

## NEWS ARTICLES RELATED TO HAMILTON CARHARTT

Collected by Paul Gettys

From the *Rock Hill Record*, January 31, 1907: Mr. Carhart [sic] of Detroit was in the city with parties who are interested in the Belleview Mills. He needs cloth for manufacturing overalls.

From the *Rock Hill Record*, February 7, 1907: The Syleecau Manufacturing Company, J. C. Cauthen manager, has purchased the 250 horsepower steam engine formerly used by the Belleview Mills, which has been replaced by electrical equipment. The old engine will be broken up and sold for scrap.

From the *Rock Hill Record*, February 25, 1907: Article on the statistics of cotton mills in Rock Hill includes the Bellevue Mills Company (Mill #2) which also operates mills in Burlington, NC and Moorhead, MS. The President is Wm. H. Harris of Atlanta, and the mill has 125 employees.

From the *Rock Hill Record*, April 15, 1907: Mr. R. A. Blythe, Col. Peter Caw, Col. Carheart [sic], Mr. Mackey, and Mr. W. H. Harris, president of Bellevue Mills, were in Rock Hill. They may consider expanding the Bellevue Mills. Mr. Carheart is hunting for a mill that can supply materials for his overalls factories.

From the *Rock Hill Record*, April 22, 1907: "Carhartt Buys Bellevue Mills." The *Record* quotes a report from the *Textile Manufacturer's Journal* that Hamilton Carhartt Cotton Mills was incorporated under New York laws with a capital of \$500,000. "This company has purchased the mills formerly known as Chicora Mills in Rock Hill, S. C., of which they will take possession on May 1<sup>st</sup>. This plant is one of the mills incorporated in the Southern Textile Company and subsequently purchased by the Belleview Cotton Mills. It is stated that the plant will be doubled in size and a dye house added. The output will be denims and will be used by Hamilton Carhartt, manufacturer of overalls, Detroit, Mich. This concern is one of the largest overalls manufacturers in the country and consumes a large product annually."

From the *Rock Hill Record*, May 9, 1907: The name of the Bellevue Mills has been changed to Hamilton Carhartt Cotton Mills. W. H. Harris of Philadelphia is General Manager and J. L. Adams of Rock Hill is Resident Manager. They are continuing improvement on the grounds and along the railroad. They have teams hauling the banks of dirt away that are along the railroad opposite the passenger depot. They expect to build an addition extending from the western end of the mill on the south side down to White Street in front of the Roller Mill.

From the *Rock Hill Record*, May 23, 1907: Mr. Adams says that the Carhartt Mill will not tear down the smokestack, but will have it painted.

From the *Rock Hill Record*, June 17, 1907: "A New Factor for Rock Hill." A new force for progress came to Rock Hill when Mr. Hamilton Carhartt, the Detroit millionaire, became the owner and sole proprietor of the Bellevue Mill, now designated as the Hamilton Carhartt Cotton Mill. He plans to increase his investment here. He is the largest manufacturer of gloves and uniform overalls in the world. The business does over \$2 million per year. He is a big advertiser, spending over \$50,000 per year on ads. He has already done a booklet on Rock Hill which has a photo of the Rock Hill mill on the bottom with the slogan "Where the sweet Catawba flows and where the staple cotton grows." It is understood that he will build a handsome winter home, either in the city or on the banks of the Catawba, which would certainly more intimately identify him with the life of Rock Hill. The company has a profit sharing stock ownership plan for employees. His son Hamilton Carhartt, Jr. is Vice-President and General Manager of the company.

From the *Rock Hill Record*, June 27 1907: Extensive improvements will be made to the houses occupied by the operatives of the Carhartt Mill. The houses will be modernized and electric lights will be added. A new street parallel with the railroad on the north side of the mill has been laid out and a number of handsome cottages erected on the same. Manager Adams has told the Record that the company has contracted to lay cement pavements all through the mill village. Improvements at the mill: the boilers have been removed and a dye room placed in that location and they are erecting a transformer house at the rear of the mill.

From the *Rock Hill Record*, July 25, 1907: "Carhartt to Build Clubhouse." Mr. Carhartt is now the sole owner of the old Bellevue Mill #2. He will erect a large club house for the employees of the mill. It will be brick and three stories on the corner of the mill lot facing the passenger depot. Plans are being drawn in Detroit. The basement will have two large swimming pools, one for men and one for women, along with shower baths. The second floor will have reading rooms for men and women, lecture rooms, a kindergarten, class rooms for the night school, a sewing room, and a cooking room. The third floor will have an auditorium with stage. The night school will start within two weeks in a cottage until the building is ready. A brass band among the men and a string orchestra for the women will be organized. The company is also improving the mill houses. Running water, electric lights, and cement roads will be installed. The houses will have potted plants, with a large greenhouse to place the plants in the winter.

