

CHAPTER 9 -- EARLY INDUSTRIES

Water power available from the Cold Brook Stream, the West Canada, Black Creek in Grant, Ash Creek near Wheelertown, Mill Creek in Gravesville and other streams attracted Russia's first manufacturers. Most of the brooks were spring fed, thus producing a steady year-round flow of water. Many of the products or services provided by these early workmen were no longer needed 200 years after, having been replaced by modern technology. But in the late 1800's numerous small manufacturing plants were scattered throughout the Town, especially sawmills, cheese box factories, and wagon- making shops. The average wage for women was 75 cents for a 10-hour day; men were generally paid a slightly higher wage.