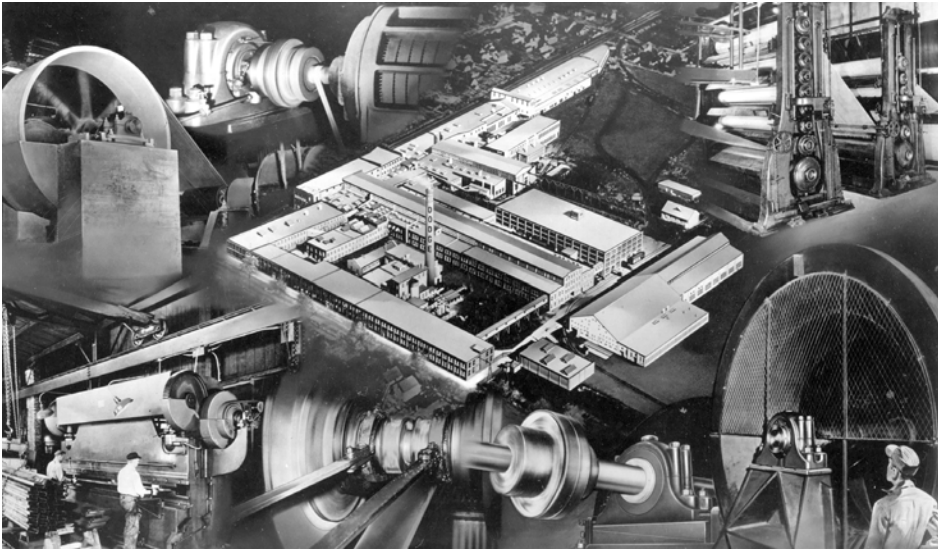




## Dodge Manufacturing

By Lexie Schroeder Kobb



*Dodge Manufacturing Company collage, photograph in HLCM collection, 1982.29.7*

**The story of Dodge** Manufacturing in Mishawaka (no relation to the automobile) is one of ingenuity, invention, entrepreneurship and community. The story begins in the very early years of Mishawaka's founding.

Harlow Dodge, a native of Boonville, New York, traveled to Mishawaka in the early 1840's. He worked as a contractor and builder for the railroad but saw a need in this growing community that he could fill. Harlow started a hardware business.

With his decision to settle in the community, he married Elizabeth Luce who was also from New York. Harlow and Elizabeth had four children together - two daughters and two sons. The sons, Wallace, born in 1848, and William, born in 1861, attended Mishawaka schools and went on to

study at the University of Notre Dame.

The boys grew up working in their father's hardware store as bookkeepers and clerks. They were said to have been mechanically minded.

In 1878, at the age of 29, Wallace opened his first modest factory on the banks of the St. Joseph River. William worked in the business, too, taking responsibility for the financials while Wallace managed the day to day operations. The factory manufactured "wood specialties" such as doorstops, tool handles, sawbucks, chopping blocks, and curtain rods.

The company's first unique design was the Magic Wagon Jack. Over half a million were sold. The Magic Wagon Jack was superior to other jacks used to lift wagons at that time in order to grease or change wheels. It was

a useful tool needed by any wagon or buggy owner but Dodge's design was superior to its competitors in terms of ease and safety of use.

Two years after the factory was first established in business, on April 3rd of 1880, the business incorporated as the Dodge Manufacturing Company and would maintain this moniker for over a century. However, soon after Dodge Manufacturing came into existence, it seemed as though its success would be very fleeting.

In the summer of 1881, lightning struck the single wood frame building and burned the business to the ground. In the three short years that the Dodge brothers had been in business, they had built a strong reputation in the community. Funds were made available to Wallace and William to rebuild and this is exactly what they chose to do. Rather than building for the company that existed, they built for the company that they planned to grow Dodge Manufacturing into. They chose to construct a two story brick building and had plans to immediately get the company back to work.

