

**JOHN TUGBY (1797 - 1877) WAS A SPAR  
ORNAMENT MANUFACTURER AND LANDLORD  
AT THE NEW INN, PEGGS GREEN for 20 YEARS**

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**HIS TWO SONS THOMAS & WILLIAM BECAME  
PIONEERS OF NIAGARA FALLS**

**My Story Begins at the 'New Inn',  
Peggs Green c.1841**  
(A recent photograph of the New Inn)

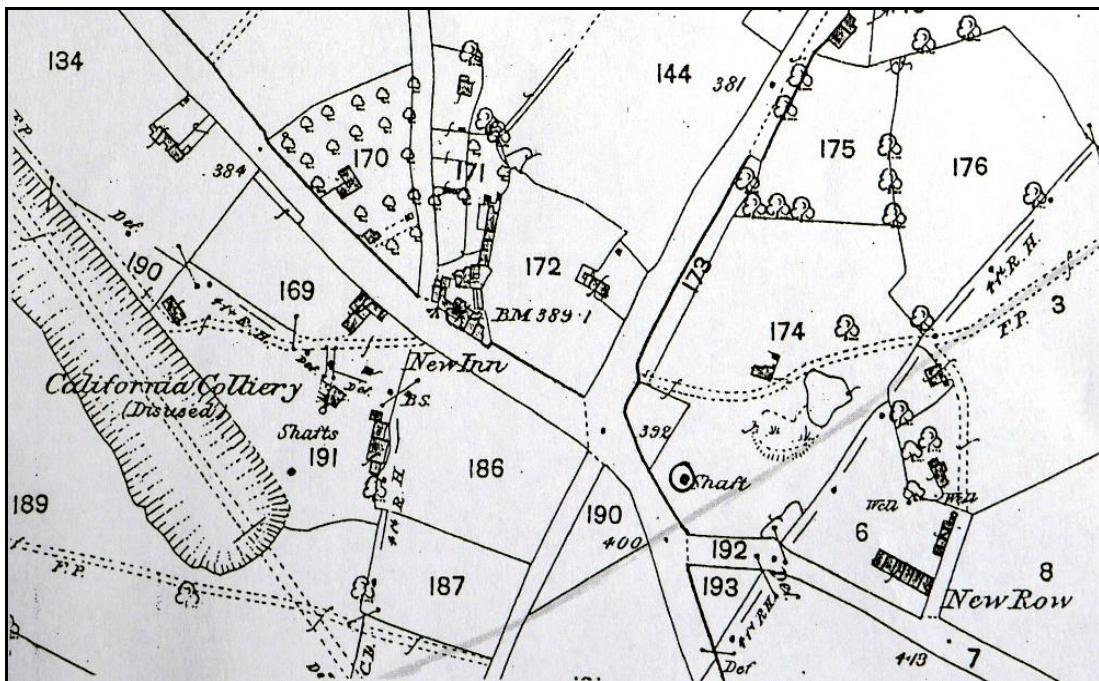


**And ends at Niagara Falls**



**TUGBY'S MAMMOTH BAZAAR. EAST END GOAT ISLAND BRIDGE.**

**BY SAMUEL T STEWART - SEPTEMBER 2025**



EXTRACT FROM THE 1881 SURVEYED / 1885 PUBLISHED O/S MAP  
SHOWING THE LOCATION OF THE NEW INN, WHICH AT THAT TIME WAS  
OPPOSITE THE OLD CALIFORNIA COLLIERY AND BRICKWORKS SITE  
AND ADJACENT TO CLAY LANE

**ESSENTIAL COMPLIMENTARY READING WHICH CAN BE FOUND ON  
THE AUTHOR'S WEBSITE [samueltstewart.com](http://samueltstewart.com) UNDER SUBSECTION  
'OTHER INDUSTRIES' AND IS FREE TO DOWNLOAD AND READ.**

**'Over 70 years of Spar Ornament / Bauble Making in the Local Area'**

© Samuel T Stewart - August 2025

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## JOHN TUGBY AND HIS FAMILY

John Rugby, was born in Coleorton in 1797 according to the 1851 census for Peggs Green. He was the son of John and Sarah Rugby and was christened on 4th Jan 1798. This appears to have been a double christening with his sister Sarah aged 5.

His first marriage was to Elizabeth Potter from the district of St. Mary's, Nottingham in 1818, and they are recorded as having had a total of seven children together. Elizabeth died on April 26th 1870 and is buried in Griffydam Wesleyan Methodist Graveyard, along with their 2nd, 3rd & 4th daughters all in separate graves:-



Elizabeth was buried next to their 4th daughter Sarah who died on May 13th 1859 aged 19.

A short distance away are two separate graves for their 2nd and 3rd daughters Ann and Catherine Stinson Rugby. Ann, the 2nd daughter, died on Feb 24th 1850 aged 18, and Catherine died on July 20th aged 20. Unfortunately, since the author and his wife carried out the audit of the graveyard both of their graves which were side by side have fallen over (fortunately face up) and become overgrown as many other

historically important grave stones now have. These have been uncovered by the author and are recorded in the following photographs



## CATHERINE'S GRAVESTONE



## ANNE'S GRAVESTONE

John Rugby remarried 14 months after his first wife Elizabeth's death to a widow (with one daughter) named Mary Ann Hull on the 26th June 1871 in Derby. Mary Ann was a local bonnet maker in 1851, who in 1852 had married John Walton Hull, a cabinet maker from Castle Donington, but the 1861 census records her back living with her family. Mary Ann was the daughter of John Griffin and Susannah Jesson, John Griffin being the miller at Thringstone Smock Mill which is now located in Swannington and known as Hough Mill. John Rugby's occupation was given as a farmer at the time.

According to Swannington Heritage, John Tugby died in Thringstone in 1877 and he included in his will a piece of land 1,100 square yards with a frontage of 43 yards adjoining the Ashby to Loughborough turnpike road in his second wife's Mary's inheritance. Further research is required to establish where John Tugby was buried.

John Rugby became the landlord of the New Inn, Pegg's Green pre 1841, although strangely, neither he nor the Inn is mentioned in the 1841 census which was taken in June of that year. However, he does feature in the 1841 Electoral Register as being at the New Inn. It is thought that he took over the license of the New Inn from a Robert Cox.

Baptism records for St. George's Church, Swannington, show that in 1832 John Rugby was a Hawker, **and in 1840 a Spar worker**.

LICENSEE SURNAME	LICENSEE FORNAME	YEAR	OWNER / LEASHOLDER
KINSEY Surety Robert Cox	SAMUEL -	1826 Surety	
COX Surety Thomas Malpas	ROBERT -	Mid 1826 -1827 No records available between 1827 and 1841 but it is likely that Robert Cox could have been the licensee till John Tugby took over pre 1841	
TUGBY	JOHN	Pre 1841 – MID 1861	JOHN TUGBY 1841 TO 1861
COX	THOMAS	MID 1861 – MID 1887	THOMAS COX FROM 1872 TO MID 1889
JACKSON	HENRY	MID 1887 – MID 1891	
COX	THOMAS	MID 1892 TO MID 1893	OFFILER'S BREWERY MID 1890 TO 1935
PAGE	FREDERICK	MID 1893 TO MID 1896	
MORLEY	JOSEPH	MID 1897 TO FEB 1925	
MORLEY	WILLIAM	FEB 1926 TO FEB 1935	

**Victualler's / Licensee's of the New Inn, Pegg's Green up to 1935 based on  
Ashby de la Zouch licensing records -  
Years may vary slightly from those given**

The following newspaper article further confirms, that by October 1841, in addition to selling beer, John Tugby had established a manufacturing spar ornaments business at the New Inn. As he is referred to as the proprietor, presumably he owned the premises.

Either no offers for the Inn were made, or it failed to reach its reserve price or John Tugby changed his mind about selling the property, as he is recorded in the Ashby licensing records as being the licensee through to mid 1861 when Thomas Cox took over the license. At one time, Clay Lane, was referred to as Cox's Lane.

