

Pictorial Wheatland





HARMON—WILLIAM H. GARBUTT

Rawson Harmon II owned the farm and built the house on the farm, known as Blue Pond Farm on North Road. In 1846 he started an agricultural school here. William H. Garbutt owned the farm for some time.



GARBUTT—WOODGATE—KLINGENSMITH

The house located on the south side of North Road, Wheatland was the home of Robert R. Garbutt and his son, Roy Garbutt. The Woodgate Family lived there a number of years. It is now the home of J. Klingsensmith.

Pictorial Wheatland

by

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Wheatland Town Historian

1984

Volume VII

FOREWORD...

PICTORIAL WHEATLAND

Showing some of the Businesses, Churches, Residences, Manufacturing Plants, streets, landscapes, celebrations and schools of the Wheatland of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

This booklet represents a portion of the pictures of the Town of Wheatland and many years of search and research. The generosity of the people of Wheatland in lending their treasured old pictures, and furnishing information about them is appreciated. A book of this sort obviously owes large debts to many people.

Mrs. Ella K. McGinnis

Town of Wheatland Historian

Booklet No. 7 — 1984

INTRODUCTION

The Town of Wheatland lies in heart of the finest and most fertile farming land in Western New York. In the middle of the nineteenth century the counties of Monroe and Livingston were reputed to be the greatest producers of wheat in the United States.

The Wheatland of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries and the Wheatland of today are in striking contrast. Settled on the west side by the early Scotch settlers, and on the east side by the English and Germans, with a scattering here and there, of almost all ethnic groups.

The March of time leaves in its path oblivion. It is said of man that he is of few years, that he passes, and the places that knew him now, shall know him no more forever. This is true of the great mass of mankind. A few for a time live in history. The good and the bad are all leveled by the Reaper of Time and in the ages are alike forgotten.

A century will blot out nearly all knowledge of the active business of men of its day.

May all who turn these pages o'er enjoy the pictures, be warmed by old memories, come to appreciate their heritage, and rededicate themselves to greater efforts towards maintaining the beauty and tranquility in our home town.



David Iller
Town of Wheatland Supervisor - 1982-83-84

WHEAT GROWING IN THE GENESEE VALLEY

The first wheat cultivated in the Town of Wheatland was sown in the fall of 1788, on land then owned by Indian Allan but, before it was harvested, it became the property of Peter Sheffer first. The amount sown was two bushels on about two acres of land. The variety was called the "Lisbon" or "Velvet." This variety was the only kind cultivated for several years.

Wheat growing in the Genesee Valley from early in its settlement through the period of its greatest prosperity from 1814 to 1865 Monroe and Livingston counties were the greatest wheat producing counties in the United States.

In the beginning, wheat was harvested by hand using the sickle which was the first implement used in harvesting the wheat, later followed by the scythe. The sickle had a curved blade with a serrated edge and a short handle to be grasped with one hand. The scythe had a longer, straighter, and smoother edged blade and a long handle that gave a broad sweep to the blade. It had a short attachment fastened to the handle of the scythe intended to gather the grain to one side, leaving it in condition to be bound. It was the forerunner of the grain cradle. However, so slow was the development of the cradle that it was not until the beginning of the 19th century that American ingenuity, by combining strength and lightness, brought the cradle to a state of perfection, that for fifty years it remained monarch of the harvest. In use, the swinging of the cradle was a graceful movement. The operator advanced step by step, cutting a swath 7 to 8 feet wide, leaving the grain in an even wind row at his left and thus he covered an average of about 1 ½ acres a day.

It required three men to bind after two cradlers and where three cradlers were employed five men were engaged in binding, one in stacking, and two boys with rakes gathered the scatterings.

In 1838, to harvest 50 acres, it took ten men, three cradlers, five binders, six rakers, and one stacker. It took them six days to harvest the wheat.

The Genesee Valley, from early in its settlement through the period of its greatest prosperity as a wheat growing region of National reputation and at a time when flour branded as, "Made From Pure Genesee Wheat," was regarded as of highest grade wherever wheat flour was used.

In 1836 Philip Garbutt shipped 4,775 barrels of flour from Sheffer's warehouse on the river, making as many as sixty trips in one navigable season between Sheffer's warehouse on the river and the city of Rochester. The flour was ground in Philip Garbutt's mill at Garbutt and Hiram Smith's mill at Wheatland Center.

In 1850 at the first international exposition held in the "Crystal-Palace in London," Rawson Harmon II, received the first prize and Gold Medal for his exhibit of thirty-five varieties of wheat all grown on his farm on North Road, Wheatland.

In the late 1850's wheat growing in Monroe and Livingston counties suffered severe setbacks. In 1855 it rained nearly every day for a month right at harvest time, causing the yield to be greatly reduced. These years were disastrous to the wheat growing industry in Monroe and Livingston counties, because, at the same time, the vast wheat growing regions of the midwest were developing and they easily supplied the eastern markets. The West retained its gains in the eastern Markets and wheat growing went into a decline in Wheatland.



Using grain cradle.



Cutting and stacking the wheat to cure for threshing.



Drawing the wheat from the field to be threshed.



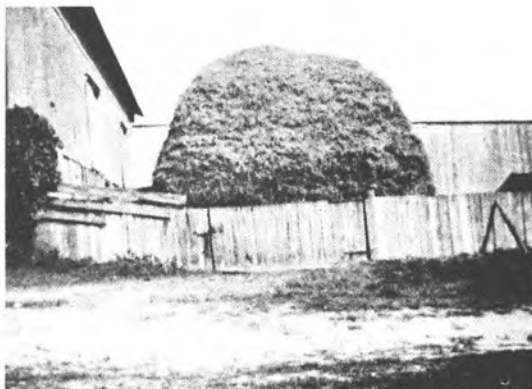
Threshing by steam engine near the barn.



Men throwing the bundles of wheat into the thresher.



Stacking the wheat in the barnyard.



*Finished straw stack
in barnyard of
WM. Garbutt—John Z.
Garbutt farm 1920s, at
Garbuttsville, N.Y.*

SOME OF SCOTTSVILLE'S MILLS

Donald McVean built the first mill in the village of Scottsville in 1816. The mill was located on the north bank of the Oatka Creek directly opposite Race Street.

Upon completion, the mill was sold by Donald McVean to Abraham Hanford, who conducted it for many years, he was followed by many others. In September 1884 the mill was destroyed by fire. At the time it was owned by S. N. Holmes. No picture available.

In 1830 Powell Carpenter erected a three story brick mill a few rods west of the Hanford Mill. He conducted the mill for some years later being followed by his son Ira Carpenter and others. This mill burned in 1878, at the time it was operated by Malcolm McVean.

A new company was formed in 1880. It was called "The Scottsville Milling Co." They built the new mill upon the site of the Carpenter Mill. A Mr. M. C. Mordoff conducted a fruit evaporator and Cider Mill there for a few years. In 1886 machinery was installed for the manufacture of flour by L. M. Godley and Co. In the following year the business was greatly increased. In 1887 a switch was laid from the Western New York and Pennsylvania Railroad on the south side of Oatka Creek to a point opposite the Godley Mill and a large warehouse was erected there. The warehouse was connected to the mill by a high bridge, and for a number of years, an extensive milling business was conducted.

In 1893 the Godley Company discontinued business. The mill was purchased by the Merchants Bank of Rochester. While the bank was running the mill it was called the Scottsville Milling Co. In 1895 a lamp explosion caused the fire that destroyed the mill.

In 1904 the Merchants Bank of Rochester sold the site of the Scottsville Milling Company, destroyed by fire in 1895, to the Wheatland Milling and Power Company in 1904. Isaac Salyerds was its first president. The new Mill and Electric light plant was built by John T. Wells and Sons. Salyerds made application for the purpose of lighting dwellings, streets and stores.

On February 1st, 1905 the electric lights were turned on for the first time. A large water wheel furnished the electric power to run the rollers in the mill and a smaller water wheel provided the power for the electric lights. The power plant was in the charge of Chester Harmon and he turned off the power at midnight.

In 1912 the Victor Milling Company leased the flour mill from the Wheatland Milling and Power Company, they decided to sell by the year. The mill was purchased by R. E. Smith and operated as a flour and feed mill until June 1915. It was next rented by E. R. Thompkinson, his venture was not successful and after two years the mill was closed and the equipment removed.

In 1916 a Rochester Co. purchased the mill property and made alterations. A brick addition was built on the front of the 1904 frame building. The flour mill changed to the Flower City Tissue Mills. The business grew and the increasing demands for its products necessitated expansion.

It was reorganized in 1921 and called the Scottsville Paper Box Board Corp., the mill changed from the manufacture of tissue paper to making corrugated card boards.

