

George Washington
Once saw the shuttles fly

Beverly by the Sea

Had America's First Cotton Mill

Settled before 1630, Beverly, Mass. is distinguished as the birthplace of the American Navy. This coastal town also lays claim to the country's first Sunday school—in 1810.

Beverly has still another distinction: Location of America's first successful cotton-weaving mill. In business by 1789, records show the mill to be the pioneer textile manufactory in America.

"Among the many 'firsts' credited to Essex County (Mass.) is an accomplishment that is little known today because there is no visible trace of its reality save the written words of historians who have recorded it for posterity," said a 1856 story in the TOWN CRIER of Marblehead, Mass.

"THIS DISTINCTION was not always credited to the community where the first cotton mill in America originated," continued the newspaper item, with further review of the historic-mill story:

It was not until Robert S. Rantoul completed his research on the subject and presented his report in an address before the Beverly Historical Society on the 225th anniversary of that town's founding, that the location of America's first cotton mill was conclusively established.

In August of 1768 Josiah Balch and his wife Hannah conveyed to merchant John Cabot and physician Joshua Fisher, both of Beverly, certain premises comprising five or six acres of land.

This became the site of a three-story

brick building in which machinery to manufacture cotton fabric was installed. Before the purchase, the business promoters had petitioned the state legislature for an act of incorporation.

Their application cited the need for industrial development in that area, and suggested cotton as the most practical and useful commodity to be produced.

THE DEVELOPERS promised that in addition to providing work for residents of the county, the machines—also capable of producing fabric of silk, hemp, flax and wool—would manufacture cotton material which could be sold as cheap as, or cheaper than, that marketed from England at the time.

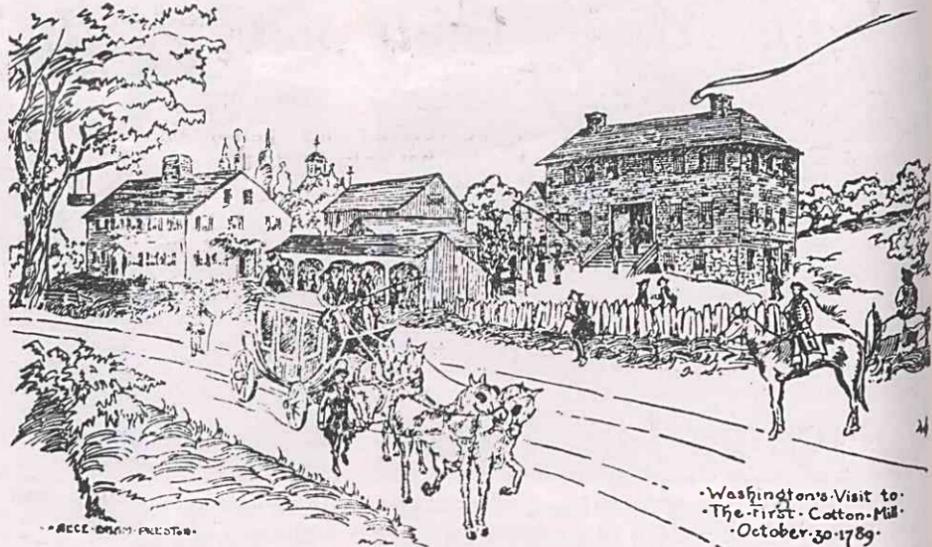
In February of 1789 the general court granted the charter and extended certain immunities and favors to help defray the initial loss expected to be incurred by the investors.

By the time George Washington had arrived in Beverly on October 30, 1789—shortly after his inauguration—the mill was really rolling.

After breakfast with George Cabot in his Beverly home, the first president visited the mill and later recorded in his diary:

"After passing Beverly two miles we came to the cotton manufactory which seems to be carrying on with spirit by the Cabots (principally)." Washington then set down some descriptive details of the machinery he saw.

Contender for the same honor of first cotton mill in America was Pawtucket,



Washington's Visit to
The First Cotton Mill
October 30-1789

● The First American President toured the Beverly factory shortly after his inauguration in 1789. In his diary he recorded his experience and noted some details of the mill's machinery and other equipment.

—Drawing from Beverly Chamber of Commerce.

R. I., until 1862 a part of Massachusetts. Samuel Slater came to Pawtucket from New York City in October of 1790, having arrived from Europe to establish the Pawtucket mills.

The encyclopedias say that Slater built the first successful water-driven cotton mill in the United States in 1790. His mill of 1793 vintage is now the famed Slater museum.

