

Aston Mills

1766

William Peters, s.m., f.m. 168  
Reese Peters, f.m. 168  
Isaac Roman, g.m. 65  
Wm. Griffith, s.m. 200  
Joseph McCaskey, s.m. 120

1767

Reese Peter, s.m., f.m. 228  
Isaac Roman, g.m. 85  
Joseph McCloskey, s.m. 130  
Richard Cheyney, g.m. -0-  
Will'm Griffith, s.m. 200

1768

Phillip Evans, s.m. 166  
Phillip Roman, g.m. 65  
Reese Peters, f.m., s.m. 200  
Sawyer & fuller  
John Chamberlin, sawyer 230 Chamberlain and Jonathan  
& forgerman, f.s.m. Vaughn rights 1762  
Wm Griffith, s.m, 200  
Rich'd Cheyney, miller  
g.m.

1769

Isaac Roman, g.m. 65  
Rich'd Cheney, g.m.  
Wm. Peters, s.m., f.m. 228  
Wm Griffith, s.m. 200

1771

William Griffith, s.m. 200  
Maurice Mattson, s.m. 120  
William Peters, s.m. 100  
Reece Peters, f.m. 200  
clothier  
Issac & Phillip Roman, 130  
g.m.

1774

Wm Griffith, s.m. 200  
Job Follows, forge 130  
Reece Peters, s.m. & f.m. 150  
Hall & Sharpless, g.m. 130  
James Thompson, g.m. s.m. 81

1777

Robert Hall g.m. 130  
Norris Jones s.m. & g.m. 13  
Reese Peters f.m., s.m. 200

1780

Norris Jones, s.m. & g.m. 13

Rees Peters, s.m. & f.m. 150  
Robert Hall, g.m. 130

1781

Robert Hall, g.m. 130  
Jones & Sharpless, g.m. 41  
f., slitting mill  
Rees Peters, s.m. f.m 200  
James Twaddle, forge 100

1783

Robert Hall, g.m. 130  
Jones & Sharpless, forge 32  
grist & slitting mills 13  
Joseph Talbot, s.m. 186  
James Twaddle, forge 100

1785

Robert Hall, g.m. 130  
Thomas Moore, f.m. 2  
Buford & Nowell, g.m 13  
Abraham Sharpless, s.m. 217  
forge  
James Twaddle, forge 100  
John Walters, s.m. 180

1788

Calvin Cooper, f.m.  
Robert Hall, s.m., g.m 200  
Lloyd N. Hill, s.m.,g.m. 13  
Dell Pennell, s.m. and 100  
forge  
Abraham Sharpless, s.m. 186  
Check D 106, T 116,

**#1 Mattson Paper Mill: Location West** Branch Creek at Chester Creek by  
700 block of Mount Road.

Deeds: May 15, 1773{C-13} Morris Mattson sold 100 acres of land to  
Aaron Mattson, yeoman, along Chester Creek for 250 lbs. This deed was  
not recorded till August 1794.

July 29, 1794{B-386} Aaron Mattson gets lease from John Rattew to build  
dam on Chester Creek

February 2, 1812{K-396} Levi Mattson sold 25 acres to Aaron Mattson at  
West Branch for \$1000.00

NOTE Maurice{Morris} Mattson was taxed for a saw mill beginning in  
1771 for several years. Aaron Mattson ran a papermill at this location  
from 1794 till 1824. On July 30, 1824 Sheriff Joseph Weaver sold{P-425}  
the paper mill and a house after Aaron Mattson's death to pay a debt  
owed to Samuel Hewes. The buyer at \$20,000.00 was John P. Crozer the  
amount of land 120 acres.

**#1A West Branch Mill** owner: John P. Crozer Crozer changed Mattson's  
paper mill to a cotton factory. In 1826 Crozer also had "dwelling

Houses" for nine families. In the 1843 Flood his West Branch Mills suffered the most damage in Delco at \$45,000.00. In May of 1847 Crozer moved to his new mills in Upland although he continued to own the "West Branch" mills. Crozer built a new stone cotton factory in the spring of 1856 to replace the old one. Crozer died in 1866 and the property passed to his sons. The mills were sold {H5-532} to John B. Rhodes on July 1, 1882. The sellers were Samuel and John P. {grandson} Crozer. The price was \$21,000.00 for the West Branch Mills.

On May 11, 1903 George Hoffman, Joseph Thompson and Fredrick Turnbull Receivers of "Rhodes Brothers Limited" sold {F11-312} the property to the Victoria Plush Mills. The cost of the 42 acres, mill, house and tenements was \$23,000.00.  
NEED Book S-277

May 7, 1903 C.T.

#### RECEIVERS ASK TO SELL RHODES MILL

A petition was presented in court this morning by W. Roger Fronfield, on behalf of the receivers of Rhodes Brothers Limited, requesting permission to sell at private sale, the West Branch Mills in Aston Township, belonging to Rhodes Bros. to the Victoria Plush Mills Co., who operate a mill in Springfield Township along Crum creek for the sum of \$23,000.

Accompanying the petition were two affidavits stating that the price was more than could be secured at private sale.

The Victoria Plush Company, it is understood, contemplates enlarging the facilities, and with this end in view the possession of the West branch Mill is desired.

May 15, 1903 C.T.

#### WEST BRANCH MILL SOLD BY RECEIVERS

Frank B. Rhodes Esq., representing the Rhodes Brothers, Limited, went to Philadelphia yesterday and closed the deal for the West Branch mill at Rockdale to the owners of the Victoria Plush Mills in Springfield Township. The price paid was \$23,000. as stated in the Times a few days ago. The mill was sold by the receivers of the Rhodes Bros., after the Court had approved the petition for sale. Lawyer Rhodes was paid the money and gave the deed to the new owners.

The old machinery in the mill will be taken out at once. The new owners have given the order for thirty new plush looms, and these will be put in at once. For the present the mill will give employment to fifty hands. The present mill at Springfield is inadequate to turn out all the orders received by the firm.

June 24, 1903 C.T.