In 1924 business reverses compelled it to close its doors.

In 1925 the Lawless Brothers, David and Michael of Rochester purchased the property. They were manufacturers of box board paper. A car load of coal was used each day for steam power, 60 men were employed in 3 eight hour shifts, making box boards.

In 1931 the depression years caused great hardship. The paper mill closed its doors and the machinery was sold.

In 1940 the mill building erected by the Wheatland Milling and Power Co. and enlarged by the "Flower City Tissue Mills" in 1916, was partially destroyed by fire, only the new brick portion built in 1916 remained standing, the rear frame portion was destroyed. Soon after the fire, Lawless Brothers Paper Company sold the machinery.

In 1947 the Lawless Brothers rented the building to the "Dorey Corrugated Paper Products Incorporated." The building was remodeled and equipped with new machinery for the manufacture of special packages for display and boxes for shipping.

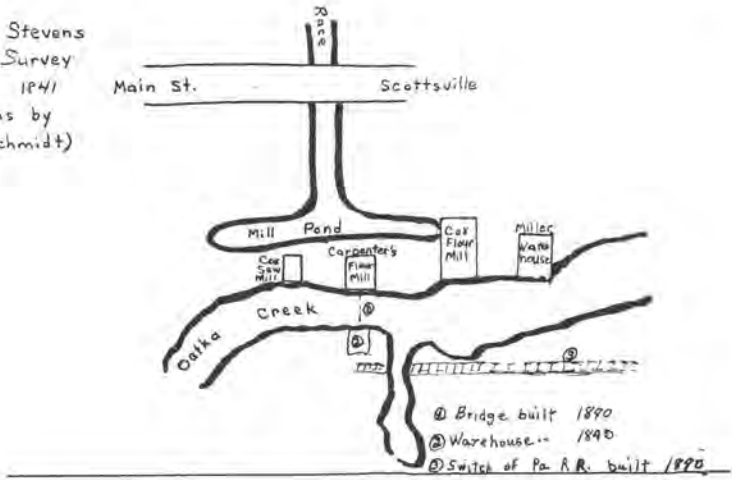
In 1966 the mill was closed and the building was rented and used for storage, by the Schlegel Co.

In 1970 Mr. Stanley Rodwin purchased the building from the Lawless Brothers and continued to rent it to the Schlegel Co.

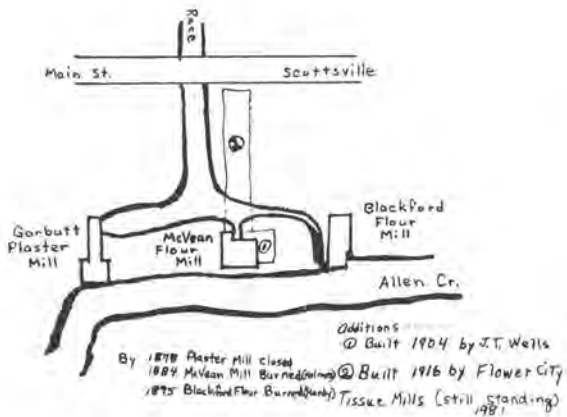
In 1975 the Schlegel Co. left and part of the building was rented to the Maco Bag Corporation. They made plastic bags.

In 1978 the Maco Bag Corporation left and the Chloride Elector Networks rented the building from Mr. Rodwin. They remained until 1981, when the Sideband Technology Inc. Co. moved in to manufacture mobile radio equipment.

Stevens
Survey
1841
(Additions by
Carl Schmidt)



Beers Atlas
1872



Drawing of the location of the Scottsville Flour Mills showing L. M. Godley Mill and warehouse.

M. McVeans'

Custom & Merchant Mills,

SCOTTSVILLE, MONROE COUNTY N. Y.

July 1st 1875



This 3 story brick mill was built by Mr. Carpenter and conducted by him for a number years, he was succeeded in business by his son Ira. It was later owned and operated by Malcom McVean at the time of the fire—September 16, 1878. Built 1830.

BIG FIRE IN SCOTTSVILLE

McVEANS FLOURING MILL

BURNED TO THE GROUND, 1878

Aid Asked From Rochester But Too Late To Be of Any Service.

Full Particulars of the Conflagration. Loss \$10,000; Insurance \$4,000

The Village of Scottsville was again the scene of a destructive fire this (Monday) morning. At about 8:30 O'clock flames were seen issuing from the cupola of Mr. Malcom McVean's large flouring mill, South of main St. in the village. An alarm was sounded and, in a few minutes, the village was in a perfect uproar of excitement.

The Babcock machine belonging to the village was quickly on the spot, but found to be of little service as the flames had gained too much headway and were too high up on the building.

Mr. McVean had left the village for Rochester just a few minutes before the fire broke out, intending to drive to the city, but he seems to have received the alarm and returned.

At 9:35 a telegram was received by Superintendent Childs of the State Line railroad asking that an engine be sent to the scene of the conflagration. He notified the Fire Department and Steamer No. 4 and the Alert Hose Co. were sent to the State Line Depot on Maple Street. At 10:05 A.M., just as they were about to leave for Scottsville, a telegram was received from Mr. D. D. S. Brown saying that there was no use in sending the engine and firemen, as the

walls of the mill had fallen in and the fire was under control. The firemen were therefore dismissed and the engine kept in town.

LATER

The following particulars of the fire were telegraphed over the State Line Wires to Superintendent Childs this noon by Mr. D. D. S. Brown who remained in Scottsville:

The flour mill of Malcolm McVean was entirely destroyed with the contents, except about 200 bu. of wheat and 20 Bbls. of flour. The loss is \$10,000 and the insurance on the building is \$4,000. The flour in stock and the books and papers are saved.

Holmes mill was saved by the heroic efforts of the firemen and citizens. The people had just left the scene of the disaster when a fire was discovered on the roof of Mrs. Dr. McNaughton's house, which had just been extinguished by the hose company, with slight damage to the building. At one time half the village was in immediate danger of destruction.

The fire in the mill originated in the middlings purifier.



Bridge over the raceway on Main St. In 1826 Abraham Hanford and Powell Carpenter built a dam across the Oatka on Burrell's flats, under the supervision and engineering of Alvin Savage, and constructed a raceway one and a quarter miles in length from the dam to the mill, obtaining a fall of twenty feet and a volume of water with power sufficient to operate two mills.



Smith's Mill, later Wheatland Milling and Power Co. Mill, on the south side of Main St., Scottsville, N.Y. Showing the flue on the left, that came down out of the race. On the side of the mill is the electric light plant, built by John T. Wells and sons for the Wheatland Milling and Power Co. Isaac Salyers was the first president, he made application for the purpose of lighting dwellings, streets and stores.

On February 1st, 1905 the electric lights were turned on for the first time. A small water wheel provided the power for the electric lights. The power plant was in the charge of Chester Harmon and he turned off the power at midnight.



In 1880 the Scottsville Milling Co. was formed with the purpose of replacing the brick mill, erected by Mr. Carpenter in 1830. The brick mill burned in 1878. In 1886 the Scottsville Milling Co. mill was filled with machinery for the manufacture of flour by L. M. Godley & Co. A switch was laid from the W.N.Y. & Penn. R.R. to the warehouse in the rear of the mill and for several years an extensive business was conducted. This new mill was destroyed by fire in 1895. After being idle for a period of years, the Wheatland Power Company erected a flouring mill and electric light plant, it being the third mill that has stood upon the same sight.



Godley Mill warehouse, south of the mill along the R.R. tracks.



Dorey Corrugated Paper Products Inc., 1947. The building was remodeled and equipped with new machinery for manufacture of special packages and boxes.



Sideband Technology Inc., 1984. Manufacturer's of radio equipment.



SITE OF JAMES BLAIR SHOPS, MUMFORD

Born in Dundonald, Scotland, in 1809, James Blair learned to work with wood and iron and became a qualified machinist. Not satisfied with life in the "old country," Blair decided to try his luck in the new world of greater opportunity. He settled first in Caledonia but came to Mumford in 1837.

James Blair was an ambitious young man, inventive and imaginative. Heretofore, threshing, the separation of the wheat from the chaff, had been done by hand with a flail. He built a stationary threshing machine which, though crude, was a vast improvement over the flail method. The machine was operated by cogwheels "with a small central wheel which revolved and controlled three large wheels." Teams of horses were used and forced to walk in circles by means of a driver who sat in the center of the frame with a whip in his hand. The machine, at capacity, could thresh some 500 bushels of grain a day.

James Blair began to prosper and so decided to build a home and shops in Mumford. He chose a site just west of Brookside Drive on George Street which was, at that time, a thicket of cedar bushes and hemlock trees. Spring Creek, then undisciplined and unconfined flowed across George Street in a number of small rulls and streams.

