



This circa 1870 photograph shows, among others, Thomas Arnold, his wife Marietta, and their children William and Jennie May, at their South Main Street home on the outskirts of Fairport village. (Both the 1872 and the 1902 maps show the family in that location). Thomas was the son of Perinton pioneer Isaac Arnold, who had run a public house or inn at the corner of Ayrault and Turk Hill Roads (a building that still stands). As an adult, Thomas loved to tell stories about traveling by sleigh in the winter and sledding down South Main Street hill toward the village on an old wooden scoop shovel steering “as best I could.” He also enjoyed recounting a story about the time he was walking in the woods behind his house and threw a rock at what he thought was a stray dog. Unfortunately the rock hit the dog and it was not a stray, but instead was owned by what had become an angry “old Injun” who proceeded to chase him as his ran toward home. As they both reached the big living room, Tom’s quiet Quaker mother came to his defense wielding a flat-bladed iron shovel and yelling “If thee don’t leave this place, I’ll split thy head and let thy brains out!” The Indian left, Tom was safe, and he had probably learned a couple of lessons from that event, which might be why he loved to tell the story.

The Arnold house at 224 South Main Street has seen a number of changes over its lifetime. The barn is gone and newer houses surround it, but it remains a significant structure on South Main Street and in the history of the community.