

# **Kate Mullany House**

# **Furnishings Plan**

February 2011

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**Appendix A: Comparable Inventories** 

#### HISTORIC FURNISHINGS PLAN

This furnishings plan assumes that Bridget Mullany, owner of 350 and 352 State Street in Troy, New York and her family occupied the third floor flat at 350 Eight Street when they first moved into the three story structure completed in 1869. The 1870 United States Census includes three families at 350 Eighth Street:

- Thomas Evans and his wife Kate (first floor tenants);
- John H. McMahan and his wife Bridget and son George (second floor tenants);
- and Bridget Mullany and her daughters Mary and Kate as well as three additional young occupants, Ellen, Alice and Frank, with the same surname of Mullany (as third floor occupants).

#### **BACKGROUND**

With its fourth bedroom positioned next to the parlor at the front of the building, the third floor flat was the largest of the three domiciles in 350 Eighth Street.

Although the rooms are generally small, and the four bedrooms are very small, the six-room flat is comfortably arranged and includes ample natural light and ventilation in each room. A private rear porch functions as a seventh room.

Conditions here were very different from the typical contemporary tenement in New York City. There the rooms were small, the windows few and there were internal living spaces with no windows or ventilation. The tenement at 97 Orchard Street that now houses the Lower East Side Tenement Museum, provides an informative comparison to the building constructed for Bridget Mullany in Troy, New York. The Orchard Street building, completed in 1864, includes twenty flats arranged over five floors. Originally two store fronts occupied the basement level. A typical flat included three rooms: a parlor with two windows; a small kitchen without windows; and an even smaller bedroom without windows. There was no plumbing, no water or bathroom, and there was no gas lighting. A shared privy was situated in the small rear courtyard.

The spacious, free-standing Mullany structure, by comparison, was quite comfortable, although it, too, did not include indoor plumbing or gas lighting. Unlike the New York tenement, the Mullany building had back porches, a rear service stair and a large back yard.

Although Bridget Mullany and her daughters occupied 350 Eighth Street upon its completion in 1869 they may not have continuously lived in the same flat. The 1870 census seems to indicate that they resided on the third floor, the largest of the three flats at number 350. By 1875 they had moved to one of the lower floors, possibly the smaller

second floor flat. Moving from floor to floor probably occurred as the number of family members changed. In 1870 there were six occupants in the Mullany flat but by 1875 there were only three.

As a woman of property Bridget Mullany had the ability to furnish her home in a comfortable though unostentatious manner. The 1870 census indicates that she owned real estate valued at \$1800 and had a personal estate of \$220. These figures can be compared to her tenants: Patrick Sweeney, a stone cutter at 352 Eighth Street, had a personal estate valued at \$140 dollars and owned no property; Mary Grove, housekeeper at 352, owned no property but had a personal estate of \$250.

Other members of the working class living in the same neighborhood in 1870 included a carpenter, stone mounter and a brass moulder. Their personal estates were valued at \$250, \$180, and \$200 dollars. The carpenter and stone mounter also owned real estate.

Bridget Mullany passed away in 1876 and her will bequeathed her properties to her three daughters: Kate (Catherine Agnes) received 350 Eighth Street; Mary Elizabeth received 352; and Bridget Theresa received the single family house at 356 (purchased in 1875).

#### COMPARABLE INVENTORIES

A search of the Rensselaer County probate records (the original documents are now housed at the Rensselaer County Historical Society) revealed no household inventory for Bridget Mullany. The search did uncover a handful of inventories for working class men and women in Troy in the 1860s and 70s. These include George Curtis, a cutter, who died in 1867; William Simpson, saloon keeper, who died in 1867; Brooks M. Perkins, truckman, who died in 1870; and Mary J. Bord, widow, who passed away in 1875. Each of these inventories (included in full in Appendix A) provides information about working class households during the third quarter of the nineteenth century.

Typically the inventories included furniture such as tables and stands, chairs, sofas and rocking chairs, chests and bureaus, bedsteads and bedding and washstands, as well as items like clocks, mirrors, pictures, books and bookcases, shades and curtains and rugs, matts and oil cloth. Stoves both for heating and cooking are included as well as sewing machines and wash benches and tubs. Household items like pots and kettles, dishes, glassware, knives and forks, pitchers and kerosene lamps are also listed.

The assumption is that the Mullany household included the same types of furnishings. Nothing is known of the personal habits and interests of the Mullany family and only Kate can be documented as working outside the house (the 1870 census indicates that she worked in a laundry). All of the family members could read and write and the youngest, Ellen, Alice and Frank, were attending school in 1870. Books, periodicals and magazines would be present in the flat.

Other than the assumed functions of the six rooms making up the Mullany flat, based on size and position, there are few physical clues for how each room was furnished. There

is physical evidence for room finishes such as paint and wallpaper and floor treatments. Evidence for stoves is provided by flue openings.

There is no evidence for gas lighting (piping) or early plumbing. None of the smaller rooms functioned as a bathroom. Bathing was probably carried out in a sheet metal tub placed in the kitchen and the toilet was situated in the rear yard privy.

A significant feature of the flat is the rear porch that functioned as an additional living space. It was probably a popular gathering spot on hot summer evenings. The large rear yard was also an amenity shared by the Mullanys and their tenants.

#### THE PLAN

The proposed furnishing plan restores the Mullany flat to its possible appearance in 1870, the year of the United States Census. The family had recently occupied the top floor of the newly constructed building and would continue to occupy one of the flats until sometime after the death of Bridget Mullany in 1876.

In 1870 the third floor flat was occupied by the following cast of characters:

- Bridget Mullany, a 60 year old widow, keeps house and has three daughters. Her husband Dominick Mullany, a laborer, died in 1864 at the age of sixty. His death probably occurred before Bridget purchased the building site at 350-352 Eighth Street in the same year.
- Mary Elizabeth, 27 years old, was the oldest child. She never marries and later will occupy the north half of the building at 352 Eighth Street.
- Kate (Catherine Agnes), 25 years old, is the president of the Collar Laundry Unions Cooperative Manufactory.
- Three additional young people with the surname Mullany also occupy the flat. Ellen is 20 years old, Alice is 16 years old and Frank is 10 years old. All three were born in New York State and are attending school in 1870. Their relationship to Bridget Mullany is undetermined although the National Register Form for the Mullany site states that Ellen was Kate's sister.

With six people occupying the four bedroom flat it is possible that the rooms were used in the following manner:

- Bridget Mullany likely had her own private room adjacent to the kitchen.
- Mary and Kate, mature women, would each have a room to themselves. Kate may have occupied the small private room off of the parlor.
- Ellen and Alice, young and attending school, probably shared a bed in the fourth bedroom. Frank, the youngest, may have slept on a cot or daybed in the parlor or kitchen and during the warm months on the rear porch.

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Page from the 1870 United States Federal Census listing Bridget Mullany's household.

#### **EVIDENCE FOR ROOM USE AND FURNISHINGS**

The third floor flat includes six rooms, a stair hall and a rear porch with a service stair. These spaces are described and analyzed in detail in the Historic Structures Report portion of this study.

#### Stair Hall (301)

The upper landing functioned as the vestibule into the Mullany flat. From this location there are two options for access. The door to the left (east) opens to the kitchen and likely functioned as the day-to-day entrance. The door to the south opens to the parlor and would be reserved for guests and formal occasions.

The plaster walls were covered in a yellowish white paint. The woodwork was covered in a similar yellowish white color.

The windowless space is dark during the night time hours and a suspended kerosene lamp or wall bracket may have provided needed light.

The bare wood floor may have been partially covered by a matt. The only likely furnishing, a stand for coats, hats and umbrellas, could be placed against the narrow west wall

#### Parlor-Sitting Room (302)

This large 13'-6" square room served as the formal gathering space for the Mullany family and their guests. The room would represent the status achieved by Bridget as a property owner and Kate as a Union leader. The size and position of the room would allow for other uses. In 1875, when the flat may have briefly been shared by the McMahon and Coin families, this room was probably also used as a bedroom.