A group of Mumford Congregationalists used the upper part of one of the Blair shops for their meetings for a short time. Their paster was a Mr. Smith, a well-known revivalist.

A disastrous fire consumed the Blair properties in 1854 but, as one would expect from such a man, he immediately rebuilt and his business continued to expand. This expansion was due, for the most part, to the great demand from the middle west, which with tremendous grain growing propensity, had need for more and more threshing machines.

Even after the steam engine became available, James Blair was able to meet the challenge and developed a steam powered threshing machine.

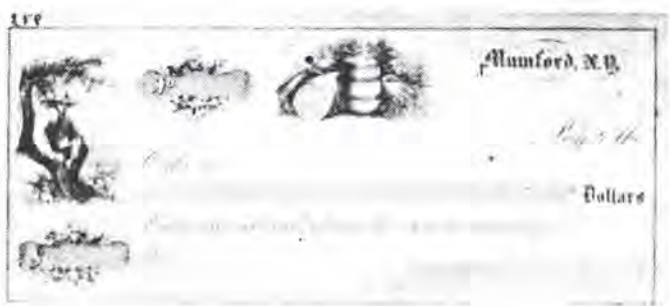
This remarkable man, with all of his mechanical ability, was also an inveterate reader and was a liberal patron of the "Mumford Circulating Library."

James Blair died in 1885.

In 1897, Frank Hyde used the old Blair machine shop which was on the corner, west of Brookside and George Streets, to house a dynamo to supply electricity for a small number of street lights and buildings. At the same time George Stewart was using the upper floor for building wagon boxes and making potato crates. All this activity was terminated abruptly when the building was completely destroyed by fire in 1898.

After the fire and after the debris had been cleared away, another of the Blair shoppes, just west of the one lost by fire, was moved to the corner. Frank Hyde tried running a bicycle manufacturing shop there but failed. In 1947 the property was purchased by Simeon J. Burt and Son for use as a sawmill. At present the property is owned by Edward Keenan who has remodeled it into a two apartment dwelling.





1808 - 1894 McKAY - MUMFORD - PAGE FLOUR MILL

The first grist mill at Mumford was located on what is now the north side of George Street just east of Spring Creek.

In 1808 the McKay brothers built upon Spring Creek in Mumford, a small grist mill for custom grinding, consisting of but a single run of stone. About a year later Robert McKay transferred his interest in the property to Thomas Mumford. The firm of McKay and Mumford conducted the business until 1817 when the old mill was razed, and on its site laid a solid stone foundation upon which a strong oak frame three-story building was erected. The mill was equipped with four run of stones.

In 1823 the mill passed into the hands of E. H. S. Mumford, son of Thomas Mumford, who conducted the business for a period of ten years. Since 1833 its owners and operators have been many, among whom were H. Hutchinson, Philip and Peter Garbutt, Stephen Salsbury, Gilbraith and Hammon, James McQueen, Page and son William C. Page. The mill was in the possession of the last named when it burned to the ground on September 15, 1894. some of the stone foundation can still be seen.



DONALD MCKENZIE - OLIVER ALLEN GRIST MILL 1827 - 1901

A flour and grist mill, also on the banks of the Oatka Creek, was situated just west of the Allen Woolen Mills. Early settler, Donald McKenzie, built this mill in 1827 and sold it to Oliver Allen some 12 years later. It was operated by the Allens, or millers hired by them, until 1901 when it was destroyed by fire. A roadway from State Street, just south of the Twin Bridges, led into the grist mill. The stone foundation of the grist mill can be seen in the picture.

The small stone house, southeast of the grist mill and west of the Woolen Mill, was used as a dwelling for the millers who ran the grist mill for the Allens. The names of some of the millers were S. Harrison, Hertz and Loren Reese. This is now the home of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph R. Wild. The house faces on Armstrong Rd.



ALLEN WOOLEN MILLS

Two enterprising young men, Oliver Allen, the first, and William Remington, decided to go into the woolen manufacturing business after working together in Canandaigua, New York. They came to Caledonia and started a woolen mill in 1821 - this was one of the earliest mills west of the Genesee. In 1829 the opportunity came to buy a "water privilege" on Oatka (or Allan's) Creek in Mumford. They erected a stone mill a short distance back or north of the building which is now the home of Mr. Jay Baker. The business which they started then, was carried on by the Oliver Allen family until 1902.

In 1841 William Remington withdrew from the business, took some of the lands owned by the firm as his share and became a farmer.

Oliver Allen, the first, installed new machinery, enlarged the business and in 1844 took his son, Oliver, the second, into partnership with him. When his father died in 1848, the second Oliver Allen was well equipped to continue these thriving mills. These men and their families were citizens of whom any community could be proud; they were always ready to lend their names and their effort to any enterprise which would benefit their community or their fellow men. The Allens willingly conformed to the custom of the times which required them to serve a mid-day dinner to all who arrived before noon. Consequently, a dozen or more wagons were often lined up in one morning and the whole proceedings became an enjoyable social occasion.

Power for the Allen Mills came from the Oatka Creek and from a small stream called Mary's (Merry's) Ditch which has its source in the woods of the James Guthrie property. Two water wheels were used to operate the mill which would indicate a very extensive business, as one was usually sufficient.

The present Jay Baker home was once the office for the Allen Woolen Mills and was constructed of the famous marl from the Allen farm.

The residence of the Allen family was just across the road from the office. The grounds were beautifully landscaped with lawns, gardens and fish ponds. Lucky guests of the Allens were often treated to fresh trout taken from their own ponds and served within the hour. The Allen residence is now the home of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Baker.

Oliver Allen, the first, started the business, Oliver Allen, the second, ran it from 1848 and in 1872, Oliver Allen, the third, was taken into the firm.

In 1902 the Allen Mills were forced to close as they could not compete with the large mills of the New England area. This was a great blow to Mumford pride and a great hardship to the large number of people to whom the mill had given employment.



Oatka Woolen Mill, Mumford, as it looked in 1860.



Office of Allen's Woolen Mills. Armstrong Road, Mumford.



Mr. Oliver Allen's carriage in the Wheatland Centennial Parade. The carriage was decorated with samples of woolen material from the Allen Woolen Mill in Mumford. Mr. Allen is sitting in the center. Mr. Patrick Harrigan is the driver of the fine team of horses. Mr. Harrigan was advised by Mr. Allen not to stick his head out of the carriage while the picture was being taken.



Ruins of Allen Woolen Mills. Built prior to 1830, Mumford, N.Y.

WOOLEN MILL NO. 1 - PIPE FACTORY - PAPER FACTORY MUMFORD PAPER MILL

Stephen Salisbury came to Mumford in 1826 and, among other business ventures, built a saw mill back or north of the old Garbutt Plaster Mill. This saw mill was in operation until 1881 when Mr. Salisbury died.

In 1882 W. D. Strobel, Jr. from Astoria, Long Island and L. L. Allen bought the Salisbury property and opened the "Trout Brook Woolen Mills" in a newly constructed building. They installed the most modern equipment and employed as many as fifty people. Mr. Allen remained in the business for only two years but Mr. Strobel carried on alone during the 1880s. In fact business was so good that Mr. Strobel opened another mill at Wheatland Center. The woolens produced in these mills were in great demand and were shipped to the large cities on the eastern seaboard and to Chicago and St. Louis.

Unfortunately this prosperity could not last as Mr. Strobel found it more and more difficult to hold his own in competition with larger and newer mills. In 1899 the building was rented to Mr. E. Turner of Elmira who manufactured pipes made from the applewood in nearby orchards.

