CHAPTER 9
Maryland

Baltimore County
Hoffmanville or Paper Mills

1. Clipper Mill. On the west bank of Great Gunpowder Falls, a quarter of a mile upstream from the Hoffmanville bridge.

After renting Pa. Mill 57, William Hoffman moved to Maryland in 1775 and built this mill on land leased from the Proprietary’s Reserve. By 1776 he was selling cartridge paper to the Maryland Council of Safety. Hoffman manufactured mostly wrappings in this establishment after 1781, when he could depend on the superior facilities of the Gunpowder Mill (Md. Mill 2) for making writings and printings. Some sources question whether Hoffman was the first to make paper in Maryland or whether he was preceded by James Dorsett, who was granted £400 in 1776 by the Maryland Convention to build a paper mill. There is no evidence that Dorsett actually built the mill and put it into production, although his other activities are sufficiently well known for historians to conjecture that it was located in Elkridge or near Ellicott City. Another contender is a Mr. Stouffer of Frederick County, who was said to have competed against Hoffman for a reward of 1,000 acres of land offered by the governor to anyone who could manufacture the first ream of paper in the state. In this story Hoffman wins the prize by building a makeshift stamping mill instead of waiting to install the more complicated machinery needed to run an engine. Again, there is no supporting evidence for this anecdote, which first appeared in a Baltimore newspaper in 1853 and was reprinted in other sources despite some suspect inconsistencies. References: Seitz 1946, 11, 13, 55; Seitz 1986b, 3–6; Seitz 1986a; Hunter 1952, 65–69; McGrain 1985, 268–69.


One of five sons of William Hoffman, Christian Hoffman managed the Clipper Mill for his father and inherited it in 1811. William Hoffman’s will instructed the sons who inherited his paper, grist, and saw mills to indemnify the others who were assigned less valuable properties. In 1820 Christian Hoffman employed three men and five children to make paper and pasteboard worth $5,000 a year. He later reconfigured the mill to accommodate a second vat and borrowed money from John T. Worthington to acquire a papermaking machine but died before he could accomplish this project. References: Seitz 1946, 19–25; Sellers Moulds Ordered, 19 June 1818: three pairs in different sizes and two washers; Census of 1820, reel 16, item 117.

Christian Hoffman’s son Peter Benton Hoffman purchased the mill at public auction around 1833 but had to relinquish the property for another court-
ordered auction sale in 1836, when it was acquired by the Worthington family. References: Seitz 1946, 24–26; Sellers Order Book, 20 Aug. 1834.

The Clipper Mill passed back into the hands of the Hoffman family before 1873, when it was making bogus and wrappings on a 40-inch cylinder machine. Reference: Lockwood 1873, 34.

2. **Gunpowder Mill.** On the east bank of Great Gunpowder Falls, upstream of the Clipper Mill.

William Hoffman made higher quality papers in a second mill built in 1781. This more ambitious structure stood on stone foundations measuring 80 feet long and 30–52 feet wide, a footprint large enough to accommodate two vats and a more sophisticated power train. He obtained rags and other raw materials from a store in Baltimore managed by his son Henry Hoffman, who may have also helped to sell his products. References: Seitz 1946, 13–14, 23, 56–57; Sellers Moulds Ordered, 17 Oct. 1807: super royal and double cap watermarked H.

WH = crown shield fleur-de-lis [laid] — *Maryland Journal*, 21 Sept. 1784 (Gravell & Miller 2002, wmk 367; lacks countermark); To the Inhabitants, Particularly the Farmers and Planters of the State of Maryland ([Md.?]: s.n., 1785); PHI broadside; countermark only); ms., near Baltimore, Md., 1787 (Hunter 1952, figs. 13 and 14).


*Note:* Although the H watermark is unattributed in Gravell & Miller, R. Carlton Seitz assigned it to William Hoffman on the grounds that he had seen numerous examples in the holdings of the Maryland Historical Society. See also the evidence of the Sellers entry cited above. Reference: Seitz 1986b.