Three doorways provide access from the stair hall to the kitchen and to the small northwest bedroom.

A simple wood mantel, mounted on the south wall, was the only decorative feature.

Two windows are positioned in the west wall. For the Mullanys, wallpaper covered the plaster walls and perhaps the ceiling. The woodwork was covered in a glossy yellowish-white paint.

The unfinished wood flooring was covered wall to wall, possibly by a colorful boldly patterned ingrain carpet or printed floorcloth (oil cloth).

The two windows could have linen roller shades in white or beige to block out the strong late afternoon sun. An additional window treatment might be a simple half curtain covering the lower sash, or perhaps a pair of lace curtains suspended from a simple rod. None of the investigated inventories mention full curtains or drapery at the windows.



Sketch of the furnished Parlor-Sitting Room (302) [JGWA]

The missing wood mantel, that was centered on the south wall, symbolized the importance of this room as a place for firmly gathering and entertaining. Guests would enter directly into this room from the stair hall.

The room should be furnished as a modest but well appointed working class parlor. It should showcase Bridget Mullany's status as a woman who owned real estate and whose daughter Kate was known and admired by many working class men and women around the state

Bridget and her husband Dominick began to acquire furnishings soon after their arrival in Troy in 1851 where they resided at 61 North Third Street (now Sixth Avenue). At that time they would have purchased used furniture that was several decades old as well as simple inexpensive mass produced furniture from local cabinetmakers. They would acquire more items as they moved from rented flat to rented flat in the 7<sup>th</sup> ward.

The parlor furnishings would showcase this combination of old and newer items and possibly some more fashionable furniture purchased for the newly constructed building.

The primary focus of a proper nineteenth century parlor was the center table – round or square, wood or marble topped. The Mullany table could be an older example in the pillar and scroll style popular in the 1830s and 40s.

Centered in the room, and covered by a decorative cloth to protect the top and add color, the table top would support a kerosene lamp, books, periodicals and perhaps a bible. Family and friends would gather around the table in the evening to converse or persue their interests.

The room would include several chairs of varying types, including some caned seat walnut or maple side chairs of the type mass provided by H.I. Seymour of Troy (he was in business from 1851 to 1885). Some of these chairs would also be found in the kitchen and bedrooms.

A small sofa in the transitional style of the 1840s-50s and a rocker of the same period, both covered in black horsehair, would be appropriate. A more fashionable possibility would be a small suite of walnut finger-molded parlor furniture including a sofa, ladies chair and side chairs in a simplified rococo style.

A small walnut desk would be a useful furnishing, especially for the Union activities of Kate. One of the side chairs could be used with the desk.

One or two small tables, perhaps one a ladies sewing stand, would be moved about the parlor. A table between the two windows would be appropriate.

A significant addition to the room would be a small cast-iron parlor stove from the 1850s-60s, produced by one of the numerous Troy stove foundries. The stove would be set up in the cold months of the year on a sheet-iron floor pad with a stove pipe extending up to the opening in the chimney breast.

Accessories would include a small clock on the mantel or placed on a wall bracket shelf. It would be one of the handsome but inexpensive clocks mass produced by a Connecticut manufacturer such as Ansonia, Waterbury, Seth Thomas or Bradley + Hubbard.

A pair of Bristol glass vases or ceramic ornaments would be positioned on the mantel which would be covered by a colorful mantel shelf scarf. A lamp could also be placed on the mantel.

A few framed prints of historic, religious or patriotic content should be placed on the walls. A walnut framed mirror would typically be located on the wall (pier) between the west windows.

#### The Kitchen (304)

At the center of the Mullany flat is the kitchen, the primary gathering place for the family. In this room the Mullany family cooked, ate their meals, bathed and gathered informally. The ample 12'-0" x 14'-8" room included eight doors and a single large east facing window. A fireplace is centered on the north wall. Two small closets, not found in any other room, flank the fireplace.

Three of the doors open to small bedrooms and the cooking range located here would have provided some minimal heat for those rooms. The north door in the west wall opens to the stair hall and functioned as the primary entrance for the family. The glazed door in the east wall opens to the partially enclosed rear porch which is essentially an extension of the kitchen.

The plaster walls were first finished in a pale yellow paint followed by a very pale blue. All of the woodwork, including the missing doors and mantel, was covered in a faux woodgrained painted finish.

The floor boards, unpainted, were fully or partially covered in a printed floorcloth or linoleum in a colorful pattern.

Small rag floor matts were probably positioned by the door to the porch and in front of the wash tub.

The single window remained uncovered except perhaps for a roller shade. It was important for natural light to penetrate into the room.

The most important furnishing was the small cast-iron range positioned in front of the fireplace opening. The wood frame and boards currently covering the fireplace may be original. The firebox shows no evidence of use. A sheet metal flue pipe entered the north wall above the wood mantel. The stove sat on a sheet-iron pad. During the summer months the range would make this room quite warm.

A low wood bench or cabinet, positioned in front of the window, would support a large sheet-metal wash tub used for cleaning dishes and pots and pans. A larger tub could be



Sketch of the furnished Kitchen (304) [JGWA]





Illustrations of cooking in the midnineteenth century kitchen



Illustration of ironing in the mid-nineteenth century kitchen

placed on the same bench for doing the laundry. During the warm weather the laundry tub was probably used on the porch.

Next to the stove was a coal hod (bucket). The coal was stored in the cellar (accessible to all of the tenants) with a small amount in a box on the rear porch.

A transitional drop-leaf table, circa 1840-65, should be positioned in the center of the room. This table, made of walnut or other hard wood, served many purposes including dining and preparing food, a work surface, and a place to gather for the family.

Several side chairs with caned or solid wood seats would be placed about the room when not drawn up to the table.

The south wall, the only free wall surface in the room, was the location for a large storage cabinet for dishes and other items. It could be an enclosed cabinet with open shelving above. A wash stand and a towel rack would be placed on the same wall.

The closets flanking the stove held food stuffs and supplies and possibly clothing. There is no apparent evidence for shelving in the closets. Perishable food could be kept in a secure cabinet on the porch during the colder months of the year.

The mantel shelf, and possibly a shelf attached to the south wall, would hold practical items such as wood, metal or ceramic storage containers, a coffee or teapot and a coffee mill. Hooks below the mantel shelf could hold pots and pans or other implements needed at the stove. A metal match safe (for matches to light the stove fire) would be on a wall surface near the range.

A small wood framed mirror should be positioned above the washstand with its ceramic bowl and pitcher.

This multi purpose room also served as a warm place for bathing. A small tin bathtub, kept on the porch, could be placed in the kitchen for bathing purposes.

This room was used for ironing. The irons were heated on the range and the dining table (covered by thick layers of fabric) served as the ironing surface.

Lighting would be provided by kerosene lamps which could include a table lamp placed on the mantel or a wall bracket lamp. Bracket lamps consist of a cast-iron swivel bracket that supports a glass fuel font and shade. There may be evidence at the center of the ceiling for a hook to support a suspended kerosene lamp.

With little free wall surface there is not much area for decorative objects such as prints except for the surface just south of the door to the parlor.

#### Bedrooms (303, 305, 306 and 307)

The Mullany flat includes four small rooms that originally functioned as bedrooms. Their small size is typical for bedrooms found in nineteenth century working class housing throughout the United States. Such spaces served as a place to sleep and little else with the bed nearly filling the room. Multiple occupancy of the room was not uncommon.

The Mullany bedrooms each include a window, an amenity not found in many tenement flats in large cities.

The four rooms are similar in size, with Room 303 the smallest but also the most private.

#### **Room 303**

For the purposes of the furnishings plan it is assumed that this room was occupied by Kate Mullany. The room affords the privacy needed by someone as active as Kate. A desk is conveniently positioned in the parlor just beyond her bedroom door.

