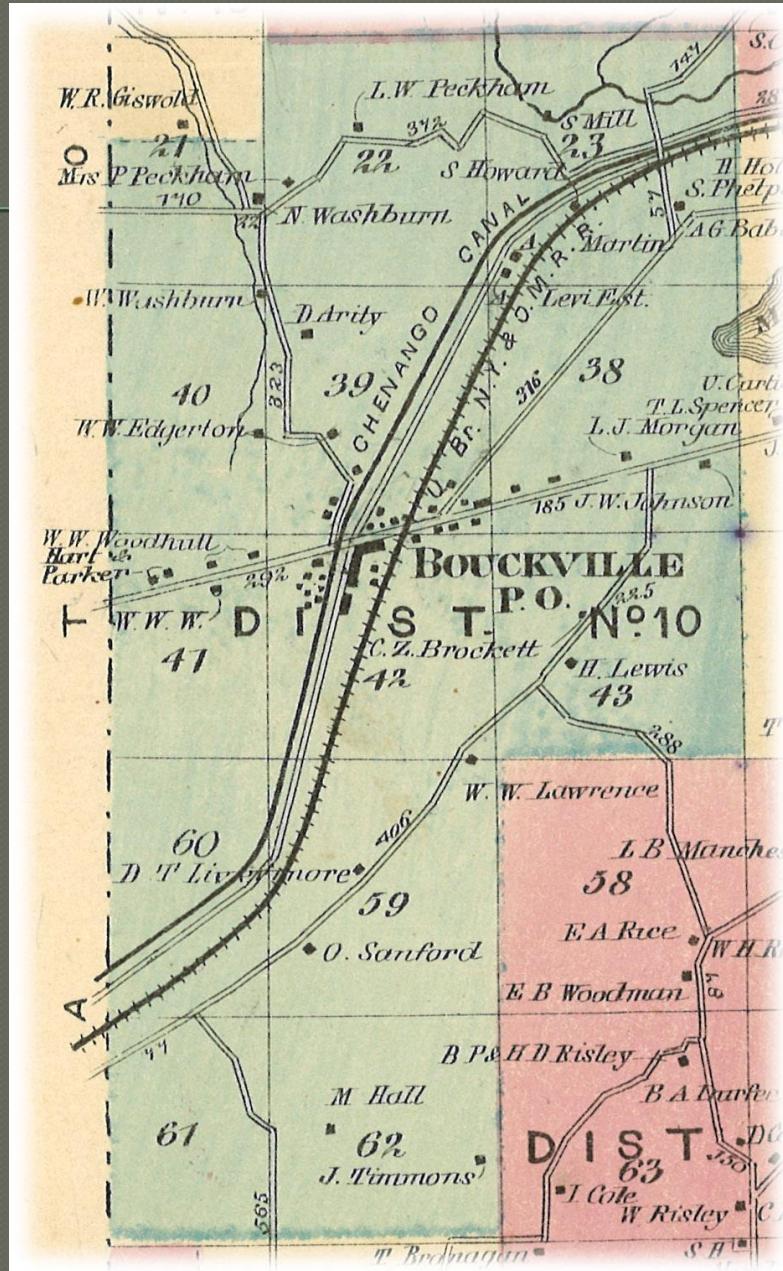

The Cider Business in Bouckville

Bouckville

Bouckville, a small village in the town of Madison straddling the Cherry Valley Turnpike (Route 20) and the Chenango Canal is known today primarily for its annual Antique Week held in August. Hundreds of vendors and thousands of antique collectors gather annually to buy, sell, and trade antiques and collectibles. Many residents of the county and surrounding areas are surprised to learn that during the latter half of the 19th century Bouckville was a very popular destination in the fall...for a very different reason.

Bouckville

1875 Beers Atlas



Bouckville

Here began an enterprise that would become one of the nation's largest producers of apple cider. People would travel from surrounding towns and counties during apple harvest to sell their produce. At first, apples were brought in by horse-drawn wagon or by flat boat on the Chenango Canal. Later, as this new industry blossomed, apples would be brought in by box cars on the New York & Oswego Midland RR.

That enterprise is what is familiarly known today as **Mott's**.



