

3-2-06

WHEN STOVES WERE MADE

BY C.W. LATTIN

In a little article entitled "When Stoves Were Made," written by L.H. Beach for the Orleans American back in 1912, we find some information on local foundries.

The story indicates: "In the early days of this town (Albion) there were two stove foundries on East Bank St. then known as Canal St. That of Seth L. King or (King & Root) stood where the village hall now is, and that of Bedell & Berry was located where Louis Smith building now stands."

In today's context this would have been about half way between the corner of Ingersoll St. and Suburban Electric.

"These foundries made cook stoves and box heaters." The article indicated that in 1912 there were still box heaters being used with the name "Seth L. King, Albion" cast on the stoves. "In Beaver Alley was another place where 'Daddy' Waite sold an air tight box stove of his own invention."

All three foundries were of course located within close proximity of the Erie Canal. This was for easy delivery of pig iron, foundry sand and coal and was an easy way for shipment of stoves. At one time there was a slip off the canal up to Beaver Alley. This was probably filled in with improvements to the canal during the early 1850s.

The story continues by stating: "In those days almost every village and city had its own stove foundry to supply local trade, but when the big foundries were started for general trade the 'little fellows speedily died.'"

Imagine they were saying this back in 1912 about the little fellow. Does it all sound familiar today?

The 1869 Orleans County Directory lists Norman Bedell and Seth King as living here, but there is no mention of either of their foundries. By that period of time they may have succumbed to the big foundries. The 1869 Directory does display the ad for stoves we see here. Note it was produced in Rochester.

BRASS FINISH POLISHED ROBERTSON

Court Street Foundry!

N. H. GALUSHA,
MANUFACTURER AND DEALER

STOVES!
OF EVERY DESCRIPTION

Grand Hollow Ware,
SCOTCH BOWLS,
CALIBREON
KETTLES!
REGULATED

CASINGS, & C.
SCOTCH & No. 1
AMERICAN IRON.
The best for all uses.

GEN. GRANT
No. 100 Court St., Near South St., Fall Street,
ROCHESTER, N. Y.

