

CHAPTER VI

MILLS AND MANUFACTURING

While Jaffrey is not essentially a mill town, yet manufacturing continues to play an important role in its growth and development. Sawmills and gristmills were necessary for the founding settlers. They needed lumber to build their houses and barns, and grist was necessary for their daily bread. As stated elsewhere in this volume, all but one of Jaffrey's four villages owe their beginnings to mills. Every stream of any size furnished power for a sawmill or gristmill at some time. Although the mills themselves have disappeared long since, foundation remains of many of them still exist, mute evidences of once active scenes now hidden in the renewed forest growth.

But, in the evolution of manufacturing, as the sawmills and gristmills gradually disappeared, other types of manufactures came into being, dictated by the economic needs of the period. Today there is only one woodworking mill left in Jaffrey, the Annett Lumber Company plant at Squantum Village, which now restricts its product to pine paneling. Until recently a second woodworking mill, Jaffrey Woodworking, Inc., operated on the site of the former St. Pierre sawmill on Old Peterborough Road. This mill engaged in the manufacture of furniture parts and ceased operations following the death of its operator, Frank James, a few years ago.

THE SQUANTUM MILLS

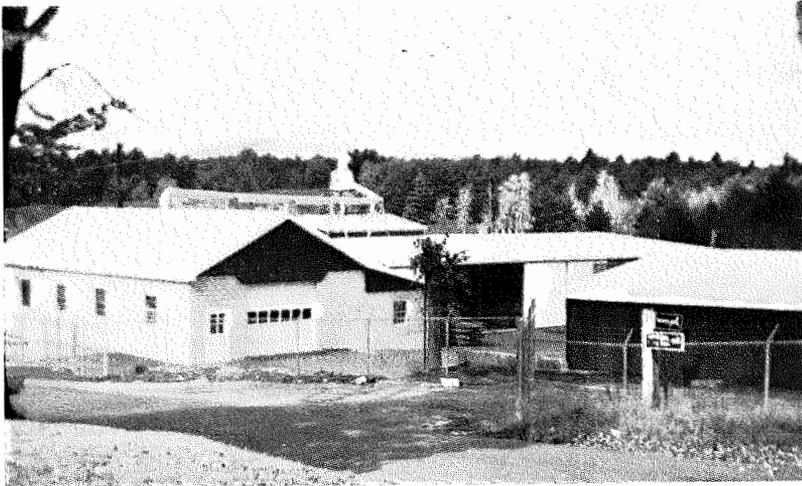
Squantum Village in the southeast corner of Jaffrey has had a mill or two from the very earliest times. For a detailed account of these mills see Volume I, pages 354 to 360. Today the village is proud of its new modern factory which replaced the former mill after the disastrous fire of July, 1966.

For many years the Squantum mills engaged in the manufacture of round veneer boxes, nest boxes, and spice boxes but with the changing conditions the demand for these items diminished and the attention was focused on lumber products.

In 1918 a group of local men purchased the mill. James B. Perry (see biographical sketch) became its president and manager until 1942. In 1942 the stock was sold to a Gardner, Massachusetts, firm. Mr. Perry continued with the new owners until 1947. Carl Wilen, formerly of Gardner then became manager. Meanwhile the old lines

of manufacture had been discontinued, with increasing emphasis on lumber and lumber products. The name of Annett Box Company was no longer applicable and was changed to Annett Lumber Company, Inc. For many years the plant was a purchaser of local timber which was sawed into boards and plank at its adjacent sawmill. The sawmill was eventually sold and the lumber used was bought ready sawed.

In February, 1965, the plant and business was purchased by C. Stanton Gallop and his son, Richard T. Gallop, of Plainfield, Connecticut, who are continuing the business under the Annett



ANNETT LUMBER COMPANY

Lumber Company name. Following the fire of July 22, 1966, which destroyed the building, the new owners erected a one hundred by fifty-foot concrete one story building on the site. Today their product is solely pine paneling, although some thought has been given to possible added lines. Since the sale of the sawmill, all the boards used for pine paneling are purchased ready sawed into seven and eight foot lengths. At present the plant employs about ten persons, and in terms of output is believed to be the largest manufacturer of pine paneling in the country.