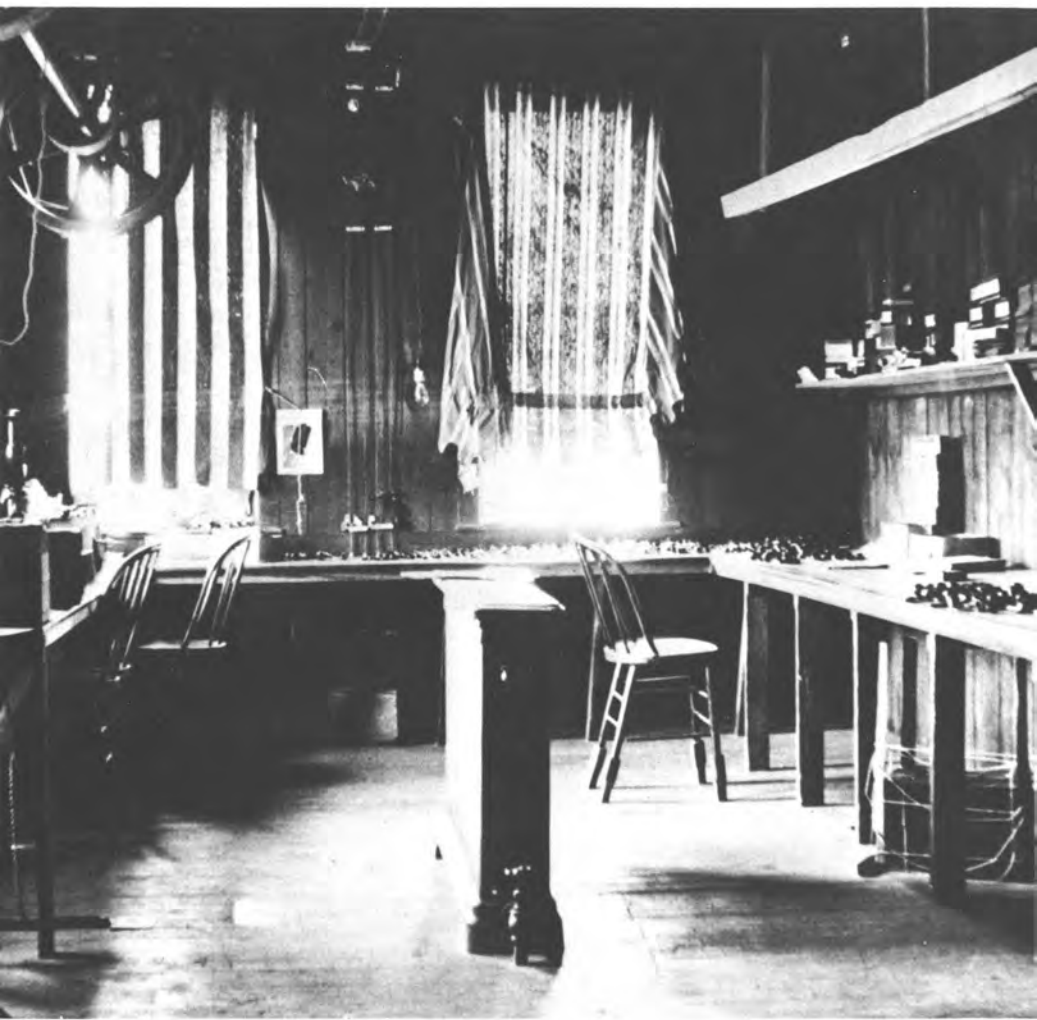
The pipe factory operated until 1904 when it was sold to L. H. Gardner of Rochester. The "L. H. Gardner Paper Company" produced around 7,000 lbs. of paper per day and employed from 30-50 people. The name of the company changed to "Mumford Mills" in 1915.

In 1939 the business of paper mills was absorbed by the "Southern Tissue Mills, Inc." of Rockingham, North Carolina. Thus the last business of any size to exist in Mumford came to an end and many people in this small community were forced to seek employment elsewhere.



In 1882 the "Trout Brook Woolen Mill, No. 1, was built by W. D. Strobel. It ran as such until 1899, when the building was rented.





Interior of pipe factory. Pipes ready to be assembled.



Interior of pipe factory, Mumford, N.Y. Machines used to saw wood into lengths for pipes.



Interior of pipe factory, Mumford, N.Y. Harry Harvey in picture with machines used to buff and polish pipes made of applewood.

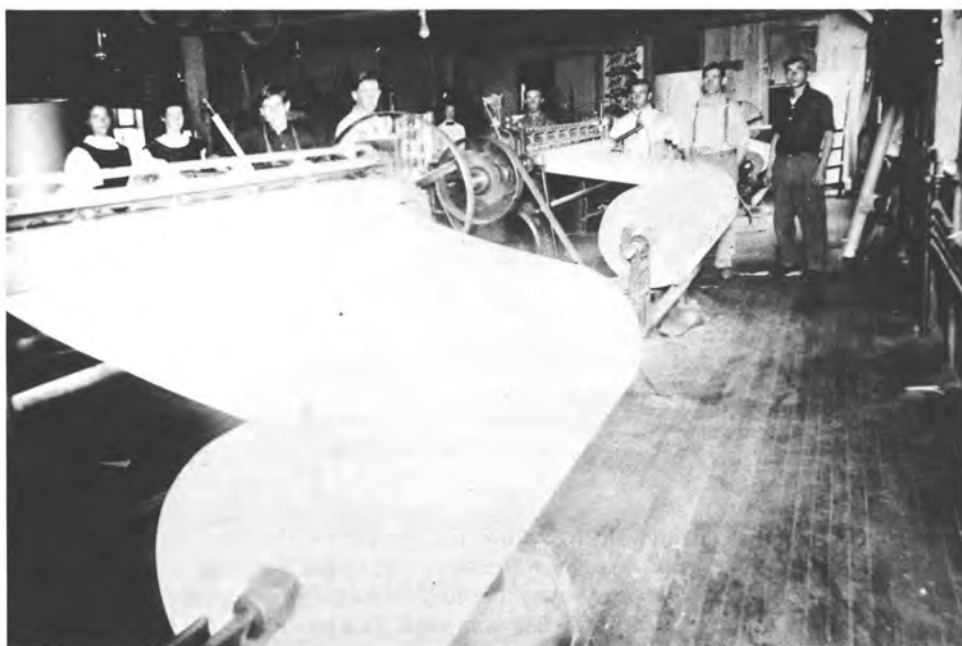


The pipe factory operated until 1904, when it was sold to a Mr. Gardner, who ran the Gardner Paper Co.





H. L. Gardner Paper Mills about 1920. Left, Malone Skivington, Harold Bartlett, Jack Kime, Millie Winslow Lyttle, Ola Skivington Nichols.



Mumford Paper Mill. Left to right, Mary Sherman, Agnes Lyttle, Howard Lyttle, Leo Hickey, Julia Kingsley, Eva Sherman, Harry Ladd, John Kime, Daniel Harrigan, George Hainer.



GARBUTT PLASTER MILL

Late in the year 1833 Philip Garbutt bought several acres of land on the north side of George Street opposite and a bit west of what is now Smith Street. Soon after he bought the land he started the construction of a small stone building to be used as a plaster mill.

For several decades the Garbutt Plaster Mill was a thriving business. In the 1840s it was managed by Dougald McQueen.

In the 1850s and '60s the mill continued to do an excellent business. This was due, in part, to the fact that many farmers in the vicinity were convinced that finely ground gypsum was good fertilizer. Consequently farmers, with horse and wagons, would often be lined up from the plaster mill to Main Street waiting to obtain the valued load of plaster.

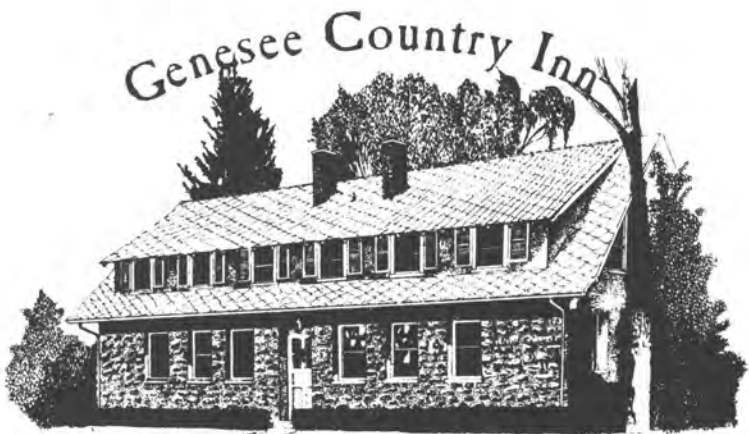
In the 1880s Mr. George Stewart, a man of many business interests, took over the Garbutt Plaster Mill and used it as a shop for the manufacture of wheel spokes and hubs and handles for hammers. He also used power from his shop to run a saw mill on the west side of the building.

Early in the 1900s George Stewart sold the old mill to the Gardner Paper Co. After remodeling, the building was used as a residence for their plant manager or superintendent.

The mill is now the home of Mr. and Mrs. Gregory J. Barchlow, 1984, where they run a bed and breakfast inn. It is called the Genesee Country Inn.



Garbutt Plaster Mill used as a residence for L. H. Gardner, paper mill manager.



circa 1833

Garbutt Plaster Mill, Mumford, N.Y. Now in 1984, the Genesee Country Inn run by Mr. & Mrs. Gregory J. Barchlow.



SITE OF HARMON-McQUEEN PLASTER MILL

During the years of 1852 to 1860, Ira Harmon, grandfather of John E. Harmon, operated a plaster mill on the northside of George St. and east side of Brookside Drive. The gypsum, needed to make the plaster, was from the pits on his own farm in Belcoda. This had to be hauled by horse and wagon to the mill.