William Hoffman’s son Peter Hoffman managed the Gunpowder Mill for his father and inherited it in 1811. See the previous entry for the terms of William Hoffman’s will. One of the Hoffman mills burned down in 1818, probably this one because it was described as “large and elegant” and must have been sufficiently expensive that the total losses were estimated at more than $20,000. The Clipper Mill would have been too small and old to have been worth that much. Peter Hoffman employed ten men and five children in the Gunpowder Mill in 1820, when it contained two vats and two engines consuming 40 tons of rags a year; it produced paper and pasteboard with an annual output valued at $11,000. References: Seitz 1946, 19–23; Census of 1820, reel 16, item 118; Sellers Moulds Ordered, 10 June 1814: super royal and post vellum; Sellers Moulds Finished, 24 Oct. 1816: laid cap, watermarked PH; Sellers Moulds Ordered, 3 Feb. 1819: five sizes and washers; *Baltimore Patriot*, 17 Aug. 1818, 2.


By 1831, Peter Hoffman was running the mill in partnership with his son William Henkle Hoffman as Peter Hoffman & Son. When he retired ten years later he rented the mill to his son, who acquired other mills in the area, including the Marble Vale Paper Mill (Md. Mill 12) and the Clipper Mill (Md. Mill 1), which had passed out of the family. References: Seitz 1946, 36–47; Sellers Letter Book, 18 July 1831.

PH & S [wove] — ms., Worcester County, Md., ca. 1830 (Gravell & Miller 2002, wmk 760); blank sheet (AAS).

The Gunpowder Mill was making manila paper on a 62-inch Fourdrinier in 1882. Reference: Lockwood 1882, 43.

3. On a tract of land known as “Mary’s Delight,” located on Silver Run northeast of Hoffmanville in McGrain 1985 and on Grave Run south of Hoffmanville in Seitz 1986b.

George Gist Jr. purchased a portion of “Mary’s Delight” from his father in 1813 and built a paper mill on
this property either around that date or perhaps as late as 1818. He and John Gist secured a loan with a mortgage on the mill, which was sold at auction in 1836 after John Gist died and after George Gist Jr. lost a judgment brought by one of his creditors. References: Siez 1946, 31; Siez 1986b; Siez 1986a; McGrain 1985, 269, 274.

Oella

4. On the Patapsco River, one mile below Ellicott’s Mills on the Fredericktown Road.

Thomas Mendenhall of Philadelphia established this mill around 1794. Nothing else is known about his papermaking career, but the date of his Baltimore venture is corroborated by the ledgers of the Sellers firm, which sold him an assortment of moulds in 1794, as if he were buying equipment for a newly erected paper mill. He put the mill up for sale in 1798, claiming that it was “equal if not superior to any other in the United States.” Certainly he had some reason to be proud of his manufacturing facilities, a three-story stone mill house measuring 100 by 38 feet, not counting the outbuildings for the sizing apparatus and the two vats. He was running three engines but could run six even in the driest seasons. His property also included a frame dwelling house, a log dwelling house, a spring house, a smoke house, and a stable, all on 32 acres of land. References: Foster 1955, 166; Federal Gazette & Baltimore Daily Advertiser, 8 Jan. 1798, 4; Sellers Moulds Finished, 10 or 18 Apr. 1794: assortment of moulds; Sellers Moulds Finished, 3 May 1797: super royal, watermarked M and eagle.

M = eagle [laid] — ms., n.p., 1799 (Carey Papers, 14:5260, 5261); ms., Petersburg, Va., 1801 (AAS).


Note: Gravell & Miller attribute the M = eagle watermark to the Pennsylvania papermaker Alexander Mode, who, however, used a dove watermark and appears to have started in the trade around 1806.

The Baltimore bookseller John Hagerty must have acquired the mill in or before 1799, when this establishment appears as “John Hagerty’s Paper Mill” in the diary of a Methodist circuit rider who had visited the premises. Hagerty was buying moulds with his watermark as early as 1798. He advertised paper of his own manufacture in 1802, when he and his nephew George Hagerty announced that they were moving their book and stationery store to a new address. Although it was the largest mill in Maryland, with four vats, it did not prosper under the management of Hagerty, who put it up for sale in 1805. References: Silver 1953, 31; Foster 1955, 166–67; McGrain 1985, 285; Relfs Philadelphia Gazette, 29 Mar. 1805, 4; Sellers Moulds Ordered, 8 June 1798: folio post, watermarked Jh & Co 1798; Sellers Moulds Finished, 10 Apr. 1801: double cap, watermarked JH BAL T
c; Sellers Moulds Finished, 15 July 1805: double cap, watermarked JH BAL T
c.


