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ROCK HILL, S. C.

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

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ROCK HILL, by Agnes B. Lynch
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— Consolidation of the Baldwin Cotton Mills of Chester, the Glenn Lowry Manufacturing Co., of Whitmire, and

*3 Mills Organized*  
the Aragon Cotton mills of Rock Hill, as the Aragon-Baldwin mills with a total capitalization of \$6,146,000 was announced in Chester last week. In discussing the merger, E. R. Lucas, assistant treasurer-manager of the Baldwin mills, said motives of economy were mainly responsible for the consolidation. The three plants which make print cloths, sheetings and yarns have a total of 126,400 spindles and 3,106 looms. Alexander Long, of Rock Hill, president and treasurer of the Baldwin and Aragon mills for the last several years, is president and treasurer of the new organization. He is president of two other cotton mills at Rock Hill also. The total capital of the Aragon-Baldwin mills is represented by the combined capital of the three mills absorbed, plus \$250,000 in preferred stock to be issued.

Tuesday, November 11, 1924

*March 21, 1927*  
**A. PIONEER CONCERN**

This morning Rock Hill discovers that its second oldest firm has departed from the ranks of active business houses. The Rock Hill Supply Co. that made an assignment Saturday night had been in business for twenty-seven years and today there exists in this city but one downtown commercial firm older than the above, namely, A. Friedheim & Bro.

T. O. Flowers, executive head of the Rock Hill Supply Co., is a victim of economic circumstances, these being the closing of the Citizens Bank, low-priced cotton, and inability to make collections. For over a quarter of a century Mr. Flowers has been at his post, never having taken a vacation in that time.

It is to be hoped that after a brief forced vacation Mr. Flowers will be able to adjust matters so he can continue his activities among the business firms of this city.

**THE EVENING HERALD**

## THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT OF ROCK HILL

By Agnes B. Lynch, *May 6, 1946*

Rock Hill is near the Catawba River in the north central part of the state of South Carolina. It derives its name from a small, flinty hill in the vicinity. In 1852, Rock Hill was merely a depot on the new Charlotte-Columbia railroad, now a division of the Southern Railway. By 1861, the village was still nothing more than a sprawling country crossroads, a center for shipping local products, chiefly cotton. Wagons, bearing bales of cotton for northern mills, came in from miles around.

Rock Hill was incorporated in 1870 and its growth came with the spread of cotton mills in the up-country. By 1895, she had a population of 5,500, three cotton factories with a capital of \$435,000, and a buggy carriage and wagon factory with a capital of \$95,000. All factories at this time were making money. They either paid dividends or applied earnings to improvements.

Since 1881, when first cotton manufacturing plant was established, York County has had a steady march in Industrial Growth. While some of the plants are among the oldest in the section, others are comparatively new, showing that the progress of the industry has been steady and continues to move ahead. Rock Hill is the first city to turn out rayon both woven and printed in the south. It was found that a great deal of the machinery used in processing cotton goods could be used in printing and finishing of rayon. Process is slower than that for cotton cloth.

In 1939, a survey was made in the typical cotton mill village in Rock Hill. It included items of saving and modern progress. It revealed that 90% of the families own radios; 37% refrigerators; 80% joined Christmas Savings Clubs, and 96% carried hospital insurance.

The people of Rock Hill have suggested the growth of the textile industry. A hosiery mill was made possible for Rock Hill through the building by its citizens of a building for the hosiery plant. A bleachery was made possible by the extension of waterworks facilities by the city and further expansion followed this program.

Long before Rock Hill was a town, even before the Revolution, there was some industry in this section. The Hill's Iron Foundry, located on Allison Creek, was in operation. It was the first iron works in the county and possibly in the state. The ore was brought from Nanney's Mountain, a distance of about two and one-half miles, by a tramway to the point. At these iron works were made some of the cannons used in the Revolutionary War. When Hucks approached Nanney's Mountain for the purpose of destroying the works (which he afterwards accomplished) several of these cannons were mounted upon a high hill north of Allison Creek and a show of resistance made, but, at the first discharge, one of the cannons burst and the remainder were hastily rolled down the hill and thrown into the mill pond. It is told as a tradition that a good old Scotch Presbyterian elder, in praying for the success of the American Armies, asked, among other things, "Dear Lord, whatever else may happen, do not let the British destroy Billy Hill's iron works."

In 1880, the country was in a more prosperous condition than any time since the close of the war. High prices were paid for cotton, more money was put in circulation which enabled the people in a great measure to rid themselves of the burden of debt. Crops were good and Negroes worked better than they had for many years. They could see that there was little money in politics for them. "Cotton mills among the cotton fields" used to be a theory but in 1880 became a condition. Rock Hill was one of the first towns in the state to build a cotton mill, The Rock Hill Cotton Factory.

The cotton factory was incorporated in 1880 with a capital stock of \$100,000 divided into shares of par value of \$100. It was located near the intersection of the Southern-Charleston Railroad. In 1882, they were running 6,240 spindles. The yarn was sold in Baltimore and Philadelphia markets. They produced 12,000 pounds per week. This, at this time, was one of the best organized and most thoroughly equipped mills in the South. It ran day and night, running two sets of hands because of the demand.