HISTORIAN Robert Rantoul contends that before Slater first came to Pawtucket, shopkeepers of Essex County (Mass.) were retailing the finished product turned out in the old Beverly mill.

Why is there no tangible evidence of the original Beverly factory?

After the War of 1812, business

waned and the mill was converted to a schoolhouse. According to the Essex REGISTER, in 1823 a "fire first started from the chimney of the tavern just before dark during a violent gale and consumed the building nearby, formerly used as a cotton factory."

The original building was 60 x 25 feet, with pitched shingle roof and deep basement, in one end of which moved a heavy pair of horses to provide rotary power for the machines.

Why the mill went out of business, historian Rantoul does not mention in his report. The Marblehead newspaper article speculated that because of declining profits, operators and financial backers of the mill abandoned the enterprise to its niche in history.

Latest Race Thriller

'Winning Ride' Is Available

"The 'Winning Ride,' latest motion picture to be released by the Firestone company, depicts the thrills and excitement of the 1963 Daytona 500-mile stock-car race.

The 20-minute sound film captures the color of race day at the Daytona (Fla.) Speedway

and the tense drama of "Tiny" Lund and his fellow drivers as they cover 500 miles on the high-banked tri-oval course.

"The Winning Ride" is available as a public service without charge to schools, churches and all civic and community organizations.

Prints may be borrowed through Associate Films, Inc., with offices at Ridgefield, N. J.; Oakmont, Pa.; La Grange, Ill.; Dallas, Texas, and Jayward, Calif.

effective and more economical program for eradication of tuberculosis and controlling other respiratory diseases in the two-county area."

Fifty persons were elected to the first board of directors, and 11 to the executive committee.

Galligan GCTA Committeeman

Production manager F. B. Galligan is one of five members-at-large of the 11-member executive committee of the Gaston-Cleveland Tuberculosis Association.

Scott Venable, executive director of the NC Tuberculosis Association, said that the merger in July would result in a "more

She Saved Herself Some Steps

Market Your Ideas

A housewife using a vacuum cleaner on the second floor blew a fuse in the electrical circuit. She went to the fusebox in the cellar, to be reminded that there were six fuses and she wasn't sure which one had blown out. It could have taken as many as six trips up and down the stairs to check all the fuses.

She put her thinking to work, went upstairs and plugged in the vacuum cleaner. Listening at

the cellar stairway, she replaced one fuse after another. When the hum of the vacuum was heard she knew she had put in the right one for the job. She saved herself some trips up and down the stairs.

It goes to show that thinking will often result in easier, safer and more efficient ways of getting important jobs done.

Not all the better ways have been found for doing the jobs in this or any other manufacturing plant.

Your ideas can help. Suggest your way to an award and help to do yours or someone else's job better.



● Firestone officials visited the John Deere Tractor Works at Waterloo, Iowa and posed for photo with the world's largest farm tractor equipped with the world's largest regular-production tractor tires. From left: E. B. Hathaway, executive vice president; Raymond C. Firestone, president and chief executive officer; H. A. Waldon, general manager of the John Deere Tractor Works of Waterloo, and H. A. Hewitt, president of Deere & Co. at Moline, Ill.

COMPANY MAKES THEM

World's Largest Tractor Tires

Firestone-manufactured tires weighing 540 pounds are in use on the world's largest farm tractor, the John Deere 5010.

The 10-ply tires measure 24.5x32 and are 71 inches high. Each tire contains more than 73 miles of cord.

Tread, 74 inches wide, is almost four inches wider than the largest available on standard tractors up to now. The extra width puts more rubber into contact with the ground for better traction and flotation. The amount of liquid ballast that can be carried in the tires also has been increased proportionately.

The tractor was designed to permit a farmer to step up his daily output not only by using bigger equipment on many jobs, but also by handling this equipment at faster speeds. The 117-horsepower tractor has almost one-third more power in working gear than the largest standard farm tractor previously on the market.

This vehicle is another step in the trend which has seen the average horsepower rating of farm tractors in the United States and Canada jump 70 per cent in the past 10 years, as farmers have turned to bigger and more productive machinery.



HUGHES TO ATTEND AIR FORCE SCHOOL

Larry Hughes, a 1963 graduate of Ashley High School, recently enlisted in the Air Force and was assigned for preliminary training at Lackland AFB in Texas. He chose the field of administration for the duration of his service enlistment, and will be assigned to school after his basic instruction in Texas.

The son of Horace Hughes, shop, and Mrs. Hughes, Larry worked a while here in weaving (synthetics) between his graduation from high school and Air Force enlistment.

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