JH = BAL T
c [wove] — mss., Alexandria, Va., 1804, and Dover, Del., 1807 (Gravell & Miller 2002, wmk 548–49); Maryland, Council, (Circular.) Council Chamber Annapolis, March 31, 1806. Sir, in pursuance of the direction of the General Assembly... ([Annapolis: s.n., 1806]; DLC broadside port. 29:7a; BAL T
c countermark only); ms., New York, N.Y., 1808 (AAS).

HJ = BAL T

Conrad, Lucas & Co. {John Conrad, Michael Conrad, and Fielding Lucas Jr.} bought the mill from Hagerty in 1807 and insured it for $7,000 in 1808, a modest amount for a three-story stone structure with foundations measuring 120 by 40 feet. At the other extreme, Craig’s “Domestic Manufactures” claimed in 1811 that $40,000 had been invested in the mill, which made 12,000 reams per year, an enormous figure even if it...
had contained four vats. The Conrad firm was the Baltimore branch of the Philadelphia publishers C. & A. Conrad & Co., who issued Joel Barlow’s *The Columbiad* (1807) and Zebulon Montgomery Pike’s *Account of Expeditions to the Sources of the Mississippi* (1810) among many other titles. When the Conrads’ fortunes began to decline, partly because of the failure of *The Columbiad*, they sold the books and stationery in the Baltimore store to Lucas, who then continued quite successfully on his own. A year later, in 1811, John Conrad was compelled to mortgage the mill to two Philadelphia publishers, Samuel F. Bradford and John Insekep Jr., and to two Baltimore merchants, Edward Gray and Robert Taylor. Gray took over the mill and converted it into a cotton manufactory after Conrad was declared bankrupt in 1812. Among Conrad’s many creditors were the Sellers mould makers, who remarked ruefully in their account books that he “owes about 100 dollars cant get it.” References: Foster 1955, 166–67, 174; INA policy 4937, 15 Feb. 1808; Bidwell 1983a, 365–67; Brown 1949, 345–46; Craig 1811, 163; Sellers Moulds Finished, 25 Mar. 1808: double crown; Sellers Moulds Ordered, 3 Sept. 1808: double cap, watermarked CL & Co PATAPSCO; Sellers Moulds Ordered, 15 Sept. 1815: medium vellum.


Parkton

5. Great Gunpowder Falls, on a site now inundated by the Prettyboy Reservoir.

John Shamberger (also Schamberger) is said to have built this mill around 1813. I have been unable to find further information about the owner or the mill, even though it was in operation until 1906. In 1882 Parkton was the site of two manufactories making straw wrappings. References: Seitz 1986b; McGrain 1985, 288; Lockwood 1882, 44.

Beckleysville

6. West bank of George’s Run.

George Beckley established this mill before 1820 and improved it in 1834 by installing a cylinder machine. As his business prospered, a factory village grew up in its vicinity, eventually becoming a post office town with Beckley as postmaster and proprietor of the company store. The mill was making four tons of book or manila paper a day on a 62-inch Fourdrinier in 1902, when it burned down for the third and last time. References: McGrain 1985, 285–88; Seitz 1986b; Sellers Order Book, 29 Oct. 1834: castings for paper machine; Sellers Order Book, 13 Nov. 1834: cylinder machine; Lockwood 1882, 41.


Bentley Springs


A tax list of 1823 contains an entry for a paper mill, valued at $400, on a tract of land called “Disappointment” or “Vaughn’s Disappointment,” which belonged to Philip A. Kroh. R. Carlton Seitz locates Kroh’s mill near White Hall, where two members of the Kroh family owned paper mills in 1873. Around 1820 Philip A. Kroh may have been associated with a member of the Gist family, active nearby in Md. Mill 3. References: Sellers Moulds Finished, 6 July 1820: extra super royal for “Crow & Gist”; McGrain 1985, 293; Seitz 1986b; Lockwood 1873, 34.