On January 19, 1882, four of the "Warpers" employed, demanded an advance in wages. Their demands were not considered. They were told that their services were no longer wanted at any price. They left, and their places were supplied immediately. The work was devoted exclusively to spinning up to 1894, then looms were put in. In 1894, there were 8,000 spindles and 200 looms that consumed 2,500 bales of cotton per year. The mill was valued at \$175,000. It produced yarns, white goods, shirting and sheeting. There were 175 hands with a weekly payroll of about \$625. The mill paid an annual dividend of 7%. Mr. A. E. Hutchison was President at this time.

With the turn of the century, the Rock Hill Manufacturing Company or cotton factory was sold to the Bellvue Manufacturing Company but was sold again in 1906 to the Carhartt Manufacturing Company. This company ran the mill until 1928 when the mill was sold to its present owners and became the Cutter Mill.

This mill, whose president is J. H. Cutter and Manager George Cutter, is a corporation owned by a number of stockholders. It has 14,000 spindles and 436 looms with an annual business of around \$1,000,000. They make cloth for work clothes including a pin strip, whip chord, pin check and hickory strip. About 435 people are employed.

The second cotton mill in Rock Hill was the Standard Cotton Mill, now the Highland Park Mill. This mill was organized in March, 1888, and was ready for operation February 29, 1889. The original board of directors and organizers were W. L. Roddey, A. Friedheim, J. R. London, R. T. Fewel I, J. B. Johnson, W. J. Roddey, W. J. Rawlinson, T. A. Crawford and A. R. Smith. The mill was built on the land of A. E. Smith about one mile from the depot. The buildings consisted of a main building, a dye house, picker room and engine house. Mr. W. G. Adams was the contractor. He also built about thirty houses for the operators.

The mill had a capital stock of \$150,000 raised through the sale of stock at \$100 per share, payable at the rate of 50¢ per share per week. Mr. J. R. London was the initiator of the loan. It was a community affair. Weaving alone was the business of the factory. In 1891, they had 300 looms and in 1893, 486 looms. They employed 280 hands and produced gingham goods, shirting and towels. The yearly output value was \$300,000. In 1892, the mill was provided with an automatic sprinkling system.

In 1898, the Standard Mill changed hands. C. W. Johnson of Charlotte, North Carolina, took it over and it still belongs to his interest. There are three plants in this group. This is Mill No. 2; the others are in Charlotte.

During the war, the mill was on 100% government contracts. They made a twill material and combed broadcloth. Now, the broadcloth is sold to the Clude Peabody Company and is used to make Arrow shirts. Today, the mill has 17,696 spindles, 380 looms and employes 400 workers. Mrs. R.H. Johnson of Charlotte is president and Mr. H. W. Moore, Vice-President.

The Globe Cotton Mill, now the Victoria Mill, was chartered in 1889 with an authorized capital of \$100,000. It was a spinning and weaving mill using at first 7,380 spindles and 320 looms and consuming 1,800 bales of cotton. In 1895, there were 325 operators with a weekly payroll of \$1,200. The original directors were W. L. Roddey, A. Friedheim, J. R.

London, A. E. Smith, A. F. Ruff, R. T. Fewell, and J. N. Fraiser. J. R. London was President and treasurer. About the turn of the century, this became the Victoria Mill. It was the first mill in Rock Hill to use electric power contracted for from the Catawba Power Company in 1904.

In 1936, the annual business was approximately \$500,000. It had 10,000 spindles and 310 looms and turned out between five and six million yards of specialty colored goods. Today, the Victoria Mill produces about 1,000,000 yards of gingham and seersucker a year. It has about the same number of looms and spindles as it had in 1936.

The Manchester Cotton Mill was organized in 1895. Mr. J. R. Barron was largely responsible for the organization and was the first President and Treasurer. The original board of Directors were J. R. Barron, W. L. Roddey, J. Friedhelm, J. B. Johnson, W. J. Roddey, R. L. Campbell of Clover, S. C., E. Milhersir of Richmond, Virginia, and Robert H. Wylie of New York. The mill was ready for operation in spring 1896 with a capital invested of \$125,000. It began with 7,000 spindles and 200 looms and used about 2,000 bales of cotton yearly. Around 200 hands were employed and the weekly payroll was between \$750 and \$1000. Yarns and white goods were manufactured. This mill <sup>grew</sup> fast and soon more than doubled in value.

The Manchester Cotton Mill was later bought by the Blue Buckle Company who kept it until the depression of 1920 when it went broke. In 1921, it was succeeded by the Industrial Mill. By 1936, the organization had grown until it was the largest organization of its kind in Rock Hill. In this year it converted 25,000 bales of cotton into 22,000,000 yards of denim cloth which is used by manufacturers of cloth for work clothing. The mill's 700 employees received about \$500,000 in wages every year.

At the present time, the mill has 29,456 spindles, 1256 looms and employes around 700 hands. Denims for overalls is still manufactured.

They make 25,000,000 yards a year and use between 25,000 and 30,000 bales of cotton a year.

In August, 1945, the mill employees struck. The mill, announcing its plan to reopen March 5, 1946, offered to sign a contract, including among other things, a 65 cent minimum wage, and an increase of at least 15% for all employees, vacations with pay, and a provision for arbitration. Union spokesman demanded that the contract include all stipulations of a War Labor Board order. The chief point at issue, they said, was the company's refusal to accept a maintenance of membership clause.

