



Williamson History Machine

Williamson's History



Like Pultneyville, Williamson started as part of the Phelps and Gorham Purchase.

So how this place came to be named Williamson?

- Well let's tell a short story shall we. As you know, we were once part of a large parcel of land called the Phelps and Gorham Purchase. But let's face it, all of Central New York is a lot for any real estate agent. (6,000,000 acres)
 - So Phelps and Gorham sold off chunks to other speculators, one of whom was Charles Williamson.
 - The first known white settler was Daniel Russell who built a cabin in what is now Pultneyville in 1794. Pultneyville became a thriving port on the southern shore of Lake Ontario. However, after the Erie Canal was finished to our south more trade went that way. You have to understand that land travel was slow and dangerous. Water travel at the time was faster, safer, and cheaper. Even with the canal, Pultneyville thrived well into the 1800's.
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Now the hard part to hear...

- Believe it or not, Williamson was once part of the town of Sodus. We separated as a result of petitions to the state legislature. They passed legislation to make us a separate town in 1802.
 - Another fun fact. If you are new to the town you may not know that we were a dry town (that's right) no alcohol was sold here until 2004.
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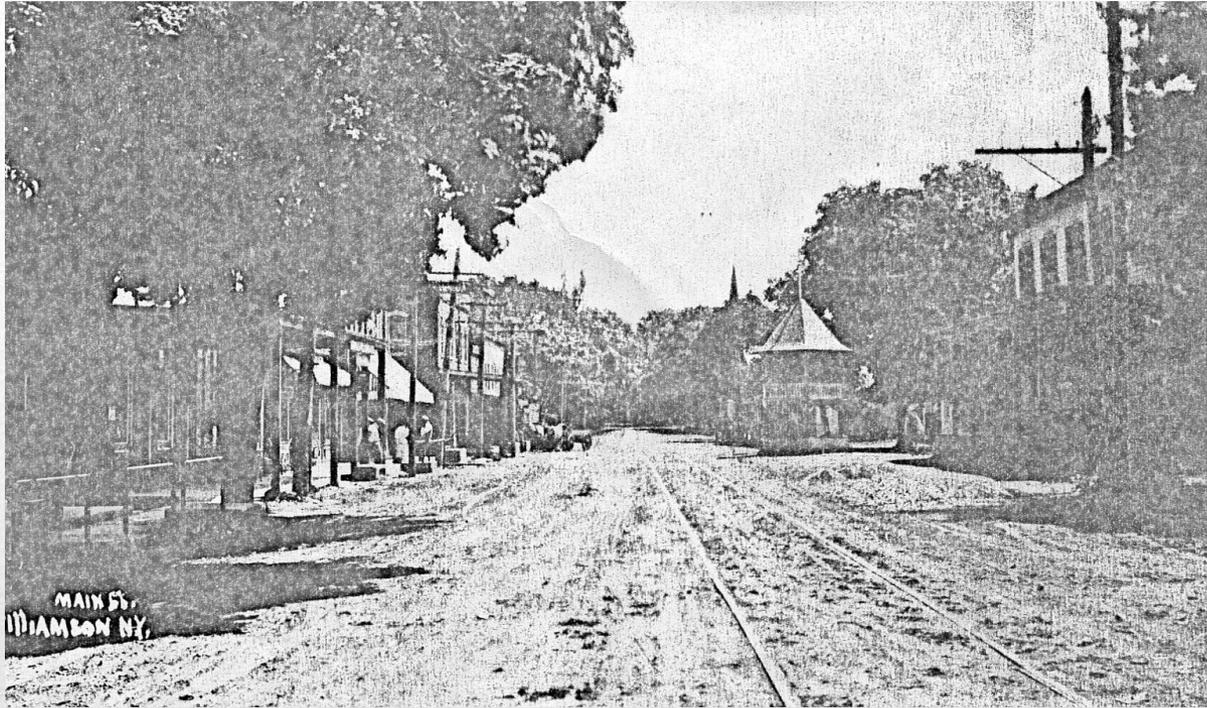
Aerial View of Williamson



