

County Ramblings Leslie
Ingham County News
7/25/1866

We improved the opportunity last week of making a visit to our neighboring town of Leslie. We found the place where Leslie use to be, but had it not been for the familiar faces of numerous old friends who greeted our arrival, we should not have known where we were. There has been a complete revolution in the place within two years, and what was then a dingy little country village, is now one of the most thriving, wide-awake business places that we know of, unless we except Mason. The old buildings have been torn down or moved off, and in their places new and elegant structures put up; the streets have been straightened and nicely graded, beautiful trees and shrubbery transplanted to ornament the neat little residences, new and expensive machine shops and mills have been erected, and every man is hard at work, which he is obliged to do to keep up his enterprising neighbors.

The Leslie Hotel, kept by A.T. Ingalls, Esq., is one of the best public houses that we ever put up at, and is a credit to the place. Messrs. S.O. Russell and Wm. Haynes still continue to dispense Dry Goods , Groceries & c. to the inhabitants of the town, at the old place of business, and we heard some of their customers say that they always sell goods cheap. Mr. E. ward is the industries proprietor of a large Hardware store that would be a credit to any city. He has a large stock of goods, and people seemed to come in and buy of him just because they liked him. He works hard all of the time. It was indeed a novelty to see him with his face covered with sweat, and his sleeves rolled up working away at the soldering bench, and the next moment behind the counter attending to the wants of a customer. We would trust such a man at any time without security, and will warrant that he will be a rich man at no distant day. Messrs. Blackmore, Torrey & Allen, at the Post Office have a large store and a fine stock of Goods which they are selling off cheap. In fact the Dry Goods merchants of Leslie have taken just the right course to keep customers at that place to trade, for they can do as well by them as any city merchants. Mr. Blackmore is the nicest little postmaster that we have seen in a long time, and has lately greatly improved the office by putting in some new boxes.

In company with Dr. Woodworth, we visited the new steam Grist and Flouring Mill of Messrs. Spears & Ismon, which is just completed, and is in fact one of the best Mills in the state. The flour manufactured there brings the very highest prices in the New York market. It contains three run of stone, besides all of the latest styles of improved machinery. A large sash door and blind factory is also nearly completed, which will supply a want long needed in that vicinity. Mr. T.H. Reed has closed his store for the present while he is building a large addition to the building, which when completed will be one of the finest buildings in the place. It is his intention to fill it up with first class Goods as soon as completed, and will be a popular place to trade.

LESLIE

ING. CO

BUSINESS DIRECTORY.

DRY GOODS, GROCERIES, &c.,

V. A. Kirby.
S. O. Russell.
Reed & Allen.
J. M. Gibbs.

DRY GOODS, GROCERIES, MILLINERY

W. K. Haynes & Co.

PHYSICIANS & SURGEONS.

I. D. Woodworth.
I. O. Scarle.

MISCELLANEOUS.

L. A. Roysten, Carriage Maker.
H. Smith, American Hotel.
P. W. Rolfe, Attorney.
L. Woodhouse, County Treasurer.
W. J. P. Armstrong, Farmer.
F. Bowles, Boots, Shoes, & Leather Goods.

The map shows a grid of streets. The vertical streets from left to right are labeled: S.O. Russell, WASHINGTON, MASON, PINE, MILL, and RUSSELL. The horizontal streets from top to bottom are labeled: WASHINGTON, MASON, PAIN, and MILL. Buildings are represented by small squares, many of which contain numbers. Some buildings have names written on them, such as 'W. Rolfe' and 'Hotel'. A winding river or canal is depicted in the center of the map. A north arrow is located in the bottom right corner of the map area.

A large, three story building is also going up on Main Street, owned by Mr. E Ward, which will be occupied for stores offices and a large Hall for the Odd Fellow Masonic and Good Templar Societies, all of which we are told are in a flourishing condition. We called into the Drug Store of Mr. J.E. Titus, and found him hard at work mixing potations and prescriptions. He has a fine Stock of Drugs Medicines Notions &c. and seems to be one of the growing men of the place. Our old friend, Wm. Annin, has built a large building on the corner and Johnny Burchard is the proprietor of a first class Grocery Store therein. He is the Town Clerk and seems to give entire satisfaction. Mr. W.C. Tompkins is also the proprietor of a first class Drug Store, and is doing a good business.

We heard the whistle of a locomotive, and wound our way to the depot, where we were greeted with the familiar sight of a train of cars on the way from Jackson to Lansing. From this we infer that Leslie is situated on the Jackson, Lansing & Saginaw Railroad, but judging by the stir and amount of business done there, that Jackson came there for all of its Railroad business.

There is upward of forty new building going up now, and still there is a great demand for houses. The farmers in the vicinity are now busily engaged in harvesting the wheat crop, which is very good, but yet not quite equal to this vicinity, a great many pieces having badly wintered killed. We enjoyed the visit very much, and after the citizens to the number of about 100 had put their names down on our subscription book, and paid us \$2 each, and promised one hundred and fifty majority for the republican ticket this fall, we left for home.