

## THOMAS J. SWEET 1883-1945



I feel my limbs are made glorious by the touch of the world of life. And my pride is from the e-throb of ages dancing in my blood this moment."  
-- Rabindranath Tagore

It was almost eighty years ago that Berton Hoover, a local newspaper reporter, wrote of Thomas J. Sweet: "He is one of the live wires of the Albion Chamber of Commerce in his home town." Indeed, Thomas J. Sweet will be remembered by a few older residents as a community-spirited person and a co-owner with his brother-in-law Bert E. Crego, of the T. J. Sweet Canning factory.

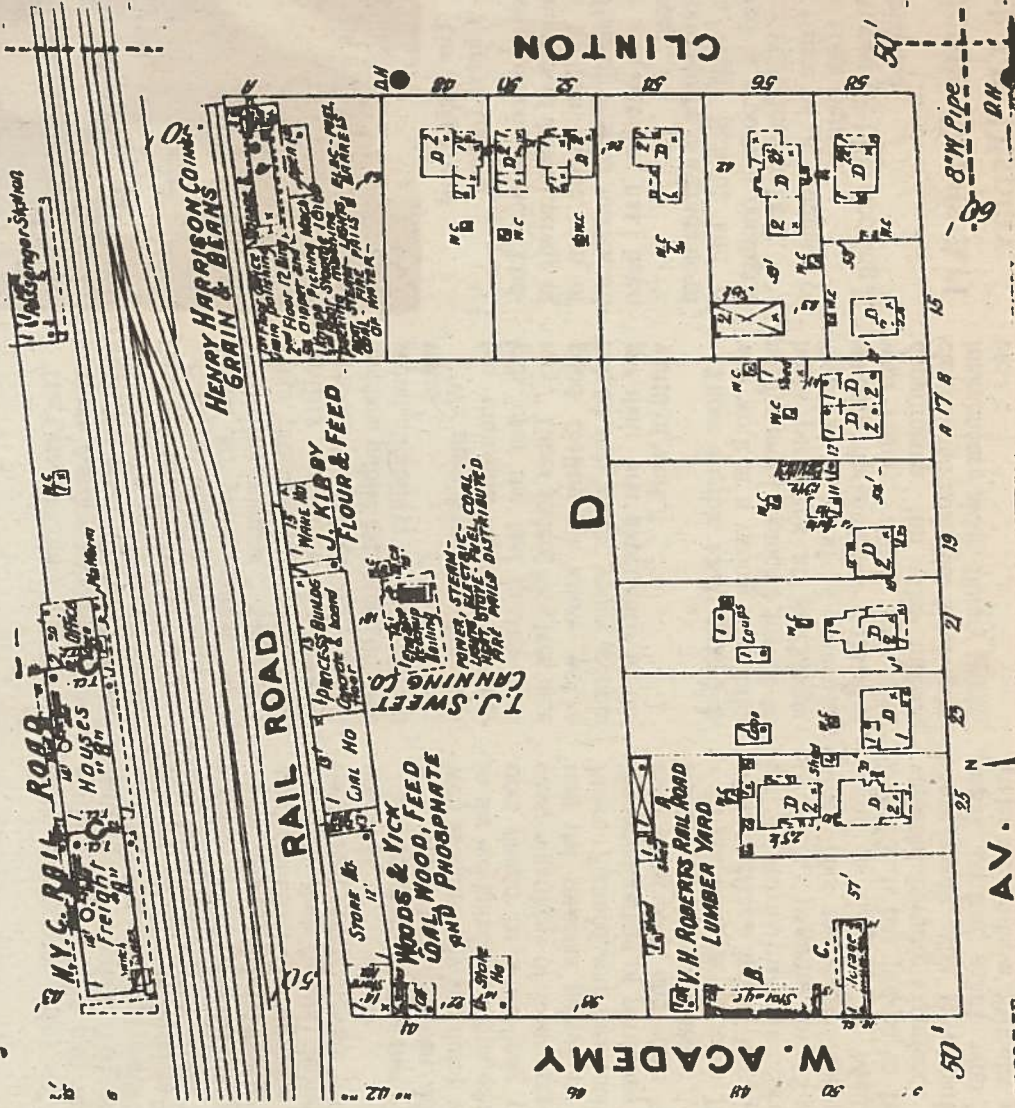
This canning factory was established some time between 1915 and 1917 off South Clinton Street and the NY Central Railroad. Our Underwriters

Insurance Map of 1917 shows the location of the T. J. Sweet Co. between Woods & Vick and the John Kirby Flour & Feed warehouse. Note the Process Building and the Ketchup Boiling Unit on the grounds. During the course of the years through expansion projects by various owners, the canning factory grounds were greatly increased in size. Over ten dwellings were eventually bought and removed and Clinton Street in the late 1950's was closed off at the railroad crossing for further expansion of the warehouse. The plant's main entrance eventually was made to face West Avenue.

In 1942 the factory was sold to the Continental Foods Company. However, Mr. Sweet was retained in a supervisory capacity in managing the factory. This plant later became the T. J. Lipton Company which was taken over by Ontario Food Products Inc. when Lipton's gave up the Albion location.

In the 1920's the Sweets and Cregos both built residences on Hazard Parkway; the Sweets at the corner of Clinton and the Cregos a couple of doors east. The Cregos house is now used as the parsonage for the Albion United Methodist Church. Tom Sweet, as people knew him, was a member of the Active Hose Co. No. 2 of Albion and is shown pictured here in 1919 wearing his firemen's uniform. Along with being a loyal supporter of the Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Sweet was a member of the Albion Village Board of Trustees for twenty years, having first been elected to that post in February 1919. He was a member of the Albion Lodge of Elks, active in Renovation Lodge No. 97 and a member of the Lemuel Cook Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution. He also was a member of and served in various positions at the Pullman Memorial Universalist Church.

Upon his death he was survived by his wife, Mae



Crego Sweet and three brothers, all of whom lived out of this area. An enormous quantity of flowers at Mr. Sweet's funeral, bespoke the esteem and respect for which he was held within the community. He was laid to rest at Aurora, Illinois. Mae Sweet later married Grant Barber and continued to live on Hazard Parkway until her death in 1965.