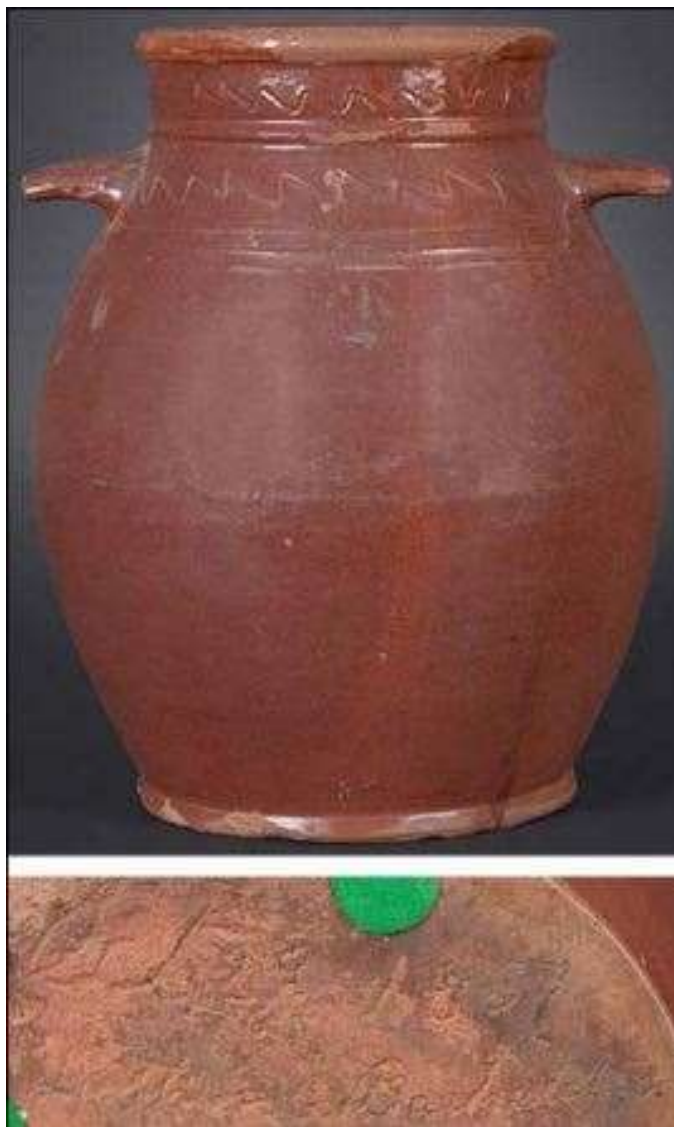


## Menasha Pottery 1851 - 1865

The Menasha Pottery manufactured pottery at the same location for about fifteen years starting in 1850/51. Carlton and Cleveland Bachelder initially made earthenware but soon after converted to stoneware using imported Ohio clay, like the Milwaukee year Stoneware Factory did. Many pieces of stoneware made at the Menasha Pottery exist today.

### Luther Bachelder

Luther Cleveland Bachelder was an eight generation American. He learned the potting trade in New Hampshire working for Peter Whitmore. He married Peter's daughter Polly Jane and then moved to the small village of Exeter Mills, Maine in 1831 to open a pottery. He operated an earthenware pottery there from 1831 to 1847. Polly Jane passed away just a year after he started his pottery on August 17,



*Figure 1 Two-handled earthenware jar with scratched wave decoration on the shoulder and rim, a red lead glaze and inscription on the bottom that reads "Oct 29 1837 / LUTHER C. BACHELDER."*

1832, leaving him with three young sons to care for – Cleveland (8), Calvin (6) and Carlton (3). Luther sent Carlton to live with a farmer named Major Eastman for five years and may have done the same with Cleveland and Calvin. The three boys learned potting by working with their father. At least one piece of pottery that Luther made while he was in Maine has survived. (Figure 1)

Around 1847 Luther (43), and his sons Cleveland (22), and Carlton (17) moved from Maine to the Wisconsin Territory. They initially lived on a farm in the town of Taycheeda on the shore of Lake Winnebago just west of the city of Fond du Lac. Calvin (21) did not accompany them. He is listed in the June 1850 Census for Penobscot, Maine.<sup>1</sup> Calvin's son Oscar was born in Menasha July 14, 1852.<sup>2</sup>

Soon after the Bachelder family arrived in Taycheeda, Carlton left the farm and took a job as a clerk. He then found a job as a traveling daguerreotype photographer for about a year.

By 1850 Luther and his sons had moved to Menasha with plans to open a pottery. Carlton purchased Lot 27 on Little Lake Butte des Morts that had clay deposits suitable for earthenware pottery.

The 1850 Menasha Census shows “C. Batchelder”<sup>3</sup> having an unspecified “Labor” job and owning \$1,000 in real estate. Cleveland is listed as having no real estate and like Carlton, reported working as a laborer. Luther is not listed in the Census. Luther passed away from unknown causes on October 28, 1850, at the age of 47. Many earthenware potters suffered from lead poisoning and had their lives shortened by working with powdered lead mixed with water. At that time, Potters hand-dipped pottery into large pots of liquid glaze.

### **The Menasha Pottery**

When the Bachelder’s migrated from Maine to Wisconsin they probably travelled by ship to the Port of Milwaukee. They may have gotten the idea for making stoneware in Wisconsin from the Milwaukee Stone Ware Factory which was making stoneware from imported Ohio clay beginning in late 1848.

In 1850 Curtis Reed was awarded a contract to build a canal in Menasha off the Fox River below the dam. The dam and canal were a boon to the tiny settlement. The hydraulic power it provided attracted several power-hungry businesses.

