



photo: Daily Herald 10/24/2007

History of the Glen Ellyn Horse Trough

Long a beloved symbol of the village, the charming, cast iron trough was donated to Glen Ellyn in 1907 by William C. Newton to provide water for horses and dogs on the town's main street. (Two lower bowls along the bottom of the central trough filled with water for dogs!) William Newton was the son of Dr. Lewey Quitterfield Newton, one of Glen Ellyn's earliest settlers and the town's first doctor. Dr. Newton's farm and home, just south of the Stacy homestead, covered what is now the downtown of the Village. One might say that Dr. Newton was Glen Ellyn's first village planner. Convinced that a viable town could grow here if it had a stop on the new railway, in

1848 he sold a right-of-way through his property for this purpose, and built a depot and water tank at his own expense. The stop was named Newton Station until it was changed to Danby in 1851. His son, William C. Newton continued farming in the area and was a prominent and well-liked business man. He carried on his father's dedication to the community, serving on the earliest Village Board, which held its first meeting on August 1, 1882 in the train depot. William and his wife built a home at 564 Main in 1891. The house burned to the



Early photo: Horse trough with winter protection, looking east on Crescent Ave.*

ground in the winter of 1904, in a fire set by an arsonist, and was rebuilt that summer. (It was plaqued by the Glen Ellyn Historical Society in 1993.) In 1920,

he deeded land to the village at the northwest corner of Main and Pennsylvania, the former site of the family homestead, for the purpose of the construction of a village hall or other buildings. The property was eventually used for a new fire station and, later, a municipal parking lot.



William Casper Newton*
(1842 – 1920)

*Vintage photos from *Glen Ellyn a Village Remembered* by Bob Chambers and Helen Ward