Mr. Harmon sold the business to Dugald McQueen who ran it during the 1860s.

Hundreds of tons of gypsum were ground. Mines were opened at Wheatland Center on what was known as the "Brownwell Farm" and at Belcoda on the "Harmon Farm" and the stone was drawn to the mill in Mumford. It was said that it was a common site to see one hundred farm wagons in line for a load of land plaster.

With the closing of the Belcoda Mines and the use of gypsum for other more lucrative purposes than land fertilization, the mill was closed.



DAVID NICHOLS CARRIAGE SHOP

In 1860 Nichols opened a carriage shop on the east corner of George St. and Brookside Drive where McQueen's Plaster Mill had been located. The firm was called David Nichols and son. The showroom was on the first floor in the front section of the building, the blacksmith shop in the rear and the paint shop on the second floor. A plank incline in front enabled them to run the carriage up to the paint shop.

Around 1912 Robert Nichols and Neil Purdie opened a blacksmith shop in the old Nichols shop on the east corner of Brookside Drive and George St. In 1916 Purdie withdrew from the partnership and Nichols continued until his death in the early twenties.

John J. McAvoy moved from the Freeman shop on State St. to the Nichols shop on the corner of Brookside Drive. He was followed in the shop by Andrew Tennent. In 1952 Simeon J. Burt built a residence on the lot where the Nichols carriage shop stood.



Jim Freeman's Blacksmith and Farm Implement Shops, State St., Mumfordsville, N.Y. Jim Freeman and John Freeman, left to right in picture. April, 1916.



The small shop between the Exchange Hotel and Hamilton's and Swan's Malt House was used by John N. Jones for a shoe shop. It was later used by Edward J. Boyland, where he conducted a barber shop until 1913. It was later used as a residence until it was torn down and the site became part of the land used for the community building.

MALT HOUSE, MUMFORD

About half way between the four corners and Brookside Drive on the North side of George St., stood Mumford's famous Malt House. This was a stone building erected by Libbens White in 1828. He conducted the business for many years. Milton Hyde leased the Malt House in 1850 and conducted the business over as period of years. In the 1860s Stephen Salisbury purchased the malt house and brewery and continued the business.

In the 1870s William Hamilton and Charles Swan were the next and last owners. Mr. Swan died in 1890 but William Hamilton continued in the business until the building burned in 1900.

Mr. Hamilton and Mr. Swan also were agents for barley which was needed by many breweries in the area. As a matter of fact, they sold more than 75,000 bushels of barley in 1887 and their best customer was Genesee Breweries of Rochester.

WHEATLAND CENTER MILLS

In 1804 Francis Albright built at Wheatland Center the first grist mill, not only of Wheatland, but the first ever erected upon the banks of the Oatka Creek. This was followed by a good many others both in Garbuttsville, Scottville, and Mumford.

In 1820 his son Fowler Albright acquired the mill and in 1832 he sold the mill and adjoining land to Clark Hall.

In 1844 Hiram Smith purchased the grist mill and considerable acreage from Clark Hall in Wheatland Center. On the north side of the creek across from the mill, Hiram Smith built a large house with servants quarters in the rear of the house and three small houses for the mill workers along the Creek.

Hiram Smith completely remodeled the old mill, installing five run of stone and improving the machinery. In a short time, Hiram Smith's "Genesee Flour" was known in all principal markets and was in great demand in the cities of Boston and New York.

During the first half of the decade was a busy time at the mill, but in 1855 rain ruined the wheat crop as it lay in the fields. In the three following years the wheat crop was ruined causing disaster for the farmers and the flour mills in Western New York.

In 1875, the Hiram Smith Mill was destroyed by fire and it was never rebuilt as a flouring mill.

In 1877 W. D. Strobel purchased the site of the old Hiram Smith Mill. He built a large new cloth mill on the site.

This mill was called, "The Trout Brook Woolen Mill Number 2." Number 1 being his woolen mill in Mumford. There was a great demand for flannel and suiting, but Mr. Strobel's machines could not compare with the machines of other companies and consequently he could not compete with them in the market and in less than twelve years the mill was closed.

In the 1890s the Wheatland Land Plaster Company was organized and located on the site of the Hiram Smith, Strobel mills. The business of the "Wheatland Land Plaster Company" gradually declined. It was succeeded by the "Consolidated Wheatland Plaster Company" around 1900.

In 1903 the "Consolidated Wheatland Plaster Company" erected a three story building forty feet square and installed two ten foot calcining kettles, a fifty horse power engine and a turbine water wheel. There was a great demand for the new patent wall plaster and gypsum wall board.

In 1904 the "Wheatland Cave Mushroom Company" was organized. The company leased some of the unused mine tunnels of the "Consolidated Wheatland Plaster Company" for a period of forty years.

In 1913 the "Consolidated Wheatland Plaster Company" was damaged by fire. The three story building was completely destroyed.

In 1915 the plant was rebuilt and operated on power furnished by a new gas engine. The capacity of the plant was forty tons of wall plaster and twenty tons of land plaster daily.

In 1920 the "Ebsary Gypsum Company" purchased the property and moved the business of manufacturing of gypsum partition blocks from Garbutt to Wheatland Center. Mr. Ebsary began the manufacture of gypsum partition blocks in Garbutt in 1911. The men could always tell when Mr. Ebsary was coming through the plant, because his dog was always way ahead of him.

In 1925 the "Ebsary Gypsum Company" mined about four hundred and fifty tons of gypsum rock per day. They manufactured gypsum wall board, wall plaster, and plaster block.

Mr. Ebsary continued to operate the plant until 1954. In 1954 the plant was sold to the "Rubroid Co." Their main products were asphalt paints, locquirs, insulating tapes, and asphalt roofing.

In 1967 the Ruberoid Company was merged into the General Aniline and Film Corporation. Manufacturers of building and industrial products.

In 1971 the plant was purchased by Sabin Metal Co. It is a refining company for precious metals. They take in scrap metal and refine it, taking out the precious metals.

MINING IN THE EBSARY WHEATLAND PLASTER MILL MINE

Quoting Bill Hardman, a miner in the Wheatland Mines. The miners always wore boots as there always was some water in the mines. The water was pumped out of the rooms by an electric pump. The miners wore carbide lights on their caps. The lights burned carbide, there was a drop of water going into the light all the time to control the gas from the carbide. There were big fans in the shafts, run by electricity for air in the mines.

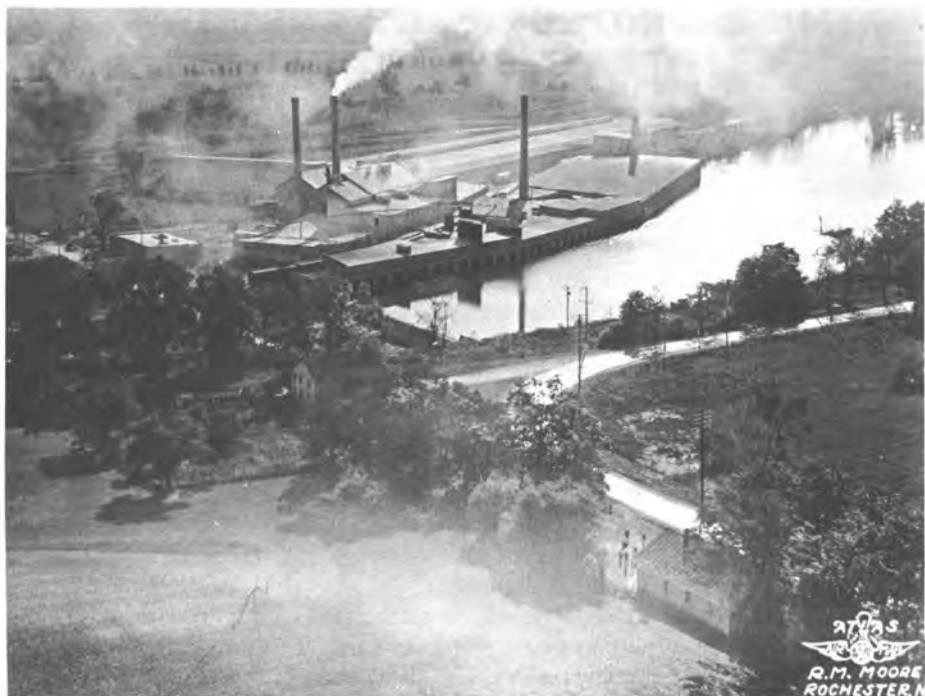
To drill for mining a room, a machine was set on a post with a long cable attached to it to furnish the electricity to run the machine and a hollow feed bar would run through the machine. The bits would fit inside the hollow feed bar. The bits used to drill the holes were from 4 to 8 feet long. When you drilled a room you always drilled a top hole then a bottom hole off set. You would load the top holes with 4 to 6 sticks of dynamite and the bottom holes with 8 to 12 sticks of dynamite. There would be 8 or 10 holes drilled in a room. The bottom holes would go off first. The fuses would get longer as you got to the end rooms. The fuses would be lit just before the men went home at night, after the shovelers, mule drivers and mules had all left the mines. First one room then another would blow.

