



Olmsted 200

Two Centuries and More History of Olmsted Falls and Olmsted Township –
First Farmed in 1814 and Settled in 1815

Issue 107

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Joseph Lay Swept a Prominent Path in Olmsted Falls

During the 1870s and 1880s, when Ed Kidney became well known around Olmsted Falls and elsewhere as an inventor and entrepreneur, a man who lived in his neighborhood, Joseph Lay, was regarded as his rival. Like Kidney, Lay not only ran a successful manufacturing business but also obtained patents for his inventions. He lived a long, eventful life that was filled with triumphs and turmoil.

Unlike Kidney, Lay was not born in Olmsted but in Seneca County in the Finger Lakes Region of western New York, on July 14, 1830. Thus, he was more than 11 years older than Kidney, who was born in early 1842. As a young man, Lay taught school for two years at Crusoe Island in Seneca County.

In 1853, Joseph Lay and two of his four brothers, John and Samuel Lay, moved to Ohio and settled in Olmsted Falls. In 1857, their parents, Samuel A. and Lucetta (Moore) Lay also left Seneca County and joined their three sons in Olmsted Falls. Their other two sons, Nathaniel and Oliver remained in New York.

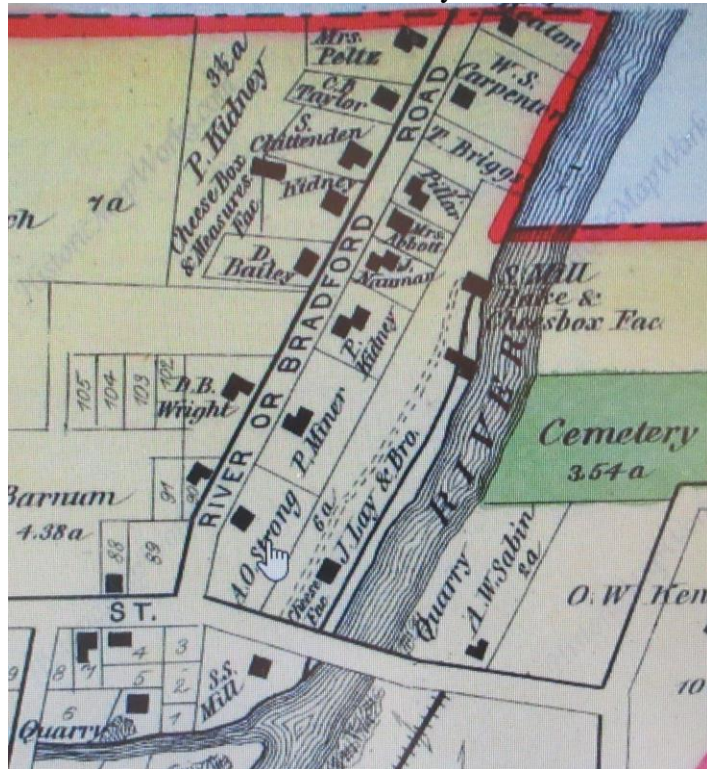
Initially after their move, Joseph and John Lay made bentwood (or curved wood) products. That was like what Ed Kidney eventually did nearby in making curved parts for wagons and buggies. The 1860 Census listed Joseph's occupation as a rake maker. One source says John split from the business in 1866, while Joseph continued, but subsequent items in the local newspaper referred to the firm as "Lay & Bro." or "Lay Brothers." That reference to a brother could have meant Samuel Lay. In his 1966 Olmsted history book, Walter Holzworth wrote that the Lays also made cheese boxes to supply the many cheesemakers in the area. "Their factory on River Street [now River Road] near Ed Kidney's bending works was often called the Cheese Box Factory," Holzworth wrote.

The 1870 Census listed Joseph Lay as the operator of a rake and handle works, but his business suffered a setback that year. On March 4, 1870, the Berea weekly newspaper, the *Grindstone City Advertiser*, reported: “Last week the dry house of Lay & Bro. was burned, with all its contents. Loss about \$550.”

But the business recovered quickly because the newspaper on, May 26, 1871, reported: “Lay & Bro. seem to be doing a good business in the manufacture of rakes, cheese boxes, broom handles etc. In fact business of all kinds is lively.”

In addition to being a manufacturer, Joseph Lay also was active in the temperance movement at a time when saloons thrived in Olmsted Falls, much to the chagrin of people like him. Newspaper items sometimes noted that he and his wife hosted temperance meetings in their home. The April 4, 1874, edition of the *Advertiser* noted that Lay was elected to Olmsted Falls Village Council, and he was the only one to be elected on the Temperance Party ticket.