The Arcade Mill owes its success largely to R. T. Fewell. It was known as the "Fewell Mill". The original board of directors were R. T. Fewell, J. M. Cherry, T. L. Johnson, W. J. Roddey, W. J. Rawlinson, T. A. Crawford and Julius Friedhelm. The mill was ready for operation in 1896 with a capital of \$200,000, 6,500 spindles, 180 looms and 200 hands. It consumed between 18,000 to 20,000 bales of cotton per year, manufacturing gray goods used for converters.

In 1936, the annual business was approximately \$800,000, used 23,000 spindles and 642 looms. Broadcloth was produced and sold to manufacture shirts and dresses. At this time, there were 250 employees working on two shifts a day and receiving yearly wages of about \$200,000.

The Arcade mill has never been re-organized. This is the only mill in Rock Hill that has this record. Mr. R. T. Fewell was its first president, Mr. Alex Long the second, and Mr. Willis Hunter the third and present president.

During the war, the mill made material for uniform blouses, officers pajamas, and nurses uniforms. Now, poplin cloth is made. The mill, at present, has 22,640 spindles, 462 looms and employs about 315 hands.

The Aragon Mill was established in 1907 under the name of Aragon Cotton Mill, but was later consolidated with another group of mills under the name of Aragon-Baldwin Cotton Mill. It was a direct result of the Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Alexander Long came to Rock Hill to organize a corporation for the manufacture of cotton goods. Rock Hill was to raise \$50,000 of the capital. The balance was secured from machinery manufacturers and commission houses of New York. Broadcloth and prints were manufactured and sold to be used in the manufacture of shirting and dress goods.

The president and treasurer at the present time is Mr. R. E. Henry of Greenville, South Carolina, and the general manager is R. G. Emery. The mill has 25,792 spindles and 430 dobby looms. They manufacture rayon goods, both solid shades and prints. About 700 people are employed.

The Rock Hill Printing and Finishing Company began operation in 1929 on the very eve of the depression. It is owned by M. Lowenstein Sons, Inc., large converting concern of New York. Construction of the plant represented an initial outlay of \$2,000,000 but additions and improvements have brought the plant's value to over \$6,000,000. At first, 600 persons were sufficient to man the plant but now this number has increased to 2200. It is the policy of the management to employ people of this section whenever possible and to raise the more promising ones to managerial and executive positions.

A raw product of the Printing and Finishing Company is grey cloth of which fifteen to twenty million yards are processed each month. To supply that amount would require the constant operation of 12 to 15 cotton mills of the type and size prevalent in this section. The processes of the plant are bleaching, dyeing and printing. The cloth goes into the mill in a rough unbleached state and comes out as printed, finished goods, to be sold to manufactures of dresses, shirts and draperies. While this is

Primarily a cotton plant, rayon was started in 1936.

The city provided facilities by bringing water and erecting a filter plant. This was leased to the company. About 7,000,000 gallons of water are pumped a day.

The employees belong to three different unions. Most of them belong to the C.I.O. but some of the mechanics to one part of the AFL and the printers to the AFL.

The Rock Hill Yarn Mill and Samarkand Rug Company started operation in 1940. This was a section of a Philadelphia unit. They have about 250 employees in both mills. During the way, they manufactured yarn for government material but after the close of the war used all yarn for their rug industry. Every piece of material that goes in the rug is made here. Raw cotton, raw rayon and raw paper pulp are prepared for use in their own mill. They do their own dyeing.

These mills have grown very fast in the last three years. They have doubled their area in space and more than trippled their machinery. The first looms came out of Belguim. They were bought after England entered the war but before America entered and were smuggled out just in time. New looms are put together her with the help of different manufacturers in making the parts. They have 260,000 pounds of shipping per year and ship to all forty-eight states and some foreign parts.

The Nocturne Hosiery Division, manufacturers of full-fashioned hosiery, is owned by Jac Feinburg & Sons, Inc. It was started in 1928 with a complement of 8 old, short section 39 gauge machines and was not expanded further until the present organization acquired the assets of the old company in 1933. Since that time, all the old equipment has been replaced and the mill now operates with the most modern equipment, with present plans calling for double the expansion of all present capacity over the next several years with even finer gauge and higher speed equipment which

shortly make its appearance on the market. This will both knit the complete stocking and finish it for shipment to large retail accounts in all parts of the country.

The employees, in most instances, have to be highly skilled in order to maintain and operate all the equipment used. They are paid as high or higher than in any other textile manufacturing process.

This mill is doing its part to try to meet the present demand for hose. The present requirements for full-fashioned hosiery for women are estimated on the bases of five million dozen per month or sixty million dozen per year. It is believed that during the next seven or eight years, all gauges under 51 gauge will be eliminated from manufacturing except for the lowest price hosiery. A continuing shortage for some years to come in regard to finer gauge hosiery is therefore apparent.

