

Town of Morristown, NY

Brier Hill, Morristown, Black Lake

Notes from Jo Anne Marcelletta



Here's a nice picture of Royal Phillip's store in Edwardsville, most probably taken in 1901 after first opening.

Royal was born in Edwardsville in 1878. He went to school here and then attended college in Minnesota studying business. Upon his return home in 1900, he began a grocery wagon (which was like a peddler) and was said to be doing "big business," but this entrepreneur had bigger dreams.

In 1901 he started a new grocery in this building, which was kitty-cornered from H. Perry's Lake View Hotel. Mr. Perry also just happened to have a lovely daughter named Serene who became Royal's wife.

Interestingly, Henry Perry's brother ran the hotel in Pope Mills and the former McLear's House in Rossie. These men were thinking ahead to the boom in their area from the proposed bridge to be built across the lake as opposed to the ferry. Sadly though, the owner of the store in Edwardsville that was directly across from the hotel and next-door to Royal's was Mr. Butterick's. He was the man who caused the fire and explosion to his own store, leveled Perry's hotel, wiped out the post office and telephone exchange and badly damaged Phillip's in 1912.

Of course these men rebounded and rebuilt, proving the resilience and strength of Black Lake's people.

You can find more photos and stories on the Morristown NY History Facebook page.