Random Dwelling

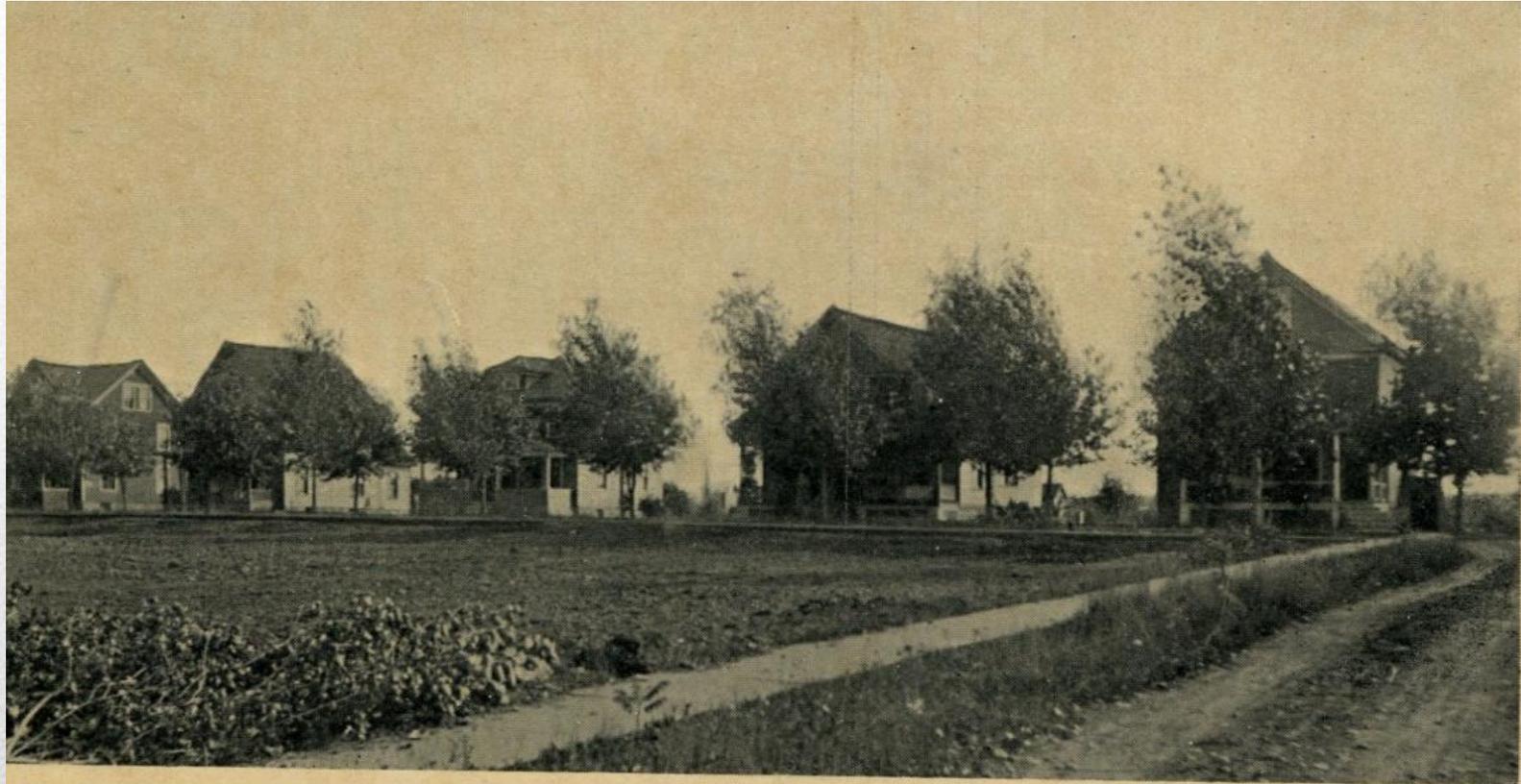


**Williamson/Pultneyville
Historical Society**



Main Street Williamson

Note the cable car tracks and the band shell where King's Automotive would now be.