The plaster walls were first finished in a very pale blue paint. The woodwork, including the door, was covered in the same yellowish white paint used in the parlor.

The wood floor may have remained uncovered with a small rug positioned next to the bed or it could be fully covered by a remnant of ingrain carpeting. The single west facing window featured a roller shade and a simple half-curtain covering the lower sash.

The size of the room (5'-11" x 6'-11") would allow for a narrow 6'-0" long wood bed positioned along the east wall. A small cabinet or stand placed next to the bed would support a kerosene lamp and a few small personal items. A side chair would fit in front of the window.

A suitcase, trunk or storage boxes could be placed under the bed along with a chamber pot. Hooks or nails in the walls could hold some of Kate's clothing.

A framed print or other decoration might be placed on one wall surface.

#### **Room 305**

For the purposes of this plan this room was occupied by Bridget Mullany. The room adjoins the kitchen where much of her activity, as head of the household and housekeeper took place.

The south facing window provides the room with ample natural light and ventilation as well as heat from the sun, summer and winter.

The plaster walls were first finished in a yellowish white paint. Contrasting with this light color was the faux painted woodgrain finish on the woodwork and door, like that used in the kitchen.

The wood floor surface was probably covered in a remnant of ingrain carpeting.

A roller shade and half-curtain would be positioned at the window.

The size of the foom (6'-9" x 7'-0") allows for more options in the placement of the wood frame bed. For this plan, the bed is placed along the south wall with the head against the east wall. The head could be repositioned to the west wall, by the window, during the summer

The north wall is wide enough to feature a chest or a tall wardrobe. A small stand for a lamp and a side chair would complete the furnishing. Items could be placed under the bed and a trunk might fit at the foot of the bed.

Additional features would include wall hooks for clothing, a small mirror, a framed print or two and a chamber pot.

#### **Room 306**

For the purposes of this furnishings plan, this room was shared by Ellen (twenty years old) and Alice (sixteen years old). According to the 1870 census they were attending school. The census also seems to indicate that they shared the Mullany surname but their relationship to Bridget and her daughters is unknown. They are not included with the family in the 1875 New York State census.

The walls and woodwork were finished similarly to Room 305.

The wood floor could be covered by a remnant of ingrain carpet or printed floorcloth.

The south facing window should have a roller shade and a half-curtain covering the lower sash.

The bed, to be shared by Ellen and Alice, would be placed along the west wall; this arrangement leaves the east wall for a chest or wardrobe. A small stand and chair would complete the furnishings. Additional items would include a lamp, suitcases or trunks and



Sketch of a furnished bedroom (307) [JGWA]

a chamber pot. A framed print and a small mirror could be placed on the walls along with nails or hooks for hanging clothing.

#### **Room 307**

This bedroom was occupied by Mary who is 27 and the oldest daughter. The 1870 census does not note any employment for Mary but the 1875 census indicates she is working in a laundry like her sister Kate.

The walls and woodwork were finished similarly to the surfaces in Rooms 305 and 306. An ingrain carpet remnant or a printed floor cloth could partially or completely cover the wood floor boards.

The east facing window should feature a roller shade and a half-curtain at the lower sash.

The small size of the room (6'-0"x7'-5") would permit a narrow wood bed to be placed along the north wall. The south wall could feature a chest or wardrobe. A stand for a lamp

or possibly a chair might fit in the small space. A suitcase or trunks could be placed under the bed along with a chamber pot.

Wall hooks could hold some clothing and a framed print and mirror could also be placed on a wall surface.

#### Frank [Mullany]

Ten year old Frank was the sixth occupant of the flat in 1870. Like Ellen and Alice he is attending school. As the youngest and only male in the household Frank did not have a room of his own.

He may have slept on the parlor sofa (depending on its type and size) or on a cot set up temporarily in the parlor or kitchen. His bedding could be kept in one of the kitchen closets. During the summer Frank may have slept on the rear porch.

His clothing and other personal items could be found in Ellen and Alice's bedroom or in one of the closets.

By 1875 Frank, Ellen and Alice were not residing at 350 Eighth Street.

#### **Back Porch**

This space, open to the exterior, is essentially an additional room for the Mullany flat. It was an active place at all times of the year but especially during the warm months. The enclosed stair provides access to the rear yard where the privy was situated. Coal from the cellar and water from the yard spigot was carried up the stairs.

This outdoor area was furnished much like the interior rooms.

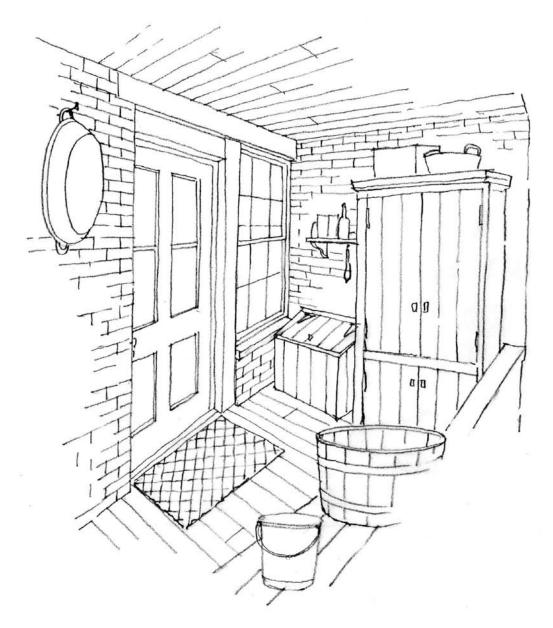
A large painted pine storage cabinet could be placed against the north brick wall. The cabinet would hold items such as food supplies, cookware or laundry items as well as household tools.

A low bench placed next to the porch railing would support a laundry tub that could hang on a wall hook when not in use. The dish pan would also be stored here. A bucket for hauling water should be nearby.

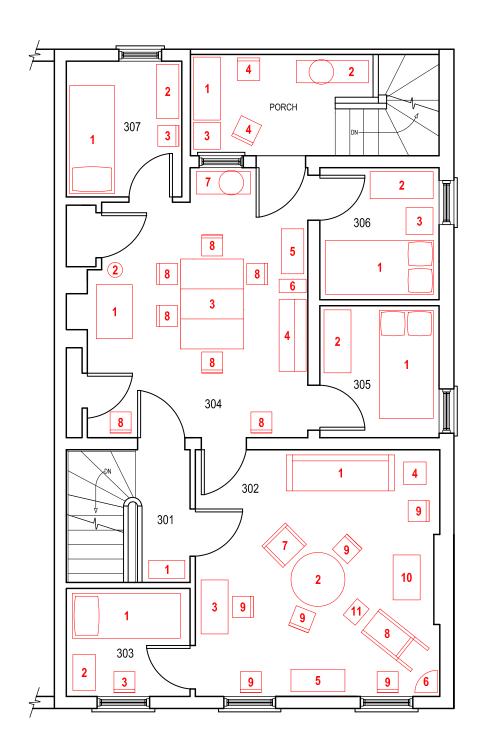
A small supply of coal in a wood box was probably kept here.

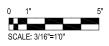
A shelf to support a kerosene lamp would be useful.

One or two simple side chairs might be found here during the summer.



Sketch of the furnished Back Porch. [JGWA]







THIRD FLOOR FURNISHINGS PLAN 2010

JOHN G WAITE ASSOCIATES ARCHITECTS PLLC

#### **FURNISHING LISTS**

The following list includes illustrations of furniture forms that are appropriate for the Mullany flat. They are meant as a guide in the search for furnishings; the actual objects may not necessarily be identical to the illustrations.

Some objects may be purchased from antiques shops or antiques shows such as the one held at Brimfield, Massachusetts in May, July and September; or from private collectors. It may also be possible to acquire objects on long term loan from collecting institutions such as the New York State Museum and the Rensselaer County Historical Society.