C. Stanton Gallop is president of the company and Richard T. Gallop is vice president.

THE WHITE BROTHERS' MILL

The story of the White Brothers' cotton mill in Jaffrey is told in Volume I, pages 388-390, and the account here presented is the final episode in its history, ending an interesting and important chapter in the life of the community.

The White Brothers' denim mill and its adjunct, the Cheshire Mill, like the cotton mills elsewhere in New England, felt the impact of the great depression of the 1930's severely. Their operations were interrupted by periodic shut-downs. The first of the two mills to be permanently closed by the Whites was the Cheshire Mill. The March, 1936, flood had done so much damage to the dam and mill that on June 22, 1936, the White Brothers voted to move the Cheshire Mill machinery to their Jaffrey Mill and to consolidate the work. Heavy damages at the Jaffrey Mill were also incurred during the 1936 flood. (See Floods and Hurricanes.) Two years later, June 24, 1938, the White Brothers decided to sell the Cheshire Mill. It was purchased by D. D. Bean & Sons Company, Inc., and is being used today in their bookmatch business.

With the bottom falling out of the foreign market, the Whites soon found it necessary to curtail their activities in Jaffrey. Consequently, on June 26, 1939, they voted to liquidate their Jaffrey property, having already disposed of their Cheshire Mill and the mill houses. The machinery in the Jaffrey mill was moved to Winchendon, Massachusetts. Their final operation at the Jaffrey mill was earlier in the month when they ran forty-eight hours to run out what was left on the machines.

The final move came on August 21, 1943, when they voted to sell the Jaffrey mill, almost sixty-six years after acquiring it in September, 1877. The purchaser was the Greenville Mills of Greenville, New Hampshire.

THE JAFFREY MILLS

With the passing of the cotton industry in Jaffrey casting a gloomy shadow over the town's industrial life on the heels of the Great Depression, the outlook brightened when White Brothers announced the sale of their Jaffrey mill property to Greenville Mills in August, 1943. The new owners immediately launched upon a program of bringing in new machinery, supervising personnel, and a new product. Joseph D. Pytko, general manager of the Greenville and New Ipswich, New Hampshire, mills, became also the general manager of the Jaffrey Mills, and Ross Patterson became the superintendent.

With the machinery for the production of rayon fabrics installed

and ready for operation, General Manager Pytko announced a month later that the wheels of the Jaffrey Mills would start turning by the end of September, 1943. At first the product was limited to filament rayon yarns and fabrics, but as time went on other lines were added. Although the opening of the mill was during the war period, the material first manufactured was designated for civilian use only, with war contracts accepted later.

The manufacture of rayon cloth was succeeded by the production of acetate fabric until its manufacture became unprofitable on account of the foreign market. The company then went into the



JAFFREY MILLS

manufacture of nylon fabrics, which likewise was faced by stiff foreign competition and high cost of production, and was eventually dropped since the company was unable to compete. The Jaffrey Mills received government contracts for the manufacture of parachute cloth and by March, 1944, the government contracts were fulfilled. The company returned to the manufacture of civilian goods, including nylon and dacron fabrics.

Ellsworth D. Baker, who had been superintendent of the Jaffrey Mills, was promoted to general managership following Pytko, and he in turn was succeeded in the position by Robert Haynes of Jaffrey Center. Under their management the business flourished, operating on three shifts and at the height of the business employed about 150 people. Three shifts were continued under the management of

Haynes' successor, Roger LaFerriere of Greenville, until 1967 after which there was a gradual reduction in production and number of employees. Jaffrey mills was one of the chain of mills operated by the parent company, the Greenville Mills, which also operated mills in Warwick, Rhode Island, the Blackstone Mill in Manchester, the Highbridge Mill in New Ipswich, and a mill in Rochester, New Hampshire.

