

# The Patent Jug Handle and the Summit Pottery Works

by Mark C. Wiseman



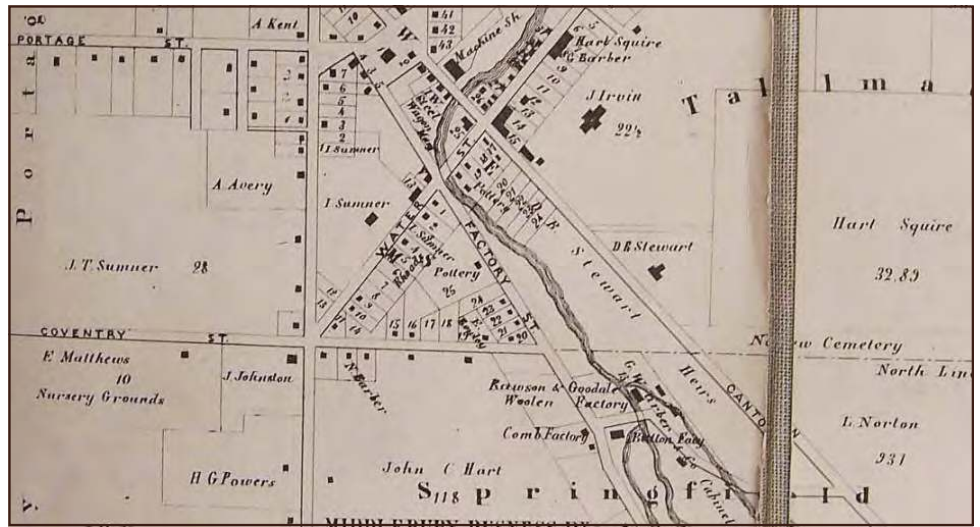
Close-up of the Patd Oct 3, 82 (1882)

Image of the Patent handle jug

I was attending the 2015 Red Wing Collector's Society Mid-Winter Convention in Oconomowoc, Wisconsin, and near the end of the Saturday Night auction I purchased a one gallon salt glazed shoulder jug that had some embossed lettering. It is embossed on the slope opposite the handle "H", "PATD OCT 3 D 82".

I looked for the patent on the United States Patent and Trademark Office "Search for Patents" web site, and without too much trouble found it, by searching through the Patents listed for that date.

The Patent is essentially for the jug mold with a molded handle which would be a "Fin" after molding and then the handle hole cut out of it. Although the shoulder on the actual jug does not have the circular ridge around the jug like the patent picture, it has the flat surface on the top for stacking in the kiln. I might guess that the "H" on the jug would stand for "Henry." I researched Henry Robinson and Richard Whitmore, of Akron, Ohio using the Akron-Summit County



1856 Middlebury Map

Public Library web site for City Directories, and map collections. Also, I found some historical books that indicated the history of their pottery firm, and reviewed the Census records. The 1881 book "History of Summit County" in the "City of Akron" chapter describes the company:

"The business of Whitmore, Robinsons & Co., was established in a comparatively small way, in 1857, by a number of practical potters, under the style of Johnson, Whitmore & Co. They commenced with one kiln, and their whole area for working consisted of about a quarter of an acre of land, situated on the south side of Market Street, Middlebury, now the Sixth Ward of Akron, where they set to work making yellow-ware, then a new manufacture in this section. Fortune favored them, and their business prospered. In January, 1862; Mr. Johnson retired, and in the following April, James B. Manton became a member of the firm, whereupon the style changed to Whitmore, Robinsons & Co. consisting of Richard Whitmore, Thomas Robinson, William Robinson and James B. Manton. In 1866, Henry Robinson was taken into the co-partnership."

The January 15th, 1860 Census for Middlebury, in Summit County, lists:

**Richard Whitmore**, age 39, a "potter", born in England, with a 1,000 dollars in Real Estate, a 100 dollars of Personal estate, his wife Emma age 27, born in England, and five children born in Ohio.

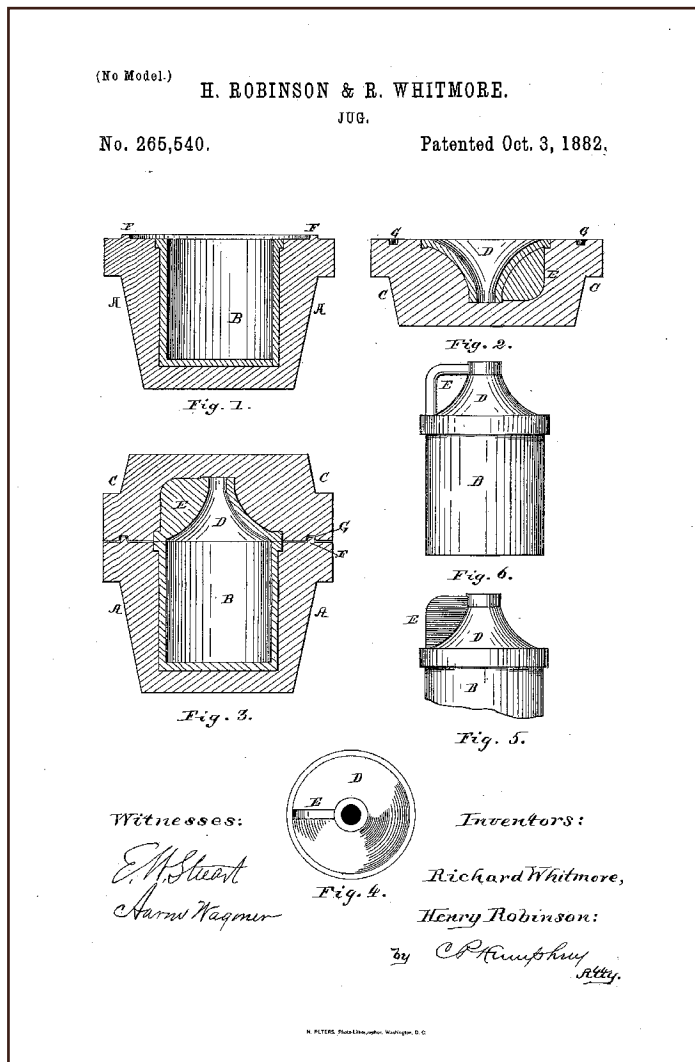
**Thomas Robinson**, age 24, a "potter", born in England, with his wife Josephine age 23, born in Pennsylvania, and three children Wm. Robinson (jr.) age 22, born in England, with his wife Anna age 22, born in England, and one child.