The miners were paid so much a ton for mining the rock. The drillers made about 12 to 15 dollars a day, the shovelers made about 8 dollars a day. They could mine about 40 to 60 tons a day. There were always two men shovelers in every room. The men had a room about 40 to 50 feet wide and from 100 to 200 feet long. A surveyor would line the rooms up every day and a driller would drill the holes ready for the dynamite.

Every fifty feet a hole would be drilled in the side of the room from one room to another for circulation of air. There is a wall of rock called a pillar between each room, about eight feet wide to help hold up the roof. The rooms were from four to seven feet high after the bottom rock which was called fire rock had been removed. The gypsum rock was light colored, it usually ran in a small vein in the rooms.

The mule drivers would bring empty carts down to the rooms and take full carts up to the crusher. Each driver would draw rock from two rooms each time. The shovelers would fill the small carts with rock then the drivers would drive the mules with two small carts each to the bottom of the mine entrance, where the carts would be dumped into a crusher. There, the rock was crushed, weighed, and then taken up on a motor driven, revolving cup conveyor to the plaster mill where it was boiled in the raymond drums.

Each mule driver took care of his mule. In "Wheatland Center" the mules were kept in a barn on the mill property north of the creek, every morning and night after work you could see the drivers leading their mules to and from the mines. The mules names were Maud, Dick, Bill, Jock, Jenny, and Soup Bone.



Ebsary Mill looking south across Oatka Creek. Wheatland school no. 6 in foreground, Tavern at left on the corner owned by Mr. Cesare.

The Wheatland Land Plaster Company was organized in the early 1890s to take advantage of the waterpower of the Oatka and the shipping facilities of the railroad. The plant was located on the south side of the creek at Wheatland Center. Frederick G. Ebsary moved from Garbutt to Wheatland Center in 1920.



Looking northwest, Ebsary Mill, Wheatland Center in foreground. Across Oatka Creek to the north, miller's house and the mill worker's houses.



Ebsary Mill, Wheatland Center looking south across Oatka Creek. Mill workers' homes to the right front and the miller's house.



Ebsary Mill, Wheatland Center looking west in picture, miller's house across the creek to the north.



Flour and grist mill built by Peter Sheffer in 1881, Garbuttsville. After standing idle for many years, the mill was leased by the Garbutt Gypsum Co. and converted to the manufacture of wall plaster.



LYCOMING MILL AND MINING IN GARBUTTSVILLE

During the 1820s it was discovered that gypsum ground was good spread on the fields and mixed with the soil, it helped retain the moisture longer in the soil. There was a great demand for the land plaster by the farmers. Philip Garbutt built a plaster mill to the west of Union St., on the north side of Oatka Creek, and west of his flour mill. At first the gypsum rock was dug from large pits on the north side of the creek. The rock was hauled to the surface in buckets secured to ropes. It was piled in square piles, each miner having his own pile, he was paid by cord measure.

In the 1840s it was discovered that the gypsum rock could be boiled, left to harden, then ground and made into water lime cement. A mill to grind the plaster was built by Philip Garbutt just west of his land plaster mill, by this time most of the gypsum rock was dug from pits or surface mines on the south side of Oatka Creek in what used to be the Garbutt woods now the Oatka Park. Some of the pits can still be seen in 1984.

In the 1860s John W. Garbutt built the large stone and brick kettles on the south side of Oatka Creek, opposite the plaster mills. They were used for boiling the gypsum rock. Each of these kettles were about 12 feet in diameter and 12 feet deep. After boiling, the rock was permitted to cool then broken up and put in small carts drawn by mules to the mills to be ground into plaster. The remains of the brick kettles can still be seen in 1984 in the bank along the creek.

During the 1870s business slowed down and John W. Garbutt closed his water lime cement business. The grinding and selling of land plaster was the only business John W. Garbutt was still engaged in.

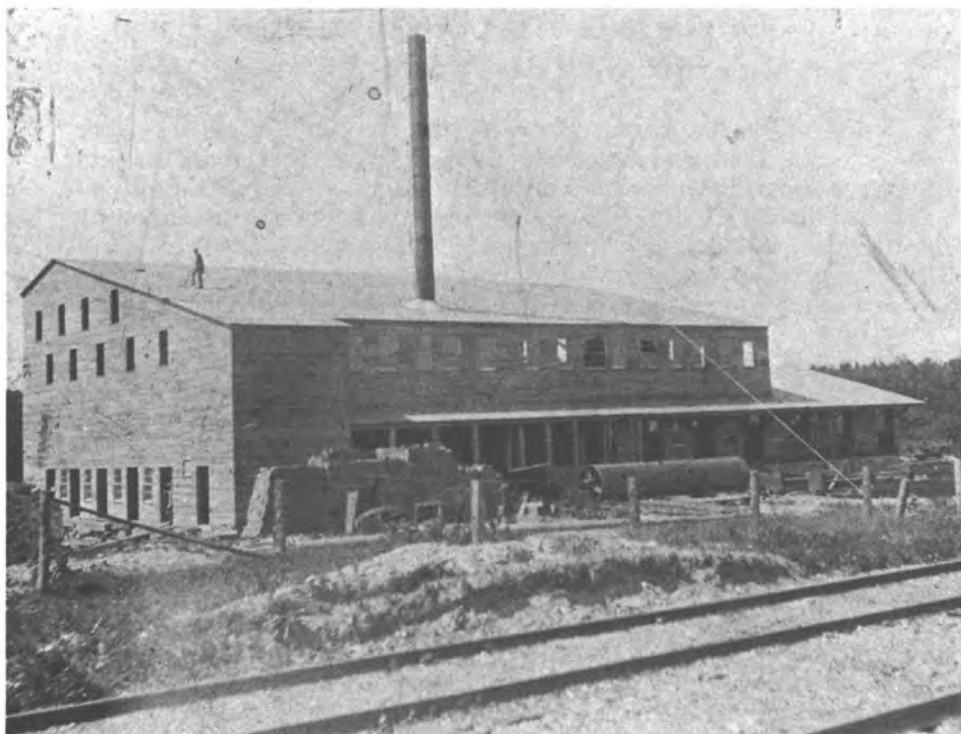
In 1900 John W. Garbutt sold to the Lycoming Calcining Company a track of land on the north side of Oatka Creek, about one thousand feet west of Union Street above the dam. The Lycoming Calcining Company built a plaster mill between the creek and the railroad tracks facing south. They also purchased some of the mining rights on the south side of the creek. A high narrow wooden bridge was built across the creek, permitting a small cart full of gypsum rock drawn by mules to run directly from the mine to the mill where the gypsum rock would be ground into plaster.

During the 1920s, the mills were very busy, until the market crash in 1929. The Lycoming Calcining Company suffered serious financial reverses.

In 1932 they sold out to the Dolomite Products Company. Most of the business of the Dolomite Products Company was to supply the Portland Cement Companies with gypsum.

The last mill in Garbutt to shut down was the Dolomite Products Co. The property was purchased by the Ebsary Gypsum Co. in order to gain possession of the valuable mining rights.

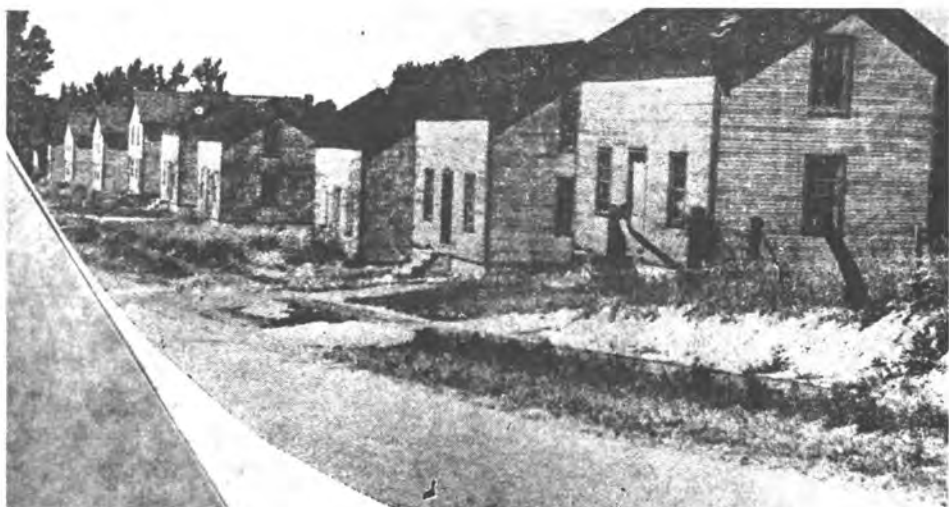
The mill was dismantled and today, 1984, some of the mill foundation and the concrete piers in the creek that held up the small wooden mill bridge can still be seen, marking the site of a once important industry.



