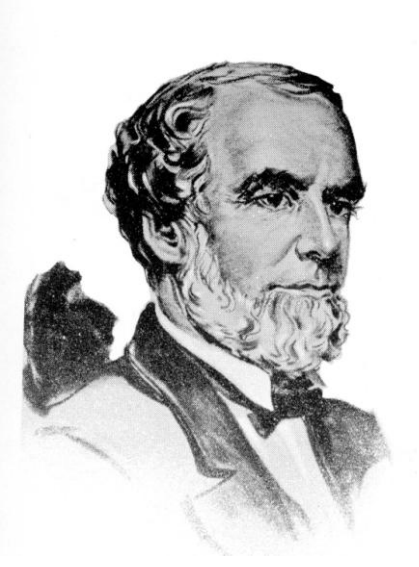


## H.B. & Edwin Smith Trust Scholarship



Henry Smith was born in Lyme, CT in 1817, and at the early age of seventeen he settled in Westfield due to the educational advantages of the area. Henry attended the Westfield Academy for a short period. He also came under the friendship and tutelage of a prominent individual, the Honorable William G. Bates. Mr. Bates was a prestigious lawyer and the founder of the Hampden County Bar Association. Henry's respect for him was so strong that he studied law as an "adopted" member of the Bates family. He also added the name Bates to his own name, thus becoming Henry Bates Smith. Henry did not continue at the Academy or in his study of law, but rather followed an active and broadminded pursuit of business in the local community.

During Henry's life, his business ventures included owning a bookstore and mercantile shop in the center of Westfield on what was known as "Shop Row." He was the postmaster of Westfield from 1849-1853, and was active in differing ventures ranging from real estate to a hobby in local orchard production. Throughout Henry's life he was an avid reader, and he was one of the promoters and founders of the Westfield Athenaeum. Although Henry was involved in a number of ventures, mostly successful, it was his purchase of the Woronoco Foundry that would establish his name in a lasting way upon the City of Westfield.

Lyman Lewis had built a large block of brick buildings on the Canal in Westfield and he leased space to Henry for a shop. With the closing of the Canal in 1846, Lyman began to lose money and his brother Thomas bought his business and the stove foundry which was then known as the Woronoco Foundry. The purchase also included a hardware store and warehouse, plus the building housing Henry's business. In the summer of 1853, with the Canal closed and the railroad depot more than a mile away on the North Side, Thomas agreed to sell the foundry and property to Henry for just \$5,000. Although Henry probably wanted it for its real estate value, it became the hub of a business that was to flourish for over a hundred years. However, Henry needed his brother Edwin's support, finances and agreement to join him in operating the foundry.

Edwin Smith, born in 1819, was the younger brother and was gainfully employed in business in Providence, RI with a local bank. He agreed to Henry's proposal and in 1854, he moved his family to Broad Street in Westfield to begin the partnership with his brother. Edwin became a well-respected member of local society, and he involved his children from an early age in the affairs of the business. Edwin and Henry began a partnership in April of 1854 called H.B. Smith and Company. They had purchased the Woronoco Foundry, also known as the Lewis Stove Works, and they began to produce and sell decorative cast iron railings and fences. By 1856, the foundry business was thriving and in 1859,



Henry began selling his railings on the road. It was probably during one of his frequent trips to Connecticut that Henry met Mr. Stephen Gold. Always looking for new items to cast in their foundry, Henry obtained (on exclusive lease) the rights to cast and sell a “steam heating apparatus” designed to heat homes which had been patented by Samuel Gold, Stephen’s brother.

The Gold boiler would prove to be the introductory point for the manufacture of central heating equipment. Later adding radiators to their line of products, the Smith brothers became well established in the manufacture and sale of steam and hot water central heating systems. Throughout their early business years, H.B. and Edwin consulted with a great number of individuals with mechanical engineering skills. It was their alliance and employment of these individuals that brought the Smith Company to a prominent position in the heating industry.

Over the years, new inventions and patents developed by these key individuals, along with the manufacture of central heating equipment, made H.B. and Edwin successful. It was the patents of inventors with strong engineering skills such as Samuel Gold, and engineers like John H. Mills, John R. Reed, Andrew Mercer, and others that brought the company to the forefront of the industry they would pioneer. They even added a testing lab to help in the design and rating of the products they cast in their foundry. H.B. Smith and Company developed a reputation for producing high quality heating equipment with reliable service for comfort to those who began to centrally heat their homes with steam and hot water.

Henry eventually relinquished his interests in the company. Edwin Smith remained with the company his entire life and through his children, he left a lasting legacy in the community. Henry’s outgoing, adventurous risk taking in business, combined with Edwin’s entrepreneurial nature and good business sense, helped to expand the business for generations to come.

Thus, the H. B. & Edwin Smith Trust was formed to continue that spirit of partnership and to keep the name and reputation of the family business alive. It is through this scholarship that the Trust wishes to support the cutting edge in engineering and in the heating, ventilating and air conditioning business. It is hopeful that the establishment of this scholarship will help to continue the development of products and inventions for the betterment of mankind, and for the training of individuals in the professional installation of such inventions.

Written by: Rev. Edwin M. Smith

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