay there long. In February of 1871, a note appears in the *Greenville Advance*: "Mr. Samuel Goodwin will remove his Flour and Feed Store to the rooms formerly occupied by him in McDowell's building, corner Main and Mercer streets." That same newspaper says that "S. P. Johnston has established his dry goods store in the large and commodious west room of Goodwin's Block." Clark can't have been terribly happy about being back in McDowell's building; he refers to it as moving back to "the Old Mouse Nest." But, as before, it was only temporary. In April of 1872, the *Greenville Advance* reports: "Mr. Samuel Goodwin has removed his flour and feed store to the room lately occupied by S. P. Johnson & Co., Goodwin's block." The "Flour and Feed" advertising cards I hold are from the Goodwin Block address.



One of three advertising cards left in the family papers.

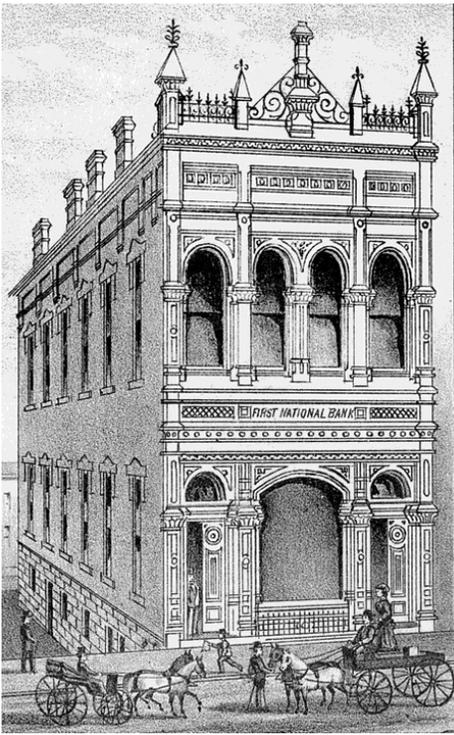
Goodwin himself was hardly idle during the 1860s. He'd undoubtedly been proud of his brother, Ichabod, who'd won the governorship of New Hampshire in 1859 and been reelected the following year—and who held the distinction of being the first governor to equip and send regiments in response to Abraham Lincoln's call for troops to fight the Rebellion. For many years, a painting of the governor hung over the mantel in Samuel Goodwin's home; what appears to be this same painting was donated to New Hampshire's Strawberry Banke museum in 1988, although we've no idea by whom or by what route it got there. In 1862 Samuel returned to politics himself—on the local level at least—and served one more term as town Burgess.

The mid-1860s were particularly busy. With his daughter turning twenty and her future assured, Goodwin's attention turned elsewhere. On April 4th of 1864, the First National Bank was incorporated with Samuel Goodwin as one of the original stockholders. The bank was at first located in a brick building at 162 Main Street—which also happened to be the home of the bank's first president, Samuel Johnston—and afterwards at 176 Main. This latter building was destroyed by fire in March of 1876 and rebuilt with an elaborate, carved-stone front. Goodwin served on the bank's board right up until his death. Greenville's First National was the first "First National Bank" in the country.²⁹



Mary L. G. Evans at home in Greenville with her daughter, Sara, around 1900. The portrait of Gov. Goodwin over the mantel seems to have made its way to the Goodwin Mansion at Portsmouth's Strawberry Banke Museum (right). Some items in the above photo remain in the family to this day.





Above is an 1877 etching of Greenville's First National Bank. Below is a photograph from 2006 of the current First National Bank building at the same site.

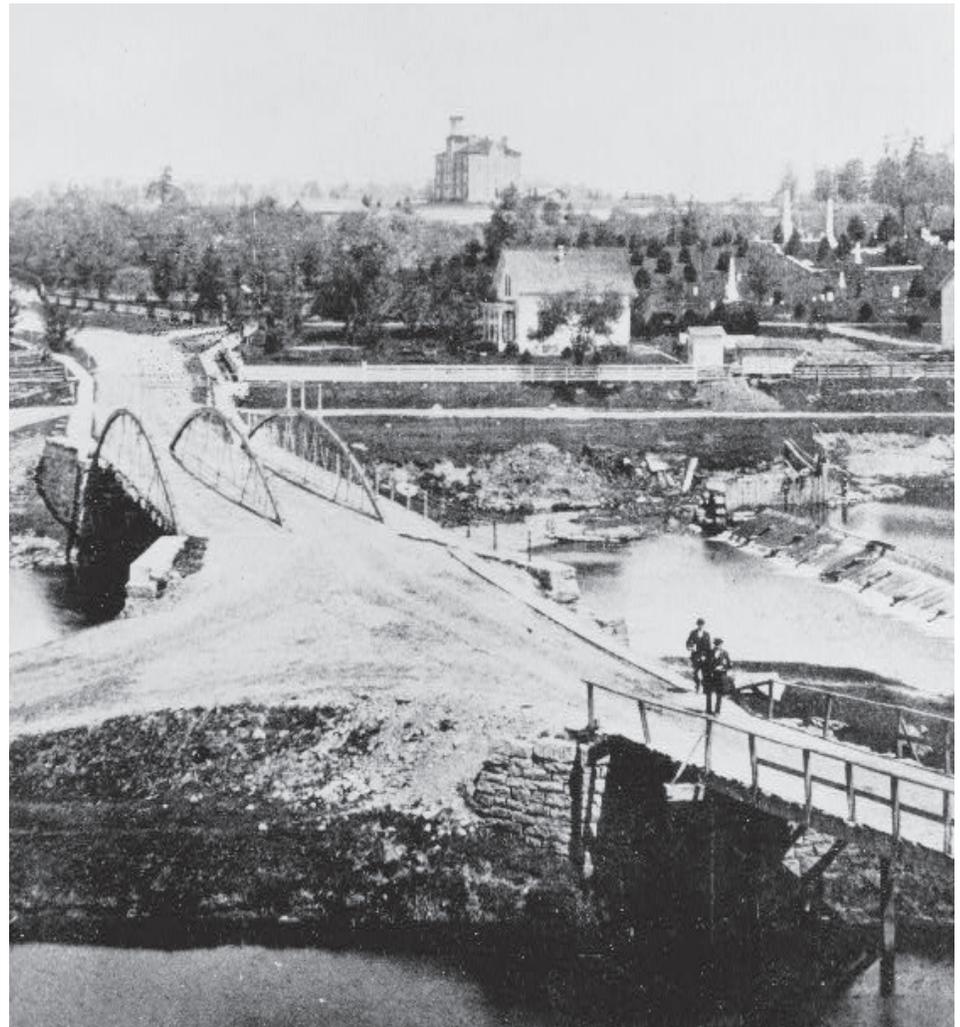


The photo at right, c.1876,³³ comes from LOC.gov; the original is at the Greenville Area Historical Society. The road is Prarie Avenue (now College Ave) and Samuel Goodwin's first dam is visible to the right. The 1865 mill was at a newer dam downstream. The debris left after the burning of his original mills can be seen on the opposite bank between the dam and the road. The white line mid-photo is the towpath for the Canal, and monuments in Shenango Valley Cemetery are visible to the upper right.

