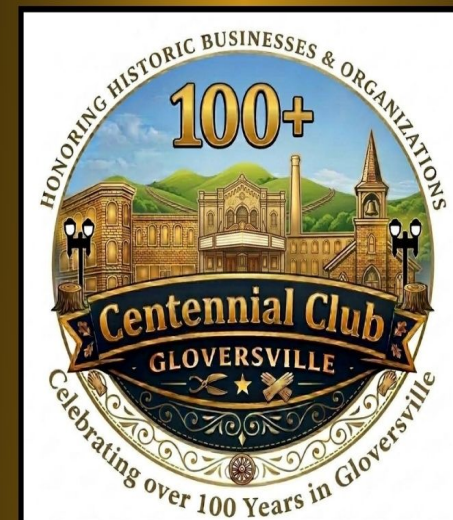


GLOVERSVILLE CENTENNIAL CLUB

“I do not think that there is
any other quality so essential
to success of any kind as the
quality of perseverance. It
overcomes almost
everything...”

— John D. Rockefeller

*The Centennial Club honors the remarkable
longevity, economic resilience, and enduring
contributions of Gloversville’s legacy
institutions. Designed as an annual tradition,
the 2026 inaugural celebration will highlight
the launch of the program and welcome its
charter class.*



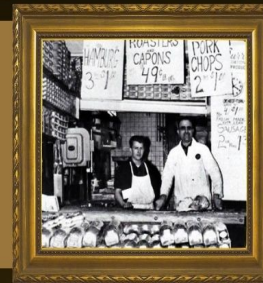
Behind every long-standing business and organization is a story of determination, adaptability, and an unwavering commitment to the community. The Gloversville Centennial Club celebrates the legacy institutions that have anchored our city across generations as they shape our past, enrich our present, and inspire the future of downtown.

**“No great thing is
created suddenly.”
— Epictetus**

BOWMAN'S MARKET

1925

Founded in 1925 by the Bowman family, Bowman's Market became a second home to James Franco, who started working at the store at age 11. The only break in his lifelong career came between 1942 and 1946, when he served as a mess sergeant in the U.S. Army Air Forces. Upon returning, James took over the legacy, purchasing the market from Steve Bowman in 1950 to begin the Franco family ownership.



1950

For the Francos, running Bowman's Market was a family effort. Lucy was the meticulous bookkeeper for the store she and Jim purchased in 1950, keeping the books until she turned 90. Jim remained a constant presence as well, continuing to work at the market long after handing the reins over to his son.

1964

John Franco began his journey at the store at just 14 years old. After earning an associate degree in business administration from SUNY Cobleskill in 1964, he continued to be a part of the family business, ultimately purchasing the store from his parents in the late 1990s to carry on their legacy of quality and customer care. That tradition continues today with John's son, Ed, who also grew up working in the store before becoming a partner in 2008.



TODAY

Under the leadership of Ed Franco, Bowman's Market honors its long-standing traditions while seamlessly adapting to the evolving needs of its loyal patrons. Renowned for its uncompromising quality and personal service, the market remains a trusted staple for everyday shoppers and culinary enthusiasts alike. From prime beef, poultry, and fresh-frozen seafood to house-made salads and oven-ready meals, Bowman's offers an exceptional selection, complemented by custom fruit baskets and premium meat platters.



Inducted into Gloversville Centennial Club in 2026



MR. G'S HAIR GALLERY

1925

The journey of Mr. G's Hair Gallery for Men and Women began in 1925 when Vincenzo "Vincent" Garofalo purchased 55 W. Fulton St., transforming the front room of a residential home into his business, known as the Sanitary Barber Shop. Prior to that, Vincent had honed his craft locally starting in 1910, starting at Joe Persico's Barber Shop on Church Street. His initial clientele primarily consisted of men, with the occasional "Buster Brown" cut for women.