Samuel R Mott

Background

Samuel R Mott, born in Half Moon, Saratoga County in 1826, learned the cidering business from his grandfather.

In 1847 Mott married Ann M Coon (b. 1828, d. 1915) and together they had five children:

- John Coon (b. 1849, d. 1913)
- Mary Francis (b. 1851, d. 1905)
- Frederick Gates (b. 1854, d. 1929)
- Samuel Rogers Jr. (b. 1857, d. 1943)
- Seward (b. 1861, d. 1887)

(For additional background information see Jim Ford's book, *Sweet Cider Days: A History of Mott's in Bouckville, New York*)

Mott in Bouckville

In January of 1868 we find the first reference to Samuel R Mott in Madison County deed books. We have to go back to June 1867, however, for the complete chronology of land purchases related to Mott.

June 1, 1867 ~ Charles F Dedrick, Horatio S Brown, & John C Beach purchase the “distillery premises” in Bouckville from William W Woodhull and his wife Jennett, and Joseph W Forward and his wife Elizabeth. On the deed Dedrick is listed as being from Saratoga, while Brown and Beach are both listed as being from Montgomery County.

(Deed book 111, p 516)

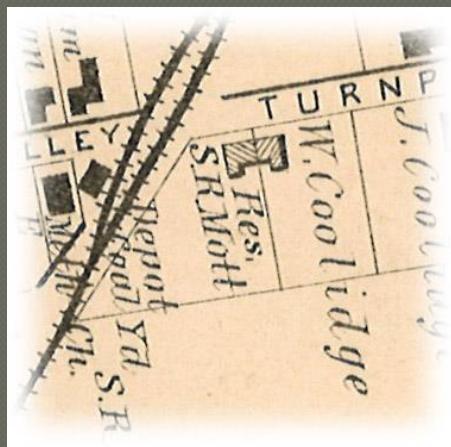
January 31, 1868 ~ Samuel R Mott has partnered with Horatio S Brown & John C Beach and together they purchase a strip of land along the Chenango Canal from Philander P Barker. The deed indicates that Mott resides in Saratoga. (Deed book 113, p 324)

April 6, 1868 ~ Mott buys Dedrick’s interest in the “distillery premises” (see above). At this time Dedrick has apparently moved to Bouckville from Saratoga and Mott is still living in Saratoga. (Deed book 114, p 220)

Mott in Bouckville

April 6, 1868 ~ Ann M Mott purchases the westerly half of the old McClure Tavern from William and Mary Coolidge. The Coolidges retain and reside in the easterly half of the premises. Note that Samuel R Mott does not appear on this deed. This may have been for business purposes. (Deed book 114, p 221)

Note also that the 1875 Beers Atlas shows the McClure Tavern split down the middle. Perhaps the only such structure drawn in this manner in the atlas.