Lycoming Plaster and Wallboard Co. Plant, Garbuttville, 1900.



Lycoming Calcining Company. View across the creek showing the Lycoming Mill Bridge.



Row of workmen's houses on Coopers Hill in Garbutt.



Mule drawing gypsum in small wooden cars across the mill bridge.



*Frank Couch.
A blacksmith
in the Lycoming
Mill at Garbutt.*



*Big Andrew and Vincent,
miners at Garbutt at the
Lycoming Company.*



Empire Gypsum Company. Long view showing mill and bridge.

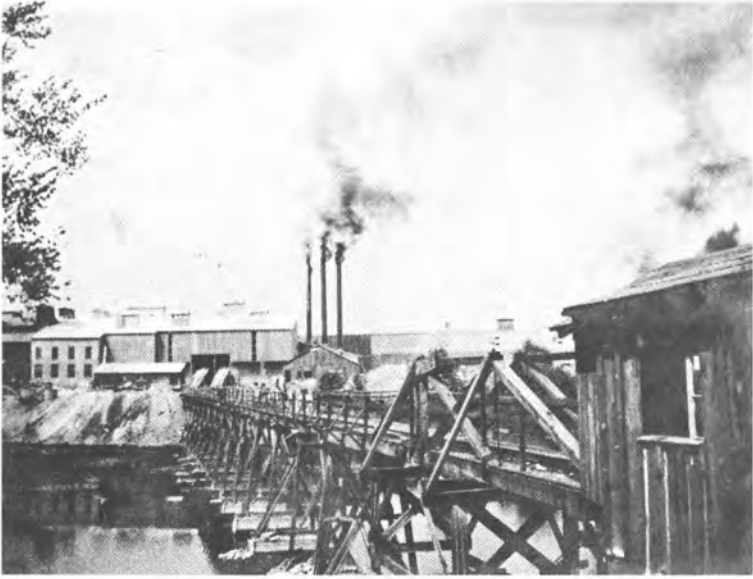
EMPIRE GYPSUM COMPANY

At the beginning of the 20th century the gypsum industry was in full swing, uses for the stone grew to include wallboard, gypsum block, and lath.

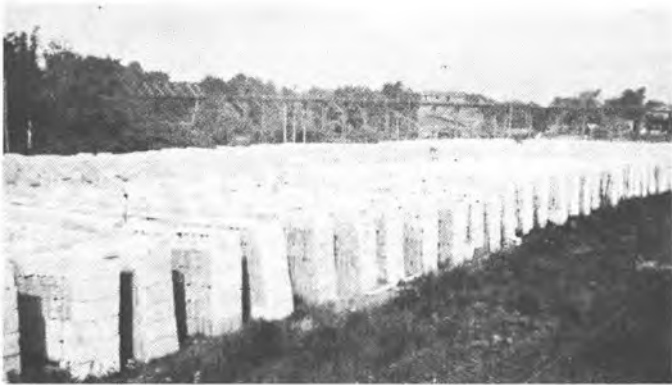
In 1905 William Weeks sold his plaster mill and mining rights to the Pittsburg Plate Glass Company.

In 1906 the Empire Gypsum Company purchased the plaster mill and mining rights from the Pittsburgh Plate Glass Company. The mill was located on the north side of the creek about 1,000 feet east of the bridge on Union St. The mine entrance was located on the south side of the creek, in the side of the hill, west of the bridge on Union Street. There was a track running from the mine entrance on the south side of the creek to a high narrow wooden bridge running diagonally across the creek to the mill on the north side. The bridge was built of wood timbers, with a wooden track, the rock was drawn in small carts pulled by mules, to the mill to be ground into plaster, during the 1920s the mill was very busy.

In 1927 the president of the company died, the company was reorganized in 1928 and the name changed to the Rockwood Gypsum Company. The company never got started because of the Market crash in 1929.



Empire Mill. Mill showing bridge and little shed.



Handmade plaster block in the Empire yard at Garbutt—Empire Mill bridge in background.



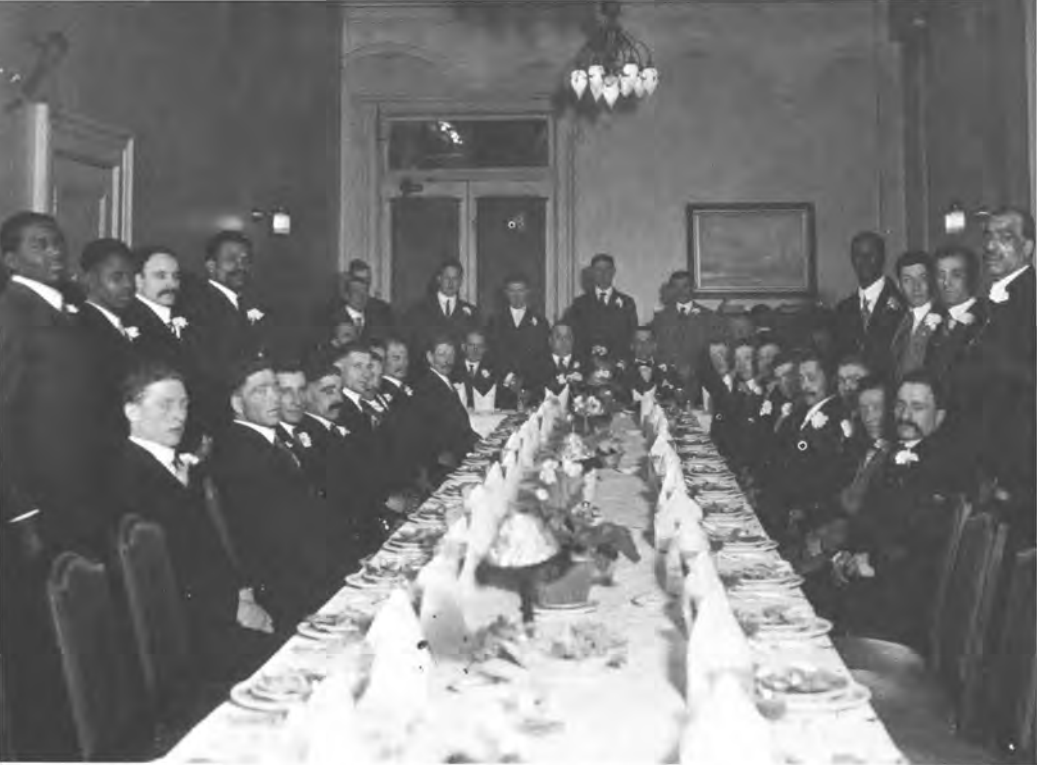
Ebsary Block Plant, Garbuttsville, N.Y., 1917. Left to right — Bundy Phillips, Jeff Warner (son of James), Mr. Winslow, Barney Coyle, Joe Kregal, Williams Phillips.

THE EBSARY GYPSUM COMPANY AT GARBUTTSVILLE

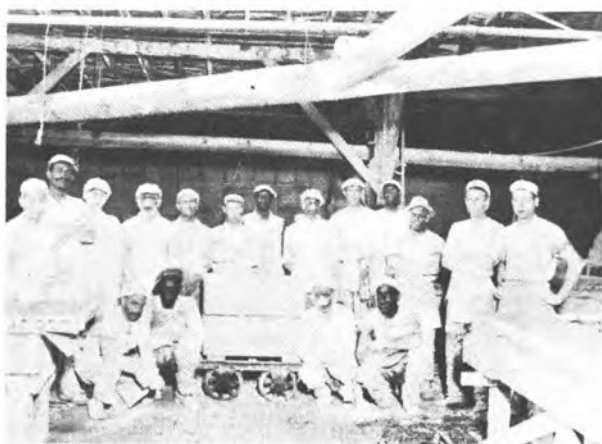
In 1911, the Ebsary Fire Proofing and Gypsum Block Company leased a lot of land to the east of the Empire Gypsum Company plant, and erected a factory building. They manufactured a gypsum block about four inches thick, twelve inches high and thirty inches long to be used in building partitions for fire proof buildings or as a fire stop in frame buildings.

