

# THE MCCORMICK QUARRY

## Old steam engine is highlight of 19th century photo

BY C. W. LATTIN

Although there is no date on this picture, it is fair to assume it was probably taken in the 1890's. It is, however, identified as the "McCormick Sandstone Quarry: Medina, N.Y." This was located north of the Erie Canal on Bates Road. The old Bates Road Bridge partially shows to the extreme right in the photo with two people standing on it.

The center of interest here, however, is the steam engine or tractor, which the photographer, as well as the owner, wanted prominent in the picture. The quarry owner, Nelson McCormick, would have been very proud of this piece of equipment.

Here we see this steam tractor hauling a massive piece of Medina sandstone on a flat bed with wooden spoke wheels. Five of the quarry

and obviously moving stone. Nest to the driver is a large wheel for belt driven purposes as well.

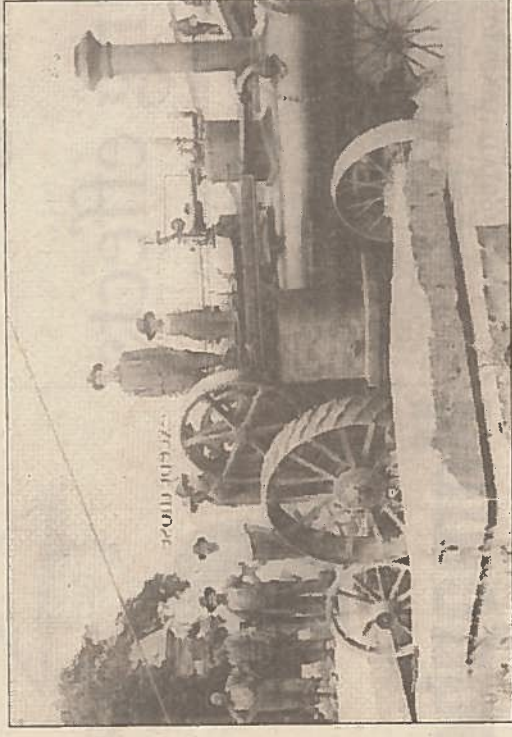
Large pieces of Medina stone like this were used for various purposes such as tops over culverts on country roads or landings in outside staircases.

One of the largest pieces of Medina sandstone quarried in Orleans County was out of a Holley quarry. It measured 12 inches thick, 12 feet wide and

30 feet long. Lifted by steam derrick onto a N.Y. Central railroad gondola, it was shipped to Albany for use at the state capital.

The Medina sandstone industry reached its peak in 1904 when there were a total of 48 quarries in operation in Orleans County, employing 1,200 men that season.

Notice: The tour of Mount Albion Cemetery will be at 2 p.m. Oct. 16.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

workers are posing, standing on the stone while others stand in back of it. Several of the men appear to be holding crowbars used for prying and moving stones around in the quarry. There is a man at the steering wheel of the engine

and a boy standing on the engine. He was no doubt someone's son who followed his father to work the day the picture was taken.

Steam power was immensely helpful in the quarry industry. It was used for drilling, sawing