1962

Vincent's son, Thomas, was destined to continue the family trade. Groomed for the business from the age of 12, Thomas became an apprentice at 16 and a licensed barber upon graduating high school in 1962. Upon taking over the business, he initially renamed it Mr. G's Men's Hairstyling. Thomas proved to be a visionary, consistently adapting to changing trends and expanding the salon's offerings. In the 1960s and 1970s, he mastered popular styles inspired by cultural icons such as Elvis Presley and The Beatles.



1978

Committed to providing comprehensive services, Thomas pursued further education, becoming certified in the Art and Science of Trigonometric Cutting and Design in 1978. In the late 1970s, he remodeled the shop and rebranded it as Mr. G's Hair Gallery for Men and Women, signifying its evolution into a full-service unisex salon offering cuts, coloring, and hair care products. Beyond his business acumen, Thomas Garofalo also made his mark in the competitive hairstyling world, participating in a variety of contests and later becoming a judge for competitions.



TODAY

Today, Mr. G's Hair Gallery for Men and Women remains a full-service salon specializing in precision cuts, color, highlights, perms, hair replacement solutions, extensions, and premium hair care products. The continued success of this local, family-owned business is a testament to its unwavering commitment to quality service and customer satisfaction. Deeply rooted in the community, Mr. G's looks forward to welcoming both long-time friends and new faces through its doors for years to come.

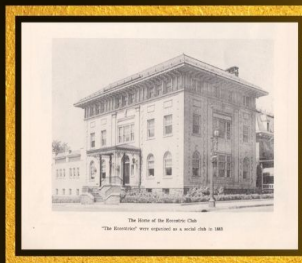


Inducted into Groversville Centennial Club in 2026



GLOVERSVILLE CENTENNIAL CLUB

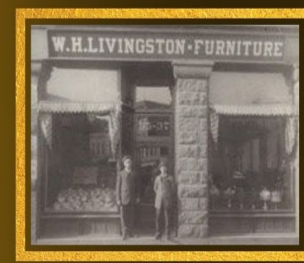
Inaugural Centennial Club Inductees
(Class of 2026)



Eccentric Club



Nathan Littauer
Hospital



Livingston's
Furniture



Glove Theatre



Rossbach Shoes



Palace Diner



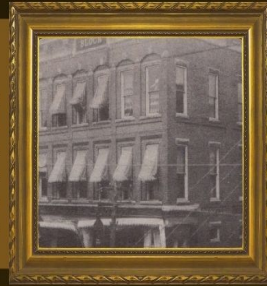
Bowman's Market
(left)

Mr. G's Hair Gallery
(right)

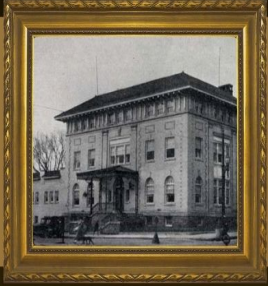


ECCENTRIC CLUB

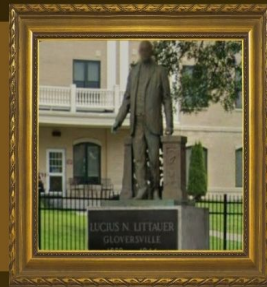
Founded in 1882, the Gloversville Eccentric Club was established as an exclusive social organization where "The Elite Meet." Popular local legend holds that its name was inspired by Jules Verne's *Around the World in Eighty Days*. The club initially met in the building on the corner of North Main and Church Streets (known as the Newman Block and later as the Key Bank building), before moving its meetings to the Mills Block (later known as the Argersinger building) in 1892.



In 1908, the organization constructed its current home: a Renaissance Revival building at 109 N. Main Street. The clubhouse spans three floors and a basement that houses an antique bowling alley preserved for over a century. Throughout its history, the club's membership has drawn from the area's local business leaders, banking professionals, clergy, and civic figures.



Over the years, the club has entertained distinguished visitors from across the country, including U.S. President Theodore Roosevelt, who was a close personal friend and Harvard classmate of Lucius Littauer, alongside a Speaker of the House, and several senators, congressmen, legislators, and judges. Across the street stands a statue of Lucius Littauer, erected in 1929 facing the club. Though local legend claims his statue stares at the clubhouse because he was denied entry, he was actually one of the club's original organizers.

