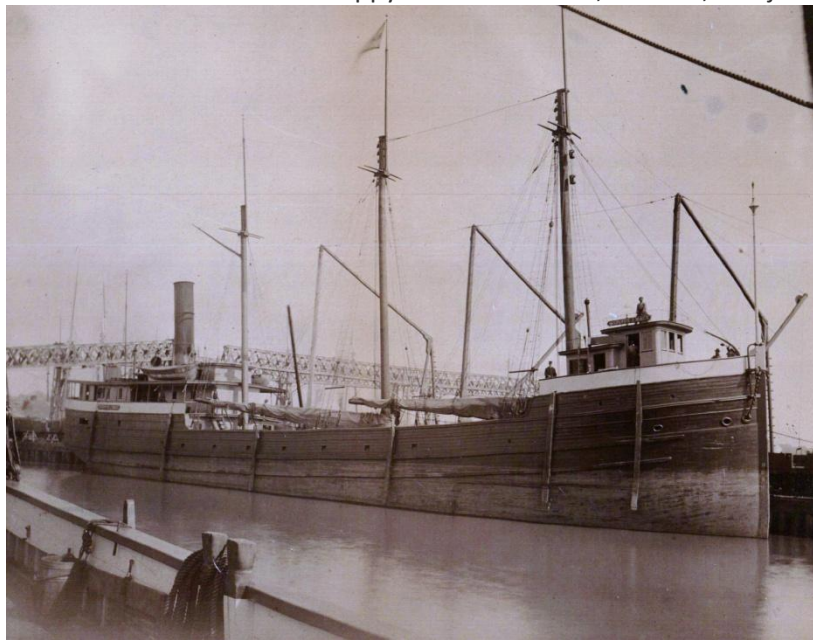




David Ewing photo collection.

Myron Wheeler Gotham House, Fulton Street, Village of Gotham.

Buried in the Button Cemetery, Buena Vista Township, Richland County, are the remains of Captain M. W. Gotham and two of his sons Lucius, and Myron H. Wheeler who went to their deaths in a violent storm on Lake Erie on November 24, 1902. M. W. Gotham was the captain of a lake vessel and his sons were also sailors. The ship which sank was making its way to the port of Kenosha with the father and sons looking forward to a return to their home in Gotham. They did return home but it was no happy occasion. Lucius, lookout, had just passed by four days his 18th birthday and Myron



Sylvanus J. Macy, bulk freighter - Richland County History Room photo.

