American Paper Mills, 1690–1832

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Like other colonial printers, William Bradford took a special interest in the sources of his supplies. He helped to establish not only the first paper mill in Pennsylvania but also the first one in New Jersey. After clashing with the Quaker authorities in Pennsylvania, Bradford moved his printing business to a more congenial market in New York, where he was appointed printer to the Provincial Council in 1693. He later rented his share in the Rittenhouse mill (Pa. Mill 1) in return for first refusal of all its printing grades at a designated price. Even after losing his monopoly on Rittenhouse products, he purchased large quantities from that mill to supplement his stock of higher quality imported goods. He still needed a more reliable supply of ordinary printing grades, especially after he began to publish the colony’s first newspaper, the New-York Gazette, in 1725. In the previous year the provincial government rejected his petition for a fifteen-year monopoly on paper manufacture in New York. As a convenient alternative, he built a mill in New Jersey—exactly when and where are not known—but it had been in operation for some time when an indentured servant, James Roberts, absconded in 1729. A newspaper advertisement offering a reward for Roberts’s capture is the earliest and nearly the only record of the existence of “William Bradford’s Paper-Mill at Elizabeth-Town.” Roberts could not have been working there before June 1726, when he was taken from Newgate Prison and transported to Maryland on the convict ship Loyal Margaret. Another newspaper advertisement refers to “the Paper-Mill in Elizabeth-Town,” where some adjoining farm lands and agricultural goods were to be sold at auction in 1735. However, the mill may have ceased operations by that date and may have been mentioned only as a landmark. References: Hunter 1952, 29–32; Green 1990, 5–20; Kaminkow 1967, 134, 184–85.

Middlesex County

Spotswood

2. On the Matchiponix (or Machaponix) Branch of the South River.

Friedrich Roemmer (also Rymer, Remer, Rimer, Ramer, Roemer) was one of the Palatines and “Inhabitants of Lorain” who arrived in Philadelphia in 1754 on the ship Nancy from Rotterdam by way of Cowes. In 1764 he announced that he had “lately set up” a mill in Spotswood and that it “has begun to
work,” although he must have been in business in or before 1761, when his watermarks begin to appear in Franklin imprints. In addition to printing grades, he manufactured wrappings, blue paper, pasteboard, and “every Kind of Common Paper.” In 1772 he offered to teach the papermaking business to anyone who would buy his mill, measuring “50 feet in length, and 30 in width.” References: Strassburger 1934, 1:591–94; New-York Gazette, 13 Aug. 1764, 4, and 15 June 1772, suppl., p. 2; Miller 1974, xlv; Hunter 1952, 163; Gottesman 1938, 237–38.


FR [laid] — To the Public. [Text begins: Few are igno- rant, that the Assemblymen of this Colony, were an- ciently induced to consent to tax the four Counties of New-York, West-Chester, Queen’s and Richmond] (New York: Printed by John Holt, 1770; PPL broadside); Yale College, Viro praestantissimo, ingenuis artibus ac sub- limi virtute omnique foelicissimè gubernandi ratione ornatisimo Jonathani Trumbull . . . hasce theses . . . defendere conabuntur juvenes in artibus initiati [11 Sept. 1771] (Novo-Portu: E typis Thomae et Samuelis Green, 1771; PPL broadside).

Note: The cipher 4 watermark sometimes appears with the initials in reverse, i.e., RF.

3. Spotswood, on the South River.

William Shaffer (also Shaffar and Schaeffer) called himself a papermaker in 1771, when he advertised for a journeymen, apparently to work in one of the mills supplying his stationery business in New York. He was probably renting the Spotswood mill from a baker named John Klyne (also Kline), who put it up for sale in 1775 along with 130 acres of land, noting that it was “in very good order” and that it was currently “occupied” by Shaffer. In 1776 Shaffer advertised for one or two journeymen to work in his new paper mill in Spotswood, which he wished to rent along with an adjoining farm. How new it was at that time is impossible to ascertain, since he may have acquired and remodeled Roemmer’s establishment (N.J. Mill 2). He was running the only paper mill in the state in November 1777, when he petitioned the General Assembly to exempt two of his workmen from military duty. While situated in Burlington, New Jersey, the printer Isaac Collins was a regular customer of the mill but complained that it delivered insufficient amounts at exorbitant prices. Collins finally gave up on Shaffer and informed the New Jersey government that the Trenton paper mill of Stacy Potts (N.J Mill 5) was more worthy of its patronage. In the meantime, Klyne had taken up the tanning trade in Albany and had stopped communicating with Shaffer, who took out a newspaper advertisement in July 1778 to announce that he was going to quit in three months and to advise Klyne to come down and settle his accounts. The mill had stopped during most of the previous year because of the war, and Shaffer did not expect conditions to improve. True to his word, he dropped out of the trade in 1778; but he may have re- mained in Middlesex County, where a William Shaffer drew up a will dated 1779. Hunter claims that Collins was running a paper mill in Burlington in 1777, apparently confused by Collins’s attempts to buy from Shaffer and Potts. References: Hunter 1952, 148, 163; Gottesman 1938, 237–38; Leonard 1950, 495; Rockefeller 1953, 4; Hixson 1968, 69, 76–80; New-York Gazette, 20 Nov. 1775, 2; [Trenton, N.J.] New-Jersey Gazette, 29 July 1778, 3; New Jersey Wills, 2:896.

Peter Museck (also Musick) was the proprietor of the Spotswood mill in February 1779, when he advertised for rags in the New-Jersey Journal. References: Stickle 1968, 168; Hunter 1952, 160.

The paper mill was still standing in 1792, but there is no evidence that it was active, except that one of the owners at that time, James Dorsett, might have ordered moulds from the Sellers firm. When Dorsett died in
1794, he was identified as “one of the proprietors of the Paper Mill.” The Census of 1810 noted that one paper mill in Middlesex County was producing 3,000 reams a year with a total value of $5,000. References: Sellers Moulds Finished, 30 Apr. 1791: large royal; Sellers Moulds Finished, 13 Apr. 1792: single foolscap, watermarked with three letters; Clayton 1882b, 820; Coxe 1814, tables, p. 42; Wilson & Stratford 2002, 473.

Addendum

4. Eleven miles from New Brunswick.

A two-vat mill with new engines and power train was put up for sale in 1831, inquiries to be directed to the postmaster of New Brunswick, New Jersey. The one advertisement I have seen does not identify the current owner of the mill and does not disclose its location except to say that it was about eleven miles from New Brunswick—far enough away that it could have been in one of the adjacent counties. Reference: [Hartford, Conn.] Connecticut Mirror, 9 Apr. 1831, 4.

