

Sketches of Springfield Business Men

from

The Dollar Nonpareil Newspaper

Springfield, Ohio

Thurs. Morning, April 14, 1854 – Thurs. Morning, April 5, 1855.

These first issues are bound together

&

are located in the Clark County Historical Society's Archives.

Our Head

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Perhaps some of our readers may have a curiosity to know the definition of the word *Nonpareil*. By way of explanation, we would say, it means NONE SUCH; and we intend making it so far superior to its contemporaries as to fully warrant the assertion.

Sketches of Springfield Business Men

The Dollar Nonpareil, Springfield, Ohio

Thursday Morning, May 25, 1854 was apparently the first Sketches of Springfield Business Men column, according to the article in the June 1, 1854 newspaper, but that page has been torn out of the bound set of newspapers.

Thursday Morning, June 1, 1854 Page 3

Carriage & Buggy Manufactory & Blacksmith Shop

Mr. David West's front building is three stories high, is 70 by 38 feet, and the back one, which is occupied as a blacksmith shop, is 40 by 36 feet in size.

About 40 buggies and carriages will be turned out this year—an increase of *one half* over last.

For construction of these vehicles, twelve men are constantly employed.

Thursday Morning, June 15, 1854 Page 2

Tin & Copper Work

Messrs. Diehl & Baker have a new three story building on Main street, between Limestone and Spring. It includes tin roofing as they put on the roof of the S. M. & P. R. R. engine house.

Manufacturing Establishment

Messrs. Hatch & Whiteley have a three story building on the corner of Limestone and Washington streets. In connection with **Messrs. Winger & Anderson** they are exclusively engaged in the manufacture of R. R. cars. That portion fronts on Washington street.

On the second floor, **Mr. Smith** is employed in building "Kindleberger's Patent Moveable Cider Mills," dressing and turning cabinet ware &c.

Messrs. Steele & McCurdy occupy the front part of the second floor as a carpenter shop making window blinds. They intend uniting with them **H. D. Johns**, one of the best carpenters of the West.

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Thursday Morning, June 29, 1854 Page 2

Hatter

Mr. P. Cotes, Hatter, a few doors west of the Anthony House has a *French Conformator*. With this he can take a precise impression of the head, and make a hat to fit any variety of heads. He has a number of impressions of different shaped heads in his "museum." We would invite the attention of phrenological students to this machine, as we think it would greatly assist them in finding new "bumps."

Mill

Mr. J. S. Filler's mill in the southwestern part of the city and turned by a stream of water called Mill Run is only calculated to supply retail trade. He grinds corn and wheat. His flour is *superfine*.

Wholesale Grocery

Messrs. Harbaugh & Son has a Wholesale Grocery on the corner of Limestone and Washington streets. The gentlemen recently came from Hagerstown, Md., and purchased the interest of **Messrs. Harrison & Co.** The building is three stories high, and near all the rail road depots—immediately along side of the Dayton R. R. track.

Thursday Morning, July 6, 1854 Page 2

"Keystone" Mill

"Keystone" Mill is owned & conducted by **Mr. Samuel Barnett**. His son, **Wm. A. Barnett**, superintends the whole business.

The machinery has five pairs of burs, and are capable of grinding from six to seven hundred bushels of wheat per day, or near *one thousand* bushels of flour per week. During the last year they have ground about *seventy thousand* bushels of wheat, besides a great deal of corn, buckwheat, &c.

The mill is five stories high, and was built about thirteen years ago. It has water sufficient to run all the machinery day and night.

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Thursday Morning, July 6, 1854 Page 2 (continued)

Wholesale and Retail Grocery Business

Kissell & Bugbey recently came from Maryland and commenced the wholesale and retail grocery business sometime over a year since, on the corner of Market and High streets, their present location. Their room is a fine one—being large and well calculated for merchandizing purposes.

Thursday Morning, July 13, 1854

Machine Shop and Foundry

Mason, Cook & Blakeney own a machine shop and Foundry on the north side of Buck Creek. The Machine shop is on the opposite side of the Foundry. The building is five stories high and quite large. In the first story we were shown a very fine looking steam engine, of their construction, which is really a model, for simplicity and compactness; it is small, having no more material in it than is absolutely necessary for active use. A few days since, they shipped the first steam engine ever built in Springfield, and now they have two more which will be finished in a few days.—One of them is for **Messrs. Buckles & Mantze**, in this place.

