

# Sherman Garden Cooperative Apartments

A monthly publication for residents of Sherman Garden Apartments, 1856-66 Sherman Avenue, Evanston, IL

## JANUARY 2014 NEWSLETTER

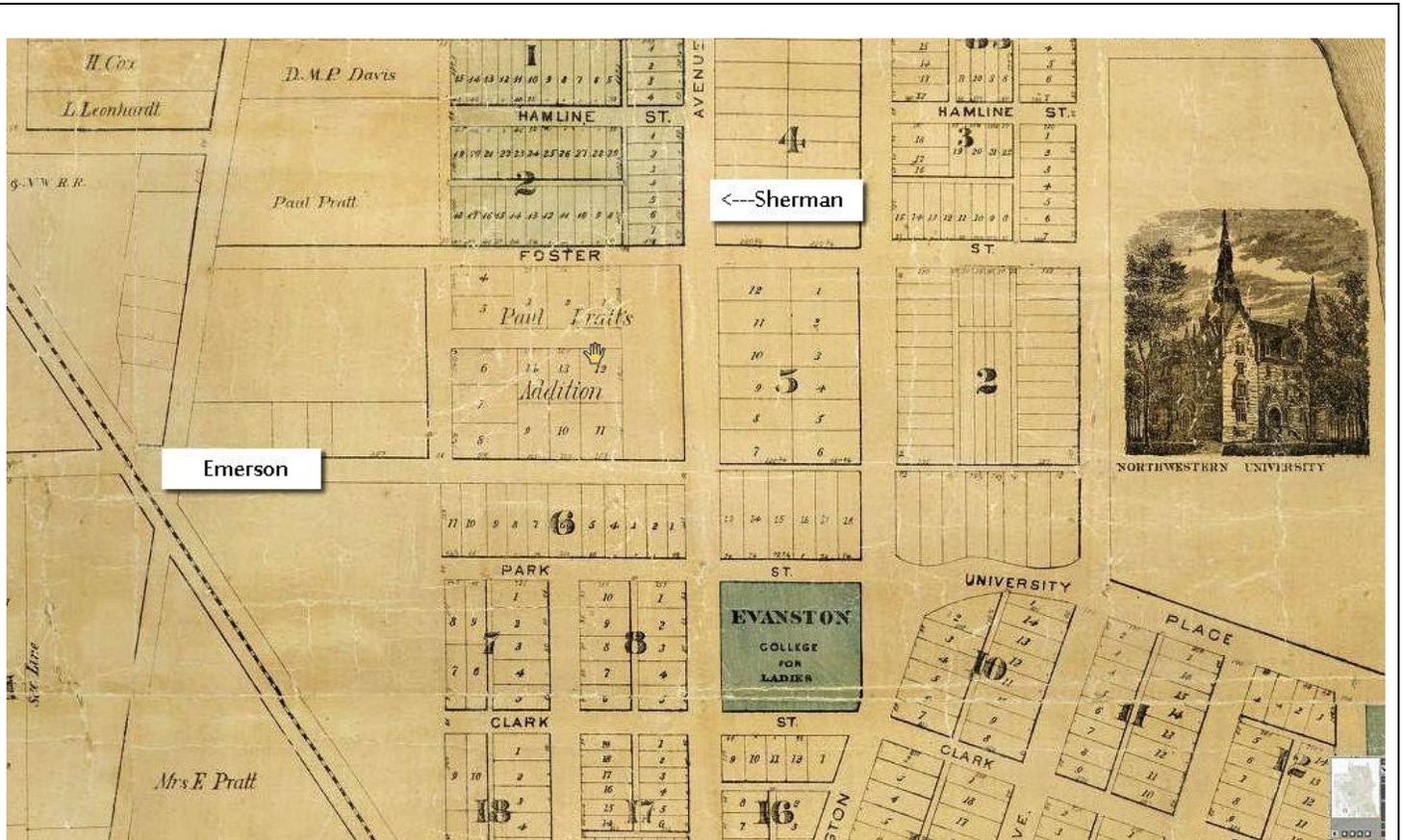
### ONCE UPON A TIME

By Diane Petersmarck, 1860

In 1836, Major Edward H. Mulford and his wife Rebecca bought 160 acres of land in what was known as Grosse Point Territory, becoming the first permanent settlers (i.e., landowners) in the area. There they built "Ten Mile House," both a tavern and their home. (The site is near what much later became the site of St. Francis Hospital.) Major Mulford was appointed the first justice of the peace, and the first court in Cook County was held in his tavern, which did not serve liquor, even on holidays. The Township Act of 1849 authorized people to organize government, and the Gross Point District became Ridgeville in 1850.

The oldest printed map of Evanston -- discovered several years ago on the verge of disintegration -- has been vibrantly restored and made freely available online by Northwestern University Library. Researcher Michael Kelly came to the conclusion, based on such clues as the addresses of the advertisers, that the map was published in the summer of 1871 by local surveyor and mapmaker Theodore Reese. The map appears to be the earliest published plat of blocks, streets and alleys in all three of the separate villages -- north, south and central -- that eventually merged into the incorporated City of Evanston in 1872.

Here's a small bit of the map that contains the lot that eventually became Sherman Garden. Sherman Avenue was named for a trustee of Northwestern, Alson Smith Sherman. You'll notice that University Place was called Park Street west of Sherman. Benson didn't exist yet, although you can see the railroad line. Notice all the names on the large pieces of property: D.M.P. Davis, Paul Pratt, Mrs. E. Pratt.



I plan to do more research on the property's provenance and history, which will appear in future newsletters.

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Sources: <http://www.library.northwestern.edu/libraries-collections/evanston-campus/university-archives/evanston-property-history> and  
<http://www.cityofevanston.org/police/history/>