**Transcribed from the Leicester Journal – October 8<sup>th</sup> 1841**

**TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION BY MR.CHUBB**

*On the premises, on Tuesday, the 28<sup>th</sup> day of October, 1841, at five o'clock in the afternoon, subject to Conditions to be then produced, and in one or more Lot or Lots, as may be agreed upon at the time of sale, all that well-established PUBLIC HOUSE, called "The New Inn", with good stabling, Workshops, Out buildings, Garden, Orchard, and Appurtenances adjoining the Melbourne Turnpike Road, near to Pegg's Green Colliery, and in the occupation of the Proprietor, Mr. John Tugby.*

*Also two comfortable COTTAGES, adjoining to the said Inn, with gardens thereto, in the occupation of William Barkby and Francis Barkby. And a close of*

excellent LAND, containing 1a. 1r. 17p. or thereabouts, lying on the opposite side of the road to the said Inn, and in front thereof.

The above premises are situate in the Township of Thringstone, and are in good repair. The Inn is admirably situated for business, owing to its being in the middle of a populous and thriving neighbourhood, and to its contiguity to the colliery, and has a good trade connected with it. **The workshops are now used in the manufacture of Spar Ornaments**, and are adapted for occupation as Workshops, or, at a trifling expense, might be converted into cottages, for which tenants are readily found at good rents.

For further information, application to be made to Mr. Tugby, on the premises or to Messrs. Fisher and Sherwin, Solicitors, Ashby de la Zouch.

We know that John Tugby had established a substantial spar ornament business at the New Inn by 1851 as it is recorded in the 1851 census, that John Tugby (54), a Spar manufacturer employed five men. John Tugby's son Thomas was living at home and working as a "Hawker" so was likely to have been selling his father's wares, around the country.

Four of John and Elizabeth's children, Thomas (25), Catherine (15), Sarah (11) and William (8) are identified in the 1851 census, all given as being born in Thringstone, plus they have a house servant Ann Phillips (aged 15) living with them who was also born in Thringstone. Catherine and Sarah's deaths / burials in Griffydam Wesleyan Methodist Chapel graveyard are recorded earlier. Their second daughter Anne had died in 1850 and presumably their first daughter had either died or left home by the 1851 census and we have no record of her name.

**NOTE:-**

Apparently, when a ditch was excavated on Clay Lane opposite the New Inn, large quantities of alabaster spa off cuts were found, which had obviously come from John Tugby's spar ornament workshop opposite. Unfortunately, none of these were saved.

First Parish or Township of		Ecclesiastical District of		City or Borough of		Town of		Village of		
No.	Name of Street, Place, or Road, and Name or No. of House	Name and Surname of each Person who abode in the house, on the Night of the 30th March, 1851		Relation to Head of Family	Condition	Age of		Rank, Profession, or Occupation	Where Born	Where Brought up
		Male	Female			Male	Female			
1.	Mr Tugby Green	John Tugby		Head	W	54		Spar Manufacturer / 5 men	Execution Colliery	
		Elizabeth	W	Wife	M	51		Hawker	Nottingham St. Mary's	
		Thomas	F	Son	M	23		Scholar	Leicestershire Thringstone	
		Catherine	F	Son	M	13		Scholar	F	F
		Sarah	F	Son	M	11		Scholar	F	F
		William	F	Son	M	8		Scholar	F	F
		Ann Phillips	W	M	M	15		House Serv	F	F

**EXTRACT FROM PEGGS GREEN 1851 CENSUS**

Continued over page

The newspaper article below confirms John Rugby was still operating his Spar manufacturing business at the New Inn in 1859:-

**Transcribed from the Leicester Mercury - January 29th 1859 :-**

**Pegg's Green, Coleorton ??**

**(Peggs Green was in the parish of Thringstone from 1807 and was not transferred into the parish of Coleorton till 1936**

On Monday evening, January 17<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Rugby, Spar Manufacturer, gave his usual treat to his workmen of a good supper.

***This indicates a sizeable business being run by John Rugby. Presumably the celebrations took place at the New Inn.***

By June 1861, John Rugby had decided to put the New Inn up for auction (see below). It is assumed that he had closed his Spar manufacturing business by this time, and there is a suggestion that he moved to what became known as Rugby's Lane, in which his name is immortalised, which is located a few yards to the south east of the New Inn on the opposite side of the former Hinckley to Melbourne turnpike road to the New Inn, and that he carried on Spar manufacturing there for a period, **as in the 1863 History, Gazetteer & Directory of Leicestershire & Rutland, he is still listed as being a Spar manufacturer.** The licensing records show that Thomas Cox took over the license of the New Inn mid 1861.

**Transcribed from the Loughborough Monitor - Thursday 06 June 1861.**

**THE NEW INN PEGG'S GREEN  
TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION**

**BY MR. G. ORCHARD  
ON THE 11TH DAY OF JUNE, 1861, ON THE PREMISES, THE NEW INN.**

**THE USEFUL HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE**

Comprising Mahogany Sofa, Suit of Mahogany Dining Tables, 8 Day Clock, French and Other Bedsteads, Feather Beds, Chairs, Tables, Dairy Utensils, Implements, GILT and PIGS, and other effects of Mr. Rugby, **who is declining Innkeeping**

Sale to commence at 11 o'clock

Catalogues may be had at the place of the office of the Auctioneers (Ashby-de-la-Zouch) or at the place of sale

The fact that dairy utensils were included in the above sale, suggests that John Rugby would have kept his cows on the 1a. 1r. 17p. close of land opposite the New Inn, referred to on page 5.

## EXAMPLES OF SPAR ORNAMENTS OF THE TYPE WHICH WOULD HAVE BEEN MADE BY JOHN TUGBY AND HIS WORKERS AT THE NEW INN



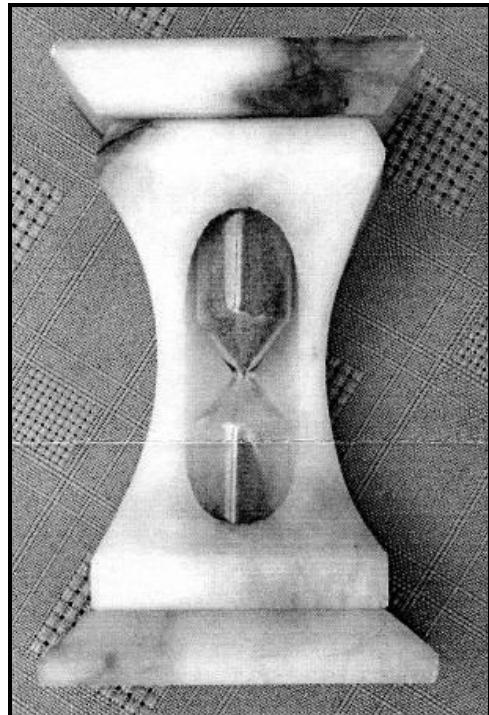
Castellated Watch Stand



Watch Stand



Pair of Candlesticks



Egg Timer

## **JOHN TUGBY'S SONS - THOMAS & WILLIAM PIONEERS OF NIAGARA FALLS**

**The following information has been taken from various fragmented research information found on the internet, which the author has attempted to put into a time-line format, to provide some continuity to the story. This publication of course is the author's interpretation of events.**

Thomas Tugby, the son of John and Elizabeth Tugby, was born in Thringstone, Leicestershire, England in 1826. He emigrated to the United States from Peggs Green and arrived at Niagara Falls, c.1852 with some lofty business ideas it seems.

Thomas Tugby established his first souvenir business in Niagara Falls in 1852, when he purchased the existing 'Indian Nations Indian Store' shown in the following photograph.