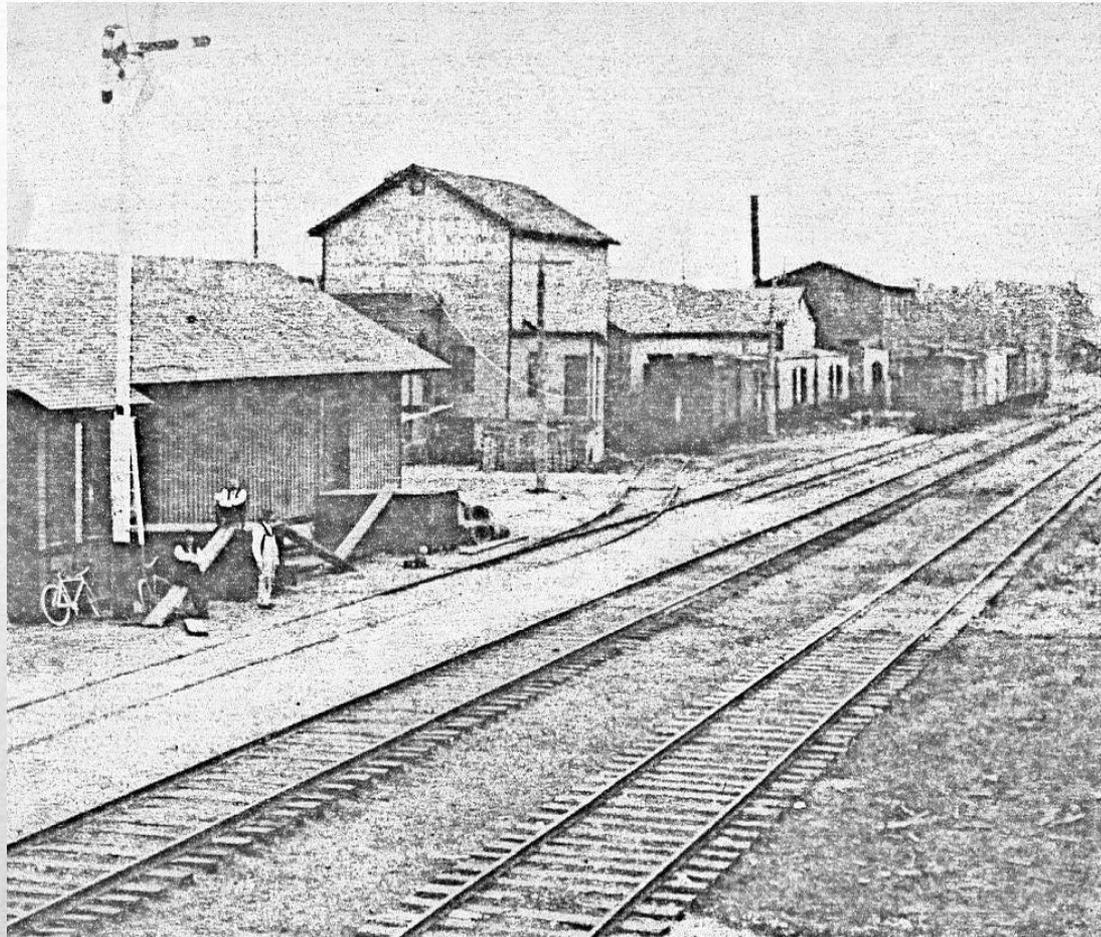


OLD RIDGE STREET, Williamson, N. Y.