**Wm. Robinson (sr.)** age 46, a "potter", born in England, his 53 year old wife Elizabeth, born in England, and son Henry Robinson age 16, born in England

**James B. Manton**, age 25, a "Butcher" born in England, with a wife Harriet age 20, also born in England.

**The July 24th, 1870 Census for Middlebury Twp. and P.O. in Summit County, lists:**

**R. Whitmore**, age 49, a "potter", born in England, with 4000 dollars



Patent for a Jug Mold with a molded handle

in Real Estate, 150 dollars of Personal estate, his wife Emma age 36, born in England, daughter Elizabeth age 19, son William H. age 16, a "potter", and five other children all born in Ohio.

**Thos. Robinson**, age 34, a "potter", born In England, with 2000 dollars of Real Estate and 100 dollars of Personal Estate, with wife and seven children (including Henry (A.) Robinson, age 11).

**William Robison (jr.)** age 33, a "potter", born in England, with 5000 dollars of Real Estate and 200 dollars of Personal Estate, with wife and three children

**William Robison (sr.)** age 57, a "laborer", born in England, and Henry Robison age 26, a "potter" born in England.

**Sampson Robison** is listed as a 26 year old "potter", born in England, living in the household of Samuel Smith a 26 year old potter.

It is important to note that Henry Robison is listed as the son of William Robison, and it would then follow that Thomas Robison and William Robison Jr. are his brothers.

By following William Robison, Henry's father farther back we see that the July 4th, 1850 Census for East Liverpool, Columbiana County, Ohio lists his household as:

**Wm. Robinson**, age 38, a "laborer", born in England, his wife Elizabeth age 44, born in England

**Richard Whitmore**, age 26, a "laborer", born in England, Emma Whitmore age 18, born in England

**Thomas Robison**, age 16, a "potter"

**William Robison**, age 16

**Harriet Robison**, age 11

**Henry Robison**, age 8

**John Robison**, age 3

Also living at the same residence

**Richard Milwood**, age 20, a "potter"

**Joseph Millwood**, a "potter", age 21, all born in England.

The passenger list for the ship "Minnesota" which arrived in New York on September 30, 1848, includes:

**William Robison** age 40, a "Crate-maker"

**Elizabeth**, age 38

**Charles**, age 17

**Emma**, age 14

**Thomas**, age 12

**Harriet**, age 10

**William**, age 10

**Henry**, age 4

**John**, age 10 months

all born in England.

The 1841 Staffordshire, England Census lists:

**William Robison** age 25, a "crate-maker"

**Elizabeth**, age 30

**Henry**, age 15, a "crate-maker",

**Emma**, age 7

**Thomas**, age 5

**William**, age 3

**Harriet**, age 1

## SUMMIT POTTERY.

**WHITMORE, ROBINSONS & CO.,**

MANUFACTURERS OF

**Rockingham, Yellow and Variegated**

**QUEENSWARE.**

Also, Ohio Stone Ware, and Improved Stone Wash Boards,

**MIDDLEBURY. SUMMIT CO. O.**

R. WHITMORE

T. ROBINSON.

W. ROBINSON, JR

J. H. MANTON

The 1871 Middlebury Business Directory, contained in the 1871-1872 Bailey's Akron Directory

William Robison was born at Staffordshire England, Stoke Upon Trent, North Pirehill about 1816, he died in Akron, December 13, 1873.

In the book "*A History of Northeast Ohio Stoneware*" by F. Robert Treichler describes the migration of English potters to America in the 1840's and specifically to East Liverpool, and in the case of the Robinsons then on to Middlebury. The following description of the Robinsons reveals how closely related the family pottery company members were:

"The whole clan, including the father, three sons, two daughters and one son in-law, came to America aboard the ship, Minnesota, arriving at New York on Sept. 30, 1848. A typical passage from Liverpool required six to seven weeks at sea and then a voyage up the Hudson River and west via the Erie Canal to Buffalo. From Buffalo they boarded a Lake Erie ship, then followed a canal to Rochester, PA. (on the Ohio River), and eventually, came downriver to East Liverpool. The father, William Robison Sr. (born 1812), is recorded as a laborer in the factory of Jabez Vordrey in 1850. Apparently, both his eldest son William Jr. (1837-1887), and his son-in-law Richard Whitmore (married to Emma Robison), were also employed in East Liverpool Potteries. William Sr.'s second son, Thomas, must also have been introduced to the trade, and it was he who made the first link with Middlebury operations. Thomas Robison (then about 15) and Thomas Johnson, another Staffordshire immigrant, came to Middlebury to work for Enoch Rowley in 1852. They seem to have prospered enough that by 1856 they convinced Thomas Robison's 35-year-old-brother-in-law, Richard Whitmore, to leave East Liverpool and become the senior partner with them in a new firm, the Summit Pottery Works"

The other members of the family followed them to Middlebury. James B. Manton would join the family and the firm, he was married to Harriet Robison the youngest daughter. The book "Fifty Years and Over of Akron and Summit County" by Ex-Sherriff Samuel A. Lane, 1892 describes the company's early years:

"The manufacture of Rockingham and yellow ware, was commenced in Middlebury, on a small scale, about 1850 or 1851 by Enoch Rowley and Edwin and Herbert Baker: some two or three years later Mr. Thomas Johnson becoming associated with Mr. Rowley in the business. February 6, 1857, Richard Whitmore and Messrs Robison succeeded Mr. Rowley, under the firm name Johnson, Whitmore & Co., afterwards, in 1862, changed to Whitmore, Robinsons & Co. thus continuing until incorporated....."

The Township of Middlebury was Annexed to the City of Akron on August 15, 1872. Middlebury became part of the 6th Ward of Akron, adjoining the old east city limits.



Combination Atlas Map of Summit County, 1874



Ward 6, Combination Atlas Map of Summit County, 1874

**J.B. Manton** (Whitmore Robinson & Co.) res es Market s Middlebury, 6th Ward.

The 1875-1876 *Akron City Directory* lists:

**Summit Pottery Works**, Whitmore Robinson & Co. prop., Market e of Water, 6th Ward.

**Whitmore, Robinson & Co.**, (Richard Whitmore, Thomas Robinson, Wm. Robinson, Henry Robinson, James B. Manton) proprietors Summit Pottery, mnfrs Rockingham, yellow queensware, Ohio stoneware & c., Market e of Water, 6th Ward.

