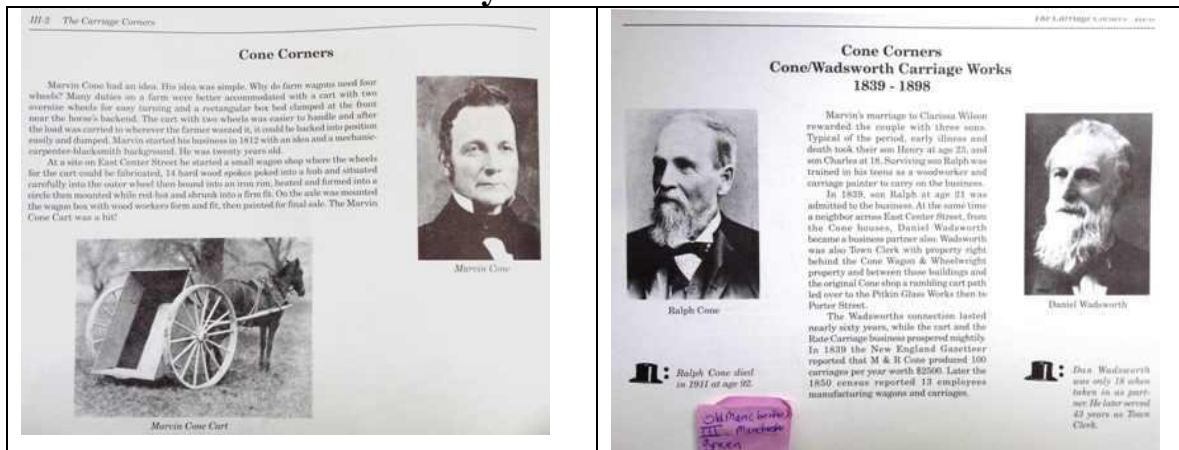


Carriages Manufactured at Cone Carriage Works, Manchester CT

Marvin Cone opened his carriage business in 1812. In 1839, Marvin's son Ralph and their neighbor Daniel Wadsworth joined the business. *The New England Gazetteer* reported that year that M&R Cone produced 100 carriages per year. By 1850, they had 13 employees manufacturing wagons and carriages.

"The 'Cone Cart' was a well-known local vehicle in the nineteenth century but it was only one of several types of carriages made by Ralph and Marvin Cone in their shop at the corner of Pitkin and East Center Streets. ...Eight of the firm's wagons and carriages were in the Centennial Parade in 1923, including, according to the program: 'Phaetons, buggies, carry-alls and old carriages of all types.'" [Quoted in "Old Manchester, the Storytellers," from a 2/23/1967 Manchester Herald article by Mrs. Harry Maidment.]

Two pages from "Old Manchester...Manchester Green" published by the Manchester Historical Society:



Ralph Cone obituary, *The Hartford Courant*, Mar 17, 1911

"Ralph Cone, sr., Manchester's oldest resident, died at his home in Manchester Green about 6 o'clock last night. He had been in failing health for several months. He was born and had always lived at the Green and always took a deep interest in that part of the town especially and the whole town in general. He was born October 20, 1818, and was therefore in his 93rd year. Until his recent illness he was a very active man for this age and retained many of his faculties and was able to read a newspaper without the aid of glasses. In his early life Mr. Cone was engaged in the carriage building business, to which he was admitted by his father, who was the founder of the business, at the age of 21 years, and remained in that business with his father and later with Daniel Wadsworth, who was for many years town clerk of the town, until the firm broke up about twenty years ago. Among the first hearse builders in this part of the country were the Cones and the first hearse ever used in Manchester was built by that firm. Mr. Cone was one of the oldest members of the Center Congregational Church, he having joined that church in 1832 and still retained his membership. In 1844 he married Miss Esther Wells Woodbridge, who died about twenty years ago. Mr. Cone was twice elected to serve the town in the Legislature, the first time in 1865, and again in 1866. He was the second member of his family to serve the town in this office, as his father, Marvin Cone, had been representative from Manchester in 1844. Mr. Cone was a republican in politics and his interest in the party was not confined to local or state events alone, but was of a much larger field and he kept closely in touch with doings throughout the country. He is survived by one son, Arthur Cone, agent of the town deposit fund, one grandson, two granddaughters and one great-grandchild. The funeral arrangements will be announced later."