

# ROSEVILLE LEGEND

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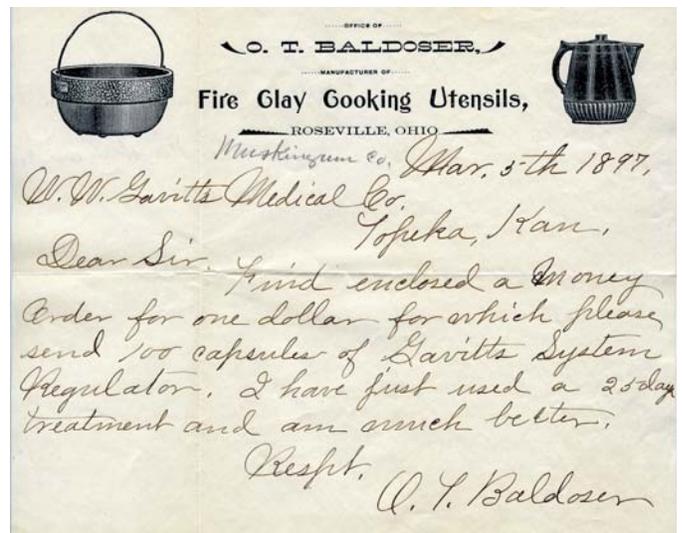
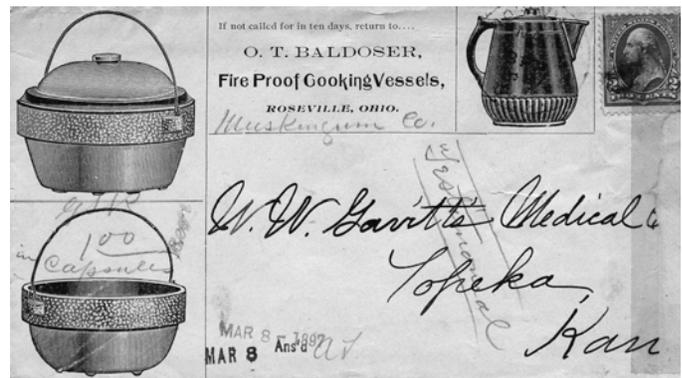
## “O. T.,” The “Other” Baldoser

By James L. Murphy

Thanks to a lucky ebay find and excellent genealogical material made available by **Marlin Harrison**, the existence of another early Roseville cooking-ware pottery can be documented. Comparatively well known are the pottery of **Baldoser and Pace**, which stood along the east side of the Pennsylvania Railroad, north of First Street, and the **Pace Brothers Pottery**, which stood along the South Fork, behind the Lutheran Church and south of the **Lyman Lowry Pottery** (See “**Pace Brothers Pottery**,” *Roseville Legend*, Spring 2001, and “**Pace Brothers & Sons Pottery**,” *Roseville Legend*, Spring 2004). The **Baldoser** involved in the **Baldoser and Pace Pottery Company** was **E.A. (Elmer Austin) Baldoser** (1869-1948). He married **Mary Blanche Pace**, daughter of **George W. Pace**, and became the business manager when the company was organized in 1904.

**E. A. Baldoser** had an older brother, **O. T. (Otis Theodore) Baldoser** (1860-1902), born at Tarlton, Fairfield County, the son of **Daniel Baldoser** and his second wife, **Harriet North**. In 1894 O. T. married **Nettie Anderson** of Hackney, Kansas. In the fall of 1895 they moved to Roseville, where, according to his obituary, O. T. “was quite successful in the cooking ware business.” He clearly was in this line of business in 1897 when he wrote the testimonial for Gavitt’s System Regulator pills. It is surmised that his pottery was on the site of the **D. Stine Pottery**, which later became **Baldoser and Pace**. His obituary also notes that his first purchase of real estate in Roseville was a small dwelling on Fourth Street and the lot adjacent to the Lutheran church. He also purchased the **Tanner Hotel** property and built thereon the fine brick livery barn on Second street and the business building facing Main street. He was ever progressive and always for the best interests of the town.

Gavitt’s pills, also know as Gavitt’s Herb Tablets, were one of more than a hundred proprietary medicines purveyed by “Dr.” William W. Gavitt’s Medical Co. of Topeka, Kansas, one of the worlds largest patent medicine manufacturers. Gavitt came to Topeka in 1868 and dealt in real estate and coal before turning to patent medicines. It is unknown whether he actually used **O. T. Baldoser’s** letter in his advertising, although “testimonial” is penciled across the envelope. (A typical advertisement read “Try Gavitt’s Herb Tablets as a laxative, stomachic, carminative, appetizer and diuretic stimulant to the kidneys. It is of value as a laxative at



O.T. Baldoser operated a pottery in Roseville making Fire Proof Cooking Vessels. He used his business stationary to address a letter to the W.W. Gavitt Medical Co. (see envelope above). The letter is dated March 3, 1897, addressed to W.W. Gavitt’s Medical Co., Topeka, Kansas. It reads “Dear Sir, Find enclosed a money order for one dollar for which please send 100 capsules of Gavitt’s System Regulator. I have first used a 25 day treatment and am much better. Respectfully O.T. Baldoser.” [Letter and envelope courtesy of James L. Murphy.]