#### *MENASHA*

*[estimated population of 1,000 to 1,200 in 1853] Its hydraulic power is very great, and has been improved with great rapidity. There are now in operation upon it, 2 grist mills, 5 saw mills, 1 large tub and pail factory, which occupies a building 40 by 60 feet, and 3 stories high, 2 cabinet and chair manufactories, 2 sash and blind establishments, 1 large iron foundry, 1 brewery, and there is also an extensive pottery, which turns out large quantities of the best kind of ware...”<sup>4</sup>*

This dam and canal may have been an important reason that they decided to open the pottery in Menasha. Another reason was the location of their chosen site on the canal. The Fox River connects Menasha to the Great Lakes via Green Bay and to the cities of Oshkosh and Fond du Lac on Lake Winnebago. Rail did not come to Menasha until after the pottery closed. Menasha was a tiny but booming town with many farms starting up in the surrounding countryside. The availability of local clay was probably not an important factor. Clay suitable for making pottery underlies much of the state and it appears they planned to use Ohio clay to make stoneware from the outset.

Most accounts agree that the Bachelder’s started out making earthenware. “*Carlton and Cleveland B. Batchelder located here [Menasha] and commenced the construction of a kiln for burning pottery and inaugurated the extensive pottery ... They made brown stoneware of local clays with Ohio clay for a slip.*”<sup>5</sup> Soon after arriving in Menasha the Bachelder’s purchased Lot 27 on the shore of Little Lake Butte des Morts with clay suitable for making earthenware. They began making earthenware in 1850, possibly before Luther passed away in October. The first kiln was located either on Lot 27 or on the canal. It was reported that “*Three kilns were erected on Water Street, west of Tayco street, for burning the jugs and vases.*”<sup>6</sup>

On June 1, 1850, Carlton and Cleveland signed an agreement with real estate investor James Doty to purchase four lots – two for the pottery and two for a residence a couple of blocks north. Doty agreed to sell the property about a year later, on September 1, 1851, for \$1,000, provided that the brothers built the pottery and commenced making pottery by then. The agreement also required that the Bachelder’s build a residence on the other two lots and referenced a separate promissory note that was not

attached to the agreement. The agreement suggests that Doty seller-financed part of the construction costs.<sup>7</sup>

There is conflicting information about the date that the Bachelder Pottery converted from making earthenware to stoneware.<sup>8</sup> The 1889 Illustrated Atlas of Winnebago County states that the change occurred in 1859: “[Bachelder] continued in the manufacture of earthenware until 1859. From 1859 to 1866 he was engaged in the manufacture of stoneware...”<sup>9</sup> An 1854 account reports that “Messrs. C. and C. Bachelder are manufacturing, at Menasha, a very good article of ‘stone earthenware’...”<sup>10</sup> Another in 1854 states that “In one week in 1854, C & C Bachelder shipped 40,000 gallons of earthenware from the Port of Menasha.”<sup>11</sup> An 1898 source says “he [Carlton] began the manufacture of earthenware, and soon after made stoneware.”<sup>12</sup> Another source says that the change occurred “soon after 1850.”<sup>13</sup> An 1898 source says “The [Menasha] pottery made first earthenware and very shortly turned to the making of stoneware.”

There is consensus that by 1860 they were making stoneware. Just one example of earthenware survives that we know that we can attribute to the Menasha Pottery – an unsigned spittoon (Figure 2). By contrast, there are many extant pieces of salt-glazed stoneware from the Menasha Pottery, some of them stamped. The Bachelder Pottery reached maximum production in the mid-1850’s. The rarity of earthenware supports the proposition that the switch from earthenware to stoneware occurred early in the 1850’s rather than later.

The terms of the agreement to purchase the pottery lots may help explain why they initially made earthenware then quickly switched to stoneware. James Doty agreed to sell the property contingent on the Bachelder brothers completing construction of a 1.5 story 22’ x 32’ building and commencing the pottery business before September 1, 1851. They also agreed to build a house on lots 3 & 4 of Block 14 by then.<sup>14</sup> Consequently, they urgently needed to get the pottery up and running quickly. Starting out making earthenware pottery would have been faster and less complicated for them than setting up a stoneware factory. Carlton and Cleveland had experience making earthenware in Maine but not salt-glazed stoneware. They needed to import clay from Ohio and figure out the firing process which would take time. Local clay is not suitable for making stoneware.<sup>15</sup>



Figure 2 Earthenware spittoon found in a basement in Menasha. We attribute it to the Menasha Pottery ca. 1851 to 1853. The first ware they produced was from clay dug from the shores of Little Lake Butte des Morts. From a private collection.



