

Bethinking of Old Orleans

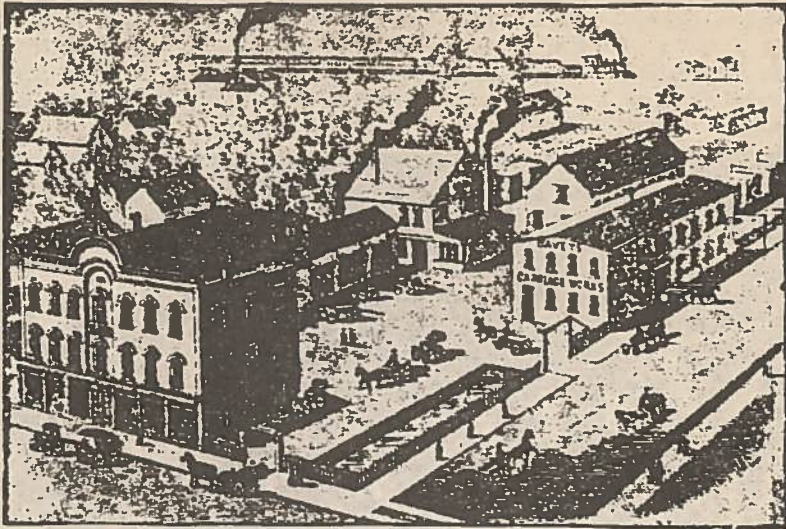
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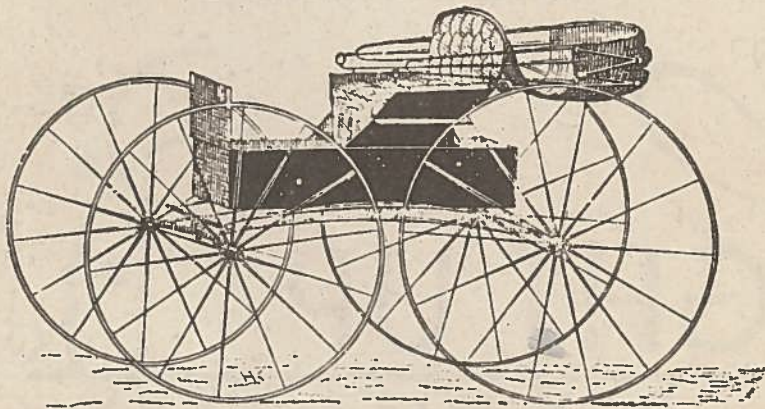
No. 44

DAVEY'S CARRIAGE & SLEIGH WORKS



DAVEY'S CARRIAGE WORKS.

EDWARD DAVEY,
MAKER OF FINE



Carriages, Phætons, Buggies

and SPECIALTIES. Over 48 years' constantly increasing trade. We offer as our Leader for the coming season: ELLIPTIC SPRING BUGGY, Drop Axle, Square Box or Corn- ing Body, Wheels and Gearing Second Growth Hickory, Pure Gum-lined Rubber Top, Nor- way Iron Bolts, Clips and Braces, for \$90.00. Best job to be had for the money. Write us for Catalogue and Prices.

EDWARD DAVEY, - MEDINA, N. Y.

The birds-eye-view of Davey's Carriage Works and the following article are found in a special souvenir edition of the Medina Tribune published in June 1897. The text is as follows:

"Medina enjoys a wide reputation as a commercial center and among its manufacturers which have made its name a synonym for commercial activity is the carriage works of Edward H. Davey.

"The business was established in the year 1849 by his father, Mr. Edward Davey, who on March 4 of that year began the manufacture of wagons, etc. on the site of the Medina House, giving his constant personal attention to the business until the year 1878 from which time until his death (in August 1894) he traveled extensively and the management of the business devolved upon his son, Edward H. Davey, who is now his successor.

"The quality of the work produced by this factory has always been of the highest grade combining extraordinary durability, unique design and incomparable finish. The work turned out is generally of a light grade and is sold only to the consumer direct, thereby enabling them to sell a first class handmade top buggy (by avoiding dealers profits) as low as \$75.00. Many of the conveyances made by this firm twenty-five to thirty years ago are doing substantial service to this day. A handsome three-story brick block 60x100 feet is occupied as a repository, office, trimming and finish rooms, etc., while several other commodious buildings in the rear are used for the other departments of manufacturing, in comprising upward of 40,000 square feet of floor space."

The other illustration or advertisement which accompanies, is taken from Boyd's Directory of Genesee, Orleans and Wyoming Counties 1893-94.

One hundred years ago almost every community the size of Medina had at least one carriage maker listed. Mr. Davey is the only one for Medina in 1893-94. However, there are several for Albion at this same time. They are: Morgan Howe, Alfred and William Sears, Corydon Danforth and Linus Griswold. There are none listed for Holley. The ones for Albion were small shops, whereas the Davey Carriage Works was a larger factory employing a number of people. Davey's was located on the south side of East Center Street in the lower left and the alley in the lower right. In the distance we can see the New York Central R.R. With smoking chimneys, the R.R. and a number of horse-drawn vehicles, we get the idea that Medina was a burgeoning community one hundred years ago. However, as the horseless carriage and automobile began to take over horse drawn conveyances, the carriage maker soon found himself out of business. Incidentally, the Davey Carriage Works is not listed in the Directory of Orleans County for 1903. I do however, find Linus Griswold and the Sears Bros. still listed under Carriage Manufacturers in Albion. There are, I might add, several people listed as carriage dealers in the 1903 directory. By 1911 the Orleans County Directory does not list any carriage makers, only "carriage dealers and garages."

In 1910 my grandmother Lattin bought a new top buggy for around \$100 not unlike the one pictured in Davey's ad. But by 1917 my father had purchased a Model T for \$250 and the relatively new buggy was thereafter stored away.

Indeed, there were many such carriage and sleigh works and related businesses including what we might today call body shops where carriages were painted and repaired.