

The Ralph W. Shattuck Company Store by Georgiana Homer March 28, 1921 Acc.1921.14.3

Mr. Ralph W Shattuck came to Arlington in 1856 and rented the double house next to Rawson's flower store in Broadway. He was a native of Pepperell and learned his trade in (Waltham....?) coming from to latter town line. He bought from Mr. Wallace to a good will and building of a hardware store, standing on the western side of Mass Ave. Where to brick block now stands, just below to railroad track. I do not remember the store, but I do remember the old swan house with its door sell below the level of two street and the three cornered building which stood next to the street. This building came within these inches of being wide swiped the day of the bicentennial celebration of the battle of Lexington. A long train heavily ladder with passengers standing in the aisles and in the platforms, writing this on a seat even sitting on to rug of the car, got away from control above the street and came dashing down through the towns with a roar like thunder, made the leap across the avenue, just knowing that it have reached into a corner as this saying goes the train was not brought under control till it reached the marshes below Lake Street. The house later was moved into Mystic Street and is now occupied by (J? Talians....

In 1861, there was a fire in the easterly side of the avenue which burned from the corner of Medford St. inquire Russell property, which occupied all the land from the present Shattuck store to Mystic St. the old house still stands, but is incorporated into the block which now stands in that property. Here were to dwelling houses consumed beside the store in the corner of Medford St. in one of these in which Mr. Benjamin Poland lived, one of Arlington old time native citizen. He afterwards bought the property on Pleasant Street, now owned by Dr. Stickney. Mr. Shattuck, after this fire, thinking the outer side of the avenue a better business location. Bought the land and moved into the store where it stands today. Later Mr. Shattuck bought a piece of the land below Franklin St. into Avenue and built a resident house where his widow and daughter still reside.

Mr. Shattuck earned hardware works and plumbing supplies. For his employment where Mr. Sylvester Stickney, Mr. Eugene Nates, and Alfred Knowles who learned their trade in the store. Later Mr. Knowles set into for himself. Mr. Stickney and Mr. Waters also joined the partnership and turn a store into Swan brick block across the street. Mr. Stickney died after a few years but his son Lewis carrying onto the business for a time, but finally gave it up and turned (I into a more congenial pursuits.

In 1895 Mr. Charles Stevens who was familiar in this certain retail business, having previously married Mr. Shattuck's daughter. Mr. Shattuck died in 1907. Mr. Stevens then assessing entire control of the business. After a time be gave up the plumbing part, Mr. Frank Russell taking charge of it which he still carries on, his work speaking for itself. This store which its first one spoken of this evening is still an enterprising reliable business house of sixty five years standing and we trust may continue to save the people of this town for many years to evolve. Mr. Stevens is well known as an interested active buyer citizen of this town always ready to do his part is any effort that promotes its welfare and welfare and good name within its border and end without.

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