

A.K. Smith Bowl Factory

March 24, 1881

Smith & White Bowl Factory on main road between Petoskey and Bear Lake (Walloon) turns out 200 bowls per day using one lathe and 5 or 6 hands. They use maple and elm wood.

Source of this item is not given and I do not know the exact location.

1883

Bowl factory owned by A.K. Smith has moved from the North Arm of Bear Lake to the foot of the lake where the future village of Talcott (Walloon Village) was to be established.

In 1888 it employed 28 people including 4 or 5 boys who stacked the bowls.

Source: Mrs. Frank Burns. She may be able to give you more details.

1883 May 30

The firm of A.K. Smith & Co. who have been manufacturing wooden bowls between the arms of Bear Lake, find it necessary to seek a location where maple timber is more plentiful and conveniently got at. Their venture has proved to be a great financial success and we sincerely hope they can find a place near Petoskey.

Source: Petoskey City Record

1883 Nov. 7

A.K. Smith & Co. who have been shut down some time to make necessary repairs, started their mill on Monday. They expect to run straight through the winter and spring, when they will put their new machinery into a new mill at the foot of Bear Lake where the facilities for getting blocks and shipping bowls is much greater. It is an enterprising firm and deserves the success which they have achieved.

Source: Petoskey City Record

1885 June 18

A.K. Smith & Co. want all the bowl blocks they can get. They will pay spot cash and hope to get enough in the next month to fill back orders of bowls.

Source: Petoskey City Record

1885 June 10

The Clarion correspondent of the Charlevoix Journal says of the bowl factory of Messrs A.K.Smith, J.E.Walrond, & A.C.Bowman: "The bowl factory of A.K.Smith & Co. is running at full capacity . . ."

Source: Petoskey City Record Apparently there was more in the ~~it~~ item.

1886 January 21

The Bowl Factory of A.K. Smith & Co. has received 6000 blocks within the last six weeks. They have also contracted for a large number to be delivered to the banks of Bear Lake. These they will try to bring to the factory during the summer in boats. This will enable them to run at full capacity winter and summer.

Source: Charlevoix Journal

1889 July 17

A.K. Smith & Co. at foot of Bear Lake, near Clarion, are adding several new buildings and more machinery to their wooden bowl factory which is in a prosperous condition.

Source: Petoskey City Record

1890 Sept. 10

A.K. Smith & Co. are putting in a bolter and roughing machine and will hereafter utilize what has been wasted by manufacturing rolling pins and potato mashers in the rough, which they will ship to the Fuller Company, Kalamazoo, to be finished.

Source: Petoskey City Record

1895 July 3

Having put in machinery for the manufacture of bee hives and bee hive material at the lowest cost, would respectfully solicit correspondence from any person desiring to purchase bees or bee hives. I also have a 12 horsepower engine for sale cheap and terms to suit purchaser.

A.K. Smith, Clarion

Source: Petoskey City Record

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The only broom factory I know anything about was not exactly a "factory" Mr. Schluttenhofer, a blind man who lived on the Charlevoix road made brooms in a small shop in connection with his home.