In 1969 Jaffrey Mills was sold to Rudolph Koestner of Norwalk, Connecticut, owner of Trudi Toys. With the intention of manufacturing stuffed toys in the mill, much remodeling and repair work on the building was done, but it remains unused at the present time.

BEAN & SYMONDS, INC.

Bean & Symonds, Inc., (see Volume I, pages 393-394), since 1912 an important contributor to the economic life of the community and for many years a market for much local timber, went out of business several years ago. The plant manufactured box shooks during most of its existence, using several million feet of lumber annually. Since the death of its president and owner, Merrill G. Symonds, August 29, 1957, the business was continued by Rufus S. Fenerty, III. Following the sale of its soft-wood business, other lines were added until the final discontinuance of the business. Subsequently the buildings were sold at public auction and taken down. The site was later sold by the Bean Foundation to the present owners, Homer and Reynold Belletete.

D. D. BEAN & SONS COMPANY, INC.

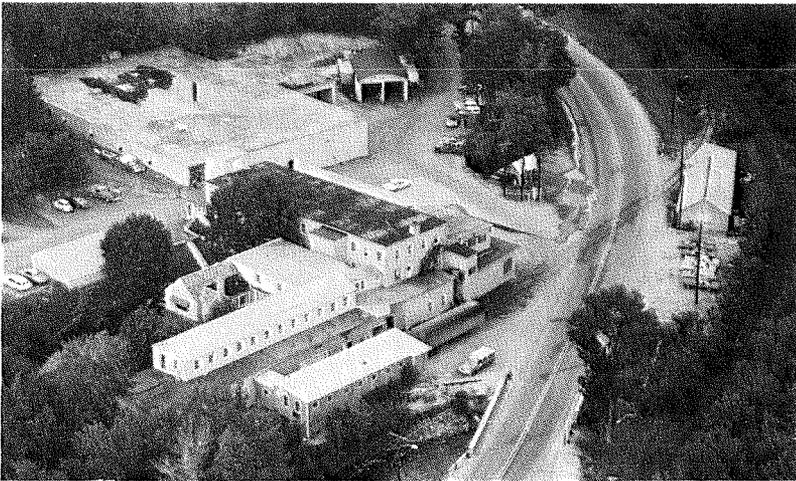
A family business in the manufacture of paper bookmatches, the company was founded in 1938 by Delcie D. Bean and his sons, Vernon J. and Delcie D. Bean, Jr. It has its roots in the New Hampshire Match Company which manufactured wooden matches in Jaffrey and which was started and operated by Delcie Bean. In the 1920's this business was merged into the International Match Company of monopoly fame.

D. D. Bean & Sons Company is Jaffrey's second major industry. The business occupies the former Cheshire Mills plant and several additional new buildings at this site. It is the home center for plants in Winston-Salem, N.C., Chicago, Ill., Kingston, Jamaica in the West Indies, and a Canadian operation in St. Cessaire, Quebec.

Mr. Delcie Bean served as the company's first president until his retirement, at which time his older son, Vernon, succeeded him in

that office. Delcie D. Bean, Jr. serves as secretary-treasurer. B. Leonard Krause, an architect M.I.T. graduate and son-in-law of Mr. Bean, is a vice-president.

At the present time five grandsons are associated with the company. Today, after nearly thirty-three years, the company makes billions of bookmatches a day. The matches are shipped to every part of the world. There are twenty matches to a book and each book carries the message of an advertiser.



