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THE SHARON FAMILY IN ILLINOIS

This section covers the various Sharons that came from Ohio to Greene County, Illinois. I will include several sons of Smiley Sharon and Martha Kithcart, they are Joseph Kithcart Sharon, Charles Cunningham Sharon and John J. Sharon.

I will also cover the lives and families of Dr. John Kirk Sharon, son of William Sharon and Susannah Kirk and then the lives of their children. The generations will lead up to my mother, Meda Sharon.

There were other Sharons in the area of Mount Sterling in Brown County, Illinois. They came from Pennsylvania via Kentucky. These were the families of some of the children of Hugh Sharron and Jane Barnhill. I included them in the preceding Kentucky Section.

The Sons of Smiley Sharon and William Sharon

Three sons of Smiley Sharon and Martha Kithcart Sharon left Jefferson County, Ohio and traveled to Greene County, Illinois and settled in Carrollton, the county seat. This part will cover these three children and their families. All three joined together to establish a dry goods store in Carrollton that would continue for many years.

John Kirk Sharon, the eldest son of William Sharon and Susannah Kirk Sharon, became a Physician and moved to Carrollton, Illinois and went into business with his two cousins in their dry goods business. His story follows as well.

CHARLES CUNNINGHAM SHARON

Charles Cunningham Sharon was born in Smithfield, Ohio in 1837. He was a son of Smiley Sharon and Martha Kithcart. He always went under the name Charles C. Sharon, but according to the Robert Sherrard book and the 1850 Ohio Census, he was baptized Cunningham Sharon. It might have been Charles Cunningham, or he simply adopted the name Charles in lieu of Cunningham. I do not have any records, but he was born Cunningham and known as Charles.

Charles moved to Carrollton, Illinois in 1862 to join his brothers and on June 15, 1870 he married Martha 'Mattie' Hardcastle of Carrollton. Mattie was born in Carrollton in 1842.

He joined the Sharon Store operation and ran the boot and shoe portion of that business until his death.

Charles C. Sharon died on December 28, 1885 in Carrollton. Mattie died sometime later. Both are buried in Carrollton, Illinois.

Charles and Mattie had four children all born in Carrollton, Illinois.

Dean Sharon

The first child, Dean Sharon, was born in 1874 and died in 1875 at the age of fourteen months.

Ralph Wayne Sharon

Ralph Sharon was born on March 7th, 1876 and he married Dell Hobson on June 29th, 1898 in Carrollton. Dell was the daughter of Peter Hobson and Mary Chorn Hobson and was born in Carrollton.

Ralph Sharon and his wife moved to Alton, Illinois where worked for the dry goods firm of Lynn, Fain & Company. He died suddenly on October 8, 1909 at the age of thirty three. He was returned to Carrollton for burial.

They had no children.

Edwin Lowell Sharon

Ned Sharon was born in Carrollton, Illinois on January 15, 1878. On October 16, 1902 he married Emma Augusta Duffield in Jerseyville, Jersey County, Illinois.

Ned and his family lived in St. Louis, Missouri until Emma died. Ned then returned to Carrollton and married a childhood sweetheart, Myra Green in 1952. There were no children in this second marriage as both were along in years.

Ned died in Carrollton on August 11, 1960 and is buried in Carrollton.

There was one child in the first marriage:

MARTHA VIRGINIA SHARON was born November 23, 1904 in St. Louis, Missouri. Martha married Phillip Colgan Ferguson.

Guy Sharon

Guy was born in 1881 and who died in 1890 of a rheumatic heart at the age of nine.

JOSEPH KITHCART SHARON

Joseph Sharon was the eldest son of Smiley and Martha Kithcart Sharon. He was born in Mount Pleasant, Ohio in the fall of 1831. He went to school in Mount Pleasant and then went into merchandising.

In the 1850 Census, he is found living in Cadiz, Harrison County, Ohio with the family of Regin Bennett. Bennett was a store owner and Joseph Sharon was listed as a clerk and was learning the trade he would follow throughout his life. Regin Bennett had married Martha M. Maholn who was the sister of Eliza Maholn who had married Joseph Sharon, son of William and Sarah Sharon.

Joseph's cousin, John Kirk Sharon had established a very large dry goods store in Carrollton,

Illinois. Joseph's brother, John J. Sharon, had gone to join this operation in 1856 and Joseph himself went to Illinois the next year in 1857.