1875 Beers Atlas

Mott in Bouckville

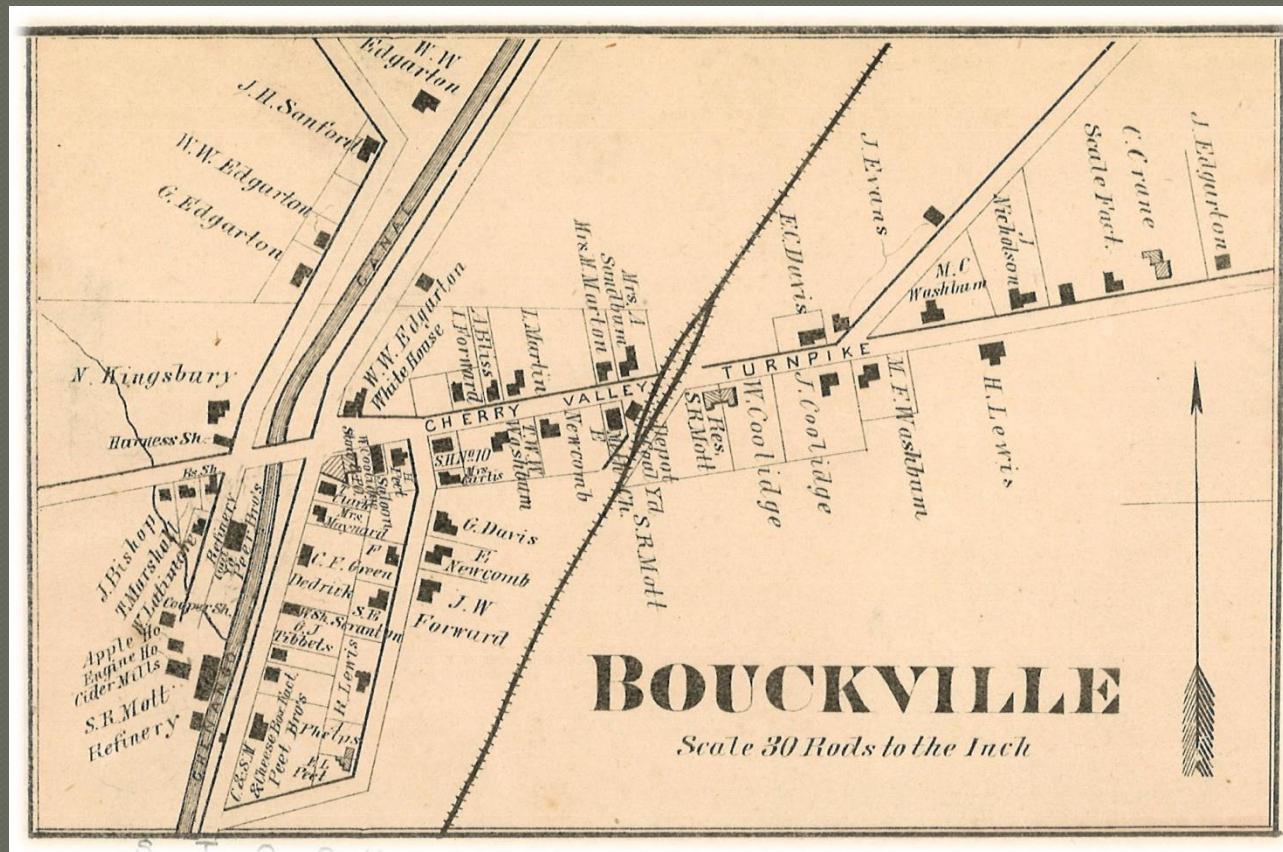
April 13, 1868 ~ SR Mott purchases a one-fourth interest in the “distillery premises” and in the “rectifier” lot adjacent to the distillery from Brown & Beach. This increases his stake in the partnership of Beach, Brown & Mott (see 1868-69 Business Directory & Deed book 114, p 318)

December 1, 1869 ~ the Utica, Clinton & Binghamton Railroad purchase a strip of land from SR and Ann Mott. The land is taken off of the west side of their house lot. A railroad station was built here and remains today as an antique shop.

Note that SR Mott is named in this deed but was not named in the original deed purchase of the house in 1868. (Deed book 131, p 356)