Mercer County

Trenton

5. Not located.

In November 1777 Stacy Potts informed the New Jersey General Assembly that he was building a paper mill in Trenton and asked the legislators to exempt from military duty the workmen he would employ. This business was one of several industrial ventures he helped to organize in the Trenton area, including a tannery and a steel factory. His papermaking initiatives were encouraged by the local printer Isaac Collins, whose wife was a distant relative of Potts and who had been dissatisfied with the services rendered by the Spotswood mill (N.J. Mill 3). This mill would be closer, cheaper, and more dependable. Advertisements for rags started to appear in Collins’s New-Jersey Gazette at the end of 1778. While the mill was under construction, Potts formed a partnership with John Reynolds, a papermaker in Germantown, Pennsylvania, who had already proposed to establish a paper mill in New Jersey in association with another Pennsylvania papermaker, George Riche (also Richie). Reynolds appears to have joined up with Potts after having failed to win support for the proposals he had made with Riche. (Still seeking government support, Riche petitioned the New York House of Assembly for assistance in building a paper mill in 1786.) There is no documentary evidence that Potts & Reynolds started their mill before March 1781, when their products began to be advertised in the New-Jersey Gazette, although their watermark appears in the New Jersey General Assembly’s Votes and Proceedings. References: Rockefeller 1953, 3-8; Sellers Ledgers, 4 Dec. 1778: print moulds; Sellers Ledgers, 25 Jan. 1779: demy, watermarked with fourteen letters; Sellers Moulds Finished, 4 Oct. 1780: letter demanding payment; Hixson 1968, 77-80, 117; Nelson 1911, 50; [New York, N.Y.] New-York Journal, 16 Mar. 1786, 2; New Jersey, General Assembly, Votes and Proceedings [1777], 27.
the Eighth General Assembly of the State of New-Jersey
[First sitting, 28 Oct. 1783] (Trenton: Printed by Isaac Collins, 1784; PPL); ms., Trenton, N.J., 1784 (Gravell & Miller 2002, wmk 806–7).


In April 1785 Potts announced that he intended to leave Trenton and advertised for sale several rental properties, including a tanyard, a carriage maker’s shop, and a “good” paper mill that was producing a rental income of £100 a year. In December he drafted or renewed a rental contract with John Bowers and Frederick Long, who advertised for rags in April 1786. Bowers had been an apprentice of Morris Truman in Pa. Mill 27. Long tried to recruit two apprentices for the papermaking business in October 1787. Potts’s tenants appear to have left shortly thereafter, Long to parts unknown, Bowers to the Ivy Mill (Pa. Mill 21), where he was working in late 1788 or early 1789. References: Rockefeller 1953, 11; Wilson 1988, 80, 315; Willcox 1911, 53; [Philadelphia, Pa.] Pennsylvania Packet, 16 Apr. 1785, 3.

6. On Assunpink Creek. Formerly in Nottingham Township, Burlington County, an area amalgamated in Mercer County in 1838. This portion of Nottingham Township became part of Trenton in 1856.

Houston & Davison {Churchill Houston and John Davison (also Davison and Davidson)} purchased moulds from the Sellers firm between 1811 and 1815. In 1823 the mouldmakers complained about a debt dating back to 1820 in a letter to Houston, who was then living in Princeton, New Jersey. References: New Jersey Wills, 2:794; Sellers Moulds Ordered, 21 Sept. 1811 = Sellers Moulds Finished, 4 Oct. 1811: double cap, watermarked H & D; Sellers Moulds Ordered, 30 Aug. 1815: super royal vellum; Sellers Letter Book, 31 Jan. 1823.


An account of the mill in the Census of 1820 appears over Davison’s name. Capitalized at $50,000, it was a substantial four-vat establishment employing fifteen men, twenty-five women, and ten children to manufacture “all kinds of paper”; its annual output was valued at $20,000. Davison bought several pairs of moulds from the Needles firm in 1822 and 1823, perhaps having had to take his business elsewhere after failing to pay his debts to Sellers. The mill was still in operation as late as 1832, although Davison might have left it by then to work in N.J. Mill 7. References: Census of 1820, reel 17, item 135; Needles Day Book, 1 May 1822: super royal; Needles Day Book, 21 May 1822: writing medium, watermarked with a “device”; Needles Day Book, 9 Aug. 1823: imperial; Gordon 1834, 200.

Davisson was doing business at the Trenton Paper Mills in 1829, when the Sellers firm sent him a letter concerning a wire covering for a cylinder machine, which occasioned further correspondence over the name of John G. Davisson & Co. in 1830. Raum claimed that General Garret D. Wall sold the Front Street mill to Davisson in 1819 after having converted it from cotton manufacture to papermaking. But Raum appears to have conflated N.J. Mills 6 and 7, not realizing that Davisson had changed his place of business. References: Sellers Letter Book, 19 Oct. 1829; Sellers Letter Book, 4 Jan. 1830; Raum 1871, 235.

Capitalized at $14,000, the Trenton mill was making 3,000 reams of paper a year in 1837, when it was owned by General Wall and operated by John Davisson. Reference: Potts 1837, 253.

Davisson probably retired in or before 1847, when the current owners sold the mill, which then passed through several hands and continued to manufacture paper as late as 1871. Reference: Raum 1871, 235.

Addendum
Dr. Daniel W. Coxe is said to have built a paper mill in Trenton around 1756. Later owners converted it into a paint and linseed oil manufactory. I have found no corroborating evidence for this mill. References: Raum 1871, 235; Rockefeller 1953, 3.

Monmouth County
Allentown

In 1781 William Tapscot solicited the services of a papermaker to work in his paper mill “near Allentown.” Dard Hunter considered this advertisement sufficient evidence for a paper mill, but I am not convinced. This is the only mention of the mill I have found, although Tapscot did own a grist mill on Doctor’s Creek sometime before 1790. It is possible that he intended to build a paper mill at that location, or convert some other type of mill to paper manufacture, and was confident enough to refer to it as a fait accompli, but abandoned the attempt because of the scarcity of rags and skilled personnel. William Tapscot father and son made out wills dated 1786 and 1819, respectively; presumably it was the son who flirted with the papermaking business. References: [Trenton, N.J.] New-Jersey Gazette, 11 Apr. 1781, 3; [Elizabeth, N.J.] New-Jersey Journal, 14 July 1790, 2; New Jersey Wills, 2:996; Hunter 1952, 165.

Essex County
Millburn (part of Springfield until 1857)

8. Columbian or Columbia Paper Mill. On the east branch of the Rahway River, on the road between Springfield and Millburn.

After serving his apprenticeship in Wilmington and working as a journeyman in Philadelphia, Shepard Kollock established his own shop in Chatham, New Jersey, where he printed a newspaper from 1779 until 1783. He then established printing offices in New York and New Brunswick. After a year or two he decided to close down his New Brunswick office and move closer to New York. He settled in Elizabeth, where he published a newspaper under the title he had been using in Chatham, The New-Jersey Journal. No doubt he entered the papermaking business to procure a steady supply of newsprint as well as cheap printing paper for his book publications. Between 1785 or 1786 and 1805 he was associated with the New York bookseller Robert Hodge, who probably owned a share in the mill and helped to sell its products in the city. Kollock & Hodge must have begun production between 1786 and December 1788, when the printer advertised for two or three apprentices to work at the mill “near Springfield.” Their earliest efforts might have disappointed
them, for they offered the establishment for sale “at public vendue” in March 1791; they failed to find a satisfactory customer and were buying “country rags” the following month. In 1795 Kollock advertised for a vattman; candidates could apply at his printing office or at the mill, where they could speak to William Kennan, probably the foreman at that time. Another foreman could have been Alexander Porter, whose name appears in an advertisement for apprentices in 1796. Kollock was one of several papermakers in Springfield and New York who negotiated an agreement in 1798 on the maximum prices they would pay for rags. References: Wilson 1988, 262; Wilson & Stratford 2002, 10, 15, 24, 162; Sellers Moulds Finished, 1 Sept. 1792: demy; Sellers Moulds Finished, 28 Jan 1802: double wrapping laid over; Anderson 1975, 125, 135; Hixson 1968, 10–11; Nelson 1911, 33; [Elizabeth, N.J.] New-Jersey Journal, 14 Dec. 1796 and 9 Oct. 1798.