Joseph Lay lived along Water Street near the corner of what now is called Main Street (then called Columbia Street) in a house he acquired in 1860. It had been built in 1836 by Lemuel Hoadley, who ran a mill near the mouth of Plum Creek with his son-in-law John Barnum. In the late 20th century, that house at 7707 Main Street was expanded and was known as the home of Dr. William Mahoney, who served as a councilman and mayor of Olmsted Falls.



On this 1874 Olmsted Falls map, Joseph Lay's house is the building on Lot 7 along Water Street at lower left. The site of his sawmill and factory is not far away to the right. It stretches up from Water Street along the river.

According to Bernice Offenbergh in her 1964 book, *Over the Years in Olmsted*, Lay's broom factory originally was located behind what now is the home at 7539 River Road. She wrote that it was at the south end of the lot along the riverbank. Later, Lay bought a six-acre stretch of land between River Street and Rocky River just north of Water Street from Ed Kidney's father, Peter Kidney, sometime after Kidney's sawmill on the land burned in about 1873. An 1874 map shows three buildings on the property. The

one closest to Water Street is identified as a cheese factory. The description next to the two buildings at the northern end of the lot were identified as a sawmill and rake and cheesebox factory.

The two northernmost buildings were located right along the river, evidently to use waterpower. That could explain this item from the Olmsted column in the September 10, 1874, edition of the *Advertiser*: “The Lay Brothers have put an Engine in their Shop, and low water will not trouble them as much in the future as it has in the past.”

In the latter half of the 1870s, Joseph Lay turned his attention not only to making such products as brooms but also improving them. On September 18, 1876, he applied for a patent for what he called a “splint broom.” That might be why the Joseph Lay Company later listed 1876 as the year it was founded. The United States Patent Office granted him Patent Number 187,541 on February 20, 1877.

J. LAY.
BROOMS.
No. 187,541. Patented Feb. 20, 1877.



This is the illustration included in the application for the splint broom patent Joseph Lay received in 1877.

“This invention relates to a new method of constructing splint brooms and consists in the peculiar way of preparing the splints, by first riving them from the block, and then splitting them at the lower part, which forms the lower part of the broom when made up, the object being to make a cheap, durable broom, capable of standing the rougher work for which brooms are sometimes needed,” Lay wrote about his invention in the patent application.

The splints were cut from hickory “or other suitable wood” about an eighth of an inch wide, he explained in the application. “The parts of said splints which form the brush portion of the broom are split nearly half their length, which renders them more flexible,” Lay wrote.

“For all the uses of a stiff broom, such as scrubbing, sweeping snow, shops, factory or barn floors, this broom is far preferable to a corn broom, being far more durable,” he wrote. “The splints, by being split part way, give the broom the necessary flexibility, while the upper parts are less liable to break from their greater size and strength.”

By early 1878, Lay reached agreement with two other men to make his newly designed brooms. The January 10, 1878, edition of the newspaper (then called the *Republican and Advertiser*) reported: “The manufacture of the patent splint broom invented by Joseph Lay, will soon be commenced at Rice’s Mill, about two and a half miles west of this place, Mr. Rice and Mr. Edward Carpenter having made such arrangements with Mr. Lay as to have the rights to make and sell the said brooms.”



An 1876 Olmsted Township map shows a sawmill along McKenzie Road on property owned by R.H. Rice next to land owned by J.T. Carpenter, which was just south of land owned by F.D. Carpenter. According to scale on the map legend, the sawmill was located about two-and-a-half miles to the northwest of Olmsted Falls, so that might be the location of the Rice’s Mill referred to in the newspaper.

On this 1876 Olmsted Township map, an arrow points to the site of a sawmill on land owned by an R.H. Rice next to land owned by J.T. Carpenter, which was just south of land owned by F.D. Carpenter. Judging by the scale on the map, the site is about two-and-a-half miles northwest of Olmsted Falls. The northwestern border of Olmsted Falls is marked in red at the lower right. That fits with the way the newspaper described the location of Rice’s Mill, where a Mr. Rice and Edward Carpenter had arranged to make the splint broom patented by Joseph Lay.

The Annual Report of the Secretary of State to the Governor of Ohio, published in 1879, shows that a certificate of organization for the Olmsted Splint Broom Company of Olmsted Falls was filed on March 6, 1878.

The *Republican and Advertiser*, in its Olmsted column on March 14, 1878, reported: “A company has been formed here with a capacity of twenty thousand dollars for the manufacturing of the splint broom patented by Joseph Lay. It will be known as the Olmsted Splint Broom Company. Said company has purchased the building and machinery formerly used by Mr. Lay, and will continue the business at old stand with Mr. Lay as one of the partners. The facilities for manufacturing will be considerably enlarged as soon as possible. Success to them. If we had several establishments here that would employ forty or fifty men each, times would be more lively than at present.”