**Richard Whitmore** (Whitmore Robinson & Co.) res ss Market 5th door w of High, 6th Ward.

**Thomas Robinson** (Whitmore Robinson & Co.) res ss High Junction Water and Johnston, 6th Ward.

**William Robinson** (Whitmore Robinson & Co.) res w s Kent St. 6th Ward.

**Henry Robinson** (Whitmore Robinson & Co.) bds ns E Market, 6th Ward.

**James B. Manton** (Whitmore Robinson & Co.) res ns Market 5th door west of High, 6th Ward.

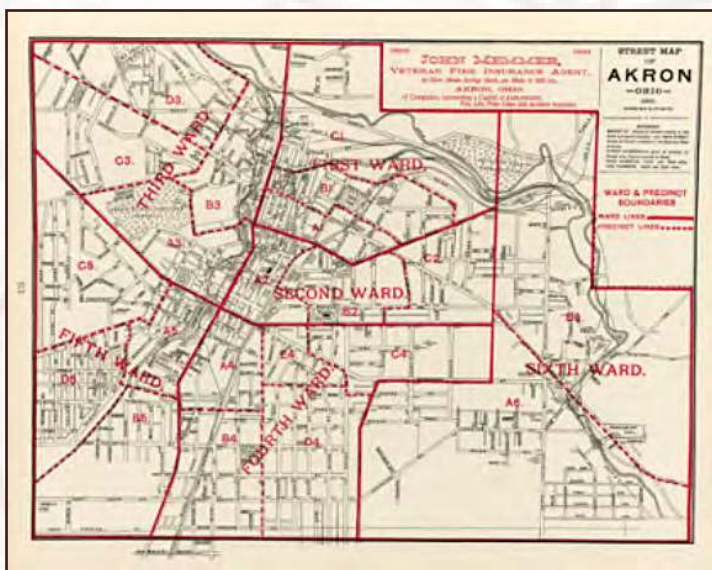
The 1877-1878 *Akron City Directory* lists:

**Whitmore Robinson & Co.**, (Richard Whitmore, Thomas Robinson, Wm. Robinson, Henry Robinson, James B. Manton), proprietors Summit Pottery Works, manufacturers rockingham yellow queensware Ohio Stoneware & c, se cor Market and Water Sts. 6th Ward.

**Richard Whitmore**, (Whitmore Robinson & Co.) res 1052 e Market, 6th Ward

**Thomas Robinson**, (Whitmore Robinson & Co.) res 225 s Water, 6th Ward

**Wm. Robinson**, (Whitmore Robinson & Co.) res 301 Kent, 6th Ward



Illustrated Summit County Map, 1891

The 1873-1874 *Akron City Directory* lists:

**“Whitmore, Robinsons & Co.** (R. Whitmore, T. Robinson, W. Robinson, H. Robinson, J.B. Manton) stone and queens ware manufg. ws Market s Water, 6th Ward.

**Richard Whitmore** (Whitmore Robinsons & Co.) res w s Market, s Middlebury, 6th Ward.

**Thos. Robinson** (Whitmore Robinson Co.) res ne cor High and Johnston, 6th Ward.

**William Robinson Jr.** (Whitmore Robinsons Co.) res n w cor Kent and Broad, 6th Ward.

**Henry Robinson** (Whitmore Robinson & Co.) res w s Robinson n High 6th ward

**Sampson Robinson**, potter Whitmore Robinson Co.

**Wm. Robinson**, res ss Johnson w River, 6th Ward

**Henry Robinson**, (Whitmore Robinson & Co.) bds 1043 E Market, 6th Ward

**James B. Manton**, (Whitmore Robinson & Co.) res 1043 e Market, 6th Ward

**Elizabeth Robinson**, (wid William) res 100 Johnston, 6th Ward

The listings in the 1879-1880 *Akron City Directory* are essentially the same, with no advertisement, Henry Robinson continuing to live at the residence of James B. Manton. In 1879 the Robinson Brothers entered into the "Vitrified Sewer Tile" business at a new plant. The new firm's name was Robinson Brothers & Company, with both this firm and the Summit Pottery Works continuing. The book "*Fifty Years and Over of Akron and Summit County*" describes this firm:

"This company, located near the "Old Forge," and contiguous to all the railroads running through Akron, was established in 1879, with an authorized capital of \$300,000, its main shops being 50 X 240 and 50 X 160 feet, two stories high, with boiler and engine room 40 X 60 feet; machinery, kilns, etc, of the very best."

So by 1880 the Robinson Brothers and extended family had two large businesses that were growing and prosperous.

The June 10th, 1880 *Census lists*:

**Richard Whitmore**, age 59, living only with one son and two daughters. His wife Emma Robinson Whitmore had died in 1870.

**Henry Robinson**, age 36, a single "boarder" "potter" was living in the household of James B. Manton, age 46, a "potter" with his

**Harriet**, age 40, wife and two children.

**Thomas Robinson** age 44, a "potter" his wife Josephine and four children.

**Wm Robinson (jr)** age 42, a "potter", his wife Ellen, son Byron age 20, a "book keeper", and two other children.

The 1881 book "*History of Summit County*" continues its description of the Summit Pottery Works:



1874 Ward 6 Summit County map

**Summit Pottery Works.**

WHITMORE, ROBINSONS & CO.,  
Manufacturers of

**Rockingham, Yellow, Queensware,**  
**OHIO STONE WARE,**

And Improved Stone Wash-Boards,

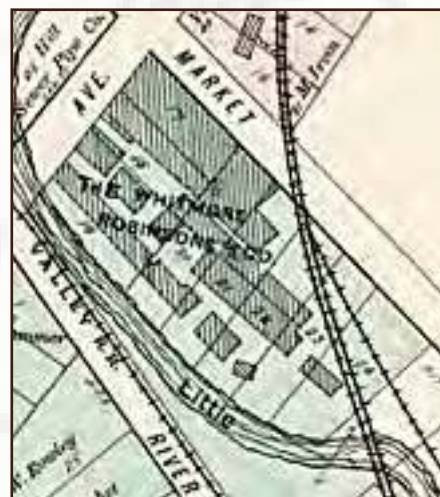
R. Whitmore, | W. Robinson Jr, | AKRON, OHIO, (6th Ward,)  
T. Robinson, | H. Robinson, | SUMMIT COUNTY  
J. B. Manton

1877-1878 Akron City Directory

"From time to time, commodious additions were made to their works, thus increasing their producing capacity, until they had the satisfaction of knowing that theirs was the most extensive and complete stoneware pottery in the world. They run six mills, operated by three steam engines, with a total of 175-horse-power. While this company makes stoneware their principal manufacture, they also produce all kinds of yellow and Rockingham ware. In this department, they have two up-draft kilns, which are run to their full capacity.

