

FLATIRON FOUNDRY

Milford Times, Nov. 7, 1924

When the "Flat-iron" Was the Site of a Foundry

Since a piece of lead pipe was unearthed while digging on the "flat-iron," some of our oldest residents have been appealed to for information as to its being the site of a foundry in the early days. On this point William Foote is authority, and says that a foundry was located there and was first established by the father of P.F. and D.W. Wells and that O.W. Lamphier was also at one time connected with it. George Austin recalls that the boys of his time often went in there to watch the men at work and that a "Cayuga Chief" mower was made there for his father from patterns that were sent there from New York state.

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Noticing the item regarding the flat iron foundry, I have secured the following information from C.E. Dickerman, who remembers it when he was a lad of ten years. The piece of lead pipe found was undoubtedly the pipe which furnished the water for the furnace. The foundry made box stoves which took in four-foot wood, which were then much used for heating and also for drying hops. [Lamphier had a hop yard and a hop house, both on E. Commerce St.] The engine room was built of cobblestones on the south side of the furnace. The "Cayuga Chief" was a mowing machine built there and it had three wheels.

The water supply for the plant was cut off by John Andrews after a disagreement Mr. Dickerman recalls how a large quantity of beech and maple wood was drawn from Novi by Mr. Bogart for the foundry and that after James Austin and John Luce had each given up the job of sawing it, John Dickerman went at it and finished it, cutting it with a bucksaw.

The name of the molder was Luther Newberry. The boys gave him the nickname of Chucky Healy and he was known under that name.

After the foundry was abandoned, the building was used as a paint shop by Al. Stephens.

Mrs. Harold Grimshaw