That same column also included this unfortunate item of news: “The ever ravenous buzz saw took off a finger for Walter Dwinnell at Rice and Carpenter’s broom factory last week.”

Despite that accident, all seemed to be going well for making brooms in Olmsted Township when the newspaper reported on April 4, 1878: “The Olmsted Splint Broom Co. are increasing their facilities for manufacturing by building an addition to the shop and putting in new machinery.”

But over the next month, something happened. The deal went sour for some reason. On May 16, 1878, the *Advertiser* reported: “The broom company is among the things that were, and Joseph Lay is again owner and proprietor of the old business and will continue it at the old stand.”

Another item lower in that Olmsted column said this: “Mr. G.L. Wilson’s little son, Frank got severely injured at the broom factory last week. One of the employes [*sic*] picked him up and playfully held him over the vat that is used for steaming the blocks from which the splints are made, when by some means he let the boy slip into the boiling water far enough to scald one leg as far as the knee, and the other foot and ankle.”

Whether such horseplay at the broom factory had anything to do with Lay revoking the rights of Carpenter and Rice to make his patented brooms is unknown, but the same Olmsted column in that May 16 edition of the newspaper also had two other items that seemed contradictory.

“The breaking up of the broom company leaves a number of men idle,” one said. The other stated: “Carpenter and Rice have added another story to their building and are doing lively business.”



This June 1878 issue of a publication from Canada’s patent office revealed that Joseph Lay had received a patent for a broom design, and so had four other men from Olmsted.

Lay went on with his business and inventing apparently undeterred. However, he seemed to have acquired competition. A June 1878 issue of *The Canadian Patent Office Record* shows that Lay was granted a Canadian patent on May 10, 1878, for his broom.

But that same publication also shows another Canadian patent for a broom design was granted on May 21, 1878, to four other people from Olmsted Falls. They were Edward E. Carpenter, James C. Porter, Victor A. Rice and Milton J. Porter. Perhaps the Carpenter and Rice involved in the Olmsted Splint Broom Company – along with the two Porters – tried to compete with Lay with a similar invention. It’s possible that led to the dispute between them and Lay.

It's not clear how much success Carpenter, Rice and the Porters had with their own broom business.

No. 8798. Improvements on Brooms.
(Perfectionnements aux balais.)
Joseph Lay, Olmstead Falls, Ohio, U. S., 15th May, 1878, for 5 years.
Claim.—1st. The splints or brush core A secured together and to the handle having a tapering or pointed end, by nails or rivets surrounded by an external covering of splints or brush secured to said handle, and to the core or filling by one or more bands with nails or rivets; 2nd. A broom made up of splints which are split or divided into two or more parts, about half their length more or less, forming the core or covering, or both, and secured together and to the handle by means of two or more bands and nails, or their equivalents.

No. 8804. Improvements on Brooms.
(Perfectionnements aux balais.)
Edward E. Carpenter, James C. Porter, Victor A. Rice and Milton J. Porter, Olmsted Falls, Ohio, U. S., 21st May, 1878, for 5 years.
Claim.—The handle A, having its lower end bevelled off, the bands B and D D, and the nailable nails c c and d d, securing the bands and brush to the handle A.

Above are two listings for patents from the Canadian Patent Office in June 1878. The first was granted to Joseph Lay of Olmstead [sic] Falls, Ohio. The second was granted to Edward E. Carpenter, James C. Porter, Victor A. Rice and Milton J. Porter of Olmsted Falls, Ohio. At the right are the illustrations for their broom designs with Lay's on top and the other one just below it.