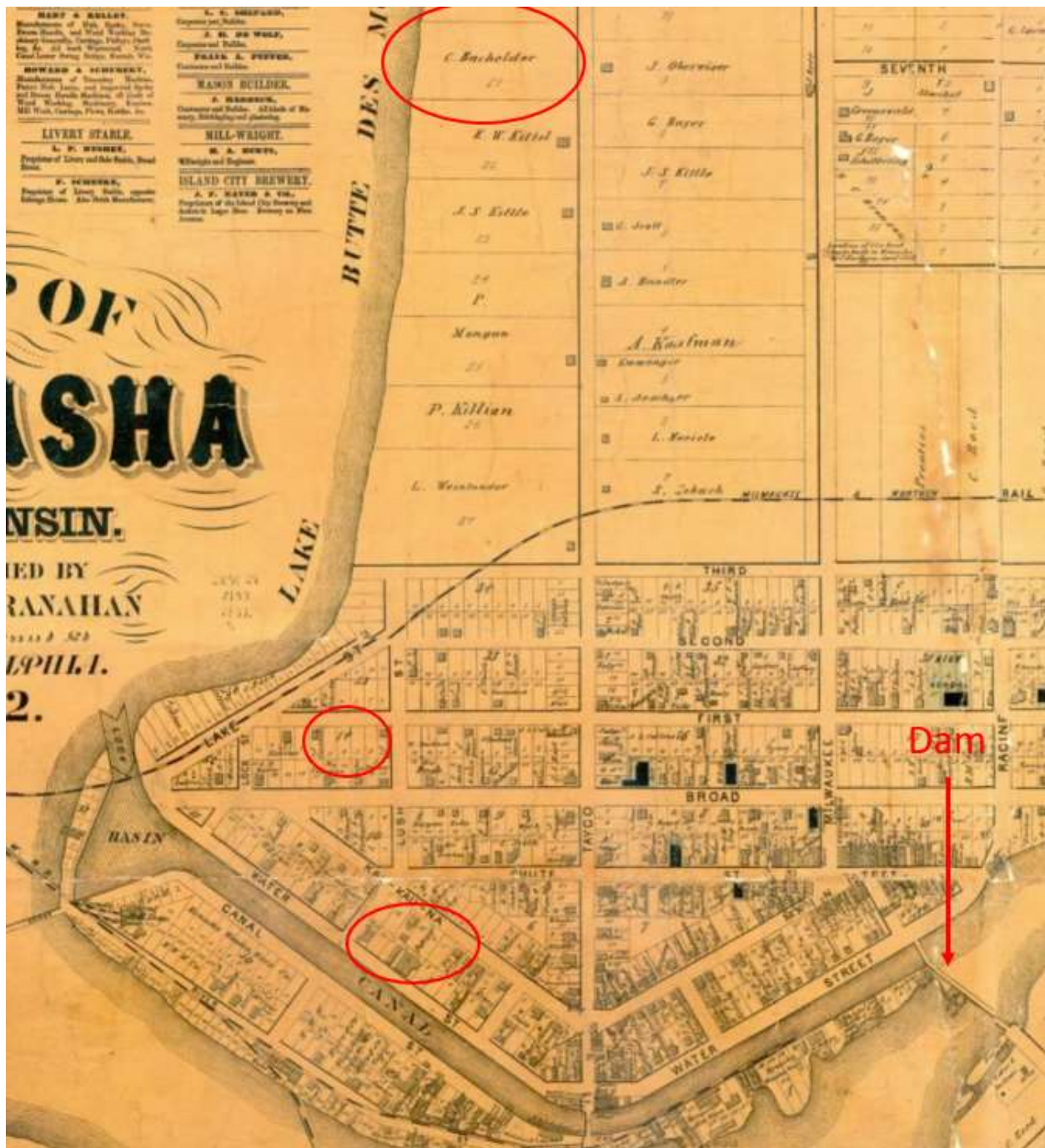


Figure 3 Bachelder bought Lot 27 on Little Lake Butte des Morts to use as a clay source. Carlton and Cleveland signed an agreement to purchase two lots on the canal for the pottery and two lots for a residence two blocks north. The dam controlled the waterflow in the canal used to grind clay.<sup>16</sup>

By the following summer they had satisfied the terms of the agreement. James Doty transferred the deeds for the properties to the Bachelder brothers on July 15<sup>th</sup>, 1851, two months ahead of the September 1<sup>st</sup> deadline.<sup>17</sup>

The Menasha Pottery produced high-quality stoneware. Many pieces of stoneware survived including butter churns, crocks, jars, jugs, cream pots, bowls, and flowerpots. Most of the two-gallon and larger pieces were decorated with artistically painted cobalt flowers. About one in four surviving pots are stamped. Bachelder potters often dipped the stamp in cobalt to enhance readability. The Bachelder's even decorated many one-gallon pots, which most Wisconsin potters did not bother doing. They undoubtedly also made smaller, undecorated, and unmarked forms as well, such as pitchers, bowls, small jugs, stove tubes, and others. All of their marked Menasha Pottery pieces have the "OHIO STONE" brand name at the top, suggesting that their original intent was to use Ohio clay exclusively. In later years they used or mixed in clay from New Jersey and other places, probably as a cost-saving measure.<sup>18</sup>

An 1854 newspaper describes the Menasha Pottery this way: *"They manufacture 800 gallons weekly, which finds a ready sale in the different portions of this State and Illinois. The article is pronounced by competent judges to be the best manufactured in the United States, and its beauty and finish excites the admiration of all who see it. They now employ some dozen men and are preparing to manufacture on a still larger scale."*<sup>19</sup> This description implies that they were making salt-glazed stoneware by then.

All three Bachelder brothers served as trustees for the Village of Menasha in the 1850's. Carlton served as Trustee for Menasha's Second Ward, and later as Treasurer. Cleveland served as Trustee of the First Ward. Calvin also served as Trustee for the Second Ward in 1857.<sup>20</sup>

Property records from the 1850's show several mortgage loans, including one by Cleveland and his wife Helen.