A half interest in the Columbia Paper Mill was put up for sale at public auction in 1802. Situated on five acres of land along with a dwelling house and an orchard, it was said to be in good repair and to have produced rental income of $500 during the previous year. Kollock retired from the printing business in 1818, but as yet I have found no information on the fate of his paper mill. Reference: [Newark, N.J.] Centinel of Freedom, 9 Mar. 1802, 3.


Samuel Campbell learned the papermaking trade in Scotland before he emigrated to New York, where he set up shop as a bookseller and stationer in 1785 or 1786. He might have started in the papermaking business around 1789, when he is said to have settled in Millburn. Meisner seems to have confused this Samuel Campbell with an earlier Samuel Campbell who emigrated from Scotland in 1756 and acquired land at this location before the Revolutionary War. Snell states that he installed his papermaking equipment in a converted forge. His managing partner may have been Thomas Marr, who died in 1791 and was succeeded by Charles Marr, whose partnership with Campbell was dissolved in 1793. Charles Marr then went to Hanover, New Jersey, where he operated N.J. Mill 32. (Joseph J. Felcone very kindly shared with me the information about the Marr family he has found in contemporary New Jersey newspapers.) Campbell claimed that the writing and wrapping papers he manufactured at the Thistle Paper Mill were “equal to any imported” in an advertisement in his edition of Doctor Watts’s Imitation of the Psalms of David, Corrected and Enlarged by Joel Barlow (1795). He also manufactured plate paper, cartridge paper, and paper for music printing. He was one of several New York and New Jersey papermakers who negotiated an agreement in 1798 on the maximum prices they would pay for rags. In 1799 he insured the building for $2,500 and its “Stock and materials” for an additional $2,500. The mill and its contents were still covered for those amounts when it burned down in 1804; total damages were estimated at $15,000. Despite these losses, business was good enough for Campbell to rebuild immediately, and he was still buying moulds in April 1805. In 1821 he reported to the census officials that he employed five men and six women at only one of his two vats, the other idled because of slow sales; business conditions were poor, he believed, because American manufacturers had to compete with great quantities of cheap goods imported from France and Italy. References: McKay 1942, 16; Shaw 1884, 2:712; Snell 1934, 1–3; Meisner 2002, chap. 10; Wilson & Stratford 2002, 12, 26, 82; Grolier 1907, item 16; [Elizabeth, N.J.] New-Jersey Journal, 9 Oct. 1798; Wolfe 1980, 154; INA policies 1191 and 1192, 23 May 1799, fire blotter, vol. 2; [Newark, N.J.] Centinel of Freedom, 1 May 1804, 3; Gottesman 1965, 290; Sellers Moulds Finished, 28 Feb. 1795: demy; Sellers Moulds Finished, 17 Apr. 1805: large wove super royal; Census of 1820, reel 17, item 40.
NEW JERSEY :: 141


C & M = circle enclosing arms of New York [laid] — ms., Westchester, N.Y., 1793 (AAS); ms., New York, N.Y., 1794 (Gravell & Miller 2002 wmk 234–35; the watermark is reproduced in reverse).


SC = arms of New York [laid] — ms., New York, N.Y., 1793 (NYHS; watermark only); ms., New York, N.Y., 1795 (Gravell & Miller 2002, wmk 852–53); ms., n.p., 1800 (NYHS; countermark only); ms., New York, N.Y., letter of Samuel Campbell, 1800 (INA; watermark only).


SC = fleur-de-lis — The Centinel of Freedom (Newark: Printed and published by Daniel Dodge, and Co., 1786; information supplied by Joseph J. Felcone).


SC 1805 [wove] — James Montgomery, The Wanderer in Switzerland and Other Poems (New York: Printed for S. Stansbury, 1807; Seitz 1986b); ms., Fort Lewis [Va.?), 1815 (AAS); ms., New York, N.Y., 1817 (Gravell & Miller 2002, wmk 862).


Note: Gravell & Miller attribute their watermarks 234–35 to Campbell & Mitchell of Orange County, New York, on the authority of Dard Hunter, who states that this mill was active as early as 1773. I have found no record of this partnership, although Samuel Campbell was associated with the bookseller, bookbinder, and stationer Edward Mitchell between 1805 and 1808. It is far more likely that these watermarks refer to Campbell’s partnership with Thomas and Charles Marr. Gravell & Miller wmk 192 is a later state of their wmk 234, perhaps a deteriorated mould or, more likely, an alteration in the mould after Charles Marr quit the Thistle Mill. References: Hunter 1952, 147; McKay 1942, 16, 51.

Samuel Campbell brought his son John Campbell into the firm, first operating as Samuel Campbell & Son, 1819–1824, and then as J. & S. Campbell, 1825–1833. Around 1825 they closed down the bookstore, and in 1831 they were dealing primarily as paper merchants, buying domestic and foreign rags as well as other papermaking supplies and selling the products of New Jersey mills to customers in New York. They commissioned Stephen Vail to build for them a Fourdrinier machine, which cost $1,000, not counting the stuff chest. They paid for it in May 1831 with a $500 check and a $500 note due in two months. After Samuel Campbell retired around 1834, the firm con-

MD [laid] — ms., Sussex County, N.J., 1812 (AAS); ms., Randolph Township, N.J., 1812 (AAS).

11. New-York Mill. Opposite Samuel Tyler’s mill, which was close to or on the site of N.J. Mill 14.

In 1798 Davis & Dunham {Matthew L. Davis and David Dunham} met with other papermakers in Springfield and two papermakers in New York to negotiate an agreement on the maximum prices they would pay for rags. This is the earliest record I have for this firm (once again, courtesy of Joseph J. Felcone). Dunham ran a dry goods store in New York, which stocked the products of this and other mills in the vicinity. In addition, Davis was a printer and newspaper publisher in New York between 1794 and 1798, and Dunham was active as an auctioneer between 1802 and 1820. Davis joined with him in the auction business until 1804 or perhaps 1803, when he appears to have quit the papermaking firm, then operating as Dunham & Randolph. References: McKay 1942, 22, 25; Gottesman 1965, 291; [Elizabeth, N.J.] New-Jersey Journal, 25 Sept. 1798, 4, and 9 Oct. 1798; Sellers Moulds Finished, 12 Sept. 1800: double cap. watermarked with nine letters, i.e., D & D NY MILL; Sellers Moulds Ordered, 25 June 1803; medium, ordered by Dunham & Randolph of New York.


John Clark’s two-vat paper mill burned down in 1801, not quite a year after he had started in business here, consuming all he had earned during “many years of toil.” Indeed, he may have been involved in another mill nearby since one of his watermarks appears in a New Jersey imprint as early as 1798/1799—or perhaps he began at this location somewhat earlier than indicated by the local histories. He rebuilt the mill and continued to manufacture “all varieties of paper.” References: Shaw 1884, 2:713; Munsell 1876, 56; Meisner 2002, chap. 10; [Newark, N.J.] *Centinel of Freedom*, 5 May 1801, 3.