The Shenango Valley Cemetery Association in Greenville was incorporated in July of 1864. The land for the cemetery was bought from Samuel Goodwin and Robert Dicky. In Samuel's case the land was cut from the mill property he'd purchased twenty years earlier. The deed from Samuel to the Shenango Valley Cemetery is dated August 23, 1864 and describes a twelve acre plot sold for eighteen hundred dollars.³⁰

Local histories peg the cemetery's total size at twenty-two acres for an initial cost of about two thousand dollars, which would seem to indicate that Goodwin got a far better deal than Dicky. Those same histories describe the Shenango Valley Cemetery as "undulated land, pleasantly situated," and the grounds being "finely laid out and scrupulously kept." Samuel Goodwin did more than just supply some of the land, he was also one of the cemetery's incorporators.³¹

In late 1864 and into '65, Samuel erected a "fine and substantial flouring-mill" by his dam on the Little Shenango—the same mill whose foundation stone Gibson discusses at one point in the railroad letters. Known as the Pacific Flouring-mills, this mill contained "three run of stone" and had a capacity for grinding 150 bushels daily. It did both merchant and custom work. The original mills that Samuel had purchased in 1843 were leased to a Peter Lutten, during whose occupancy they burned down in 1869.³² In 1873 the cluster of mills at the Pacific Mills site also included a sawmill. Clark Evans would continue to run the Pacific Mills for ten years after Samuel's death, followed by Mary running them another year and a half before she sold them in January of 1888. The Pacific Mills burned down in September of 1896 and were never rebuilt.





In 1865, Goodwin served as president of the school board. That was the same year that building began on the Union School on East Main, just east of Penn Street, the same school that his soon-to-be-born grandchildren would attend a decade or so later. When the Union building was at last finished in 1868, it was a brick structure, 60 x 74 feet, three stories in height, and contained eleven rooms. A similar school building was erected on the west side of town in 1878, also of brick, and held eight rooms.³⁵

In October of 1869, the *Greenville Argus* made note of Samuel Goodwin's partially-finished "splendid three-story brick block immediately west of the canal, embracing two spacious store rooms below and any amount of miscellaneous rooms above, with a fine dry basement. For this substantial and magnificent commercial monument, Mr. Goodwin deserves the credit of the whole community." This building replaced the frame structure built by Goodwin at the corner of Main and Race Streets so many years earlier and was described as "finely finished and all in all quite a show place."³⁶ "The



The second building in this postcard photo, c.1907, is the Goodwin Block.³⁷ The one nearest the camera is The Old Town Building which still stands at 160 Main St. Immediately off to the right, out of the frame, would be the First National Bank.

lime used in its construction was burned by Henry Emery at the kiln on the old canal, the limestone being brought here from Lawrence county by canal boat. Allen Turner furnished the lumber, sawing it at the mill he then operated here.”³⁸

The Goodwin Block was home to any number of businesses over the years and held a hall (or halls) on the third floor. It housed meetings for several community groups, from the International Organization of Odd Fellows to the Greenville Liederkrantz. In 1875 the newspaper announced an open house for “The new Masonic Hall, located in the third story of Goodwin’s Block... The hall is fitted and furnished in elegant taste, reflecting credit on all concerned.”³⁹ The building held lawyer’s offices and Garber’s “Dining Rooms and Oyster Depot,” and housed the offices of the *Greenville Advance* newspaper for a time. Even the basement was put to use, spending years as a pub.

Samuel Goodwin’s obituary says that after arriving in Greenville in the early 1830s, he ran his mercantile business “for a period of not less than 25 years, during which he amassed a respectable fortune.” Samuel was a full decade past that 25-year-plus span by the time the Goodwin Block was completed, and he had just reached the ripe old age of 70. So it’s apparent that when Samuel built the Goodwin Block, it was not to house his old mercantile business, but was instead to provide a large, modern building to serve as rental property and to provide for him in his later years. Ichabod Goodwin had continued in the mercantile business without his uncle, pairing with Nathan Block from 1872 to 1875 and then later advertising as “I. Goodwin & Co.” Ichabod’s businesses operated out of the Merchants’ Block; the only one of Samuel Goodwin’s own businesses that ever occupied the Goodwin Block seems to have been the Flour and Feed store.

In addition to the building itself, Goodwin built a gas works in between the building and an alley to the rear. It had been widely known in the seventeenth century that heating coal produced a flammable gas, but it wasn’t until the early 1800s that a practical coal gas lighting system was developed. By 1860, there were more than 400 gas companies in the United States.⁴⁰ And Samuel Goodwin saw to it that his Goodwin Block was the first building in Greenville to embrace this new technology. The advertisements for Garber’s Oyster Depot in Goodwin’s building boasted proudly “ROOMS LIT UP WITH GAS.”

In March of 1870, at five in the morning on the fifth, Goodwin’s gas works burned, and the task of rebuilding it fell to his son-in-law. Clark’s diary describes the process in detail, both day by day and in a list of specifications in the “Memoranda” section.

July 19th: “Commenced excavating for Gasometer.”

July 21st: “Commenced furnace for gas retort.”

July 25th: “Commenced laying cistern.”

July 30th: “Working at cistern. Finished brickwork.”

August 9th: “Worked putting up frame for Gasometer.

August 10th: “Filled cistern with Fire Engine and put in Gasometer.”

August 12th: “Worked @ laying stone around furnace.”

August 22nd: “Gas filters came today.”

August 25th: “Hot pipes ready. Commenced making gas. Too much air in Gasometer and pipes.”

August 26th: “Changed coal, used ‘Bear Creek.’ Got air out of pipes & filled cistern & made gas all right. Grand Illumination in evening.”

August 27th: “Simkins coal didn’t work very well but got enough gas to make a nice display in evening.”

FOR SALE!

A CHANCE FOR A BARGAIN

The undersigned offers for sale his

Restaurant

AND

BILLIARD SALOON

located in the basement of Goodwin’s Block, Main street, Greenville, Pa. It is in every respect,

A First Class Establishment.

Every room commodious and fitted up in modern style; everything being entirely new. The location is the very best in town. Gas in all the rooms. Every appliance necessary to make it a complete establishment of the kind. Desiring to engage in other business, I will sell out on favorable terms if application be made soon.

28-1f **T. P. GARBER.**

Above: Newspaper ad regarding sale of basement saloon in Goodwin Block. [Greenville Advance, 3/25/1871]

Below: Ad for Oyster Depot in Goodwin Block specifying “lit by gas.” [Greenville Advance 3/25/1871]

GARBER’S

Dining  **Rooms**

and

Oyster Depot

Goodwin’s Block,
GREENVILLE, PA.

THE PLACE!

To drop into for a

GOOD STEW

or a

Regular Warm Meal!

ON SHORT NOTICE.

Rooms fitted up especially for ladies. Chafing Dishes furnished when requested.

ROOMS LIT UP WITH GAS!

SOLE AGENT FOR

Ludington’s Baltimore Oysters!

