

Blickley Block Research

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This research was done as part of the Civic Studio project in Creston.

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- The Rock Shop and the whole building was known from 1911 (and probably earlier) as Blickley Block. The street numbers back then were 263, 265 and 267. they then switched in 1912 to the present day numbering system (1515-1519 both odd and even numbers)
- The apartments were subdivided sometime between 1912 and 1917 and came to incorporate half numbers too. From the number of people that lived at 1517 1/2 it seems that that number refers to the whole floor above the shop fronts.
- I am interested in a woman named Elizabeth L. Mills who lived at 1519 between 1908-12 and then at 1517 1/2 until sometime before 1925. (She is the longest consistent tenant) She was a dressmaker and a widow of Charles W Mills.
- 1905 she was a housekeeper at 281 Flat str.
- By 1925 she was living at 1371 Plainfield.
- From 1929 until 1941 she is listed at 1545 Queen Av NE which is the street that runs parallel behind Plainfield.
- Her deceased husband Charles W, (if the records were correct), was born around 1815 and died around 1892.
- In 1882-3 he was a partner in Mills and Lacey manufacturing/ druggists making embalming fluid
- He boarded at the Sweets, (address listed as 209 S Division). By 1903 the company was still listed under the same name, (its possible he had died by this time).
- Elizabeth had a daughter (possibly), and there is a possible residence for her at the age of around 11. I also found information on Charles W Mills' parents with dates for both about birth, race (white) occupation and property ect. Also a possibility that Elizabeths maiden name was Bartlett.

Blickley Block: List of Inhabitants

This list is a complete record of the inhabitants of Blickley Block, now known as 1515-1519 Plainfield, Creston. Compiled from the Grand Rapids public records, the residents from 1911-1925 are listed. Through hours of research these names have become extremely familiar, and with only factual information to go on, it's inevitable that the imagination fills in the gaps. If any of these names are familiar to you or you have any information / stories regarding these people, please take the time to fill in a card detailing this information. Thank you for your time.

Blickley Block List of Inhabitants from 1911-1925

Myron E Spencer	1911-1917
Louis S Gothiea	1911-1912
Lillian A Higgins	1911
Carric C Reynolds	1911-1919
Pastoor Bros	1911
Wilbur F Lyon	1911
Elizabeth L Mills	1911-1922
Aburton Babcock	1912-1919
Joseph J Frost	1912
Ray L Darnell	1912
Bertha M Gregory	1912
Frank Johnson	1912
Nettie Dennison	1912
Jacob M Hage	1917
Marie M Hage	1919
Harry J Hage	1922
Martin F StJohn	1917
Grace Townsend	1917
George D Crites	1919-1922
Frank Harvey	1919
Louise Linkfield	1919-1922
Thomas W Potts	1919
James Elve	1919
Charles G Sandahl	1922
Hattie W Clark	1922-1925
Elizabeth Hunter	1922
Clarence Teeple	1922
Eleazer S McIntre	1922-1925
Adrian D Young	1922-1925
Sandy De Young	1925
Grace De Young	1925
Decatur H Rowley	1925
Joseph Winegarden	1925
Hattie Shaw	1925
Arth Kiehle	1925
Boyd Rosendahl	1925

These tables are compiled from the Grand Rapids public records and show the inhabitants and proprietors of the building then known as Blickley Block, 1515-1519 (263-267) Plainfield, Creston. Where available, occupations and additional properties are also listed.

1911

RES. NUMBER	LAST NAME	FIRST, INITIAL	OCCUPATION	ADDITIONAL INFO
(263)1515	Spencer	Myron E	tailor	
(265)1517	Gothiea	Louis S	Finisher	
	Higgins	Lillian A	Milliner	
	Reynolds	Carrie (mrs)		
(267)1519	Pastoor	Bros	meats	Bene,John W, Herman, Cornelius, Gerard
	Lyon	Wilbur F	confectioner	h.611 N Coit av
	Mills	Elizabeth	dressmaker	Wid.Charles W