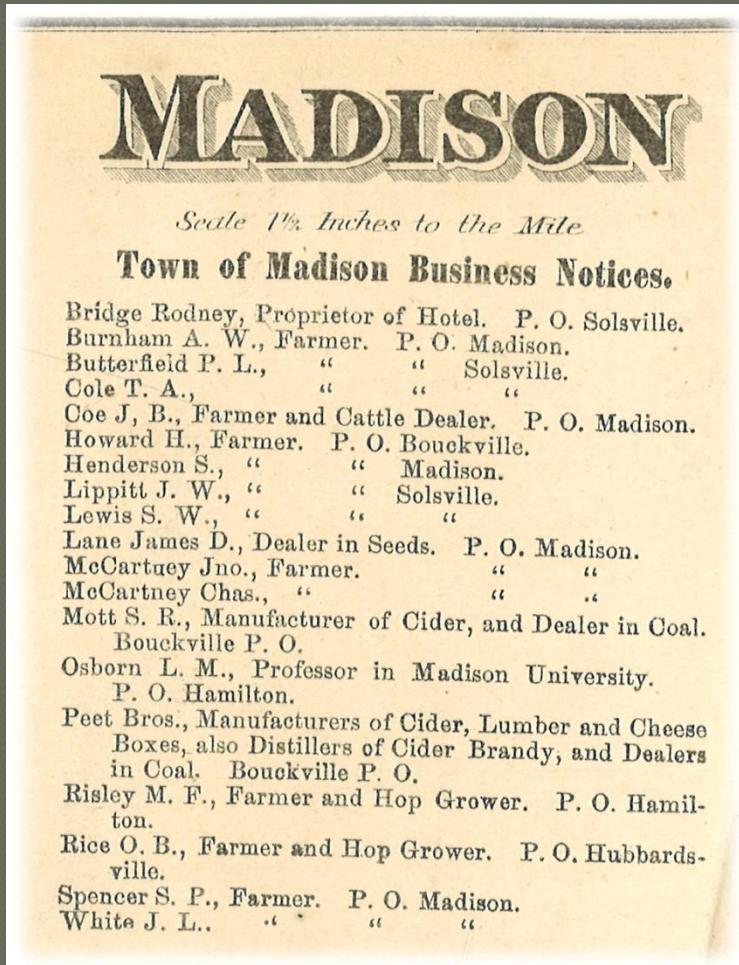
Business Expansion

July 19, 1870 ~ Mott buys out his partners Beach and Brown for \$4500. (Deed book 121, p 433)



1875 Beers Atlas

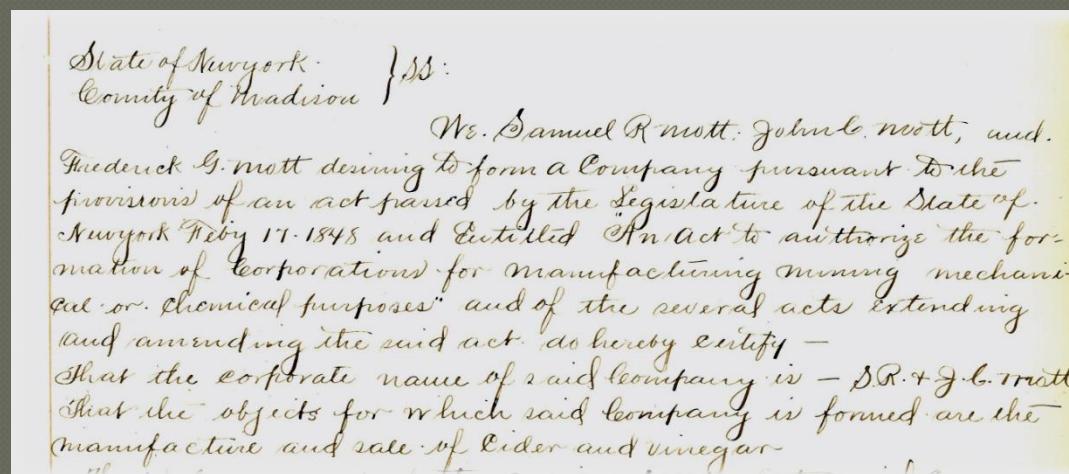
Business Expansion



Business Expansion

September 8, 1884 ~ Samuel R Mott and his sons John Coon Mott and Frederick G Mott become partners and incorporate under the name "SR & JC Mott." John Coon Mott was the owner of a successful cider business in New York City at this time. The company would be headquartered in Bouckville and business would be conducted nationally and internationally.

Incorporation of SR & JC Mott can be found in Miscellaneous Book B, pp 408-9.



SR & JC Mott

Business is Good

At a stockholders meeting in 1889 the capital stock of the corporation is increased from \$37,500 to \$100,000 and the existence of the corporation is expanded from five years to fifty years.

See Miscellaneous Book B, pp 423 & 433.

