

Factory: **Kearney Foundry and Machine Shops (Kuhn Bros)**

Location: 18<sup>th</sup> & Central

Years of operation: 1889-1895

Comments: "Harry and Frank Black were owners of the Black and Kuhn Brothers Foundry which later became the Kearney Foundry and Machine Shop, Harry Black owner."

Kuhn & Ketchem made iron railings for a new bank building  
" " " make the manhole covers used in Kearney streets

Kuhn & Bros

July 25, 1889 - Got contract to repair machinery after fire at Hecht's,

1892 - making casting for gutter crossings, words on face "Kuhn Bros. 1892"

Dec 1892 - Improved on all wood machine for removing seed from cucumbers, leaving only the

framework wood, rest iron.

Jan. 1893 - Contract for 6,000 pulley wheels for 3-horse equalizers for man in Lexington,

March 1893 - Casting "sole plates" for power house pilings,

May 4, 1893 - Made window weights (3 tons worth) for 3 new school buildings,

July 1893 - Making 75 machines for extracting cucumber seeds, one for Industrial School

Nov. 26, 1895 - Developed & patented a machine for sharpening lawn mower blades.

Henderson Black,

celery farmer, to combine with the Kuhn's to manufacture the machines and general business. Building at 18<sup>th</sup> & Central to be renovated and overhauled and \$1500 in new machinery to be added. Eldest son, Harry Black, to be business manager.

Feb 1898 – invented a lathe tool holder

Factory: **Kearney Manufacturing Co.** (foundry)

Location: E 24th & C or 24<sup>th</sup> & Ave Q; near oatmeal factory

Years of operation: 1891-3 & 1894-

May 18, 1891 - Hinge works to combine with Phillips & Gillette foundry of Fairfield.

Hinge works owners were Whitaker Bros. & Milligan. Whitaker Bros. to stay in the background with capital invested. Will probably produce 1-2 patented items. Gillette a skilled mechanic, Phillips will look after the outside business.

Aug 6, 1891 – Carload of machinery came in for the company

Aug. 11, 1891 – another carload of machinery

Sept. 10, 1891 – stopping repair work and getting set up to manufacture a steel buggy wheel

Oct. 1, 1891 – Published notice of incorporation. Officers include Whitaker Bro., Milligan, Gillett and Starkey. [Phillips not included]

Oct. 2, 1891 – should start manufacturing the wheel in about a month

Nov. 16, 1891 – delays in starting production of the Starkey wheel caused by making special machinery

Aug. 3, 1892 – Gillette working on his invention of steam engine which is small enough to fit in a water bucket, weighs 75 lbs. and generates 60 lbs of pressure.

Sept 4, 1893 – Gillette tested his rotary engine and generator in St. Joseph and it was

satisfactory

Feb 23, 1894 – Foundry to reopen after being closed for some time. A. F. Gillette is returning after about a year in St. Joseph where he perfected his 10 hp rotary engine and steam generator. The steam engine is about the size of an ordinary stove. Uses 1/3 fuel and does not need an engineer or fireman. He will do general custom work. If he and his partners can find financing they will also manufacture the engine and generator

March 19, 1894 – Now open for business

March 21, 1894 – Gillett & Phillips - ready to open for business

July 1894 – Ed Gilmore's New Wheel

Gillett & Phillips have just completed a new wagon for Ed Gilmore with which he will be able to propel himself. It is mounted on cushioned bicycle wheels with ball bearings and runs very easily. A ratchet is attached to one of the rear wheels and connects by chain to a nearly similar wheel at the top of the box and to this second wheel is attached a crank.

May 1896 – Now Gillette's Foundry & Machine Shop

Dec 1, 1896 – Gillette & Jakeway bought machinery and tools of bicycle factory which is moving to either Omaha or Denver. They are forming a partnership and leasing the old cracker factory building.

Dec. 16, 1896 – Upstairs will be devoted to bicycle work and heavier work downstairs.

Comments: to be operated by D. F. Phillips & A. F. Gillette