The mill later belonged to Joseph Klattfelter (also Glatfelter?), then to Jacob Krout, and finally to Jarrett Shauck, in whose tenure it burned down in 1851 and again in 1860. Reference: McGrain 1985, 293.

Freeland

8. Upper Mill. Little Gunpowder Falls.


In 1841 Edward Worthington sold the mill to Peter Benton Hoffman, who rebuilt it after a fire in 1851 and then sold it three years later. Reference: Seitz 1946, 26–28.


A member of the Gore family built this mill around 1823. R. Carlton Seitz confuses this mill with another one of the family’s mills on Grave Run near Beckleysville. References: McGrain 1985, 289; Seitz 1986b.

This establishment was still in family hands in 1882, when it was making straw wrappings on a 48-inch cylinder. Reference: Lockwood 1882, 42.

Baltimore


Aaron Righter Levering established the Franklin Manufacturing Company in partnership with Henry Payson and his cousins Aaron Levering, John Levering, and Nathan Levering, a Baltimore merchant who invested in several industrial ventures in the Gwynns Falls area. The partners appear to have started the manufacture of paper around 1808, when Aaron Righter Levering ordered from the Sellers firm an assortment of moulds such as would be required by a newly founded mill. Their first foreman was Isaac Wilson, formerly a journeyman at the Brandywine Paper Mill (Del. Mill 1). He was succeeded by Lawrence Greatrake Jr., son of the foreman at Brandywine, around 1815, when the firm was incorporated as the Franklin Manufacturing Company, authorized to engage in the manufacture of paper and woolens, the wool to be provided by a herd of imported merino sheep. The younger Greatrake was living at the Franklin Paper Mills in 1815, when he ordered moulds for this establishment. According to Craig’s “Domestic Manufactures,” it produced 40,000 reams a year, a figure even more extravagant than Craig’s estimate of the output of the Conrad-Lucas mill (Md. Mill 4), although the Franklin mill did have four vats and was built “on an enlarged scale in every respect,” 180 feet long, 36 feet wide, and three stories high. The Leverings built three two-story stone dwelling houses, eight two-story stone row houses, and a large two-story stone boarding house to accommodate their workers. At its peak, the mill employed twelve men, ten women, six boys, and ten girls in the manufacture of all types of paper with an aggregate value of $30,000 per year. Baltimore city directories list paper warehouses belonging to the firm at various addresses between 1812 and 1818. Levering and his associates discontinued the manufacture of paper in June 1817, apparently because they could not compete with low-priced imports sold at auction sales, although the financial turmoil preceding the Panic of 1819 was probably also to blame. James Dall, agent of the Franklin Manufacturing Company, put the mill up for sale in September 1817 along with a woolen factory, a dye house, a farm, a stone mansion house, and tenements for the workers. Aaron Righter Levering left Baltimore and the papermaking trade to become cashier of a bank in Georgetown. References: Jones 1858, 57–60; Seitz 1986a; McGrain 1985, 302; Davis 2009; Craig 1811, 163; Census of 1820, reel 16, item 50; Baltimore Patriot, 4 Jan. 1815, 3; [Washington, D.C.] National Intelligencer, 29 July 1818, 1; Independent Chronicle & Boston Patriot, 24 Sept. 1817, 3; Sellers Moulds Ordered, 23 Sept. 1808: assortment of moulds; Sellers Moulds Ordered, 6 Dec. 1808; Sellers Moulds Finished, 14 Sept. 1810: double cap, water-
11. Gwynns Falls in Dickeyville.

In 1826 Samuel Tschudy (also Tschudi) applied to the Sellers firm for a line of credit to buy three or four pairs of moulds, as if he were just starting a papermaking business; a year later the firm acknowledged his order for the moulds. He ran a farm and a saw mill in the Gwynns Falls district on two tracts of land, one of which he mortgaged in 1822. Possibly he was trying to raise money to build the paper mill, a large two-story structure standing but probably not in operation in 1825, when it was sold for $3,800 in the course of foreclosure proceedings. Tschudy went to court and succeeded in overturning the foreclosure sale, which he claimed was for half of the real value of the mill. His correspondence with the Sellers firm is the only evidence I have found for his papermaking career, intermittent at best, but the mill was still standing in 1839, when his creditors again put it up for sale. They tried to sell it yet again in 1844, and again Tschudy protested the proceedings, but this time they prevailed and disposed of the property to Charles E. Wethered in 1847. References: Sellers Letter Book, 2 Sept. 1826 and 8 Aug. 1827; Seitz 1986b; Davis 2009; McGrain 1985, 293.