Rock Hill has and has had other different manufacturers. Among these was the Rock Hill Buggy Company. This company started as a small shop in the rear of the present building of the Rock Hill Bank. It was organized in 1892 with a capital stock of \$25,000. One subscription of \$5,000 obtained from Lawson Valentine Company of New York, to be paid in varnish, helped build the new factory in 1892. The original directors were A. E. Smith, J. M. Cherry, D. Hutchison, A. D. Hollis, Sam Friedheim, W. J. Roddey, T. A. Crawford, Fred Mobley and John G. Anderson. John G. Anderson was manager. Sixty-five men were employed at first and the yearly business was between sixty and seventy-five thousand. Two men traveled over the South and West.

In 1911, the buggy factory was in prime financial condition, but with cotton selling at five cents a pound, business was at a standstill. With the increase in the price of cotton, business increased and by 1914 they made about 200,000 vehicles. When the war started, this increase stopped. In 1912,

profits were from forty to seventy-two thousand dollars a year and, in 1914, an intangible asset of around \$400,000 and no debt.

*Begin*  
In 1915, they were unable to market the buggies on hand. The buggy business was a back number. The large factory was full of machinery and not used. Mr. Anderson became interested in the automobile and the Anderson Motor Company was organized. It had a capital of \$1,500,000 divided into \$750,000 seven percent preferred and \$750,000 common stock. The directors were T. L. Johnston, W. B. Moore, J. W. Anderson, John G. Anderson. John G. Anderson received \$250,000 preferred stock and all the common stock for the buggy factory. The remaining stock was sold to the public.

In 1916, six cars were built under the guidance of Joseph A. Arglado of New York, an experienced automobile engineer. These sold readily at \$500 each. In 1917, forty or fifty cars were built. They got a government contract for an order of five sample trucks and later an order for 300 trucks at \$350 each.

After the war, business was picking up and prices advancing. New buildings were built and equipment added. Agencies were established in a number of large cities including New York, Boston and Chicago. In May, 1920, the company was putting out 35 cars a day.

Later that year, the depression hit. Orders were cancelled and there was a great loss. Finally, modern price cars were built and sold but, because of financial difficulties, they couldn't keep up with design and structure of other cars. Finally, in 1925, the plant and all the equipment was sold. The Rock Hill Printing and Finishing Company now own this property.

*end*  
The Jones Iron Works was established in 1898. It was originally situated in a little building on Green Street between Black and Johnson. About the turn of the century, the firm moved to the Hampton Street location which was later occupied by the London Printery. In 1904, the growing

concern transferred its business to a small brick building on West White St. Today, products of the local toundry are shipped to all states along the eastern seaboard. Municipal, textile and industrial castings are made.

The Rock Hill Body Company was started in 1915 in a one-room shack doing largely a handmade business. Today it is a modern, machine-equipped body plant, turning out school bus bodies, trailers, van bodies, passenger bus bodies and a full line of commercial truck bodies distributed in a dozen states.

J. C. Hardin was the founder and it is still owned by his family. In 1920, a new building was constructed on Black Street on the spot where the original structure was built. In 1925, the company purchased a three-story brick building adjoining the original building erected in 1920. In 1936, the company purchased a cotton mill site and building on West Main St. in which they moved their manufacturing department. This plant is situated on a side track served by the Southern Railway. It has steam heat and a sprinkler system. There are 100 employees.

Rock Hill today has one of the South's largest bleacheries--printing and finishing, cloth, yarn and rug mills, hosiery mill, truck and bus body manufacturers and also bottling plants.

It has a population of 21,000 (1944), 79.6 per cent white; less than 1% foreign born. It has the largest percentage of white population of any South Carolina city. There is still a spirit of cooperative achievement among the people. By the united efforts of the citizens, there will be a unit of the Celanese Corporation of America in the neighborhood. A hundred million gallons of water per day was obtainable from the Catawba River for this plant which will cost around \$15,000,000 and employ 2500. The city has secured 1200 acres to be used by this plant.

Rock Hill is the outstanding city in South Carolina which can invest in and construct manufacturing buildings to be leased for a period of years

to new industries. This is made possible by the Rock Hill Revolving Fund, which has \$100,000 to invest. Suitable industrial sites for a wide variety of plants are now available. New manufacturing plants having invested capital of \$10,000 or more locating within the city limits are exempted from city taxes for five years.

THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT  
OF  
ROCK HILL, SOUTH CAROLINA

Betty Owen  
May 5, 1949

## THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT OF ROCK HILL

Rock Hill, the largest city in York County, is located in the Piedmont Plateau near the Catawba River in the north central part of the state of South Carolina. The little incident to which the city owes its name is of interest. In 1852, about the time the Charlotte and South Carolina Railway had been completed through this section, a party of gentlemen, residing in the vicinity of the station to be here located had met and were discussing the matter of a name. Someone in the party, remembering the immense quantity of flint rock imbedded on a hill nearby proposed that the station be called "Rock Hill". Thus the name was adopted. In the beginning Rock Hill was merely a depot on the New Charlotte-Columbia railroad. For two years there was not a building near the depot. Gradually country stores began to appear. By 1861 the village was still nothing more than a country crossroad, a center for shipping products. (1)

History shows that cities are built where men want them thus the spirit of the citizens determining the future of the community. Ever since Rock Hill became a corporate village in 1870 it has been the spirit of her progressive citizenship that is largely responsible for what she is today. (2)

Rock Hill was incorporated in 1870 with a population of 273 persons. Its growth began with the opening and spread of cotton mills in the up-country. (3)

(1) A Handbook of the City of Rock Hill, by Mayor William J. Cherry. 1895.