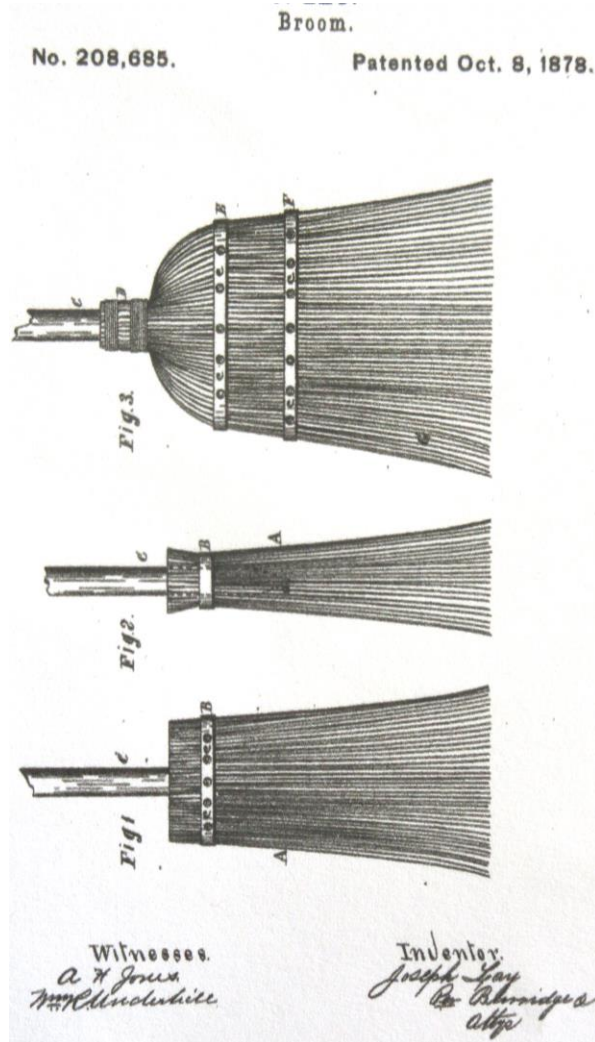
During that same spring, Lay filed for a new U.S. patent on April 19, 1878, for another “improvement in brooms.” On October 8, 1878, the U.S. Patent Office granted him Patent Number 208,685. The illustrations that accompanied the application show brooms of three different shapes.

“The nature of this invention relates to splint or brush brooms, and it consists of a new and novel manner of constructing the broom from the splints first, by forming a splint core or filling and securing the same to the handle (provided with a tapering or wedge-shaped end) by means of metal bands and nails or rivets, and surrounding said core by an external covering of splints secured to the handle,” Lay wrote in his application.

Further, he wrote that the splints “are of a uniform width throughout their entire length. This gives a strong, stiff broom for heavy sweeping. For lighter work the splints may be split to nearly half their length, rendering them more flexible, and therefore better adapted for light sweeping.”

Newspaper stories in the late 1800s sometimes raised more questions than answers. In May 1878, the *Advertiser* indicated that Lay had resumed making brooms at his facilities along Rocky River, but the Olmsted column in the May 8, 1879, edition included this item: “Mr. Joseph Lay is now manufacturing corn brooms.” It's not clear

whether that meant he had spent a whole year not making brooms or perhaps the distinction was that he had switched to making brooms from corn. That would be significant, considering he had said in his first patent application that his splint broom was “far preferable to a corn broom, being far more durable.”



These are the drawings of the brooms that accompanied the U.S. patent Joseph Lay received in 1878.

In 1879, Lay incorporated a company in which three people held equal shares. One was Joseph Lay. The others were his sons, Samuel C. Lay and Frank R. Lay.

A federal government document listing manufacturers in Olmsted Falls from June 1, 1879, to May 31, 1880, reveals some details about the operation of the Lays' factory. It had 10 employees who worked 10-hour days. A one-wheel turbine powered by Rocky River was two feet wide with a 15-foot fall of water, producing 30 horsepower. The value of materials was listed as \$1,000, while the value of products was listed as \$5,165. The capital invested in the business was \$6,000. The factory operated nine months of the year, presumably taking time off in the winter when the river iced over.

Meanwhile, Lay had gotten involved in a lawsuit. The Olmsted column in the *Berea Advertiser* (as the newspaper then called itself) for April 10, 1879, reported: “A lawsuit last Saturday, Herman Mulder vs. Joseph Lay; verdict for plaintiff.” Left unsaid was which of the two men was the plaintiff and what the case was about.

Likewise, the December 23, 1880, issue of the paper included this item: “The case of the ex-splint broom company vs. Joseph Lay, was tried last week and judgment given in favor of plaintiff.” Again, the identity of the plaintiff is not clear, but it seems to indicate the case pitted Carpenter and Rice against Lay. This might have been the beginning of a pattern because Lay became involved in many lawsuits throughout the following decades.

Also, the *Advertiser* revealed that year that Lay invented more than just brooms. In its October 28, 1880, edition, the Olmsted Falls column reported: “Next – Mr. Joseph

Lay has recently invented a new and improved washing machine. This brings Ed Kidney on deck, and Ed will have to brush the dust off of his inventive faculties or take a back seat.” That also was an example of how Lay and Kidney were viewed as rivals, at least in the newspaper.

“With this machine the housewife was relieved of all drudgery of scrubbing clothes on a washboard,” Holzworth wrote about Lay’s washing machine. “Now she could develop beautiful biceps by operating the machine in a rowing motion.” However, it is not clear that Lay ever made any money off of his washing machine design.

