

Fourth Home: Cole's Drug Store #1



In 1885, the library moved to Cole's Drug Store, which was located at the time in the little building on the left in this photo.

This building, and the Greek Revival next to it (the Davis House), were where Peck's Market parking lot is today.

The little building was situated on the right-of-way for a tailor, Alfred Brush, who lived in the old log house behind Peck's (the Graham-Brush House, now owned by the Little Nine Partners Historical Society), beginning in 1829. He probably used this building for his shop because it fronted onto the road. Brush's widow lived here until her death in 1875.

In preparation for the move into the drug store, the library was briefly closed, and the books were "examined, and arrangements made for a more perfect system of management of the library".

A drug store may seem every bit an unusual place for a library as a bar, but the owner of the business, Clarissa Cole, became involved with the library around this time. The pharmacy was started around 1880 when her husband, Dr. Charles Cole, became too ill from tuberculosis to continue his medical practice. After he died in 1884 aged only 34, Mrs. Cole, having learned much of the business through observation, decided to go on to pharmacy school with two local doctors filling prescriptions until she got her license. One has to admire the fortitude of this young woman: a single mother running her own business AND going to school would be a difficult undertaking now, let alone in the mid-1880s. Add to that a library's responsibilities.

While Mr. Eno was appointed the librarian by the town, he hired Mrs. Cole to oversee the day to day operation of the library and put himself in charge of ordering the books and managing the finances. Her salary was probably not much, and we can assume she did it more out of love for the library, or perhaps she just found it hard to say "no" when asked. At any rate, after a few years she assumed the title of librarian and Mr. Eno became the "superintendent".

The library remained in this location until about 1887, when Mrs. Cole moved it and the drug store to her residence on South Main Street. In 1911 the little building became the print shop for *The Pine Plains Herald*, where it remained until 1926 when that newspaper merged with *The Pine Plains Register*. The last occupant was a nurse from the Dutchess County Health Association. Both buildings in the photo were demolished in 1963 to put in a Grand Union store (the current Peck's Market building).