T. P. GARBER.

SOCIETIES.

I. O. F., ALHAMBRA LODGE NO. 293.
Meets at Odd Fellows' Hall, in Goodwin's block, Main street, Greenville, Pa., on the first and third Thursday evenings of each month.
W. F. BRADEN, Secy. JOHN C. HOLBY, N. G.

GUARDIAN ENCAMPMENT, NO. 199, I. O. O. F.
Meets second and fourth Thursday evenings of each month in Odd Fellows' Hall, Goodwin's block, Greenville, Pa.
J. E. MILLHOUSE, Scribe. THEO. OAKES, C. P.

TRUREKA LODGE, NO. 290, A. Y. M. MEETS
first and third Mondays of every month, in Goodwin's block, Greenville.
J. E. MILLHOUSE, Secy. JOH. VICKERS, W. M.

ROUND HOLY ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER, No. 212.
Meets second and fourth Mondays in each month, in Goodwin's block, Greenville, Pa.
J. E. MILLHOUSE, Secy. B. E. MOSSMAN, H. P.

Above: Various groups meeting in Goodwin's Block [Shenango Valley Argus, 4/3/1875]

Below: Sara Frances Evans, 1872.



For that first year, the gas service seems to have been limited to Goodwin's own building, but by the following year Clark was making notations about laying lines to supply an assortment of other downtown businesses and installing gas meters.

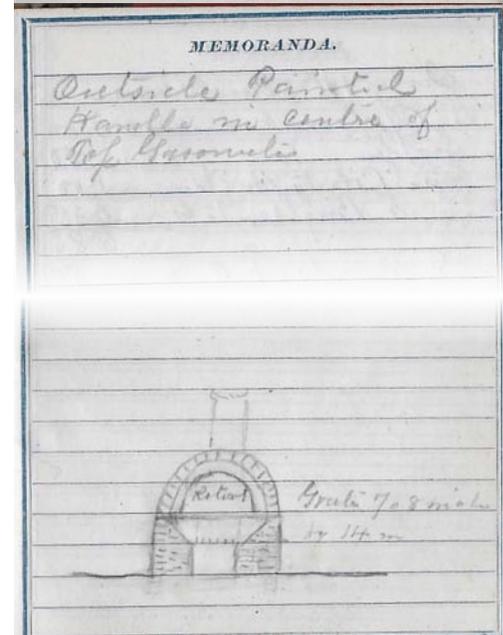
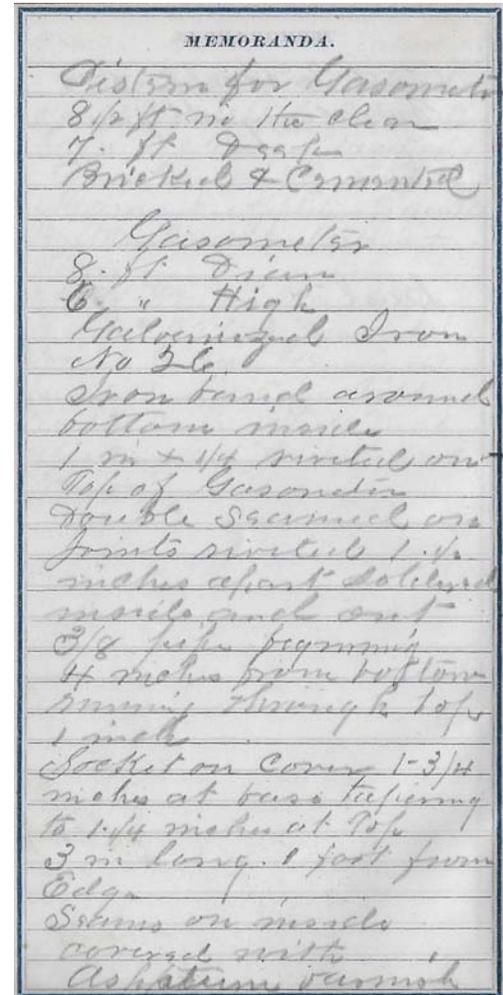
In later years the Goodwin Block would go through various owners. By 1922, the downstairs held a confectionary and a pool room, and the upper floors were taken over by the Bessemer & Lake Erie Railroad offices.⁴¹ The building remained standing well into the twentieth century but is now an empty parking lot next to Greenville's "Old Town Building."

That same year that Clark was rebuilding Goodwin's Gas Works, his wife was home with Samuel Goodwin's newest grandchild. Clark's entry for January first of 1872 reads: "Received a New Years present of a ten pound girl. A good beginning for a Happy New Year."

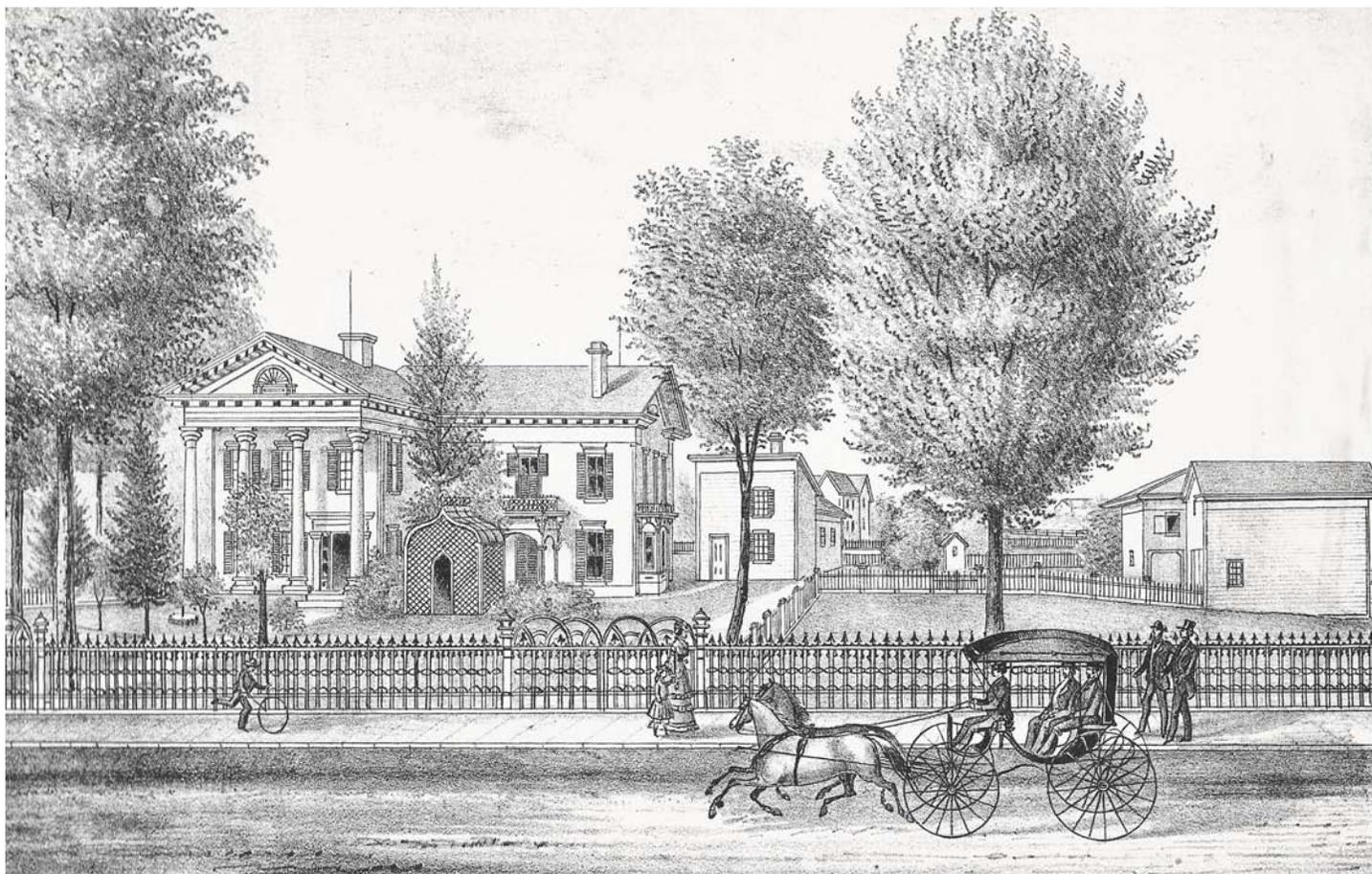
The exact living arrangements at the Goodwin-Evans residence have been long since lost to time, but by the time little Sara was born, the Evanses were clearly outgrowing their space in Samuel's home. When the Goodwin mansion house had been built thirty-some years earlier, it had been a single rectangle, the short end toward Mercer Street, with large, two-story-high, Greek-style pillars running from the porch foundation to the overhanging attic. At some point prior to 1860, an attached structure was built at the southeast corner of the house. Family legend has it that this was a carriage house, and that that carriage house was eventually moved about fifty

