

# Carriage manufacturing was done locally

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Before the advent of the gasoline engine and the manufacturing of the horseless carriage, beginning in the 1890's, every community had a carriage shop. It is believed the accompanying photo from the late 19th century was taken in the Sears Brothers carriage manufactory. This was located at the south east corner of Main and Caroline Streets in Albion.

The man pictured is a carriage painter which was a precise job with no runs or drips to your work. There was to be absolutely no dust in the building which could destroy a superb paint job.

Likewise, pin striping was a fine art. We note here that the walls and



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advertises a Leander McCord as a carriage manufacturer on Canal Street in Albion. In Medina, Edward Davy was a very successful carriage maker with a large factory off East Center Street in the mid to late 19th century.

What this all suggests is that we were a very self-localized community at the time. Once auto manufacturing occurred, the carriage makers soon found themselves out of work. The little local shops were forced to close as we were on a roll.

Henry Sears at the same location. Also an Isaac Sears is listed as a dealer and manufacturer of

carriages, sleighs and wagons at the corner of Liberty and Beaver Alley. This stone building still stands today, although in disrepair.

The 1969 directory also

ceiling of the paint room are covered with canvas to keep out dust.

The Sears Brothers (Alpheus and William) are listed in the 1903 Orleans County Directory. This family was in the carriage business for at least a couple of generations, as the 1869 directory lists a