The Bachelder's sold pottery locally through Merchants as well as regionally, shipping goods by ship and overland. *"Pottery was sold throughout a large area, including the territory of Minnesota. It was hauled by horse and wagon and in winter by horse and sled. The pottery was shipped by boat to Oshkosh, by team to Green Bay, and by sleigh to Seymour."*<sup>21</sup>

Pottery manufacturers in Wisconsin found a ready market for their wares in the 1850's. However, there were serious financial challenges beginning in 1856 when a severe recession struck the US that lasted several years.<sup>22</sup> Several Wisconsin potteries struggled or went out of business during this period. Examples include the Milwaukee Stone Ware Factory (John Maxfield) in Milwaukee, the Baraboo pottery, the Fremont Street Pottery in Whitewater, and others. Most of the potter businesses that survived the recession had other sources of income. Farm potters redirected their efforts to farming to sustain them and others, like Charles Hermann, had other businesses like retail merchandising and other manufacturing businesses to sustain them.



*Figure 4 The Menasha Pottery used same stamp for all marked stoneware. Potters usually dipped in cobalt to enhance readability. The "Ohio Stone" brand name suggests that they planned to use only Ohio Clay exclusively. However, they later also used clay from New Jersey and possibly other sources.*



*Figure 5 Bachelder stoneware was often decoration with artistically painted flowers. They stamped less than a quarter of them.*

Winter presented other challenges for Wisconsin potters. Cold temperatures required indoor clay mixing if it was even possible, and the waterpower for mixing clay was unavailable in winter. Shipping was locked up by ice, and product demand slowed due to cold and snow. It seems likely that Menasha Pottery production stopped or was limited to fulfilling orders in hand during winter months.<sup>23</sup> That meant laying off workers in winter and rehiring in spring which created staffing challenges.

On October 27, 1859, Carlton was married to Sarah L. Phelps (30) in the village of Madely in Portage County, near Stevens Point, which is located 60 miles west of Menasha. They would later have two children who survived, Nellie (b. 1861) and Carlton P. (b. 1862).

Just a month later, on November 23, 1859, Winnebago County filed a tax deed for the pottery property for unpaid property taxes of \$3.20. George

Colburn had paid this amount on the Bachelders' behalf four years earlier, in 1855. Since the Bachelder's still had not made the past due tax payment by 1859, the County apparently had the right to auction the property to recover back taxes. The Bachelder's were seemingly not aware of the public auction, given the fact that the only bidder was Colburn. He won the \$5,000 property for \$3.20 plus auction expenses. The County transferred the deeds for the pottery property (Block 5, lots 7 and 16) to Colburn. The law at the time apparently made this highly unethical tactic perfectly legal, as long as the owner does not step forward to pay the back taxes or show up at the auction.<sup>24</sup> Despite this devastating loss, the Bachelder's continued to operate the business, presumably under some type of rental arrangement.

The 1860 Products of Industry Schedule of the Census lists the business name as the "Menasha Pottery" with the following details:<sup>25</sup>

Product: Stoneware

Capital invested: \$5,000

Material inventory:

140 tons stone clay \$1,500

Wood & other material \$130

Power: Water Power

Employees: 8 men with \$300/monthly wages [down from 12 in 1854]

Annual product: 50,000 Gals Pottery with \$6,000 value [down from \$10,000 in 1854]

The 1860 Census lists Cleveland living in Menasha's 2<sup>nd</sup> Ward with his wife Helen and their son Luther (8), his mother-in-law Lavina Soule (49), his uncle Dr. Calvin Bachelder, Charles Tolman (22), a potter from the Wautoma/Berlin area, and a servant. Cleveland reported his occupation as "*Pottery Manufacturer*", which is evidence of an ownership interest in the business. He listed real estate valued at \$1,000 and personal estate of \$300. Carlton also reported occupation of "*Stone Ware Manufacturer*" but with a much higher real estate value of \$4,900 and personal estate of \$700. Carlton was the



principal owner of the pottery and Cleveland held a minority interest. Calvin listed his occupation as “Potter” which suggests he had no ownership interest.<sup>26</sup>

It is interesting to note that Charles Tolman appears twice in the 1860 Census – once in Dakota Township near Wautoma on his father Henry’s farm, and in also Menasha. This was probably because of timing differences in census taking.<sup>27</sup> Henry and Charles list their occupations as “farmer”. Henry Tolman was an experienced potter from Worchester, Massachusetts where he had potted since 1845. Henry Tolman purchased a farm in 1855 that was located halfway between Berlin and Wautoma. It seems more than coincidental that pottery factories opened in both Berlin and Wautoma that same year, but we found no record of any connection between Henry Tolman and either pottery. Sometime between 1860 and 1863 Henry purchased one of the two potteries in Berlin, then sold it in 1863 to Cole and Hunter from Whitewater.<sup>28</sup> Some Menasha Pottery stoneware pieces have decorations that resemble those on Berlin pottery (*Figure 5*).<sup>29</sup>

In June of 1861 at the Strawberry Festival held for the Benefit of the Presbyterian Sabbath School the “Pottery Band enlivened the audience with Numerous National airs, &c., and added materially to the occasion.” The band was likely made up of Bachelder’s and their employees.



*Figure 6 The Menasha Pottery occasionally marked capacities with Roman Numerals (left), while the Berlin Potteries marked most of their earthenware that way (right).*

On January 18, 1862, Winnebago County put the Menasha Pottery property up for public auction. George Colburn was the highest bidder at \$320. He acquired Lot 7 with the pottery and kilns and Bachelder’s \$5,000 capital investment. Despite the devastating loss of the title to the property, the Bachelder brothers apparently worked out some type of rental agreement with Colburn to continue manufacturing pottery as evidenced by the fact that both Carlton and Cleveland list “potter” as their occupation when they registered for the Civil War draft in June of 1863. Neither served in the war.

