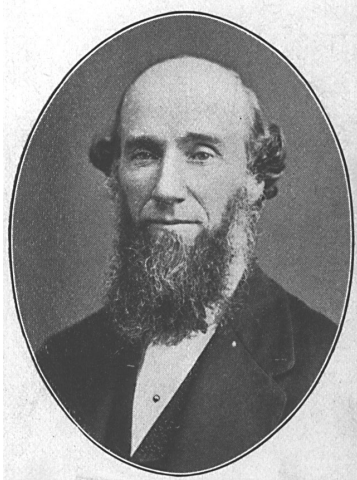


JOEL MACMILLAN (1822-1877)

Joel MacMillan opened a book and wallpaper store in Salem in 1850. It was the first store in Salem to carry wallpaper. The store was later located in the three-unit Trinity Block, which Joel built in 1859.



MacMillan's Bookstore served the Salem community for well over a century, first under his management, and later under his daughter, Alice, and Ora Vincent. Joel's old desk and the memorable front doors to the store are preserved at the Salem Historical Museum.

Joel married Sarah Morris (1822-1908) on Aug. 10, 1848. Born in Lloydsville (Belmont County), Ohio on Jan. 19, 1822, she attended school there. She later attended a private school in New Lisbon. Prior to her marriage, she spent two years as a pioneer in Illinois.

Sarah was born of Maryland and Virginia ancestry, with her family being slave-owners. Her grandmother, with whom she lived as a child, voluntarily freed her slaves. This influenced Sarah to become an ardent supporter of the anti-slavery movement. Both Joel and Sarah were abolitionists.

The MacMillan homestead was located off Franklin Ave. near Grandview Cemetery. Their home was a station for hiding runaway slaves on the Underground Railroad. The original kitchen was in the rear of the basement. Behind the kitchen fireplace in an old storage room were arched brick alcoves, where the fugitive slaves were hidden. They passed through the fireplace to this haven, which could not be detected when a fire was burning.



Grave marker for Joel MacMillan and family at Hope Cemetery. He built the Trinity Block downtown, and operated the oldest store in town – MacMillan's Bookstore.