Custom reproductions may be another source for certain furnishings such as the shortage cabinet used on the rear porch and for floor coverings and textiles.

#### STAIR HALL (301)

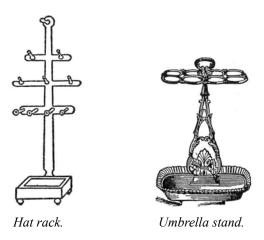
#### 1. Object: Hat rack/umbrella stand

Date: Circa 1850-1870

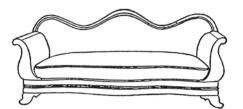
Description: Simple walnut stand, five to six feet tall with pegs or hooks for hats and coats. Another possibility is a cast-iron umbrella stand as illustrated in the 1865 Russell and Erwin Hardware Catalogue. This could be used with a wood rail attached to the wall and supporting several wood pegs or cast-iron hooks.

Location: The west wall next to door to Parlor.

Source: Aquire antique object. The rail with hooks would be custom made.



#### PARLOR 302



Transitional sofa



Rococo parlor suite



Center table

#### 1. Object: Sofa

Date: Circa 1840-1870

Description: Old fashioned transitional serpentine-back sofa in walnut or mahogany veneer approximately six feet long.

Another possibility is a more fashionable simply detailed Rococo style walnut sofa, possibly with an en-suite arm chair and/or rocker.

The fabric covering the sofa and chairs should be black horsehair.

Location: Sofa placed against the east wall, chairs and rocker surrounding the center table.

Source: Purchase antiques.

#### 2. Object: Center table

Date: Circa 1840-1860

Description: Old fashioned circular or square pedestal scroll foot table with wood or marble top, approximately three feet in diameter. Walnut or mahogany veneer.

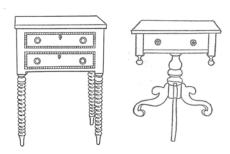
Cover with a decorative square table cloth sized to hang about one foot below table edge.

Location: Center of the room.

# 0

Bureau desk

Drop-front desk



Sewing tables



Rectangular tables



Five-tier corner shelf

#### PARLOR 302 (CONT.)

#### 3. Object: Desk

Date: Circa 1840-1870

Description: Old fashioned slant-front bureau desk in mahogany or walnut or more contemporary drop-front desk with trestile base in walnut

Location: Between the doors on north wall.

Source: Purchase antique.

#### 4. Object: Work table/sewing stand

Date: Circa 1840-1860

Description: Small table with drawers set on four turned legs or pedestal base. In mahogany veneer, walnut or painted pine.

Locations: Next to sofa, south east corner.

Source: Purchase antique.

#### 5. Object: Table

Date: Circa 1845-65

Description: Small rectangular table, 18"x30", in mahogany, walnut or painted pine. Could have a drawer and a lower shelf.

Location: Place between the two west

windows.

Source: Purchase antique.

#### 6. Object: Corner stand or whatnot

Date: Circa 1860-1870

Description: Multi-tier corner display shelf

in walnut, turned or scroll supports.

Location: Place in southwest corner.

#### PARLOR 302 (CONT.)

Arm chairs

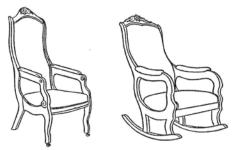
## 7. Object: Arm chair, upholstered

Date: Circa 1850-1870

Description: A single upholstered arm chair in mahogany or walnut. Possibly part of a suite along with the sofa. Could have open or closed arms.

Location: Place near the center table.

Source: Purchase antique.



Arm chair and rocker

#### 8. Object: Rocker

Date: Circa 1850-1870

Description: Open arm rocker in walnut with

black horsehair upholstery.

Location: Next to center table, near stove.

Source: Purchase antique.



Side chair

#### 9. Side chair

Date: Circa 1840-1870

Description: Basic multi-purpose side chair with caned seat in walnut or maple or could be faux grained. These chairs can be used throughout the flat.

Location: Next to center table and next to walls around the room.



Side chair, circa 1865, by Henry I. Seymour, Troy, NY

## PARLOR 302 (CONT.)

#### 10. Object: Parlor stove and stove pipe

Date: Circa 1860-1870

Description: Small cast-iron parlor stove produced by one of the Troy stove foundries. Use with sheet-iron stove pipe that connects to the flue-opening above the mantel. Polish with stove blackening. Place stove on sheet metal pad.

Location: Set on pad in front of the wood mantel.

Source: Purchase antique.



Fuller & Warren stove, Troy, NY, patent 1865

#### 11. Object: Footstool

Date: Circa 1860-1870

Description: Wood frame or cast-iron frame footstool with upholstered top. Cast-iron

type were made in Troy.

Location: Place in front of rocker.

Source: Purchase antique.



**Footstools** 

#### 12. Object: Shelf clock, Mantel clock

Date: Circa 1850-1870

Description: Shelf or mantel clock with mahogany veneer case with hand painted or transfer decorated inset glass panel in door.

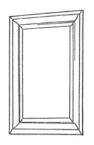
Location: Place on mantel (south wall) or on a bracket shelf on north wall above desk.





Shelf clock

Mantel clock



Mirror size varies from 14" x 22" to larger



Mirror size varies; approximately 24" x 30"

#### PARLOR 302 (CONT.)

#### 13. Object: Wall mirror

Date: Circa 1840-1870

Description: Wood framed mirror in walnut

or mahogany veneer.

Location: Place on west wall between

windows.

Source: Purchase antique.

#### **BEDROOM 303**



Bed

## 1. Object: Bed and bedding

Date: Circa 1840-1870

Description: Narrow (30" wide) wood frame bed. Six feet long with full head and foot

board.

Location: Place against wall as shown on

floorplan.

Source: Purchase antique.

#### 2. Object: Table or stand for lamp

Date: Circa 1840-1870

Description: Small square stand with single drawer, set on four legs. Walnut or painted

pine.

Location: Place next to bed. Source: Purchase antique.

#### 3. Object: Side chair

Date: Circa 1840-1870

Description: One of the set of side chairs used in the parlor or kitchen. Also could be an old single chair in mahogany, walnut,

maple or faux graining.

Location: Place in front of window.



Stand



Side chairs from the Detroit Chair Factory

#### KITCHEN 304

Cookstove



Circa 1866 cookstove



Coal hod

#### 1. Object: Cookstove

Date: Circa 1860-70

Description: Small cast-iron cookstove produced by one of the Troy or Albany stove foundries. Use with a sheet-iron stove pipe and place on a sheet metal pad.

Location: Place in front of fireplace on a sheet metal floor pad.

Source: Purchase antique.

#### 2. Object: Coal Hod

Date: Circa 1860-1870

Description: Japanned sheet metal bucket

with handle for carrying coal. Location: Next to cookstove

#### KITCHEN 304 (CONT.)

Drop-leaf dining table



Cupboard



Washstands

#### 3. Object: Dining table

Date: Circa 1850-1870

Description: Drop-leaf dining table approximately 38 to 42 inches long. The drop leaves are about 15 inches wide. Made of walnut, maple or cherry.

Location: Place in center of the kitchen with the leaves opened.

#### 4. Object: Cupboard

Date: Circa 1840-1870

Description: Approximately 7'-0" tall cupboard with upper section of open shelving and lower cabinet with drawers and doors. About 48" wide of walnut, maple or painted softwood.

Location: South wall next to doorway to bedroom 305.

Source: Purchase antique or a custom reproduction.

#### 5. Object: Washstand with bowl and pitcher.

Date: Circa 1840-1870

Description: Square or rectangular stand with back splash and drawer above a shelf or enclosed cabinet. Made of a painted softwood, walnut or maple. Wood or marble top.

A plane white ironstone or transfer decorated ceramic washbowl and pitcher should be place on the top of the stand.

Location: Against the south wall next to the doorway to bedroom 306.