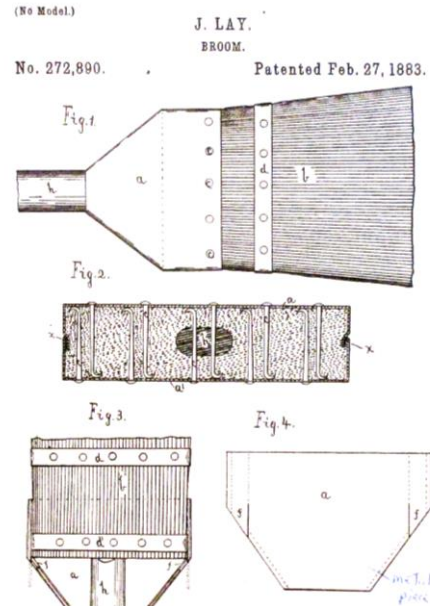
Brooms seemed to remain Lay’s chief interest and main product. The July 27, 1882, edition of the *Advertiser* reported: “Mr. Joseph Lay has returned from New York. He intends to manufacture corn brooms quite extensively.” Perhaps that meant he had either secured more orders for the brooms or more materials to make them.

That same Olmsted Falls column in that issue also included this item: “A \$200 horse owned by Mr. Joseph Lay went over the bank in the pasture where it was feeding, one day last week. Killed.” That seems to indicate how well off financially Lay was because \$200 went a long way in 1882, so if he could afford to own, and lose, a \$200 horse, he must have been doing well.

In the following years, many of the items about Lay in the newspaper were about his business trips, so in that regard, he again was much like Ed Kidney. Here are some of those items.

- January 11, 1883: “Mr. Joseph Lay is traveling in the western states.”
- April 5, 1883: “Mr. Joseph Lay departed for the western states, Wednesday, on a business trip.”
- June 21, 1883: “Mr. Joseph Lay is in Pennsylvania in the interest of the factory.”
- May 15, 1884: “Jos. Lay is making Chicago a business visit.”

The *Advertiser* also reported on the travels Lay’s son, Frank, made on behalf of the company. For example, the newspaper on November 9, 1882, reported: “Mr. Frank Lay has been on the road the past two weeks in the interest of the broom factory.”



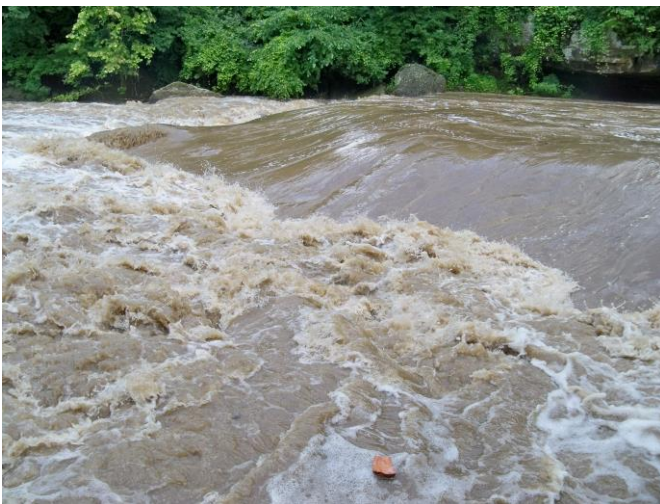
These drawings of a broom design with a metal cap accompanied the patent Lay received in 1883.

Meanwhile, Joseph Lay came up with another improvement in broom design. On July 12, 1882, he applied for a new patent. His explanation of the design is much lengthier and more technical than those in his previous patent applications. However, in the second paragraph, he stated: “My invention relates to that class of brooms in which the upper end of the head is inclosed [*sic*] in a sheet-metal cap.”

Later in the explanation, he said the cap would be made of “thin and pliable sheet-iron or other suitable metal.” The head was “formed of broom-corn, splints, or other suitable material bound together with one or more metallic straps,” Lay wrote. In addition, he said, “The broom thus made is especially adapted for heavy work in sweeping stables and workshops.” On February 27, 1883, the U.S. Patent Office issued Patent Number 272,890 to him.

However, just weeks before Lay received the good news about that patent, he faced a disaster at his broom factory. Here is how the Olmsted Falls column in the February 8, 1883, edition of the *Berea Advertiser* described it in a story with an “AFTER THE RAIN” headline:

Now that our citizens have got their heads out of water, we think it safe in saying that never since the dove picked up that olive branch has Rocky river ever presented so high an uncontrollable appearance as it did last Saturday night. In the village, the principal losses were sustained by Joseph Lay & Co., of sawmill, dam, etc.... Joseph Lay & Co's factory, used for manufacturing splint and corn brooms, is badly damaged, the east foundation wall of 100 feet in length, including the sawmill, being completely demolished and about 30 feet of the main building is partly destroyed. The engine and boiler is where? Some stock was also ruined



and lost. The firm estimate their loss at \$3,000. Mr. Lay said: “We intend to repair the damage immediately and it will make but little difference in working, as arrangements have already been made for power in place of that lost. We have been here 25 yrs. and this is the highest, by at least 5 feet, that the river has been up within that time.”

