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Showing postings 1 - 10 of 10 in the thread: Willimantic Paper Mill?.

Posting: Willimantic Paper Mill?	Posting 1
Poster: Lorena Baines	
Date: 3 March 2005 9:15 AM	
<p>Does anyone know anything about George Spafford and his paper making mill in Willimantic? With James Phelps, Spafford founded a famous paper-making machine firm in South Windham in the late 1820's, which later morphed into Smith &amp; Winchester around 1837. At some point before 1842, Spafford turned to paper making and opened a mill in Willimantic. As part of an extensive archive of material from Smith &amp; Winchester, I have documentation from Spafford's "Willimantic Paper Mill" in the form of letters, bills and checks to Spafford and his son Charles, who seemed to help his father run the business. However, I cannot seem to find anything at all about the firm itself! At least in the early years, Spafford seemed to use a John Campbell of New York as a distributor. I'm stumped. Any help would be greatly appreciated!</p> <p>Lorena</p>	
Posting: Re: Willimantic Paper Mill?	Posting 2
Poster: John Ferreri	
Date: 3 March 2005 8:33 PM	
<p>Lorena, the only reference I can come up with is, <i>A Century of Pioneering in the Paper Industry</i>, 1928 by Smith and Winchester. The Fourdriner paper making machine used by Phelps and Spafford was the first made in America to make paper in continuous fashion as opposed to individual sheets. The Willimantic Paper Mill is listed as a user of one of these machines. Unfortunately there is not much info about Spafford in this book. Another user was the Crane Company of Dalton, Mass. that made paper for U.S. currency.</p> <p>As an aside to the subject, the President of Smith and Winchester at one time was Guilford Smith who also was the president of the Windham National Bank. In essence his company made the machine that Crane of Dalton used to make the paper that the Bureau of Engraving and Printing used to make the money (National Bank Notes) which was sent back to Willimantic for him to hand sign (in those days) and then released through his bank into circulation.</p>	
Posting: Re: Willimantic Paper Mill?	Posting 3
Poster: rd	
Date: 4 March 2005 9:43 AM	
<p>The factory referred to in South Windham is the Smith Winchester Mfg. Co. I worked there briefly in 1962-64. They designed and built custom ordered machinery for paper mills. Most of the machinery was for mills in Vermont, NH, Canada, in the south and one or two mills in Scotland (British Isles). The original factory had its own foundry so they were capable of designing and making the machinery parts. There was two-story wooden building next door that stored all the wooden patterns for the various parts--quite collectible today.</p>	
Posting: Re: Willimantic Paper Mill?	Posting 4
Poster: LE DRAGON	
Date: 4 March 2005 10:09 AM	
<p>DO YOU REMEMBER MY UNCLE? HIS NAME WAS JOHN BUCKO.</p>	
Posting: Re: Willimantic Paper Mill?	Posting 5
Poster: Pippin	
Date: 4 March 2005 11:42 AM	
<p>I went to school with a John Bucko (perhaps the son of the John Bucko you mention). I believe his mother was a Tomecko from Windham Center.</p>	
Posting: Re: Willimantic Paper Mill?	Posting 6
Poster: Pippin	
Date: 4 March 2005 11:53 AM	
<p>I went to school with a John Bucko (perhaps the son of the John Bucko you mention). I believe his mother was a Tomecko from Windham Center.</p>	
Posting: Re: Willimantic Paper Mill?	Posting 7
Poster: Ada	
Date: 4 March 2005 1:51 PM	
<p>Guilford Smith's home is now the Guilford Smith Library, directly across from the mill. The second floor was left as a sort of museum and the bicentennial quilt made by women of South Windham (local grange?)(each made a square representing her own home in the village) is there. I have a picture of my mother holding the square she made and later next to the finished quilt.</p>	
Posting: Re: Willimantic Paper Mill?	Posting 8
Poster: le DRAGON	

Date: 5 March 2005 11:11 PM

THE JOHN BUCKO THAT I AM REFERRING TO MARRIED MY MOTHER'S SISTER. THEY LIVED IN WINDHAM FOR MANY YEARS ON RT. 203.

Posting: Re: Willimantic Paper Mill?  
Poster: le DRAGON  
Date: 5 March 2005 11:13 PM

Posting 9

PIP, DID YOU EVER DRIVE A SCHOOL BUS?

Posting: Re: Willimantic Paper Mill?  
Poster: al  
Date: 16 April 2005 4:46 PM

Posting 10

#### Paper mills

See the history of Windham county by Larned under North Windham. Basically, Badger, Tainter and Abbe established a paper mill on the Natchaug river. Later, Spafford had the mill and imported this amazing machine to make paper in long strips rather than individual sheets. Lincolns mill, also at North Windham was revived and made woollen pads required for this machine to soak up excess water. Later the machine was sold but Spafford and his gang reproduced COPIES of this machine and sold them to papermakers. He was an incredible machinist and mechanical genius more than a paper maker.