The second and third stories are occupied as finishing rooms, for things of a lighter nature. In the fourth story a portion is occupied in making patterns, on which three men are at work—the remainder is used as a storage room for cooking stoves of every kind; and the fifth story serves a good purpose for packing away miscellaneous articles.

They employ about *fifty* men, independent of several clerks. They have on hand about \$12,000 worth of patterns alone. They furnish the gas pipes for city, manufacture stoves, mill wheels, fencing, and hundreds of other articles, calculated for every purpose.

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Thursday Morning, July 20, 1854 Page 3

Saddle and Harness Makers

Messrs. O'Neal & Eby, Saddle and Harness Makers, purchased the patent rights to manufacture "Mardock's Patent Saddle," which is quite an improvement as regards comfort to the rider and ease to the horse. The saddle-tree contains a spring, which operates very nicely, making the rider sit perfectly easy, and causes none of the fatigue of riding which many of the old-fashioned saddles do.

Messrs. O'Neal & Eby are old settlers, and have been doing a thriving business for some time. They work a large number of hands.

A set of most beautiful silver mounted harnesses were also shown us, which were made by them.

Thursday Morning, July 27, 1854 Page 2

Oil Mill from Flax Seed

Mr. James Barnett's oil mill is a three story high mill on Buck Creek which was erected in the Spring of 1853. From each bushel of flax seed 16 pounds of oil and 40 pounds of cake are derived. A large portion of the oil cake made here is shipped to England, where it is used as food for different kinds of stock. The mill has superior facilities for manufacturing oil and is capable of grinding 150 bushels of flax seed per day.

In the lower story the Flax seed is first poured into a hopper, by means of a hopper from above, where it is then ground. It is then thrown into a still larger hopper, at stated periods, in equal quantities, where it is *tempered*, by being rolled around under two very heavy stones, for a certain length of time, when it is emptied into a long trough or box, built on the top of a furnace, to be heated boiling hot, after which it is put into small bags, and placed into a pressing machine, and permitted to remain under an immense pressure caused by a force pump which is attached to the end, for seven or eight minutes. The bag is then removed and the cake taken out, while the oil is deposited in a tub near by.

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Thursday Morning, July 27, 1854 Page 2 (continued)

Woolen Factory

Messrs. Rabbits & Co.'s woolen factory's first story of the building is used for an office and for finishing the flannels and cloths which have just been manufactured.

The second story is occupied by **Mr. Fish**, in carding wool and spinning yarns, principally for foreign markets.

The third story is used by the Messrs. Rabbits for assorting wool, carding, spinning and weaving.

Their great improvements in spinning and weaving are in striking contrast with the way in which these things were done in "olden times" by many of our buxom country girls, who would draw their threads back and forth, and move the loom with such velocity, the bare sight of which would cause our delicate and light fingered *ladies* of the present age to really *faint*.

Thursday Morning, August 3, 1854 Page 2

Artist

Mr. Webber is a young artist of our city. His room is on Main street, opposite the State Bank.

Of his portrait drawings we recognized the face of Rev. J. C. White and that of Mrs. Wm. Coles. He has received the greatest praise of a painting taken from real life and named by the artists of Cincinnati—"Gathering Grapes." It is three small boys in a state of nudity, playing in the water, and at the same time reaching up and plucking and eating grapes. There is also a large painting of celebrated scriptural characters, Ruth and Naomi. Another he is painting is an expressive Portrait of Mrs. Nathaniel Cook and two children—one an infant, now dead.

He has a goodly number of Landscapes most of which are taken from scenes on Buck Creek and Mad River. He makes very few fancy sketches, but paints from NATURE—the most perfect model.

A number of **Mr. Jackson's** landscapes have been on exhibition at the Neptune Fire Company's Hall.

Mr. Webber is an American and Mr. Jackson an Englishman.

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Thursday Morning, August 3, 1854 Page 2 (continued)

Improved Patent Spiral Spring Bedspread

The Improved Patent Spiral Spring Bedspread manufactured by **J. R. & H. R. Dodge** is in the third story of **Messrs. Hatch & Whiteley's** building, on the corner of Limestone street and the Dayton Railroad. The patent was issued last December, the only right of which in this State, is owned by the Messrs. Dodge, who commenced here a week or two since.