(2) Taken from an article in the files of the Rock Hill Board of Trade.

(3) Idem

Years before Rock Hill was incorporated, even before the Revolution, industry was present in this section. The Hill's Iron Foundry was founded by Colonel Billy Hill and was located on Allison's Creek. Iron cannons were made by this foundry for use in the Revolutionary War. Today there is a cannon on the Battery in Charleston with the inscription on it: "Made by Hill's Foundry, York County." This Foundry was the first iron works in this section and possibly in the state. (4)

Rock Hill was among the first towns in the state to build a cotton mill, and the success of its first mill - the Rock Hill Cotton Factory - was such that others followed in rapid succession. Since the opening of this Cotton Factory York County has had a steady industrial growth. While some of the plants in Rock Hill are among the oldest in the section, others are much newer, showing that industry has both been steady and continuous.

The Cotton Factory was incorporated in 1880 and began operations the following year. It had a capital stock of \$100,000 divided into shares of the par value of \$100.00. This mill, known now as the Gold-Tex Fabrics Corporation, was a two-story brick structure, located near the intersection of the railroads. In 1895 it had 8,000 spindles and 200 looms and employed 175 people. (5) According to a 1947 report the Gold-Tex Mill had 13,912 spindles and 415 looms, employing 375 workers. (6)

This mill, which was founded by Mr. A. E. Hutchison, one of the first settlers in this area, was the first steam factory that was built in South Carolina. The Rock Hill Cotton Factory was one of the best equipped and organized mills in the South. (7)

(4) Interview with Mr. A. E. Hutchison of Rock Hill on May 1, 1949, at his home.

(5) A Handbook of the City of Rock Hill, by Mayor William J. Cherry. 1895

(6) Report of the S. C. Department of Labor, 1947

(7) Interview with Mr. A. E. Hutchison.

The Rock Hill Cotton Factory was sold to the Bellvue Manufacturing Company around the turn of the century. Again in 1906 it was sold to the Carhatt Manufacturing Company who ran the mill until 1928 when it was sold to its present owners. The mill was now known as the Cutter Mill. (8)

This mill, which makes cloth for work clothes or denims, has been closed but now has reopened and is operating again.

The second cotton mill in Rock Hill, the Standard Cotton Mill, now known as the Highland Park Mill, was organized in March, 1888 and operations began February 29, 1889, with 200 looms and weaving alone being the business of this factory. The original Board of Directors were: W. L. Roddey, A. Friedheim, J. R. London, R. T. Fewell, J. B. Johnson, W. J. Roddey, W. J. Rawlinson, T. A. Crawford, A. E. Smith with J. R. London As President. (9)

The mill was a two-story brick building located in the eastern suburbs of the city. In 1888 this mill was considered "out" from Rock Hill. Now civilization has spread way beyond this mill on all sides.

In 1889 the Highland Park Mill employed 280 hands and produced fine gingham goods, shirtings and towels. The yearly output value was \$300,000. In 1892 the mill was provided with an automatic sprinkling system. (10)

Mr. C. W. Johnson of Charlotte, North Carolina took over the Standard Mill in 1898 and it still belongs to his interests. The Highland Park Mill is Mill No 2 of a group of mills owned by Mr. Johnson. The others

(8) Taken from a paper by Agnes M. Lynch, The Industrial Development of Rock Hill, May 1946.

(9) A Handbook of the City of Rock Hill, by Mayor Cherry, 1895.

(10) Idem.

are in Charlotte. In 1947 this mill employed 425 people and had 17,696 spindles and 380 looms. Combed broadcloth is the product of this mill. (11)

The Victoria Mill, known formerly as the Globe Cotton Mill, was incorporated in 1889, although the building was built in 1882, by Captain Lyle Roddey. This mill has passed through three generations in the Roddey family and at present Mr. W. J. Roddey, Jr. is head of the Mill.

This mill was located in the southeastern portion of the City near the railroad. In 1895 there were 325 operators with a weekly payment of \$1,200. Products of this mill are yarns and fine gingham. Today this mill employs 250 workers with 9,520 spindles and 304 looms. Gingham and chambray are still the products manufactured. (12)

The success of the Arcade Mill is largely due to Mr. R. T. Fewell. For a long time the mill was known as the "Fewell Mill" and rightly so. This mill began operations in 1896 with a capital of \$200,000, 6,500 spindles, 180 looms, and 200 employees. Gray goods for converters were manufactured. Mr. R. T. Fewell served as President and Treasurer of this mill for quite some time. (13)

The Arcade Mill has never been reorganized. This record is held only by the Arcade. Mr. Alex Long succeeded Mr. Fewell as the second president and Mr. Willis Hunter is the third and present president. (14)

In 1947, 315 people were employed by the Arcade and its present goods are poplins and cotton material. (15)

Mr. J. R. Barron was largely responsible for the organization of the Manchester Cotton Mills which began operations in the spring of 1896. Mr. Barron served as the first President and Treasurer of the Mill. The Manchester began with 7,000 spindles and 200 looms employing 200 workers and

(11) Taken from paper by Agnes B. Lynch

(12) A Handbook of the City of Rock Hill, by Mayor Cherry, 1895.