#### Source: Purchase antique.



Towel rack

#### KITCHEN 304 (CONT.)

#### 6. Object: Towel rack

Date: Circa 1850-1870

Description: Simple trestle towel rack about 32 inches tall and long. Made of walnut or

ash.

Location: Place next to washstand.

Source: Purchase antique or reproduction.

#### 7. Object: Low table or bench to support a large dishpan.

Date: Circa 1840-1870

Description: Simple bench of local manufacture in a softwood or a table with simple square or turned legs about 30 inches high.

Location: Place in front of the east window.

Source: Purchase antique or custom

reproduction.

#### 8. Object: Side chair

Date: Circa 1840-1870

Description: Basic multi-purpose side chair with solid wood or rush seat in walnut or maple. A spindle back Windsor-type chair

would be appropriate.

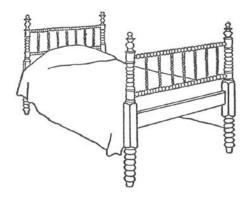
Location: Place around the table and against the wall surfaces. Some moved to rear porch

during the summer months.



Windsor-type chair

#### **BEDROOMS 305-307**



#### 1, Object: Bed and bedding

Date: Circa 1840-1870

Description: Narrow (36" wide) wood frame bed. Six feet long with full head and foot board. The bed in Room 307 should be 30" wide.

Location: Place as shown on floorplan.

Source: Purchase antique.



Beds

#### Date: Circa 1840-1870

2. Object: Wardrobe or chest of drawers

Description: Tall (7'-0" high) single door wardrobe with drawer below door; in walnut or mahogany veneer or place cottage-type bureau or chest of drawers. Approximately three feet wide with four drawers and wood

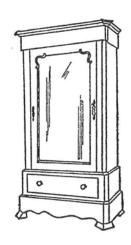
or marble top.

Date: Circa 1840-1870

Location: Place as shown on floorplan. A small wood framed mirror should be placed

above the chest.





Wardrobe

#### **BEDROOMS 305-307 (CONT.)**



Small stand

#### 3. Object: Small table or stand for lamp

Date: Circa 1840-1870

Description: Small square stand with single drawer, set on four legs. Walnut or painted

pine.

A side chair could be used in the room in

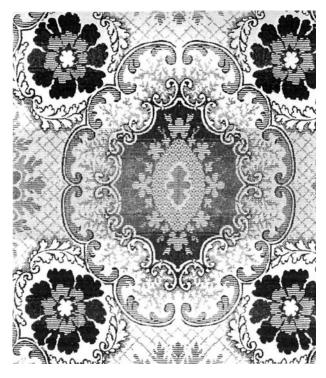
place of the stand.

Location: Place as shown on floorplan.

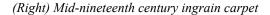
#### **FLOOR COVERINGS**

#### **Ingrain carpet**

An American term for flatwoven, reversible, wool carpet resembling a coverlet in which the colors of the design on one side reverse on the other. Woven in 27" and 36" wide strips which are sewn together to form the carpet. Generally placed wall-to-wall in a room with tacks at the perimeter to secure in place.



(Above) Circa 1850-75 document ingrain carpet in the collections of the Smithsonian Museum, Washington, DC



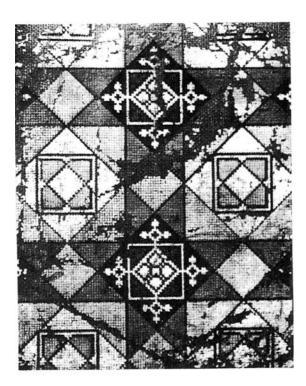


#### **FLOOR COVERINGS (CONT.)**

#### Oilcloth (floor cloth)

A term for a floor cloth used during the second half of the nineteenth century to designate a fabric printed in oil-based paints. The fabric base was typically a cotton, linen, or jute canvas.

D. [Deborah] Powers & Sons manufactured floor and oil cloths at their Lansingburgh factory in the nineteenth century.





Typical mid-nineteenth century printed floorcloths

#### **LIGHTING**

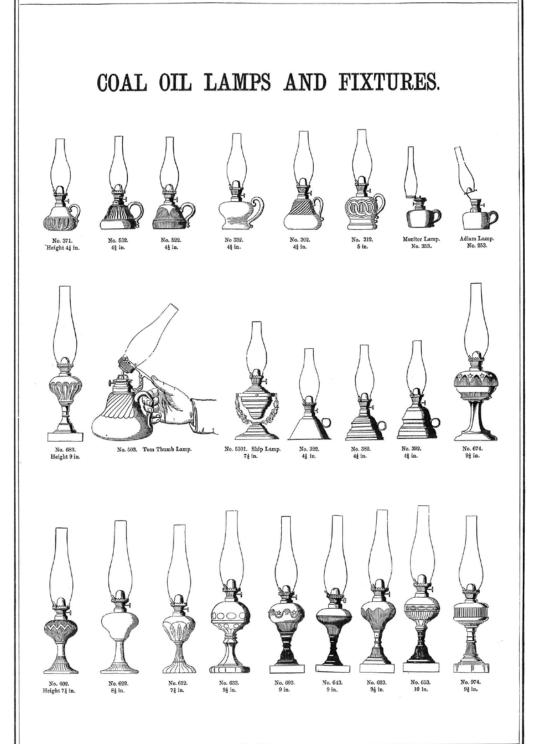
By the mid-nineteenth century in Troy, households included two types of artifical illumination: coal gas and coal oil. By the 1840s, coal gas was available via underground pipes to many residences. The Hart house at 59 Second Street received gas in 1849.

Coal oil (kerosene) lanterns were used in areas of the house that did not include gas fixtures. The lghting devices included table lamps, wall brackets, and suspended fixtures.

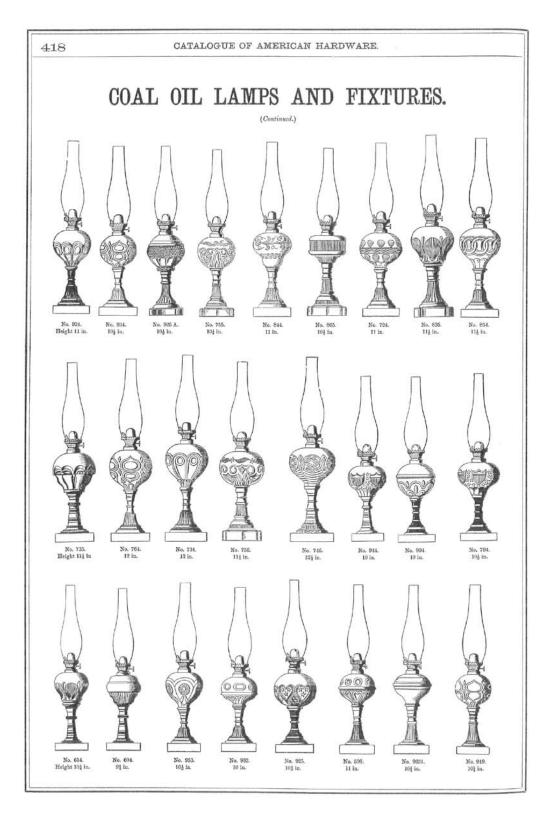
There is no evidence for piped gas at 350 Eighth Street during the Mullany period. Kerosene lamps were the choice for illuminating the Mullany flat.

The Russell and Erwin Manufacturing Company catalogue for 1865 illustrates a variety of coal oil (kerosene) lighting devices.