It's not unusual to see the waters of Rocky River rush fast and deep, such as seen here on June 27, 2015. But no one alive today has seen the river run as it did in February 1883, when it destroyed Joseph Lay's, factory.

As Lay promised, the company worked quickly to replace what it had lost. On February 22, 1883, the *Advertiser* reported: “Joseph Lay & Co. have replaced their boiler, ruined

by the freshet, with a new one and will soon have power.”

About 15 months later, the *Advertiser* reported on May 15, 1884: “Jos. Lay & Co. are building an addition to the south side of their broom factory.”

On November 28, 1884, when the *Advertiser* again reported on the travels of Lay’s son, it included an assessment of how well the company was doing: “Mr. Frank Lay returned Friday evening from a three weeks’ business trip through Michigan. He [unreadable] a large sale for the company’s snow shovel and a good demand for brooms. Jos. Lay & Co., the firm he represents, have been burned out, and then drowned out, but still have a factory full of machinery, with a steadily growing business.”

However, within a few years, Lay decided that growth would not continue in Olmsted Falls. The *Berea Advertiser* reported on January 21, 1887: “The Jos. Lay Broom Co. are making preparations for a hasty departure for Ridgeville, Ind.” On February 18, 1887, the paper reported: “Mr. Jos. Lay returned from Ridgeville, Ind., last week.”

But that return was temporary. Both authors of the mid-1960s histories of Olmsted – Bernice Offenbergs and Walter Holzworth – wrote that Lay and his sons were lured to Ridgeville by corn. Offenbergs wrote that Ridgeville “offered free land and contracts from farmers who would raise broom corn for them.” Holzworth wrote:

“Broom corn raising in Olmsted Township was almost non existing and he received an invitation from this Indiana community to come there where he was assured of an ample supply of broom corn.”

The move happened quickly. That departure from Olmsted Falls is another way Joseph Lay’s life had parallels to Ed Kidney’s, although Lay’s departure for another state preceded Kidney’s by 14 years.

The next issue of *Olmsted 200* will have stories about the adventures the Lays experienced in Indiana, where the broom business boomed, but their venture into one of



This 1892 map of Olmsted Falls still shows Joseph Lay as the owner of the land along the river north of Water Street where he previously manufactured brooms and other items, but only one of the three buildings remained there. The map also shows Lay as the owner of the house on Water Street near the corner of what now is Main Street. The map was issued five years after Lay moved to Indiana.

the hottest new industries of the early 20th century didn't go so well. Also coming is a story about the Lays' complicated and messy family life, which had elements akin to modern soap opera.

Many thanks go to David Kennedy who contributed extensive research for this story and those coming up.

Kidney's Bending Works Bought a Notable Engine

The previous two issues of *Olmsted 200* featured stories about the bending works of Ed Kidney that made curved wooden parts for wagons and buggies in Olmsted Falls. That was before he moved to Memphis, Tennessee, in 1901 and his former partner, Gus Leutkemeyer, moved the operations of the bending works to Metropolis, Illinois. Since last month's issue, researcher David Kennedy found another reference to what the bending works was like just a couple of years before it moved out of Ohio.

This is from an issue of *The Railway and Engineering Review* in 1899: "Lord, Bowler & co. of Cleveland are building for E.W. Kidney, of Olmsted Falls, O., an automatic engine of 90 horse power. The design is entirely new and contains many important features which makes it attractive and economical. The engine is of the center crank type with overhanging cylinder. The bed is of good hight [*sic*], with ample spread. The bearings are large with take-up quarter boxes, and are eays [*sic*] of adjustment; cylinder heads are ground steam tight; valve is the balance piston with spring rings, moving in bridged bushings or seats."

A sharp editor would have changed "hight" to "height" and "eays" to "easy," but the point is that this acquisition of a new engine made news in a national trade journal – another measure of how significant the factory was.

Trade Journals Shed Light on Olmsted Appliance Makers



These former bending works buildings of Ed housed appliance manufacturers in the the early 1900s along River Street.

Falls.