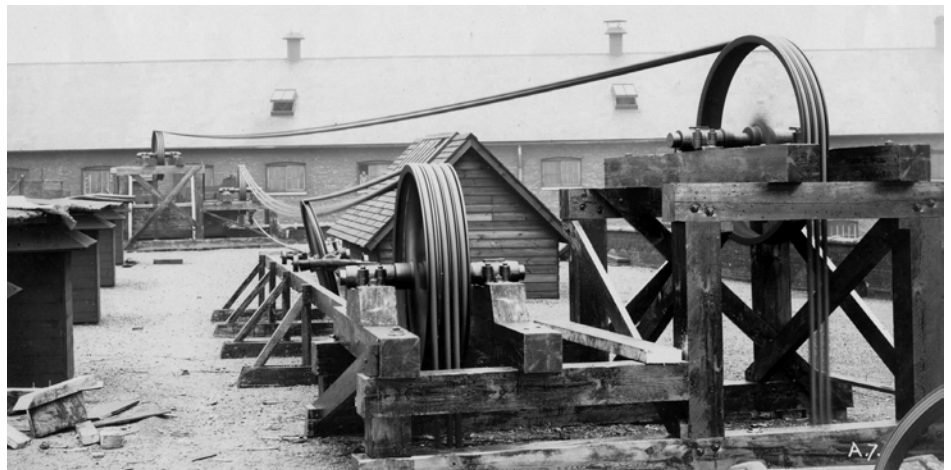
However, Wallace almost immediately ran into a significant impediment. His next great challenge appeared when he tried to purchase iron pulleys for his new factory building. At this time, iron pulleys were made to order for each factory individually and were used to distribute power through belt and rope drives from a steam engine which provided the

cont. from page 1

electricity for the facility. Because each iron pulley system was custom made according to the needs of a facility, the wait time was enormous. It was far too long for Wallace to wait.

He quickly decided to get creative with the resources that he had on hand. Dodge Manufacturing had wood, skilled wood workers and ingenuity in abundance. Wallace and his employees invented a wood split pulley system. This system was revolutionary because iron pulleys were no longer the only option. Now with an interchangeable bushing system, the pulleys could be sold as stock merchandise and be customized to the needs of a manufacturing facility on-site.

Other manufacturers in the local area - of which there were many at the time - saw what Dodge had created out of necessity and



Dodge Manufacturing Company rope drive, photograph in HLCM collection, 1983.25.7

immediately saw the benefit of the wood split pulley. They began requesting the product for their own factories with such demand that it led Dodge Manufacturing to offer its invention to the global marketplace and eventually led to improvements in the original design.

Next came one of Dodge's most popular products at the time, what would be known as the "Independence" wood split pulley - so named because the patent for this creation was issued on July 4th, 1882.

To be continued in a future edition...

## Museum Calendar

September 3, 2014 – Ongoing

### **Fire Fighting, Mishawaka**

See a collection of objects related to Mishawaka's fire fighting history, including an 1865 hand-pulled chemical fire truck, firefighter's uniform from 1918, fire extinguisher from the 1909 and photos of our local firefighters at work from 1868 to today.

November 25, 2014 – May, 2015

### **St. Joseph County Learning: A Portrait of Students from the Late 1800's to the Early 1900's**

The exhibit features photographs from the Museum's collection of local area students.

March 31, 2015 – Ongoing

### **Clothing Store**

After 2 years, hundreds of volunteer hours and the financial

support of our Museum Artifacts and a grant from the Mishawaka Business Association, the Museum's Clothing Store Exhibit is now open! The exhibit features WWII era clothing, the history and products of Ball-Band / Uniroyal, fashion accessories for men and women through the decades and more.

October 2015 – Ongoing

### **Mishawaka-Penn-Harris Library Display**

The Museum has a display case in the children's department of our local downtown Mishawaka Library!

This fall the case features a collection of one room school house and early school objects from HLCM.

September 15, 2015 – May 31, 2016

### **World Famous Mishawakans, Part I**

This exhibit features three world famous residents from Mishawaka's past and present. This year we will highlight Freddie Fitzsimmons (professional baseball player), Adam Driver (stage and screen actor) and Rose Hartwick Thorpe (Victorian era poet). This exhibit will change annually so be sure to visit before the next three World Famous Mishawakans are featured!

November 24 – December 18, 2015

### **Here Comes Santa Claus**

A variety of Santas from the Museum's collection, donated by Dr. Doris Speicher and others will be showcased in our Kaleidoscope Hallway.



# Keystone View Company, Magic Lantern Slides

By Jenifer Blouin, HLCM Collections Intern

Recently in the museum's collection we have uncovered an abundance of magic lantern slides – about 1,300 of them! These slides are made of glass and were used mainly for entertainment and educational purposes. In the days before television and films, the images painted or printed onto the glass slides would have been projected by a magic lantern, an early type of image projector.

The slides in our collection were made by the Keystone View Company, which was founded in 1892 and was headquartered in Meadville, Pennsylvania. While Keystone was one of the foremost manufacturers of magic lantern slides, it was perhaps best known for its production of stereographic images. Stereoscopes were hand-held devices that one could look through to see

the image on a stereoview card come to life in three dimensions.