#### WEST BRANCH MILLS SOON TO OPERATE

The Turner Brothers, managers of the Victoria Plush Mills, under Mr. Timmey, who recently purchased the West Branch Mills of Chester Creek, near Llewellyn, are making extensive improvements to their new purchase and the mills will likely be in operation in the next six weeks. The workmen are busily engaged in remodeling the huge water wheel and making improvements to the interior, which is nearly completed, and ready for business. Thirty looms have been ordered, with which the mill will start, and if business sanctions, thirty more will be added, which will be the complement of the mill.

## #2 Old Sable Works Location stood at 6000 Pennell Rd. Media

William Pennell's Estate was divided {Chesco A2-25} in late 1785 with two tracts of land going to his son Dell Pennell. The Aston tract consisted of 100 acres with an iron forge. Dam privileges were given on May 15, 1802 the rights were sold by Nathan Sharpless on Chester Creek to "repair and rebuild from time to time". The date on the dam appears to 1785{see below} and Sharpless may have had a mill there at that time.

On May 27, 1802 Dell Pennell sold {H-234} 15 acres of land on Chester Creek to George Chandler. The property included a house and iron works and dam privileges. The dam could be as high as within 14" of the top of the figure of 1785 by auger hole cut in the rock on the northwest side of the dam. Richard Dutton on April 24, 1806 sold {H-652} 19 acres to George Chandler. These 19 acres were empty.

In 1805, Chandler was in partners with a man named Churchman and was taxed for a rolling and saw mills on 59 acres.

On July 28, 1808 Chandler sold {I-248} eight acres to Thomas Odiorne of Mass. These 8 acres included a rolling and slitting mill, nail factory and smith shop the cost was \$16,000.00. Dam privileges were included. These eight acres was part of the above 34. George Odiorne heir of Thomas sold {L-178} two tracts of land totaling 28 acres on August 28, 1813.

The buyer at \$15000.00 was Henry Moore{Moore & Odiorne were Brother in Laws} and these acres included the mills and nail factory etc. A dam privilege was included from George Chandler {L-505}. On May 10, 1815 George Chandler sold {M-24} three tracts of land totaling 66 acres with buildings to Henry Moore. Moore also bought {M-5} a quarter of an acre from John Mannell on February 20, 1815. This quarter acre was in Middletown Twp. All the rest of the above property was in Aston Twp.

This gave Henry Moore a total of 94 acres with House, Iron and Nail works, Rolling and Slitting Mills and Smiths Shop. Moore took a loan out on the property to do improvements and built another mill four stories high. The loan was for \$25,000.00 dollars with the firm of Haven and Smith of Phila. Moore could not repay the debt and 69 acres of the 94 acres was given {S-241 243} to Richard S. Smith on March 23, 1832. This sale included all the mills and works on the property. The property consisted of a stone mill for weaving four and a half stories high, 45 by 60 feet, a grist mill three stories high stone and frame and a stone mill three and a half stories high 35 by 45 feet. Ten tenements were also present; eight stone and two frame.

Smith sold {D2-748} the tract of land to Bernard McCready of Phila for \$27000.00 on October 1, 1842. It included Rolling and iron mills and nail factory and houses. The property passed to Thomas McCready, son of Bernard who at his death had two trustees, Alex Balfour and August Wilson run his estate. In 1856 the mill was rented by R. Ewing and Son. One of the McCready mills was destroyed by fire in late August of 1866.

This mill was sold to Samuel Riddle in 1875 and used till 1901.

July 27, 1888 C.T.

### NEW COTTON MILL

The old mill on the road on the side of Chester Creek, at Rockdale, owned by Samuel Riddle, and known as the "McCready's Mill" which has been for some time idle, is now being converted to a cotton factory.

May 6, 1904 C.T.

### ROCKDALE AND THE TEXTILE DISTRICT

The carpet firm of Benz & Co. who have leased the "Brick Mill" of the S. D. Riddle estate have a large

force of men at work getting the mill ready in condition for operation and from indications it is likely the mill will be running by the first of June. A new roof is being placed on the building and the water wheel is being given a general overhauling. The company is bringing their looms from Philadelphia in wagons and one arrived on Wednesday evening. The other was stalled near Elwyn station but arrived at the mill yesterday. The work of fitting up the farmhouse for Harry Benz, one of the members of the firm, and it will be ready for occupancy in a short time.

### #3 **Rock Forge, Tyson Grist Mill Llewellyn Mills**

Location NW Corner of Chester Heights Rd. and Chester Creek

This property of about 130 acres is clouded in mystery. First mentioned in July of 1748 in Aston the owners were John and Joseph Wharton. Known by the name of "Rock Forge". Owned by Joseph Wharton in 1753 it was advertised for sale with a forge. No deeds have been found for Wharton.

John Carter, Aston yeoman, on June 23, 1757 sold [Chesco L-309] to his son, Joseph Carter, Aston black smith, 116 acres with "water courses for 100 pds. Joseph Carter on April 5, 1764 sold [Chesco W-338] the same property of 116 acres for 550 pds to Phillip Evans, Lancaster Co. yeoman with saw mill. The Carters, Joseph and Jacob appear to have rented and later bought the 130 acre property. No deeds have been found for the Carters. A mortgage was issued to the Carters in March of 1761 on two tracts #1-100 acres, #2-31 acres and 52 perches. By 1764 the forge was gone, and a grist mill was present in 1763 when the Carters advertised to sell the property. Behind on their mortgage the property was "sold but not conveyed" by the sheriff in early 1765.

Sheriff Phillip Ford sold the property by deed poll on March 19, 1765 to Isaac and Phillip Roman, Aston Millers. No forge is mentioned after the Carters ownership. This deed poll is unrecorded but is mentioned in a Mortgage{R-161} the Roman brothers took out on July 4, 1770. Later tax records show Isaac and Phillip Roman with a Grist Mill on 130 acres. Although no deed has been located, this 130 acre property with the mill came into the possession of Abraham Sharpless, Concord Twp., joiner and Robert Hall, Concord Innkeeper by mid 1771. Both men applied for a Mortgage{R-360} on the property on July 1, 1771 from Mary Norris.

