



100 years ago

BY C.W. LATTIN

One hundred years ago this picture was used in the Albion Souvenir Book of 1905 to illustrate a local business. The page in the book simply stated "John H. Howard Coal and Wood No. 2 Clinton St., Albion. Hacks for Hire."

The location of this business was at the very north end of Clinton Street on the canal for easy delivery of coal by boat. This site is presently used by New York state for the canal terminal buildings.

Our photo shows at left a hack, which is essentially an enclosed carriage or coach. You could rent carriages here or hire the service as portrayed. The 1911 Orleans County Directory indicates livery service.

The other vehicle is a wagon used for the delivery of coal and wood. A coal shovel is fastened to the side of the wagon. It appears the structure this is

coming out of is a scale house where coal would be weighed as it was sold by the ton.

It is interesting that the roofing material on this part of the building consists of overlapping vertical boards.

In 1905, there were also two other major coal dealers advertised in the Albion book. One was Charles Porter whose business was located on East Bank Street and the other was Shourds Brothers located at the foot of Platt Street. These were

also situated on the canal for accessibility to shipping.

Likewise, there were coal dealers along the railroad, all back when coal was the primary source of fuel for ranges, stoves and furnaces.