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Andrew J. Bates

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Short description

Andrew Jackson Bates (June 23, 1839 – February 13, 1915)^{[1][2]} was a New England industrialist and founder of the Bates Shoe Company (which is now part of Wolverine World Wide). He was credited with pioneering the wholesale footwear business.

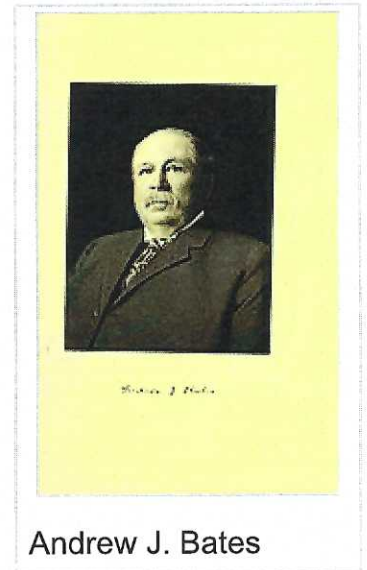
Biography

Andrew Jackson Bates was born in Webster, Massachusetts, on June 23, 1839. He was a descendant of Clement Bates,^[3] an early settler of Hingham, Massachusetts, who arrived from Lydd, England in 1635. In 1773 Jacob Bates great grandson of Clement Bates came to Webster when it was still part of Dudley, Massachusetts. Andrew J. Bates was the great grandson of Jacob, grandson of Captain Alanson Bates (1772 – 1842), and the son of Nelson Bates (1801 – 1889). He grew up on the family homestead which had at the time seen five generations of the Bates family.

Although his father was regarded as an excellent farmer, a prominent figure in 19th century Webster and a selectman during the year 1839, he was not very active in civic affairs. One explanation being that he had always preferred private to public life, honest industry to idleness or speculation.^[4] Webster economic growth was kindled by the establishment of Samuel Slater's cotton mill at the head of the Lake Chaubunagungamaug "Historical Collections, Vol.1" by Holmes Ammidown states that in 1812 "...men of prominence in the vicin38175ed80e01ity...were Elijah Pratt, Asa and Samuel Robinson, John and Alanson Bates, and several by the name of Kingsbury, all being men of considerable character and standing, maintaining good moral, social and religious society."^[4]

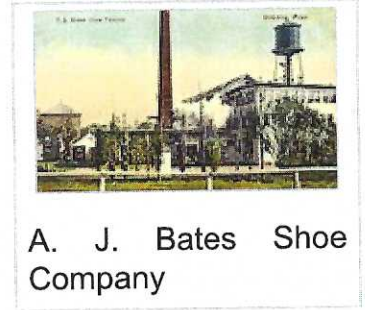
When he was eighteen he went to New York City to seek fame and fortune. After gaining experience in the footwear business, he established the A. J. Bates and Company in 1866 to merchandise shoes. In 1886 the firm began the manufacture of shoes in Webster at what was to become one of the largest shoe factories in New England.^[2] He reportedly opened the plant in Webster to control the quality of shoes that were distributed through his New York office. A believer in good value, he insisted that his shoes must wear better than higher priced shoes because he did not sell to the "carriage trade".^[4]

He was a pioneer in the wholesale shoe business^[3] and was closely identified with its development. Today Bates is part of Wolverine and is one of the largest uniform footwear companies in the world.^[5]



Andrew J. Bates

Andrew J. Bates was married in 1862 to Harriet daughter of Asa and Matilda (Kingsbury) Bartlett of Webster, MA. Harriet died in 1887 and Andrew J. Bates married a second time in 1891 to Emma Van Nostrand of Brooklyn, New York. When he died February 15, 1915, he left his wife, a son Edgar A. Bates and three daughters.^[2]



A. J. Bates Shoe Company

See also

- Wolverine World Wide

References

- [^] "Andrew Jackson Bates Sr. (1839-1915) - Find A" (<http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GSln=Bates&GSiman=1&GScid=103213&GRid=12475843&>). *Find a Grave*.
- [^] ^a ^b ^c *Andrew J. Bates Dies* (<https://timesmachine.nytimes.com/timesmachine/1915/02/14/301781142.pdf>), The New York Times, February 14, 1915. Retrieved 2012-01-06.
- [^] ^a ^b Samuel Atkins Eliot (Ed.) *Biographical History of Massachusetts* (Openlibrary.org) (<https://archive.org/stream/biographicalhist10elio#page/n7/mode/2up>), Massachusetts Biographical Society, 1918, pp 30-31. Retrieved 2012-01-06.
- [^] ^a ^b ^c CAPT. JOHN BATES "BRICK ENDS" (<http://www.oldewebster.com/history/websterdistricthospital.htm>), OldeWebster.com (Webster Historical Society). Retrieved 2012-01-06.
- [^] "Bates Shoes and Boots Company History" (https://web.archive.org/web/20140418234152/http://www.bates-shoes.com/bates_history.htm). Archived from the original (http://www.bates-shoes.com/bates_history.htm) on 2014-04-18. Retrieved 2012-01-01.

External links

- ^[1] Edgar Asa Bates, son of Andrew J. Bates, pictured in front of the original Bates family home in Webster
- ^[2] Document describing the "Fox and Hounds"
- ^[3] Photos of the building at 144 Duane Street, built in 1862 as the A.J. Bates department store
- ^[4] Photo of the former A. J. Bates Home on Thompson Road
- ^[5] NY Times article about Bates chauffeur
- ^[6] Thomas Sully, Capture of Major André, 1812, oil on canvas, 22 3/8 x 30 1/8 in. (56.8 x 77.1 cm), Worcester Art Museum, Gift of Andrew J. Bates II, 1991