



## Fish House Hotel

One of my goals, in researching the Fish House Hotel, was to find out the exact date that the Fish House Hotel burned down and the reason. At the time of the printing of the August Echoes, that goal had not been met. Recently, the granddaughter of Martin Kelly, the owner of the Fish House Hotel at the time it burned, sent me an article with those facts. The article below is from the Amsterdam Evening Recorder, Friday, November 19, 1920.

Joanne Blaauboer

## Last Chance...

### to Buy a Fish House Sweatshirt or T-Shirt!!



This is our last breakfast for the 2017 season. If you were thinking of buying a sweatshirt or T-Shirt,,this is the time to do it! The T-Shirts this year are a navy blue with white lettering.

We also have pull over hoodies in pink camouflage. Stay warm this fall with one of our sweatshirts!

## Bottle Drive 2017

The bottle drive this summer has been very successful! Thank you to all who have dropped of their recyclable cans and bottles. We will continue accepting bottles/cans into the fall.



## Little Free Library



The library has been a popular destination for our local readers. Many people have borrowed books and have also donated books. The library will stay open until the end of October. It will reopen the end of May, 2018.

## 1892-1894....in the USA

The back of this Echoes is about a house in Fish House that was being built between 1892 and 1894. So what was happening in the USA during those years?

- 1892**, January 1 - Ellis Island opens
- January 20- the first official game of basketball is played in Springfield, MA
- April 15 -The General Electric Company is formed
- 1893** May1 - The World's Fair opens in Chicago
- May 5- The NY Stock Exchange collapses, resulting in a 4 year period of depression
- Nov. 7 - Women in Colorado are allowed to vote.
- 1894** March 12-Coca-Cola is sold in bottles for the first time
- April 14 - The first public showing of Thomas Edison's kinetoscope motion picture is held.
- June 24 -Decision to hold the Olympics every 4 years
- August 18 - Bureau of Immigration is formed

## **KELLY'S HOTEL AT FISH HOUSE BURNED**

### **Northampton Hostelry Well Known in Years Past is Destroyed by Fire...**

Kelly's hotel, commonly known as the Fish House, at Northampton, owned by Martin Kelly, caught fire from an overheated stove early Thursday morning and burned to the ground. The structure is a total loss, only three chairs and a few blankets being saved.

The fire started in the dining room. The pipe leading from the stove through the ceiling became over heated and set fire to the ceiling. From the dining room the fire spread with rapidity, and the two-story frame structure went like tinder. Some time ago Mr. Kelly turned his former barroom into a general store. This was consumed by the flames so rapidly that it was impossible to save even the cash register.

Mr. Kelly, the proprietor, is in Montana, visiting his brother. His two sons, John and Martin Kelly, Jr., were in charge of the hostelry.

Owing to the prompt work of volunteers, the adjoining buildings were not damaged by the blaze.

## The Story of a House

Just across the street from the Fish House Community Center is a house owned by the Neri's. It looks to be in the style of a Queen Ann Victorian. According to the maps, it was built around the turn of the century. Other than those facts, I had not researched the house, but then I received an email from an author who is doing research on houses that were designed by George Franklin Barber. The author was gathering information to prove that this little Queen Ann house was designed by Barber. He told me that if we had a house in Fish House that was designed by this architect, then it would be "quite a feather in our hat" for Fish House. The author was kind enough to send me what information he had gathered so far.

Below is information on George F. Barber, according to Wikipedia.

### **George Franklin Barber**

(July 31, 1854 – February 17, 1915) was an American architect best known for his residential designs, which he marketed worldwide through a series of mail-

order catalogs. One of the most successful domestic architects of the late [Victorian](#) period in the United States,<sup>[4]</sup> Barber's plans were used for houses in all 50 U.S. states, and in nations as far away as Japan and the Philippines.<sup>[4]</sup> Over four dozen Barber houses are individually listed on the [National Register of Historic Places](#), and several dozen more are listed as part of historic districts.<sup>[5]</sup>



Below is a letter of appreciation that was written by Mahlon Van Duzen to George F. Barber. This letter was printed in one of George F. Barber's pattern books.

NORTHAMPTON, N. Y., April 25, 1892.

*Messrs. Geo. F. Barber & Co.:*

GENTS—Am at present putting up my house according to the plans furnished by you. Am well pleased with the plans and think that for beauty, proportions and arrangement of the rooms, they cannot be excelled. My carpenter says they are the nearest correct of any plans he ever worked after.

Yours respectfully,

M. VAN DUZEN.

### **Mahlon Van Duzen**

After much research, the facts on Van Duzen remain slim. He was born on August 3, 1859 in Illinois. In 1890 Van Duzen moved to this area to work as a farmer for Robert Humphrey. VanDuzen bought the property from Antoinette Benedict for \$800 on May 22, 1890 and two years later he started construction on his house. VanDuzen wrote the above letter of appreciation to George Barber in 1892. In the letter above, he mentions his carpenter. It is quite possible that that carpenter was Davis Harland Anderson, who built several houses in Fish House during that time. Anderson also lived in Fish House.

The Fulton County tax records state that this house was built in 1904, but that is questionable since it was started around 1892 and Van Duzen married his wife, Lavinia in 1894. So the assumption could be made that the house was finished by 1894.



The drawing to the left was done by George F. Barber. This particular house, in the mail-order catalogue, is referred to as Design 41.

Pictured at right is the Neri house. Please study the roof line similarities (including the porch) to the Design 41 above.



The parcel of land on which this house sits changed owners many times. But in 1930, Catherine Seeley and her husband, Charles Seeley purchased the land from James Bennet and it has been in the Seeley family since then.