The buildings of this immense concern have the following dimensions: Main building, of brick (stoneware department), 177 X 50 feet, three stories; kiln sheds and engine houses attached, 177 X 50 feet, one story; yellow ware warehouse, of brick, 80 X 34 feet, three stories, with wing 20 X 30 feet; yellow and Rockingham ware factory, of stone, 70 X 36 feet, three stories; stoneware factory, of stone, 180 X 36 feet, two stories; slipware shop, of brick, 50 X 40 feet, two stories; dipping-house and green-house, frame, 100 X 30 feet, two stories; other small buildings for various uses, about half an acre of area. The aggregate floor surface of these works is 97,660 square feet, or about two and a quarter acres. They ship their goods principally to the West, and Southwest as far as Texas, while they also have a growing Eastern trade."

So on February 15th, 1882 the application for the "Jug" patent was filed and it was issued as a Patent on October 3rd, 1882. It is not clear if this "patent" jug was a success, the Summit Pottery Works was obviously a large factory at this point so if the molding of jugs and their handles at the same time increased the production rate it may have been. However, I have not found



1891 Ward 6 Summit County Map

**ESTABLISHED 1856.**

## SUMMIT POTTERY WORKS.

THE LARGEST IN THE UNITED STATES

**WHITMORE, ROBINSON & CO.,**  
MANUFACTURERS OF

# OHIO STONE WARE,

**Rockingham and Yellow Queensware,**  
*AND IMPROVED STONE WASH BOARDS*

1881-1882 Akron City Directory, by N.H. Burch & Co.

**Whitmore, Robinsons & Co.** (Richard Whitmore, Thomas Robinson, William Robinson, Henry Robinson, James B Manton) proprietors Summit Pottery Works, manufacturers Rockingham, yellow queensware, Ohio stoneware, etc, office and works s.e cor. Market and Water, 6th ward. (See card page 183.)

**Summit Pottery Works,** Whitmore, Robinsons & Co, proprietors, office and works s e cor Market and Water, 6th Ward (See card, page 227 )

The 1881-1882 Akron City Directory has these listings for the firms above

**ESTABLISHED 1856.**

## SUMMIT POTTERY WORKS,

THE LARGEST IN THE UNITED STATES.

**WHITMORE, ROBINSONS & CO.,**  
MANUFACTURERS OF

# OHIO STONEWARE,

Rockingham and Yellow Queensware, . . . and Improved Stone Washboards

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## ROBINSON BROS & CO

MANUFACTURERS OF THE

Celebrated Akron **SALT GLAZED, Vitrified Stone**

# SEWER PIPE.

Facilities unequalled for Quantity, and Quality Warranted the Very Best Made

W ROBINSON    T ROBINSON    H ROBINSON  
J B MANTON    J F TOWNSEND    |    **AKRON, OHIO.**

1883-1884 Akron City and Summit County Directory

**Summit Pottery Works,** Whitmore, Robinsons & Co, proprietors, office and works s e cor Market and Water, 6th Ward (See card, page 227 )

**Whitmore, Robinsons & Company,** (Richard Whitmore, Thomas, Wilham and Henry Robinson, James B Manton) proprietors Summit Pottery Works, manufacturers Rockingham, yellowware, queensware, Ohio stoneware, etc, office and works, s e cor Market and Water, 6th Ward (See card, page 227 )

**Robinson Bros. & Co.,** (William, Thomas and Henry Robinson, James B Manton, John F Townsend) manufacturers of the celebrated Akron salt glazed vitrified stone sewer pipe, office and works N Forge st, at city limits (See card, page 227 )

The 1883-1884 Akron City Directory has these listings for the three companies above:

any advertising to indicate they were promoting this method, or improved product. There may be more versions of this actual "Patent" jug out in the world or not.

The following article from "*The Saturday Review*", East Liverpool, Ohio, of January 19, 1884, indicates that there was collusion from associated and organized manufacturers of Yellow ware and Rockingham ware in the United States, in order to maintain viable pricing on their products. The Whitmore Robinson & Co was a member of this organization.

#### The Potters' Meeting Last Week.

The lateness in the week of the meeting of the United States Yellow Ware and Rockingham Potters' Association prevented our giving more than a brief notice thereof in our last issue, particularly as the gathering was not of a public nature, and the Association, by vote, resolved to have no report published in the newspapers until scrutinized by the Association.

A member (Mr. A. R. Lee, of East Liverpool, we judge, who offered the motion curbing the local press) furnished a report to the *American Pottery and Glassware Reporter*, from which we glean the following:

The following firms were represented:

J. E. Jeffords & Co., Philadelphia, Pa.; the J. L. Rue Pottery Co., Mattawan, N. J.; C. C. Thompson & Co., Cartwright Bros., Croxall & Cartwright, Flentke, Harrison & Co., Agner & Gaston, McNicol, Burton & Co., McDevitt & Moore, S. & W. Baggot, Frederick, Shenle, Allen & Co., of East Liverpool; Mansion Pottery Co., Louisville, Ky.; James Maloney, Covington, Ky.; Whitmore, Robinson & Co., Akron, O.; Edwin Bennett, Baltimore, Md.; East Palestine Pottery Co., East Palestine, O.

The present officers of the Association were requested to hold over until the next meeting of the Association. The special committee of five appointed to review the price list reported a revised list for the following articles:

Rockingham teapots and nappies, yellow nappies and bowls, which review of prices was adopted unanimously.

A suspension of production for two weeks was ordered, and the executive committee was empowered to order a further suspension at any time if necessary; to prevent an over-production of goods.

The present rates of discount were continued until the next meeting of the Association.

The next meeting of the Association will be held at Atlantic City, July 8th, 1884.

The attendance at this meeting of the Association was very full, the firms represented coming from nearly ninety to ninety-five per cent. of the whole production of this class of goods in the country, and every action was concurred in unanimously.

This has been the most harmonious meeting of any kind ever held, and it is the expressed determination of all the manufacturers to make themselves more generally respected among the jobbing trade of the country than heretofore.

