

Carr's Corners School
Town of Elmira
1863 to 1963
By: Scott W. Deming

As a result of my last article in the Town Talk I was asked by a reader if I would write an article on the Carr's Corners School house. It was located at the six (6) corners intersection of Hoffman Street, Bancroft Road, Hillcrest Road and West Hill Road (see attached map). Carr's Corners School was a two room school house located where Hillcrest Terrace Apartments are currently located. The school was built in 1863 with grades first through eighth being taught there. Over the 100 years of existence a great number of students attended school and graduated from there. It served the students from the northwest section of the Town of Elmira. In the US Census of 1870 Samuel Carr's 26 year old daughter Emily was listed as a schoolteacher. It is thought that she was probably a teacher at the school. The school shared the six corners with a grocery store, a blacksmith shop, a wagon shop and a farm once owned by Charles Heller at the current location of the Woodlawn Cemetery.

In an article in the Star Gazette from August of 2007 there was a reunion of over 100 former Carr's Corners students. It was organized by three sisters (Pat Huffman, Mary Anne Andrade and Eleanor Meagher) who had attended the school. Former students of all ages came from across the country for the reunion. They reminisced about what a great school it was and that all the students at the small school were like family. The school closed in 1963 after the consolidation of schools in the city of Elmira and the school house was torn down in 1965.

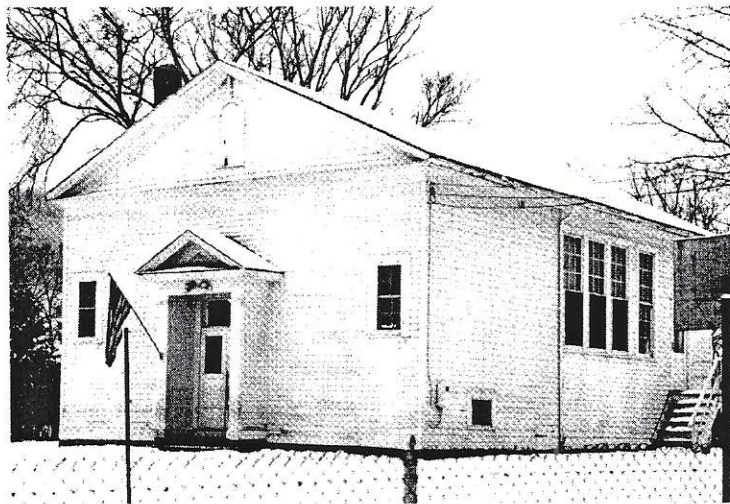
In researching the school I found that Carr's Corners was named after Samuel M. Carr, one of four Carr families to have resided in that area of the town/city. According to his obituary in the Elmira Telegram from January 7, 1894, Samuel was born in 1814 in Newburg, New York and at the age of nineteen moved to upstate New York. He first settled in Ithaca, New York and remained there for couple of years before moving to Elmira around 1835. His occupation was listed as a blacksmith in the census reports of 1860 & 1870 and a farmer in 1880. Samuel married the former Sarah Green in 1839 and remained married to her for 55 years until his death on January 5, 1894. Samuel and Sarah had nine children with three of the children dying young of typhoid fever in 1861. Samuel was a town collector and justice of the peace in the Town of Elmira for over 17 years. He was one of the charter members of the Elmira Farmers Club organized on December 14, 1869. The club was located on the west side of Hoffman Street several buildings south of the Carr's Corners intersection (see attached map).

LeGrand Carr, Samuel's son, had a home on the west side of Hoffman Street near Carr's Corners and the Elmira Farmers Club. He was employed by the city of Elmira and maintained the city street lamps. He filled them each morning with naphtha which was a petroleum based fuel oil and lit them each evening at dark. LeGrand died on Dec 24, 1934.

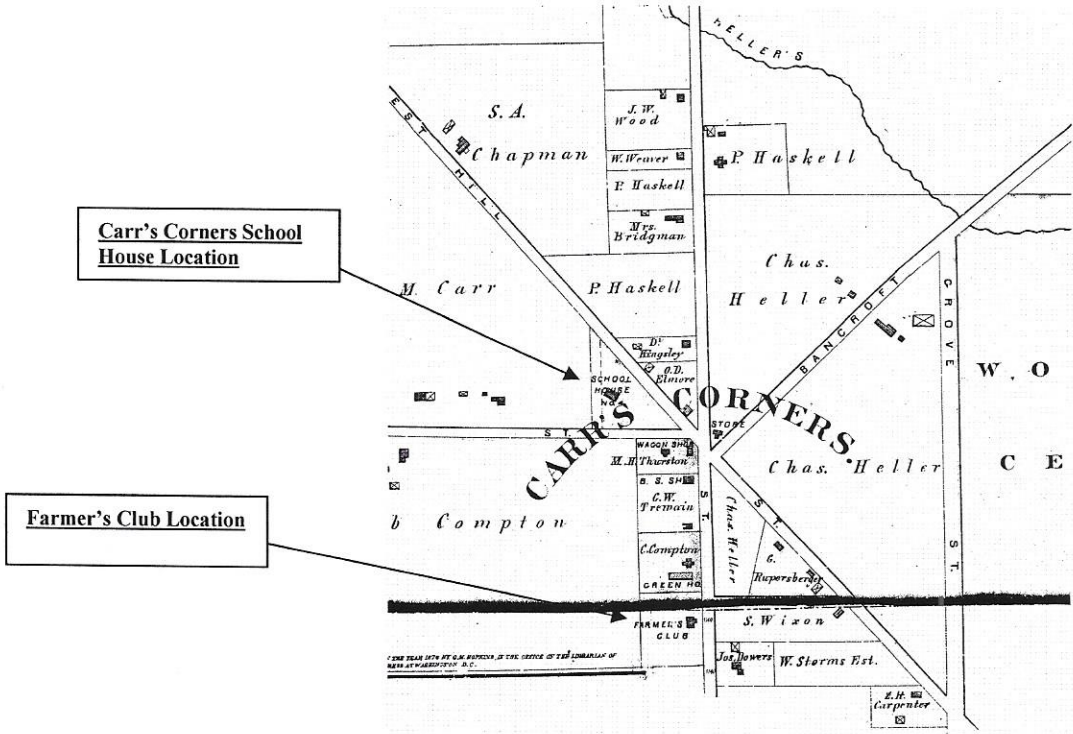
Although all of the original Carr families and the two room school house are now gone, the memories still live on through the families that lived in Carr's Corners area and the students who attended school there.

Information for this article was taken from the Steele Memorial Library in Elmira, New York, Chemung County 1890-1975 by Thomas Byrne, The Elmira City Atlas from 1876, Town of Elmira 1792-1992 by Thomas Byrne, various Star Gazette and Elmira Telegram newspaper articles and various internet websites.

Writer's Note: I continue to look for historic subjects (people, places, homes, historical events, old schools, family history, etc) about the Town of Elmira to write about. If you have any suggestions or information for future articles please e-mail them to me at demingsw@yahoo.com or call me at 607-732-1177.



**Carr's Corners School in the winter of 1958.
(Photo loaned by Star-Gazette)**



Map of Carr's Corners from the Elmira City Atlas of 1876



Picture of Samuel Carr from his obituary in the Elmira Telegram from January 7, 1894