The mill was owned and operated by "Hall and Sharpless" in tax records for several years. Sharpless sold {Chesco S18-550} his "one full half part" to Richard Hall on April 5, 1775 for 425 lbs. The property consisted of two tracts; #1-100 acres and #2-31 acres and 52 perches. Sharpless appears to have kept a financial interest in the mill, for several years he and Hall were taxed together for the mill. By 1780, Richard Hall was being taxed for the entire mill and property, alone. In 1788 Hall was also being taxed for a saw mill on 200 acres of land and in 1790, 230 acres and a grist mill. In 1791 a grist and saw mill. At Halls death the property passed to Robert Hall.

On April 5, 1798 Sarah Hall, widow of Robert and son, Robert Jr. sold {E-22} 33 acres and 52 perches to Thomas Jones of Birmingham Township. The cost of the property was 1606 lbs. and included a house, grist and saw mills. The sheriff sold part of the Thomas Jones Estate for a debt of 1039 lbs, 5 shillings and 6 pence owed to Robert and Sarah Hall. The date of the sale {E-112} was July 29, 1800 and the buyer a John Ricard, mariner of Philadelphia for 1000 lbs gold. The property consisted of 34 acres "and houses, buildings and orchards". No mill is mentioned. On October 23, 1802 the property of 38 acres was sold {F-386} by John Ricard {tax records say Richard} for 1300 lbs. A Merchant, Corn or Grist mill" was present at time of sale. The buyer was James Tyson. Tyson

added 3 other tracts of land totaling approx. 60 acres.

In 1826 the mill survey states James Tyson had a Grist and Saw mills and an Oil Mill which manufactured Linseed Oil. Tyson died on March 15, 1858 and his executor and son, Ellwood Tyson, sold {N2-308} the property to John B. and Samuel Rhodes on March 25, 1864. The cost was \$17,850.00 and included a saw and a stone and frame grist mill. Six Tenant houses, four stone and two frame were also included.

The Rhodes changed the mills in 1864 to a cotton and woolen jeans factory naming the area "Llewellyn" mills. The Rhodes built an addition to the mill in 1868. A stone factory 115 by 40 feet, two stories high was erected that year. By 1870 the firm was known as Rhodes & Bro. In 1872 they built a three story addition 130 X 57 feet, an engine house 30 X 25 feet and a block of four houses 18 X 22 feet three stories high in 1879.

April 3, 1890 C.T.

John B. Rhodes and Brother, the well-known manufacturer, of Aston Mills, who was supposed to be one of the most solid business men financially in the county, failed on Tuesday, April 2, judgments to the amount of nearly \$100,000 having been entered against him at the Prothonotary Office in Media. The cause of this failure is said to have been due to the accumulation of goods by reason of their being no market for them, resulting in a depreciation of three cents a year on them, entailing a loss of about \$70,000, and it is to be universally regretted that a man of his push and business ability should meet with such a misfortune from causes over which he has no control.

April 25, 1890 C.T.

The assignees of John B. Rhodes are running the mills at Llewellyn, for the purpose of using up the stock on hand. This does not look as though the mills are likely to be soon started up permanently. It is feared that an agreement among the creditors such as will permit the operations of the mills by Mr. Rhodes are present can not be made. This would be a serious misfortune to the people of Aston.

August 6, 1896 M.C.

The mills of Rhodes Brothers, limited, at Llewellyn, Aston Township, were closed on Saturday last. Judgments aggregating \$75,000 were entered against the firm in Media on Monday.

November 26, 1896 M.C.

Rhodes' mills, at Llewellyn, which have been closed since July, started up on Tuesday. The report that the firm had made a settlement with their creditors on the basis of 40 cents on the dollar is not correct, as the creditors declined the proposition to make settlement on such terms. George Dayton and Thomas Lees, the receivers, have been granted an order of Court to operate the mills for the benefit of creditors.

August 12, 1903 C.T.

RHODES MILL SOON TO RUN AGAIN

Previous to the public sale of the Rhodes estate yesterday, the mills and houses at Llewellyn were sold at private sale to Joseph H. Parvin, of Philadelphia, the consideration being \$90,000. A petition was at once presented to the court and this sale was immediately confirmed by Judge Johnson.

In speaking of his intentions after the sale had been completed, Mr. Parvin said that he would start the mills at once, as soon as the necessary arrangements could be made.

January 3, 1901 M.C.

Samuel D. Riddle and Leander W. Riddle, trading as Samuel Riddle's Sons, at Glen Riddle, have presented a petition in voluntary bankruptcy. They have taken this step after due consideration, and as the best means of securing to their creditors a just and equitable distribution of their estate. The schedule attached to their petition show assets of \$294,242.20, subject to the widow's rights of dower in the real-estate, and liabilities of \$301,000.

The causes leading to the petition are briefly: The unsatisfactory condition of the trades in woolen and cotton goods; the rise in the price of raw material and wages, and the cost of disposing of the manufactured product, while there has been no advance in the market price of the latter; insufficiency of working capital and lack of means to properly equip old-fashioned mills with machinery equal to modern requirements.

January 22, 1901 C.T.

#### BANKRUPTCY CASE OF THE RIDDLE SONS

The first hearing in bankruptcy proceedings of the Riddle Sons, manufacturers, took place yesterday in Jury Room #1 in the courthouse before Referee George Darlington, Esq. Secured Claims \$184,207. Unsecured Claims \$144,879. The Assets \$294,242. NOTE more info in article

March 8, 1902 C.T.

#### RIDDLE MILLS ARE BOUGHT BY DOBSONS

The price paid is \$60,000 from well-known carpet manufacturer

There was a large attendance this morning in the Sheriff's office in Media at the sales and the greater portion of the interest was centered on the mill property of Samuel D. and Leander Riddle at Glen Riddle. The bidding was most spirited and there was more animation on the part of the bidders than has been displayed at any sale held for some time. The property was finally knocked down to John Dobson, of the firm of John & James Dobson, Carpet Manufacturers of Philadelphia, for \$60,000.

