

T.C. Hinch and his Portable Tailor Shop

By Bill Poray, Perinton Town Historian

The Cox shoe factory on Parce Avenue thrived for a few short years in the 1880s. Just around the on North Main Street, Thomas C. Hinch hung his shingle, and the neighborhood had a tailor. He had arrived from Macedon, where he learned the trade from John Acker, whose practice was to open his home to his apprentices. There Hinch lived until the Macedon Drill Works fell on hard times. There were too many tailors and not enough customers in Macedon, so Hinch came to Fairport, in search of men in need of tailored suits. He found them at the Cox Shoe factory, where men formed a club of sorts. Payments were made each week toward the purchase of a suit of clothes. "T.C. Hinch" delivered a suit every week, and the boys drew straws to see who would be the lucky recipient of the tailor's handiwork.

THE MONROE COUNTY MAIL,
THURSDAY, JUNE 12, 1919

T. C. HINCH
announces that he will take
care of all trade the same as
usual. Goods will be called
for and delivered. Call Bell
Phone at Jerrells Farm, or
leave goods with
HARRY VANDERPOOL
Shaw Block, West Avenue.

Over 45 years, the shop of T.C. Hinch moved so many times, it must have been difficult for customers to find him. First on North Main, then South Main, then on West Avenue, in too many buildings to mention. When he tired of paying rent for his shop, tailor Hinch hatched a plan. While living at 60 West Avenue, he arranged for his new workplace just a few steps away, in the backyard. As recalled in the Fairport Herald, "Mr. Hinch had a building erected in which he pursued his trade. It was a small one-story building, and there he cut, made and tailored clothing for a great many customers, besides doing repairs. Some years later they moved to the

Jerrells farm on the Macedon Center Road (on the corner of Hamilton Road), and the little portable tailor shop went with them. There, too, Mr. Hinch plied his trade. It was said that he continued to work in the little building as it was being moved along the highway, but be that as it may, Mr. Hinch could always be found in his place of business, ready to do the bidding of his customers.”

The tailor hired local mover Tom Hart to haul his shop here and there, and by 1925, the little building was on the move one last time. The tailor was now an elderly man, and after living several years with his daughter’s family on the Jerrells farm, they moved back to the village. The shop was picked up once more, and made the three mile journey to the backyard of 8 Hulburt Avenue, where T.C. Hinch continued his trade until his death in 1932. Reflecting on his 96 years, the Fairport Herald exclaimed, “...the tiny shop has seen some of the biggest problems of the country settled after bursts of oratory from local statesmen”. Not bad, for a little tailor shop that followed Hinch the tailor wherever he went.

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