Thomas married Jane (aka Jennie Stinson 1833-1906) at Niagara Falls and died there in 1911, aged 85. His daughter Lorena Florence and her husband, Mr. A. M. Taylor who lived in Florida were present at his death. Thomas suffered from poor health in his latter years and spent the winters in Florida, leaving the management of his businesses in the hands of his younger brother William, who joined him in Niagara Falls at a later date. William was born in Thringstone in 1843 and was 17 years younger than Thomas. There is some confusion in alternative records of the date which William joined his brother Thomas, but the author has decided to use the

'Latter Day Saints New York Passenger Lists Apr 17th, 1871 to May 4th 1871' which give the following details. He is described on the original list as a Merchant. The only questionable issue is that William married Eva Roche in Niagara Falls on the 9th of May 1871. William died at Niagara Falls in 1923 at the age of 80

Name	William Tugby
Sex	Male
Age	28
Birth Year (Estimated)	1843
Birthplace	England
Nationality	England
Event Type	Immigration
Event Date	1871
Event Place	New York County, New York, United States
Event Place (Original)	New York City, New York, United States
Affiliate Film Number	341
Affiliate Publication Number	M237
Affiliate Publication Title	Passenger Lists of vessels arriving at New York, 1820-1897
Ship Name	Iowa

From the 'Latter Day Saints' New York Passenger Lists records  
Apr 17th, 1871 to May 4th 1871'

Julia	✓	17	4	Spain	"	"
Amelia	✓	16	4	Child	"	"
Rowland	✓	12	74	"	"	"
Clarks	✓	11	74	"	"	"
Caroline	✓	10	74	"	"	"
Horace	✓	8	74	"	"	"
Gardenia	✓	4	74	"	7-4	"
William Tugby		38	74	British	12-3	"

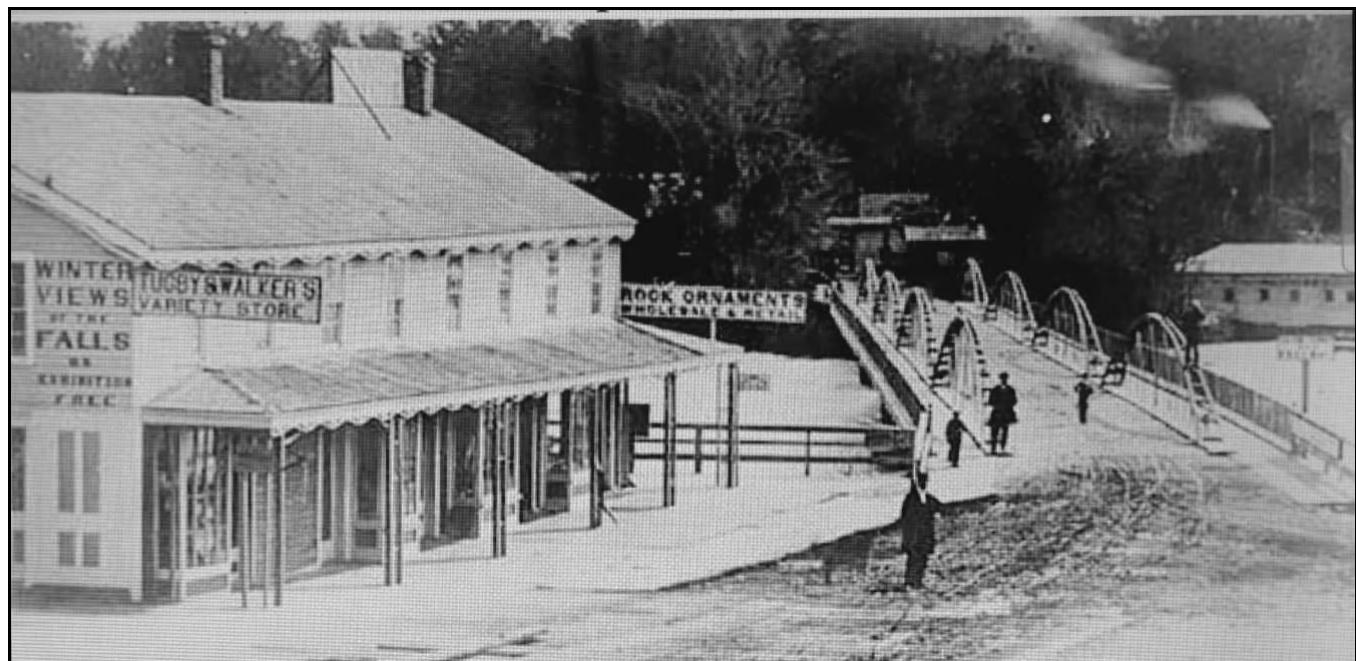
#### Extract from original passenger lists

The next building to the Six Nations Indian Store in the photograph on page 9, is part of the Cataract Hotel complex which was one of the two largest and opulent hotels in Niagara Falls, first built in 1825 but which was destroyed by fire 125 years later in 1945. By 1845, the Cataract House was a five-story hotel complete with balconies that overlooked the rapids. Guests enjoyed luxurious hotel rooms, large dining halls,

a ballroom, and other amenities. Visitors from the United States and all over the world stayed at the Cataract House, including businessmen, tourists, political leaders, royalty, and nobility, including King Edward VII (when he was the Prince of Wales), and King George V in 1939. The Cataract Hotel employed an entirely African-American wait staff, who helped many enslaved people to freedom in Canada. White families would bring enslaved African Americans with them on their vacations to view the Natural Wonder of Niagara Falls. Black hotel staff would privately engage the enslaved people and offer to take them to freedom in Canada, if they could be ready quickly. Those who chose the daring escape would be given the route from a side door, along just a few city blocks, to a steep, slippery staircase down to the gorge below the falls. There they met the rowboat that would ferry them across the treacherous gorge to safety on the Canadian side. This system, supported by all the Black staff and enabled by the white management, operated from 1825 until 1865.

**The Cataract Hotel was also the first stop on the Niagara underground railway and clearly it showed some business acumen on Thomas Tugby's part to establish his souvenir store in this advantageous location.**

The first of the businesses Thomas Tugby established in Niagara Falls, must have been a financial success, as it led to him building, presumably in partnership with someone named Walker, a substantially extended store on the same site which was named 'Tugby & Walker's Variety Store', which was reputedly opened in 1854. This was in a very advantageous place on Bridge Street, adjacent to the foot bridge over to 'Goat Island' and the American rapids. The author has found no further mention of the name Walker, except to that on the sign outside the store. The photograph below shows the footbridge over to 'Goat Island'.



It seems appropriate at this juncture to include an extract from a paper entitled 'A Lost Leicestershire Industry' (Spar Manufacturing) by the Leicestershire historian J. R. Daniel of Whitwick, Leicestershire, England. This is interesting in that it refers to Spar Ornaments being exported to the USA and Niagara, which almost certainly would have been imported by Thomas Tugby in the early years of his business venture.

*.....there was also an overseas market for Spar Ornaments, particularly to 'Niagara Falls' where the views were much in demand on these ornaments. Apparently, several crates were exported annually to the USA, and every spring a 'hogshead of baubles' were despatched from Whitwick to the Niagara Falls.*

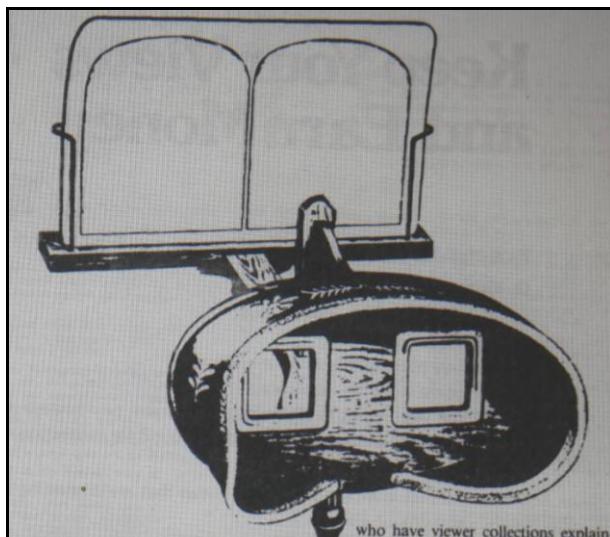
He also stated in his paper:-

*In 1846, a John Tugby (c.1797-c.1877) was the landlord of the New Inn, Pegg's Green, near Whitwick. In 1855, he was selling beer and making baubles. By 1863, he was a Spar Ornament manufacturer only, and the New Inn was in other hands. His son, Thomas Tugby (born 1826) emigrated to the USA at some stage in the 1850s, and was running Tugby & Walker's souvenir shop at Niagara falls by 1859. The shop continued to sell souvenirs for many years : in 1882, it was known as Tugby's Mammoth Bazaar and run by Thomas Tugby's brother William .*



A STEREO CARD VIEW OF THE END OF THE VARIETY STORE.  
- NOTE THE NAME T. TUGBY ABOVE

Thomas sold a vast selection of stereocards in his shop. Stereocards, or stereoviews, are pairs of nearly identical photographs mounted side-by-side on a card, designed to be viewed through a stereoscope, a special viewer that uses lenses to create an illusion of a single, three-dimensional image with depth.