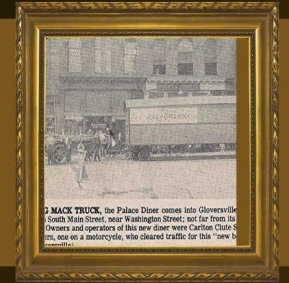


The club is a great way to meet other professionals, enjoy fun events, all while creating long lasting companionship with fellow members. The Eccentric Club provides a range of reception styles, from elegant sit-down dinners to buffets and food stations, catering to larger size gatherings. It has hosted Breakfast with Santa, galas for organizations such as Nathan Littauer Hospital, and a Sip-N-Shop Small Business Saturday event.



PALACE DINER

The Palace Diner was opened in 1923 by Albert Main. The lunch cart was built by the Jerry O'Mahony Dining Car Company of Bayonne, NJ. The diner was shipped by railroad from New Jersey to Fonda, then transported by truck from Fonda to 62 S. Main St., where it has stood ever since. The original diner was about 40 x 10 feet and looked very much like a railroad car. Albert Main operated the Palace Diner from 1923 until 1937, adding an expansion during his tenure, before handing the reins over to his nephew, Carlton Clute.



Carlton Clute had the interior remodeled in 1951, introducing modern tile work and stainless steel equipment, much of which remains visible inside the dining car today. In 1972, Clute sold the Gloversville Palace Diner to Anthony Sena, a longtime employee. The Sena family took the helm, committing to preserve the landmark's classic look and storied history.



Through the early 20th century, the diner was a 24-hour operation and was one of many open-all-night diners around the city that served thousands of employees in the leather and glove industry and other members of the community. Though shifting economic times and the scaling back of local tanneries eventually led the diner to adjust its round-the-clock hours, the Sena family has proudly preserved its mid-century charm, keeping the historic South Main Street landmark a beloved community favorite for generations.



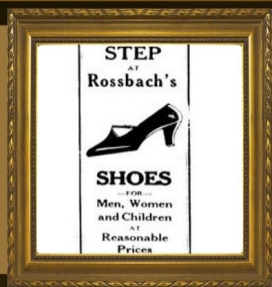
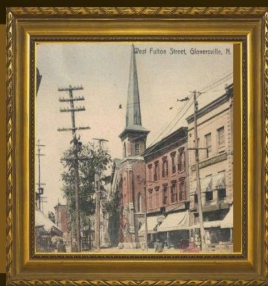
The Sena family continues to own and operate the Palace Diner. On the 100th anniversary of this local staple, the city officially renamed the adjacent road “Palace Way.” The gesture celebrated not only a century of classic comfort food, but also generations of dedicated service to local residents. These century-old roots and steadfast family management ensure this South Main Street gem remains a vibrant centerpiece of downtown culture.



ROSSBACH SHOES

CHRISTIAN ROSSBACH

Prior to launching his own business, Christian Rossbach worked as a staff member at the Bell Clothing Company, an establishment that had been supplying local residents with apparel and footwear at 10 W. Fulton Street since at least the 1890s. When Bell Clothing eventually decided to divide its retail operations, Rossbach purchased the footwear division to establish Rossbach Shoes in 1922. The store quickly became a downtown mainstay, surviving the severe economic hardships of the Great Depression as well as World War II rationing and shortages.

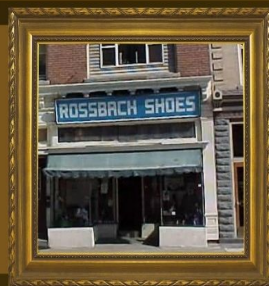


CARL ROSSBACH

Carl Rossbach took over the family business from his father in 1945, guiding the store for more than four decades until his retirement at age 90 in 1989. Throughout much of his tenure, the shop specialized in traditional leather dress footwear for men, women, and children, carrying staple neutrals like classic black and brown. That dynamic shifted in the 1970s with the rise of modern sneakers. Beginning with simple canvas styles, brand-name athletic shoes quickly exploded into a vibrant array of colors, transforming the footwear industry.