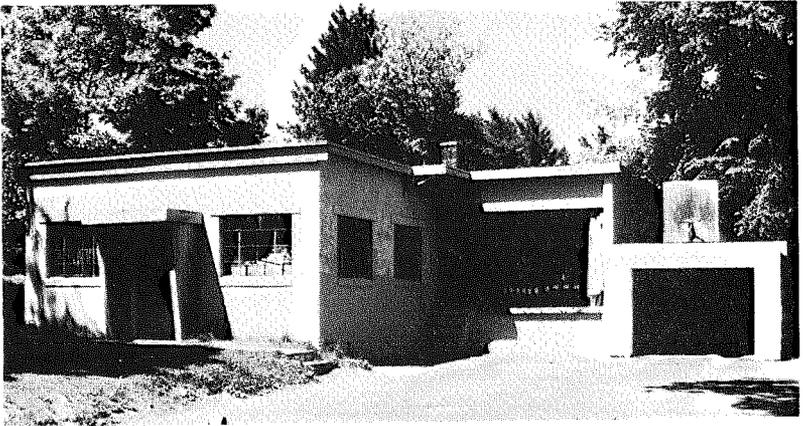
D. D. BEAN & SONS COMPANY, INC.

W. W. CROSS & COMPANY, INC.

The W. W. Cross & Company, Inc., continues to be the largest employer in Jaffrey, and in a way the backbone of local industry, employing more than 400 persons. During the Great Depression years, it kept Jaffrey economy from going under by increasing rather than decreasing its number of employees and the volume of its product, and became the largest cut tack manufacturer in the world. From 1920 to 1932 it was operated as the Granite State Tack Company of the United Shoe Machinery Corporation. In 1932 it became the W. W. Cross & Company, Inc., absorbing plants in several Massachusetts towns and cities, St. Louis, Missouri, and Chicago, Illinois. (See Volume I, The Tack Factory.) From 1930 to 1932 it brought many families from the Brockton, Massachusetts, area to Jaffrey, who have continued to remain here and integrated with the

old Jaffrey, making it possible for Jaffrey to enjoy a period of growth when many another town was facing an economic slump during the depression years. Following the influx of personnel from the Massachusetts area, Jaffrey experienced a housing shortage period when, as recalled today, "every available house in town was occupied and more had to be built immediately" to accommodate the new citizens. Since that time, W. W. Cross & Company, Inc., has continued its upward trend in industry, and in 1956 became a part of the Plymouth Cordage Company. In 1966, ten years later, it became a division of the Emhart Corporation.

After the death in 1942 of Wilbur E. Webster, son of Wilbur



KING MANUFACTURING COMPANY, INC.

Webster who founded the company in 1897, Charles H. Howard, a long time employee of the company and assistant superintendent, was at the helm. Under his management the company continued to prosper. Following the retirement of Howard in 1958, Irvin M. Reid succeeded him until illness forced his retirement. Norman Hanson of Peterborough, New Hampshire, replaced him.

Up to the time of its affiliation with the Plymouth Cordage Company, it was a wholly owned and independent company with its own board of officers, but under the new regime it has been under a manager system of operation.

KING MANUFACTURING COMPANY, INC.

The second existing manufacturing plant at Squantum Village, the King Manufacturing Company, Inc., was started on May 1, 1955,

by William H. Stewart. Previously employed at W. W. Cross & Company, Inc., for seventeen years, he decided in the early spring of 1955 to embark upon a business venture of his own. Consequently, he built a concrete block building near his home in Squantum, where he was living then.

At present the company employs about ten people. At the beginning the sole product was electrical fasteners, but since then he has expanded to include the manufacture of staples and dry hangers for the electrical and plumbing industries.

MAN ELECTRONICS, INC.

Man Electronics, Inc., was founded on August 3, 1964, by Leonard Porter of Jaffrey, Mark Hamilton of Hancock, New Hampshire, and Bernard Kupferschmidt of Newton, Massachusetts. Its financing was through private investment. The company was founded with the purpose of manufacturing products in the field of medical electronics. The actual beginning work was subcontract manufacturing for other electronics manufacturers in the area of design, circuits, and electronic assembly.