1866 was probably the last season of production for the Menasha Pottery. The 1889 Illustrated Atlas of Winnebago County states that “From 1859 to 1866 he [Carlton] was engaged

*in the manufacture of stoneware...*” In 1865 Cleveland Bachelder served as executor of the estate of Dr. Calvin Bachelder when he passed away, so we know he was still in Menasha that year.<sup>30</sup> However, by 1870 he had left Menasha since he appears in the 1870 Census for San Jose, California.<sup>31</sup> An 1866 news item reported that a boat loaded with tons of pottery clay left Portage bound for a Neenah pottery. The Menasha pottery was the only pottery operating in the Neenah-Menasha area at the time.<sup>32</sup> The clay

delivery suggests that the pottery was still open in 1866, perhaps making lower-cost earthenware. Other Wisconsin potters successfully made low-cost commodity products like flowerpots after the Civil War to compete in a marketplace with declining profit margins. The 1889 Illustrated Atlas of Winnebago County states that *"From 1859 to 1866 he was engaged in the manufacture of stoneware. Since 1866 he [Carlton] has done an extensive wholesale stoneware business."*<sup>33</sup>

Colburn sold Lot 7, including the pottery and kilns, in May 1867 to Frederick Andreas so it seems unlikely that the pottery operated that year. Andreas resold it to Leonard Rohrer and John Glaser in March 1868, then Rohrer bought Glaser's interest in 1869 and began producing stoneware soon after that. The Rohrer Pottery operated until February 1873 when it was destroyed by fire.<sup>34</sup>



**Carlton**



**Cleveland**



**Calvin**

### **Carlton Bachelder**

After the pottery closed in 1866 Carlton became a stoneware wholesaler. He leveraged his relationships with merchants developed during his fifteen years of manufacturing and selling pottery. He may have had inventory of finished pottery to sell after the factory closed. Over time, he expanded the line of products he sold to include many other products as well.

In March 1874 Carlton took on Myron Fisher as a partner in the business and expanded his product line even further. They purchased property together for the business, two lots near the former pottery site and another across the canal in Neenah.<sup>35</sup>

*Bachelder & Fisher, Wholesale Dealers in all kinds of Ohio Stone, Rockingham and Yellow Ware, Flower Pots and Hanging Vases, Lime, Cement, Stucco, Sand, Mortar, Stone, Land Plaster and Mason's Building Material generally. Menasha, Wisconsin. [their advertisement includes an engraving of a crock, milk pan, decorated urn, chum, jug, and four lengths of drainage pipe]"*<sup>36</sup>

In 1880 Carlton Bachelder (51) described his business as *"Flour and Merchant"*, still in partnership with Myron Fisher. Wife Sarah L (38) kept house, daughter Nany J. (18) had become a Music Teacher, and son Carlton P. (16) worked as a Clerk.<sup>37</sup> The credit rating firm of Dunn and Bradstreet consistently rated the mercantile business in the highest terms 1874 - 1883:



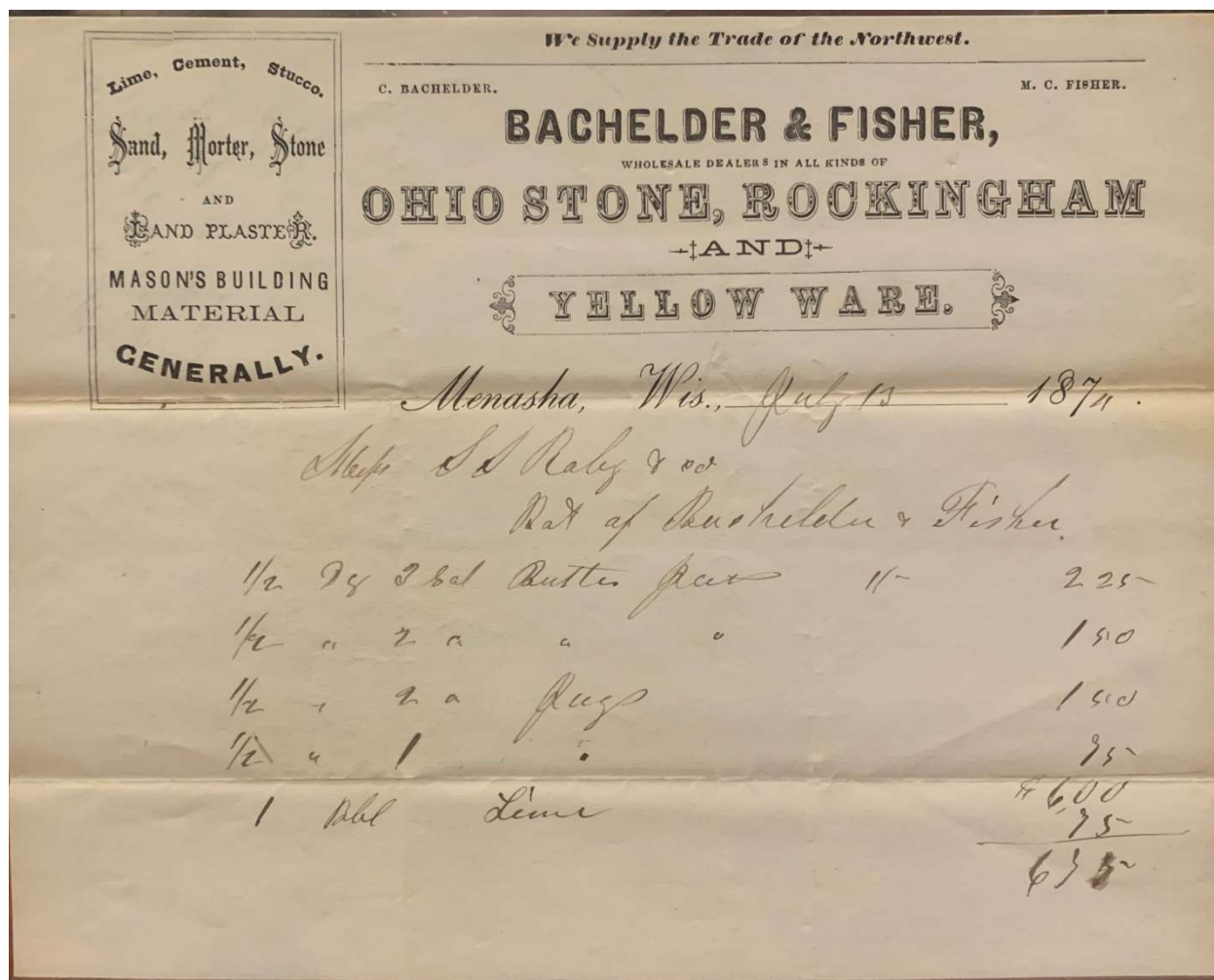


Figure 7 By 1874 Carlton took on Myron Fisher and added "Lime, Cement, Stucco, Sand, Mortar, Stone, and Land Plaster to his pottery product line.

"Carlton Batchelder [sic] & Myron Fisher, Menasha. Grain & Wholes Stoneware &c .... '74 bought out Plummer & Co. - paid 11000 and about 1/2 down. we are informed are men of good habits and credit good; ... '75 good every way ... '76 value \$8000 to \$10000 or over. Prompt pay and good credit. doing a safe business. Also run a grain elevator with a moderate business. honest and reliable; '78 ... are intelligent and industrious men of good business ability ... are very careful business men and I think meet all their bills very promptly and never have been sued that I know of. I consider them good to credit to any amount; '80 good straight reliable men. Honorable. each owns home and other real estate ... safe prompt and in good local reputé ... '81 in business here 6 or 7 years both married men aged 48 and 40. character and credit good. attentive to business and doing well and making money. Honest and prudent and careful and economical ... prompt pay and good credit ..."<sup>38</sup>

In later years Carlton engaged in the sale of wood and coal before retiring by 1900. He passed away on August 15, 1900, at the age of 73 in Menasha. "The condition of Carlton Bachelder is very grave at

*present. Mr. Bachelder is suffering from Bright's disease and it is feared that he will not live long as his strength is diminishing rapidly.”<sup>39</sup>*

### **Calvin Bachelder**

In late 1865 Calvin and his family moved to Erie, Pennsylvania where he purchased a partial interest in the Erie City Stoneware Manufactory which Thayer and Cummins started in 1860. In 1863 Cummins sold his interest to William Price. Calvin bought a partial interest from Price in 1865. A rare pottery price list from Price & Bachelder shows that they produced a full line of wares typical for potteries of the time (*Figure 7*). Calvin operated the Erie City pottery for two years before he sold out and moved to Fulton, Illinois.

On April 13, 1868 Calvin bought a one-third interest in the Fulton Stoneware Manufactory in Fulton, Illinois on the east bank of the Mississippi River that had been started by Edward Tolman in 1866. We do not know how or if Edward was related to Charles or Henry Tolman. Six months later Tolman purchased the other two-thirds and began marking pottery sometimes marked with a “BACHELDER & CO.” stamp. Calvin operated the Fulton Pottery



A two-gallon marked jug from Calvin Bachelder's pottery with an Albany slip glaze is pictured in? We don't know if Calvin made any salt-glazed or decorated pottery. An 1877 directory listed Bachelder as producing green glazed flowerpots and other ware like open lava spittoons.