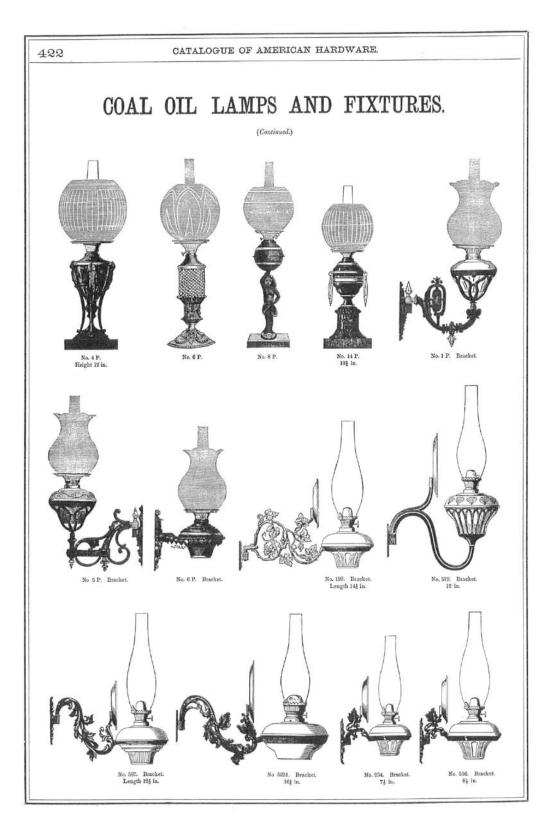




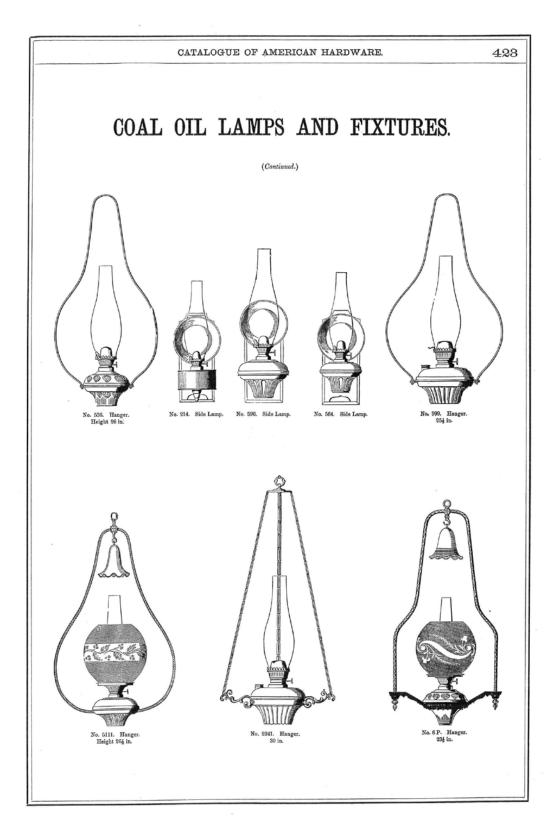
Coal oil lamps from 1865 Russell and Erwin Catalogue



Coal oil lamps from 1865 Russell and Erwin Catalogue



Coal oil lamps and fixtures from 1865 Russell and Erwin Catalogue



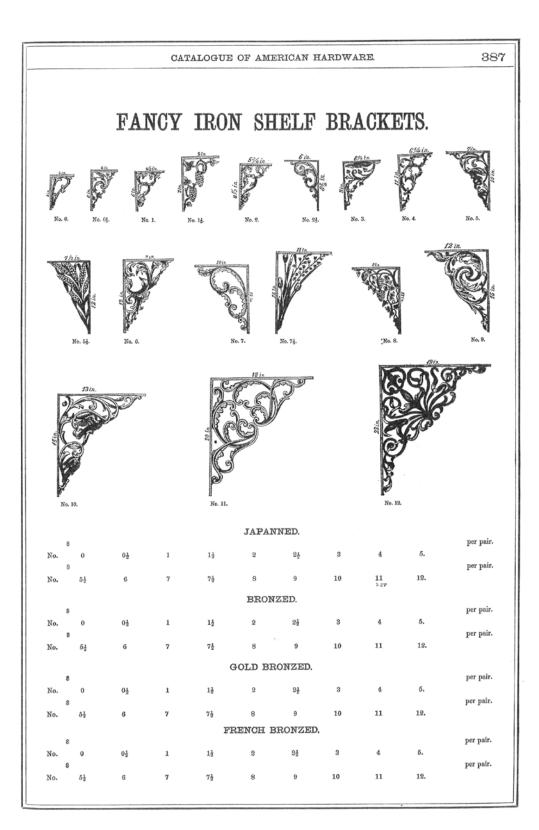
Coal oil lamps and fixtures from 1865 Russell and Erwin Catalogue

## **HOUSEHOLD AND KITCHEN DEVICES AND FITTINGS**

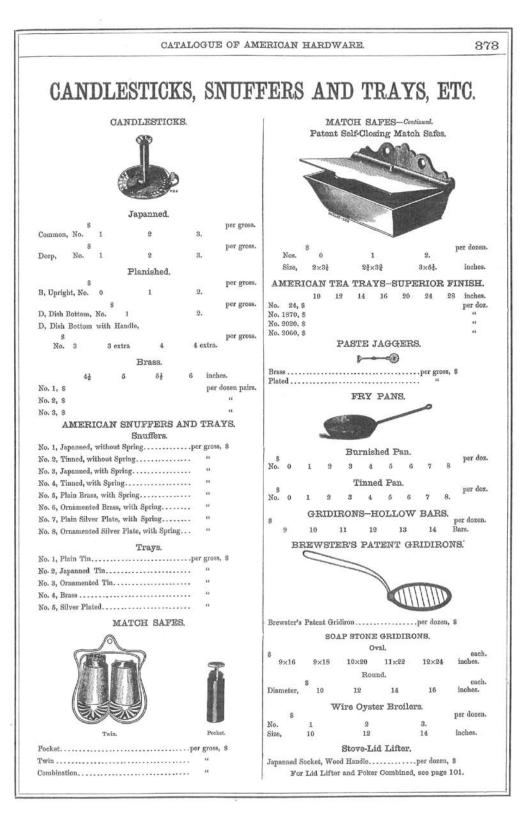
The following pages from the 1865 Russell and Erwin Catalogue illustrate items that would be used in the Mullany household. They include window shade hardware, iron brackets to support shelving, match safes, various pots and pans, coffee mills, and wringers for the wash tub.

# CATALOGUE OF AMERICAN HARDWARE. 79 WINDOW SHADE FURNITURE. No. 2. Roller Ends No. 4. BRACKETS. RACK PULLEYS. No. 00, Iron, Coppered (see Plate).....per gross, \$ No. 230, Wrought Brass (see Plate).....per gross, \$ " 234, Wrought Brass, Heavy.....per gross, " 240, Wrought Brass, Porcelain Knob. . . . . . per gross, 1, Brass (see Plate).....per gross, 2, Brass, Heavy (see Plate).....per gross, " 245, Wrought Brass, Wedge, 4 inch.....per gross, " 250, Wrought Brass, Wedge, 41 inch.....per gross, " 260, Wrought Brass, Wedge, Porcelain Knob.per gross, " 300, Cast Brass, Heavy, Strong Article (see Plate) .....per gross, ROLLER ENDS. No. 1, Doens' "Patent," Bronzed (see Plate)....per gross, \$ No. 1, Coppered Iron.....per gross, \$ " 2, Doens' "Patent," Bronzed, Brass Holder " 4, Cast Brass (see Plate).....per gross, (see Plate).....per gross, " 5, Cast Brass, for Heavy Shades.....per gross, " 3, Doen's "Patent," Bronzed (see Plate)....per gross,