Joseph K. Sharon ran the dry goods portion of the store up until the time he retired and sold the store in 1891. The Sharon Store was an integral part of the Sharon history in Carrollton and a history of this store follows shortly.

Joseph Kithcart Sharon courted the daughter of his cousin, Dr. John Kirk Sharon. On the first day of May, 1866 Joseph married Laura Florella Sharon in Carrollton.

Carrollton was incorporated as a city in 1867 and Joseph K. Sharon was elected as one of the first five aldermen in the new city government.

Joseph and Laura raised a family of three sons and lived out their lives in Carrollton. He built the mansion where his three sons were born.

Joseph Kithcart Sharon passed away on June 17, 1897 in Carrollton at the age of nearly sixty-six. His wife, Laura Sharon moved with her sister Emma to Chicago after her husband's death and she died at her Chicago home on March 13, 1914. She was returned to Carrollton for burial with her husband.

Their children were:

Addison Joseph Sharon

Add Sharon, my grandfather, was born in Carrollton on March 10, 1867. As this is my lineage, the life and children of Addison J. Sharon will be covered in the next section.

Bertram C. Sharon

Bert Sharon was born in Carrollton in 1874 and was twice married and twice widowed. Bert Sharon had no children from either marriage.

He first married Lucretia Nichols of Chicago on July 6, 1904 in Chicago. The marriage announcement stated both were living in Chicago at the time, however another article mentioned he was living in Trevillians, Virginia in 1896 where he had another home.

After Lucretia's death, Bert remarried to a widow, Mayme Brown Pierson, in Carrollton. Mayme was the daughter of Peter Brown and Lenora Robinson of Linder Township in Illinois. Mayme was first married on September 3, 1895 to David Pierson of Carrollton and they had one son, Robert Pierson. David Pierson died of typhoid fever in Carrollton on November 24, 1899.

Bert and Mayme were married in Carrollton on October 21, 1936. They moved to Bert Sharon's home, *The Cedars*, in Trevillians, Virginia. They had no children and Mayme died there in April 1941.

Bert later returned to Carrollton where he lived with my grandmother, Minnie (Mrs. A. J.) Sharon until his death in 1963.

Clair Edgerton Sharon

Clair Sharon was born in Carrollton in 1871. On August 1, 1895 he married Frances 'Fanny' Robinson in Carrollton. Frances was the daughter of William Robinson of Carrollton.

Clair worked and lived most of his life in Minneapolis. He was the manager of Donaldson Dry Goods Company there.

He died in Stuart, Florida on October 26, 1925 of a heart attack. Clair had been spending his winters in Florida for several years. He was fifty-four at the time of his death. He was returned to Carrollton for burial.

Frances herself returned to Carrollton where she spent the rest of her life.

They had one adopted daughter:

HARRIET LOUISA SHARON who married Edward Willingham of Lynchburg, Virginia on August 15, 1929 in Carrollton.

DR. JOHN KIRK SHARON

John Kirk Sharon was the eldest son of William Sharon and Susanna Kirk Sharon. John was born at the family farm in Smithfield, Ohio in 1814. He attended local public schools and went to the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia where he studied medicine. I have several of his Course Cards showing he studied Pharmacy, Surgery and Practical Anatomy in the 1838 to 1839 time period.

He graduated as a physician and moved back to Ohio, but moved to Woodsfield in Monroe County, where he began his medical practice in 1840. He must have arrived later in the Fall after graduation as he was not listed in the 1840 census.

According to the records of the Marietta, Ohio Land Office, John Kirk Sharon purchased Lands in Range 6, Township 5, Section 14 of Monroe County on August 1, 1839. He must not have immediately moved to the lands as he was not in the 1840 census.

While in Woodsfield, he met Minerva Flora Headlee the young daughter of Jacob Headlee. The Headlees originally came from New Jersey, but then went into northern Virginia in the late 1700s, then to Fayette County, Pennsylvania and then came to Monroe County in the early 1800s and settled in Woodsfield. For more on this family, see the HEADLEE FAMILY HISTORY in the addendum of this work.

Jacob Headlee owned 8 lots also in Range 6, Township 5 of Monroe County. He purchased these between 1834 and April 1838. John Kirk Sharon's land was in the same area near Woodsfield, Ohio.

I have a handwritten letter addressed to "*Mr. and Misses Headlee*" it reads,

Minerva and myself have agreed to unite our destinies provided that you will stamp it with the seal of approbation, your approval is most respectfully solicited and will be

acknowledged with sentiments of esteem and gratitude.