State of New York. } ss.
County of Madison
I Samuel R. Mott, do hereby certify that I am one
of the trustees of the company named "SR. & JC. Mott," a corporation
duly organized under an act passed by the Legislature of the
State of New York February 17, 1848 and entitled "An act to authorize the
formation of corporations for manufacturing, mining, mechanical
or chemical purposes" as now amended and extended.
That the capital stock of said company was fixed by its certifi-
cate of incorporation at Thirty Seven Thousand five hundred Dollars
and was divided into Seventy five shares of the par value of five
hundred Dollars each. That the said Company during its
increase its capital stock the trustees thereof did publish a
notice in the Madison County Leader, a newspaper published in
the County of Madison in the State of New York in which said
County the principal business of said Company is situated

SR Mott

Public Service

1890 ~ Samuel R Mott is elected as NY State Assemblyman

The whole number of votes given for the office of MEMBER of ASSEMBLY was	133
One Hundred & thirty.	of which
SAMUEL R. MOTT received	130
CHARLES F. NASH received	84
FORDYCE R. GAIGE received	38
	8

1903 ~ Samuel R Mott appointed Railroad Commissioner

State of New York, } ss.
MADISON COUNTY. }

I do solemnly swear, (or affirm), that I will support the Constitution of the United States, and the Constitution of the State of New York, and that I will faithfully discharge the duties of the office of Railroad Commissioner of the Town of Madison
in and for Madison County, according to the best of my ability

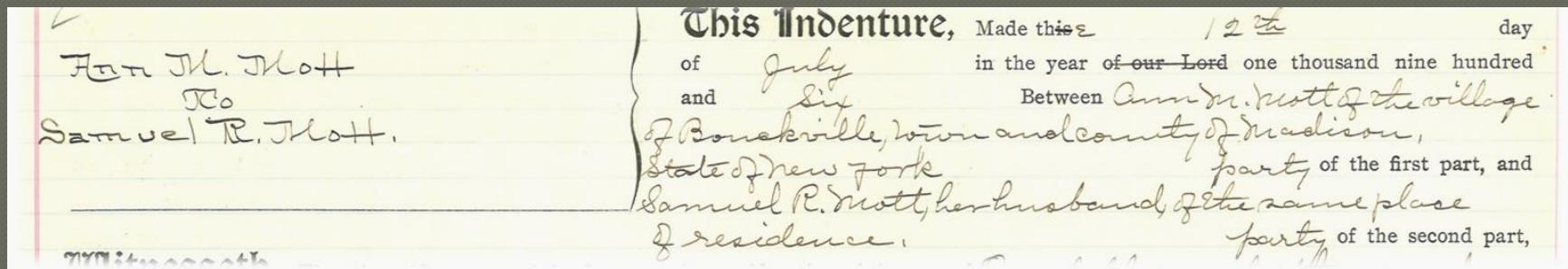
Subscribed and sworn before me, this 12th day
of May 1903 1893

Samuel R. Mott
Many Weeber Deputy Clerk of Madison County.
Filed, May 12th 1903 1893

Final Deed Transaction

1906 ~ Ann M Mott conveys to Samuel R Mott the "dwelling house formerly owned by William Coolidge and formerly the McClure Tavern." SR Mott is now sole owner of the property.

See Deed book 217, p 375



Last Will of SR Mott

Samuel R Mott died on April 24, 1915 and is buried at Woodlawn Cemetery in Hamilton.

The Last Will & Testament of SR Mott is recorded in Deed book 244, p 500. His only surviving heirs are his sons Fred G and Samuel R Jr. He bequeaths to Fred the house (the old McClure Tavern) and one half the remainder of the estate. To Samuel R Jr the other half of the estate in trust.

Afterward

- 1890 ~ Genesee Fruit Company is formed
- 1891 ~ Fire destroys several buildings at the cider mill in Bouckville
- 1902 ~ Genesee Fruit Company becomes the American Fruit Company
- 1910 ~ Fire destroys bottling works in Bouckville
- 1914 ~ The Duffy-Mott Company is formed
- 1915 ~ SR Mott dies. Mott family directly involved in the production of apple cider, vinegar and other products in Bouckville for 47 years.
- 1931 ~ Another fire this time several buildings are destroyed and this marks the end of the cider business in Bouckville.
- 1968 ~ Duffy-Mott Co sold to American Brands
- 1982 ~ American Brands sold to Cadbury-Schweppes
- Today ~ Products such as apple sauce, apple juice, and apple vinegar continue to be produced under the Mott's label

Genesee Fruit Company Buildings circa 1900

