

the glass factory was built in Massillon, he was brought here with other New Jersey workers.

"Glassblowers were considered artists, and very well paid. I believe he earned around \$35 a day. That was a lot of money back then, but because of the extremely hot summer temperatures, they only worked nine months a year, and were expected to save a portion of their salary for those idle months," she explained.

In their spare time, the glass blowers would make tiny empty bottles of beer, and even those of others, so they couldn't be returned to the bottlers and be refilled, Chaney said.

"It got to the point where business owners hated to see them come into their establishments. I wonder if that's the reason the bottlers started offering money for the return of their bottles".

According to Chaney, the last Massillon glass factory was destroyed by the big flood of 1913.

The 1887 city directory story also mentioned the Ancient Order of Hibernians organization, which has also disappeared from Massillon over the years. Chaney noted that "Hibernia" was the Latin word for Ireland".

"The Fraternal organization began in Ireland and was established in America in 1836 by Roman Catholic immigrants for the purpose of keeping Ireland's history and traditions alive", Chaney said.

According to Chaney, many of the Irishman were employed as coal miners during the middle 1800's and they used the Hibernian meetings as a cover to organize a union. Because of their union activity, they were denounced by priests and bishops, and threatened with excommunication.

The Ancient Order of Hibernians still exists in some cities as a fraternal and social organization.

Editors Note: There are many in existence today, eight in Ohio, with one in Akron and one in Medina.

IN 1887, Glass Blowers Prevalent in Massillon

From an old Swirl article submitted by Bill Koster

A recent Free Press story on old landmarks has brought back memories for a Massillon resident.

Rosemarie Chaney, who once wrote a series of articles about her early life in Massillon, has firsthand knowledge of the area's glass factories. Now an obsolete industry in Massillon, the once flourishing business was mentioned in an April 8, ??? (year) front page story concerning a 100 year-old Massillon City Directory.

"My mother's stepfather worked in a glass factory as a glass blower," Chaney related. "He had immigrated to New Jersey from Germany, and when