John Lang purchased a half interest in the mill in 1806 and became sole proprietor in 1807. Reference: Shaw 1884, 2:713.

Abraham Wooley (also A. R. Woolley) bought the mill from Lang in 1808. If that date is correct, Wooley would have seen his investment go up in smoke just a few weeks later, for the mill burned down at the beginning of the year; he lost not only the building but also his machinery and supplies. He then sold the business to John Breath in 1811, although it is not clear whether he sold a reconstructed mill or merely the property with the water privilege. References: Shaw 1884, 2:713; *New-York Weekly Museum*, 20 Feb. 1808, 3.

Thomas Campbell settled here in 1817 after operating N.Y. Mill 50 in Dutchess County, New York. As soon as he arrived, he bought the mill from Breath’s executors (although Breath’s will is dated 1818). During the depressed economic conditions of 1820, Campbell employed four men, three women, and two children at one vat, manufacturing writing, printing, and wrapping grades with an estimated annual value of $4,000 to $5,000. He was sufficiently discouraged by the state of the trade to put the mill up for sale, noting that his new dwelling house, orchard, and picturesque locale would make “a desirable summer retreat for a family,” but even those inducements failed to elicit an acceptable offer. On a trip to Springfield in 1831, Stephen Vail stopped to look at the Short Hills papermaking machine (probably a cylinder) and noted that it “works very well”—or at least better than the calendaring machine, which Vail repaired a few months later. In 1839 Thomas Campbell leased the establishment to his son Wellington Campbell, who was still in business making various kinds of card in 1882. References: New Jersey *Wills*, 1:345, 352; Shaw 1884, 2:713, 715; Snell 1934, 3–4; Census of 1820, reel 17, item 41; *New-York Columbian*, 10 Aug. 1820, 3; Vail Diaries, 7 May 1831 and 18 Aug. 1831; Lockwood 1882, 65.


Woolebridge Eaglesfield operated a paper mill in Millburn in 1810. He put it up for sale at a “bargain” price in 1817, when he was running it as a partner in the firm of Eaglesfield & Lyon. He later leased it to John and James White and then sold it to his son-in-law Israel Dodd Condit, who formed a partnership with Elias Smith, another son-in-law of Eaglesfield. In 1830 Condit ordered a Fourdrinier machine from Stephen Vail but then changed his mind and engaged another firm.
to build a cylinder, a less onerous investment. With the money he saved, he may have also bought a steam-heated drying device, an essential ingredient of mass-production papermaking. Among other products, the mill manufactured newsprint for newspapers in New York. After Smith left the firm, Condit converted the mill to a hat-body factory. References: Shaw 1884, 2:713; Meisner 2002, chap. 10; [New York, N.Y.] Commercial Advertiser, 30 Oct. 1817, 3; Vail Diaries, 30 Sept. 1830 and 10 Dec. 1830.

14. On a branch of the Rahway River, a half mile from the church in Springfield.

Captain Jonas Wade converted a grist mill at this location to paper manufacture sometime before 1810. References: New Jersey Wills, 1:499; Shaw 1884, 2:713; Meisner 2002, chap. 10.


Note: Gravell & Miller attribute the American eagle watermark to Mass. Mill 73, owned by John West, who was less likely to be supplying the New York market at this time and was probably using a JW & C: watermark.

Oliver Wade operated a two-vat paper mill and a pasteboard manufactuary here in 1820. In his capacity as sole executor of Jonas Wade, he put the mill up for sale along with a tannery, a distillery, a grist mill, a saw mill, and other properties in Springfield in March 1820, but he was still running the paper mill in January 1821, when he was interviewed by the census authorities. He told them that cheap imports from France and Italy had stifled demand and driven prices down so low that he was running only one of his two vats, employing six men and six women in the manufacture of writings, printings, and wrappings, his annual sales amounting to about $5,000. Two men worked at one engine and two presses in his pasteboard manufactuary, their annual output of binders’ board worth about $2,400. References: New Jersey Wills, 1:499; [Newark, N.J.] Centinel of Freedom, 18 Apr. 1820, 4; Census of 1820, reel 17, item 21.

Thompson & Belaney acquired the mill sometime after 1820 and relinquished it in 1825, when it became the property of James White. In 1856 White sold it to a firm headed by Israel Dodd Condit. Reference: Shaw 1884, 2:713.

15. Near the intersection of Main and Essex Streets.

Samuel Parkhurst operated a binders’ board mill in Millburn as early as 1818. In 1820 he reported to the census that he bought 30 tons a year of junk or tarred rope to make pasteboard priced at $80 a ton, probably for sale in New York City. He employed three men in this line of business. References: New Jersey Wills, 1:451; Census of 1820, reel 17, item 42; Meisner 2002, chap. 10.

John White owned and operated the mill for some time before it was converted to a hat-body factory. He purchased replacement parts from the paper machine manufacturer Stephen Vail in 1826 and 1828. References: Shaw 1884, 2:714; Vail diaries, 13 Aug. 1826 and 15 Dec. 1828.


Jonathan Parkhurst built a binders’ board mill in Millburn around 1820 and operated it in partnership with his father, Abraham Parkhurst. Jonathan appears to have been the senior member of the firm Abraham Parkhurst & Sons in 1828, when he bought a large calendaring machine from Stephen Vail. He rebuilt the mill after it burned down in 1844, and it was still in operation in 1882. References: New Jersey Wills, 1:451; Shaw 1884, 2:714; Vail Diaries, 13 Aug. 1826 and 15 Dec. 1828.

17. Not located.

In 1820 White & Belland were running a one-vat mill in Springfield, where they made writings, printings,
and wrappings with a total value of $4,000 or $5,000 a year. They employed four men and six women. Possibly White could be related to or identified with James White, who was involved with N.J. Mills 13, 14, and 35, or with John White, who was involved with N.J. Mills 13 and 15. Reference: Census of 1820, reel 17, item 39.

18. At the site of the present high school athletic field.

The brothers Joseph P. Smith, John W. Smith, and William C. Smith built this binders’ board mill in 1822. A few years later William C. Smith left the firm, as did John W. Smith in 1838, leaving Joseph P. Smith as sole proprietor. The mill remained in the family until it was closed in 1872. References: New Jersey Wills, 1:478–79; Shaw 1884, 2:713; Meisner 2002, chap. 10.

19. At the Springfield line.

Samuel Miller and Daniel N. Denman converted a woolen mill at this location to paper manufacture sometime after 1825. Somehow they acquired a cylinder as early as 1827 and were running it successfully enough to attract the notice of Stephen Vail, whose son Alfred Vail made a special trip to Springfield to look it over. The firm later operated as Denman & Ayres after Miller departed. References: Shaw 1884, 2:713; Meisner 2002, chap. 10; Vail Diaries, 11 May 1827.

William and Abner Stites acquired the mill in 1835 and converted it from the manufacture of wrapping grades to binders’ board. Reference: Shaw 1884, 2:713.

