

## **May - July 2023**

### **Friends we have lost:**

Chester "Chet" W. Steinke October 10, 1945 – July 3, 2023 (77 y/o)

Marcia Jean Woodman March 20, 1933 – May 27 2023 (90 y/o)

MaryBeth Allen June 26, 1942 – May 29, 2023 (80 y/o)

Mary Elizabeth Jobst January 24, 1959 – May 7, 2023 (64 y/o)

### ***From the pen of Sue Simonson:***

Ever wonder how Bauman Park came into existence? Well... maybe not a pressing question in your life but ever since I joined the Cherry Valley Historical Society....questions like this pop up in my mind (and many other) all the time. I am aware that most of you who get this newsletter are lifetime residents so most likely you were here when it came to fruition.

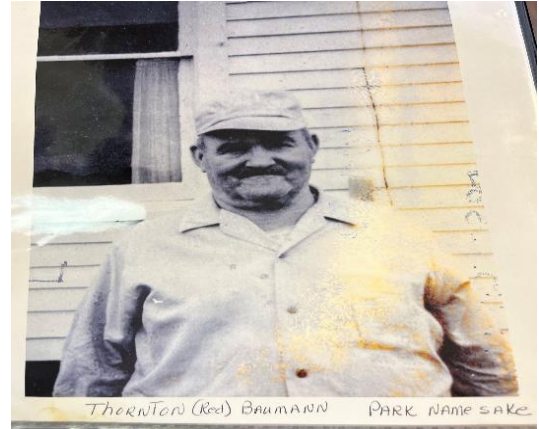
A looking through a small cardboard box with the lot of vintage postcards, while sitting on the "Liar's Bench" in the CV Historical Society building was the catalyst for this story. After reading through several postcards I realized that over half of them belonged to the Baumann family. I do know some information about Baumann Park and the lake and here is more of the story.

Casper and Susie McKenney Baumann were married August of 1888. They arrived in Cherry Valley before their first born son, Theodore Andrew, was born in March 1889. Thornton Scott, their second and last child, joined the family in April of 1895.

Susie's parents had moved to Cherry Valley from Mendota in 1882. Casper's parents were Andrew and Cresz Bauman from Morris, Illinois. Many of the postcards reviewed were addressed to Theodore, who went to the University of Illinois, circa 1909 – 1913, and became a doctor in June of 1916. He married Mabel Ida Prentice at Trinity Lutheran Church just hours after she graduated from the Rockford Hospital Training School for Nurses. They also had two children, Winfield Prentice and Susie May. Theo or "Ted) and his family started living in Cherry Valley but lived mostly in Rockford, and in later years the family moved to Ft. Myers, in Florida. Theo passed away in August of 1964 and Mabel died shortly after in December of 1965. They are buried in the Cherry Valley Cemetery.

History has it that Thornton Scott Baumann, lived a completely different life than his older brother. He stayed in Cherry Valley and looked after his parents. Casper passed away in June of 1937 and his mother Susie died November 1949. Thornton only completed one year of high school, according to the 1920 census. Below is a copy of his WWI draft registration. When he registered for the WWI draft, his occupation was listed as “knitter” and he worked for Burson’s Knitting Company. He served in the U.S. Navy during WWI.

REGISTRATION CARD 1727670  
 Name: Thornton Scott Baumann  
 Address: Cherry Valley, New York  
 Date of Birth: April 24, 1898  
 Occupation: Knitter  
 Registrar's Report: R. H. [Signature] June 24, 1917



Thornton never married or had any children of his own. I don't really know what happened from the time his mother passed away until when he passed away in 1971. He did have an employee Frieda Austin and he left her with some of his land south of Genoa Street and donated the other property to the village. Mrs. Austin sold her land to the village in the mid 1970's.

An article from the Belvidere Daily Republican dated October 22, 1975 documented that the CV Village Board approved the purchase of a 90 acre tract of land south of the park as an addition. At a total cost of \$64,000.



Another successful 4<sup>th</sup> of July Cherry Valley Historical society parade float. Our theme this year was “A Salute to Cherry Valley Sweet Shops”. Highlighting Oberg’s, Chas. Robinson’s and Dally’s as our past confectionery entrepreneur’s. Thanks to everyone who worked so hard on the float. A big thanks to Jill Tryggestad’s grandchildren, Maggie and Marshall for being our capable soda jerks.



Our **featured home** is at 6151 River Road in Cherry Valley. Grandpa Fred Shirley is probably in the first photo. Lewis Shirley lived in Flora Township and married Lucinda Keith in 1842. They had six children: Silas W., George Benjamin, Lewis E. Elizabeth, Lucretia and Jane. This home was built in 1878 by Lewis Shirley. George BENJAMIN Shirley was father to Fred and Roxsey. Fred Shirley married Mary Harrison and they had a son also named George Benjamin. Fred (DOD 1959), Mary (DOD 1966) and Roxsey (DOD 1968) lived in this house until Roxsey's death in 1968.

George Benjamin Shirley, one of the sons of Lewis Shirley, married Nellie Whitmore. They were the parents of Fred Shirley (married Mary E Harrison in 1909) and were the grandparents of the George Shirley who lived in the house at 6331 River Road

George Shirley married Ellen LeVoy and their family consisted of Cheryl and MaryEllen. They lived in the home just south at 6331 River Road (built in 1952). The home was empty from 1968 until MaryEllen and her family moved into the farmhouse in 1976. Mary's son Kevin now lives at the 6331 home. To keep the area "all in the family", Cheryl and family lives down the road off of Sweeney Road. The home is getting a face lift and the second picture shows MaryEllen and Cheryl at the side of the house.


The farm house has 15 rooms. The upstairs is divided into two separate living areas. They feel that the second floor probably housed farm hands at one time. For some reason the front portion of the second floor was more ornate than the back portion.

This home may have been one of the first rural homes with carbide gas lights used inside. There was a large tank with a piston that would cycle when weight was put into the tank. This created pressure to form gas that would run the carbide gas lights in the house. Calcium carbide pellets were placed in a container outside the home and with water piped to the container and allowed to drip on the pellets, released acetylene. This gas was piped to lighting fixtures inside the house and created a bright flame.

A big thank you to Cheryl Slartman and MaryEllen Shirley for the above information, that was very interesting (and sometime confusing) to me

.Current CV Historical Newsletter by Pat Stegemann. We welcome any and all Cherry Valley history articles and thoughts for our newsletters. Stgmap3@yahoo.com.

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Serving the Cherry Valley Area

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