Jno. K. Sharon Tuesday, 2 o'clock.

We can assume the approval was granted for in October 1841, Dr. John Kirk Sharon and Minerva Flora Headlee were united in marriage in Woodsfield, Ohio.

The Sharons remained in Woodsfield for another year. Their oldest child, Ebert, was born there on July 18, 1842. In early 1843, John and Minerva and their young son left Ohio for Illinois and the promise of a better future in new lands.

They more than likely set out on the Ohio River to southern Illinois and then up the Mississippi past St. Louis to Greene County, Illinois where they settled in Carrollton, the county seat.

Once in Carrollton, I assume he practiced medicine for a while, but by late 1843 he opened a dry goods store on the Square in Carrollton. This store was to grow and change, but remain in the Sharon Family for almost a century. A history of the Sharon store is contained in the addendum of this work.

By 1846, John's brother William, who was practicing law in nearby St. Louis, decided that the better opportunities lay in merchandising and he came to Carrollton to join in the operation. William was to remain until 1849, when gold fever caught him and he headed to California to achieve fame and fortune.

During the next decade, John and Minerva raised a family of three more sons and two daughters in addition to Ebert who was born in Ohio. Four of the six children went to California to join their Uncle William Sharon and to help manage and share in his vast estate. Ebert, the oldest was to become a doctor like his father once was and one daughter, Laura, was to marry her cousin, Joseph Sharon and spawn the line of Sharons that lead eventually to myself.

John Kirk Sharon continued to run and expand the Sharon Store until his untimely death in Carrollton in 1864 at the age of only forty-eight.

His wife Minerva, however lived into her seventy-fifth year when she died Sunday night February 12, 1899 in Carrollton.

The children of Dr. John Kirk Sharon and Minerva Flora Headlee were:

Ebert A. Sharon

Ebert Sharon was the only child born in Woodsfield, Monroe County, Ohio. He was born on July 18, 1842 and shortly thereafter went with his parents to Carrollton, Illinois.

Ebert became a doctor and later moved to practice medicine in Kansas. He died in Spring Hill, Kansas on March 22, 1912. An obituary mentioned that in his will he left his wife and four daughters. This is all I know about Dr. Ebert Sharon at this time.

Eugene Sharon

Eugene Sharon was the first child born in Carrollton, Illinois. He was born in April of 1844. He later went to California to be with his Uncle William and work in the family business.

He was alive and living alone in San Francisco in the 1900 census at age 56. I do not know if he married or when he died.

Laura Florella Sharon

Laura was the next child born in Carrollton, Greene County, Illinois. She was born on May 16, 1846 and was to go on and marry her cousin, Joseph Kithcart Sharon. Her life was detailed in the section on Joseph Kithcart Sharon and his family.

Emma Sharon

Emma Sharon was born in Carrollton in 1848. On February 29, 1876 she married S. F. Thorne of St. Louis. They, like many others, moved to San Francisco to join Uncle Bill. Mr. Thorne managed the Grand and Palace hotels for William Sharon until his death.

I have a letter written on October 12, 1879 by Emma to her mother Minerva telling all about the Gala Party that William Sharon threw at his home *Belmont* for General Ulysses Grant who was winding up an around the world tour after finishing his second term as president in 1877. I also have a page from the San Francisco Chronicle detailing the event. It was a truly gala affair.

The Thornes had no children and Emma returned to Carrollton after the death of her husband. She spent the last ten years of her life living with her sister Laura and Joseph Sharon. I have several photographs of both Laura and Emma.

George W. Sharon

George Sharon was born in Carrollton in February of 1856.

He too joined the exodus to California to take part in the opportunities being opened up by his uncle, William Sharon. I do not know what part he played in the operations.

I found George in the 1900 Census of California living on Church Street in San Francisco with his wife Della D. Sharon. Della was born in California in October 1857. This is all I know of George and his family.

There were no children listed as living with the family so I assume they never had any.

William C. Sharon

William Sharon was born in 1857 in Carrollton. He was known as 'Alby' Sharon. When he was about eighteen, he moved to Kansas, probably with his brother Ebert.

There he married in about 1877 and had a daughter, Flora, in 1878. He returned to Carrollton as

he was listed as living with his mother in the 1880 census. He wife was listed only as 'E.A. Sharon'.

