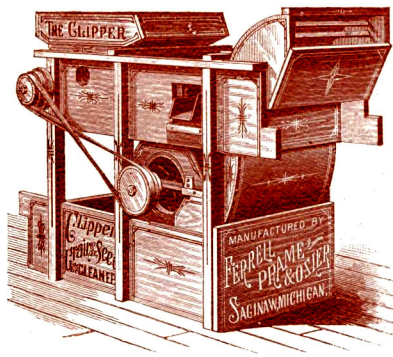


1869

In 1869 . . . former Civil War Captain, John E. Smith, built the first Clipper Cleaner. Having returned to Ohio after the war, Smith became interested in a small water-powered flour mill . . . and needed a wheat cleaner. Lacking in funds *and* credit, Smith built his own cleaner . . . and in 1869 the first Clipper Cleaner, using the vertical air blast principle, was put in operation. Smith failed in the flour mill business and turned his interest, with his little power-cleaner, to the grain buying business. His success in the grain business stimulated the idea of further developing a cleaner that could be operated by hand.



After years of experimenting, Smith's efforts were rewarded . . . and, in 1879 he built 20 hand operated cleaners and sold them in the counties surrounding Shiloh, Ohio. By 1891, Smith reached his peak (he thought he had saturated the market) and wanted to retire, having built and sold 200 cleaners. He couldn't foresee the future possibilities of the little cleaner and in November 1891 sold his business to Albert T. Ferrell, who had been an employee for eight years. (In 1948 nearly 16,000 *small* cleaners were sold . . . and more than 20,000 total pieces of Clipper cleaning equipment sold by A. T. Ferrell.)



1891

A. T. Ferrell bought the cleaner business in 1891 . . . without sufficient funds . . . and immediately sold a quarter interest each to F. J. Prame and David Ozier, identifying the new firm as Ferrell, Prame & Ozier. As Ferrell later stated: "We were a small company but we had a large firm name". They started in business with a working force of one man, one boy and one buckskin horse named "Charlie". During the early years, "A.T.", as he was commonly called, worked hard to develop his business . . . handled all the office work . . . bought lumber . . . helped build cleaners . . . packed them for shipping . . . and, with his horse-drawn wagon, drove them to the railroad depot.