The property includes the mills, and a lot of about 25 or thirty houses, and is well situated for the manufacturing business and as the Dobsons have been in the carpet business for many years the purchase on the part of one of the members of the firm has given rise to the rumors that the firm will start the mills on the manufacture of carpets.

August 3, 1905 C.T.

#### OLD TEXTILE HOUSE BEING TORN DOWN

The old cotton house near the Eagle Field is being torn down. The building was erected about twenty-five years ago by the firm of Rhodes Bros. who used it for the story of cotton, which was bought in large quantities at that time. The building is about 40 X 200 feet, all frame, and as of late years has become quite decayed. It is being taken apart by workmen employed of the May Manufacturing Co. which company now owns the building.

### **Dutton Saw & Grist Mills**

On April 30, 1795 James Day sold (B-409) 6 acres to Jonathan Dutton. Jonathan Dutton died about December 1819 and his executors Richard & Lydia Dutton of Middletown Twp on March 31, 1825 sold (P-547) the property to John Dutton for \$150.00.

### **Lenni Mills Location Mill buildings still stand at Lenni and New Rds.**

On January 2, 1797 Thomas Griffith of Aston sold (C-437) 82 acres and 92 perches of land to John Lungren of Middletown for \$3062.00 lbs cash. The land included a mill seat and house and a "Mill to be shortly erected". The mill seat was for a former saw mill that William Griffith was taxed for from 1767 to 1774. Lungren's occupation was paper manufacture. On the same date (C-441) Lungren received Dam privileges for his mill from Jonathan Pennell for 30 silver dollars. John Lungren died in 1816 and the property passed to his two sons, Charles and William Lungren. The Lungren's ran into financial problems and the property of 210 acres was bought (P-251) at auction by one of their creditors William Martin for \$17,800.00. Martin and his brother in law, Joseph W. Smith formed a partnership to operate the mill. (Note; Martin's son John Hill Martin would write the book "Chester & Vicinity" in 1877). Martin bought (R-203) out Joseph W. Smith's "undivided half" share on September 20, 1827 for \$10,000.00. Martin failed financially with the panic of 1829 and his entire estate was sold in July at public auction. The buyer was Nathan Sellers who bought the property in trust for his daughter Hannah married to Peter Hill. The property was rented to Daniel LaMotte and Sons.

On July 25, 1861 the property was sold (I2-104) by the Sheriff N. Yarnall to satisfy a debt of \$6,475.00 owed to Nathan Sellers, father of Hannah. Trustee George W. Hill owed the amount. The buyer at auction was Ann Sellers for \$39,700.00. At the time the property of 233 acres and three roads was being rented by Samuel B. Thomas and consisted of "plantation, paper mill and cotton factory". The mills were later rented by Gen. Robert Patterson and in 1873 Joseph Kenworthy. The Lenni Mills in 1882 made jeans and cashmeres and employed about 150 people.

October 6, 1882 C.T.

#### **LENNI MILLS**

These mills are located near Lenni Station and are under the management of the executors of the estate of late Gen. Robert Patterson.

According to his will the managers were given three years to close out the business. At present Mathew McAllister is in charge of all the workmen and T. J. Rigby is general financial manager. The mills are now running on full time with an unusually good outlook for the future. The goods that are made here are principally jeans and cassimere. The mills here are a branch of the greatest individual manufacturing establishment of the kind in the United States. In a few days sixty bales of Cotton will be received directly



from the south. One hundred and fifty operators are employed, and in the mills are 7000 spindles and 60 looms.

Ann Sellers died on April 4, 1870 leaving her property to various relatives. The Ann Sellers heirs sold {R12-329} the "Lenni Mills" to the Victoria Plush Mill Co. on March 21, 1908 for \$7,500.00. The Victoria Plush Mills were chartered on April 2, 1898. The property included 37 acres. They remodeled the mills and opened the mills in early January of 1910. A fourth story of stone was added to the mill and the dam was rebuilt.

### **Parkmont Mills**

On October 27, 1827 Isaac Sharpless of Philadelphia, etal. sold (R-218) to Peter Hill of Philadelphia & George W. Hill of Chester Twp 15 acres of land. The price of the property was \$11,000.00 and included grist & saw mill, cotton & woolen mill on Chester Creek. Delaware County Sheriff Evans Way on August 15, 1840 sold the George Hill estate that consisted, of factories & mills to Eli Pierce in a deed poll. Eli Pierce then of Neither Providence sold the 15 acres in Middletown Twp. (cotton factory & tenement) for \$17,000.00. The buyer was Samuel Riddle of Middletown Twp.

On July 9, 1869 Ann Sellers of Upper Darby leased {X2-604} the Mills known as "Parkmont" on Chester Creek to George Gledhill of Middletown for four years at \$2500.00 a year. The lease {X2-602} was redone to include; Gledhill, John Burnley and Mary Mallison. Just one month later August of 1869 this partnership was dissolved. The deed states the mills were formally occupied by Callaghan and Burnley

{Amer.5-1-1872}

Burnley and Co. at Glen Riddle, are busy with improvements to better accommodate their operatives. A new mill has supplanted the burned one, this through the enterprise of Alex Balfour. It will be run by Richardson & Co.

On October 17, 1887 the Parkmont Mills were destroyed by fire. The loss was estimated at \$25,000.00. The mills were occupied by Burnley Bros. and Butterworth. {M.C.10-20-1887}  
The firm went by the title of Burnley, Butterworth & Co.

October 17, 1887 Chester Times

#### **Burning of Parkmont Mills**

The Parkmont Mills, at Lenni, were discovered in flames at 4 o'clock this morning, and the main building was burned to the ground. The picker house, finishing room, boiler and engine room and dye house, being separated by iron doors, were saved. The windows in the basement were found open and as there was no fire in the boiler house, it is believed incendiaries did the work. The alarm of fire brought out the people and by hard work adjacent buildings were saved. The mills belonged to the Ann Sellers estate, were operated by Francis Butterworth, John E. Burnley and Edward Burnley, and made fine worsted goods. Between 100 and 150 hands were employed. The burned building was insured by a Philadelphia company.