Old Ridge Street Williamson, NY @ early 1900's



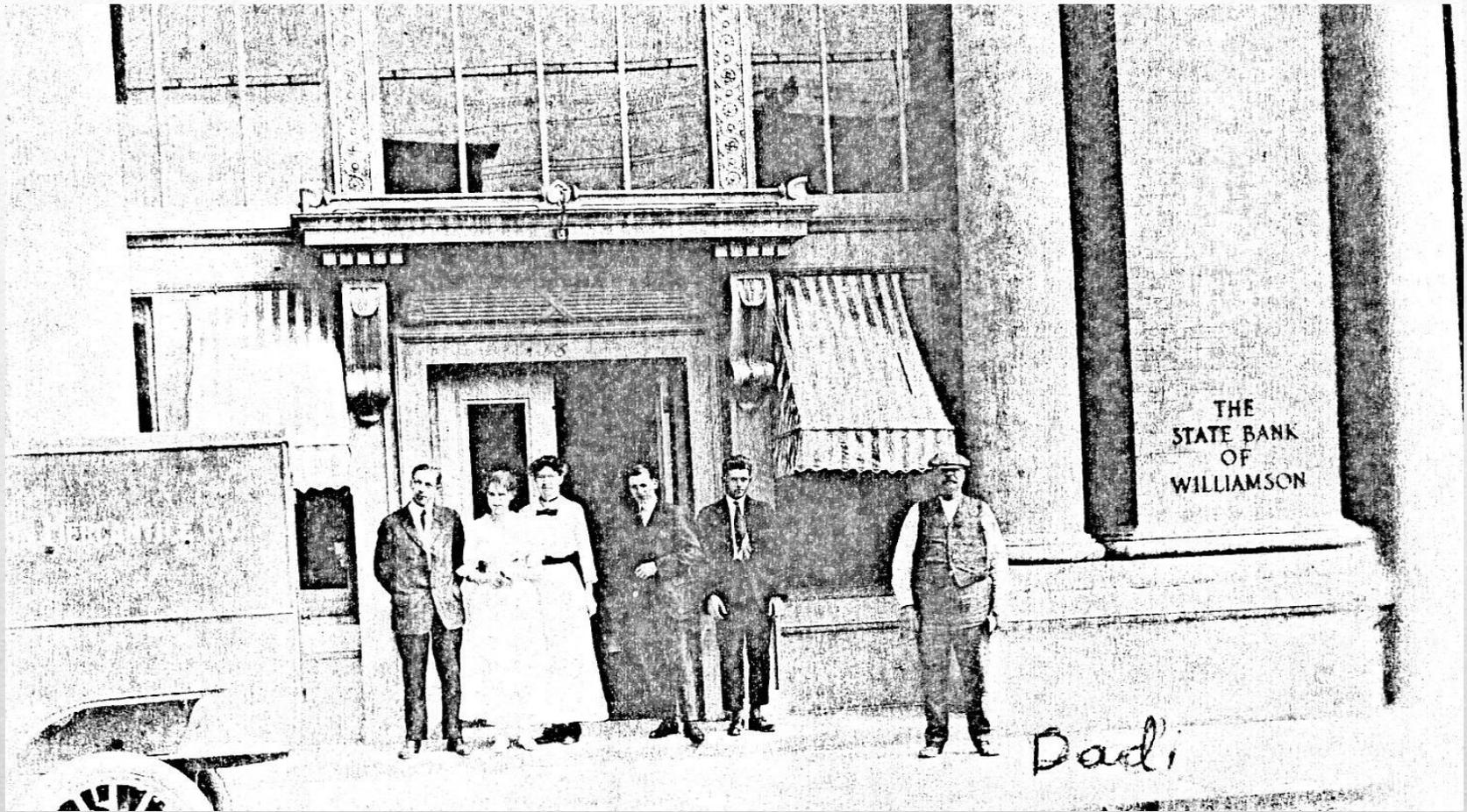
Main Street Williamson, NY



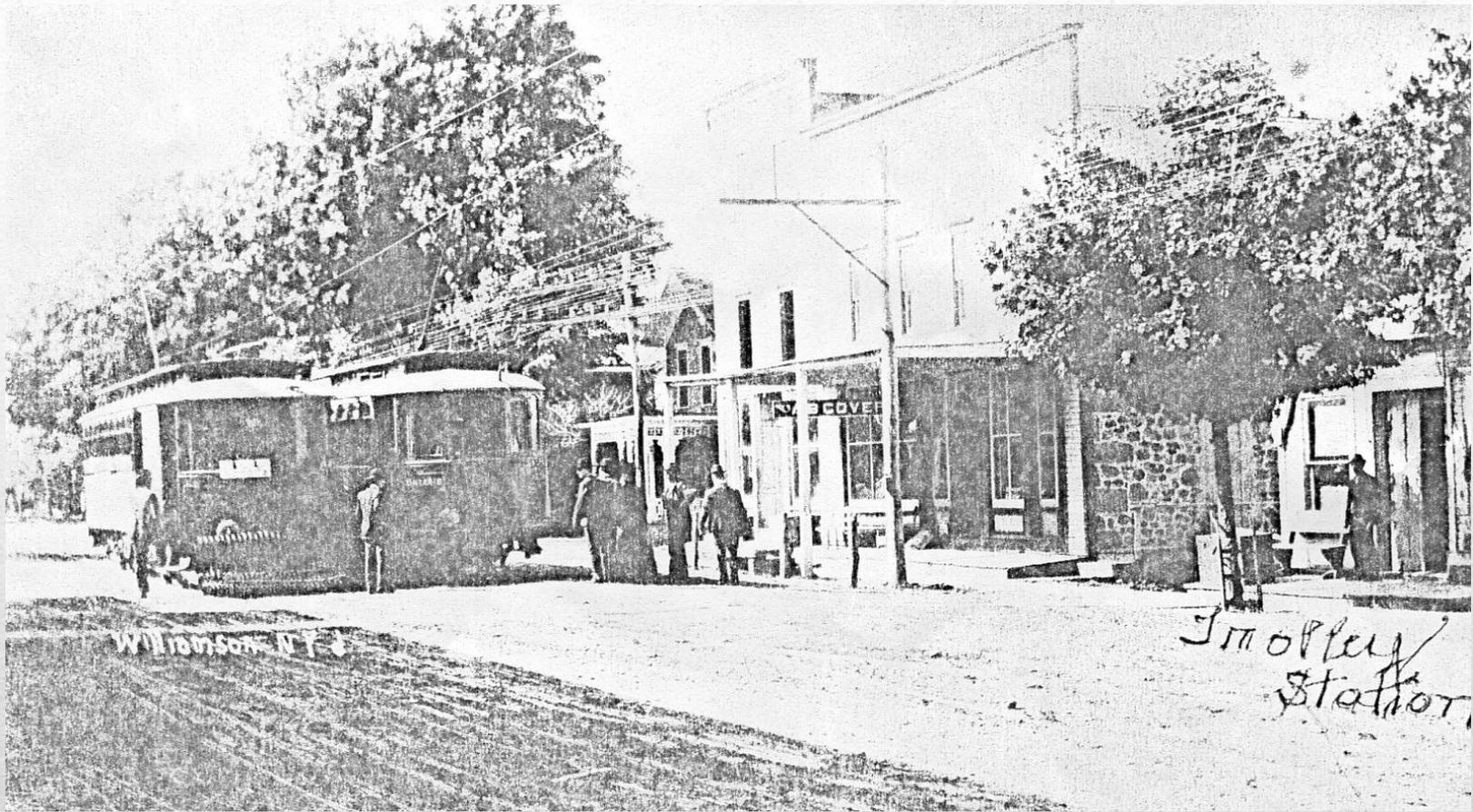
**Railroad yards 1900's
Williamson, New York**



Williamson town square facing what is now King's Auto. The Octagon stage burned down.



The State Bank of Williamson



**Trolley station,
Williamson, NY**

- So if cable cars were such a great idea, then why did they go away.
 - First, they couldn't compete against the auto that could take you to a specific address, not just where the car stopped at a station.
 - Second, believe it or not, General Motors bought up a lot of the cable car lines so there was no competition against the automobile. If that sound's like a great business practice but unethical, it's because it is.
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Horse and buggy on Main Street



Old Ridge Road, Williamson, NY



**Main St. sometime
between the 1920's and 1940's**



**Beautiful porch on Main St.
This is the way people kept cool prior
to air conditioning.**



Farmstead near Williamson



**Three modes of transportation.
Horse, auto, and cable cars.**



Williamson view from Herbert's Hill.



**North west side of Main Street from the
four corners.**



Buildings destroyed by fire. Note the spire of the fire hall at the top left of picture.



Fireman's Parade



State Bank of Williamson



**A more recent picture.
Note change in film quality and addition of autos.**



A negative of the First Baptist Church. Shown here as a great example of cobblestone building techniques.



19th century clothing. 1800's



**Northwest Row of Shops.
Across the street is the Williamson
Hardware**



Williamson Hotel with bandstand.



**Williamson Hotel after fire destroyed
the bandstand.**



Favorite Theater



July 4th fire of 1910



**Replacement to the Williamson Hotel which
was destroyed by fire.**



Fire of 1960



**Destroyed area between
hardware store and...**



**Current home on E. Main
This area is now a parking lot.**



**Like most towns, fire seems to change
the landscape so often.**



Note person gazing close to the fire.



**Women's Clothing Store destroyed by fire
between old Town Hall and Old Fire Hall.**

Alas, fire is not the only agent of change for the worse. In the next photo you can see the whole windmill in the back right of the photo. However, over the years careless drivers have repeatedly hit it and whittled away at.





Until today, when this is all that's left.