CHARLES ROSSBACH

When Carl's wife died in 1961, his son Charles knew he was needed at home. Even while attending Dutchess Community College to study retail management, Charles returned to Gloversville on weekends to help his father at the store. In addition to earning his degree, he learned by watching his father run the business for so many years, mastering the personal customer service skills required to keep a small business thriving.



TODAY

Rossbach Shoes has survived major retail shifts, from suburban malls and e-commerce to the economic challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, all without sacrificing personal care. Under Charles's leadership, the business continues to stand the test of time. Today, he carries that century-old legacy forward, proving that dedicated local service remains a resilient anchor for downtown Gloversville.



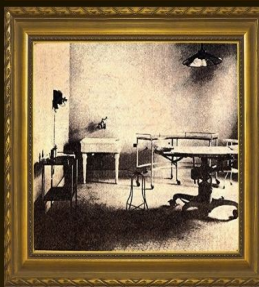
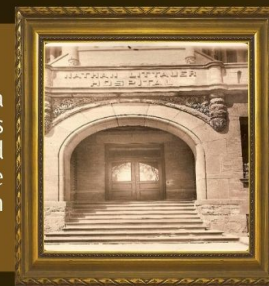
Inducted into Gloversville Centennial Club in 2026



NATHAN LITTAUER HOSPITAL

1891

On May 21, 1891, the Gloversville Hospital Association was formed to establish a facility in the city. Later that year, a key donation from local businessman Lucius N. Littauer spurred further contributions. On May 30, 1894, the original 28-bed Nathan Littauer Hospital opened on Littauer Place with a medical staff of 11. The School of Nursing opened later that year, and the hospital recorded its first birth in 1895. By 1919, it had admitted nearly 10,000 patients and delivered 250 babies.



1920-1950

Growing demand in the 1920s and 1930s led to a new 35-bed wing, 50 additional beds, an X-ray department, renovated operating and delivery rooms, the Eugene Littauer Laboratory, and the first free prenatal clinic. Driven by the postwar baby boom, the 1940s brought a 23-bed maternity unit as annual births spiked from 423 in 1940 to 1,066 in 1947. Total admissions pushed past 93,000 since opening. In the 1950s, the hospital introduced cardiology services, an intensive care unit, and a blood bank, enabling complex surgeries previously referred to larger medical centers.

1950 -1990

By the 1960s, a new facility was needed to replace the aging building and accommodate modern medical technologies. A 124-bed hospital opened in 1968. The campus continued to grow through the 1970s with the addition of a medical arts building and a nursing facility. In 1983, a spacious emergency department opened alongside upgraded rehabilitative, cardiopulmonary, and critical care units, with the HealthLink community wellness program launching soon after. Growth continued into the 1990s with the addition of a Sleep Disorders Center, family-centered birthing suites, and expanded outpatient clinics in Gloversville, Johnstown, Mayfield, and Speculator.



2000 - TODAY

Entering the 21st century, the hospital opened a new surgical center and additional primary care centers in Gloversville, Caroga Lake, Perth, and Johnstown, expanding specialized care in urology, orthopedics, family medicine, and neurology. Beginning in 2007, major technological and facility upgrades fully digitized the diagnostic imaging department by introducing a high-speed 64-slice CT scanner, nuclear medicine camera, advanced ultrasound machines, and new mammography systems. Ongoing investment brought comprehensive renovations to the maternity unit, emergency department, and pediatrics, ensuring the hospital continues to deliver state-of-the-art care.



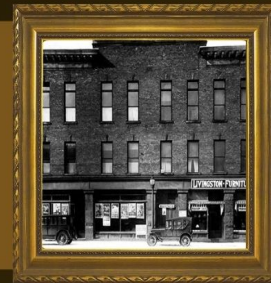
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LIVINGSTON'S FURNITURE

1901

Livingston's Furniture is a fourth-generation, family-owned corporation specializing in home furnishings retail sales and service. Founded in 1901 by William H. Livingston and located at 35-37 Bleecker St., it offered goods for the home that included furniture, kitchen and parlor stoves, oil lamps, and various home accessories. Deliveries in this era were made by horse-drawn wagon, and day-long delivery trips were common.



