

Oren Monroe

By Douglas H. Shepard, 2012

Oren **Monroe** (his name is sometimes given as Orrin or Oron) was born in Thornfield, Ontario, Canada on 11 July 1825 according to his obituary in *Dunkirk Evening Observer* of 18 April 1900. He, his wife Mary Ann (originally from England) and their two children, William, 4, and Hazard Purdy, 2, moved from Canada to Dunkirk NY in 1852. [1855 New York State Census]

**Monroe** opened a daguerreian studio at 223 Center Street. In 1867 he put up a building at 300-304 Center Street, at the corner of East Third Street, the **Monroe Block**. With the stock from the former **McCarty & Towle Drug Co.**, he opened the **Monroe Pharmacy**. The 1870 Census lists O. **Monroe's** wife, Mary Ann, as a photographer and their daughter, Hulda McIntosh, as an Assistant Photographer.

Child's Gazetteer (1873) lists O. **Monroe & Son**, photographers as well as O. **Monroe & Son**, wholesale and retail druggists at the two different locations on Center Street. The "Son" was Hazard Purdy **Monroe**. In 1881 **Monroe** sold his photographic studio to B. R. **Gifford**. Mary Ann **Monroe** died on 16 May 1899, Oren on 18 April 1900. [*Dunkirk Evening Observer* obituaries]