

SAMUEL MOTT DISTILLERY

Canal St - west bank of canal (abt across from 3455 Canal St)

1853: "Edgerton Distillery", 1859: "Woodhull & Forward, Distillery"; 1875: "S.R.Mott"

TaxId: (254089) 125.7-1-16 (Lot 41)

Destroyed in 1891 Fire

"The old distillery, now used as the mill, was a stone structure, about 40x150 feet in dimensions and two stories high. This was destroyed. Another report: 40 x 150', 2 stories high and apparently used as a refining building at the time of the fire and the fire originated in this building.



Small water-rounded stones generally set 4 per limestone quoin; quoins of variable lengths and heights. Four openings on first story with four above them—all with limestone lintels.

<http://www.chenangocanal.org/History/Motts/motts.html>

The warehouse was located across the Chenango Canal from a bottling plant that still operates today as the Bouckville Feed Mill (3455 Canal Rd 13310), the longest-running feed mill in NYS. Mott originally made apple cider vinegar here.

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Chittenango NY Madison County Times 1890-1893 Grayscale - 0234.pdf (10/2/1891), p3

BIG FIRE AT BOUCKVILLE — The largest fire in the history of of Bouckville occurred Monday evening. It broke out in the refining department of Hon Samuel R. and J.A. Mott's extensive cider and vinegar manufacturing works and speedily extended to the engine and large storage room adjoining.

The buildings destroyed formed only a portion of the works, which are the largest in the country. The mills have a capacity of 2000 barrels of cider a day. The refining building which was burned was a stone structure 40x150 feet, two stories high; it also had a basement. The engine room was a 2½ story stone building. The storage cellars were very large, but the roofs were only four or five feet above the ground... The loss is estimated from \$30,000 - \$40,000 and is partly covered by insurance.

Utica NY Daily Press 1891 - 1408.pdf (9/29/1891) A GREAT BLAZE AT BOUCKVILLE, Bouckville 9/28—

The greatest fire known in the history of this village occurred here this evening, by which the largest industry in the place was wiped out. About 20 minutes before 6, smoke was noticed coming from the varnishing department of Mott's cider mills. The alarm was at once given and a crowd collected, but as there was no apparatus at hand, the flames spread with alarming rapidity.

The people became almost frantic and hasty appeals were sent to surrounding towns. Oriskany Falls, Hamilton and Morrisville responded, sending apparatus. The flames raged fiercely until nearly 8 o'clock, when they were gotten under partial control. At one time it looked as though the whole village would be burned, and the inhabitants rushed about the streets almost crazed.

At the lower mills, where the conflagration was located, there are several buildings together. The old distillery, now used as the mill, was a stone structure, about 40x150 feet in dimensions and two stories high. This was destroyed, with the engine house, cooper shop, storage cellar, varnishing rooms and smaller buildings. The factories were the largest in the United States, and in the cellars were 100 cells, each holding about 600 barrels of cider or vinegar. All the refining machinery was destroyed together with an immense quantity of barrels about the outside of the buildings.

Further destruction was only prevented by the efficient work of the firemen. About 40 men were employed. The property was owned by Hon. S.R. and J.A. Mott. They were unable to give any intelligent estimate of their losses this evening. The loss is variously estimated at from \$30,000 to \$100,000, half the amount being covered by insurance.

Source: Waterville NY Times 1887 - 1892 Grayscale - 0954.pdf (F 10/2/1891)

"Big Blaze in Bouckville: The largest fire in the history of the village of Bouckville occurred there on Monday evening and destroyed one of the largest industries of the place... smoke was noticed coming from the varnishing department of Mott's cider mills... At the lower mills there are several buildings together. The old distillery—now used as the mill—was a stone structure, about 60 x 100 feet and 2 stories high. This was destroyed, with the engine house, cooper shop,

Karen Crandall
3/18/2019

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storage cellar, varnishing rooms, and smaller buildings... All the refining machinery was destroyed, together with an immense quantity of barrels about the outside of the buildings."

Distillery, SW Rt 20 & Canal St, Bouckville (1853 atlas) -

A better way to transport the grain was to process it into whiskey and then send it to market in barrels on the new Chenango Canal. As a result, a fine cobblestone building was erected c.1837 on the west side of the canal and a distillery was begun. The following is a listing of owners of the distillery at Bouckville: 1847 – Burchard & Edgerton — Distillery (We do not know if they were the original builders of the distillery. They are the first recorded in the county files. The building was purchased from Woodhull & Forward by Horatio S. Brown, John C. Beach and Charles F. Dedrick and converted into a vinegar manufactory. In 1868, Samuel R. Mott will buy Dedrick's one-third interest in this firm and will later own the entire operation and convert it into a cider and vinegar firm – the beginnings of the Mott's product name. The 1853 wall map of Madison county shows "Woodhull & Forward, Distillers" on the west side of the Chenango Canal at this point. A news item states it was converted to a vinegar factory in 1867. SEPT 18, 1891 FIRE! The old distillery, now used as the mill, was a stone structure, about 40x150 feet in dimensions and two stories high. This was destroyed...

<http://www.madison-bouckville.com/newsletters/newsletter/8194702/88625.htm> (12/2012)

"TURNPIKE TALES" #8 — FACTS, TALES AND OTHER ITEMS FROM THE CHENANGO CANAL - By Jim Ford

"Bouckville had a distillery along the canal bank, in fact when Samuel Mott, of apple fame, arrived in Bouckville in 1868; he had purchased a one-third interest in this distillery. He went into the cider and vinegar business exclusively with the arrival of the railroad."