Addendum

Alexander Ming and William C. Duckett owned a cotton factory, a saw mill, a paper mill, and 20 acres of land in Springfield in 1813, when their properties were liquidated by order of the sheriff. Duckett had already suffered setbacks in Pa. Mill 111, which had also been sold by the sheriff. Reference: [Elizabeth, N.J.] New-Jersey Journal, 15 June 1813, 3.

Bloomfield

20. On the Second River, behind Franklin Street.

Charles Kinsey built a mill at this location before 1802, when he moved to Paterson, New Jersey. References: Folsom 1912, 57; Congress 1971, 1239.

In 1802 Joseph Condit Jr. invited papermakers to visit the paper mill at Bloomfield, where they could inspect samples of paper made from “shavings of tanned Leather” by a process he had patented just two weeks earlier. References: [Bennington, Vt.] Vermont Gazette, 15 Mar. 1802, 1; Burke 1847, 86.

Eliphalet Hall and Jacob K. Meade were operating this mill in 1818, and both still resided in Bloomfield in 1830. Reference: Folsom 1912, 57 and map between pp. 184 and 185.


This paper mill may have been one of three known to have been operating in Bloomfield in 1832. There were still three paper mills in Bloomfield in 1840, after the Belleville tract (see n.J. Mill 28) became a separate township in 1839. References: Gordon 1834, 104–5; Folsom 1912, 142.

21. On the Third River, next to the Morris Canal and the road to Paterson.

Baldwin & Pitt purchased a pair of Sellers’ moulds in 1804. The partners were probably Ichabod Baldwin and Samuel Pitt, who invested in several manufacturing ventures in the Bloomfield area. Baldwin also owned a tannery. References: Sellers Moulds Ordered, 25 Aug. 1804; large super royal vellum; Cushman 1992, 8.

William and Abner Stites acquired the mill in 1835 and converted it from the manufacture of wrapping grades to binders’ board. Reference: Shaw 1884, 2:713.

22. On the Third River. Near the road to Belleville?


In 1817 the creditors of Job S. Dodd put up for sale
at auction the properties he had surrendered under a writ of 
ieri facias, including a “Paper Mill and Bark Mill in Bloomfield.” Reference: [Newark, N.J.] Centi
nel of Freedom, 30 Dec. 1817, 1.

23. On the North Branch of the Second River, West Bloomfield, on Bloomfield Avenue (formerly the Newark-Pompton Turnpike), four and a half miles from Newark.

John Purvis and Alexander Wilson were working in a Bloomfield paper mill in 1812, apparently as partners, for both immigrated from England on the same day in 1802. Reference: Scott 1979, 248, 250.

Purvis, Wilson & Laing put up for sale a one-vat, two-engine mill at this location in 1814. The mill was on a “never failing stream” and had an “excellent well” to provide spring water for the washing engine. A bleaching house was on the grounds, as well as a boarding house that could accommodate three families. Reference: [New York, N.Y.] Columbian, 6 June 1814, 1.


Note: Gravell & Miller attribute this watermark to Peter Wallover of Philadelphia, although the style of the ampersand indicates that it was the work of a mouldmaker in the New York area, quite possibly James Henderson of Springfield, New Jersey. They do not offer an explanation for the initial L, and Wallover was not associated with anyone who might have used that initial.

Isaac Ward had a paper mill at this location in 1830. Reference: Folsom 1912, map between pp. 184 and 185.


Cushman claims that John Collins operated a paper mill at this location, although Collins’s will indicates that he made his living as a farmer. After he died in 1806, his property passed to his son Isaac Collins. It is possible that his son or his son’s tenant built a paper mill sometime before 1815, when Samuel Pitt purchased it and the “Paper Mill Pond.” Pitt supplied the paper for Philip Freneau’s Collection of Poems on American Affairs (New York: Published by David Longworth, 1815) in two volumes. He was still in the papermaking business as late as 1830. References: Cushman 1992, 28; Folsom 1912, 61 and map between pp. 184 and 185; Charles F. Heartman, ed., Unpublished Freneauana (New York: Printed for the editor, 1918), 12–15.


An investor named Gwinn purchased a saw mill at this location and converted it to the manufacture of paper.
He built a home on his property but leased the mill to William Frame of Bloomfield. Reference: Folsom 1912, 30.


After buying the property for N.J. Mill 25, Gwinn built a second paper mill nearby and leased it as well to William Frame. Eventually steam power was introduced in both mills. Reference: Folsom 1912, 30.

27. On the North Branch of the Second River.


Addendum

Matthias Bowden was a papermaker in Bloomfield in 1830, but there is no indication whether he owned his own mill or was employed in one of the local manufactories. Reference: Folsom 1912, 62.

Belleville

28. Third River Paper Mill. On the Third River, three miles north of Belleville (which was originally part of Bloomfield but became a separate township in 1839).

Around 1808 a grist mill at this location was converted to paper manufacture by the firm Bird, Hopkins & Whiting (Bird, George Folliet Hopkins, and Samuel Whiting). Hopkins had been a printer in New Jersey but then moved to New York, where he appeared as a printer in city directories in 1797. Directories also identify him as a stationer between 1800 and 1842 and as proprietor of a paper warehouse in 1814. Samuel Whiting & Co. appear in New York directories as booksellers in 1811, and Whiting continued in the bookselling business until 1833. He used a watermark with the same two doves design as that of Bird, Hopkins & Whiting and with the initials SW & C, which could signify either that he continued in the papermaking business after the original firm dissolved or that he was ordering specially watermarked paper for his shop in New York. It is possible that Bird is a corruption of Bayard, a member of the bookselling firm Hopkins & Bayard operating at Hopkins’s New York city address in 1808 and transacting business on behalf of this mill at that date. Another possibility is that Bird was associated with Hopkins & Bayard in a firm named something like Bird, Hopkins & Bayard, which could be the origin of the BH & B watermark listed below. Daniel Sawn was the foreman in 1814, when he announced that he had openings for four apprentices, evidence that this mill had at least two vats. Dard Hunter reproduced an undated ream wrapper of the Third River Paper Mill in Papermaking by Hand in America. References: McKay 1942, 36, 76; Huttner 1993, 115–16; Gilpin Letter Book, 3 Jan. 1809; Sellers Moulds Ordered, 3 Feb. 1808: assortment of moulds ordered by Hopkins for his mill “near New York”; Sellers Moulds Finished, 1 June 1808: demy laid, watermarked with four letters, i.e., BH & W; Sellers Moulds Ordered, 5 May 1810: wove royal printing; [Newark, N.J.] Centi- nel of Freedom, 5 Apr. 1814, 4; Hunter 1950, 237.


BH & W [wove] — mss., New York, N.Y., 1811 and 1812 (N NC, Nicholas Fish Papers); ms., New York, N.Y., 1812 (Gravell & Miller 2002, wmk 118).

H & W | THIRD RIVER = two doves and a sprig of ivy [wove] — mss., New York, N.Y., 1813, and New Haven, Conn., 1815 (Gravell & Miller 2002, wmk 436–37; wmk 436 reproduced in reverse); ms., Newburgh, N.Y., 1815 (AAS; countermark only).