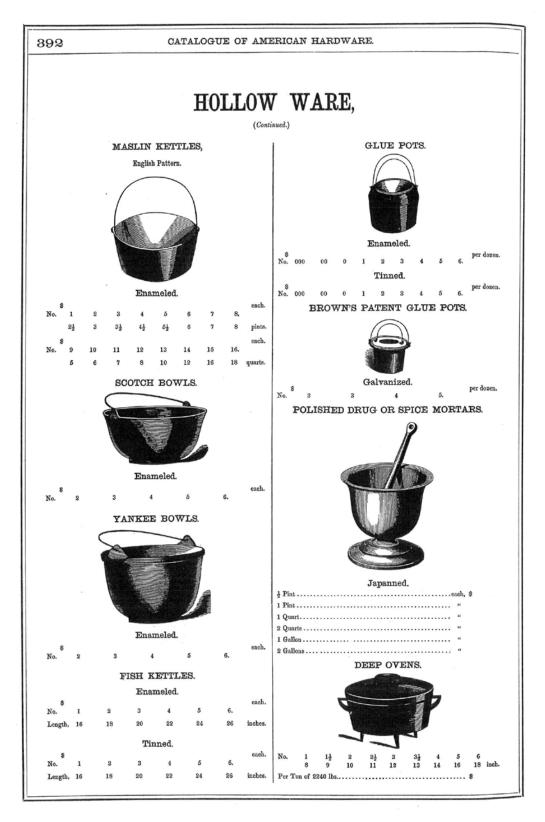
Window shade hardware from 1865 Russell and Erwin Catalogue



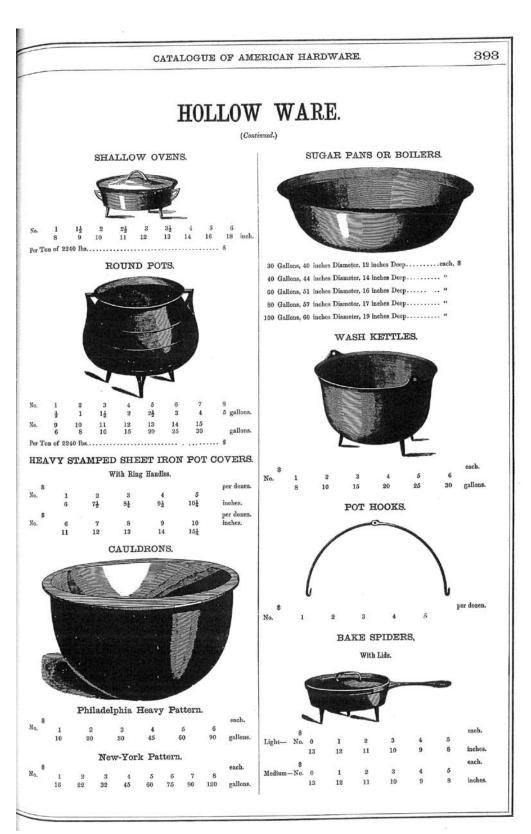
Shelf brackets from 1865 Russell and Erwin Catalogue



Candlesticks, snuffers, and trays from 1865 Russell and Erwin Catalogue

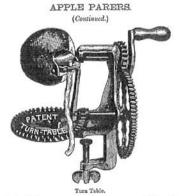


Hollow ware from 1865 Russell and Erwin Catalogue



Pots and kettles from 1865 Russell and Erwin Catalogue

# APPLE PARERS, PAINT AND COFFEE MILLS.



Turn Table Apple Parers. .....për dozen, 3



Conqueror Apple Paren......per dezen, \$ Sargent & Foster's Patent Apple Parers..... "

> HORIZONTAL PAINT MILLS. Adams' Patent.



No. 0. No. 0, Geared Mill, 2, in a Box.....per dozen, \$ 

No. 2, 6, in a Box ...... IMPROVED CONICAL OR SPIRAL PAINT MILLS.



IMPROVED CONICAL PAINT MILLS. (Continued.)





The Spiral Mill is of later introduction than the Horizontal; its rester speed in grinding, with at least equal excellence and durability

No. 3, packed 6 in a Box, 65 lbsp	er dozen,
No. 4, packed 6 in a Box, 70 lbs	п
No. 5 marked 9 in a Roy 65 lbs	**

#### Harris' Patent.

No. 1, Power Mill	each,	8
Pulleys for Power Mill		
No. 2, Medium Mill	"	
Pulleys for Medium Mill		
No. 3, Small Mill		
No. 4, Small Polish Mill		
No. 5, Medium Polish Mill		
No. 6, Large Polish Mill, with Fly Wheel		

#### Glaziers' Diamonds.

#### COFFEE MILLS.

Selsor, Cook & Co's Cast Steel.



0. 10,	Friction,	Iron Hopperp	er dozen, :	ŝ
o. 15,	Friction,	Britannia Hopper	#	
0. 20.	Friction,	Britannia Hopper		

No. 20, Friction, Britannia Hopper

No. 25, Anti-Friction, Britannia Hopper

No. 30, Anti-Friction, Cherry Box, Britannia Hopper

No. 40, Anti-Friction, Cherry Box, Britannia Hopper

#### WILSON'S GENUINE COFFEE MILLS. Wrought Iron Cranks.

				**			 		 		
No.	1, with	h Covers				 	 	 		pe	r dozen
No.	2, with	h Covers				 	 				**
No.	3, with	Covers				 	 	 	 		
No.	4, with	h Covers				 	 		 		
No.	5, with	h Covers				 	 	 			**
No.	11, all	Iron, nev	v Pa	tter	n.	 	 	 	 		

Kitchen appliances from 1865 Russell and Erwin Catalogue

# DODG OF OUTTIES TRAINED TO THE

	ST	AIR	ROD	S,	CLOTH	IES WRINGERS, ETC.
G	OLD		RED FREI	NCH	RODS.	CLOTHES WRINGERS.
			Continued.) LAT HOLLO	w.		8 2 5
			Brass.			DNIVERSAL STATE
\$ Length,	1×27	30	36	40	per dozen. inch.	WHEN SAL OF THE WINDS
		;	Plated.		per dozen.	CLOTHES WRINGER
Length,	1×27	30	36	40	inch.	ZZ D
			e, round			Universal.
s			Brass.		per dozen.	No. 1, Large Family Wringer, with Cogs, Warranted, each, \$
Length,	27	30	36	40	inch.	No. 2, Medium, with Cogs, Warranted
		1	Plated.			No. 2½, Medium, without Cogs, not Warranted "
\$ Length,	27	30	36	40	per dozen. inch.	No. 3, Small, without Cogs, not Warranted "
		DIAM	OND ROP	E.		No. 8, Large Hotel, with Cogs, Warranted "
			Brass.			No. 18, Medium, (to run by steam,) with Cogs, War-
Length,	27	30	36	40	per dozen.	No. 22, Large Laundry, (to run by steam,) with Cogs,
Zengen,	~.		Plated.			Warranted
\$			00	40	per dozen. inch.	ă ă
Length,	27	30	36 DODE	40	men.	
			F ROPE. Brass.			COLBY'S
\$					per dozen.	PATENI.
Length,	27	30	36	40	inch.	No. 1 Wringer, 10 inch Rollerseach, \$
		1	Plated.		per dozen.	No. 2 Wringer, 8½ inch Rollerseach, \$
Length,	27	30	36	40	inch.	
		ROUNI	BRONZE	ED.		
		Br	ass Tips.			
Length,	27	30	36	40	per dozen. inch.	
		Pla	ted Tips.			A STORY
\$ Towards	27	30	36	40	per dozen.	
Length,			TED GOL			
8	RO				per dozen.	
Length,	27	30	36	40	inch.	
			D FASTEN			
		Buttons fo	or Hollow	Rods	per gross.	BOOTH TO WOOD AND NO
- 8	ą	<del>1</del> 1	l 1½	$1\frac{1}{4}$	inch.	Whitney's Patent.
		Loops fo	or Oval Ro	ds.		No. 2 Wringer, 9 inch Rollereach, \$
S §	a	<u> , 1</u>	11	11	per gross. inch.	No. 3 Wringer, 10 inch Rollereach, \$
	•	Bands fo	or Oval Ro	ds.		CLOTHES PINS.
\$					per gross.	Whittledper gross, \$
ŧ	2	£ 1		11	inch.	Spiral Spring, "Patent"per gross, \$
No 1 0-		•	ound Stair			FLY TRAPS.
						Patent Revolvingeach, \$
	-					

Stair rods, clothes wringers, etc. from 1865 Russell and Erwin Catalogue

### **IMAGES OF NINETEENTH-CENTURY INTERIORS**

The following nineteenth-century illustrations show the use and placement of wallpaper, window shades, framed pictures, floor coverings and furnishings.