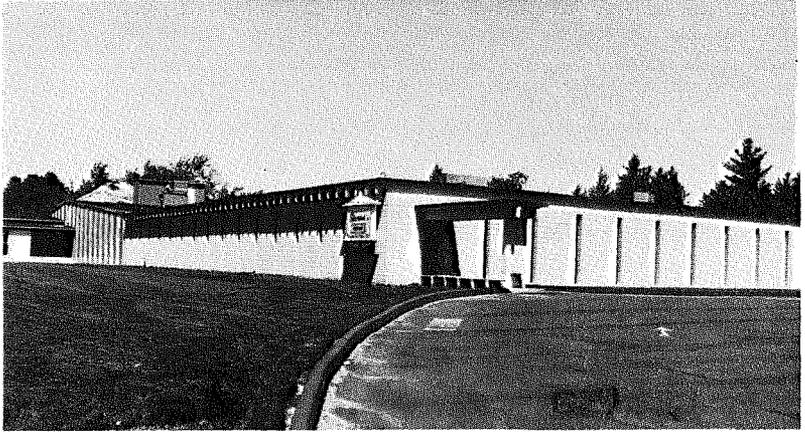
The business was started in the former Dillon Garage on Peterborough Street, which was rented. In the summer of 1966 the company moved to its ten thousand square foot floor space building which it built on land provided by the Jaffrey Community Corporation. This land was part of the Jason C. Sawyer sandbank on the Turnpike, which the town had procured from Sawyer pursuant to a town meeting vote in November, 1964, for six thousand dollars. The new building was of pre-stressed concrete construction.

The maximum employment of the company reached ninety-seven people. The business was closed on April 1, 1968, by a decision of the stockholders and board of directors to declare voluntary bankruptcy. The land, building, and stock in trade were subsequently purchased by Albert Surprenant at public auction.

SURPRENANT, INC.

The former Man Electronics, Inc., plant on the Turnpike Road was purchased in 1968 by Albert H. Surprenant and his son, Albert H. Surprenant, Jr., for the purpose of bringing a new industry to Jaffrey. Previously, for many years they had owned and operated an electronic wire manufacturing business in their home town of Clinton, Massachusetts. In September, 1968, they added to their Jaffrey holdings by purchasing nine acres of the so-called Fitzgerald

land across the Turnpike Road from their newly acquired plant. The following year they built an addition to their plant. The firm manufactures special purpose wire and electronic cable. Presently they are employing about twenty-five people, with possible future expansion.



SURPRENANT, INC.

The officers of the company are: President, Albert H. Surprenant; Treasurer, Albert H. Surprenant, Jr.; Vice President and General Manager, Harold L. Pibus; and Vice President and Technical Director, Albert R. Copp.

MONADNOCK MILLWORK

Private initiative and ingenuity have given Jaffrey another plant to its growing list of manufacturers. From small beginnings first started in Jaffrey, 1965, in the basement of his Wheeler Street home, Charles W. Davis of Jaffrey has now expanded into a modern plant at Pierces Crossing. The business was moved into the new 2,000 square foot building in 1968.

Jaffrey was once a stronghold for various types of woodworking plants, but time and progress have limited them to two at present, the Annett Lumber Company and the Monadnock Millwork plants.

Charles W. Davis, owner-employee of Monadnock Millwork, engages in custom woodworking, or the manufacture of what is known in the trade as Architectural Woodwork (Millwork). He supplies woodwork to general contractors for particular projects as designed

by various architects and much of his work has already been incorporated into churches, schools, and private homes. The Civic Center in Jaffrey also contains a considerable amount of his millwork.

CONTROLONICS CORPORATION

Controlonics Corporation is Jaffrey's newest industry and is located on the Turnpike Road and Prescott Road, on some of the earliest cleared land in Jaffrey, long in the ownerships of the Prescotts.

