American Paper Mills, 1690–1832

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**CHAPTER 21**

**Indiana**

**Jefferson County**

**Madison**

1. On Big Creek, twelve miles north of Madison.

Isaac Mooney worked in one of the mills on the Little Miami River in Ohio before coming to Indiana, where he established this two-vat manufactory in 1826. He was not able to make it pay and, beset by debts, committed suicide around 1828. Reference: Weeks 1916, 206.

Alfred McDaniels, proprietor of a paper warehouse in Cincinnati, purchased the mill and shortly afterward sold it to Hezekiah Stout, who converted it to a grist mill. Stout was the administrator of Mooney’s estate, probably in the capacity of a local landowner or merchant. References: [http://www.members.tripod.com/~RuthH/willsml.html](http://www.members.tripod.com/~RuthH/willsml.html) (accessed 18 Feb. 2011); Weeks 1916, 206.

2. On Indian Kentuck Creek, seven miles east of Madison.

John Sheets built a two-vat mill near Madison in 1827 or 1830. If he started at the earlier date, he would have been in direct competition with the unfortunate Isaac Mooney. He too had been living in the Little Miami region of Ohio before he came to Indiana, perhaps following his predecessor’s example. He appears to have been in partnership with William Sheets, later secretary of state for Indiana. By 1832 he was making air-dried binders’ board on a papermaking machine, probably a cylinder. He would have employed twenty men in the manufacture of goods worth $50,000 a year if his establishment was the single Jefferson County papermaking firm noticed in the Census of 1840. The mill closed down in 1849, and some of the machinery was transferred to a flour mill on the Indian Kentuck Creek. I have not detected any connection between the Sheets papermakers of Indiana and the Scheetz papermaking dynasty of Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. References: [http://myindianahome.net/gen/jeff/records/history/milton.html](http://myindianahome.net/gen/jeff/records/history/milton.html) (accessed 18 Feb. 2011); Weeks 1916, 206–7; Sellers Letter Book, 9 July 1831; Census of 1840.
Wayne County

Richmond

3. Not located.

Leeds, Jones & Bissell built a one-vat mill in or near Richmond in 1831. It is not clear whether this was the original or a later name of the firm, which was operating as Leeds, Jones & Co. in 1832 and as Leeds & Jones in 1835. The proprietors later enlarged their manufacturing facilities with a second vat, a second engine, “a wet-machine and a fire-dryer.” The business was incorporated in 1837 and stayed in operation until the 1850s. References: Weeks 1916, 207; Sellers Letter Book, 28 July 1832; Sellers Order Book, 22 May 1835; post, watermarked LEEDS & JONES.