The process was patented by Mr. Frederick G. Ebsary. The company didn't have any mines of their own, so they purchased the calcined plaster from the Empire Gypsum Company. An overhead conveyor connected the two plants and brought the plaster to Ebsary's plant.

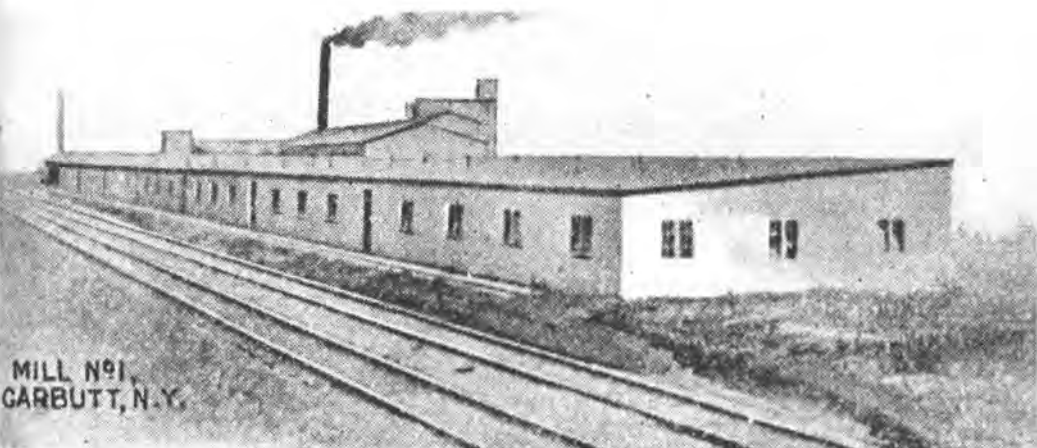
There was a great demand for the gypsum partition blocks, and the business flourished during the war years. In 1920 the plant in Garbuttsville was abandoned and the business moved to Wheatland Center.



Marshall Inn, Caledonia, New York. Picture taken in 1917. These men worked at the Ebsary Plant in Garbuttsville making block by hand.



Men making block by hand in the Ebsary block plant, Garbutt. They got the plaster for the block from the Empire Gypsum Company. Frank Grattan standing sixth from left. George Grattan first from right side.



THE SACKETT PLASTER BOARD COMPANY

The Sackett Plaster Board Company located in Garbutt in 1902. They came from New York City. They built a large building on land east of the Lycoming Calcining Company. The mill builder was "J. T. Wells and sons" of Scottsville, N.Y.

They leased the land from the Lycoming Calcining Company. They also purchased the gypsum plaster as well as the exhaust steam from the Lycoming Calcining Company.

The Sackett Plaster Board Company owned the patents for manufacturing a wall board from gypsum. The wall board was used for walls and ceilings.

About twenty tons of plaster were used a day and twenty-five men were employed in the plant. The company was very busy during the 1920s, before the market crash in 1929, ending their business.

The Sackett Plaster Board Company was purchased by the United States Gypsum Company. The plant was dismantled and abandoned.

EARLY SAW MILLS OF WHEATLAND AND VICINITY

The first saw mill in this vicinity was located on the Genesee River east of A. A. Ackerman's, in what is now the town of Chili, and near the northeast corner of the town of Wheatland.

It was run by water power, the water being from the Oatka Creek below the present Pennsylvania R.R. bridge at Scottsville. The water was diverted into a natural draw that ran north through the flats below the present railroad tracks. It can be plainly seen today.

East of where the Pennsylvania Railroad now crosses the Rochester-Scottsville improved highway there was a pond at the north end of which there was an embankment to hold the water. It is there at present. From there it was led by a raceway to the mill on the bank of the river. This mill was built probably in about 1798.

There was a saw mill on the flats on the old Scottsville Canal built over the second lock, near where the first log house in Wheatland was built.

Later Wheatland saw mills were: A mill in the village of Scottsville on the north bank of Oatka Creek just west of the present buildings of the Genesee Paper Mills Co.; a mill north of the Henry Reed farm; a mill operated near the B. R. and P. R. R. station in Scottsville; and a mill operated by S. W. Stamm at the foot of Canal Street in Scottsville.

There were other mills at or near Mumford and Clifton.



In the picture No. 1, Father Patrick McArdle; No. 2, ?; No. 3, Dr. J. F. McAmmond, No. 4, ?; No. 5, Turnie Sanders; No. 6, William Keys; No. 7, George J. Skivington, Sr.; No. 8, Dr. Kenneth Hallock.

CELEBRATION FOR WORLD WAR I VETERANS, JULY 1919

At the time of the celebration for the Veterans a welcome home address and the giving of medals to the Veterans was held in the Village Green, located on the south side of Main St. across from the Dunn Brothers' Store, now the location of the bowling hall.



Group picture of some of Wheatland's World War I Veterans taken at Scottsville on the south side of Main St, in the clearing opposite Dunn's store, Taken at the time of Welcome Home Party given in July, 1919.

Top row - left to right: 1. John Clydesdale, 2. John Hunt, 3. Albert Ackerman, 4. Robert Connal, 5. Howard Willis, 6. Emmett W. Skivingston, 7. Arthur Trigg, 8. Ernest Hahn, 9. Richard Warren, 10. William McKenna, 11. Guisippi Piazza, 12. Raffaille Taliento.

Second row - left to right: 13. Luman Abbott, 14. Joseph Tyler, 15. Howard Lyttle, 16. Richard Fitzgerald, 17. Fred Clark, 18. Dr. Kenneth Hallock, 19. Roger Clydesdale, 20. Horace Ladd, 21. ?, 22. Myron Carver, 23. Curtis Booth.

Third row from top - left to right: 24. Stewart Warren, 25. Yacinitz Chacjyanki, 26. John Coles, 27. Robert Murphy, 28. Harold Dunn, 29. Royce E. Nelan, 30. ? Englert, 31. John A. Campbell, 32. Roy C. Grant.

First row bottom - left to right: 33. Francis T. Callan, 34. Daniel G. O'Donnell, 35. Julian E. McVean, 36. John Kalaber, 37. J. William Jarrett, 38. Bartolo Gallo, 39. Sylvester J. Reagan, 40. Junis P. Carson.



Scottsville Motor Co., Scottsville, 1929. Run by Arthur Torpey on the left in the picture. George Rosenworth center, James Baker on the right. Garage located on the west side of Rochester Street just north of Main Steet.



North side of Main Street, Scottsville before the new fire house was built.



Joe Davey with Francis and Carl Davey, Scottsville, N.Y.



James Cameron, Funeral Director, Scottsville, N.Y. 1907-1945. The hearse with Joe Davey driving the team of horses and Mr. Cameron sitting beside him.



*Senator
Donald McNaughton*

SITE OF SENATOR DONALD McNAUGHTON'S HOME AND LAW OFFICE

Donald McNaughton, son of millwright John C. McNaughton, was born in Mumford, in 1830. He was an ambitious and intelligent youngster who studied for the law while he worked for business men, Oliver Allen and Peter Garbutt. He was admitted to the bar in 1865 and practiced in both Mumford and Rochester.

The future Senator McNaughton built a law office west to the McNaughton family home on State Street, which was next - west - to the Oliver Allen residence. Some years ago, the little law office was moved to the Paul Skivington property and added to the "Log House."

Throughout his life Senator McNaughton was concerned with civic affairs. He was one of the promoters of the Rochester State Line R. R. He was elected supervisor of Wheatland in the years 1864 to 1867 and again from 1871 to 1874.

He was elected Senator from the 29th Senatorial District, then comprising Monroe and Orleans Counties, for the years 1888 to 1892.

Senator Donald McNaughton was appointed chief executive officer of the State of New York exhibit at the Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1892. It was there that he died on July 30, 1893.





SLOCUM'S HARDWARE STORE WAY BACK WHEN

That fellow there standing lonesome-like is LeRoy Slocum, Sr. The view of the store is directly back from the front door as it is today. Although the store is equipped with several hanging electric lights, there are plenty of kerosene lanterns hanging from the rear ceiling. The sign on the right wall center, advertises 'JAP-LAC,' which as far as we can make out was a paint. We know quite a few folks who'd give quite a lot to own one of those stoves today! The bins along the lower right are full of nails.

Mr. Slocum's shoes in this picture seem to be pretty muddied up, which is understandable as there were a few wooden sidewalks out in front in those days, but come the rains and Main Street turned to mud.



James Fraser Miller and Alice Whitworth Miller, Bowerman Road, Scottsville.



Pat Hickey's Blacksmith Shop, Main Street, Mumford.



Do you remember when?