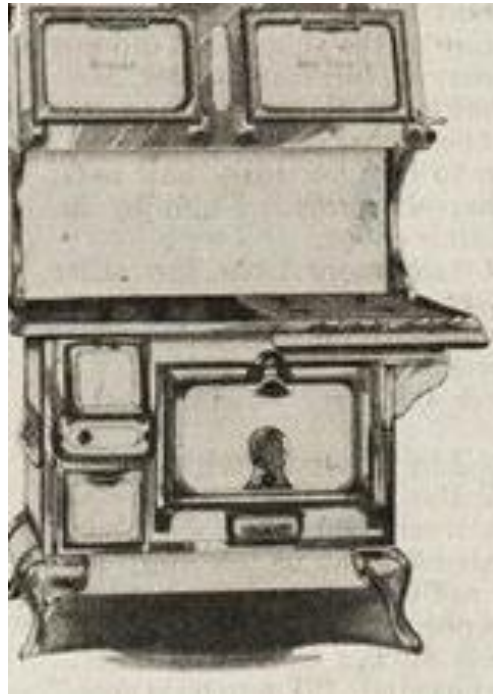
In addition to the story about Ed Kidney's bending works, last month's issue included a story about two companies that moved into the factory along River Street (now River Road) in the early 1900s after the bending works moved out. A few trade publications from that time provide further information about the operations of the Wallace Manufacturing Company and the Alright Manufacturing Company, which initially shared space with Wallace Kidney Manufacturing before Wallace took it over. A final item seems to indicate why the company eventually abandoned Olmsted

This is from *The Metal Worker, Plumber, and Steam Fitter* magazine in 1906: “The Wallace Mfg. Company, Olmsted Falls, Ohio, successor to the National Lighting & Heating Company, Cleveland, Ohio; the Wallace Company, Pittsburgh, Pa.; and the Allright Mfg. Company, Olmsted Falls, Ohio, is now manufacturing a line of Artificial and Natural Gas Ranges, Heaters, &c., in addition to its complete line of Acetylene Gas Ranges and heating and lighting appliances. A special folder issued by the company carries illustrations of some of these goods, the Allright Range being of the cabinet type, and embodying features which are likely to interest the trade, more especially at this season of the year. A varied assortment of Corona Hot Plates is illustrated, together with Water Heaters, Mail Boxes, Sprinklers, &c.”

This item comes from *The Iron and Machinery World* magazine in 1906: “Negotiations have been completed, says a Pittsburgh [sic] dispatch, for a merger of the Wallace Manufacturing Company, 112 Wood street, Pittsburgh [sic]; Victor Lighting Company, Cleveland, and the Allright Manufacturing Company, of Olmsted Falls, O., under a holding company to be know as the Wallace Manufacturing Company. The new company has secured a charter under the laws of Ohio and has a capitalization of \$100,000. All the plants of the consolidated companies are to be abandoned, with the exception of the one at Olmsted Falls, which is to be enlarged and whose working for will be increased. Charles D. Wallace, of Pittsburgh [sic], will be president and general manager of the associated companies. The companies will manufacture ranges, gas stoves, radiators and acetylene goods.”

(That latter item misspelled the name of Pittsburgh, as did the next one. Both items above misspelled the Alright name.)

Here’s another one from *The Plumbers Trade Journal* from 1907: “The Wallace Mfg. Co., Olmsted Falls, O., has arranged with the C. Howard Hook Co. to carry in stock in Pittsburgh [sic] a full line of the Corona water heaters to fill the orders from the jobbing trade promptly, and this will enable the trade to service the Corona heater from stock without having to wait for factory shipments. The Wallace Mfg. Co. has landed some encouraging orders in town recently, including a carload shipment including a carload shipment of gas ranges and heating stoves from a large downtown jobber. The company is ably represented in this territory by G.W. Smith.”



This drawing of a range appeared in an American Range and Foundry Company magazine advertisement in 1920, although by then the company’s address was in Chicago rather than Cleveland.

Finally, this next item from 1910 seems to explain why Wallace Manufacturing left Olmsted Falls. It apparently was acquired by a Cleveland company. This is from *Sanitary & Heating Engineering* magazine (and a similar item appeared in *The Iron Age* magazine): “The American Range & Foundry Co., which operates a plant on Union avenue, Cleveland, is soon to begin the erection of additions that will about double its present capacity. This company has just purchased the equipment and line of gas stoves and ranges and acetylene stoves of the Wallace Manufacturing Co., Olmsted Falls, Ohio, which recently made an assignment, and will add that company’s line to its own. The American Range & Foundry Co. will build a new foundry building, 130 x 90 ft., and a mill and grinding room, 42 x 72 ft. It will be in the market for molding machines and other foundry equipment.”

Again, thanks go to David Kennedy for finding these trade journal items.

Still to Come

The next issue of *Olmsted 200* will include stories about what happened to Joseph Lay and his family after they moved to Indiana, the misadventure they had with a popular new industry of the early 1900s, and their complicated family life, both in Ohio and in Indiana.