feet to where it would front on Harrison Street, becoming a residence at some point. The house at 40 Harrison—which remained part of the Goodwin-Evans property for the next 130 years—is narrow with two stories, just the size to have started out as a barn with space for carriages downstairs and quarters upstairs for Goodwin's help, probably a farmhand or teamster (wagon driver).

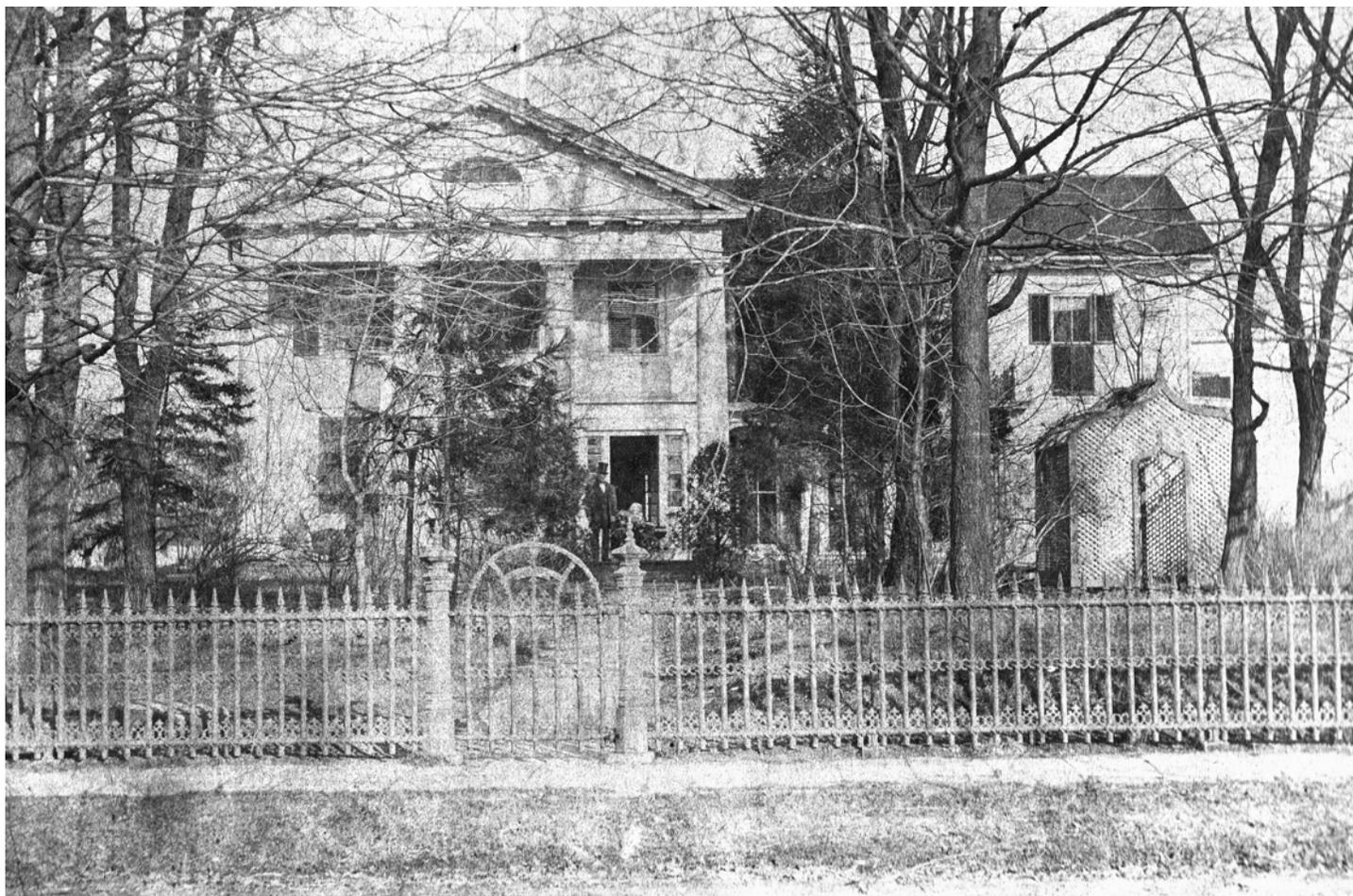
The carriage barn would have been moved as part of a major 1872 remodel. On January 9th of 1873, The *Greenville Advance* states that "Samuel Goodwin has erected an addition to his residence, and made other improvements on the same lot amounting to \$3,500." A property map of Greenville from 1873 still shows the smaller, barely attached structure at the back corner of the Goodwin house, but it would be no surprise if that map had not been updated to reflect the latest changes to the property. By 1876 or '77, an etching of the estate shows the newly expanded house with its large south wing and a charming little gazebo out front. The south wing is shown with its own entrance and boasting a porch across two thirds of the front with an elaborate metal railing around the porch roof. In addition to the old carriage house that the illustration shows fronting on Harrison Street, there's a new building closer to the main house that family legend identifies as the well house.



From Clark's 1870 diary. See endnotes for transcription.



Etching is c.1876 [History of Mercer County, PA, 1877]. Photo is also 1876, around March. Samuel & his grandson, Willie, are on the porch.