(13) Idem

(14) Paper by Agnes Lynch

(15) An article from the files of the Rock Hill Board of Trade.

the weekly pay-roll was between \$750 and \$1000. Yarns and white goods are manufactured. (16)

The Manchester Cotton Mill was bought by the Blue Buckle Company who kept it until the depression of 1920 when it went broke. In 1921 it was succeeded by the Industrial Mill by which name it is still known. In 1947 the mill had 29,456 spindles and 1,257 looms and employed 900 hands. Denim is manufactured at present. (17)

Miss Mattie White of Rock Hill was elected to teach at the Manchester Mill in 1902. She held her classes in the basement of the Bethel Methodist Church and only had eighteen students in the beginning. Her salary was \$25.00 per month. This was the first school for the children of industrial workers in this area. (18)

In 1886 John Gary Anderson of Rock Hill started the Holler and Anderson Buggy Company with a capital of \$75,000. The company started as a small shop in the rear of the present building of the Rock Hill Bank.

Anderson's first idea was to repair buggies then later he became convinced that he could manufacture buggies profitably. Due to a deficiency in capital and facilities few buggies were built before 1892. During this year the Rock Hill Buggy Company was organized and incorporated. The plant covered four acres, employed 65 men and did a yearly business of sixty to seventy-five thousand dollars.

The Buggy Company made buggies profitably up until 1915 when the buggy business became a back member. The large factory was full of machinery and not used. Then Mr. Anderson became interested in the automobile and the Anderson Motor Company was organized.

(16) A Handbook of the City of Rock Hill, by Mayor Cherry, 1895.

(17) Taken from articles in files of Rock Hill Board of Trade.

(18) Interview with Billy White of Rock Hill on April 27, 1949 at his home.

During the war, business picked up and prices advanced. Just as Mr. Anderson's grandfather had built wagons for the Confederate Army so Mr. J. J. Anderson built trucks and trailers for the government during World War I.

In 1920 the peak of production for the company was reached with 35 cars per day. This organization had dealers all over the United States, a Broadway agent and a foreign agent.

When the depression hit orders were cancelled and a great loss was suffered. When modern cars began to be built financial difficulties kept the Anderson Company from keeping up with the new design and structure of cars. In 1925, a group of people from New York grabbed the bargain and bought the plant and equipment for \$40,000. The Anderson Motor Company occupied the site the Bleachery now owns.

Rock Hill is proud of the Buggy Company and the Anderson Motor Company. The Motor Company gave to the automobile industry the convertible and the foot dimmer for lights. The car produced by the Motor Company was known as the "Anderson Six." (19)

The Jones Iron Works was established in 1898. Its original site was a small building on Green Street between Johnson and Black Streets. Later the firm moved to Hampton Street in a building later to be occupied by the London Printery. Around 1904, this growing concern moved its business to a small brick building on West White Street. Industrial and textile castings are made. This business is still in operation with Mr. Charles Robinson as official in charge. This concern employs 25 workers. (20)

(19) The State, May 1, 1949

(20) Interview with Mr. A. E. Hutchison

The Piedmont Tobacco Works went into operation in 1895 with a capital of \$40,000. This plant, a three story brick building, was located on West White Street in the same site the Jones Iron Works now occupies. A part of the foundation of the Tobacco Works can still be seen inside the Jones Iron Works. At the time this plant was in operation it consumed 250,000 pounds of crude tobacco yearly and the proceeds from its annual products did not fall short of \$30,000. It employed 100 hands and had a weekly pay-roll of \$300.00. Both skilled and unskilled workers were employed. This organization was one of the biggest and most important that has been in Rock Hill - particularly before 1900. Many settlers raised tobacco and had tobacco barns on their farms. (21)

A flour mill was established in Rock Hill around this time known as the Barnes Flour Mill. The site for this mill was on West White Street across the street from the present Cotton Warehouse of Ed. Fewell. (22)

Organized around 1895 was the Kneisler Cotton Gin which was located on West White Street near the other industries just mentioned. Situated right side by side on West White Street in 1895 were four industries: The Jones Iron Works, the Piedmont Tobacco Works, the Kneisler Cotton Gin, and the Barnes Flour Mill. This was something for Rock Hillians of 1895 to be justly proud. (23)

Around the turn of the century a cotton oil mill was established. Mr. C. W. Johnson owned the mill which was located on East White Street at the present site of the Rock Hill Feed and Fertilizer Company. This plant was destroyed by fire but its success was such that plans for another building were soon under way. This new Cotton Seed Oil Mill was situated on West Main Street at the present site of the Catawba Lumber Company. This plant also was destroyed by fire. Rock Hillians say this

(21) Interview with Mr. A. E. Hutchison

(22) Interview with Mr. Walter L. Jenkins, on April 27, 1949 at his home.