Charles Jessop built this mill around 1828 and in due course bequeathed it to his son Joshua Jessop. In 1830 the agent, foreman, or tenant was a Mr. Green. References: http://www.marylandfreestate.com/1a.html (accessed 27 Nov. 2004); Seitz 1946, 38; Seitz 1986a.

John Hunter either renovated or rebuilt the mill before 1850, when he sold it to William Henkle Hoffman.

The Marble Vale mill was making book and news grades on a 62-inch Fourdrinier in 1882. Reference: Lockwood 1882, 43.

Howard County
Elkridge

13. Hockley Mills. Seven miles from Baltimore on the road to Washington. Howard County was formed from part of Anne Arundel County in 1851.

Hockley Mills was a manufacturing complex on a tract of land belonging to Charles Carroll of Carrollton, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. The earliest record of the Hockley paper mill I have found is an advertisement for an escaped apprentice taken out in 1787 by a tenant or the foreman, Adam Waybill (also Wable), who identified himself as a “Paper-Maker, living near Elk-Ridge Landing.” He was robbed and murdered in 1803 while riding home from Baltimore, where he had been collecting debts to the amount of about $300. Carroll put the property up for sale in 1802, when it contained a large merchant mill, a slitting mill, a blacksmith’s shop, a nail factory, a saw mill, and a paper mill along with other appurtenances of a factory village. References: Maryland Journal and Baltimore Advertiser, 4 Sept. 1787, 4; [Baltimore, Md.] Republican; or Anti-Democrat, 12 Jan. 1802, 3, and 15 Apr. 1803, 3; [New York, N.Y.] Mercantile Advertiser, 8 Apr. 1803, 2.

The Baltimore merchants Hammond & Pringle (William Hammond? and Pringle) appear to have operated the paper mill on this estate and may have bought an interest in it at some point. They employed as foremen Conrad Kownslar around 1800 and Christian Devries around 1802–1809, before these papermakers went into business for themselves in WV. Mill 1 and Md. Mill 19, respectively. References: Graybeal 2001; Sellers Moulds Finished, 22 Dec. 1801: double cap; Sellers Moulds Finished, 7 May 1800: double cap for Conrad Chancellor (i.e., Kownslar), watermarked H & P eagle.


The Census of 1810 noted that one paper mill in this county was producing 2,000 reams a year with a total value of $6,000. Reference: Coxe 1814, tables, p. 84.

Washington County
Hagerstown

14. Election District no. 3.

Peter and Matthias Miller ordered several pairs of moulds from the Sellers firm between 1799 and 1800. The Census of 1810 noted that a Washington County mill (presumably belonging to them or their successors) was making 2,000 reams a year with a total value of $7,000. Otherwise I know nothing of their papermaking career except that it had come to an end by 1820, when they were running a flour manufactory at their mill seat in Hagerstown. References: Sellers Moulds Ordered, 20 May 1799: double cap; Sellers Moulds Finished, 4 June 1799: demy and royal; Sellers Moulds Finished, 26 July 1800: medium, ordered by William Goucher for Peter Miller; Coxe 1814, tables, p. 84; Census of 1820, reel 16, item 293.

In 1803 George Miller, “papermaker and potter,” offered for sale all kinds of paper and pottery at his mill in Hagerstown. In addition to these trades, he was also involved in a grist mill, perhaps the same one that was being operated by Peter and Matthias Miller in 1820. Those who could not pay in cash for paper could get it by barter for wheat or rags, which his customers could

Frederick County

Frederick

15. Middle Monocacy, “near Fredericktown.”

As early as 1802 Nicholas Zimmerman of Frederick County, Maryland, was buying moulds from the Sellers firm, some of them delivered by way of the bookseller John Hagerty, who may have been his agent in Baltimore. He might have been in business even earlier if the Z watermark noted below can be attributed to him. Reference: Sellers Moulds Ordered, 3 Apr. 1802: double cap.