By the early 1900s the house on Harrison Street was sporting a wrap-around porch, later to be replaced with a much more modest front porch. In the nineteen-teens, the porch on the south wing of the main house was extended to run almost the full length of the addition, a look it retained for the rest of its time in the family.⁴²

In 1872, Goodwin finally managed to settle an ongoing lawsuit with the Atlantic & Great Western railroad six years after they began drawing water from either his mill raceway or his mill pond (the articles aren't consistent but the raceway would make more sense geographically). The company paid nine hundred dollars in exchange for the right to forever "take all the water which may be necessary for the use of the locomotives on said railroad."⁴³

Also by 1872, the management of the Pacific Mills Flour & Feed Store had shifted entirely to Clark and a partner. Newspaper advertisements for the store refer to "Evans & Dean, Successors to Samuel Goodwin."⁴⁴

In July of 1874 Samuel Goodwin went back home to North Berwick for an extended visit. His nephew, Ichabod, traveled with him, and at the train depot in Boston the pair happened to run into a friend headed in the same direction—and who happened to write a travel dialogue which appeared in the *Shenango Valley Argus* on August 15th:

"It is a pleasant thing to come on old faces in strange lands. Stepping from the breakfast table to the depot at Boston, judge our surprise to meet the Messrs. Goodwin, Junior and Senior, of Greenville. They were waiting for their baggage, and the time for the train's departure was just at hand. The baggage did not come, but 8:15 a.m. found us hurrying on board the departing train for Portland and 'Down East.'

"These gentlemen are on a visit to the tramping grounds of their boyhood days. For a gentleman of his years, Mr. Goodwin Sr. stands so long a journey remarkably well. Our train was greatly crowded, and for quite a distance the old gentleman stood on the platform as squarely as many a youngster of twenty. We had quite a pleasant conversation with these Greenville friends and left them with regret at North Berwick, Maine, where they purposed a stay of some weeks among old friends."

Incidentally, Samuel Goodwin apparently appeared young for his age to just about everyone. All three censuses and his own obituaries place his age anywhere from two to seven years younger than he actually was.

During Samuel's stay in Maine, Clark was taking care of Goodwin's businesses, and his diary notes letters going back and forth between Samuel and himself every few days. The diary reports that Samuel Goodwin finally arrived back in Greenville September 26th, this time traveling with a different nephew, his sister Sarah's son, John Hobbs, brother of the late Samuel Hobbs who had clerked at the mill so many years earlier. Samuel's return to Greenville came just in time to be present for the birth of his third grandchild, William Fuller Evans, on October 9th.

This time around there is no notation in Clark's diary about the baby's birth. The page for the ninth is blank, but on the tenth there's a note about going to Jamestown after something illegible; whether it's a person to help or supplies for the new baby is unclear. In any case, this latest son gets no flowery diary declaration amidst the chaos of his arrival. The baby was clearly named after a friend of Clark's, given that a William Fuller is mentioned in the diaries several times. A bit of outside research reveals Fuller to be another railroad man, a master mechanic to be exact. The families stayed close for another generation and William Evans kept in touch with Fuller's daughter, Edith, for the rest of his life.

Samuel Goodwin's mansion house, c.1920, with the expanded porch on the south wing.



J. S. WILLIAMSON.

Pacific Mills.

FLOUR & FEED STORE,

172 GOODWIN'S BLOCK,
EVANS & DEAN,

(Successors to)
SAMUEL GOODWIN.

Will keep constantly on hand and for sale at the lowest rates for cash, the best grades of **FAMILY FLOUR, GRAHAM FLOUR, CORN MEAL, MIXED FEED, BRAN, &c., &c.** All goods delivered free.

CUSTOM WORK.

Farmers and others having custom work to do should remember the **PACIFIC MILLS** where their work will be done promptly and satisfaction guaranteed. The highest market price paid for grain delivered at the mills.
2-17:1f

Little Willie was the last of Mary's children born during her father's lifetime. She and Clark had a son, Edwin, early in 1883, but Eddie died just shy of six months old. "With sorrowing hearts we laid our darling boy to rest amid the flowers, the sunshine, and the rain drops. God bless our darling," wrote Clark on the day of the funeral.

But Samuel Goodwin himself was gone well before Eddie's birth and sad demise. Samuel Goodwin died at his home on South Mercer Street at 9:45 in the evening on Monday, September 25th, 1876, after an illness of a few days. He was 77 years old (although his obituaries knock off four years). His funeral was held on September 28th and the body interred in the Shenango Valley Cemetery.

The local papers lavished praise on Goodwin, offering a brief summary of his history before listing his virtues.

From the *Record-Argus*: "Mr. G. was a fine specimen of the Puritan people; was a man of high moral character, although not in connection with any branch of the Christian church; was remarkable for his liberality to every good cause. The indigent poor always found in him a true friend—none were ever turned away without his aid, and assurance that they had his best wishes." In Goodwin's capacity of Legislator, "as in every other, he met the requirements of his constituents, for he had the full confidence of the community, without regard to party."

From the *Greenville Almanac*: "The liberality of [the] deceased is proverbial in this community. While he was a prudent, careful and economical business man, his heart and hands were ever open to the call of charity. He never turned the meritorious poor away empty...He was a modest, unassuming, intelligent, upright man and in every respect an excellent citizen, and one who will be very much missed by his relatives and a very large circle of friends and neighbors in this community."

The papers go on to discuss Samuel Goodwin's will, in which Clark Evans, Samuel's son-in-law, and Ichabod Goodwin, his nephew, were appointed his Executors. Samuel bequeathed one thousand dollars to each of his siblings, and to his daughter he left the house and its contents, the mills, and the interest from a twenty-five thousand dollar trust. The trust was to be divided among Mary's children at her death. The balance of his estate went to his nieces and nephews.

The officers of Greenville's First National Bank recorded the following "RESOLUTIONS OF RESPECT"

"WHEREAS, We have received the painful intelligence of the death of our much esteemed friend and colleague Samuel Goodwin Esq., a Director of this Bank.

Samuel Goodwin's grandchildren: Willie, Sam and Sara Evans with their dog, Pongo, c.1880.



Ad from Shenango Valley Argus, 8/26/1876, with Goodwin listed as a director.

Resolved, That by this dispensation of Providence this Bank has lost one of its most valued and esteemed counselors, A man whose judgement of honesty of purpose we all respected, and community one of its most worthy and beloved citizens. Long a resident of this city, having grown with its growth and prospered with its prosperity, he was always known as a man of just and liberal sentiments, honest and honorable in his dealings, trusted and respected by all, a friend of improvements, generous and charitable to all deserving object. We are sensible that his place cannot be easily filled in this community.

BANKS.		BANKS	
First National Bank,			
GREENVILLE, PA.			
ORGANIZED APRIL 4, 1864.			
Capital Stock, \$125,000, Surplus & Undivided Profits, \$46,437 65			
DIRECTORS.			
SAMUEL GOODWIN, WILLIAM ACHRE, HARRY WATSON	MARVIN LOOMIS.	JOHN R. PACKARD, BENJAMIN HENLEIN WM. WAUGH.	
WM. WAUGH, President.		C. R. BEATTY, Cashier.	
Interest Paid on Time Deposits.			