<http://www.madison-bouckville.com/newsletters/newsletter/8194702/90561.htm>

Also by Jim Ford: "TURNPIKE TALES" #10 – Part 2 (7/2013)

"Samuel Rogers Mott. He arrived in Bouckville in 1868, after having made a deal for part ownership in a cider and vinegar firm in 1867... He operated the cider mill across the canal from the present Bouckville Mill feed store, in the old distillery building. The cobblestone distillery had been converted into a cider firm c.1867.

Source: <http://www.madison-bouckville.com/newsletters/newsletter/8194702/85694.htm>

Samuel Mott was born in 1826. When he was 16 years old he began learning the art of cider making from his grandfather. In 1867 he set out for Bouckville by way of the Erie and Chenango Canals to purchase a one-third interest in a vinegar factory. The vinegar factory that Mott bought a one-third interest in was located in the old cobblestone distillery building on the west side of the canal. Mr. Mott bought out the interests of his partners in 1869 and named the new firm the Mott Cider Company.

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<http://www.yeoldelandmark.com/history/>

"THE COBBLESTONE DISTILLERY AT BOUCKVILLE"

"Local farms were producing an abundance of grain and the grain could be sent to market by wagon, but that was a slow and laborious process. A better way to transport the grain was to process it into whiskey and then send it to market in barrels on the new Chenango Canal. As a result, a fine cobblestone building was erected c.1837 on the west side of the canal and a distillery was begun. The following is a listing of owners of the distillery at Bouckville as compiled by Matthew Urtz, Madison County Historian. 1847 – Burchard & Edgerton — Distillery — Whiskey

(We do not know if they were the original builders of the distillery. They are the first recorded in the county files. The information for 1847 comes from the record books of Miss Gertrude Edgerton. In that book was recorded the sale of 30 barrels of whiskey to be sent on the boat "Utica," to New York City, by way of the Chenango and Erie Canals.)

1855 – John Woodhull — Distillery — Whiskey (John Woodhull installed a rectifier. In this process, the spirits or liquor goes through repeated distillation.)

1855 – Woodhull & Seawood — Distillery — Whiskey

1859 – William Woodhull & Joseph Forward — Distillery — Whiskey 1865 – William Woodhull & Joseph Forward — Distilling & Malting — Whiskey & Malt Liquor

1867 – The building was purchased from Woodhull & Forward by Horatio S. Brown, John C. Beach and Charles F. Dedrick and converted into a vinegar manufactory.

(In 1868, Samuel R. Mott will buy Dedrick's one-third interest in this firm and will later own the entire operation and convert it into a cider and vinegar firm – the beginnings of the Mott's product name.)"

Sweet Cider Days

by Jim Ford

Mr. Charles Dedrick sold 1/3 of his interest in the vinegar factory to Mr. Mott of Saratoga County reported on 5/2/1868. The new firm will be Brown, Beach and Mott. The Peet Brothers also have their vinegar factory in active production turning out eight barrels a day. There is cider enough in both factories to make 4000 barrels of vinegar. This old stone distillery (dimensions of 60' X 100' and two stories high) plus a malt house (built c. 1863) on the west shore of the Chenango, south west of the Bouckville Feed Mill. They also manufactured cider brandy. Brown, Beach and Dedrick started their business c. 1863. By 1869, S.R. Mott purchased the business interests to own it entirely. Fire burned down this distillery in 1891 along with a larger building used for refining and storage, dimensions of 256' X 40'. The intense heat and flames were kept from the old warehouse, now used as a mill. The factories were the largest in the United States. These buildings were purchased about a year ago by S.R. and J.C. Mott of the Genesee Fruit Co. and managed by F.G. Mott. The plant was valued at \$150,000. The buildings destroyed were only a small part of the plant so operations will go on. Temporary buildings will be erected. The \$30,000 to \$40,000 loss is covered by insurance.

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Pictures of both the Vinegar Factory remains (above) and the Bouckville Feed Mill (below)

Also "Reed Alvord" (F Reed Alvord)

Cazenovia Republican, 8/5/1943, Pg 8

"... Reed Alvord, who has been editor of the Hamilton Republican and Madison County Leader, has resigned to become assistant to President Everett Case of Colgate University... Reed Alvord graduated from Colgate in 1931 and served as reporter on the NY herald Tribune and Rochester Times Union. He has been editor of the Republican since 1/1/1939.

<http://madisoncountynyork.com/Maps/1859/Bouckville.jpg>

1859: <https://www.loc.gov/resource/g3803m.la000517/?r=-0.019,0.03,0.09,0.043,0>

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Other building in the area — unrelated to the cobblestone distillery. Part of the Bouckville Feed Mill.

Around 1837, a cobblestone building was erected on the west side of the canal and a distillery was begun. It was owned by several people between 1837 and 1867. It was converted into a vinegar manufactory in 1867. In 1867, Samuel R. Mott came to Bouckville from Saratoga County to purchase a one-third interest in the factory. In 1869, Mott bought out the interests of his partners. The vinegar factory that Mott bought a one-third interest in was located in the old cobblestone distillery building on the west side of the canal.