

2-15-07

OUGH'S FURNITURE

C.W. LATTIN

The following was a paid advertisement found in the Daily Republican published in Albion on Aug. 24, 1860.

Ough's

Furniture Rooms and Crockery store

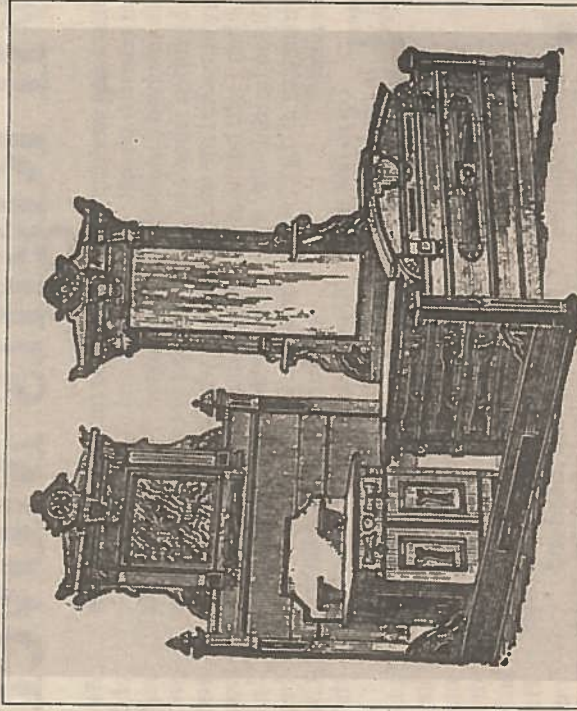
No. 2 Clark's Block, Albion
 The undersigned would give notice that he has now in store a complete assortment of furniture and cabinet ware, of all kinds, grades and prices, embracing chairs of every variety from cottage to the richest style of parlor, easy chairs, marble top, mahogany, centre and side tables, sofas and tete-tetes, all grades, bureau, dining and breakfast tables, bedsteads, all kinds from common to mahogany, and all articles kept in furniture ware rooms, of first best materials and workmanship, all of which are offered at lower rates than elsewhere in this county.

Crockery, china, glass and Britannia ware

I have also opened in connection with my cabinet rooms, a store for the sale of crockery and etc. which is now filled with an assortment of new and desirable goods in the line of

China, crockery and glass ware

Plated and Britania ware, mirrors, moulding, bird cages and embracing by far the best



CONTRIBUTED ART

assortment in this place. Remember, I am not to be undersold, but will sell a better article for less money than any other establishment in town.

Coffins and undertaking

I propose to continue as heretofore the undertaking business and shall keep constantly on hand coffins of all sizes and prices; together with a fine hearse and a large assort-

ment of shrouds.

April 22, 1859

G.W. Ough

George Ough's place of business was located on the east side of Main Street in Albion across the street from the present First Niagara Bank. Several things in the article/advertisement are indicative of the times.

First, the term cottage as a description. Cottage style furniture was made of soft wood such as pine, which was cheap. This style of furniture from the mid 19th century was then painted in faux finishes sometimes resembling expensive woods such as chestnut, walnut or rosewood. Sometimes freehand painted decorations such as flowers were put on panels or drawer fronts.

Second, the term tete-a-tetes is used to describe a piece of furniture. This term essentially means head-to-head. Such an article of furniture would seat

two people facing each other. In other words, the seat would be shaped in an S-form so you could sit side by side but in opposite directions. Definitely a piece of furniture that would be placed out in the room rather than against a wall.

Third, we find the term Britania ware. This is an alloy largely of tin, antimony and copper similar to pewter which forms a silvery white metal. This again, like cottage furniture, would have been a lower line of tableware as opposed to sterling silver.

And finally, it was only natural that furniture and cabinet makers would also provide coffins and become undertakers. After all, these people had the goods, skills and tools to make coffins in the same shop as fine furniture. All this starting in the days before embalming so no special skill or training was needed to be an undertaker.