(23) Interview with Mr. A. E. Hutchison

fire was one of the most spectacular ever witnessed in the city. Six weeks after the fire the cotton seeds were still smoking and burning. (24)

The L. L. Clyburn Door, Sash, and Blind Factory was established on Chatam Avenue around 1894. Captain Clyburn was owner and \$20,000 capital was invested. About 25 people were employed and the weekly pay-roll was something like \$100.00. This factory was to contract houses also. This establishment was another to be destroyed by fire. (25)

The term Egypt in 1895 made a person think of the outskirts of Rock Hill. The lower portions of East White and East Main Streets constituted this area known as Egypt. Thus factories in this section were so named. The Egypt Canning Company was located in this outer section of Rock Hill. Vegetables and fruits of a high grade were canned by this plant. 25 or 30 workers were employed and \$ .15 a day was an average wage. This plant is not in operation today. (26)

Around 1890 there was a brick and tile factory in Rock Hill. This organization was situated on the railroad above Winthrop College. These employees were kept busy as most of the bricks were used in Rock Hill and surrounding area. (27)

Around the turn of the century a Saddle and Harness Company was established. Miles Johnson was proprietor and the saddles were made in a room located approximately in the same site as the present Hearn's Jewelry Store on Main Street. Many "old timers" in Rock Hill still have saddles and harnesses which were made by Miles Johnson. (28)

- (24) Idem
- (25) A Handbook of the City of Rock Hill
- (26) Interview with Mr. A. E. Hutchison
- (27) A Handbook of the City of Rock Hill
- (28) Interview with Mr. A. E. Hutchison

Lund and Company was a drapery plant which was established in Rock Hill. This plant was in one of the rear rooms of the present Rock Hill Printing and Finishing building on Laurel Street. A man from Belgium operated this organization. Later when the plant closed this man returned to Belgium as a missionary. (29)

There were some important yet miscellaneous manufacturing establishments in Rock Hill after the turn of the century. A broom factory was located on Pendleton Street. Mr. Campbell operated this plant. Fire also destroyed the broom factory.

A cigar plant operated by Mr. Newton Snader (?) was located in the Ratterree building on Main Street. This is not in operation now.

Rock Hill had a coat hanger factory known as the National Wire Goods Manufacturing Company. This plant was reported to have produced 30,000 coat hangers per day. The plant started over the top of the Marshall building on West Main Street. Later the plant moved to a building on East White Street. This factory was in operations until a few years ago. (30)

The Aragon Mill was established in 1907 under the name of Aragon Cotton Mill. Later this mill was consolidated with another group of mills under the name of Aragon-Baldwin Cotton Mill. The present official in charge is Mr. J. W. Wood. About 700 people are employed and they manufacture rayon fabrics. In 1947 the Aragon had 25,792 spindles and 429 looms. (31)

The Harris Manufacturing Company, established by J. B. Creighton, was located on the present site of the Rock Hill Body Company. Horse collars were made by the plant. This establishment was for awhile part of the Victoria No. 2 Mill. Later it was made into the Rock Hill Body Company.

(29) Interview with Mr. Walter Jenkins.

(30) Idem

(31) Taken from paper by Agnes Lynch

The Body Company was started in 1915 in a one-room shack doing largely a homemade business. Today it is a modern, well-equipped plant producing school and commercial truck bodies. 150 people are employed. J. C. Hardin was the founder of the company and it is still in the Hardin family with J. C. Hardin, Jr. as head official now. In 1936 the Company purchased a cotton mill site on West Main Street formerly Victoria No 2, in which the manufacturing department is located. The modern plant has steam heat and a sprinkler system. (32)

The Nocturne Hosiery Mill is owned by Jac. Feinberg and Sons of New York. This plant was started in 1928. New equipment has been installed in the plant since 1933 and the mill now operates with the most modern equipment. Mr. David Baer was official in charge of the plant. 195 people were employed and nylon hosiery was made. In the past few months the Nocturne Mill has had to close. (33)

In 1928 a mattress factory was opened on Carolina Avenue. This business did not operate long as financial difficulties interferred. (34)

The Rock Hill Printing and Finishing Company, one of the South's largest bleacheries, began operations in 1929. This bleachery is owned by M. Lowenstein Sons, Inc. of New York and is valued at \$6,000,000. When operations first began 600 persons could man the plant but this number has increased to 2600.

The Bleachery uses three processes in its plant - bleaching, dyeing, and printing. The cloth goes into the mill in an unbleached state and comes out as printed, finished goods. One-sixth of all print cloth

(32) Paper by Agnes Lynch and from files of Board of Trade.

(33) Files of Rock Hill Board of Trade.

(34) Interview with Mr. A. E. Hutchison

used in the United States is made in the Rock Hill Printing and Finishing Company. (35)

The Rock Hill Yarn Mill and Samarkand Rug Company started operations in 1940. Every piece of material that goes into the rugs is made here. Dyeing is done in this plant too. These two mills have grown rapidly in the last few years and do a large business. They have 260,000 pounds of shipping per year and ship to all forty-eight states and some foreign ports. These mills employ 200 workers. (36)

The Rock Hill Division of the Lance Packing Company came to Rock Hill in 1942. Its first location was in a store building on Main Street. Later it moved to the Armory on Saluda Street. These conditions were unfavorable and the plant would have gone back to Charlotte if Rock Hill had not constructed a building to meet their needs. A Lance building was constructed on York Avenue which was made possible by the Rock Hill Revolving Fund. The building was occupied January 15, 1947. 300 people were employed and peanut butter products were made. Late in 1948 the plant had to close as there was not enough demand for the products. (37)

Rock Hill has two chemical plants. The Interchemical Corporation, owned by a corporation in Fair Lawn, N. J., employs 16 people and produces textile resin bonded pigments. The Warwick Chemical Company employs 11 workers and produces textile chemicals. Both plants are in operation now and much of their goods is used by factories and mills here in Rock Hill. (38)

(35) Paper by Agnes Lynch - Files of Board of Trade.

