

W.G. Skinner - Boots & Shoes, Medina, N.Y.

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Orleans County Historian

Our illustration shown here is taken from mid-19th century poster. Note the gentleman seated in a chair by which sets a carpet bag. He is portrayed reading a newspaper which in fine print states: "Boots and Shoes - No business in Medina perhaps is so crowded as the Boot and Shoe Trade. There are seven stores where that particular branch of business is carried on within the corporate limits of this village. How much each does separately is unknown to the writer, but all aggregate a very large annual business."

"The prince of Boot and Shoe dealers is W.G. Skinner. The largest, lightest and best finished Show Store in town is that owned and occupied by W.G. Skinner. The best and largest stock of Boots and Shoes is kept by W.G. Skinner, which he is ever ready to exhibit to customers and all others interested in his line of deal."

"Skinner buys for cash and sells for a small

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Bethinking
of Olde
Orleans

W. G. SKINNER



The Best Goods and Latest Styles

BUY YOUR
BOOTS, SHOES, RUBBERS,
Over Shoes, Gloves and Mittens

W.G. SKINNER

AT THE
NEW BRICK BOOK
No. 58 Main Street,
MEDINA, N. Y.

It is hereby certified that the above is a true and correct copy of the original as filed in the office of the County Clerk of Orleans County, New York, on the 10th day of June, 1903.

attack of bankruptcy.

"With the finest and best arranged Boot and Shoe Store west of New York City, and a stock that would fascinate the most fastidious, and with prices adapted to the necessities of all and with a custom large and ominous of a bright and active future. In the language of the poet we repeat regarding Skinner, "long may he wave" - Medina Democrat.

It's my impression that W.G. Skinner took an article written by a correspondent for the Medina Democrat, and plugged it into an advertising poster for his business. Such an item as this in our ancestors' language would probably been called a bill.

From another "bill" put out by the same W.G. Skinner, I found the following list for Rubber Goods:

- Men's Rubber Boots \$2.50
- Men's Pure Gum Boots \$3.50
- Boy's Rubber Boots \$2.00
- Men's Rubber Overshoes 40 to 60
- Women's Rubber Overshoes 30 to 40
- Men's Buckle Arctics \$1.40
- Men's Cong Arctics \$1.40

- Women's Buckle Arctics \$1.00
- Women's Gong \$1.00
- Men's Alaskas \$.85
- Women's Alaskas \$.75

The 1869 Orleans County Director lists: "Skinner, W.G., Manufacturer, and dealer in boots, shoes, rubbers, gloves, mittens and

trucks, 58 Shelby." The 1903 Orleans County Directory lists: "Skinner, William G. (W.G. Skinner & Son) (late shoe dealer 47 years) N. 238 W. Center" The business was located on Shelby Street which name was later changed to Main Street.