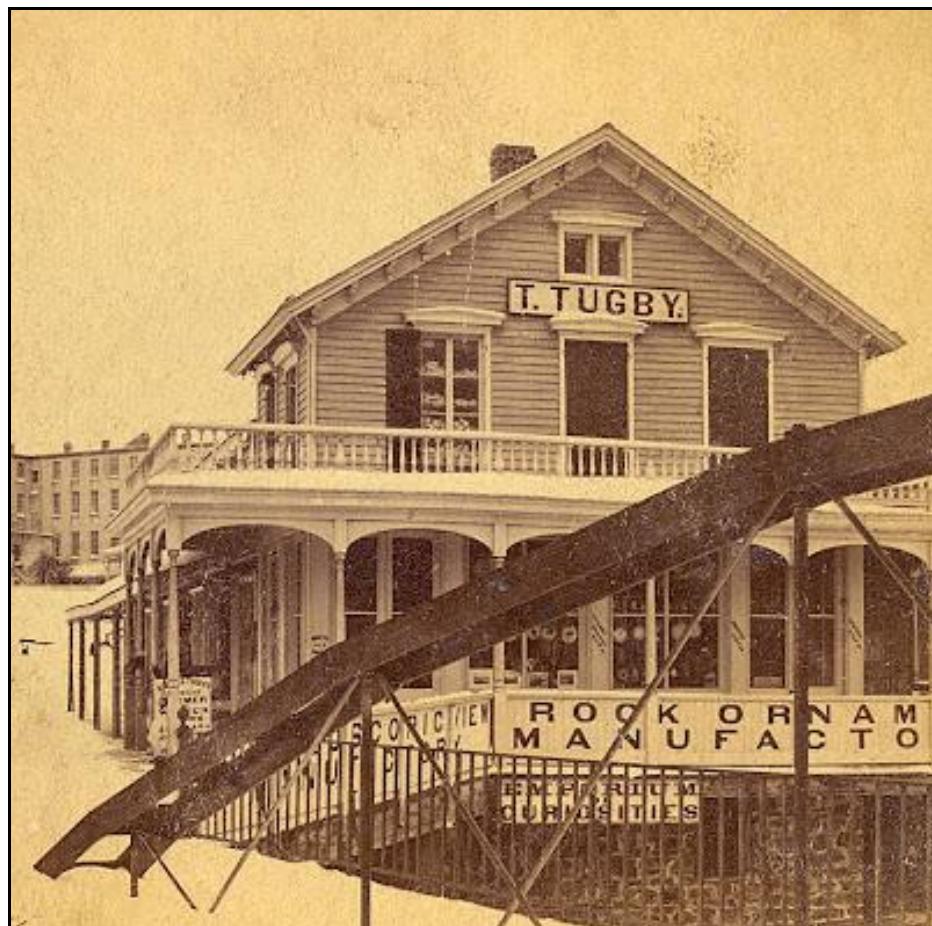


members not in attendance at Canton, missed desired items. Learning from past mistakes we are getting an earlier start and have already begun to gather items for the catalog. With this issue we are soliciting cameras, images, literature, prints (not necessarily stereo items) to be included in the catalog. Please note that only the catalog items will be auctioned at Canton. We will not be accepting items for the sale after June 11. The catalog will be mailed

who have viewer collections explaining the reasons for their lack of participation. Possibly we can re-organize this area of our exhibit to satisfy the demands and interests of this group of members. Deadline for applications in the competitive exhibit is July 15. Early entries are greatly appreciated in order for us to better plan the displays. Last year, everyone agreed that our exhibit of stereographs was a major high point of the show.

Finally we are pleased to an

#### A STEREO CARD VIEWER



**This photograph of the end of the store provides greater clarity**



This photograph is thought to show members of the staff with possibly Thomas and William on the left. The Cateract Hotel complex is in the distance.

The store sold all manner of 'curiosities' including Indian artefacts, pottery, and a large range of hand made items. He also published his own book '*Thomas Tugby's Illustrated Guide to Niagara Falls*' which he sold in his stores, but more about that later. There is a record that they employed as many as 10 staff.

A sign outside the shop stated that he was a rock ornament manufacturer, which they sold wholesale and retail. It is not clear exactly what the rock ornaments were, but the most likely explanation is that it was what was referred to in the shop as 'Niagara Spray', a quartzite rock found at the base of the falls which was purported to have 'magical powers'.

He is also recorded as selling 'Mist Jewellery', which was falsely advertised as crystallised foam from the falls but would most likely have been made from the quartzite rock described in the previous paragraph.

Apparently, Thomas Tugby was quite the character. Hearsay had it, that he once took a trip down to Florida to source goods for the store and returned with an alligator. He also opened a store in St. Augustine, Florida where his daughter Lorena Florence Taylor lived, but more about that later

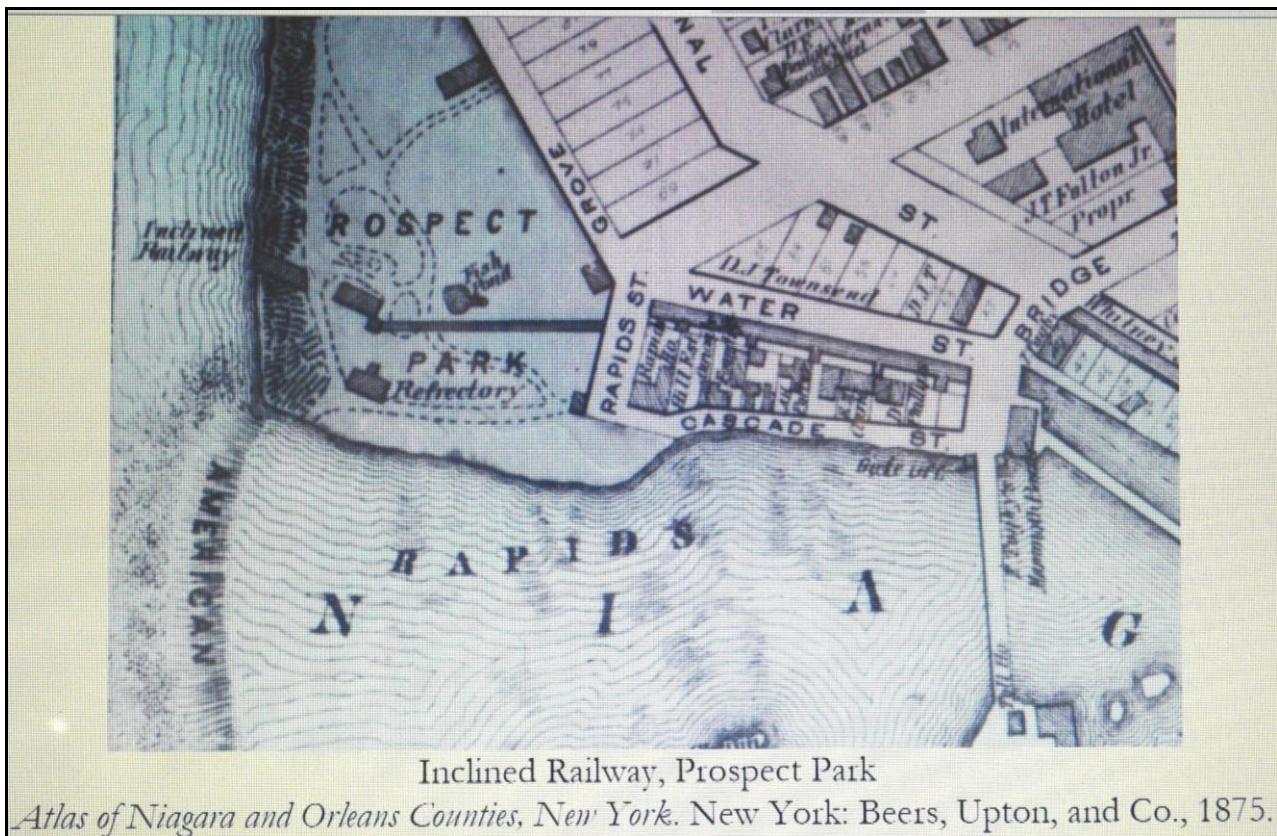
The Rugby & Walker's Variety Store must also have been financially successful as a new impressive three storey store known as 'Tugby's Mammoth Bazaar', was built later on the same site (exact date not known, but it was before 1875)., This is shown in the following photographs and there is a record that it was later run by his younger brother William who had joined him in 1871. Thomas suffered from ill health in his latter years and spent the winters in Florida, living with his daughter Lorena Florence (1864-1932).