If you know of other people who would like to receive *Olmsted 200* by email, please feel free to forward it to them. They can get on the distribution list by sending a request to: wallacestar@hotmail.com. *Olmsted 200* has readers in several states beyond Ohio, including Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Idaho, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, New Hampshire, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Washington, West Virginia and Wisconsin, and as well as overseas in the Netherlands, Germany and Japan.

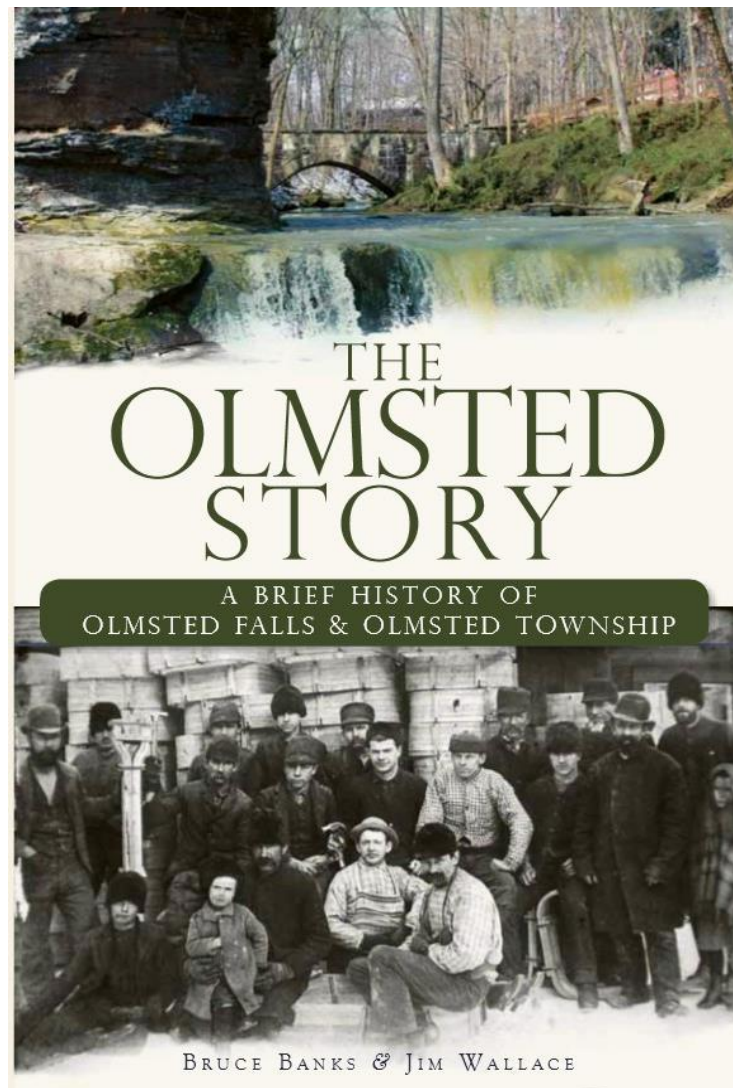
Your questions and comments about *Olmsted 200* are welcome. Perhaps there is something about Olmsted’s history that you would like to have pulled out of *Olmsted 200*’s extensive archives. Or perhaps you have information or photos about the community’s history that you would like to share.

If you have missed any of the past issues of *Olmsted 200* or want to share them with someone else, all of them can be found on Olmsted Township’s website. Go to <http://olmstedtownship.org/newsletters/>. A list of *Olmsted 200* issues is on the right side. Click on the number of the issue you want to read. All of the issues of *Olmsted 200* also are available on the website of the City of Olmsted Falls. Find them at: http://www.olmstedfalls.org/olmsted_falls_history/index.php. A link to *Olmsted 200* can be found on the left side of the page.

Except where otherwise noted, all articles in *Olmsted 200* are written by Jim Wallace. Thanks go to Mary Louise King for help in proofreading and editing many

issues. Thanks also go to David Kennedy for frequently contributing research and insight for some stories. Written contributions and photos, as well as comments and questions about items in this newsletter, will be considered for publication. Send any correspondence by email to: wallacestar@hotmail.com.

Olmsted 200 is written, researched and edited by Jim Wallace, who is solely responsible for its content. He is co-author (with Bruce Banks) of ***The Olmsted Story: A Brief History of Olmsted Falls and Olmsted Township***, published in 2010 by The History Press of Charleston, S.C. ***The Olmsted Story*** is available at Angelina's Pizza in Olmsted Falls and the Berea Historical Society's Mahler Museum & History Center and through online booksellers.



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