Note the roller shade, the simple half curtains, and the use of potted plants in the window.



Note the use of wallpaper and the placement of the stand between the windows.



Note the use of wallpaper and the placement of framed prints. The prints are attached in a way that allows them to hang outward from the wall.



Kitchen floor covered in a printed floorcloth (oilcloth). Utensils hang from hooks on the wall.

## **APPENDIX A: COMPARABLE INVENTORIES**

Household inventories from Probate Records housed at the Rensselaer County Historical Society

# KATE MULLANY HOUSE: COMPARABLE INVENTORIES

# Household inventories from Probate Records housed at the Rensselaer County Historical Society

#### 1867 GEORGE CURTIS (CUTTER) - SPRING STREET ABOVE MILL.

- 7 Chairs, 1 Brush, 2 Vases, 1 Looking glass
- 1 Stand & spread, 1 Clock, 1 Stand & spread
- 1 Tea tray, 1 Basket, 2 Stone jars, 1 Basket
- 3 Lamps, 1 Bedstead, 1 Stand,
- 2 Shades, 1 Pitcher & bowl, 1 Trunk, 1 Basket
- 3 Jars, 1 Chair, 1 Musket, 1 Clothes basket
- 2 Chests, 1 Chair, 1 Valise, Rag carpeting
- 1 Looking glass, 1 Cupboard, 2 Jars
- 1 Wash bench, 1 Cupboard, 2 tubs
- 1 Wash board, 1 Cupboard, 2 tubs
- 1 Wash board, 1 Brass kettle, 2 [?]
- 1 Clothes horse, 1 Coal hod
- 6 Chairs, 1 Straw tick
- 1 Looking glass, 1 Stove
- 1 Rocking chair, 1 Cook stove
- 1-1/2 Dozen plates, 2 Glass dishes
- 1 Pitcher, 6 Knives & forks
- 1 Jug, 1 Oil can, 1 Table

Potts & Kettles, 1 Bedstead & bedding

### 1867 WILLIAM SIMPSON (SALOON OWNER) - 84 FEDERAL STREET

The following articles are not appraised being set apart according to law for the widow to wit.

1 Stove and necessary cooking utensils

Family Bible & Family pictures

Books not exceeding in value \$50.00

3 Beds Bedsteads & Bedding

#### 1867 William Simpson (saloon owner) continued

- 1 Table 6 Chairs 6 Knives & forks 6 Plates 6 Tea cups & saucers
- 1 Sugar dish 1 Milk pot
- 1 Tea pot 6 Spoons

All necessary wearing apparel.

The following articles are appraised and set apart for the use of the widow and minor children in addition to those enumerated above in pursuance to the statute to wit.

- 1 Chair
- 5 Chairs
- 1 Table
- 1 Table & spread
- 1 Mirror
- 1 Work stand
- 1 Set Window shades & fixtures
- 1 Carpet in front room

Hall & Bedroom carpet

- 2 Common tables
- 4 Kitchen Chairs
- 1 Lounge
- 1 Clock
- 2 Kerosine lamps
- 1 Small mirror

Carpet on Kitchen floor

1 Piece Oil cloth

Crockery & Glass ware

- 4 Stools
- 1 Stand
- 2 Bedsteads
- 5 Wash stands
- 6 Wash bowls & pitchers
- 1 Bedroom carpet
- 2 Small mirrors
- 1 Table

#### 1870 BROOKS M. PERKINS (TRUCKMAN) - 171 N. THIRD STREET

#### Kitchen furniture

One Stove and 4 lengths of pipe

One Bedstead Imitation B.W. [black walnut]

Cural Hair mattress

One Husk

One Extension Table B.W. [black walnut]

One Lounge

Three Kitchen chairs

One Coal scuttle

One Side bureau

One Set knives and forks

One Clock upright

One Kitchen mirror

One Refrigerator (upright)

Six Stone pots

One Kitchen carpet (20 yards)

#### **Parlor Furniture**

Five Sofa Bottom chairs H. [hair] cloth

One Parlor Sofa Hair cloth

One Parlor mirror Gilt frame

One B.W. [black walnut] Center Table Slate Top

One Rocking chair Stripe Rep cover

One Rug and Parlor door mat

Two Pair of Shades for Windows

One Hall Oil cloth

### 1875 MARY J. BORD (WIDOW) - 37 N. 4TH STREET

- 4 Painted Bedroom sets
- 4 Wool Mattresses
- 4 Husk
- 4 Spring beds
- 4 Bedroom carpets
- 8 Shades & fixtures
- 1 Stanley stove, pipes & zinc [floor pad]
- 1 Hall carpet
- 2 Stair carpets

#### 1875 Mary J. Bord (widow) continued

Hall carpet & stair rods

- 1 Walnut center table
- 1 Lounge
- 2 Chairs
- 1 What not [shelf unit]
- 4 Walnut bedsteads [including mattresses, Husk & springs]
- 4 Towel racks
- 4 Wash stands
- 4 Toilet sets
- 1 Looking glass
- 1 Looking glass
- 4 Bedroom carpets
- 2 Stoves & pipes
- 2 Marble Top tables
- 6 Walnut chairs upholstered
- 2 Bureaus
- 2 Carpets
- 12 Shades & fixtures
- 4 Lace curtains
- 2 Spitoons
- 6 Mahogany chairs
- 2 Vases
- 1 Cupboard
- 1 Walnut bedstead [mattresses and spring]
- 1 Pair pillows
- 1 Bolster
- 1 Looking glass
- 1 Wash stand
- 1 Toilet set
- 1 Easy chair
- 1 Marble topped Bureau
- 1 Sewing machine
- 1 Secretary & Bookcase

Books in case

- 1 Bedroom carpet
- 2 Shades & fixtures
- 2 pr [pair] Lace curtains
- 1 Piano Forte Cover & Stool
- 1 Looking glass
- 2 Mirrors Slabs & brackets [pier mirrors]
- 1 Parlor set 7 pieces
- 1 Marble topped table

## 1875 Mary J. Bord (widow) continued

- 1 Parlor stove
- 2 Carpets & oilcloth
- 4 Shades
- 4 Pr [pair] curtains & cornices
- 1 Parlor set Red rep 5 pieces
- 4 Fancy chairs
- 1 Marble Top table
- 1 Hall tree
- 1 Walnut bedstead [spring, husk & mattresses]
- 6 Bolsters
- 4 Pillows
- 1 Fancy chair
- 1 Marble Topped washstand
- 1 Marble Topped table
- 1 Looking glass
- 1 Shade
- Lace curtains
- 1 Carpet
- 1 Music rack
- 25 Pictures & frames
- Crockery & glass ware
- 6 Office chairs
- 1 Clothes frame
- 1 Extension table
- 1 Oval table
- 9 Dining chairs
- 1 Stove & pipe & zinc [floor pad]
- 1 Cooking stove
- 2 Refrigerators
- 2 Tables
- 2 Tubs
- 2 Pails
- 1 Shovel
- 1 Hoe
- 1 Tea keetle [ kettle]
- 1 Pounding barrel & pounder [mortar & pestle]
- 1 Step ladder
- 1 Wash bench
- 1 Glass oval vase of flowers
  - [omit clothing and linens]
- 1 Tray
- 1 Paper rack

# 1875 Mary J. Bord (widow) continued

- 1 Clock
- 1 Hand glass
- 14 Pictures
- 2 Music books & sheet music
- Lace curtains
- 1 Basket and contents
- 1 Tray