Shortly after the turn of the twentieth century, the Keystone View Company started producing special sets of slides and stereoviews that were sold to schools. These slides and stereoviews were used to teach all manner of school subjects, and were a forerunner to today's transparency and screen projectors. They would be sent to schools in wooden cabinets that were complete with slotted drawers for the easy storage of slides and stereoviews. One of these cabinets is where the museum's collection of Keystone slides has been stored and largely untouched for decades. How exciting that our slides may have been used to teach school children nearly 100 years ago!

Our slides depict scenes from all over the world. They range from images of the Liberty Bell to the streets of Rio de Janeiro; earthquake fissures in the California earth to rice farmers in Japan; an open air market in Germany to St. Peter's cathedral in Rome. How fun it would have been for students to see actual images of the places they studied in geography, rather than just their names on a map.

The Museum has in its collection a magic lantern slide projector, as well as several boxes of beautiful hand-painted glass lantern slides. This addition of Keystone slides adds not only a large mass to our collection, but an interesting bit of educational history as well.

*Jenifer has been working with the Museum's collections and in particular the lantern slides to document and catalogue the collection as well as rehouse the slides to preserve their excellent condition far into the future.*



Jenifer Blouin, HLCM Collections Intern, working with glass lantern slide collection

## Poem Dedicated to the School Children of Mishawaka, Indiana

Written by Rose Hartwick Thorpe, one of three Museum featured World Famous Mishawakans.

**Years ago**, alas so many  
That the story seems a dream  
Lived a little brown-eyed maiden  
By a happy, singing stream.  
Never skies so blue as those were;  
Never grass so cool and green,  
And the cottage seemed a place  
Where dear mother reigned a queen.

All things lived to make her happy,  
Flowers and birds and humming bees;  
Stars were gems in heaven's  
pavement,  
One might reach them from the trees.  
Such sweet songs the birds sang  
to her,

From their leafy cover green;  
Such sweet music sang the waters  
In the spearmint bordered stream.

Some enchanted spell was round her  
Those first years of long ago,  
It was fairy-land she lived in,  
Shall I tell you how I know?  
After many years a woman,  
Who was once that little maid,  
Brought a heart of homesick longings  
To the dear old hickory's shade.

But the strangest thing had happened  
In the years that lay between,  
For the cottage had it shrunken,  
That it seemed so small and mean?  
Yes the stream was there,  
mint bordered,  
And the old brick schoolhouse too,  
But the sky had lost its nearness,  
And the flowers their brilliant hue;  
Trees were lower. All the spaces  
'Neath the blue sky's bending face  
Were contracted, dwarfed  
and shrunken,  
Till she scarcely knew the place.

Yet today, the fairest picture  
On the wall of memory's room  
Is the one she knew in childhood,  
Where all nature was in bloom;

Still the cottage walls are lofty, And  
the mother queen is there,  
An enchanted spell hangs o'er it  
Like the whisper of a prayer.

### Museum Advisory Board 2015-16

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#### Museum hours:

Tues. – Fri. 9 AM to noon & 1 PM to 4 PM,  
(closed whenever school is not in session in SCM)

**Admission charges:** \$1.00 – Children ages 2 – 4  
\$2.00 – Seniors ages 62+ & students ages 5 – 17  
\$3.00 – Adults  
Free Admission for Museum Members



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## 2015 – 2016 Artifacts

### Wall of Fame 20+ Years

Atef M. Tawadros D. D. S  
Bryan Chiropractic Center

### 15-19 Years

Gary's Barber/Style Shop  
Magrames Motor Sales  
Michiana Accounting Service  
Schindler, Olson & Currey  
Teachers Credit Union  
Weber Electric, Inc.  
Woodcox Cleaning & Restorations

### 11 – 14 Years

1st Source Bank  
Dr. Brian D. Eberhart  
George A Mighion DDS PC  
KeyBank

### 6 – 10 Years

Magrane Pet Medical Center  
Princess City Dental

### 2 – 5 Years

Hinges & Handles, Inc.

### New Donors



John Boettcher Sewer  
& Excavating

### Special Project Donors

Beta Gamma Chapter of  
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Target  
Tri Kappa Mishawaka Alpha  
Associate  
Whole Foods Market

**Thank you for  
your support!**

To become an Artifacts Museum Donor,  
please contact [director@hlcm.org](mailto:director@hlcm.org)

*The mission of the Hannah Lindahl Children's Museum*  
 *is to provide a collection of unique artifacts that encourages families to*   
*explore, learn, and enjoy the history of the Mishawaka area.*