

## HISTORY FROM OHA

*What's in your Cupboard,  
Mr. Hubbard?***Charles Hubbard,  
wholesale druggist**

■ BY KAREN Y. COONEY

**Charles Hubbard began his career in the wholesale drug business as an errand boy in 1855, when he entered the employ of a Troy, N.Y. druggist.**

At the age of 22 and with the financial assistance of his Troy employer, Hubbard traveled to Syracuse with his brother to begin their own business. His sibling died shortly thereafter in 1868, leaving Hubbard without a partner. Charles soon joined forces with J. B. Moore after purchasing a half-share in Moore's own local wholesale drug business. The firm changed its name to Moore & Hubbard, and they enjoyed a profitable partnership until Moore's death in 1891. Hubbard quickly decided to take over Moore's entire wholesale drug business located in Syracuse and Buffalo. Hubbard's sons joined the enterprise, resulting in a name change to Charles Hubbard, Sons & Co.

Charles' business expertise was so highly respected that he was chosen to represent the members of the NYS Drug Trade Jobbers Association on a national level. This position also led to widespread recognition by other members of the national retail and wholesale drug trades.

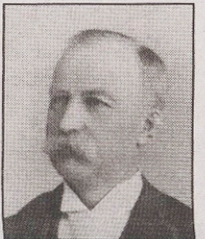
The business continued to grow, requiring a move to a new location at 211/213 W. Water Street in downtown Syracuse (this area is now occupied by the James M. Hanley Federal Building). Charles Hubbard, Sons & Co. carried the largest and most complete stock of drugstore items in the state, outside of the New York City area. The business catered to the needs of druggists located in New York state and northern Pennsylvania. The company imported large quantities of drugs, chemicals, essential oils, paints, and various sundries — becoming widely known for its expertise and product quality. The Hubbards were diligent regarding the testing and judging the purity of the various drugs and chemicals they offered for sale, which earned the confidence

of numerous retail and hospital customers from near and far.

During his lifetime, Charles Hubbard gave back to Syracuse in several ways outside of the business. He, along with Henry Duguid, helped establish and organize the Fourth Presbyterian Church. He held both the offices of treasurer and president of the board of trustees before his death.

Hubbard generally avoided politics, but did serve as an alderman from the Fifth Ward on the Common Council under Mayor Irving Vann. Hubbard was also the treasurer of the Business Men's Association, served on several local bank boards, and was a trustee for the Onondaga County Orphan Association, among other volunteer organizations. One of Hubbard's more important accomplishments was serving on the board of commissioners that was responsible for securing Skaneateles Lake water for the use of Syracuse's citizens.

Hubbard died in 1905 after a long illness. Despite Hubbard's son also dying unexpectedly two years later, his nephew was able to continue the business. The Ellicott Drug Company of Buffalo bought the Hubbard business in 1967, ending nearly a century of service to this community and beyond. □

**Hubbard**

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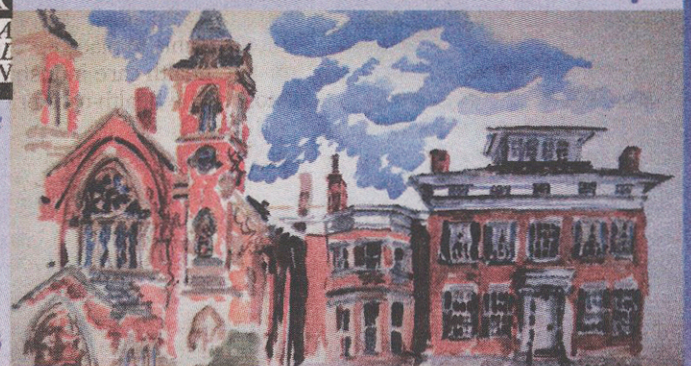
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