Shortly afterwards, he left to join Uncle Bill Sharon in Nevada. He was in charge of many of the silver mine operations in the Comstock and remained there all his life.

He died at his home in Virginia City, Nevada on July 27th, 1911 at the age of fifty-five.

ADDISON JOSEPH SHARON



Addison Joseph Sharon, 'Add', was the eldest child on Joseph Kithcart and Laura Sharon and was born in Carrollton, Greene County, Illinois on March 10th, 1867. Add took over the family store and ran it until he retired and closed the store around 1935.

He married Minnie Florence Jones, a daughter of John Jones of Carrollton who was originally from Patterson, Illinois, then called Wilmington, where Minnie was born. The history of the Jones Family is fully detailed in the JONES & PATTERSON HISTORIES, which follow this Sharon Family History.

Minnie was a school teacher in the Carrollton Public Schools. They were married on the morning of June 14th, 1893 and the following is from the CARROLLTON GAZETTE:

At the Baptist Church on Wednesday morning last at 7:30 occurred the marriage of Miss Minnie Jones to Mr. A. J. Sharon. The church was filled with the friends of the young couple and was beautifully decorated for the occasion, the organ resting in the alcove behind a bank of ferns and vines.... The bride's maids were the Misses Nettie Davis and Nettie Robinson, who were followed to the altar by the bride resting on her father's arm. The groom was accompanied by his brother, Bert. The nuptial ceremony was solemnly performed by Rev. J. J. Reedere.... Immediately after the ceremony the bridal pair took the train for Chicago and left with the good wishes of their many friends.

Miss Jones is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Jones, is an excellent young lady and has for the past eight years been one of the most popular teachers in the Carrollton public school. Mr. Sharon is a son of Mr. and Mrs. J. K. Sharon, is the active member of the dry goods firm of Sharon, Fisher & Co., and one of the most popular young men in Carrollton. The GAZETTE wishes Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Sharon a life of success and happiness."

They did have a life of happiness and celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary in 1943.

Add ran the Sharon store, after his father retired until 1935 when he too retired. He was secretary of the local Chapter of the Modern Woodman's Lodge for over 50 years and according to the local paper, "his name was a household word in this community."

Minnie taught second grade in the Carrollton School until her marriage. She was very active in the Sunday School in the Baptist Church and so many of her students went on to teach Sunday classes that the Baptist Church renamed her class the *Roses of Sharon* in her honor. Knowing her, I can only say she was a magnificent human being.

The following is from her obituary in the Carrollton GAZETTE-PATRIOT:

Mrs. Sharon has been a member of the local Baptist church for over seventy-five years and was it's oldest member. She was always active in church, school, social and all other community affairs. In her church work she had been a deaconess for many years and had served as president of the Missionary Society and the ladies aid.

Some years ago she was a member of the school board. Mrs. Sharon was indeed a most charming and capable person, the ideal of womanhood and motherhood. No one ever overcame the disadvantages of age in such a fine way. She was young in both outlook and spirit, a wonderful character and pleasing personality.

She was interested in everyone and everything and had a wide personal acquaintance. She loved people, all with whom she came in contact, the young and the old and they in turn loved her. She was especially devoted to her family and they to her."

Add and Minnie started their family in the large home built by his father, Joseph Kithcart Sharon. Later they sold the old home and moved to a smaller house across the street. It was in this house that I have my first memories of my grandparents. We lived in Evanston, Illinois and I looked forward to the train trip every summer to spend several happy weeks with my mother at her parents.

Addison Joseph Sharon died peacefully in Carrollton on May 16, 1951. My grandmother came to my high school graduation in Connecticut in 1955 and just missed attending my graduation from Yale in 1959 as Minnie Jones Sharon died on May 17, 1958 at the grand age of Ninety two years young.

They had five children, all born in Carrollton:

John Jones Sharon

John Jones Sharon was born on January 17, 1896. He went to Washington University in St. Louis and Harvard Law School. In 1918 he graduated 2nd in his class at Cloyne Naval School in Newport, Rhode Island.

On July 1, 1920 he married Marguerite Shafer, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Shafer of Decatur, Illinois.

Johnny practiced corporate law in Chicago and lived in Glenview, Illinois until he retired to a new home on the Connecticut River in Essex, Connecticut where he died and was buried in

January 1868.

Marguerite died several years later in Florida, but was buried with him in Essex. They had no children.

