

ANOTHER TRIO OF FAIRPORT ENTREPRENEURS

John Zollman, George Holman, and A.M. Loomis all came to Fairport as young men and started a variety of successful businesses. All three men were merchants, Holman and Loomis selling coal and produce and Zollman selling a variety of farm implements and fertilizer.

John Zollman was born in Germany and emigrated to the United States with his parents in 1851, settling on a farm in Allegheny County. The land was unimproved and the family worked hard and endured hardships, but even without much money, they managed to clear the land and build a house. Zollman was able to attend school, albeit after a three mile walk.

The family came to Fairport in 1868 and purchased the John Swinerton farm on Marsh Road just west of Fairport. John married Amelia Westerman of Perinton in 1873 and moved to a farm east of the village where they lived until moving to 150 West Avenue in 1890. He and his wife had three daughters, Bertha, Ellen, and Alice. Zollman's business was handling agricultural implements and fertilizer and for a time before starting his own firm, he worked as an agent for the Milsom Fertilizer Company of Buffalo. In 1894 he opened his own store in the Chase Block (site of today's Village Landing), occupying one-half of the ground floor. He sold, in addition to farm implements, flour, seed, hay, and straw, and is said to have run a "prosperous business."

John Zollman was active in the Fairport community as a Mason, a member of the Grange, a founding member of the Fairport Protectives (a company of the Fairport Fire Department), and a member of the school board. He also served terms as town and village assessor.

George Holman came to Fairport in 1893 from Pittsford, Pennsylvania, to work at Efner and Company in the produce business. By 1898, he had bought out Mr. Efner's interest in the company and had expanded the business to be one of the largest produce firms in Fairport. He purchased the best quality farm produce and paid the highest market price according to an 1898 ad. Records from the 1890's indicated that he shipped over 150 train car loads of apples, potatoes, onions, and cabbage in at least one year. Not only did Holman sell produce and a variety of other goods such as Akron cement, Empire Portland cement, Crocker fertilizers, drain tile and brick, barrel salt and bulk salt, but he also sold Flint lumber wagons and advertised "buggies at \$50 each." Just as importantly, Holmes was the local agent for the "celebrated Lehigh Valley coal," which was said to be superior in quality. George and his wife Emily lived for many years on High Street near his place of business, but by 1925, the census record shows that they had moved to Fourth Avenue.

Arthur M. Loomis was another well-known produce and coal dealer in Fairport. He arrived in Fairport in 1878 from Coventry, Connecticut. He built his warehouse between the NYCRR tracks and Parce Avenue in 1882. Like Mr. Holman, he dealt in a variety of products including phosphates, cement, and sewer pipe. Loomis, however, was the agent for Plymouth Mine coal from the Pennsylvania Coal Company. It too was touted as a high quality coal and was exceptionally hard and "free-burning." Loomis, his wife Zaida and daughter Adelaide lived next to his business in a house that he built in 1887. Like his fellow purveyor of coal George Holman, Arthur and Zaida are listed as living on Fourth Avenue in the 1925 census.

While there are no local burial records for either the Holman or Zollman families, Arthur and Zaida along with an infant and a 3-year old are buried in Mt Pleasant Cemetery.