

Aultman-Taylor Steam Engine

Mansfield, OH 1908



Cornelius Aultman founded many companies in his life time and presided over many more. In 1859, he founded the C. Aultman & Co. of Canton, Ohio, and then, in 1867, he co-founded the Aultman & Taylor Machinery Co. of Mansfield, Ohio, with partner Henry Hobart Taylor. The two companies had no relationship other than Cornelius Aultman's involvement in the creation of both.



The growing demand for larger threshers and the fact that the Aultman Taylor vibrating thresher required steady power that was impossible to secure with horse powerforced Aultman Taylor into the steam-engine market. In 1867, they selected a portable engine they deemed the most perfect of all those that were proposed.

During the 1870s and 80s, Aultman & Taylor enjoyed rapid expansion as they began to produce steam engines in large quantities. In 1878, the Aultman & Taylor Company was one of the largest builders of threshing machinery in the country.

At the age of 19, Cornelius Aultman's daughter, Elizabeth Aultman, was a member of the original board of directors. For a woman to be a member of a board of directions in 1867 was practically unheard of. Moreover, she was the only member to serve on the board during the entire 56 years the company was in business.

The Aultman & Taylor Co. had a unique trademark and mascot, the starved rooster. As the story goes, a thresherman who was a proponent of Aultman & Taylor Co. machinery was threshing and noticed an emaciated rooster picking up grain around the separator. Being a practical joker, he caught the old rooster and shipped him to Aultman & Taylor with the caption "Fattened on an Aultman & Taylor straw stack." Shortly thereafter, they conceived the idea to use the "Starved Rooster" as their trademark.

The description of the trademark appears as follows:

"Said trademark is designed for use in connection with threshing machines, and it is intended to indicate that the straw [that] has been threshed by our machines has all the grain so thoroughly and entirely removed from it that no carnivorous animal could get a living out of it but on the contrary would soon starve, even though allowed to pick over an entire stack of straw. In order to illustrate the idea, the figure of an animal is employed, or, at least thin in flesh or poor in

health and general appearance in combination with the words 'Fattened on an Aultman-Taylor straw stack.' "

During their years of operation, Aultman & Taylor were considered one of the largest manufacturing companies in Ohio. The company had 1,045 different patterns for casting, and casted 16 tons of iron daily. Not only was the size of the company reflected through their production, but also in the amount of hired employees. Aultman & Taylor employed over 500 workers and offered a generous salary.

In 1923, the company ran into financial problems and was taken over by Advance-Rumely, which continued to sell Aultman & Taylor tractors until the stock sold out.

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