June 13, 1898 C.T.

#### **PARKMONT MILLS**

William Carson & Co., Lease the Burnley Plant at Lenni

WILL BE STARTED AT ONCE

The Mill Taken for Five Years and the Machinery Bought, and One Hundred hands will be put to work at the Plant

There will be good news to the people of the Chester Creek Valley in the announcement that William Carson & Company have taken a lease on the Parkmont Mills, and will operate the property to its full capacity.

William Carson and George Yarnall, of the firm of Carson & Company, on Saturday concluded negotiations with W D Serrill, of Darby, who is trustee of the property, for a five year's lease of the premises and all the building formerly used by Burnley & Co. in their manufacturing business. They also purchased the machinery in the mill from James Bowers' Sons of this city, who had purchased it at the sale a few weeks ago.

The mill will be placed in operation as soon as possible and it is expected that a full force will be employed from the first. When running in all its departments this mill gave employment to over one hundred hands, and the wages paid to the number of breadwinners will make a considerable difference in Rockdale and Lenni. Carson & Company now operate the Brookside Mills, which are close by the Parkmont Mills, and they will give their attention to both plants in the future.

April 14, 1903 C.T.

#### PARKMONT MILLS BEING TRANSFORMED

Extensive Alterations Under Way In Preparation For The Resumption of the Plant

The alterations at the Parkmont mill are progressing slowly. The work of erecting the new dye-house has been retarded most annoyingly, owing to the continued wet weather, scarcity of building materials and other unlooked and trying complications. The foundation walls have been completed, also the piers for the dyeing machines and the brick work is now well under way. The work will now be pushed rapidly along, as the girders for the floor have arrived and are being put into position. As soon as a few feet of the brick wall shall have been built, the shafting will be fitted in the dye house, and when that shafting is connected with the shafting in the main building the mill will be started. The dyeing machined are now in the freight warehouse at Lenni, and will be placed in position in a few days. The big fire pump has already been started.

#### Beatty Tilt Mill Knowlton Mills

Jonathan Tyson of Abington, Montco sold{H-818} 250 acres with a house to his son, Elijah on May 25, 1807 for 2000 lbs. Tyson bought 14 acres in Aston on July 25 for dam rights. Elijah Tyson was taxed for a saw mill in 1807.

Tyson sold the 14 and a half acres of land to Judah Dobson of Philadelphia, bookseller for \$5,000.00 on July 7, 1813. Dobson changed the saw mill into a rolling mill for rolling copper. The mill was not used for several years, 1817 thru 1821, there is no tax assessment. In 1822, Samuel Love bought the rolling mill and four tracts of land from the trustees of Thomas and Judah Dobson. Love had an agreement of sale with John Vaughn and John Hunt assignees of Thomas and Judah Dobson on November 6, 1822 thru the Bank of Philadelphia. NO DEED

March 15, 1861 - Chester, Pennsylvania (Delaware County)

#### DELAWARE COUNTY REPUBLICAN

FIRE – The cotton mill at Knowlton, owned by J. P. Crozer, and occupied by J. William Lewis took fire on Monday night last at 12 o'clock, and was entirely consumed. The fire originated over the boiler, but from what cause is not known. The mill was well filled with machinery, all of which was destroyed. The office and cloth room, situated about fifteen feet from the factory was saved. The loss to Mr. Lewis will not be very heavy, as insurance to the amount of some thirty thousand dollars had been secured upon the machinery.

### **Carter Mill- Location Chester Creek**

On February 2, 1826 Samuel and Mary Love of New Castle, Delaware sold{P-721} four tracts of land in Middletown and Aston to John D. Carter of Christiana for \$15,000.00. On the four tracts was a former rolling mill, "now converted to a cotton Factory". The cotton factory was 40 by 90 feet. The 1826 survey mentions tenements for 13 families. Love had an agreement of sale with John Vaughn and John Hunt assignees of Thomas and Judah Dobson on November 6, 1822 thru the Bank of Philadelphia.

The four Tracts were

Tract #1- Middletown 8 acres and rolling mill now cotton factory

Tract #2- Aston 14 acres and 101 perches

Tract #3- Aston 4 and a half acres

Tract #4- Aston 23 acres and 52 perches

John D. Carter failed and the Sheriff sold the property to pay his debts.

Sheriff Jehu Broomall on April 13, 1829 sold{M5-303} 18 acres with stone house, Tilt Mill and Cotton Factory to Edward and Ann Darlington and Thomas H. Clyde of Chester.

These men sold{S-566} the same property to Robert Beatty and John O'Neill for \$9,000.00 on March 10, 1832. Beatty and O'Neill began the manufacture edge tools but O'Neill left the firm and Robert was joined by his brother John who added a saw mill in 1833. On January 7, 1834 the factory was burned to the ground as a total loss.

Robert and John Beatty of Aston also purchased {N-215 & 217,R-643} several properties from the William Rennell Estate that included a House. In May of 1835 a court decree ordered part of their property sold to pay a debt of \$1250.00 owed to the estate of John Hannum. Hannum's Executors had the property sold{T-408} thru Sheriff Samuel Price at public auction on October 26, 1835. A total of four tracts of land were sold to John P. Crozer totaling 44 and a half acres of which 8 of the acres were in Middletown Township. The property included; a Tilt Mill and a new Saw Mill, stone tenements for 6 families and a new stone building 25 by 35 feet two and a half stories high "put up for a factory". Crozer's high bid was \$8,000.00. The Beatty's then rented the property off of Crozer for about two years.

### **Thatcher Tilt Mill- Location Chester Creek**

On February 11, 1811 Joseph and Mary Thatcher of Aston sold{H-89} ten and three quarters acres to their sons, Thomas and Enos jointly. The property included a house and no mills at a cost of \$1600.00. A yearly rent{H-92} was charged to the sons of 5 shillings for "water courses". A stone tilt mill was built about that time and run by the sons, Samuel and Thomas Thatcher. On February 24, 1845 the Administrators of the Thomas Thatcher Estate sold{W-507} the property to John Thatcher, Aston Yeoman son of Thomas. The price was \$1,305.00. The property had a stone house and stone Tilt Mill 40 by 48 feet with four fires and a frame tenant house.

