



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Craftsmanship produced coffins on demand

BY C. W. LATTIN

This picture taken in the late 1890's shows the Reynolds & Flinthenam store that was located on the east side of Main Street in Albion. Seen here are Cassius M.C. Reynolds, Willis Flinthenam and William Goff. Advertising indicates: Furniture & Undertaking. Crockery and Glassware. Situated on the sidewalk are wicker baby carriages.

Years ago furniture makers doubled as undertakers because of their ability to build

cabinetry, which meant they could produce coffins on demand.

This firm was bought out by J.B. Merrill in the 1920s, making it a forerunner to the present Merrill Grinnell Funeral home today.

Cassius M.C. Reynolds was the founder of Aster Day, a movement which was popular in the early 20th century where people would take asters to the cemetery on the Sunday closest to the middle of September to decorate graves.

our photo, was the father of Stuart John Flinthenam who amassed the present day collection of birds eggs on display at the Swan Library. These were collected by him in the 1890s. He was unfortunately killed in a forest fire in 1925.

Finally, William Goff was known as an expert coffin builder and was remembered years ago by one old timer as being able to fill his mouth full of tacks, in other words using it like a dispenser while tacking