Note: Gravell & Miller attribute this watermark to George Zinn, who rented the Ephrata mill (Pa. Mill 57) in partnership with another papermaker in the 1770s. Zimmerman is more likely to have marked paper with a single Z and to have sold it in the Baltimore area in the 1790s.

In 1820 Zimmerman was running the mill in partnership with one Smith as the firm Zimmerman & Smith. At that time their establishment contained one vat, one engine, and three presses and may have been in operation on a seasonal basis, for it consumed only 12 tons of rags a year. They employed five men, one woman, and two children making writings, printings, pasteboard, and wrappings with a market value of $2,800 a year. Their census return includes comments on the state of the trade in 1820: sales were strong before and during the War of 1812, but demand for their products was now so low that half of what they had made the previous year was still in stock. References: Sellers Moulds Ordered, 12 Apr. 1819: double cap vellum and printing medium vellum; Census of 1820, reel 16, item 168.


Matthias Bartgis, printer of a local newspaper, announced in 1809 that he had “recently” started a papermaking business in association with one Boyer. Anyone who delivered a sufficient quantity of rags could receive a free subscription to his newspaper. In 1816 he put the mill up for sale along with his printing office on the premises, a saw mill under construction, and 69 acres of land. His printing business was modest at best, comprising mainly reprints of almanacs and a spelling book kept in standing type. His papermaking facilities consisted of a single vat, six pairs of moulds, and equipment for marbling wrappers. He was prepared to sell but would prefer to take a partner, who, however, would have to invest $2,000 or $3,000 in the firm. No one took the bait, and the mill was nearly moribund by 1820, when it was consuming only four tons of rags a year. He employed two men, one woman, and one child off and on at making writings, printings, and wrappings with a market value of $1,000 a year. He reported that prices were low, business was dull, and production was about a third of what his mill could achieve in better times. His foreman may have been George Broadrup, who offered a two-dollar reward for the capture of a runaway apprentice, absent without leave from the Tuscarora Paper Mill since spring 1819. References: [Fredericktown, Md.] Hornet, 4 Oct. 1809, 4; Sellers Moulds Finished, 6 Mar. 1812: medium vellum; Sellers Moulds Ordered, 1 July 1818: super royal vellum, ordered by George Broadrup; [Washington, D.C.] Daily National Intelligencer, 15 July 1816, 1; [Georgetown, D.C.] National Messanger, 19 Jan. 1820, 3; Census of 1820, reel 16, item 167; Seitz 1986a; Rink 1981, 3259.

Emmitsburg


John Obermeyer & Co. (also Obermayer and Obermyer) built this establishment during the War of 1812
and began the manufacture of paper in 1817. As of 1820 the mill had yet to turn a profit and was working at only a third of its intended capacity because of the decline in trade. It contained one vat, one engine, a duster, and a glazing machine for pasteboard, which was one of its chief products along with printings, wrappings, and writings. Obermeyer & Co. employed three men, one woman, and two children, although not on a full-time basis, since the operation consumed only nine tons of rags a year. References: Sellers Moulds Ordered, 25 Sept. 1817: four sizes and a washer; Census of 1820, reel 16, item 187.

Addendum

The Census of 1810 calls for four paper mills in Frederick County. I can account for two of them, and perhaps a third if Md. Mill 21 was originally in a part of that county. Reference: Coxe 1814, tables, p. 84.

Harford County

Bel Air

18. Laurel Mills. On Winter’s Run, on the road to Baltimore, not quite two miles from Bel Air.

Born in Kennett Township, Pennsylvania, Daniel Lamborn purchased 30 acres of land on Winter’s Run “with a mill and other improvements” for £1,300 in 1808. He either converted this mill to the manufacture of paper or built another one on the property with suitable machinery. In 1810 the mill must have contained one vat, which produced 2,750 reams a year worth $9,750. References: Sellers Moulds Ordered, 24 Jan. 1810: extra post vellum; Sellers Moulds Finished, 21 June 1811: post vellum, watermarked DL; Archer 1887, 1; Coxe 1814, tables, p. 84.


