

[Springfield Centre, Otsego Co.]

SPRINGFIELD CENTRE

In looking over the names of those connected with the Shipman Machine Shops and Iron Foundry we think the only surviving members are Mr. T. F. Pier and L. F. Shipman of Buffalo. The death of Mr. Palmer recently occurring at the Springs and Mr. E. W. Wood lately at Fort Plain...

Regarding the Shipman Shops a resident here states that there was [sic] 250 men employed when the shops were doing business here. A part of the shops, after having been at Fort Plain a few years, removed to this village and did business here for a few years and then moved to Cohocton, Ohio, and a number of families moving there. During the prosperity of the Shipman Shops here every family who could took the shop hands to board. There was a large business done and great activity in our villages. The late O. [Oliver] N. Shipman was a prominent citizen and did much for this village, and he also did a large mercantile business. Many will remember the Cheap Cash and Barter Store which stood many years near the Shipman homestead. The loss of the Shipman Shops to this village was great and it was a loss for the Universalist church from which it never recovered. During that time there was a large and prosperous society and large Sunday school (the writer being one of its scholars). The late Rev. S. R. [Samuel Roland] Ward preached each Sunday to a large congregation. Since then services were only held at intervals excepting for a brief time when the Rev. Pecke preached there. This church was erected on the land which Mr. Shipman donated and he also gave a large sum towards the erection of the church and was one of its principal workers. This church was burned in 1898 and upon its site the beautiful Memorial Chapel was erected in the memory of Mrs. E. N. [Kitt Shipman] Catlin, who was a daughter of the late O. N. Shipman, by her husband, Mr. E. [Edwin] N. Catlin. Mrs. Catlin's last work was writing a tribute of the burning of the church which she, and also her entire family, was so interested, for the Mercury entitled "A Voice from the Ashes."

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