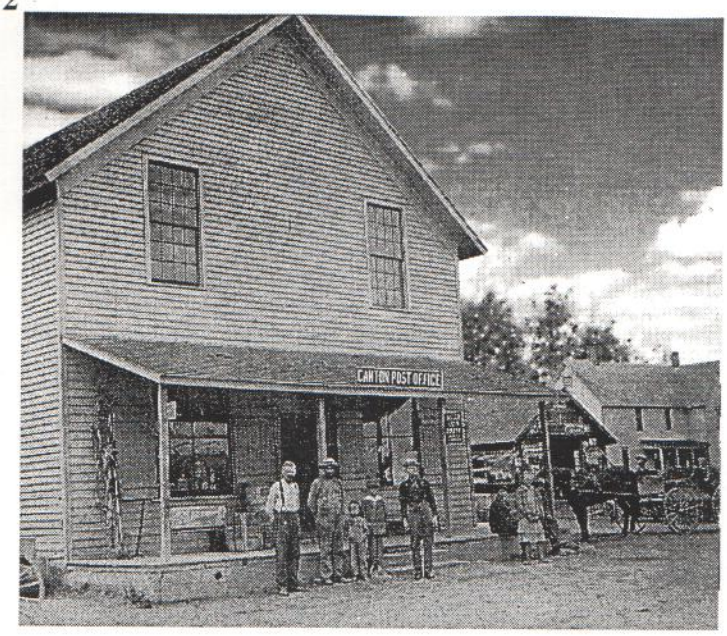

Dear Charles,

It may amuse you to read that when I first received the Nov-Dec issue of the News, I was bothered by the cover picture. In the first place, I doubted that there was a "Canton Post Office" so long ago as "around 1900". I thought that "Canton" didn't come into use as a post office address until "modern times" - say, in the '70s or 80s. Secondly, the building in the picture looked very much like the Sheldon general store I remember from my childhood,- say, the late 'teens or early '20s.

I have done considerable research into Michigan ghost towns, so such matters are of keen interest to me...

It turns out that I was wrong on my first point and correct on the second point. The building in the picture is/was indeed in the hamlet you and I know as Sheldon, and that building housed a post office called "Canton Post Office" for a brief period long before 1900, -from January 24, 1852 to March 1857 to be exact, with Asa Parrish as the first postmaster. I got this latter data from Romig's Michigan Place Names, and he cites Burton; GSM 1865-73; PO Archives.

Which all goes to show that we're never to old to learn ...

Best regards

A. W. Schrader

I received your letter with great interest as I know you have a great deal of knowledge about this part of Canton.

It is ironic that Romig's Michigan Place Names,tells us to "see Sheldon" under the Canton heading. You were so correct in pointing out that this was the general store in what was known as Sheldon. The full photo, upper left, was listed as Sheldon about 1901. Unfortunately the bustling hamlet of Sheldon doesn't exist but only in our hearts. What was the center of activity in this part of Canton with two general stores, a blacksmith shop, an Inn, and school along with several churchs, is now only a traffic signal at that corner with a historic sign that mentions "Sheldon Corners". Most of the remaining natives still say they are from Sheldon when asked where they live. With all the growth that we have in Canton it is hard for the new people to know that this was a center of activity and that Geddes Road was one of the first territorial roads which started at Sheldon and went west. If I didn't already know about Sheldon I could not have guessed this was possible from what is here now.

I appreciate the feedback and will try to put the proper names under the photo's. I must remember that Sheldon is more then a memory. Thanks again Al.

Membership Application

Yes, I would like to become a member of the Canton Historical Society. Please complete this form and send $10.00 to: Canton Historical Society, P.O.Box 87362, Canton, MI 48187-0362

Name _____ Phone _____

Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

You don't have to be a lifelong resident to join, just an interest in history and the desire to preserve it.

Thank you