Perhaps seized by the sheriff, the mill property passed into the hands of Thomas Archer Hays, who leased it back to Lamborn at $500 per year in July 1818 along with a grist mill and a saw mill. The lease does not mention the paper mill, perhaps because it had fallen on hard times while Lamborn was in distress and while the paper trade was in a slump following the Panic of 1819. In 1820 it contained two vats and two engines, but only one vat and one engine were in use. In those reduced circumstances he employed four men, two women, and four children manufacturing goods worth $4,000 a year. He seems to have been less interested in the paper trade than in other manufacturing ventures, such as the saw mill mentioned above as well as a modest woolen mill and a fulling mill, which was in good condition in 1820 but not in operation at that time. References: Archer 1987, 1–3.

Lamborn retired and moved to Elkridge sometime before March 1831, when Hays rented the mills to Jeremiah Evans for $700 a year. Hays agreed to spend $250 in improvements for the paper mill and to purchase the cylinder machine and other papermaking equipment in the Franklin Paper Mills (Md. Mill 10). Evans claimed to have invented a process for making wrapping grades from straw but was unable to make it pay and left the establishment after a few years. Reference: Archer 1987, 1–3.

The mill was being operated by Hays and his brother N. W. S. Hays in 1834, when the Ames family of Springfield, Massachusetts, demanded royalties for the use of the cylinder machine. The Hays brothers made wrappings and printings until the mill burned down in 1856. Reference: Archer 1987, 3–4.

Carroll County

Freedom


After working in Md. Mill 13, Christian Devries bought a flour mill at this location for $6,000 in 1809. He continued to make flour but also added a saw mill and
installed the machinery to run a duster and an engine, which supplied pulp for a single vat, operational around 1811. Although he may have switched from one mill to another depending on the season, he appears to have been engaged in paper manufacture nearly year round, since his single vat consumed about 15 tons of rags a year. The two men in his employ were assisted by seven boys (six of them his sons) in making writings, printings, and wrappings, with an annual output valued at $3,607, perhaps a figure based on the previous year’s accounts. He may have sold some of his products through the Baltimore bookseller and stationer Abner Neal, who ordered several pairs of moulds between 1817 and 1821, including a pair with the Devries watermark in 1820. References: Graybeal 2001; Census of 1820, reel 16, item 126; Sellers Moulds Finished, 15 Sept. 1811: super royal; Needles Day Book, 19 Sept. 1818; Sellers Moulds Ordered, Feb. 1820: vellum cap, watermarked C DEVRIES; Sellers Letter Book, 16 Dec. 1825; Silver 1953, 43.


John B. Devries was running the Valley Mill in 1873, making manila on a 46-inch Fourdrinier machine. Reference: Lockwood 1873, 34.

20. On Piney Falls below Valley Mill.

John B. Devries began to build this mill in 1827 and finished it in 1829, perhaps receiving some assistance from his father, Christian Devries. The Sellers firm sold him a cylinder machine, which he ran until the mill burned down in 1852. He rebuilt the mill, which remained in operation until it burned down again in 1884. References: Graybeal 2001; Lockwood 1882, 42.

Westminster

21. East of the town of Westminster, part of Frederick County until 1837. In the Census of 1820 the mill was located in the third election district of Baltimore County.

Ludwig Wampler (also Lewis Wampler) was operating a one-vat mill in Maryland as early as 1808, when the Maryland House of Delegates considered a petition to build a road starting at Wampler’s mill near the border of Baltimore and Frederick counties. His establishment was probably one of the four mills in Frederick County noted by the Census of 1810. In 1820 he employed three men and three children in the manufacture of paper and pasteboard with a “market value” of $2,000 a year. They probably worked on a seasonal basis, since the mill consumed only eight tons of rags a year. References: Coxe 1814, tables, p. 84; Census of 1820, reel 16, item 116; Sellers Moulds Finished, 15 Sept. 1811: super royal; Needles Day Book, 19 Sept. 1818; Sellers Moulds Ordered, Feb. 1820: vellum cap, watermarked C DEVRIES; Sellers Letter Book, 16 Dec. 1825; Silver 1953, 43.

