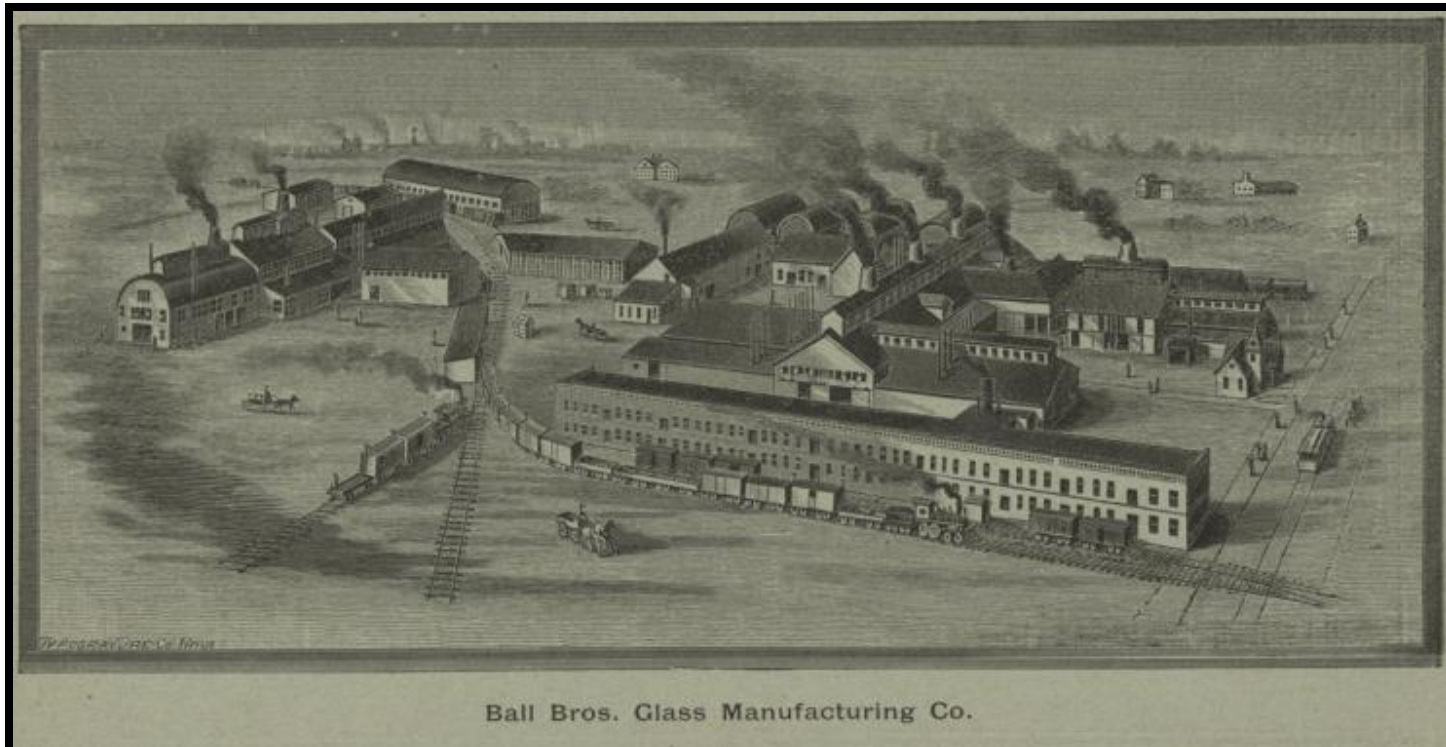
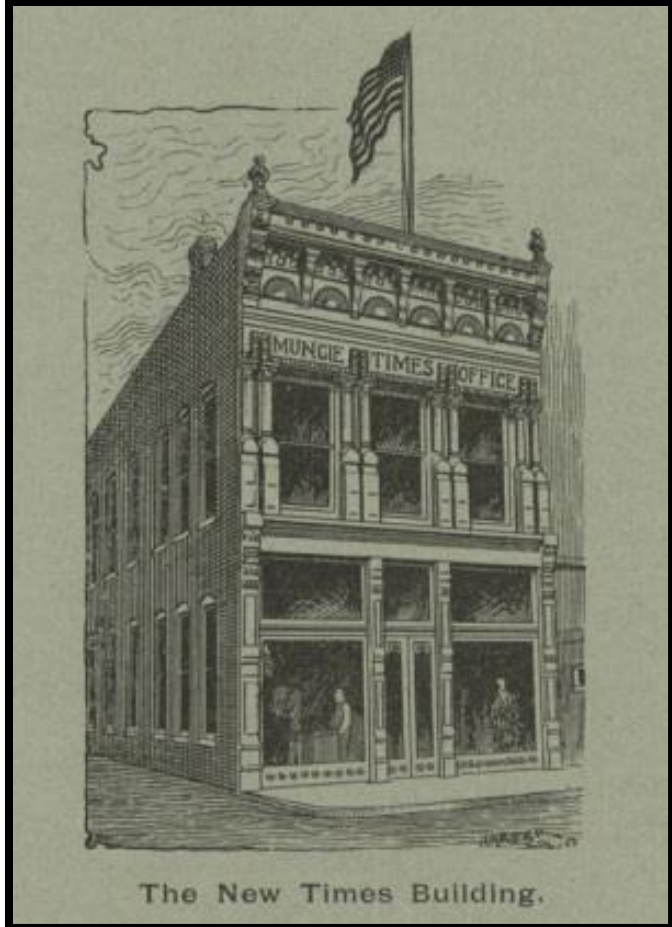