SW & C+ N YORK = two doves and a sprig of ivy
occupied the Third River Paper Mill, and Gravell & Miller state that they took it over after the Curtises, but other sources imply that the Kingslands were solely concerned with the Madison Mill until 1837, when they built a second establishment in Franklin, New Jersey. There is some possibility that these two names refer to the same mill, but both are used so frequently that it has seemed best to account for them in separate entries to avoid confusion. References: Hunter 1950, 233; Gravell & Miller 2002, p. 242.


Bird, Hopkins & Whiting offered the Madison Paper Mill “or the larger part thereof” for sale in 1812. At that time the mill contained three vats and had room for one more in the main building, which measured 104 by 32 feet. Reference: [Newark, N.J.] Commercial Advertiser, 10 Feb. 1818, 4, and 23 June 1819, 3.

M & K N YORK = two doves and a sprig of ivy [wove] — mss., Washington, D.C., 1818 (AAS; repro. in fig. 1.9); ms., Washington, D.C., 1818 (Gravell & Miller 2002, wmk 680–81).


Warren and Melville Curtis are said to have acquired the Third River Paper Mill sometime between 1809 and 1825, although the latter date seems more likely on the basis of the datable watermarks employed by Morris & Kingsland. The Curtises completely mechanized the mill by 1834, installing at some expense a Phelps & Spafford Fourdrinier along with a pulp dresser, steam-drying cylinders, and a cutting machine. References: Gravell & Miller 2002, p. 242; [Boston, Mass.] The Liberator, 17 Jan. 1835, 12; Vail Diaries.

Hunter claims that Joseph and Richard Kingsland
30. Not located.

W. & C. Baldwin are said to have purchased for their mill in Bloomfield one of the first Fourdrinier machines manufactured by the Smith & Winchester Manufacturing Company. This story was embroidered at a later date by someone who assumed that the Smith & Winchester firm was operating without competition in the United States. In fact, the Baldwins bought their Fourdrinier and a pulp dresser from Stephen Vail in 1832. I have not been able to ascertain how they were related to the Baldwin who was active in the Bloomfield paper trade ca. 1804 at N.J. Mill 21. References: Weeks 1916, 180; Vail Diaries, 14 July 1832.

Maplewood

31. On the site of the Dunnell Road firehouse in a district formerly known as Jefferson Village.


The estate of A. L. Dunnell was making hardware paper on a 62-inch double cylinder machine in 1873. Reference: Lockwood 1873, 61.

Addenda


Charles Marr moved to Hanover soon after he concluded his partnership with Samuel Campbell in N.J. Mill 9. In May 1794 he announced that his mill was finished and ready to begin operations. The business proved so unprofitable, however, that one of his creditors had it sold at auction by the sheriff in November 1796. Marr continued to advertise for rags through 1799, either having retained some connection with the mill or acting as an agent for another one in the Hanover vicinity. For this account of Marr’s Hanover papermaking ventures, I am much indebted to Joseph J. Felcone, who has shown me the information he has collected about Marr in contemporary New Jersey newspapers. Reference: Wilson & Stratford 2002, 243.
Co countermark, which refers to the New Jersey state printer Matthias Day or the New Jersey papermaker Matthias Denman.

Around 1800 William Maher sold a paper mill at this location to Jacob Gray and Cornelius Voorhees. I can only conjecture that this was the same mill operated by Marr, who seems to have gone out of business just before Gray and Voorhees arrived. Reference: *Morris County* 1914, 1:143.

After working in N.J. Mill 44, Joseph Bleything purchased this establishment, perhaps around 1825, when he ran up debts with the papermaking machinery manufacturer Stephen Vail. At one point he proposed to rent a mill owned by or named after E. Miller. His son William H. Bleything was also involved in this papermaking venture, perhaps as a junior partner. Joseph Bleything bought a pulp dresser from Vail and haggled with him over the price of a Fourdrinier ($1,200 on a year’s credit) but obtained a cylinder elsewhere in 1832. This account is more reliable than the Morris County local history, which states that Bleything installed the first Fourdrinier in New Jersey in 1830. References: *Morris County* 1914, 1:143; Sellers Letter Book, 15 Feb. 1832; Vail Diaries, 8 Dec. 1825 and 2 Dec. 1831.

In 1843 Gaunt & Derrickson purchased this mill as well as the Phoenix Mill upstream, rebuilt them, and sold them to Daniel Coghlan in 1847. Coghlan was making envelope paper on a 62-inch Fourdrinier in 1873. References: *Morris County* 1914, 1:143; Lockwood 1873, 62.


Robert Donaldson ran a paper warehouse in New York between 1819 and 1835. In 1819 he announced that a volume of law reports he had published was available at his “Book and Paper Ware Room.” Hunter dates his papermaking activities as early as 1800, perhaps just a notional date, since Hunter knew about Donaldson’s mill only on the basis of a ream wrapper reproduced in *Papermaking by Hand in America*. The earliest direct evidence I have found for his papermaking business is his RD watermark, first appearing in 1812. But he probably started before 1810, when the census recorded the existence of two paper mills in Morris County. His establishment contained two vats and two engines worked by ten men, eight women, and one child in the manufacture of paper and boards. Capitalized at $25,000, Donaldson’s business cost him more than the revenue it produced, at least in 1820, when he complained that demand had declined because of imports. He won a prize for his quarto post paper in the seventh Exhibition of Domestic Manufactures at the Franklin Institute, where he also displayed scented, tinted, and embossed writing papers. The Phoenix Mill probably got its name around 1821 after a fire destroyed the building and inflicted losses estimated as high as $15,000—but not so high as to discourage Donaldson, whose watermarks show that his business had risen from the ashes by 1824. In 1834 he installed a 41-inch cylinder machine, although he appears to have been running a Fourdrinier in 1832, when Stephen Vail made some adjustments to the deckle straps and the shaking mechanism. References: *National Intelligencer*, 21 Sept. 1819, 3; Huttner, 1993, 74; Hunter 1950, 291, 299; Hunter 1952, 150; Coxe 1814, tables, p. 42; Census of 1820, reel 17, item 43; *New-York Spectator*, n.s. 8 (1831): 328; Vail Diaries, 25 May 1832 and 27 June 1832; Sellers Order Book, 19 Aug. 1834.


R DONALDSON | PHENIX MILL [laid] — mss., Canton, China, 1828, and Albany, N.Y., 1830 (Gravell & Miller 2002, wmk 325); ms., New York, N.Y., 1831 (AAS).


Donaldson was succeeded by his son Robert Donaldson Jr. around 1835, when he closed down his paper warehouse in New York. After the cylinder was installed, the Phoenix Mill was producing 10 tons a week, mostly newsprint and other printing papers for Frank Leslie’s Pictorial, the New York Ledger, and other journals. References: Sellers Order Book, 20 May 1835; Morris County 1914, 1:144.


In 1843 Gaunt & Derrickson purchased the Phoenix Mill as well as N.J. Mill 32 downstream, rebuilt them, and sold them to Daniel Coghlan in 1847. Reference: Morris County 1914, 1:143–44.

34. On the Whippany River?

A state gazetteer notes that there were three paper mills in Hanover Township in 1832. Stephen Vail visited the “Whippany Papermills” in 1832 and did some business with them but did not mention the proprietors by name in his diaries. References: Gordon 1834, 155–56; Vail Diaries, 6 Sept. 1832.

