

tion. A large factory and warehouse on North Canal street, owned by the company is occupied in the manufacture of parlor suites, couches and turkish rockers, covered with leather and fabrics, also odd pieces in parlor work. The trade of the company extends to many states. Since the commencement of business its volume of trade has grown steadily.

Harvey Bissell was a native of New York State, and born at Albany, January 27, 1826. He received his education in the common schools and at Hamilton college. He was employed as a clerk in his father's store until he became 22 years of age, when the family removed to Racine, Wis. Early in life he learned the trade of carpentering which he followed for a number of years; he spent two years as traveling salesman for a Cincinnati house and was for some time engaged in the lumber business in Wisconsin with his brother-in-law.

After the close of the war, in 1865, Mr. Bissell engaged in the fancy grocery and bakery business at Pithole Boro, a small village in the oil fields of Pennsylvania. Disposing of his business in 1868, he removed to Titusville, the same state, where he remained but a short time and removed to Oneonta, Otsego County, N. Y., and engaged in the same business. Here he remained until 1870, when he again disposed of his stock and after spending one year at Pittsburg, Pa., returned to Grand Rapids where he had previously spent some time, and engaged as traveling salesman with the Bissell Carpet Sweeper Co., and sold the first bill of sweepers ever purchased by Field, Leiter & Co., of Chicago.

Mrs. Lucy Bissell, whose mother was Rebecca (Newman) Hoyt, and whose father, Isaac Hoyt, was a descendant of Simon Hoyt, was born in the town of Lock in the state of New York, in 1827. Disposing of the farm in New York, they moved to Racine, Wis., in 1848, where the parents died, Lucy taking up her residence with a brother who was then keeping a hotel. This hotel was where the Bissells stopped upon their arrival at Racine, and it was here that Harvey Bissell and Lucy Hoyt first met. They were married at Milwaukee, September 2, 1855.

Mrs. Bissell is a member of the Christian Science church and a practitioner in the faith, and is the only person in Grand Rapids holding a diploma from the Science college conducted by Mrs. Eddy.

At the time of his death which occurred on Christmas eve, 1901,