1912

RES. NUMBER	LAST NAME	FIRST, INITIAL	OCCUPATION	ADDITIONAL INFO
1515	Spencer	Myron E	tailor	
1516	Babcock	Aburton	feed	h.1346 Plainfield
	Frost	Joseph J	grocer	h.1504-12 Plainfield
1517	Darnell	Ray L		
	Gothiea	Louis S	Finisher	
	Gregory	Bertha M (mrs)	milliner	Wid.Harry L
	Johnson	Frank		
	Reynolds	Carrie (mrs)		
1519	Dennison	Nettie		r.Ray O Bookkeeper
	Mills	Elizabeth L	dressmaker	Wid.Charles W

1917

RES. NUMBER	LAST NAME	FIRST, INITIAL	OCCUPATION	ADDITIONAL INFO
1515	Vacant			
1517	Hage	Jacob M		h.135 Knapp
1517 1/2	Spencer	Myron E	tailor	
	Mills	Elizabeth L	dressmaker	Wid.Charles W
	Burton	Steven C	machinist	
	St. John	Martin F		
1516	Babcock	Aburton	feed	h.234 Dale NE
1516 1/2	Townsend	Grace (mrs)	Clerk	
1519	The Creston News			

1919

RES. NUMBER	LAST NAME	FIRST, INITIAL	OCCUPATION	ADDITIONAL INFO
1515	Vacant			
1516	Babcock	Aburton	feed	
1516 1/2	Vacant			
1517	Hage	Marie M		Wid. Jacob h.135 Knapp
1517 1/2	Crties	George D	forman	Board of education
	Harvey	Frank	Labourer	
	Hunter	Elizabeth (mrs)		Wid. Benjamin
	Linkfield	Louise (mrs)		
	Mills	Elizabeth L	dressmaker	Wid.Charles W
	Potts	Thomas W	boilermaker	w.Gertrude A
	Reynolds	Carrie C		
1519	Elve	James	upholsterer	h.918 Lafayette

1922

RES. NUMBER	LAST NAME	FIRST, INITIAL	OCCUPATION	ADDITIONAL INFO
1515	Vacant			
1516	Creston grain Market			
1516 1/2	Sandahl	Charles G		
1517	Hage	Harry J		h.917 Sheridan
1517 1/2	Crites	George D	forman	Board of education
	Clark	Hattie W (mrs)		
	Hunter	Elizabeth (mrs)		Wid. Benjamin
	Linkfield	Louise (mrs)		
	Mills	Elizabeth L	dressmaker	Wid.Charles W
	Teeple	Clarence		
	McIntre	Eleazer S		
1519	Young	Adrian D	confectioner	

1925

RES. NUMBER	LAST NAME	FIRST, INITIAL	OCCUPATION	ADDITIONAL INFO
1515 + 17	Vander Broek hardware and specialty Co.			
1516	Creston Theatre			
	Mi Lady beauty shoppe			
1517 1/2	Clark	Hattie W (mrs)		
	Rowley	Decatur H		
	McIntre	Eleazer S		
	Winegarden	Joseph		
	Shaw	Hattie (mrs)		
	Kiehle	Arth		
	Rosendall	Boyd		
1518	Theatre sweet shoppe			
1519	De Young	Adrian Sandy	Manufacturer	
	De Young	Grace (mrs)	confectioner	

POINTS OF INTEREST FOR FURTHER RESEARCH?

- Rock Shop vacant for around 8 years
- 1917 Jacob Hage listed, later his wife Marie (widowed) then presumably son HarryJ . all had (teas) next to names. What does this stand for??
- Vanderbroek Hardware. Vanderbroek is written just below the roof of the building.
- Creston grain market, theatre and news. Community supplying its own needs?
- 1922 Adrian D young, later Adrian Sandy De Young (both confectioners, presumably same guy) and his wife/sister? Grace De Young. Possible relationship between the De Youngs and Theatre Sweet Shoppe?
- Was the theatre sweet shoppe linked to the cinema opposite the rock shop?
- Aburton Babcock. Success of grain business can be traced through his later acquiring a large ad in the records book, and extra properties.
- George D Crites was Forman on the board of education, Probably a school on Plainfield. School records??