Pequannock

35. On the Pequannock River, near Pompton Plains?

James White & Son operated a paper mill here as early as 1810. Reference: Morris County 1882, 279.

In 1828 Edmund Langstroth bought from Stephen Vail a screw for a dry press in his paper mill in Pompton. This is the only evidence I have found for a mill in Pompton, probably Pompton Plains (in Vail’s vicinity) rather than Pompton Township in Passaic County. But I do know that Langstroth was a veteran member of the trade, as he was born into a prominent papermaking family and was previously employed in Pa. Mill 104. Reference: Vail Diaries, 11 Jan 1828 and 8 Feb. 1828.

This paper mill may have been one of the five known to have been operating in Morris County in 1832. Reference: Gordon 1834, 37.

In 1845 the White family may have been renting the mill to John Logan, who enlarged it and installed machinery, and then rented it to other tenants until James White took over the establishment in 1862. Reference: Morris County 1882, 279.

Chatham

36. On the Passaic River.

The Bonnel family ran a grist mill at or near this location as early as 1749. Jonathan C. Bonnel went into the papermaking business sometime before 1812, when Chatham papermaker Richard C. Harding was caught in a roundup of British aliens during the War of 1812. The mill did not figure prominently in the paper trade because it manufactured mainly pasteboard. References: Morris County 1914, 1:283, 314; Scott 1979, 245.

This paper mill may have been one of the five known to have been operating in Morris County in 1832. Reference: Gordon 1834, 37.

By 1845 the mill was being operated by C. P. Edwards. Reference: Morris County 1914, 1: plate facing p. 304.
Morristown


The only information I have found about this mill is in the diaries of the ironmaster Stephen Vail, who lived in the vicinity and loaned money to the proprietors, Knight & Phillips (William Knight & N. R. Phillips). Knight appears to have been a silent partner, leaving Phillips in charge of production and sales, perhaps even with an outlet in New York if Phillips can be identified with the papermaker Nathaniel R. Phillips, who appeared in a city directory in 1826. If the date cited for a watermark with his initials is correct, he may have been in business in the New York area as early as 1813.

In 1825, however, Knight & Phillips were either just starting out or were running short of cash, which they raised by mortgaging the mill to Vail for $6,000. A year later Vail loaned them an additional $2,000, but Knight then dropped out of the firm, and his partner failed to pay the interest on the mortgage. Phillips may have defaulted on other, more onerous debts if there was any truth to the rumor that the sheriff was about to levy an execution on his personal property. References: Vail Diaries, 7 Dec. 1825, 7 Aug. 1826, 16 Oct. 1826, 7 Aug. 1827, and 6 May 1828; Huttner 1993, 181.


Note: The date Gravell & Miller assign to wmk 724 is difficult to reconcile with the extremely brief papermaking career of Nathaniel R. Phillips, who appears in New York city directories as a cabinet maker before and after 1826.

Vail lost patience with Phillips, “a difficult man & faithless fellow,” and suspected him of making a fraudulent assignment of assets to one of his creditors, Peter Freeman. Vail’s son-in-law Dayton I. Canfield agreed to take over the mill and tried to negotiate an agreement with Freeman and Phillips. Still looking out for the main chance, Phillips proposed that Canfield should form a partnership with his compliant creditor and hire him, the penitent debtor, as a journeyman with wages of $8 per week. Canfield did not wish to be associated with them, and negotiations stalled for a few months until they finally relinquished control of the mill in 1828. After they left, Vail discovered that some of the machinery had been damaged by sabotage or neglect. He was so pleased to be rid of them and to have someone he could trust in this business that he loaned his son-in-law $2,000 and prepared another mortgage on the mill that would secure the money due to him from the previous mortgages. By making these investments, he obtained a pilot plant where he could develop new applications for his metalworking skills. On these premises he learned to build a prototype Fourdrinier, which was put into operation in July 1830. He could show this demonstration model to potential customers, who seem to have been sufficiently impressed that they commissioned him to make other Fourdrinier machines. The Vail family continued to support Canfield’s papermaking ventures and helped him to establish a warehouse in New York in 1841. References: Vail Diaries, 31 July 1827, 12 May 1828, 29 May 1828, 19 Dec. 1828, 23 and 24 Dec. 1828, 19 Dec. 1829, 2 and 3 Apr. 1830, and 23 July 1830; Huttner 1993, 48.


38. Near Morris Plains?

L. Moore (Lawrence? Loomis?) purchased from Stephen Vail a Fourdrinier, which was ready to be installed in August 1832 and was operating satisfactorily in November. The Fourdrinier was equipped with a drying machine designed by Charles M. Pickering. Vail invested in this establishment and made his first payment of $500 in April 1832. I have not been able to find any other record of Moore’s papermaking activities. Reference: Vail Diaries, 30 Apr. 1832, 3–31 Aug. 1832, and 5 Nov. 1832.
Burlington County

Mount Holly

39. On Rancocas Creek, part of Northampton Township, renamed Mount Holly Township in 1931.

Austin & Carr (Cyrus Austin and Isaac Carr) purchased moulds for this mill as early as 1797. A year later Austin patented an improved bleaching process, not an original invention but an adroit appropriation of foreign technology. Some of his specifications were copied verbatim from an English patent published in the 1794 *Repertory of Arts and Manufactures*. It is not known whether he used the bleaching process in his own manufacturing operations or whether he fully understood its potential, not just for treating colored rags but also for finding new sources of raw materials. Less interested in its long-term economic implications than in his short-term profits, he charged licensing fees to other entrepreneurs who wished to adopt this innovation in paper chemistry. References: *New Jersey Wills*, 1:106; Sellers Moulds Finished, 17 June 1797: medium; Sellers Moulds Finished, 17 Sept. 1800: post vellum, watermarked with three letters, i.e., A & C; Burke 1847, 85; Bidwell 1992, 68–69.


Isaac Carr may have quit the papermaking business around 1800, when his name dropped out of the mill’s watermarks, but he remained in Mount Holly, where he was involved with a fulling mill between 1807 and 1813. Austin left sometime between 1803 and 1806, when Isaac Carr & Co. purchased a pair of moulds either for their use or for Austin’s successors. References: Sellers Moulds Ordered, 3 Mar. 1801: writing demy, watermarked fleur-de-lis AUSTIN 1800; Sellers Moulds Ordered, 22 June 1803: double cap, watermarked C AUSTIN; Sellers Moulds Finished, 19 July 1806: vellum post laid over for Isaac Carr & Co.; Woodward & Hageman 1883, 1:176.


Edward Thomas purchased moulds under his own name in 1806 and 1807 and as a partner in Cox & Thomas (Jesse Cox and Edward Thomas) beginning in 1808. This firm also owned a store in Mount Holly. References: Sellers Moulds Finished, 29 Nov. 1806: super royal vellum; Sellers Moulds Finished, 8 Apr. 1807: double cap laid over on Edward Thomas’s frames; Sellers Moulds Ordered, 17 Apr. 1808: post vellum; Sellers Moulds Finished, 6 May 1809: demy writing laid over, watermarked C & T fleur-de-lis; Woodward & Hageman 1883, 1:182–83.


Note: Gravell & Miller attribute this watermark to Cox & Thorp in Mass. Mill 12 despite the evidence of the Sellers entry.