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the first signs of a common cold." It is also unknown whether Gavitt used his nostrums himself but he did live to the age of 81, dying in 1922. The firm remained in the family until 1967.

Sadly, **O. T. Baldoser's** health did not improve in the long term, since “herb tablets” were a poor defense against tuberculosis.

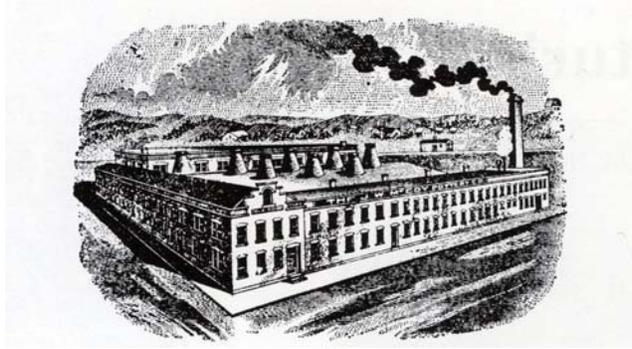
His obituary tells the story:

*“The deceased's health began to fail more than a year ago and on January 12, 1901, left for other climates in the hope of recuperating, going to Hot Springs, Arkansas. he then visited in turn Southern Kansas, Indian Territory and finally Roswell, New Mexico, where the grim reaper overtook him and his spirit winged its flight. the end came suddenly and rather unexpectedly. His physician having visited him Thursday evening and pronounced his condition improved but the end came suddenly shortly after his faithful wife had administered medicine. All that loving hands could do was one but to no avail. The wife who has been his constant companion is heart broken. Her devotion to her suffering husband was her one aim and in the sad hour of her bereavement her grief is most poignant.*

*The remains were taken to Hackney, Kansas, the home of Mrs. Baldoser, where interment took place Sunday afternoon.”*

We are left with O. T.'s pathetic testimonial to W. W. Gavitt's capsules and the ephemeral evidence that he once produced cooking ware in Roseville. No examples similar to the cooking pots illustrated on his stationery are known but the coffee pot is very similar to the one later produced by the **Pace Brothers Pottery** (*Roseville Legend*, Spring, 2001). It seems reasonable to assume that **O. T. Baldoser's** pottery was a predecessor to **Baldoser and Pace**. Although John Ramsay's *American Potters and Pottery* claims that “**Balderson and Pace**” of Roseville began c.1875, he has probably confused **Baldoser and Pace** with the earlier endeavors of **George Pace** and family.

## J.W. McCoy Pottery Company Names New General Manager



The J. W. McCoy Pottery Works, Roseville, Ohio is mentioned in the 1909 edition of *The Book of Perry County, An Historic Industrial Portfolio*.

ROSEVILLE, OH—**George S Brush** became a stockholder of the J.W. McCoy Pottery Company according to the January 14, 1909 meeting minutes. He soon thereafter became the Secretary of the Corporation and General Manager of the company. His initial stock purchase was ten shares.

The following article appeared in *The Book of Perry County, An Historic Industrial Portfolio*; published by The New Lexington Herald, P. M. Cullinan, Editor and Proprietor, 1909.

### One of Perry County's Largest Industries. View of the Great Plant at Roseville.

This company is one of the mammoth clay enterprises for which Perry County is so famous, and is, no doubt, one of the largest of its kind in Perry County. This large plant is in Roseville, just over the Muskingum County line, and is, therefore, a Perry County industry. A variety of fancy, decorated and colored ware are made such as Mat-Green-Loy-Nel-Art, glazed and utility ware, vases, jardinières, pedestals, umbrella receivers, cuspidors, cooking wares, jugs, fancy and high-colored flower pots, mixing bowls, combinels, stewing kettles, baking pans, and toilet ware. The trade is an immense one. The goods are shipped to all parts of the United States, and the plant is busy the year round. The following well-known business men comprise the officers: **W. R. Baker**, president; **J. W. McCoy**, vice president; **George H. Stewart**, treasurer; **George S. Brush**, secretary and general manager.

The directors are **W. R. Baker**, **J. W. McCoy**, **George H. Stewart**, **T. L. Morehead** and **G. S. Brush**.

All the above are men of experience, whose taste and ability have enabled them to produce as fine ware as is made in the United States, and to conduct one of the largest plants in our county.