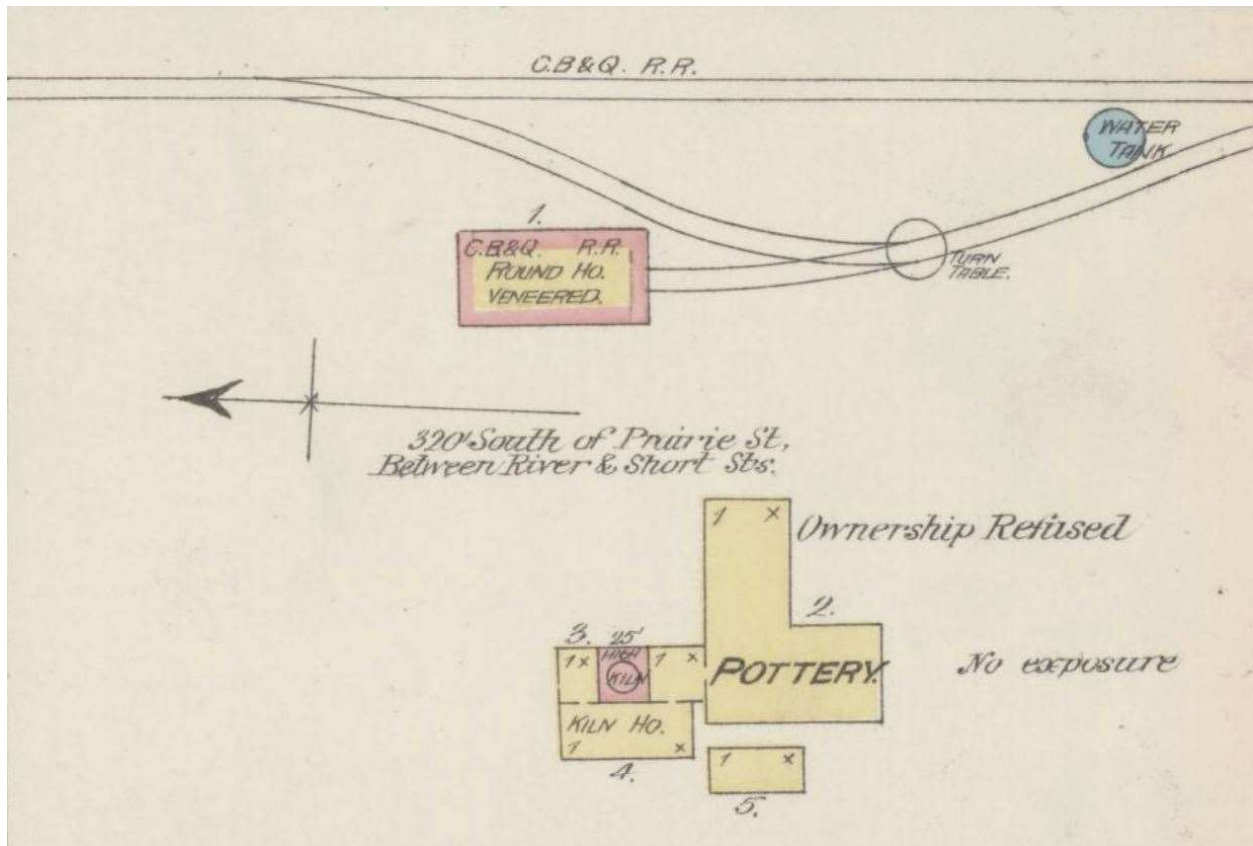


Figure 9 This 1884 Fire Insurance plat shows the Fulton Pottery facility four years after Calvin Bachelder sold it. It shows a two-story building with a single enclosed kiln with rail and river access. Calvin owed this pottery for ten years. His son Oscar worked with him there.

## Oscar Bachelder

Calvin's son Oscar learned the potting trade working with his father at the Menasha Pottery, in Erie, Pennsylvania and in Fulton Illinois. After that he worked at many potteries around the U.S. He eventually achieved national notoriety for his art pottery. "O. L. Bachelder, pottery craftsman of the old school, who was a poverty-stricken failure at 58, is now, ten years later, one of the most sought-after ceramic artists in America. He lives frugally in a simple shack in the North Carolina mountains, does his own work except for a clay-boy and a horse to turn his mixing-wheel. From the rich mineral clay of the region he shapes and bakes vases and bowls of exquisite pattern and myriad hues—rose, amber, mahogany, violet, sang de boeuf. Some of his types, known as 'Omar Khayyam vases,' command high prices from connoisseurs. No two of his pieces are alike." Calvin Bachelder's son Oscar later recalled his training under his father's watchful eye:



*"As a boy I learned the feel of clay in my hands at my father's pottery in Menasha, Wisconsin". Over the years as he continued to work with his father his responsibilities increased. "My duties were varied: mixing of clay, molding, modeling and turning of ware, glazing and burning, keeping the shop clean, selling the ware we made and taking care of the books, not to mention other work that I was called upon to do." Oscar said of his father, "He was a stern master, despising all slipshod work."* <sup>41</sup>

A detailed article about Oscar Bachelder's life is available on this web site.

<https://madefromclay.org/oscar-bachelder/>

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<sup>1</sup> 1850 Manuscript Census, Penobscot, Maine.

<sup>2</sup> Pat H. Johnston and Daisy W. Bridges, "O. L. Bachelder and his Omar Khayyam Pottery" page 9  
<https://madefromclay.org/oscar-bachelder/>

<sup>3</sup> Pat H. Johnston and Daisy W. Bridges, "O. L. Bachelder and his Omar Khayyam Pottery", Journal of Studies of the Ceramic Circle of Charlotte, Vol. V, 1984, p. 12. <https://madefromclay.org/oscar-bachelder/> The authors clarify the family's pronunciation of their last name, derived as it was from an English Puritan ancestor rather than a Germanic antecedent and Wisconsin accent: "His neighbors and friends referred to him as "Bach" (pronounced "batch.") The pronunciation, like the spelling of his name, is varied. The preference by those who know him is "Batch-elder" with the emphasis on "Batch." The Germanic "Bach" (like the composer) is used in Wisconsin." (p.20) The brothers' ambivalence toward their last name and its pronunciation can be seen in the agreement to purchase the land for the pottery and residence from Doty land, in which Cleveland spelled his name "Bachelder" and brother Carlton spelled it "Batchelder" on the same sheet of paper!

<sup>4</sup> Wisconsin Business Gazetteer of 1853, p. 251.

<sup>5</sup> History of Winnebago County. Wisconsin. 1908, by Publius Lawson p663. While potters often used clay as an ingredient in lead glazes, Ohio clay was probably not used until the Pottery converted to making stoneware.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.* p19

<sup>7</sup> Agreement, November 28, 1850, Winnebago County Register of Deeds.

<sup>8</sup> There are many sources of information about the Menasha Pottery. Facts in these sources often contradict one another or are obviously incorrect. This makes it difficult or impossible to know which is right. The date of the switch from making earthenware to stoneware is one example of an event with multiple conflicting accounts. The date the pottery closed is another.

<sup>9</sup> Illustrated Atlas of Winnebago County 1889 George Randall. From a profile of Carlton Bachelder.