It is quite remarkable how Thomas Tugby who left Leicestershire, England in the early 1850s, established within a relatively short period of time, a business at Niagara Falls which dominated the river front across from Goat Island .



A STEREO CARD VIEW OF TUGBY'S MAMMOTH BAZAAR

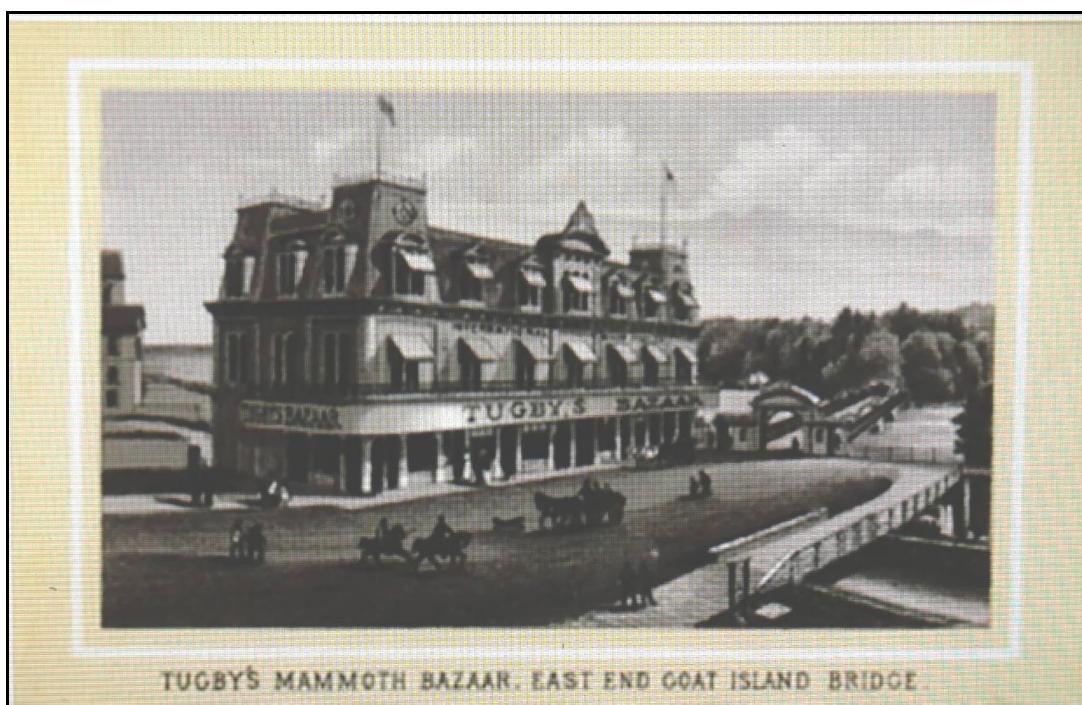
Unfortunately, Tugby's Mammoth Bazaar was purchased by the state of New York in 1885 who demolished it in order to make way for the 'Niagara Reservation, after the creation of Niagara Falls State Park in 1885.



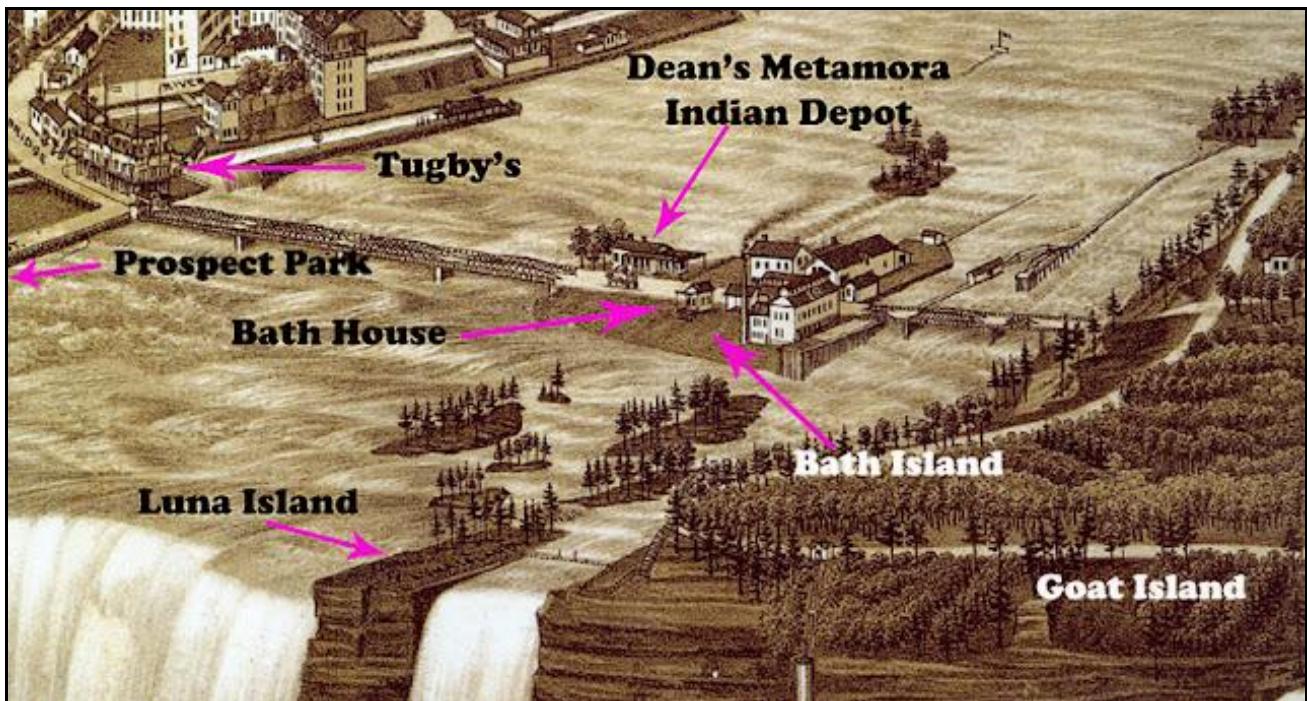
Inclined Railway, Prospect Park

*Atlas of Niagara and Orleans Counties, New York.* New York: Beers, Upton, and Co., 1875.

This extract from an 1875 map refers to 'Tugby's Mammoth Bazaar' at the end of Bridge Street where it met the foot bridge over to Goat Island. Further north on Bridge Street, what is thought to Thomas Tugby's House is identified (No. 48)



TUGBY'S MAMMOTH BAZAAR, EAST END GOAT ISLAND BRIDGE



A pictographic map of Niagara Falls published in 1882 which illustrates some points of interest, including 'Tugby's Mammoth bazaar' adjacent to the foot bridge over to Goat Island and the American Rapids. The Cataract Hotel complex is shown to the right

The 1880's were both good and bad for the brothers' businesses. On September 7th, 1880, George Knapp, a young man from Utica, committed suicide by jumping off Tugby's balcony into the rapids below. The coverage of the incident brought more people in, but it was also a tragic event associated with the store.



On the LH side is the balcony of Thomas Tugby's Mammoth Store from which George Knapp would have jumped into the rapids. Photograph dated 1879. The Cataract House Hotel is in the distance.