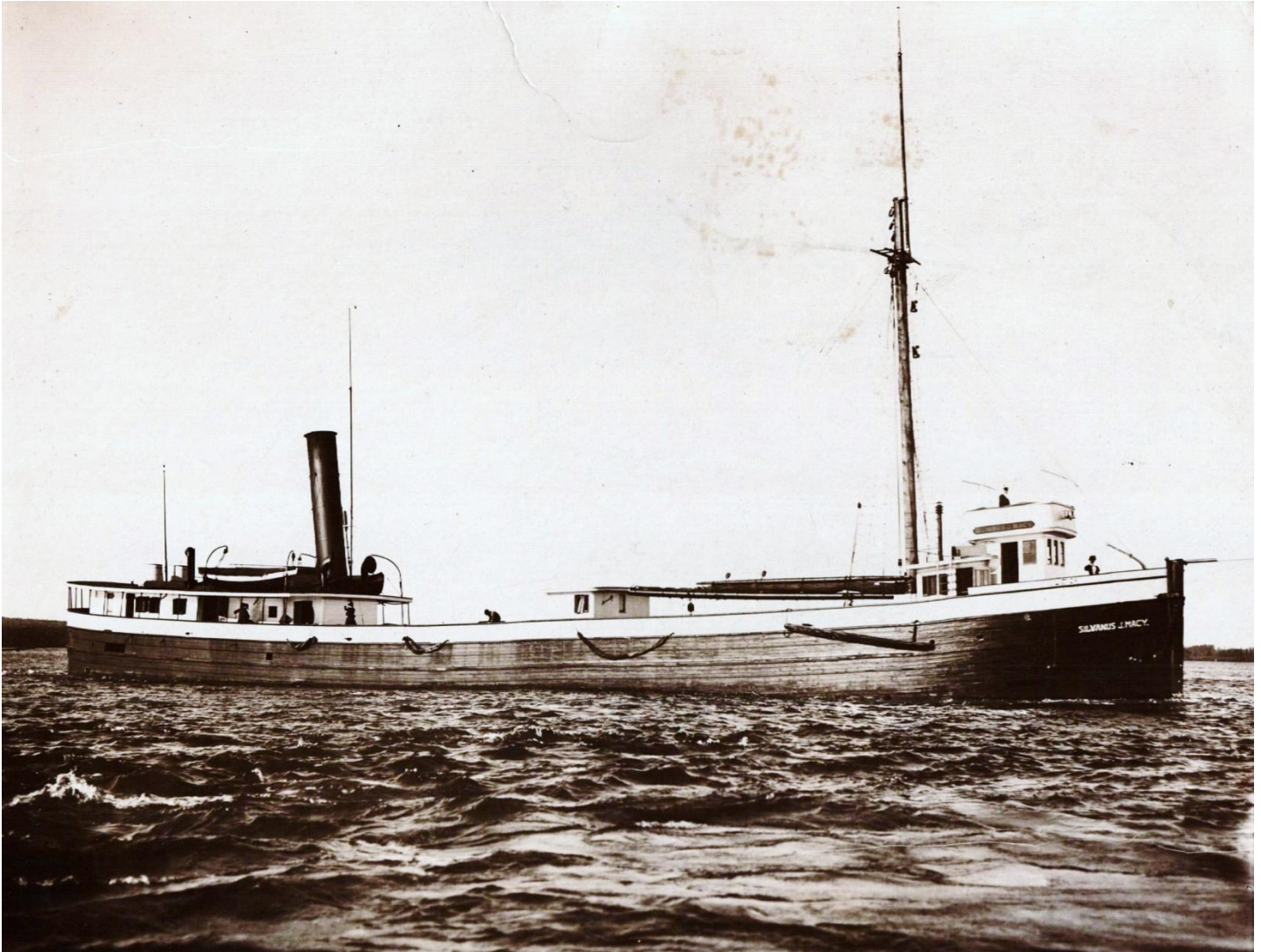
Anthony, Mate, was 22.

Captain Gotham was born in Jefferson County New York on January 29, 1842, and moved to the village in 1867. He and his first wife, Elizabeth Mindwell Carver, had three children, Alida Sarah, Caroline and Myron Anthony. Elizabeth died in 1879 and he later married Clara Campbell. They had five children, Elizabeth Melvina, Lucius Ralph, Ava, Herman Macy and Permilia.

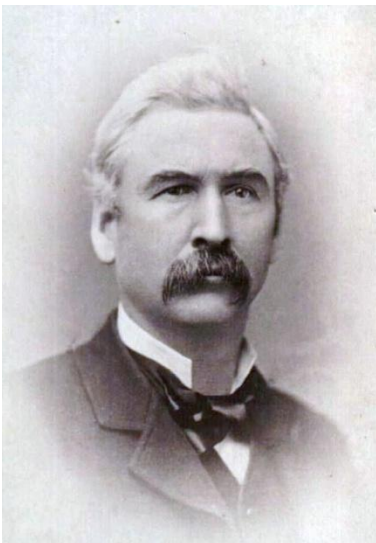
The village of Gotham in Richland County was named after the Great Lakes Freighter Captain Myron Wheeler Gotham, who chose to spend his winter months during the 1860s far from the Great Lakes.

His ship, the Silvanus J Macy, was a wooden freight steamer of 165 ft. sank on November 23, 1902, in a gale with the loss of the entire crew of 14 off of Port Burwell, Ontario. The Macy carried a cargo of coal and was making its last trip of the season.

The Sylvanus J. Macy had in tow the schooner-barge Mable Wilson which was also loaded with coal. Captain Myron W. Gotham's brother, Captain James E. Gotham, was at the helm of the Mable Wilson. The tow line to the Mable Wilson was cast off as the storm hammered both ships. The Mable Wilson raised sail and did reach port safely.



Sylvanus J. Macy - Richland County History Room photo. Below: Current view of Captain M.W. Gotham House.



Captain M.W. Gotham - Richland County History Room photo.