Leontine Sharon

Leontine Sharon was born on May 24, 1898 and was a teacher in the Carrollton Schools. She attended Lindenwood College in St. Charles, Missouri and Milliken University in Decatur, Illinois.

On August 11, 1928 she married Olin W. Stead, son of Mr. and Mrs. Norman Stead of Girard, Illinois. Olin went on to first head the Carrollton school system and then became the Superintendent of Education for State of Illinois Public School Systems in Springfield.

Mr. Stead then retired and formed a bank in Chatham, Illinois. Olin was President of the Bank until he retired once again.

Olin died in Springfield, Illinois in the morning of May 31, 1993. Lee died less than a month later in her sleep on June 21, 1993. Both were returned to Carrollton for burial.

There were no children.

Joseph Addison Sharon

Joseph Addison Sharon was born on March 10, 1903. He attended Centre College where he was an outstanding athlete.

He married Ruth Aileen Hunter, daughter of Dr. Harry Clifford Hunter and Ethel Butler Hunter. They were married in Chicago, Illinois on February 4, 1939. Ruth was born August 15, 1912, and was a music teacher in Carrollton.

They moved to Kansas City, where they lived until he died on July 18, 1981. Ruth Sharon died in Overland Park, Kansas on May 19, 1999.

They had two children:

JEFFREY HUNTER SHARON

Jeff Sharon was born on February 21, 1942 in Decatur, Illinois. In June of 1967 he married Marilyn Ross in Kansas City, Missouri.

They have one child:

GAVIN BERKLEY SHARON born February 17, 1968 in Kansas City, Missouri.

GAY SHARON

Gay was born June 21, 1949 in Chicago, Illinois. She married Danny Frederick Gilzean in Kansas City on November 9, 1968. They were divorced on January 23, 1976.

Gay later married George Arnold Kinsey in Overland Park, Kansas on August 5, 1978. They live in Overland Park, Kansas.

Children are:

BRANDON JOSEPH GILZEAN born May 12, 1970 in Kansas City.

KRISTEN DANEE GILZEAN born January 12, 1974 in Kansas City.

Lucy Mae Sharon

Lucy Mae Sharon was born on February 24, 1907. She attended Lindenwood College in Missouri and Emerson University and was married to Jack Burkhardt who tragically died very shortly afterwards in an automobile accident.

Lucy Mae worked in administration for the State of Illinois in Chicago and Springfield until she retired.

She died in Springfield on April 8, 1984 and was returned to Carrollton for burial later in the week.

I attended the funeral and although it had been some thirty years since I last saw Carrollton, very little had changed. It remains a lovely small town in the southern Illinois farming land.

Almeda Minerva Sharon

Meda Sharon, my mother, was the youngest child and was born in Carrollton on January 12, 1909. Meda graduated from Northwestern University where she met her husband, William Byrnes Putman of Evanston, Illinois.

After their graduations from Northwestern, they were married at the home of her brother, John Jones Sharon, in Glenview, Illinois on September 28, 1934.

My father was working in Chicago with Montgomery Wards in the catalog sales division and was to remain with them both in Chicago and New York until 1953. Bill and Meda Putman lived in Evanston, Illinois when on April 10, 1937 they had a son, me, William Byrnes Putman, jr. In 1941 they moved to Glenview, Illinois and in August 1944, Dad was transferred to the New York Office of Montgomery Wards.

They moved to Greenwich, Connecticut and in 1945 to Riverside, Connecticut. On December 15, 1947 they had a second child, Minda Jones Putman.

They celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary at their home in Riverside, Connecticut in September 1984. Meda died after a short illness on April 19, 1994 at Greenwich, Connecticut Hospital. She was eighty-five years old. Bill died at age 93 on April 25, 2000.

Their two children are:

WILLIAM BYRNES PUTMAN II

William Byrnes Putman II, the writer of this history, was born in Evanston, Illinois on April 10, 1937. I graduated from Yale in 1959, went into the Marine Corps and obtained a M.B.A. degree from New York University. I married Suzanne Marguerite Danner in Riverside, Connecticut on July 22, 1961.

We lived in Hingham, Massachusetts for the next twenty years where we operated a typical New England Cottage Industry manufacturing specialty bags and clothing.

On August 6, 1987, my wife Suzy suffered a sudden and severe asthma attack and passed away an hour later at the hospital. She was buried at our family plot in Riverside, Connecticut at the same church we were married in some twenty six years earlier.