A Year in the Life of Magic City:

The Thomas Neely Diary, 1887-1888



January 1, 1887: The gas from the well No. one was brought down in pipes yesterday. And this evening it was put into Henry C. Klein's stove in the store room.

January 3, 1887: The round house of the Ft. Wayne and Cincinnati Railroad in the south part of town was burned last night and one locomotive.

May 26, 1887: There was a meeting in the Board of Trade rooms this afternoon concerning the propriety of our having street railroads, which was decided in the affirmative.

May 28, 1887: The Muncie Times issued their first number of a new daily paper today.

November 16, 1887: There are a set of Indians at the Pink giving exhibitions the past week.

January 8, 1887: The sleighing continues to be as good as it can be.

June 29, 1887: The dials for the tower clock on the court house were put in position today. The workmen are trying to have the clock running the Fourth of July.

November 22, 1887: Told Mr. Hutchings today to make me a pair of boots.

November 28, 1887: The woman suffrage convention commences tonight in the Methodist Church

January 25, 1887: The men are at work on top of the tower of the courthouse every day that is not too cold putting on the galvanized iron.

September 26, 1887: I settled for piping our house for natural gas today. It cost fifty three dollars.

September 22, 1887: This is Emancipation Day. The colored people have public speaking at the fairgrounds.

December 12, 1887: Thad came up tonight and told us Ed Burson had made an assignment of all his property. The Bank is probably broken.

December 14, 1887: This morning there was a gas explosion at the building of the oil tank line company.

February 3, 1887: The gas of the Water Works Co. is burning furiously.

March 31, 1887: There is a great talk of a boom in Muncie at this time. A great deal of property in this vicinity is changing hands.

October 1, 1887: Charley Gilmore went home to his father's today. We had nothing for him to do as we have no cow now to feed, no wood to carry in, no ashes to take out since we have gas in our stoves.

September 29, 1887: The bus came up for Jennie about 4 o'clock and took her to the depot. And the train was three hours late.

October 4, 1887: Took a general view of the new courthouse inside today. Court will be held in the new building tomorrow for the first time.

December 27, 1887: James Olm was crossing the Bee Line Railroad west of town with horse and buggy and was struck by the cars and instantly killed.

January 30, 1888: There was a bad smashup on the Bee Line this morning. Several cars mashed up, sleeper car badly burned.

February 10, 1888: A large window glass factory has located here. That is three glass factories.

April 20, 1887: Thaddeus sold his shoe factory today for 6500 dollars. He gave 5000 dollars for it about three years ago.

April 26, 1887: There is a sore place on my ankle. I got some medicine for it from Dr. Phinney.

May 11, 1887: There is or was an excursion here from Springfield and Dayton this afternoon to see the gas.

November 11, 1887: One year ago this day natural gas was first found at Muncie.

March 3, 1888: The Ball glass factory commenced making glass this week.