Resolved, That we deeply sympathize with his friends in their irreparable loss and hereby tender them our heartfelt sympathies in their bereavement.

Resolved, That in further testimony of our respect for deceased we will attend his funeral as a body.

Resolved, That these resolutions be entered on the Minute Book of the Bank and a copy of them be given to his family.²⁴⁵

By early October, Clark was going over Samuel's papers and taking inventory of his personal property. On October 16th, he received the following letter from Samuel's brother back East, former New Hampshire governor, Ichabod Goodwin.

Portsmouth. Oct. 13, 1876

Misters C. B. Evans and Ichabod Goodwin, Executors of the Will of Samuel Goodwin, Greenville, Penn.

Dear Sirs,

Knowing that it was the wish of my Brother Samuel, that after his death his remains should be placed in the Family Burying ground at his native place beside his Mother in North Berwick, M.E.—It is the earnest and unanimous wish of his Brothers and Sisters that his wish be complied with as soon as the weather becomes cool enough to make the removal.

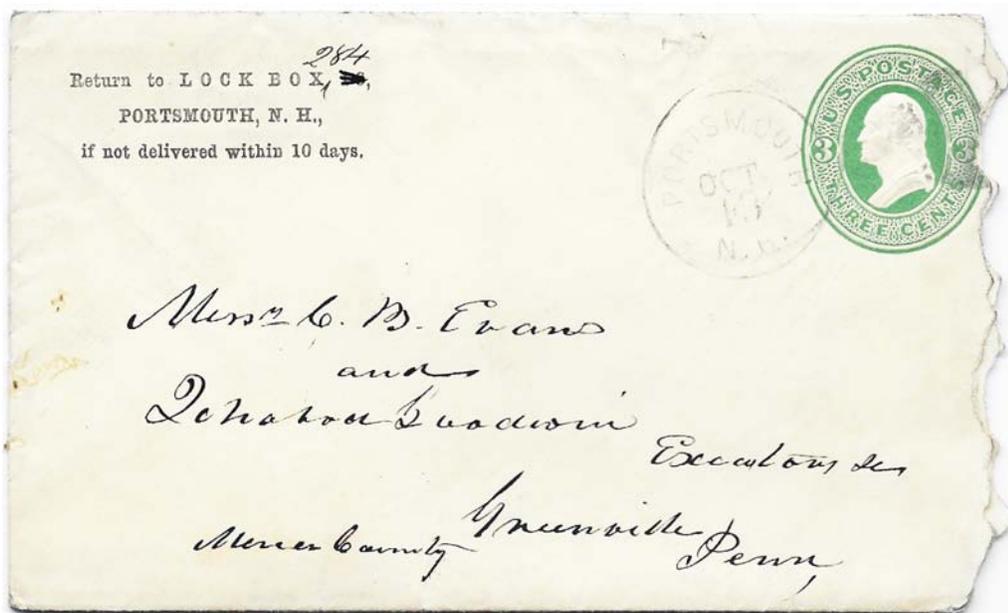
The lot is a beautiful one; none are buried in it but his Father, Mother and two Sisters, Ann and Mary. It has a fine Fieldstone Monument in the Center — We all trust that no objections will be made to his removal.

It will give us much pleasure to have Mr & Mrs Evans visit us when they can make it convenient and they will see that the burial lot is in a beautiful place, where his early days of boyhood were passed.

Yours very truly,
Ichabod Goodwin.

It would be late November before the weather was deemed cool enough to exhume the body. From Clark's diary, November 29th, 1876: "I. Goodwin started East to day with the remains of the late Sam'l Goodwin." Three days later the newspaper reported:

—"The remains of the Hon. Samuel Goodwin were disinterred on last Wednesday morning, and accompanied by Mr. Ichabod Goodwin [his nephew], were removed to the family burying ground, on the farm on which Mr. Goodwin was born, at North Berwick, Maine. This has been done in accordance with the wish and



Above and next page: Envelope and letter from Gov. Goodwin about Samuel's reburial.

expectation of Mr. Goodwin, and with the consent of his daughter Mrs. C. B. Evans. Mr. Goodwin's father and mother and two sisters are buried in the old family burying ground at Berwick, where his boyhood days were passed."

Over fifty years later, Samuel's grandson, William, along with his own son, Gordon, would visit the by-then-abandoned gravesite in North Berwick. The following 1932 narrative is written in Gordon's voice:

"We found the big two-story-and-attic house, unoccupied for many years, a fair ruin. The shed on the back had collapsed, and every window was vacant; sash and all had been carried away by vandals—whether by neighbors or seekers after antiques no one seemed to know. The big barn was still in use as a haymow, and in good repair. But the farm was completely abandoned and reverting to wilderness. The woodsy tangle by the brook was too dense for us to get through.

"We found great-grandfather's grave in a little neglected family burying plot in the open field not far from the house. Daddy said he never could understand why his mother had allowed her father's body to be brought away back here, when he had for so many years made Greenville his home; had established himself there away back in 1831 and had been one of the builders of the town and now he understood it less than ever. He feels keenly that Samuel Goodwin should have an honored resting place in Greenville, and not a forgotten grave like this."

It hardly seems a mystery why Mary would have agreed to the transfer, even aside from honoring her father's wishes as she understood them. She might have been Samuel's primary heir, but the law didn't recognize her as his daughter. She had no legal standing to contest such a request from her uncles and aunts, particularly when the uncle writing was a former governor, and the entire clan well-known and respected.

Durham N.C. Oct 13. 1876

Mrs. C. B. Evans
and
John Goodwin } Executors of the Will
of Samuel Goodwin
Brunswick Tenn

Dear Sir,

Knowing that it was the wish of my Brother Samuel, that after his death, his remains should be placed in the Family burying ground at his Native place beside his Mother in North Berwick, N.C. -

It is the earnest and unanimous wish of his Brothers and Sisters, that this wish be complied with, as soon as the weather becomes cool enough to make the removal

The lot is a beautiful one, none are buried in it, but his Father, Mother and two Sisters Ann and Mary over

It has a fine Grueshaw Monument in the center - We all trust that no objection will be made to his removal

It will give us much pleasure to have Mr. & Mrs. Evans visit us, when they can make it convenient, and they will see that the burial lot is in a beautiful place, where his early days of boyhood were passed

Yours very truly
John Goodwin

In 2000, my husband and I visited the grave ourselves. We spent over four hours searching for it before finally locating it mere yards from where we started but hidden in the dense woods. Among other things, we found that the date on the gravestone was off by a day. The Goodwins in Maine had placed Samuel's death on the 26th of September rather than the 25th, probably because that was the day that the sad news arrived.