The bedsteads we saw are highly ornamented. The frame is constructed similar to some others, with slats extending across, upon which are placed wire springs, about six inches apart, high in the center and sloping off at the sides. These are covered with a heavy piece of canvas, on which can be placed the necessary clothing. It operated so very agreeably that we felt strongly inclined to remain upon it for an indefinite period. They are much cooler than others. The springs are very durable. There is a great saving in these bedsteads, inasmuch as they require no feather bed, and do not soil by lying on them.

Thursday Morning, August 31, 1854 Page 2

Planing Mill

J. S. Christie's planing mill is on the north side of Buck Creek. Mr. Christie has been one of the frontier carpenters of Springfield, but concluded some few years ago, to introduce a speedier mode of preparing lumber for building, and therefore erected his present planing mill, which is the only one in this neighborhood.

The first story of this building is occupied by **Mr. Phelps** for manufacturing furniture—the sale which is on Main street, near the Presbyterian church.

The second story is used by Mr. Christie himself for sawing and planing purposes.

The mill supplies most of the carpenters here with flooring, &c. The lumber is purchased at the different saw-mills, brought here, kiln-dried, and then prepared for the builder's hands, who has nothing to do but put it together.

The third story is occupied by **Mr. Hoskings**, in making doors, sash, and window blinds.

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Thursday Morning, August 31, 1854

Page 2 (continued)

Flour Mill

Messrs. Prescott & Beuzville have re-opened the old Flour mill on Buck Creek which has been unoccupied for a year or two. They are doing a good business in flour, corn-meal, buckwheat, &c.

Thursday Morning, September 21, 1854 Page 2

Manufacturing of Flax Seed Oil

Smith & Boucher are engaged in the manufacture of Flax Seed Oil. The mill is on the Northern bank of Buck Creek where they commenced a limited business some four or five years since. They are now runing two pair of stone, which grind from 140 to 160 bushels of seed per day. This makes on an average from 7 to 8 barrels of oil. This is one week they grind from 800 to 900 bushels of seed, making from 40 to 50 barrels of oil. Two sets of hands are kept at work all the time, as the machinery is running day and night.

Messrs. Smith & Boucher are now paying \$1.15 and \$1.25 for seed—the latter price for an extra quality. Flax is a crop which requires but little cultivation and yields a very handsome profit.

Thursday Morning, September 28, 1854 Page 2

General Furniture Business

Messrs. Filbert, Schindler, and Biser have erected a large building on the corner of Main and Center streets for general Furniture business. Their machinery is propelled by steam.

In the east part of the first floor, is kept their common and cheap furniture, which comprises every variety from the couch to the cradle.

The second floor on the west side is occupied for a finishing shop.

The more costly furniture is kept in the east side of the second story. The room is quite large, beautifully carpeted, and filled with the most elegant furniture ever brought to the city. Splendid bureaus, rich and easy sitting sofas, well finished and tempting bedsteads, fine chairs, nice tables, stands &c., are scattered around in great profusion. Success to the new firm.

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Thursday Morning, November 2, 1854 Page 3

Carpenter and Joiner Machine Shop

Messrs. Buckle & Mantz's Carpenter and Joiner Machine Shop is on Main street in the eastern part of the city. Last summer they erected their present shop, where they manufacture everything, ready for building, generally used by carpenters in the various departments of their business.

They are using an excellent Engine which was manufactured by **Messrs. Mason, Cook & Blakeney**, of this city, at a cost of \$1600.

As an instance of economy, Messrs. Buckle & Mantz use one small machine in the second story of their building which is able to do the work of a whole set of tools. They also carry on the out-door carpenter business, taking contracts for and finishing buildings, as before; and fill a great many orders from a distance of doors, window-sash and blinds &c.

NOTICE: Not from Sketches of Springfield of Business Men, but from The Dollar Nonpareil's Thursday Morning, November 30, 1854 newspaper: "Distressing Accident – We regret to learn that Mr. J. M. Bizer, of the firm of Filbert, Schindler and Bizer, while sawing with a circular saw on Tuesday met with the sad misfortune of sawing off the four fingers of his left hand, which will make him a cripple for life."

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