After Suzy died, I did not want to continue operating our family business, Treetops, without her. We had long talked of opening a Bed and Breakfast Inn at some stage, and I decided to go it alone. I bought an old farmhouse built in 1820 and located in Hyannis Port on Cape Cod. It had been an inn for about a year when I took it over in August of 1988.

In September of 1988, while trying to set up a widow support group here on the Cape, I met Peggy Parkhurst whose husband had died in 1984. Since we had both enjoyed our first marriages so much, we decided to do it again and we were married here at the *Simmons Homestead Inn* on Friday evening November 18th, 1988.

Peggy was born in Florida on May 27, 1945 as Margaret Jean Mary McPhee. Peggy grew up in Newton, Massachusetts and graduated from Olivet College in Michigan in December 1966. She married her high school sweetheart, Gordon Parkhurst, in Newton, Massachusetts on June 25, 1967. They had two children; Christiana Lynn and Craig Douglas Parkhurst. They lived in Sudbury, Massachusetts and then moved to the Cape. Gordon died in 1984 and Peggy remained in East Dennis, some 10 miles from here.

But, perhaps a courtship and marriage within two months was a tad hasty. We were divorced in November of 1993. I still run the Inn and intend to for a while to come.

I have one child:

WILLIAM BYRNES PUTMAN III who was born in Greenwich, Connecticut on June 26, 1963. He attended University of Colorado and presently lives here on Cape Cod. On June 6, 1992, he married Eileen Sullivan who is a school teacher here in Barnstable. Tripp, as he is called for being the third WBP, runs his own contracting firm in Yarmouth here on the Cape.

MINDA JONES PUTMAN

Minda, my sister, was born in Greenwich, Connecticut on December 15, 1951. She attended Greenwich Academy and graduated from Pine Manor College in Boston and went to the University of Colorado. She married James Avril Daniell of Pittsburgh on November 22, 1969 in Riverside, Connecticut.

They lived for several years in Philadelphia and then returned to the New York area, and lived in Far Hills, New Jersey for a long time. They currently reside in Powell, Ohio where Jim is an executive in the steel industry. They do not have any children.

THE SHARON BROTHERS STORE

The lives of John Kirk Sharon, Joseph Kithcart Sharon and Addison Joseph Sharon would not be complete without the telling of the family store in Carrollton, Illinois. The history of the Sharon family was very closely related to a general dry goods store that was operated by various Sharons for a 92 year period from 1843 to 1935. The store began and ended at the very same location, although it was moved several times during it's long history. The original building still remains on the square, but is now occupied by other businesses.

The following is from a clipping from a 1935 issue of the CARROLLTON GAZETTE and PATRIOT:

The general store was started near the northeast corner of the public square about 1843. Dr. John K. Sharon, grandfather of the present owner, was the original founder. A daughter of Dr. Sharon, Mrs. Emma Thorne, says the store was first opened 92 years ago.

The HISTORY OF GREENE COUNTY ILLINOIS published in 1879 states that William Sharon was a partner with his brother, Dr. J. K. Sharon, when the business was first started. William retired from the business about the time of the California Gold Rush of 1849. He sold his interest to a Thomas L. Hudson and headed west where he became a multi-millionaire and later a United States Senator from Nevada from 1875 to 1881.

After Dr. Sharon retired from the business, his cousins, John J. Sharon and Joseph Kithcart Sharon took over the business and some time later a third brother, Charles C. Sharon became a member of the firm. At one time the business was divided into three stores in adjoining rooms: Joseph conducting the dry goods department; John the grocery business; and Charles the boot and shoe department. At the death of the younger brother, Charles, in 1885, the three stores became two and continued side by side for a number of years.

Joseph K. Sharon closed the store on Saturday February 28, 1891 according to a clipping from the CARROLLTON GAZETTE:

His son, Addison then went into business for himself by forming Sharon, Fischer & Company and opening for business in the west part of the Simpson and Company store. The partner was John H. Fischer who came to Carrollton from Germany in 1884 and had been a clerk for Joseph Sharon. The 'silent' partner was Henry C. Kenney.

Washington L. Close of Kane, Illinois took over the Fischer interests in 1894. During this period the store operated at the site of the Burns Variety Store. In 1927, the store was moved back to the original room it occupied almost a century earlier. In April of 1935, the store was closed when Add Sharon retired.