1886 Leading Manufacturers and Merchants of the City of Cleveland (Including City of Akron)

The book "*Fifty Years and Over of Akron and Summit County*" (1891) describes the firm:

"The Whitmore, Robinsons & Co.- This company was incorporated in September, 1887, with a capital of \$200,000, the present members of the company being: Richard Whitmore, president; Henry Robinson, vice president; Byron W. Robinson, secretary; Thomas Robinson, treasurer; Mrs. William Robinson and Mrs. James B. Manton. The company manufactures Akron stoneware, Rockingham and yellow ware and fine glazed stoneware. Their works are at the southeast corner of East Market street and Case Avenue, consisting of a three story brick block, with other buildings attached, giving an aggregate floorage of nearly 100,000 square feet. ....It is one of the most extensive and complete establishments of its kind in the United States, its wares finding a ready sale in the principal markets of the country, both East and West. Capacity 600 car loads per year; employees, 100."

A newspaper article from the *Coshocton Age*, Coshocton, Ohio dated January 5, 1900 indicates that on December 30, 1899, in Akron,

The Saturday Review, East Liverpool, January 19, 1884

**ROBINSON BROS. & CO.,**  
MANUFACTURERS OF THE CELEBRATED  
**AKRON SALT-GLAZED**  
**VITRIFIED STONE**  
**SEWER PIPE.**

FACILITIES UNEQUALED FOR QUANTITY,  
 —AND—  
**QUALITY WARRANTED THE VERY BEST MADE.**

As we are not connected with any Agency or Associations, all communications should be addressed to

**ROBINSON BROS. & CO.,**  
**Akron, Ohio.**

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ESTABLISHED 1856  
**Summit Pottery Works,**  
THE LARGEST IN THE UNITED STATES  
**WHITMORE, ROBINSONS & CO.,**  
MANUFACTURERS OF  
**OHIO STONEWARE,**  
Rockingham and Yellow Queensware, and Improved Stone Washboards.  
 Office and Works, 1200 East Market Street, corner Water, 6th Ward,  
**AKRON, - - OHIO.**

1885-1886 Akron City and Summit County Directory

**Summit Pottery Works,** Whitmore, Robinsons & Co., office and works s e cor E Market and S Water 6th Ward (See card, opp page 201 )

**Whitmore, Robinsons & Company,** (Richard Whitmore, Thomas and Henry Robinson, James B Manton,) props Summit Pottery Works, manufacturers Rockingham yellow ware, queensware, Ohio stoneware, etc., office and works s e cor E Market and S Water, 6th Ward (See card, page 201 )

**Robinson Bros. & Co.,** (William, Thomas and Henry Robinson, James B Manton, John F Townsend,) manufacturers of the celebrated Akron salt-glazed vitrified stone sewer pipe, office and works N Forge, at city limits (See card, page 201 )

The 1885-1886 Akron City Directory has these listings for the firms:

**ESTABLISHED 1856.**  
**Summit Pottery Works,**  
THE LARGEST IN THE UNITED STATES  
**WHITMORE, ROBINSONS & CO.,**  
—MANUFACTURERS OF—  
**OHIO STONEWARE,**  
Rockingham and Yellow Queensware,  
 and Improved Stone Washboards.  
**Office and Works, 1200 E. Market St., cor. Water, 6th Ward,**  
**AKRON, - - - OHIO.**

The Akron City Directory June 1887

**Summit Pottery Works,** Whitmore, Robinsons & Co., proprietors, 1200 E Market, cor Water (See card, page 159 )

**Whitmore, Robinsons & Co.,** (Richard Whitmore, William, Thomas and Henry Robinson, J B Manton,) proprietors Summit Pottery Works, manufacturers Rockingham yellow ware, queensware, Ohio stoneware, &c., office and works 1200 E Market, cor Water, 6th Ward (See card, page 159 )

**Robinson Bros. & Co.,** (William, Thomas, and Henry Robinson, J B Manton, John F Townsend,) manufacturers of the celebrated Akron salt-glazed vitrified stone sewer pipe, office and works, N Forge at city limits

The 1887 Akron City Directory has these listings for the firms:

**Whitmore, Robinsons & Co.,** Manufacturers of Akron Stoneware, Rockingham and Yellow Queens Ware, etc.—The house of Whitmore, Robinsons & Co. is a leading agent in the promotion of that branch of enterprise, and by the energy and intelligence displayed in its management has greatly accelerated the current of popular taste for a higher standard of goods. It was founded in 1856, and has been operated continuously since that time with marked success. The members of the firm are Richard Whitmore, Wm. Robinsons, Thos. Robinsons, Henry Robinsons, and Mrs. J. B. Manton, whose husband, now dead, was formerly a partner in the concern. The premises consist of four acres of ground, the most of it being covered with two-story buildings, which are provided with all the modern machinery applicable to the business. The range of manufacture embraces Akron stoneware, Rockingham and yellow queensware, and improved stone washboards. The best material is utilized, and passes under experienced manipulation in all the processes of the work. The ware is strong and well finished, the patterns are attractive and salable, and it is generally admitted that it is equal in every respect to imported goods of a similar character. Eighty-five skilled hands are employed, and three hundred thousand pounds of clay are consumed per week. The firm is ready to manufacture any special designs to order. A large amount of capital is invested, and the business is thoroughly organized for effective service. A large stock is carried, and full assortments may be found in every line. Messrs. Whitmore, Robinsons & Co. conduct one of those substantial establishments to which Akron is indebted for a large measure of her progress and development.

The book "The Leading Manufacturers and Merchants of the City of Cleveland and Environs, A Half Century of Progress 1836-1886, Including City of Akron" has this testimonial type description of the Firm. The Evening Review, East Liverpool, Ohio, March 31, 1887

**CALLED HOME IN CALIFORNIA.**

WILLIAM ROBINSON'S REMAINS BROUGHT BACK TO AKRON FOR BURIAL.

A memorial service for the late Wm. Robinson will be held to-morrow afternoon at 3 o'clock at the family residence, No. 300 Kent street, Sixth ward. Mr. Robinson, who died March 9th at Los Angeles Bay, Lower California, Mexico, was a son of William and Elizabeth Robinson, and was born at Longton, Staffordshire, England, Oct. 29, 1837. In August, 1848, the family removed to this country, and after a few years' residence in East Liverpool, O. came to Akron in July, 1857. During his residence here Mr. Robinson has been actively engaged in various manufacturing industries. William, with his brothers Thomas and Henry and their brothers-in-law, Richard Whitmore and James B. Manton, constituted the firm of Whitmore, Robinson & Co., manufacturers of stoneware, Rockingham and yellow queensware, the works being established in 1857. In 1880 the works of Robinson Bros. & Co., manufacturers of sewer pipe, were built.