Controlonics Corporation is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Worcester Controls Corporation with headquarters in West Boylston, Massachusetts. Controlonics occupied its corporate home in Jaffrey



CONTROLONICS CORPORATION

in May of 1969. Officers of the corporation are Robert C. McGray, president, and L. W. Buffinton and F. F. Rickertsen, vice presidents.

The company is in electronics manufacture, specifically making and selling communications security equipment. Present products include a police two-way radio scrambler, a commercial-industrial scrambler, and a line of special electronic filters. (A scrambler is a device which makes speech over two-way radio unintelligible excepting to sender or receiver equipped with the device, thus eliminating eavesdropping.)

Controlonics is also engaged in research and development of products specifically for use by Worcester Valve Co., Inc., another member of the Worcester Controls group, engaged in valves and piping control systems.

At present, Controlonics employs ten persons. Many of the corporate services, such as accounting, production control, finance, purchasing and data processing, are provided to the company by its parent in West Boylston.

MAYER MOLDING CORPORATION

The Mayer Molding Corporation was started in November, 1968, by Albert Mayer of Rindge, New Hampshire, in the former Jaffrey Woodworking shop on Old Peterborough Road, on the site or privilege of the original Granite State Tack Company plant which was burned in 1915. Mayer leases the building from Charles J. Letourneau.

The business at present is being carried on alone by Albert Mayer who hopes for future expansion to ease his workload. The product of the plant is injection molding of thermo-plastics for parts of consumer items and for industrial components.

OLD MILL MANUFACTURING COMPANY

The Old Mill Manufacturing Company started operations in the former St. Pierre Sawmill property on the Contoocook River on Old Peterborough Road in 1946. Charles J. Letourneau and J. Oren Belletete formed a partnership for the manufacture of desks, dining room tables, and juvenile furniture. They employed seven men and the partnership was dissolved in 1950.

The mill building and privilege are still owned by Charles J. Letourneau.

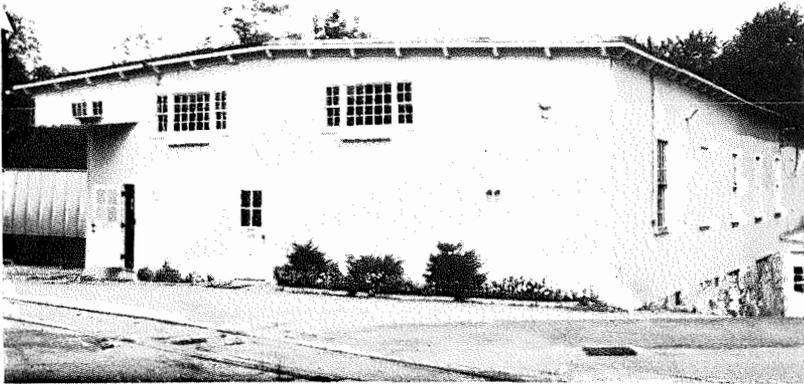
BEAN FIBER GLASS, INC.

Bean Fiber Glass, Inc., manufactures a woven fiber glass mat for use as the principal raw material in fiber glass molded products. It is used by molders throughout the country in the manufacture of a wide variety of products such as boats, tanks, shelters, cargo containers, missile housing, concrete forms, bath tubs, silos, and car bodies. None of its products is used locally.

The company was founded in 1957 by William Coleman and Joseph Manning with financial backing by D. D. Bean & Sons Co., Inc. Starting as a division of D. D. Bean & Sons, Bean Fiber Glass became a separate corporation in 1959. The parent company remained as majority stockholder until 1961 when their interest was sold to an outside group of investors. Coleman and Manning, both graduate engineers, have been chief operating and executive officers

of the company since its founding. The company's production equipment was designed by them.

The company is located on Peterborough Street in one of the former White Brothers' storehouses.



BEAN FIBER GLASS, INC.