



First Home of Chatham Manufacturing Company



In striking contrast to the modern buildings now housing the Chatham Manufacturing company both in Elkin and Winston-Salem is this photograph of the second Chatham plant. The first plant was a frame structure, and was located where the Elkin Shoe Factory now stands.

Early History of Chatham Mfg. Company

By WALTER BURGESS

It is hoped that our readers will be as agreeably surprised as the writer was, when they see the picture on the front page of this issue of the Blanketeer. Behind the scenes in this picture, and the life of the young flourishing Company, it represents, lie a store house of historical facts, that will make it interesting for all our Chatham folks, both here in Elkin, where the picture was made, and in Winston-Salem as well.

This is a photograph of the Chatham Mfg. Co. and practically all of it's employees at that time. It is possible that there were a scant few that were not

in the picture, including the general superintendent, Mr. Gilvin T. Roth.

The mill at that time was only about two years old, that is this building, had been built about that long. The Company had been in existence about 16 years prior to this time, at the Old Elkin Shoe Co. plant site, except that it was across the creek from where the present plant now stands.

This picture shows the mill to be one story, and the picture was made on the end of the mill toward the railroad. There was nothing there except a one story building extending straight back from the front of this photo to

the old weave room end on the South. The front at that time was in line with the front of the wool scouring room at the present time. There has been several feet added on the end where this photo was taken, extending the mill out toward the railroad to the present location. There was no right wing on the building at that time.

The extension where the wool scouring and dryer are located, was at that time the dye house. The boiler and engine room were as they are now. The extension at the southeast was the picker room.

Starting with the wool in the picker room, it was run through

the picker, then carried into the card room by hand. The card room which consisted of two sets of cards was in the extreme south end of the long building. Out of the cards the stock was spun on three mule frames, which were located in the same room. So far as we have been able to learn there were only two blanket looms and about 25 looms weaving flannel and jeans. All of this of course being located on this one floor and arranged so that the work progressed up through the mill toward the finishing room in the north end of the building, near the railroad.

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