The Evening Review, East Liverpool, Ohio, March 31, 1887

Mr. Robinson was an incorporator of the Akron Milling Co. in 1884 and was an executive officer until the company's interests were merged with The F. Schumacher Milling Co. in April 1886. Last June, Frank Cranz, a former resident of Akron, made arrangements by which the firm of Robinson Bros. & Co. became interested with himself and his brothers in their mining property located near Los Angeles Bay, Lower California, Mexico. A mill and other works have been in course of erection there for several months past, Mr. J. F. Townsend having gone there last December to look after the company's interests. On Jan. 25, Mr. Robinson left Akron to inspect the property and to attend the annual meeting of the company. He arrived at his destination Feb. 16, was taken sick on the 22, and died on the 9th of March, his brothers Thomas and Henry arriving there the following day. Mr. John F. Townsend, associated with him to business, attended him during his illness. As stated in yesterday's *Beacon*, Thomas Robinson has returned to this city, having started immediately after his brother's death. The others remain to attend the company meeting — *Akron Daily Beacon, March 26th, 1887.*

The previous Cleveland article indicated that James B. Manton had died, and Harriet his wife had taken his place in the Company, she was after all a Robinson. The next article from 1887 describes the death of William Robinson Jr. and has a good description of the overall family history.

RICHARD WHITMORE, Pres't  
ESTABLISHED 1856  
THOMAS ROBINSONS, Sec & Treas

**THE WHITMORE, ROBINSONS & CO.,**  
—MANUFACTURERS OF—  
**OHIO STONEWARE,**  
Rockingham and Yellow Ware,  
**AND FINE GLAZED WARE.**  
Patent Stone Washboards.

Office and Works, 1200 E Market St, cor Case Ave, Akron, O.

1888-1889 Akron City and Summit County Directory

**Summit Pottery Works,** The Whitmore, Robinsons & Co., office and works 1200 E Market (See card page 63 )  
**The Whitmore, Robinsons & Co.,** Richard Whitmore, president, Henry Robinson, vice-president, Thomas Robinson secretary and treasurer, mfrs of Ohio stoneware, Rockingham, yellow ware and fine glazed ware, patent stone washboards, office and works 1200 E Market (See card page 63 )  
**The Robinson Brothers & Co.,** Henry Robinson, president, Byron W Robinson, secretary and treasurer, mfrs of highly vitrified salt-glazed stoneware sewer pipe, office and works N Forge, n of N Y P & O R R (See card first page back fly leaf )

The 1888-1889 Akron City Directory has these listings for the firms:

RICHARD WHITMORE, Pres't  
HENRY ROBINSON, Vice-Pres't  
ESTABLISHED 1856.  
B W ROBINSON, Secretary.  
THOS ROBINSON, Treas

→\***THE WHITMORE, ROBINSONS & CO.,**\*←  
MANUFACTURERS OF  
**OHIO STONEWARE**  
Rockingham and Yellow Ware, and Fine Glazed Ware,  
**PATENT STONE WASH BOARDS.**  
Office and Works,  
1200 East Market Street, cor Case Avenue, - - AKRON, O.

1889-1890 Akron City and Summit County Directory

RICHARD WHITMORE, Pres  
HENRY ROBINSON, V Pres.  
ESTABLISHED 1856  
B W ROBINSON, Secy  
THOS ROBINSON, Treas

**The Whitmore, Robinsons & Co.**  
MANUFACTURERS OF  
**OHIO STONEWARE,**  
Rockingham and Yellow Ware and Fine Glazed Ware,  
**PATENT STONE WASH BOARDS.**  
Office and Works,  
1200 East Market St., cor. Case Avenue. **AKRON, O.**

1891-1892 Akron City Directory

**Whitmore, Robinsons & Co, The,** Richard Whitmore pres, Henry Robinson vice pres, Byron W Robinson secy, Thomas Robinson treas, mfrs of Ohio stoneware, etc, office and works 1200 E Market cor S Case ave (See index to ads)  
**Robinson Bros & Co, The,** Henry Robinson pres, Byron W Robinson secy and treas, mfrs of Akron Sewer Pipe, fire brick, flue linings, etc, office and works N Forge at the junction of C, A & C, N Y, L E & W, P & W, Valley Ry, P, A & W and A & C J Rys (See index to ads)

The 1892-1893 Akron City Directory has these listings for the firms:

HENRY ROBINSON, Pres  
BYRON W ROBINSON, Secy and Treas

**THE ROBINSON BROS. & CO.**  
MANUFACTURERS OF  
**Standard Akron Sewer Pipe.**  
Fire Brick, Flue Linings, Chlmney Tops, Lawn Vases and all Fire Clay Goods.  
Office and Works, North Forge St., at the Junction of C. A. & C., N. Y. P. & O., P. & W., Valley, P. A. & W. and A. & C. J. R's.

RICHARD WHITMORE, Pres  
HENRY ROBINSON, V Pres  
B W ROBINSON, Secy  
THOS ROBINSON Treas

Established 1856.  
**THE WHITMORE ROBINSONS & CO.**  
MANUFACTURERS OF  
**AKRON STONEWARE,**  
Rockingham and Yellow Ware and Fine Glazed Ware.  
Office and Works,  
1200 East Market St., cor. Case Avenue, - **AKRON, O.**

1892-1893 Akron City Directory

**BIG FIRE AT AKRON.**  
Whitmore, Robinson & Co. Were Burned Out.  
AKRON, Oct. 21.—[Special]—The big stoneware plant of Whitmore, Robinson & Co., of this place, burned last midnight. The loss amounts to \$200,000, with insurance in the neighborhood of \$100,000. The company employed 200 men. The plant was remodeled a few months ago, and a large addition erected. Workmen were engaged in changing it so a different grade of ware could be manufactured. Stoneware has been the product of the works. The plant was situated only a short distance from the Akron China company, but the last named pottery was not damaged.

The Evening News Review, October 21, 1896





1891 View of the 6th Ward from Tallmadge Road

**TWO LIVES LOST.**  
**The Burning of Stoneware Plant at Akron of Incendiary Origin.**

Akron, O., Oct. 22. The burning of the Whitman, Robinson & Company's stoneware plant here was of incendiary origin, and in addition to the destruction of \$200,000 worth of property two lives were lost.