LW [wove, 45 mm.] — ms., Ashwood, Pa., 1807, and Baltimore, Md., 1829 (Gravell & Miller 2002, wmk 650).

LW [laid] — ms., Mount Vernon Forge, Pa., 1815 (Gravell & Miller 2002, wmk 649; countermark only?).

LW = American eagle [laid] — ms., Gettysburg, Pa., 1815 (AAS).

LW [wove, 55 mm.] — ms., n.p., 1829 (Gravell & Miller 2002, wmk 651).
Cecil County

Elkton


Robert Carter came to Cecil County from Chester County, Pennsylvania, where he had been involved in the London Britain Paper Mill (Pa. Mill 84) between 1811 and 1813. He converted a mill on Little Elk Creek to the manufacture of paper around 1816 with sufficient equipment to run two vats. In 1820 he reported that business had been declining for several years and had reached a low point unprecedented in this country. He employed six men, three women, and eight children in the manufacture of binders’ board, box board, writings, and wrappings worth $8,000 a year. He installed a cylinder machine around 1834 and made other improvements after the mill burned down in 1836, including a method for washing rags that he patented in 1838. References: Carter 1982, 83–85; Census of 1820, reel 16, item 143; Sellers Letter Book, 7 Nov. 1823; Sellers Order Book, 11 Apr. 1834: repairing cylinder; Burke 1847, 87.


The Carter family was still running Cecil Mills in 1873, making printings and newsprint on a 58-inch cylinder machine. Reference: Lockwood 1873, 32.

Fair Hill


Samuel Meeteer and William Meeteer learned the papermaking trade from their father, the Baltimore bookseller Thomas Meeteer, proprietor of the Milford Paper Mill (Del. Mill 2). They appear in Baltimore directories as booksellers and stationers in 1819 and as paper manufacturers in 1822, although they were partners as early as 1812 in a firm formed to sell the products of the Milford mill. They might have started the Elkton mill around 1823, when they signed an indenture providing for an outside valuation of their properties when the time should come to dissolve the firm, but it is more likely that they built it after becoming involved in the Rockville mill (Md. Mill 24) around 1827. The Providence mill was definitely in operation by 1837, when Hannah Meeteer, executor of the late William Meeteer, and Samuel Meeteer commissioned colleagues in the trade to make an appraisal; they set a value of $12,000 on the Milford mill and $21,000 on the Providence mill. Having already installed a cylinder machine at Milford, the Meeteers must have configured or reconfigured this more valuable manufactory to accommodate a papermaking machine. William Meeteer was thinking about buying a Fourdrinier with drying apparatus in 1832, but his successors decided against it and purchased a 48-inch cylinder in 1834. References: Hancock 1955, 52; Silver 1953, 41; Vail Diaries, 30 Nov. 1832; Sellers Order Book, 11 Dec. 1834; “Valuation of Milford & Providence Paper Mills &c.,” 1837, AAS.

The mill was still in operation in 1882, making newsprint on a 62-inch Fourdrinier. A previous proprietor had been running a 62-inch cylinder. References: Lockwood 1873, 32; Lockwood 1882, 42.

Montgomery County

Rockville


Samuel Meeteer and William Meeteer began to make paper in Rockville around 1827, when they requisitioned moulds watermarked with that name. After installing a cylinder machine in their Milford mill, they described themselves in business directories as “Manufacturers of Hand and Machine Writing and Printing Papers.” Perhaps they produced handmades here and machine-mades at Milford. A Rockville ream wrapper

ROCKVILLE [wove, antique lettering] — mss., Wilmington, Del., 1829, and Md., 1830 (Gravell & Miller 2002, wmk 828); New York Convention of the Friends of American Industry. . . At a meeting of the sub-committee appointed by the permanent committee, convened at Baltimore, on Monday, 21st day of November, 1831 ([Baltimore: s.n., 1831]; DLC broadside port. 118:3c); mss., New Castle County, Del., 1837 (AAS).

In 1839 the Chancery Court of Maryland heard motions to foreclose a mortgage on the Rockville Paper Mills. Various members of the Meeteer family were involved, including Hannah Meeteer. Reference: http://www.msa.md.gov/msa/stagser/s1400/s1432/html/s1432ww.html (accessed 18 Feb. 2011).