<sup>10</sup> *Menasha Advocate*, Feb. 20, 1854.

<sup>11</sup> *Menasha Advocate*, May. 22, 1854. The 40,000 gallons mentioned is probably in error. In 1861 the total annual production was 50,000 gallons, so the actual number shipped that week was more likely 4,000 gallons.

<sup>12</sup> Frederick Clifton Pierce, Batchelder, Batchelder Genealogy (Chicago, 1898), 1624

<sup>13</sup> Frederick Clifton Pierce, Batchelder, Batchelder Genealogy (Chicago, 1898), p. 228.

<sup>14</sup> Agreement dated November 28, 1850, Winnebago County Register of Deeds.

<sup>15</sup> Heinrich Ries, PhD, The Clays of Wisconsin and Their Uses (State of Wisconsin, 1906), p. 40. "Stoneware clay. Stoneware is usually made of a semi-refractory clay, which burns to a vitrified body at from cone 6 to 8 and holds its form well in burning. No. 2 fire clay is found to sometimes answer the requirements. Stoneware is rarely made from one clay alone, but usually from a mixture of clays. None of the Wisconsin clays observed [by 1906] would serve for this purpose and it seems doubtful if any stoneware clays will be found in the state."

<sup>16</sup> Map of Menasha Wisconsin published by H.B. Stranahan Philadelphia 1872 courtesy of  
<https://content.wisconsinhistory.org/digital/collection/maps/id/2569/>

<sup>17</sup> Property Deed dated Nov. 15, 1851. Winnebago County Register of Deeds.

<sup>18</sup> "O. L. Bachelder and his Omar Khayyam Pottery", Pat H. Johnston and Daisy W. Bridges, Journal of Studies of the Ceramic Circle of Charlotte, Vol. V, 1984 <https://madefromclay.org/oscar-bachelder/> "Ohio stone clay was then brought in as well as clay from New Jersey."

<sup>19</sup> *Menasha Advocate*, Feb. 20, 1854.

<sup>20</sup> History of Winnebago County and the Early Northwest 1880. Published by Allen & Hicks.

<sup>21</sup> "O. L. Bachelder and his Omar Khayyam Pottery", Pat H. Johnston and Daisy W. Bridges, Journal of Studies of the Ceramic Circle of Charlotte, Vol. V, 1984, p. 12. p. 11. <https://madefromclay.org/oscar-bachelder/>

<sup>22</sup> <http://www.civilwar.com/causes/economic/148575-the-crash-of-1857.html> The panic of 1857 was a sharp U.S. recession that lasted 3 years, and the economy did not fully recover until 1861. Many banks as well as over 5,000 businesses failed. See <http://www.civilwar.com/causes/economic/148575-the-crash-of-1857.html>

<sup>23</sup> One example of a pottery that shut during winter is the Rohrer Pottery. When it burned in February 1872 it was idle. See <https://madefromclay.org/leonard-rohrer-pottery/>

<sup>24</sup> Property Deed dated Nov. 23, 1859. Winnebago County Register of Deeds. According to the Winnebago County Treasurer, while it is still possible to pay someone else's taxes and ultimately take ownership at auction it is highly

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unlikely that they can do so without the owner knowing and having the opportunity to pay it off, In 1859 the laws were less consumer protection minded.

<sup>25</sup> 1860 Manuscript Census, Winnebago County, Village of Menasha, Products of industry, p. 432.

<sup>26</sup> 1860 Manuscript Census, Winnebago County, Village of Menasha

<sup>27</sup> 1860 Manuscript Census, Dakota Township, Wautoma, Wisconsin.

<sup>28</sup> Berlin Potteries <https://madefromclay.org/berlin-potteries/>

<sup>29</sup> See <https://madefromclay.org/berlin-potteries/> for other examples of Berlin Pottery with decoration similar to those on some Bachelder stoneware.

<sup>30</sup> *Island City Times* June 27, 1865.

<sup>31</sup> 1870 Manuscript Census, San Jose, Santa Clara County, California on Ancestry.com.

<sup>32</sup> *Wisconsin State Register* (Portage Wisconsin) 1866/05/12, p. 3 *"The Portage left on Monday last with a miscellaneous cargo....One curious item of freight was 20 tons of clay from this city for a Neenah Pottery. There is a very general impression that it is very sandy around here, but we ship nothing of that sort – but of a superior article of clay, all that is required."* Portage clay made good quality earthenware but was not suitable for salt glazing.

<sup>33</sup> Illustrated atlas of Winnebago County 1889 George Randall. From a profile of Carlton Bachelder.

<sup>34</sup> Rohrer Pottery <https://madefromclay.org/leonard-rohrer-pottery/>

<sup>35</sup> Deeds from 1874 and 1875 from the Winnebago Register of Deeds.

<sup>36</sup> *Wisconsin Gazetteer* for 1876-7, p. 243 and 245.

<sup>37</sup> 1880 Manuscript Census, Winnebago County, City of Menasha, p. 38.

<sup>38</sup> *Dunn & Bradstreet Reports* for 1850 - 1880, Vol. 11, p. 672.

<sup>39</sup> *Oshkosh Daily Northwestern*, Aug. 14, 1900.

<sup>40</sup> *American Stoneware* by William C. Ketchum, Jr. p. 34

<sup>41</sup> Pat H. Johnston and Daisy W. Bridges, "O. L. Bachelder and his Omar Khayyam Pottery", *Journal of Studies of the Ceramic Circle of Charlotte*, Vol. V, 1984, p. 12 <https://madefromclay.org/oscar-bachelder/>