The Census of 1810 stated that the Rancocas Creek mill produced 3,380 reams in a year, with a total value of $16,900, not a very credible figure, since it seems to have been predicated on an average price per ream of $5. Around 1810 or 1811 Edward Thomas dropped out of the firm, which continued as Jesse Cox & Sons until at least 1822. One of the sons may have been John Cox, who ordered moulds from the Sellers firm in 1820. Cox & Sons sold medium papers to the Carey
firm in 1815. The mill contained two vats and two engines, but during the depression following the Panic of 1819 the proprietors closed down one of the vats and reduced their workforce to two men, eight women, and three children. Even after cutting back, they could not sell three-quarters of what they produced because of competition from European imports. Prices of writing medium had fallen from $15 to $9 a ream, writing demy from $12 to $7, post from between $4.00 and $4.25 to $3.25, and foolscap from between $4.50 and $5.00 to $3.50. Formerly, demand was so strong that they had employed eight men, twenty-two women, and four boys working overtime and exceeding their daily quotas by 50 percent. A papermaking machine was installed not long before 1832, when the mill employed forty to fifty hands manufacturing 10,000 reams of paper a year. References: Sellers Moulds Ordered, 24 Aug. 1810: post, watermarked with a posthorn and COX; Sellers Moulds Finished, 7 June 1811: Spanish moulds purchased by Cox & Thomas; Sellers Moulds Ordered, 15 Apr. 1820: ordered by John Cox; Sellers Moulds Ordered, 16 Mar. 1822: several pairs, watermarked J COX; Carey Papers, 28:4016A; Coxe 1814, tables, p. 42; Census of 1820, reel 17, item 134; Gordon 1834, 187.


The Philadelphia booksellers and stationers Bennet & Walton (Joseph Bennet, Titus Bennet, and Joseph Walton) purchased the mill in 1836, installed a Fourdrinier machine, and hired Samuel F. Levis to manage their enlarged and modernized facility. The mill burned down in 1840 and was not rebuilt. Reference: Woodward & Hageman 1883, 1:177.

Addendum


Passaic County
Paterson

40. On the middle race, on the site of the Essex Mill.

Charles Kinsey moved to Paterson in 1802 after running N.J. Mill 20 in Bloomfield. He may have been making paper in Paterson in partnership with Israel Crane and Andrew Ogden as early as November 1802, when they petitioned the New Jersey legislature against the construction of a dam on the Passaic River at Slotterdam. The petition identifies them as proprietors of “the” paper mill at Paterson, in which capacity Ogden purchased moulds in 1803. However, he must have left the partnership sometime before 1804, when Kinsey established the firm of Kinsey, Crane & Fairchild with Crane and Thomas Fairchild. They moved, renovated, or expanded their facilities by leasing a mill site from the Society for Establishing Useful Manufactures. Fairchild bought out Crane’s interest in 1805 and formed the firm Kinsey & Fairchild, which sold its products in New York at a paper warehouse noted in city directories at several addresses between 1806 and 1815. In 1807 Kinsey patented a papermaking machine using a cylinder mechanism similar to those patented by Thomas Gilpin in 1816 and John Ames in 1822. His machine was constructed by Daniel Sawn, who had been a papermaker and perhaps a mouldmaker in the Philadelphia area. Nothing more is known about Kinsey’s invention, which was forgotten until Ames’s opponents sought to challenge the validity of his patent and began to refer to Kinsey as the original inventor. They claimed that Ames had hired Sawn to work on his machine as if to offer additional evidence that Ames had been filching other people’s ideas and that he could not have developed a viable cylinder on his own. Apparently, Kinsey’s partners compelled him to abandon his experiments and to convert the mill to a cotton factory during the manufacturing boom before the War of 1812. The paper warehouse in New York began to stock cotton goods in 1811. Like many other
manufacturers, Kinsey & Fairchild failed in the economic turmoil leading up to the Panic of 1819. Kinsey served in the state general assembly at various times between 1812 and 1826 and was twice elected to Congress between 1817 and 1821. References: Congress 1971, 1239; http://www.njarchives.org/links/guides/sle00002.html (accessed 19 Feb. 2011); Sellers Moulds Finished, 1 June 1803: Scotch vellum medium laid over; Sellers Moulds Ordered, 21 Nov. 1810: wove royal; Sellers Letter Book, 15 May 1834; McKay 1942, 41; Clayton 1882a, 452; Burke 1847, 85; Trumbull 1882, 41–43; Albany Argus, 5 Jan. 1819, 4.

41. Near the Essex Mill.


42. Not located.

While visiting the Speedwell works on 1 November 1831, John Evans of Paterson asked Stephen Vail to build him a Fourdrinier and to deliver it by Christmas. Vail was not sure about Evans’s ability to pay and did nothing except to inquire about his credit. Evans was so disappointed not to get his Christmas wish that he wrote a letter to Vail “with abusive language” and took his business elsewhere. He corresponded with the Sellers firm about its cylinder improvements and a pulp dresser he had designed or patented. He probably went out of business before 1834, when N.J. Mill 43 appears in a New Jersey gazetteer as the only paper mill in Paterson. References: Vail Diaries, 1 Nov. 1831, 17 Feb. 1832, 24 Mar. 1832, and 26 May 1832; Sellers Letter Book, 5 Mar. 1832.

43. On the upper race near Spruce and Market Streets.


Addendum


Acquackanonk

44. North of Newark, on a tract now comprising the City of Passaic and part of Paterson. Possibly this name was used loosely, and the mill was one of several in the Bloomfield area of Essex County.

Jonathan Hughes and Joseph Bleything were working in a paper mill here in 1812, apparently as partners, for both immigrated from England on the same day in 1807. Hughes may have been the same Jonathan Hughes who had been operating a paper mill in Staffordshire with a partner until 1793, when his partner left and he began to run it on his own account. Hughes and Bleything also operated paper stores in New York in 1816 and 1823. References: Scott 1979, 242, 246; Shorter 1957, 234; McKay 1942, 37; Huttner 1993, 118.

Bergen County

Waldwick

45. In New Prospect, near Hohokus.

Around 1824 Charles Kinsey and his son left Paterson (see N.J. Mills 40 and 41) and moved to New Prospect, where the father is said to have carried on the paper-making business while also serving as a judge in Bergen County courts between 1830 and 1845. He wrote a report on New Jersey industries in 1832. References: Congress 1971, 1239; McLane Report, 2:135; Clayton 1882a, 453.
Addendum

Gordon’s Gazetteer calls for three paper mills in Bergen County ca. 1832. Reference: Gordon 1834, 37.

Cumberland County

Bridgeton

46. Olive Branch Mill.

Marseilles & Sibley started in business here with purchases of rags in 1832. They bought a cylinder machine in 1833 and began paying wages in that year. They sold the products of the mill in the Philadelphia market, but without much success, and had to settle with their creditors at fifty-three cents to the dollar. David Reeves and John Sibley took over as trustees of the firm and decided to close it down. Although their surviving account books contain entries as late as 1837, they must have been collecting debts and paying creditors at that time, for they did not record any sales after April 1834 or any payments of wages after May 1834. References: Oak Knoll Books Catalogue 50 (1983), item 174; Sellers Order Book, 17 Oct. 1834; Schreyer 1988, 23–24.