When the fire had nearly burned out the body of an unknown man was discovered in one of the redhot kilns. Evidently he had crawled in to sleep and was burned to death. His body was literally baked. The remains of Francis Harrison, who slept at the works, have not yet been found owing to the ruins being too hot to search for him. He was in an intoxicated condition and it is certain that he perished in the flames.

Old clothes saturated in coal oil were found in the vicinity and the fact that the fire started in two places leaves no room to doubt that it was started by an incendiary. An attempt to burn another factory was also made but it was unsuccessful. A pile of rubbish and straw was found in the office of the Hill Sewer Pipe company with every appearance of having been placed there to fire the building. A careful investigation of the origin of the fires is being made.

The Newark Daily Advocate, Newark Ohio, October 22, 1896

**The Crown Fire Clay Co.**  
 AND  
**The Robinson Bros. & Co.**  
 MANUFACTURERS OF  
**...STANDARD...  
 AKRON SEWER PIPE,**  
 Double Strength and Culvert Pipe,  
 Deep and Wide Socket Pipe,  
 Flue Linings, Stove Pipe,  
 Chimney Tops, Fire Brick, etc.

**CAPACITY, 57 KILNS, 25 CAR LOADS PER DAY.**

FIRE BRICK in three grades, viz "W W" "CROWN," "STANDARD" and "OHIO WOODLAND," from common to the best made TILE, all sizes LOCOMOTIVE BLOCKS, and all the usual odd shapes kept in stock, and special attention given to designs accompanied with blue print  
 GROUND FIRE CLAY DRAIN TILE HOLLOW BUILDING BLOCKS CHIMNEY COPING, three sizes, for 9, 13 and 18 inch holes  
 COPING for three sizes of brick walls, 9, 13 and 18 inch, nicest thing out  
 INVERT BLOCKS and OTHER CLAY PRODUCTS  
 Works, two miles north of Canal Dover, O., on the C L & W R R, O V & J R R and North Forge St Akron, O. Correspondence solicited.

**GENERAL OFFICE,**  
 1200 East Market Street, Akron, O.  
 Western Union and Postal Telegraph in office  
 1898 Akron City Directory

1898 Akron City Directory

... THE ...  
**CROWN FIRE CLAY CO.**  
 AND  
**THE ROBINSON BROS. & CO.**  
 MANUFACTURERS OF  
**STANDARD  
 Akron Sewer Pipe,**  
 Double Strength and Culvert Pipe,  
 Deep and Wide Socket Pipe,  
 Flue Linings, Stove Pipe,  
 Chimney Tops, Fire Brick, etc.

**CAPACITY, 50 Kilns, 25 Car Loads Per Day.**

FIRE BRICK, in three grades, viz "W W & CO.," "STANDARD" and "OHIO WOODLAND," from common to the best made TILE, all sizes LOCOMOTIVE BLOCKS, and all the usual odd shapes kept in stock, and special attention given to designs accompanied with blue print  
 GROUND FIRE CLAY DRAIN TILE HOLLOW BUILDING BLOCKS CHIMNEY COPING, three sizes, for 9, 13 and 18 inch holes  
 COPING for three sizes of brick walls, 9, 13 and 18 inch, nicest thing out  
 INVERT BLOCKS and OTHER CLAY PRODUCTS Works, two miles north of Canal Dover, O., on the C L & W R R, and North Forge St., Akron, O. Correspondence solicited

**GENERAL OFFICE:**  
 1200 East Market Street, Akron, Ohio.

1899 Akron City Directory

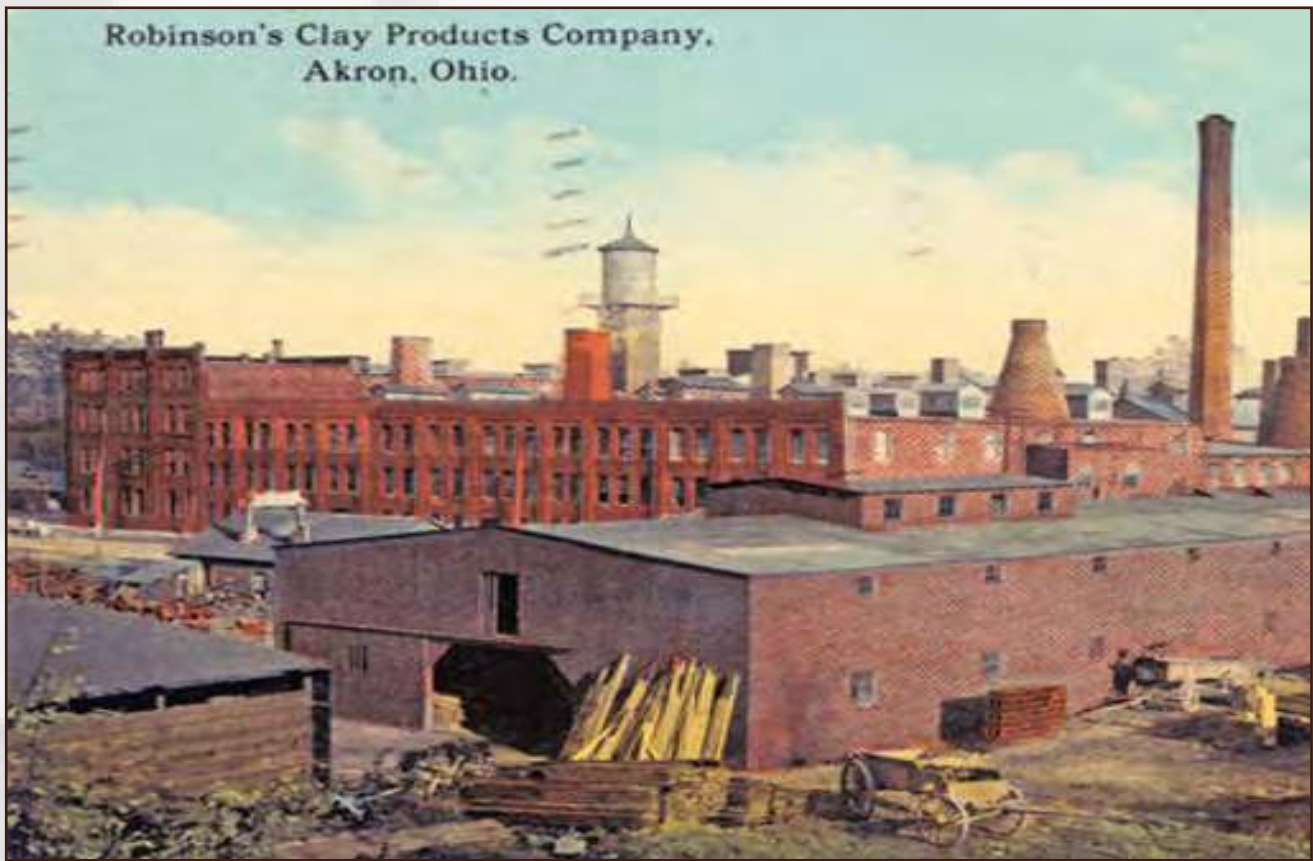
**Established 1856. Incorporated 1887.**  
**The Whitmore, Robinsons & Co.**  
 MANUFACTURERS OF  
**Fine and Bristol Glazed Stoneware.**  
 Rockingham and Yellow Ware, Flower Pots, Stew Pans, Batter Pails, Bail Jugs, Chicken Fountains, Etc.  
 Correspondence Solicited. Write for Prices.  
**Office and Works, 1200 East Market St. Long Distance Telephone 288.**  
 Western Union and Postal Telegraph in Office

