

The E. Best Company was truly a family business: Ezra was president, Florence was secretary, and as the children grew, they too joined the firm. As early as 1891 son Ward was a helper, later to be a plumber, and William D. was a bookkeeper and later a director. By the turn of the century, the older sons moved from home and young son Lawrence became a clerk and eventually an engineer. J. Harry studied law and after graduation devoted time to his practice, but also was a salesman for his father.

In 1914, Harry, Ward and William Best founded the Best Brothers Plumbing and Heating Supply Company at 624-626 Hampshire. Circa 1922 Florence Best died and not more than one year later Ezra married again. By 1927 Ezra had branched out and was also president of the Quincy Foundry and Novelty Company, vice-president of the Quincy Hotel Company and treasurer of the Home Building Society. In 1930, the title of the property at 238 South 12th was transferred to Ezra's brother John and later to his son Lawrence. In 1933 the house was sold to Mr. Lawrence Bastert. Dwyer purchased the property from the Bastert family.