The estate of Samuel Goodwin was large and complicated. There were numerous parcels of land, with deals promised but left unfinished. It would drag on for years, and notices appeared in the paper on and off about court resolutions regarding the disposition of these land deals. A year after Goodwin's death Clark Evans and Ichabod Goodwin, executors, placed an advertisement in the *Record-Argus* listing fifteen different properties for sale in Greenville as part of settling Samuel Goodwin's estate.

The lifetime trust Samuel had set up for Mary further kept the estate in play for decades. In 1911, thirty-five years after Samuel Goodwin's death, his heirs paid Samuel Evans's widow, Nan Callen Evans, \$4,500 to relinquish all claim to her husband's share of the \$25,000 trust that his grandfather had left behind to be split by the three grandchildren after their mother's death.

Samuel Goodwin's son-in-law, Clark Evans, died in 1886, at the age of 54, from "an obstruction of the bowels" after an illness of several weeks (a horrible way to die). Clark's well-attended funeral was held at the family home on South Mercer and he was buried in the family plot in Shenango Valley Cemetery. His pall-bearers were all members of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, an organization that remained dear to him long after he left the railroad.

Samuel's daughter, Mary, lived well into her seventies and died in 1921. Around 1903, Mary's daughter, Sara, took an apartment in Brooklyn where she spent several months a year in pursuit of a (so-so) singing career. Mother and daughter split their time between Sara's Brooklyn residence and the family home in Greenville. In the early '20s Sara was appointed a teacher-clerk with the New York City schools which meant remaining in Brooklyn through each school year. Sara remained single for the rest of her life and died in 1931 at the age of 59 after weeks in the hospital and multiple surgeries, I suspect of cancer. Both women died while in Brooklyn but are buried in the Shenango Valley Cemetery. Funerals for each were held in the family home on South Mercer Street in Greenville.



N. Berwick family plot, 1932 & 2000. The small headstone to left of monument is Samuel's.



the luxury of the bath, render your skin white and healthy, and remove freckles or sun burn. Sold by all druggists.
Hill's Hair & Whisker Dye, black or brown, 50c4w

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

Real Estate FOR SALE.

ONE HOUSE AND LOT on Shenango Street.
ONE LOT on corner of Clinton and Poplar Streets.
TWO LOTS on Poplar Street.
TWO LOTS corner Harrison & Poplar streets.
ONE HOUSE & LOT on Harrison street.
FOUR LOTS on Franklin street.
THREE LOTS on Plum street.
GOODWIN'S BRICK BLOCK on Main street.
All situated in Greenville, Mercer county, Pa.
For particulars Inquire of
C. B. EVANS, or
ICHABOD GOODWIN, Greenville, Pa.

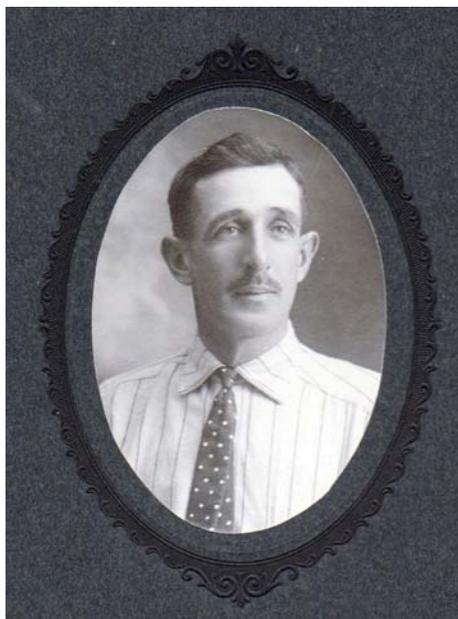
T O Tindley

From the Greenville Record-Argus, 10/27/1877.



Samuel's oldest grandson, Samuel Evans, died in 1908 at the age of 40, eleven weeks after a bout of pneumonia from which he never fully recovered. He had followed his father into the railroad business to become a locomotive engineer, as well as putting in time as a member of the local volunteer fire department. He left behind a wife, Nan, but no children. His funeral was held at his own South Race Street home in Greenville but he, too, was buried in the family plot at Shenango Valley (his wife was not).

Samuel's younger grandson, William, graduated Princeton in 1897 and became a teacher in Brooklyn, New York. He married late, in 1917, and had one son, Gordon in 1921. His wife, Beatrice Briley, died of complications from a sinus infection when the child was only two, and William raised the boy as a single father. Summers spent in Greenville at Samuel Goodwin's old home during school break were very special to the child—idyllic times when he had his lone parent all to himself. William died unexpectedly of a heart attack in 1939, just before Christmas break of Gordon's freshman year at Princeton. William was laid to rest in the family plot at Shenango Valley Cemetery. (Beatrice is interred at Green Wood Cemetery in Brooklyn with her parents and sister.)



KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS, that I Nan G.
Evans for myself and as sole legatee and executrix under the will
of my deceased husband, Samuel G. Evans, in consideration of
Four thousand five hundred & 00/100
dollars
to me in hand paid, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged,
do hereby assign, transfer, and set over unto Will F. Evans and
Sara Evans of Brooklyn, New York, all the following rights,
credits, interests and property,
First,- All my interest in, to or arising out of the
estate of Samuel Goodwin, late of Greenville, Pa., deceased, and
particularly, in, to or arising out of the legacy given by the
said Samuel Goodwin to Mary L. Evans for life, and after her
death to her three children, including my said deceased husband
and unto or arising out of the ~~cash~~ and the stock in the First
National Bank Greenville and Greenville National Bank transferred
to said Mary L. Evans for said legacy.

Clockwise from top left: The Evans monument which only got as far as having Clark's name on it, 2006; Mary and her daughter, Sara on the front steps of the Greenville house, c.1910, Sara, c.1895, Nan Callen Evans's 1911 quitclaim deed relinquishing her late husband's share of his grandfather's estate; Samuel Evans, c.1900.

Top of following page: William Evans, c.1925; Beatrice Briley Evans & Gordon Evans on Greenville house steps, 1921, Beatrice Ann Briley, c.1917,