**TUGBY'S MAMMOTH BAZAAR, Niagara Falls, N. Y.**

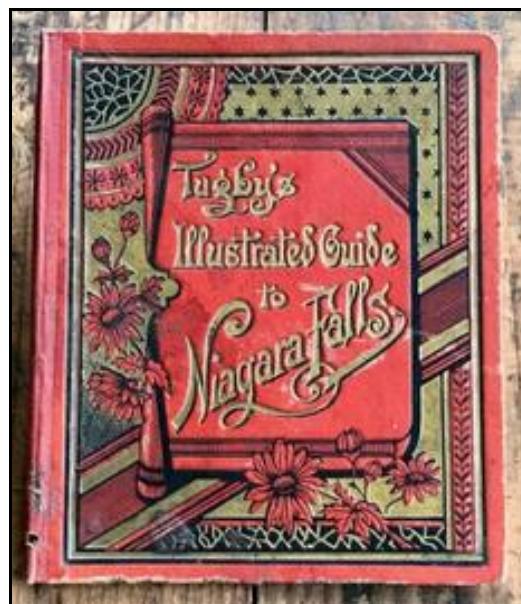
In view of the fact that the village of Niagara Falls derives its importance mainly from the cataract whose name it bears, and its industrial position largely to the trade augmented by the visitors, it is fitting that some mention be made in this volume of the men who have identified themselves with the work of catering to the pleasure of those who come here, by furnishing articles of *bric-a-brac* to be carried away as souvenirs of pleasant days passed in this locality. Prominent amongst these is Mr. Wm. Rugby, whose well filled stores are popularly known as "Tugby's Mammoth Bazaar," and are to be found on Bridge street at the east end of Goat Island Bridge. Here Mr. Rugby has a full and complete collection of curiosities, articles representative of Indian life and manners, toys, bijouterie, fancy goods, and all similar products, such as visitors generally desire to select from in purchasing presents from Niagara Falls for friends at home. Mr. Rugby owns two stores, one of which has a frontage of 66 feet on an excellent thoroughfare, with a depth of 46 feet, and a height of 2 stories, while the other is 3 floors in altitude, with a base measurement of 30 feet square. The industrial standing of this concern is indicated by the fact that Mr. Rugby sells \$30,000 worth of goods annually, and its increase is shown by the figures of 28 years ago (when Mr. T. Rugby commenced business here) as compared with those of to-day, indicative of the value of the stock carried, which formerly stood at \$4,000, whereas they now mark \$26,000. This establishment employs 10 assistants—ladies noted for their unvarying politeness and judgment in assisting to select gifts—and commands a trade locally which derives support from all the country around. Mr. Rugby publishes the most handsome guide book ever produced at the Falls, containing full descriptive letter-press of the scenery here about as well as all the historical mention connected with these cataracts, which is sold for 50c. per copy, and which can be obtained by mail by any person who may wish to keep or present to friends a fine artistic representation of the scenery of this point on application by mail or letter to the above address. The pictures are executed in photo-aquatint, and are worth double the money intrinsically, without reference to their connection with the Falls, and as such should be in the hands of all collectors of curiosities, especially as they faithfully represent the phases of the Falls which have been characterized as one of the seven modern wonders of the world.

Mr. Thomas Rugby has resided 25 years at Niagara Falls. He was born in England in 1826, and is a native of Ashby-de-la-Zouche, in Leicestershire County. He has recently retired from the business which is now being carried on by his brother, Mr. Wm. Rugby (J. W. of the Frontier Lodge No. 132, F. A. M.), who has long been identified with the house.

The above extract was found in a Niagara University archive and refers to a time when William Rugby was involved in managing his older brother Thomas's Mammoth Bazaar store which Thomas had built. It is difficult to attach an accurate date to this publication, but as Thomas Rugby's Mammoth Bazaar was demolished in 1885, it must be pre that date. Thomas Rugby was born in Thringstone, Leicestershire, England and not Ashby-de-la-Zouch as stated, which is where his birth would have been registered. The Frontier Lodge referred to at the bottom of the extract was a Masonic Society lodge of which William Rugby was a member, although he did not seem to play a particular part in public life.

## THOMAS TUGBY'S ILLUSTRATED GUIDE TO NIAGARA FALLS

Thomas Rugby published 'Thomas Rugby's Illustrated Guide to Niagara Falls' c.1875, which he sold in his shops. This offered an historical perspective on the iconic natural wonder. The guide provided an in-depth look at points of interest around Niagara Falls, embellished with views copied from photographs taken specifically for the book. It included 58 pages of text. Original copies can still be found on the internet and it has been reprinted several times in various guises including by 'Forgotten Books'. We can see on the following page that at the time he published his book, Thomas was living on Bridge Street, Niagara Falls, where it also confirms he was the proprietor of 'Tugby's Mammoth Bazaar'. The photographs used by Thomas in his guide were taken by American photographer Platt. D. Babbitt who was famous for his photographs of the Niagara Falls area, and they formed a partnership at some point. Babbitt committed suicide in 1879. The book sold for 50 cents when it was published.



MC  
T91568

Tugby, Thomas

## TUGBY'S GUIDE TO NIAGARA FALLS

being

a complete guide to all the points of interest around  
and in the immediate neighbourhood.

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EMBELLISHED WITH VIEWS;

copied from photographs

made especially for this work.

295616  
17.1.12

P U B L I S H E D

by

THOMAS TUGBY, BRIDGE ST, NIAGARA FALLS, N.Y.

A resident of Niagara Falls for thirty years, and proprietor of  
Tugby's Mammoth Bazaar.

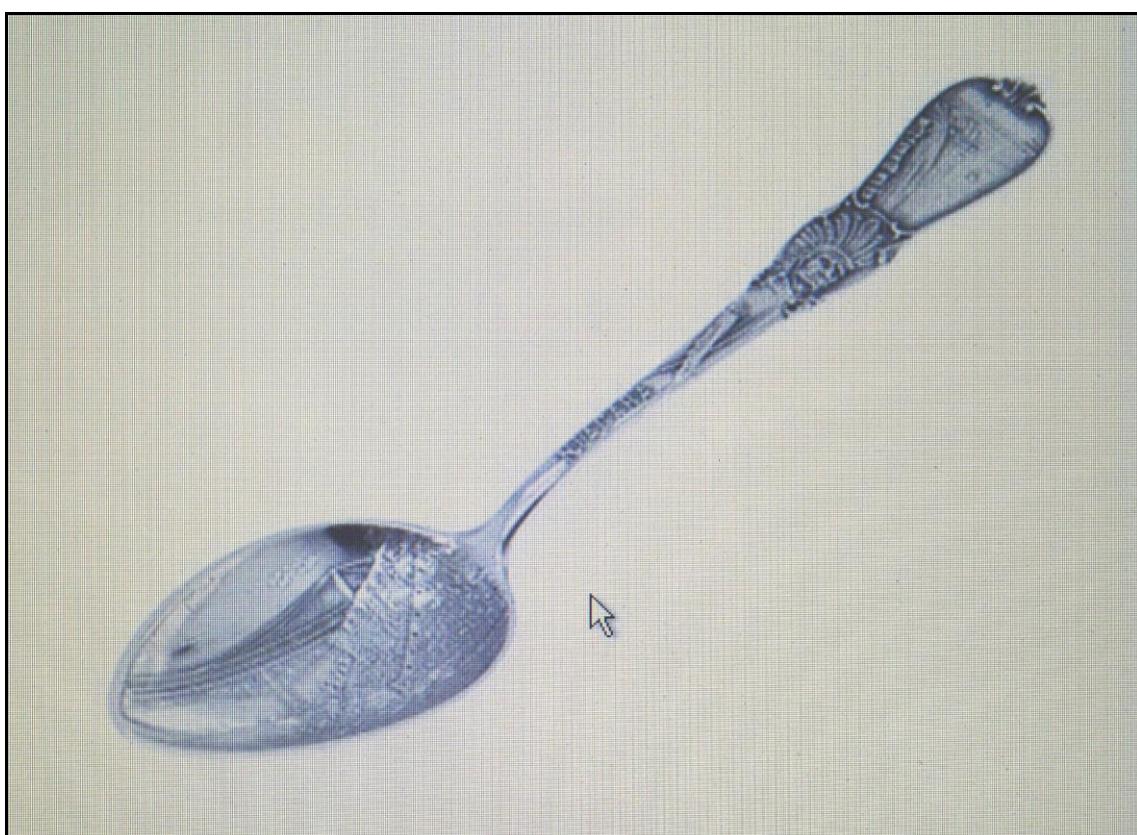
## THOMAS TUGBY'S SECOND STORE ON FALLS STREET

Thomas Rugby also built and owned another large store named 'Tugby's Gift Shop', which was located in the old passenger station of the now defunct Lockport and Niagara Falls Strap railroad on the corner of the intersection of Falls Street and Prospect Street. It stayed in the Rugby family until it was sold in 1927, having been presumably run by William Rugby, for many years up to his brothers death in 1911 and afterwards. William died in 1923 so one presumes William's children - John, Florence or Elizabeth had taken up the reigns at some point. When it was sold, it apparently remained in operation as a souvenir shop for another 8 years at which point it was demolished to make way for a gas station to be built on the site. The photographs below taken in 1927 show Tugby's Gift Shop, in the year that the business was sold out of the Rugby family. Photographs courtesy of 'Niagara Falls Public Library History Dept'.





This 10 inch plate with views of Niagara falls was designed / manufactured in Staffordshire, England, and imported for Thomas Tugby, Niagara Falls, N.Y. by Rowland and Marsellus Co who had a pottery import business in N.Y. They sourced their products from various potteries in Staffordshire. This plate would have been sold in Thomas Tugby's Falls Street store as Rowland and Marsellus operated from 1893-1938.