1898 Akron City Directory

HENRY ROBINSON, Pres  
 H B MERRILL, Vice Pres  
 A R MARKLE, Sec  
 H B MANTON, Treas  
 P W BUTLER, Gen Mgr  
 D W ROBINSON, Purchasing Agent

**The Robinson-Merrill Pottery Co.**  
 Manufacturers of  
**STONEWARE, ROCKINGHAM AND YELLOW WARE,  
 AND CLAY SPECIALTIES.**  
**General Office, 1200 East Market St.**  
**TELEPHONES** Bell Local and Long Distance and People's 288.  
**WESTER UNION AND POSTAL WIRES DIRECT TO OFFICE.**  
**BRANCH HOUSES:**  
 SYRACUSE, N. Y., No. 401 Fulton St. CAMBRIDGE, MASS., 232 Portland St.  
 NEW YORK CITY, 12th Ave. and 36th St. CHICAGO, Cor. Clark and 12th Sts.

1902 Akron City Directory



Postcard for the Robinson's Clay Products Company



Another Postcard for the Robinson's Clay Products Company

Ohio, "The E.H. Merrill Co., Whitmore, Robinson & Co., and Markle & Son withdrew from the Akron Pottery company, which was a combine of local corporations to enter the independent field. They will consolidate under the name of Robinson-Merrill Co., capitalized at \$500,000." The Articles of Incorporation filed with the State of Ohio, for the Robinson-Merrill Pottery Company, of Akron, with \$500,000 in Capital were filed on December 30, 1899.

*The Nebraska State Journal*, of Lincoln Nebraska dated February 14, 1900, has an article entitled "Potteries Combined" "Akron, Ohio, February 13, 1900. "The combination of three large potteries was perfected today. It includes the Whitmore-Robinson company, Markle & Son, and the E.H. Merrill company. Deeds transferring the plants to the Robinson-Merrill company were filed today. The company is capitalized at \$500,000.

**Robinson Bros & Co The**, H Robinson pres, F C Reed vice pres, B W Robinson sec, H B Manton treas, R L Robinson supt, mfrs sewer pipe, fire brick etc, office 1200 E Market (See card inside back cover)

**Robinson-Merrill Pottery Co The**, H Robinson pres, H E Merrill vice pres, A R Markle sec, H B Manton treas, F W Butler gen mgr, B W Robinson purchasing agent, office 1200 E Market (See card front fly leaf)

The 1900 Akron City Directory has these listings for the firms:

The 1901 Listings are the same.

The June 1st, 1900 *Census* for the 6th Ward, Akron Township, Summit County, Ohio lists:

**Henry Robinson**, age 56, born in England, married 21 years, a "Manufacturer"

**Mary C. Robinson**, age 44, wife, born in Indiana

**Elizabeth M.**, age 11, daughter,

**ROBINSON BROS & CO The**, Henry Robinson pres, F C Reed vice pres, B W Robinson sec, H B Manton treas, R L Robinson supt, office 1200 E Market, works N Forge (See card inside back cover)

**ROBINSON-MERRILL POTTERY CO The**, Henry Robinson pres, H E Merrill vice pres, A K Markle sec, H B Manton treas, F W Butler gen mgr, B W Robinson purchasing agent, 1200 E Market (See card front fly leaf)

The 1902 Akron City Directory has these listings for the firms:

**William E.** age 5, son, both born in Ohio.

The 1903 *Akron City Directory* lists:

"Robinson Clay Products Company, The, Henry Robinson Pres., John F. Townsend vice pres, B W Robinson sec, F W Butler asst sec, H B. Manton treas, gen offices 1010 E Market, both Phones 288"

An article in the book "*A Centennial History of Akron 1825-1925*" entitled "Clay Products" (1925) by H. Karl Butler describes:

"In 1900 the clay products business shifted around toward a more solid and substantial form of organization. Whitmore, Robinson and Co. merged with the E.H. Merrill Co. as the Robinson, Merrill Co. Two years later this was changed to the Robinson Clay Product Co. The American Sewer Pipe Co. had meantime absorbed a great many of the smaller plants. These two companies became the principal clay manufactories....As has been related, the Robinson Clay Products Company and the American Vitriified Products Company (successor to the American sewer Pipe Co.) rose to a domination of the sewer pipe field in the early years of this century. The Robinson firm is headed by Henry B. Manton, son of James B. Manton, one of the founders of the firm in 1856. It has eight plants in Ohio and western Pennsylvania."

Also of Note:

"In 1920, Robinson Clay Products of Akron combined with the Ransbottom Brothers Pottery of Roseville to create Robinson-Ransbottom. Four brothers began the Ransbottom Brothers Pottery around 1900. The pottery was located in Ironspot, a mile north of Roseville. At the time of the merger, Ransbottom Brothers made utilitarian stoneware and bricks. Utilitarian products included bowls, churns, milk pans, poultry fountains, preserve jars, etc. Robinson-Ransbottom manufactured pieces under a variety of trademarks, e.g., "Old Colony," "Rustic Ware", "Luxor", "Tionesta Art Ware", "Meal Makers Oven Ware", and "Early Stoneware American". Old Colony and Rustic Ware were introduced in the 1930s, with Old Colony remaining in production until 1940 and Rustic Ware being produced into the 1960s."



1910 6th Ward, Akron Summit County Map

Henry Robinson passed away on September 22, 1906.

