

THE SOUTH MANCHESTER NEWS
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FIFTY YEARS OLD

In the year 1847, Edwin B. Hibbard erected a workshop 25x35 feet and two stories high at what is now No.61 North Main Street and started a stove store, making all kinds of tinware and doing all manner of copper work, as called for.

It was the only store of its kind in town at that time, and the place where he built was practically a pasture.

He was married Dec. 31, 1848 and had intended to reside upstairs in his little shop building, but the Hartford, Providence, & Fishkill railroad was in course of construction at that time and the contractor offered him such a large rental for the apartments, that he let them to him and he and his young bride boarded with his father, Major Walter Hibbard, until the road was completed and put in operation. They then moved into their own building, over the shop, where their four children were born, W. E. Hibbard being the youngest member of the family and is now the only surviving one of the children.

In 1860 Mr. Hibbard moved into his new residence which he built directly west of the shop, and which has been ever since, and is today, the Hibbard homestead.

He finally sold out his business to Alexander Mitchell and L. S. Emmons, who dissolved the partnership after a time, Mr. Emmons withdrawing from the firm.

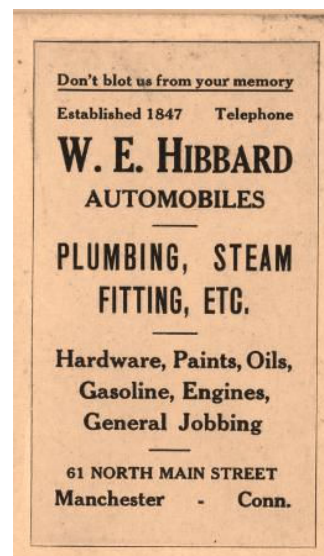
Mr. Mitchell subsequently sold his business to Wm. McCormack, who took L. S. Emmons in as a partner, after running the business alone for some time.

Several changes in partnership then followed, which finally culminated in the firm of McCormack & Emmons owning the business and they in turn sold it to Lorenzo Lamb and W. E. Hibbard, son of Edwin B. Hibbard and one of the present proprietors, March 31, 1887, just ten years ago last Wednesday.

They conducted the business under the name of Lamb & Hibbard until 1892, when they took James H. Stannard into the firm, changing the title to Lamb, Hibbard & Co.

In February of 1891 Mr. Lamb retired from the firm selling his interest in full to the present proprietors, W. E. Hibbard and J. H. Stannard, who adopted the firm name of Hibbard & Stannard, by which title it is known today, and have taken rank among our most active and enterprising young businessmen, and are doing a large and varied business.

From a promotional ink blotter – a way of advertising when all pens were ink pens.



Fifty years ago, when this business was started, it was in a very small way, and was entirely different from what it is today.

Then most people had fireplaces in their residences and burned wood. There were not many who used stoves, and those who did, burned wood. Coal stoves were not much known in these parts. There was no steam, hot air, or hot water heating, no bicycle selling or repairing, and they did not need nearly as much room to transact the business as they do today.

As the requirements of the trade demanded, the original building was enlarged, additions being made on the north, south and west sides.

But in all the changes that the business has undergone during the past fifty years, the building never passed out of the ownership of the Hibbard family, and is owned by Mrs. E. E. Hibbard today.

It came near being destroyed by fire once, and would have been, only for the timely aid of a bucket brigade, headed by Clinton W. Cowles and Joseph Manierre, an abundance of water being found in the cellar of the building to extinguish the flames, the water being dipped up in pailsful.

Edwin B. Hibbard died in 1877 at the age of 59 years.

His son, W. E. Hibbard, learned his trade with L. S. Emmons & Co., with whom he served four years. He then went to Hartford and worked five years at his trade with the firm of Ball & Lamb. He afterwards came to work for Mr. Emmons and continued there until he and Mr. Lamb bought the business in 1887 as shown above.

Although the business is fifty years old it is as full of life and energy as ever, is in the hands of capable young men who are thorough mechanics, know every part of the business and are fully up to date in every particular. Their business prospects for the future are certainly far brighter than were those of Edwin B. Hibbard, the founder, at the time he began.

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