The property consisted of two Tracts. Tract #1- 12 and a half acres and Tract #2- one and quarter acre

sold 1840

#### **Morgan's Mills Location Dutton Mill and Creek Rds. on Chester Creek**

On January 24, 1816 George Chandler sold {M-147} 99 acres, a mill seat and water privileges to Issac Morgan for \$8,000.00. Morgan on December 20, 1866 sold {T2-114} 25 acres and 38 perches {part of the 99 acres} with a cotton factory and fourteen tenements to James Campbell of Nether Providence, Manufacturer for \$13,000.00. The property consisted of three tracts; #1- 25 acres and 38 perches, #2- 119 perches in Chester Twp. and #3- 48 perches.

James and Jane Campbell of Aston sold {V2-513} the same property to J. Howard Lewis of Nether Providence and Edward M. Lewis of East Nottingham for \$18,000.00 on April 23, 1868. Also included in the sale were two other tracts. Tract #1- 119 perches in Chester Twp. and Tract #2- 8 perches

J. Howard Lewis sold {U2-317} his half share to Edward Lewis on September 28, 1868. Edward Lewis on September 1, 1869 sold {Y2-126} the cotton factory and tenements to three men Joseph Smith, George Smith Jr. and Richard S. Tucker. The cost of the three tracts was \$2,750.00. They sold {A3-548} the same property to the Bridgewater Paper Co. on October 25, 1870.

That company and its directors; Joseph Willcox, Fanning C. T. Beck and Francis N. Sharpless sold {D3-589} on February 1, 1872 to Samuel Haigh, William Sidney Smith and William Grindrod all from Phila. for \$10,200.00.

#### **Carter Grist and Saw Mills**

On June 23, 1757 John Carter of Aston, yeoman, sold {L-309} 116 acres of land to his son Joseph Carter, blacksmith. The cost was 100 lbs. and included water courses. Carter sold {W-338} the same property to Phillip Evans of Lancaster, yeoman, for 550 lbs. on April 5, 1764. Although the deed states a saw mill was included, Evans wasn't taxed for a saw mill till 1766.

#### **Peters Mills in Aston**

William and Eleanor Peters moved to Aston in late 1733 following the purchase of 100 acres in May of that year. By 1740 he owned 300 acres in Aston and had a fulling mill by the mid 1740's. Peters was first taxed for a saw mill in 1767. Peters listed his occupation as "fuller". Shortly after his son Reese's marriage William sold {N-527} to "Reese Peters, fuller oldest son and heir", one half of a house, fulling and saw mills. The sale occurred on October 1, 1764 at a cost of 20 shillings. The property consisted of four tracts of land. Reese died in 1783 leaving the mills to his son William.

William Peters Jr. in 1790 was taxed for a fulling mill, in 1791 a fulling and saw mill and in 1805 was taxed for 82 acres and a grist and saw mills.

On July 25, 1808 John Hibbard sold two tracts of land partly in Aston & Concord totaling 109 acres to William Peters. Peters sold (V-523) the property of 109 acres and 12 perches on two tracts to his son Samuel Peters for \$5000.00 on June 4, 1843. The property included a stone Grist & Saw Mill. A new mill three stories high 36 by 50 feet was built in late 1844 {REP12-27 1844}.

On February 8, 1872 Samuel J. & Sue Peters of Aston sold the property to Charles Johnson of Middletown Twp for \$9000.00. The property of 15 acres & 164 square perches included (buildings, mill, water rights & the rights to Greens Creek.

Charles and Mary Johnson Sr. {DOD 1-7-03} sold {G4-521} on March 31, 1881 the same property to his sons Charles Jr. and William. On January 7, 1903 the heirs sold {T10-577} the property to Joseph W. Fritz of Washington D.C. for \$2,000.00.

On June 7, 1783 John and Sarah Thompson of Aston sold {X-173} two full undivided eight parts of a certain "iron forge" and two tracts of land. The buyer at 175 lbs. was Abraham Sharpless, yeoman of Aston. Tract #1 with forge was 31 acres and 18 perches and Tract #2 was a quarter acre. The property was in both Aston and Middletown Twps.

On June 4, 1768 Joseph McCaskey of Baltimore and John Chamberlin, ironmaster of Aston took a mortgage {P-296} with Hugh Linn, Aston yeoman. On two Tracts of land #1-60 acres and #2-10 acres. No mills are mentioned.

On June 6, 1778 the Commonwealth of Penna. sold {B2-197} the property of William Maddock of Aston for "high treason". The high bidder at auction was James Twaddle at \$4,100.00 lbs. for 79 and a quarter acres. No mills are mentioned.

James Twaddell, ironmaster moved to York Co. South Carolina and on May 1, 1790 sold {A-103} the same property to William Twaddell, Birmingham ironmaster for 206 lbs. No Mills are mentioned but James Twaddell was taxed for a forge in the years 1781, 1783 and 1785.

Thomas Taylor yeoman sold {W-190} to Norris Jones, Aston Ironmaster on October 13, 1780, three full parts of eight of two tracts of land. Tract #1- 31 acres and 18 perches and Tract #2- a quarter acre. "slitting mill to be erected".

#### **Crozerville Mills Location West Branch Creek on Mount Rd.**

Isaac Bottomley, a clothier from Concord, erected a woolen mill on this site in the spring of 1811. Bottomley had an agreement with the owner, John Rattew dated December 24, 1810. His father, John and brother Thomas joined him in the venture on July 1, 1811. The next year they purchased the property from Rattew.

On January 25, 1812 John Rattew sold {K-410} 14 acres, 34 perches and two roads to John, Isaac and Thomas Bottomley. Thomas died and left his share to his dad, John and sister, Martha Murphy. John Bottomley died in December of 1815, leaving his share to Isaac and Martha. Isaac bought his sisters share and sold {P-725} the property on April 25, 1826 to John B. Duckett for \$3,500.00. The property included houses and mills.