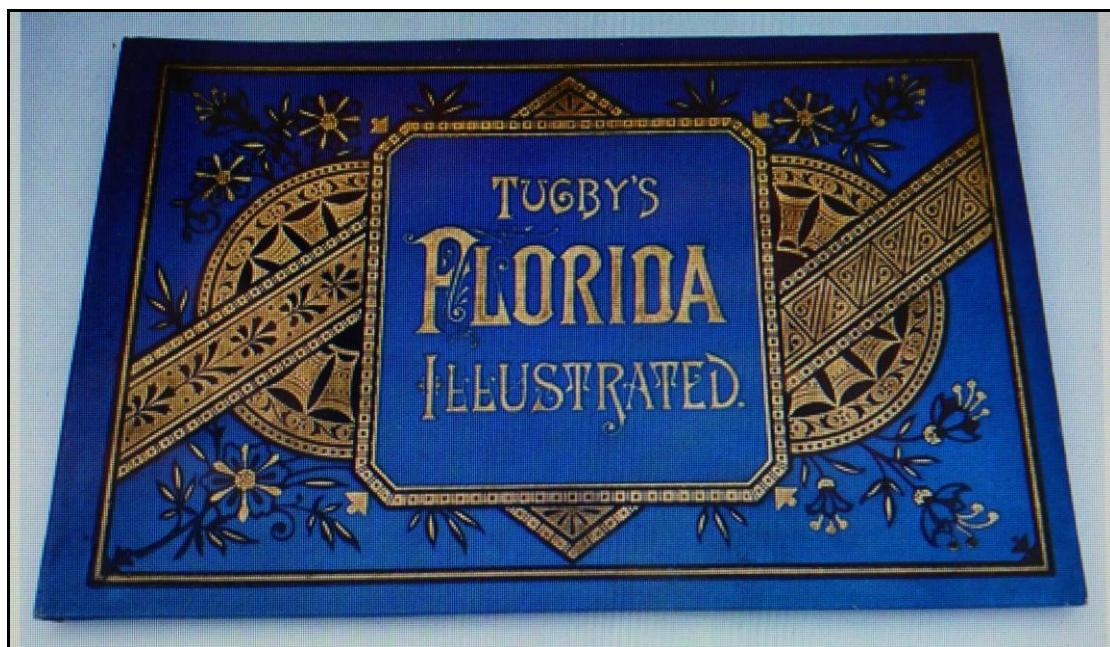
**A THOMAS TUGBY SOUVENIR SILVER SPOON WHICH HE SOLD IN HIS SOUVENIR STORES. THIS PARTICULAR ONE INCORPORATES A VIEW OF THE SUSPENSION BRIDGE IN THE BOWL AND A RED INDIAN CHIEF ON THE STEM. THESE CAN STILL BE FOUND FOR SALE ON THE INTERNET IN VARIOUS DESIGNS**

It is possible that these Thomas Tugby silver souvenir spoons were sold in both Thomas Tugby's Mammoth Bazaar and the Falls Street souvenir store.

## THOMAS TUGBY'S FANCY GOODS SHOP IN JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA

As mentioned earlier, due to his failing health in later life, Thomas Rugby spent the winters in Augustine, Florida with his daughter Lorena Florence who was married to A. M. Taylor, leaving the businesses in Niagara Falls in the hands of his brother William.

Thomas opened a fancy goods shop in Jacksonville which is south of Augustine, but little is recorded about the business. He did publish a small book (5 x 3 1/4 inches) c.1885 of *Photogravure views of St. Augustine* much along the lines of the one he published in Niagara Falls described earlier. Apparently, this included ads for his shop in Jacksonville. A used copy is currently priced on line at 95 dollars.



## SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION ABOUT WILLIAM TUGBY AND HIS FAMILY

William Rugby like his younger brother Thomas, was born in Thringstone, Leicestershire in 1843. He emigrated to Niagara Falls to join his brother Thomas in the mid 1860s. He married to Eva Roche (1844 - 1905) in Niagara Falls on the 9th of May 1871. They became the parents of at least one son and four daughters :-

Lorrena (1864 - )

John Rugby (1872 - 1931)

Florence Susan (1874 - 1949) Married a Sommer

Elizabeth A (1877 - 1954)

Eva Sara (Jan 4th 1882 - 1952). She apparently became a renowned opera singer, see photograph below, signed 'With Love and Best Wishes Eva Rugby':-



Eva Sara died on 8 November 1952, in Niagara Falls at the age of 70, and was buried in Oakwood Cemetery, Niagara Falls, Niagara, New York, United States.

## DETAILS OF THE DEATHS OF THOMAS TUGBY, HIS WIFE JENNIE AND THEIR DAUGHTERS KATE STINSON TUGBY & LORENA FLORENCE TAYLOR (NEE., TUGBY)

THE FOLLOWING OBITUARY APPEARED IN THE JACKSONVILLE FL TIMES  
UNION : ST. AUGUSTINE, ON WEDNESDAY MAY 24th 1911

*News was received here today announcing the death of Mr Thomas Rugby, which occurred at his home in Niagara Falls, New York, yesterday. Mr Rugby was 85 years of age and had been failing in health for several years. Mr. Rugby was a large property owner and pioneer of Niagara Falls and has been spending the winter seasons in St. Augustine, Florida for the past thirty years. He is survived by one daughter: Mrs A M Taylor (nee., Lorena Florence Rugby) of this city. Both Mr and Mrs Taylor were with Mr Rugby at his death. The funeral will take place at Niagara Falls on Wednesday.*



MEMORIAL MONUMENT IN OAKWOOD CEMETERY,  
NIAGARA FALLS, NIAGARA COUNTY, NEW YORK, USA



#### MONUMENT ENGRAVING

The above engraving confirms that Thomas and Elizabeth had another daughter Kate Stinson who died at the young age of 8 months.



#### FOOTSTONE TO MONUMENT

**Thomas and Jennie's other daughter Lorena Florence  
was born 28 Mar 1864 at Niagara Falls and died aged  
68 on 17 Sept 1932 in Saint Augustine, St. John's  
County, Florida, USA.**



**FLORENCE'S HUSBAND A. M. TAYLOR** (Bibliography extracted  
from the Florida Historical Society collections)



Abram Morris Taylor was born September 1, 1862, in Morris County, New Jersey, the son of Mr. And Mrs. George William Taylor. He was a graduate of the College of the City of New York and was apparently an actor for a brief period in New York City. He began visiting St. Augustine, Florida, in 1884 and he settled permanently there in 1889. **He was married to Lorena Florence Rugby who died in 1932. Their only child, Edith Everett Taylor, was married to Verle A. Pope.**