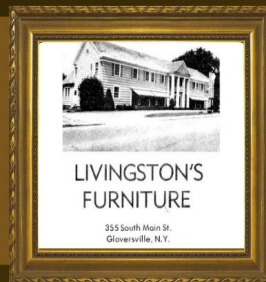
1938

In 1938, a building lot was purchased at 347-355 S. Main St. to become the new home of Livingston's Furniture. The move greatly increased the amount of showroom display area. The building was meant to be the ideal display space for the latest styles in home furnishings at the time, utilizing hardwood floors and display-specific lighting to accentuate products



1959 -1990

While the Groversville store was doing exceptionally well, a second facility was planned. Livingston's second retail outlet originated in Hudson Falls, N.Y., in 1959 under the supervision of William B. Livingston. It later moved to its current location in Queensbury, N.Y., where it underwent a major renovation and expansion in the mid-1990s under company president Laurence W. Livingston and general manager Robert W. Whipple.



TODAY

Today, Livingston's Furniture in Groversville continues to be a full-service furniture and mattress retailer committed to providing quality products to its customers. With an updated inventory of today's best brands and styles, competitive pricing, and services that many stores no longer offer, such as free delivery, setup, and removal, Livingston's continues to strive to be the easiest and most reliable hometown furniture store.



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THE GLOVE THEATRE

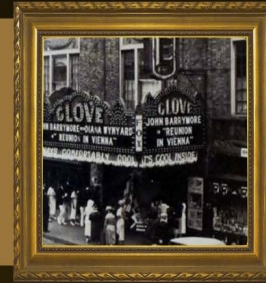
1914

On October 9, 1914, Groversville's downtown culture found its beating heart with the grand opening of the Glove Theatre. Commissioned by owners Cady & Dartch and brought to life in the Classical Revival style by Utica architect Linn Kinne, the multi-use venue quickly turned into the city's premier hub for music, film, vaudeville, and community gatherings. On opening night, local patrons packed the original 800-seat auditorium for a screening of the silent film "The Call of the North," paired with live orchestral performances.



1920 - 1940 ERA

In 1920, brothers J. Meyer and Louis W. Schine acquired the Glove Theatre to serve as the flagship headquarters for Schine Enterprises. Functioning as a test site for cutting-edge industry innovations, the venue became one of the first in the nation to install sound technology in 1928. A major late-1930s redesign transformed the space with its signature Art Deco architecture and iconic multi-bulb marquee, providing a vibrant symbol of optimism for the community through the Great Depression and into World War II.



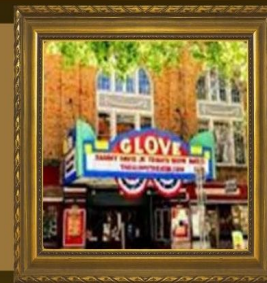
THE GOLDEN AGE

By the 1950s, the 800-seat Glove Theatre stood as Fulton County's premier movie house and cultural gathering place, offering everything from Hollywood blockbusters and Paramount Newsreels to children's cartoons, live vaudeville acts, and civic events. Beyond film and stage performances, the theatre also served as a bustling social hub by hosting lively youth matinees, local charity benefits, and community talent showcases that brought generations of families together. However, as the region's economic landscape shifted into the 1960s, the theatre's core audience declined.



TODAY

Following a two-and-half-decade pause, the Glove Theatre entered a dynamic new chapter after a group of citizens rescued the decaying building in 1995. Reopening its doors in 1997, the theatre underwent years of community-driven restoration and improvements. Today, the theatre stands once again as a cultural anchor of downtown Groversville, drawing diverse audiences from across the Capital Region and beyond with a rich calendar of live productions, musical performances, film screenings, and civic gatherings.



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