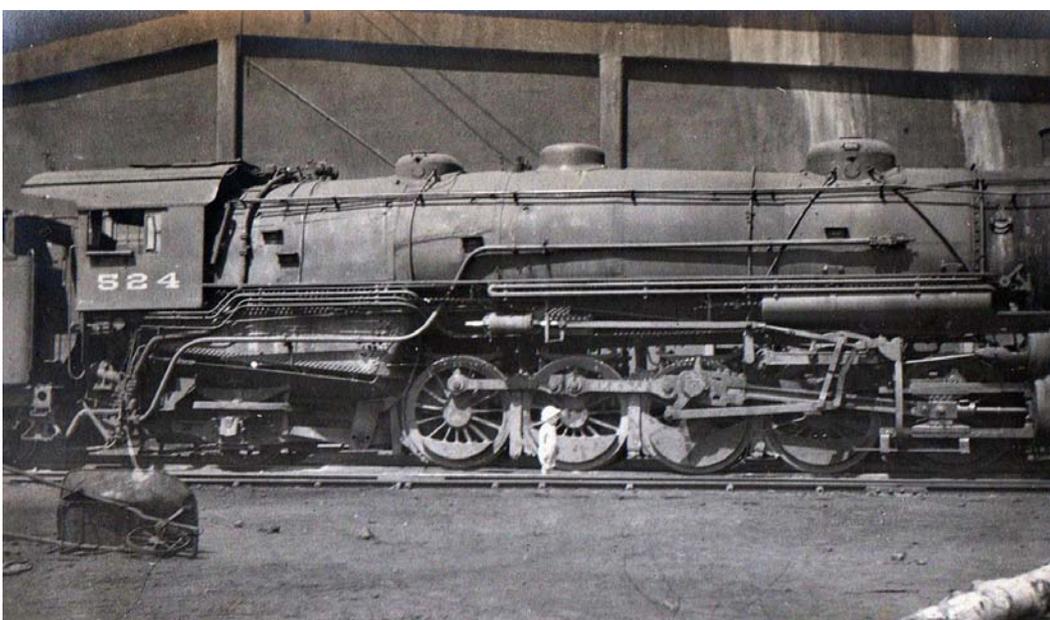


The large lot on which Samuel Goodwin had built his mid-nineteenth-century mansion house and carriage barn passed from him to his daughter, Mary. From Mary, it went to her daughter, Sara, and at Sara's death it went to Sara's brother, William. William left it to his son Gordon, and Gordon left it to his son, Lawrence. Along the way bits and pieces of the lot were sold off to help supply funds to keep up the main house and the converted carriage barn. Gordon was the last of the family to spend any amount of time living there—and that had ended with his father's death—but he couldn't bear to let go of a place so full of fond childhood memories. Managing the two-family main house and the former carriage house as rentals from his home in eastern Massachusetts was a constant chore and a drain on resources; his wife was known on at least one occasion to refer to the property as "that white elephant." It was no surprise when Lawrence finally chose to sell the houses outright in 2008 after decades of managing them from afar himself. When the property finally did sell, it was discovered that the deed had not been transferred through all those changes of ownership, and the chain of custody had to be retraced from Samuel through all the generations of heirs. Today the grand old house stands undervalued in a town in decline.



Above: Greenville house, c. 1893, with William Evans and "Tom," his sister, Sara's, pony, standing by the gazebo. Below: Front stairs of original section of Greenville house, c. 1900.





Above: Photos of the Greenville house, September, 2006, during my final visit before its sale. The lovely—and valuable—side-light panes visible in the older photos were stolen around 1970 when the house sat empty for a time.

Left: Photo from August, 1923, of Gordon next to Bessemer locomotive #524 in Greenville. He inherited the family love of trains, and they were his preferred mode of transportation for the rest of his life.

Next pages: Samuel Goodwin's will, written just over a week before his death.

LETTERS TESTAMENTARY.

Mercer County, ss:



By the tenor of these presents, I John N. Reznor
Register for the probate of Wills and granting Letters of Ad-
ministration in and for the county of Mercer, in the Common-
wealth of Pennsylvania, do make known unto all men, that
on the day of the date hereof, at Mercer, before me, was proved,
approved and insinuated, the last will and testament of
Samuel Goodwin late of
Mercer County Pa deceased, (a true
copy whereof is to these presents annexed,) having whilst he

lived at the time of his death. divers goods, chattels, rights and credits within the said Com-
monwealth, by reason whereof, the approbation and insinuation of the last will and testament,
and the committing the administration of all and singular the goods, chattels, rights and credits
which were of the said deceased, and also the auditing the accounts, calculations and reckon-
ings of the said administration, and the final dismissal from the same, to me are manifestly
known to belong, and that administration of all and singular the goods, chattels, rights and
credits of the said deceased any way concerning his last will and testament was committed to

La. R. Evans and Pembod Goodwin

in the same testament named they having been duly sworn well and
truly to administer the goods, chattels, rights and credits of the said deceased, and make a
true and perfect inventory thereof, and exhibit the same in the Register's office, at Mercer
aforesaid, within thirty days from the date hereof, and render a true and just calculation and
reckoning of the said administration within one year from the date hereof, or when thereto le-
gally required.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of said
office to be hereunto affixed. Dated at Mercer, the 29 day of September
A. D., 1876

J. N. Reznor
Register.

In the name of God amen
 I Samuel Goodwin of Greenville
 County of Merer and State of Penna.
 Gentleman being of sound and disposing
 mind and memory calling to mind
 the frailty and uncertainty of human
 life and being desirous of settling my
 worldly affairs and directing how
 the Estate with which it has pleased
 God to bless me shall be disposed of
 after my decease while I have strength
 and capacity so to do, do make declare
 and publish this my last will and
 testament hereby revoking all other
 last wills and testaments by me
 heretofore made; and first: I commit
 my immortal being to him who
 gave it, and my body to the Earth
 to be buried in a christian manner

First.

I direct my Executors to pay all
 my just debts and funeral
 expenses and the legacies hereinafter
 given out of my Estate

Second.

I give and bequeath unto my
 dear daughter Mrs. ^{Mary} Evans my
 Mansion House that I now occupy
 and lot together with all the
 appertunances therunto belonging

and bounded as follows to wit:
 On the North by John R. Packard's
 lot, East by Franklin Street, South
 by Harrison Street, and West by
 Mercer Street, Also my Mill
 Property and Grist-Mill bounded
 on the West by D. B. Packard or
 Little Shenango Creek, On the North
 by Little Shenango Creek and the
 Cemetery Lot, On the East by Strison
 and Reznor and N. S. Leekes' Lot
 and on the South along the creeks
 Bluff and the Bluff along the Mill
 Race, Also my Library and all my
 household furniture and Pianna Forte
 to have and to hold the same to her and
 her heirs and assigns forever

Third

I give and bequeath unto my
 daughter Mrs. Mary E. Evans the
 interest on Twenty five Thousand
 Dollars during her natural life and
 at her decease the above Twenty five
 Thousand Dollars I direct to be
 divided equally between her
 children and they to have and
 hold it at their disposal forever

Fourth

I give and bequeath unto my Brothers Lehabod, Joseph G. and Daniel R. Goodwin each One Thousand Dollars, and also I give and bequeath unto my Sister Hannah J. Keags and my Sister Sarah C. Hobbs and my Sister Olive J. Goodwin One Thousand Dollars each

Fifth

The residue of my property of whatever it may consist I direct that it be divided equally between all my nephews and nieces

Sixth

I nominate and appoint C. B. Evans and Lehabod Goodwin my Executors of this my last will and testament In witness whereof I have hereunto subscribed my name and affixed my seal to this my last will and testament the sixteenth day of September One Thousand eight hundred and seventy six

Samuel Goodwin

Signed, sealed delivered and published
 by said Samuel Goodwin as and
 for his last will and testament
 in presence of us who at his
 request and in his presence and
 in the presence of each other have
 subscribed our names as witnesses
 thereto this sixteenth day of
 September A. D. 1846

George J. Stevenson
 Emma Hubler



Items from Samuel Goodwin's daily life: His reading glasses and their engraved silver case, his seal with its wax imprint, and some of his engraved silverware.





Family plot, Maine, 2000