Duckett a paper maker built a three-story paper mill, 30 X 86 feet shortly after the sale. Duckett failed in 1837 and the property was taken by the Delaware County Bank. On November 17, 1838 the bank sold {V-69} the property to John P. Crozer for \$8,740.00. Crozer built a four story stone mill 53 X 156 feet which he operated till his death in 1866. His son, Samuel A. Crozer took over after his death and operated the mill with Samuel A. Lewis, as Lewis and Crozer.

Lewis withdrew in 1873 and Crozer operated the mills alone till 1881 when he rented the mills to his son-in-law William H. Robinson. Robinson ran the mills till about 1884. The mills stayed idle till they were bought by George Yarnall in 1887. Yarnall formed a partnership with John Standing, as Yarnall and Standing and opened the factory on May 1, 1887.

The Company made jeans and worsteds.

May 6, 1905 C.T.

#### ROCKDALE TO HAVE MORE PEOPLE AT WORK

##### West Branch Mill to Resume Operations After Idleness of Two Years

Another mill is being started up near Rockdale, and Rockdale's present era of prosperity is about to be augmented and accentuated. The West Branch Mill, which has been idle for more than two years, is now being started by the owners, the Victoria Plush Company, which operates the big plush mills near Swarthmore. Two looms are now running, and more are being put in readiness and will be started gradually. The warps and filling for these looms are being shipped from the main plant, the warps being shipping on the beam and the filling in cops ready for the shuttle. But the beaming frames and the winding machinery at West Branch are being started up and will soon be in operation.

The West Branch Mills, of Victoria No. 1 was purchased by the Victoria Plush Company from the receivers for Rhodes Brothers, when the latter failed in December 1902. It has been idle for two years, during which time the owners have practically made anew mill of it. In the property are included twenty-eight dwelling houses and three have also been extensively repaired at put in fine shape for the reception of new families. As soon as the mill is started to its full capacity these houses will be occupied by new citizens, and Rockdale's population will thereby be much enlarged. When the new mill runs full, it will employ 100 hands.

May 12, 1896 C.T.

#### THE BROOKSIDE MILLS

##### Additional Judgments Entered Up Against the Firm Yesterday

##### HARD TIME UP THE CREEK

The mill of the Brookside Manufacturing Company (limited) at Lenni, on the Chester Creek, were closed yesterday the Sheriff, on an execution issued by William Carson, for \$9,800. The individuals represented in the corporation are Samuel B. Rhodes, John Standing, George Yarnall and Jesse Yarnall. The Company was established about six years ago, but prior to that the mills were conducted by Messrs. Yarnall & Standing.

The cause of the failure is attributed to the depression in the textile market and an over-production by the mills. The mills manufactured the better grade of cotton and woolen shoddy goods and gave employment to about 100 hands. By the failure and the partial destruction of the Riddle mill nearby, 600 hands are thrown out of employment in the busy settlements along Chester creek.

The following additional judgments, on which executions were issued were entered yesterday: Harry W. Rhodes, trustee for W.M. and F.M. Sharpless, for \$6000; for James F. Mitchell, \$5,000; for George E. Hoffman, \$3,000; vs. the Brookside Manufacturing Company Limited.

The plant was badly damaged by fire a few months ago, causing a great deal of loss to the firm and this, aided by the general depression, is responsible for the failure. It is likely that efforts will be made to get the affairs in such shape that the mill can resume work as soon as possible.

June 8, 1896 C.T.

#### Brookside Mills Running

William Carson of Lenni, the new proprietor of the Brookside Mills, has matters in ship-shape, and started and started up the entire plant on Thursday last with a full complement of hands, and is making full time. Mr. Carson is looking forward hopefully to the near change in the administration, which he is confident will be for the betterment of the trade.

May 14, 1896 M.C.

Judgments aggregating \$9800 have been entered against the Brookside Manufacturing Company, of Lenni, the members of which corporation are Samuel B. Rhodes, John Standing, George Yarnall and Jesse Yarnall, and the property is in the hands of the Sheriff.

At one o'clock in Saturday morning a fire broke out in the picker room and cotton shed at the mills of Samuel Riddle's Sons., at Glen Riddle. It was discovered by the watchman, who immediately gave the alarm and aroused the inhabitants of the neighborhood, who turned out and gave every assistance at their command. A dispatch in the meantime was sent to Media Fire Company, which quickly turned out and secured horses and wagons to convey the men, engine and fire apparatus to the scene of the fire, a distance of four miles. The fire men reached there too late to save No. 1 mill, the largest of the three mills but they rendered service in saving the surrounding property. The loss on the building and machinery destroyed is estimated at \$100,000. Several hundred employees have been thrown out of work in consequence of the fire.

March 14, 1901 M.C.

The flour and feed mill of William M. Powell, at Knowlton, was seriously damaged by a fire of incendiary origin on Tuesday night. Some 300 sacks of corn and a large quantity of flour was destroyed.

On August 22, 1873 William S. and Sarah Smith of Philadelphia sold {P3-249} a one third interest in their property to Samuel Haigh and William Greenwood for \$3,500.00. The property consisted of a cotton factory, tenements and three tracts in both Chester and Aston Twps. Tract#1- 25 acres and 38 perches Tract#2- 119 perches and Tract#3- 48 perches. See Joe Wilcox D3-589

Bridgewater Mills on December 31, 1880 were destroyed by fire owned and operated by Haigh and Co. The mill was four stories high and loss was about \$40,000.00. {M.C.1-6-1881}

Carson and Co. consisting of William Carson and George Yarnall leased the Parkmont Mills for 5 years from Trustee William D. Serrill. {C.T.6-13-98} The building was formerly used by Burnley and Co. Carson and Co. also ran the Brookside Mills.