(36) Idem.

(37) Report of the Rock Hill Board of Trade, January 29, 1948

(38) File of the Rock Hill Board of Trade.

The latest industry to come to Rock Hill has been the Celanese Plant. This plant, a division of the Celanese Corporation of America, employs 2400 workers and produces acetate rayon filament yarn. The decision for this plant to come to Rock Hill was made possible by the untiring efforts of interested citizens in Rock Hill. Through the South Carolina Planning Board, an engineer from New York was brought here to see what Rock Hill could offer. Some requirements had to be met and guaranteed before any discussion could take place. A minimum of 150 acres had to be guaranteed, adjacent to a highway and not less than 80 to 100 million gallons of water to be used per day. A railway track had to be built to the area. After much discussion, planning, and work the Celanese plant decided to build their new plant here. New manufacturing plants having invested capital of \$10,000 or more locating within the city limits are exempted from city taxes for five years. This was probably a factor which induced the plant to settle here.

This organization is a large one and will probably prove to be an asset to our city. (39)

Throughout the history of Rock Hill industrial advancement has been very evident and prominent. Even before the larger industries came to Rock Hill, our city was one which could be proud of its industrial progress. Her advance has been steady and continuous and no one knows just what the future holds for the city of Rock Hill, South Carolina.

(39) Interview with Mr. Walter Jenkins.

POPULATION OF ROCK HILL FROM 1870 to 1948.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Population</u>
1870	273
1880	809
1890	2,781
1900	6,400
1910	7,215
1920	8,809
1930	11,322
1940	15,009
1948	23,000 (estimated)

INDUSTRIES OF ROCK HILL

1880 - 1948

Name of Plant	Date of Organization	No. of Employees	Products Manufactured	Home Office
Rock Hill Cotton Factory	: 1880	: 375	: Denims	: Philadelphia, Pa.
Highland Park Mill	: 1889	: 425	: Combed broadcloth	: Charlotte, N.C.
Victoria Mill	: 1889	: 250	: Colored Cotton Goods	: Rock Hill
Arcade Cotton Mill	: 1896	: 310	: Poplins and Cotton Goods	: Rock Hill
Industrial Mill	: 1896	: 900	: Blue Denim and Stripes	: Rock Hill
*Rock Hill Buggy Co.	: 1892	: 65	: Buggies	: Rock Hill
*Anderson Motor Co.	: 1915	: 150	: Automobiles	: Rock Hill
Jones Iron Works	: 1898	: 25	: Industrial & Textile Castings	: Rock Hill
*Piedmont Tobacco Works	: 1895	: 100	: Plug & twist Tobacco	: Rock Hill
*Barnes Flour Mill	: C. 1895	:	: Flour	: Rock Hill
*Kneisler Cotton Gie	: C. 1895	:	: Cotton	: Rock Hill
*Cotton Oil Mill	: C. 1895	:	: Cotton Oil	: Rock Hill
*Cotton Seed Oil Mill	: C. 1897	:	: Cotton Seed Oil	: Rock Hill
*Clyburn Door, Sash & Blind Factory	: C. 1894	: 25	: Doors & Blinds	: Rock Hill
*Egypt Canning Co.	: 1894	: 30	: Canned Vegetables & fruits	: Rock Hill
*Brick & Tile Factory	: C. 1890	:	: Bricks	: Rock Hill
*Saddle & Harness Factory	: C. 1894	: 2	: Saddles & Harnesses	: Rock Hill
*Lundond Company	:	:	: Draperies	: Rock Hill
*Broom Factory	: C. 1910	: 10	: Brooms	: Rock Hill

DUSTRIES OF ROCK HILL

1880 - 1948

Name of Plant	Date of Organization	No of Employees	Products Manufactured	Home Office
*Cigar Factory	C.1910	1	Cigars	Rock Hill
*National Wire Goods Mfg. Co.	C.1890	2	Coat Hangers	Rock Hill
Aragon Mill	1907	700	Rayon fabrics	Whitmire, S. C.
*Harris Mfg. Co.	C.1890	4	Horse Collars	Rock Hill
Rock Hill Body Co.	1915	150	Commercial truck bodies	Rock Hill
*Nocturne Hosiery Mill	1928	195	Nylon Hosiery	New York
*Mattress Factory	1928	C.4	Mattresses	Rock Hill
Rock Hill Printing & Finishing Co.	1929	2600	Print and finish cotton & rayon fabrics	New York, N.Y.
Samarkand Mills	1940	200	Cotton Rugs	New York, N.Y.
*Lance Packing Company	C.1942	300	Peanut products	Charlotte, N.C.
Interchemical	C.1938	16	Textile resin bonded pigments	Fair Lawn, N.J.
Warwick Chemical Company	1940	11	Textile Chemicals	West Warwick, R.I.
Celanese Corp. of America	1945	2400	Acetate rayon filament yarn	New York, N.Y.

\* Industries no longer in operation in Rock Hill.

The blank spaces indicate that the information lacking was not available.