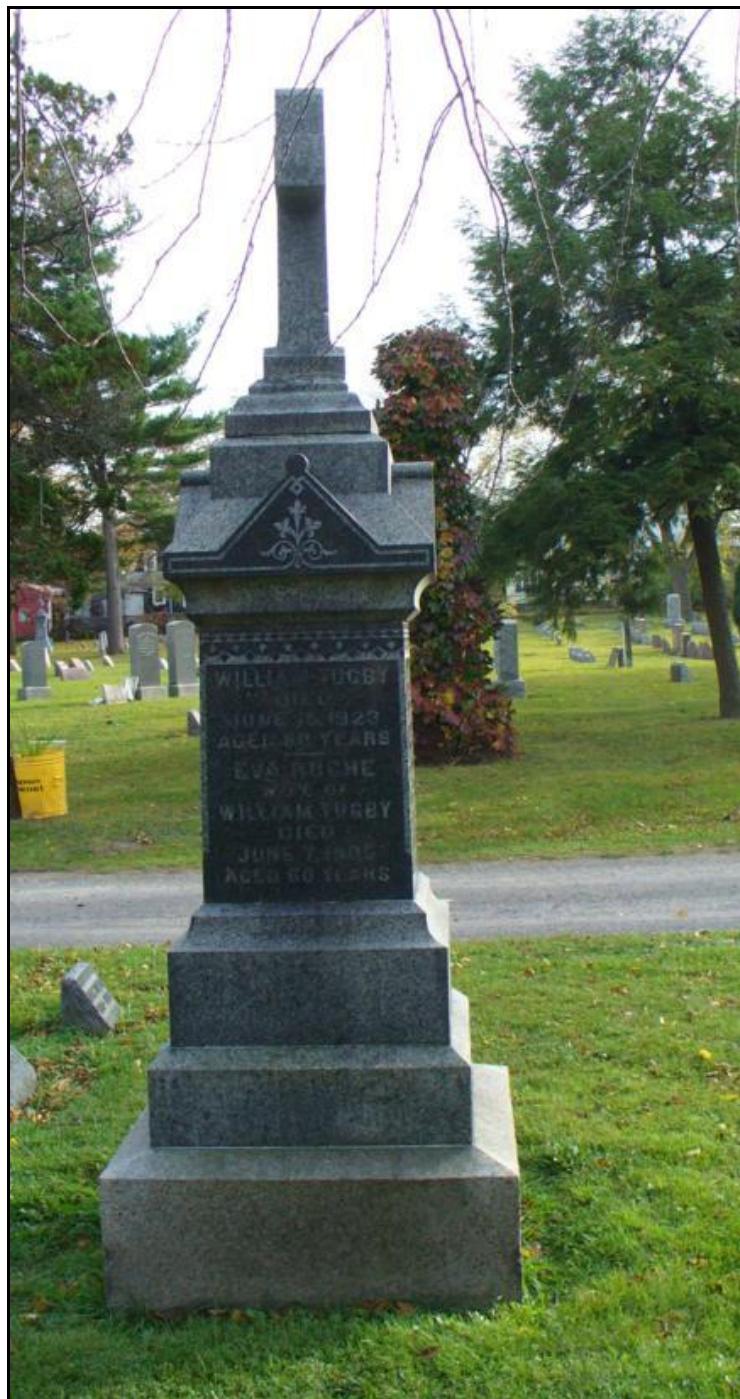
Taylor's early career was with Henry Flagler's hotel system, notably as manager of the Casino at the Hotel Alcazar. He also managed and was a co-owner of the Jefferson Theatre in St. Augustine and was active in a number of civic and service organizations. He served as an official delegate to a number of national and international commemorative events, and he was President of the Peoples Bank of Savings of St. Augustine.

In 1910 Taylor campaigned for appointment as the Collector of Customs for the Port of St. Augustine. During World War I he was appointed Fuel Administrator for St. Johns County. He ran unsuccessfully for the Florida State Senate in 1916 and 1920; he was elected to the senate in 1924 and re-elected in 1928 and 1932. In his later years Taylor was a Commissioner of the Florida Inland Navigation District, and he played a role in the development of the Intracoastal Waterway in Florida. He died May 20, 1942.

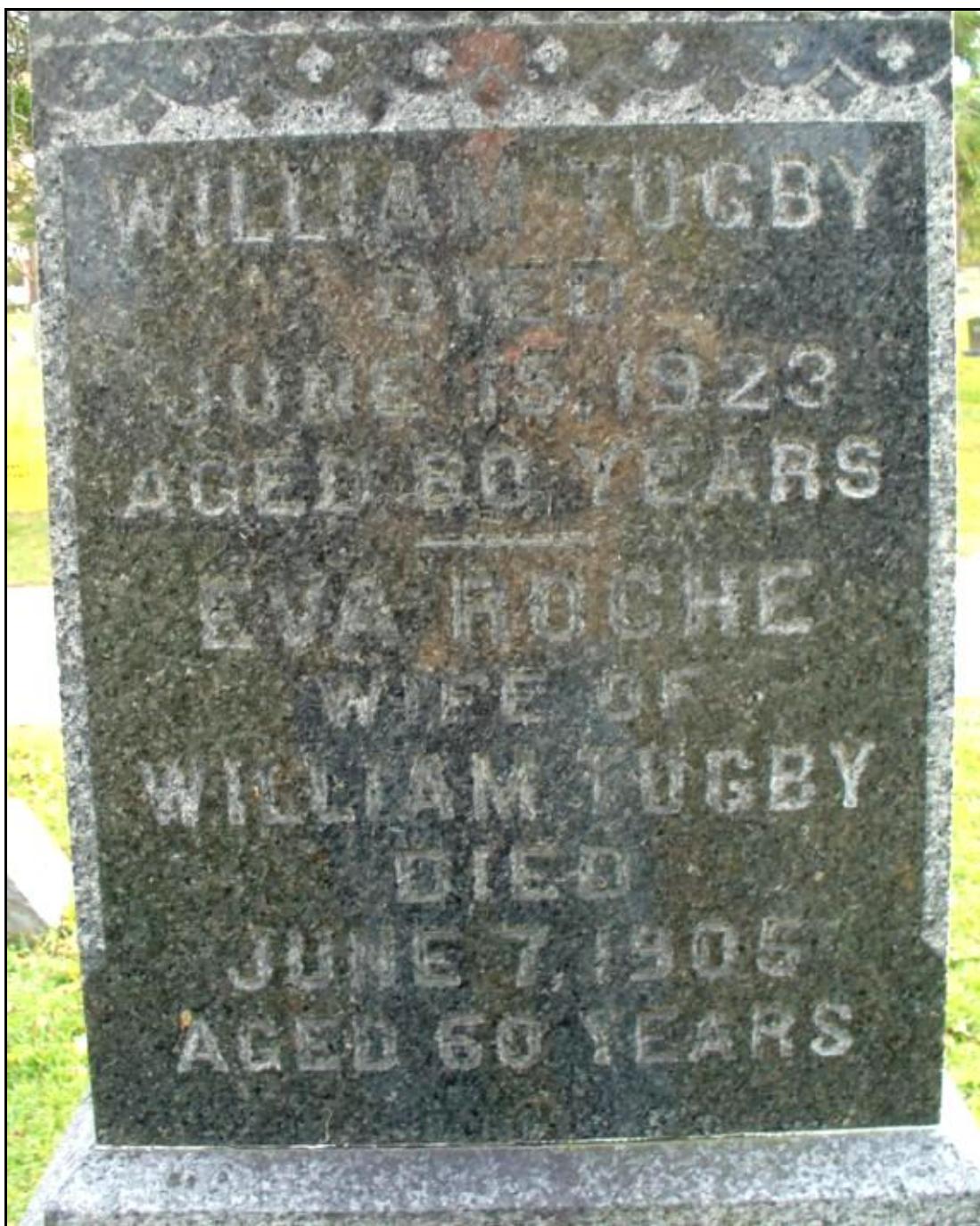
**They are both buried in Evergreen Cemetery, St Augustine,  
St. John's County, Florida, USA.**

## THE DEATHS OF WILLIAM TUGBY, HIS WIFE EVA AND DAUGHTERS FLORENCE & EVA SARA

They were all buried in Oakwood Cemetery, Niagara Falls, Niagara County, New York



MEMORIAL IN OAKWOOD CEMETERY



MEMORIAL ENGRAVING

### Obituary Notes.

WILLIAM TUGBY, who made a fortune selling Indian curios in his store at Goat Island, N. Y., died yesterday, aged 80, at Niagara Falls.

## WILLIAM TUGBY

The death of William Tugby removes a well known resident, one of the pioneers who link old Niagara with the new order of things. William Tugby came to Niagara Falls some years before the Civil war and made it his home to the time of his death. He was an interesting personality with a fund of reminiscences of the early days when the people of the village of Niagara Falls subsisted on the revenues derived from the tourist in the summer seasons and hibernated during the winter. There was little activity in Niagara Falls in those days save along the lines that catered to the visitor. Hotels, bazaars, and restaurants were the chief business places, with hacking an important and lucrative occupation followed by many citizens.

For many years William Tugby was the proprietor of the Tugby Bazaar that stood at the entrance to the old Goat Island bridge in the days before the State acquired the land about the falls to create the free park. The Tugby store was more in the nature of a museum and was visited annually by thousands of people. While Mr. Tugby never took a very active part in public life, particularly during the latter part of his life, he was keenly interested in the development and growth of the city.



HEADSTONE FOR DAUGHTER FLORENCE IN OAKWOOD CEMETERY



DAUGHTER EVA SARA TUGBY'S HEAD STONE IN OAKWOOD CEMETERY

## IN MEMORY OF THOMAS AND WILLIAM TUGBY

After being gone for almost a century, Nick Hurd and Nico Santangelo brought 'Tugby's Bazaar' on Falls Street, complete with its historic vintage charm back to life at 616 Niagara Street downtown Niagara in October 2024.

