



These men are engaged in a card game in one of the public rooms of what was at the time called Pritchard's Hotel in May of 1907 (according to the calendar on the wall).

Pritchard's Hotel was built by Cyrus Mallett, probably in 1826. It is said that he built his tavern, which is located on North Main Street just over the Lift Bridge in Fairport, in three days with the help of his friends. The tavern was an institution in Fairport from the earliest days of the canal and was originally known as Mallett's Tavern or perhaps the "Fair Lady of Fairport," so christened by Mallett as he broke a bottle of whiskey over the framework of the new building. The first floor had a bar, a parlor, a dining room, and one bedroom. The kitchen was in the basement. The second floor consisted of two bedrooms and a ballroom. Heating was by fireplaces, with the second floor benefitting from cracks in the floor through which some heat would rise.

Theron "Rudd" Pritchard purchased the tavern in 1862, hence the name Pritchard's Hotel. During his ownership, the tavern served both canal and railroad patrons and underwent significant renovations, including the installation of steam heat and the addition of a lobby. In the first decade of the 20th century, under the ownership of E.J. Cary, the tavern was remodeled again when the roof was raised, making the structure three stories high with a flat Italianate roof. By 1923, the property, then owned by Mark Millstone and subsequently named the "Millstone Block," had become storefront retail shops and upstairs apartments. It still stands at 9 North Main Street. The south façade which used to open to the Erie Canal is partly obscured by a cinderblock building, but when walking along the towpath it is possible to imagine the welcoming sight of a canal side tavern.