August 29, 1866 - Media, Pennsylvania (Delaware County)

DELAWARE COUNTY AMERICAN

FIRES – On Tuesday night of last week, a small factory at Glen Riddle, occupied by Mr. Boyd, was totally destroyed by fire, which originated in the upper part of the mill, used for storing waste. Mr. Boyd lost most of his goods and stock of wool, there being only a partial insurance on them. The large manufacturing establishment of Levis & Rhoads, in Upper Darby, was entirely consumed by fire on Sunday night the 19<sup>th</sup> inst. The flames broke out at about 10 o'clock in the evening. The loss is estimated at about eighty thousand dollars, which we understand is covered by insurance. The night watch was on duty at the time, and had visited the locality from which the flames first issued a few moments before. The fire commenced in some cotton stored in the immediate vicinity of the hose used for throwing water, cutting off any attempt which might otherwise have been made to use it. This looks as though it was the work of an incendiary. The alarm was promptly given, and a large force of workmen were almost immediately on the ground, but it was impossible to render any aid.

June 9, 1869 – Media, Pennsylvania (Delaware County)

DELAWARE COUNTY AMERICAN

GLEN RIDDLE – During an hour's visit to Glen Riddle, we acquired some facts of local interest. The original tract of ground on which the village and mills are erected, was owned by Nathan Sharpless, and extended from near Village Green to what is now the Middletown Line. G.W. Hill afterwards held the property, he selling to Eli D. Pierce, and he to Samuel Riddle, Esq., the present owner. The last sale was in 1843, Mr. Riddle purchasing hereafter manufacturing for a time in Springfield Township, and at Parkmount Mills. He removed from the latter place in April, and the August following had his mills and property swept away or damaged by the great freshet. This led to additions to the old and to the erection of a new one, both being now in full operation. What is now designated the old was in 1780 a grist mill, built by Sharpless, and afterwards used by Chas. Kelley for spinning. For twenty-six years Mr. Riddle has carried on the business of manufacturing here, with commendable success, and is yet the head of the firm of Samuel Riddle & Co., the firm comprising himself and son, Samuel Riddle, Jr., and Samuel McDowell, a son of A. McDowell, a venerable store keeper at the village. The main part of the work now falls upon the junior members of the firm both active, enterprising and capable, the senior having partially retired, but still devoting some time to his farm and landed property, which comprises about two hundred and fifty acres. Joseph Miller was for many years the chief clerk and 'business man' of the establishment, but he two years ago retired on a competency. The two mills are now running over 9,000 spindles, with about 200 looms in present use – there being 49 new ones not yet started. Here are made all varieties of colored cotton goods, such as tickings, denims, stripes, &c., 34,000 yards of cloth per week are turned out, 12,000 pounds of cotton yarn, part woven and part sold, and 1300 pounds of woolen yarn – employing 215 hands; this is said to be a large yield. The mills do all their own dyeing, finishing goods, and making everything complete in its manufacture from beginning until ready for the market. Under the ownership of Mr. Riddle, the machinery has been changed four times, once directly after the installation of the new firm, when the most approved English makes were introduced at a heavy cost. In the course of two months the two old wooden water wheels will be taken out and three new Leffell turbine wheels put in, the three combining over 200 horse power, there being also an engine of 100 horse power. Samuel Riddle is also connected with Mr. Steen, in running the old McCready mill, about a quarter of a mile down Chester Creek from the village proper. This mill is now spinning cotton yarn, and is, like the others, running full handed and on full time. Glen Riddle is a business-like place, with ready transporting facilities both by the West Chester and Philadelphia and the Baltimore Cent. Railroads. It, of course, derives its name from the proprietor, who is in all respects public spirited, and who is greatly respected as one of the self-made men of our county.

December 25, 1835 - Darby, Pennsylvania (Delaware County)

DELAWARE COUNTY REPUBLICAN

Real Estate

TO MANUFACTUREERS AND OTHERS. VALUABLE WATER POWER FOR SALE – Pursuant to the last Will and Testament of Abraham Sharpless, deceased, will be sold at Public Sale, on the premises, on the 21<sup>st</sup> day of January 1836 at 12 o'clock (noon). A valuable slitting and rolling mill, Grist Mill, and unoccupied mill seat, together with 30 ACRES OF LAND, 20 of which are first rate arable and pasture land, situate on Chester Creek, in Aston Township, Delaware County, and State of Pennsylvania. The improvements are a rolling and slitting mill, and the necessary out buildings and fixtures for the continuance of the Iron business with twenty-two feet fall. A grist mill three stories high, part frame and part stone, in good order with a good country custom, and in the middle of one of the most fertile districts in the State. There is an unoccupied seat 150 yards below the rolling mill, on the same stream, with 16 feet fall, and a good race to the proposed site for a mill of any description. There are on the premises a large STONE DWELLING HOUSE, which cost \$3,000 in tolerable repair, six tenant houses, and stabling sufficient for 15 horses. Materials for building are abundant on the premises and could be furnished at a very cheap rate. Chester Creek at this place is a large and constant stream and the two seats afford sufficient power to drive 20,000 spindles during the driest season. The property is 18 from Philadelphia, 9 from Chester, and 8 miles from Marcus Hook, from both of which packets ply try weekly to Philadelphia, and 120 miles from the Columbia and Philadelphia Railroad. The projected rail road from Chester to West Chester and Downingtown pass by



the property. The premises will be shown by Abraham W. Sharpless who resides adjoining. Attendance will be given and conditions made known on the day of sale by CASPAR W. SHARPLES, ABRAHAM W. SHARPLES, GEORGE C. ASHBRIDGE, Executors of Abraham Sharpless, dec'd. Two-thirds of the purchase money may be secured on the property.

January 26, 1838 - Darby, Pennsylvania (Delaware County)

DELAWARE COUNTY REPUBLICAN

Advertisement

CLOVER MILL – The subscriber has been at a considerable expense to render the process of cleaning clover seed complete. He has in operation one of Burrels patent machines, which are the best that have yet been put into use and is now ready to accommodate those who may favor him with their custom.

JOHN DUTTON, Jr. Aston, near Village Green, January 26<sup>th</sup>, 1838.

KEITH LOCKHART COLLECTION