From the *Rock Hill Record*, August 22, 1907: Mr. Hamilton Carhartt, the great overall manufacturer of Detroit, arrived in the city Tuesday and is looking after his interests here.

From the *Rock Hill Record*, September 19, 1907: We are informed that the Carhartt Mill has installed a night school for the benefit of the operatives or its mill in this city.

From the *Rock Hill Record*, October 21, 1907: The Carhartt School is in charge of Miss Lois Steele, assisted by Miss Cammie Smith. Twenty children from the age of 10 to 16 are enrolled. After working hard in the mill, many all day, they come in for an evening school.

From the *Rock Hill Record*, November 11, 1907: It is reported that Mr. Hamilton Carhartt has bought the Reinhart place on the Catawba River, and will erect a fine winter home.

From the *Rock Hill Record*, November 11, 1907: The Carhartt mill management have placed a handsome sign reading "Hamilton Carhartt Cotton Mills" in the front of their building.

From the *Rock Hill Record*, November 21, 1907: Mr. Marvin Poag has accepted the position of superintendent of the farm recently purchased by Mr. Hamilton Carhartt and located on the river, north of the city.

From *Rock Hill Record*, January 6, 1908: The office force of the Carhartt Mills have moved into their elegant new quarters, in the two-story building erected on the corner adjoining the plant, and now have the handsomest office quarters in the city, and one of the best in the state. The furniture is of the handsomest mahogany, being solid and very beautiful. The upper story is being fitted up for living quarters; Mr. Carhartt intends to inhabit them when in the city. There is a dining room and cook room on the first floor, and sleeping apartments, etc. and which will be very convenient and comfortable quarters. Men are now fencing the property.

From the *Rock Hill Record*, January 10, 1908: There was a small blaze at the Carhartt Mills Thursday morning, but the sprinkler system worked and extinguished the flames.

From the *Rock Hill Record*, January 10, 1908: The Hamilton Carhartt Mills have installed a new safe in their new office at their plant.

From the *Fort Mill Times*, January 30, 1908: Mr. Hamilton Carhartt bought the Whitner farm on the Catawba River some time ago. He has now bought the Jones roller mill property on the river for a price near \$10,000. "Mr. Carhartt will in the near future install electric generators in the mill of sufficient power to light that building and his handsome summer home on the Whitner place about a half-mile down the river."

From the *Yorkville Enquirer*, August 24, 1909: Mr. Carhartt will give a picnic and barbeque for his employees and their families at the bungalow on the Catawba River.

From the *Fort Mill Times*, February 23, 1911: Mr. Hamilton Carhartt has purchased 513 acres of farmland from the White family near Carhartt Station between Rock Hill and Fort Mill.

From the *Fort Mill Times*, February 29, 1912: Mr. Hamilton Carhartt has built a handsome residence on his farm overlooking the Catawba River.

From the *Fort Mill Times*, May 30, 1912: Mr. Hamilton Carhartt has bought 200 acres of the Childs Tract along the Southern Railroad near the Catawba River Bridge. This brings his total holdings in that areas to something like 1,200 acres.

From the *Fort Mill Times*, January 6, 1916: The *Rock Hill Record* reports that a booklet has been printed entitled "Hamilton Carhartt Plantation" describing his property on the Catawba River. Mr. R. S. Poag is the capable superintendent. The plantation covers 1,200 acres and grows alfalfa, corn, and cotton. He breeds Arabian horses, polo and Shetland ponies, Berkshire hogs, Shropshire sheep, Guernsey cattle, Hereford beef, White Wyandotte and Rhode Island Red poultry, Japanese silkies for pheasant egg hatching, pheasants, Cameaux pigeons, Belgian hares, Angora goats, and imported white and domestic pea fowls. Mr. Carhartt's organization has factories in the United States at Dallas, Atlanta, Detroit, and Rock Hill as well as factories in Liverpool, England, Vancouver and Toronto, Canada, and a warehouse in Winnipeg, Canada.

From the *Fort Mill Times*, August 10, 1916: The *Rock Hill Record* reports that Hamilton Carhartt plans to erect a cotton mill at Carhartt Station, three miles south of Fort Mill. Mr. N. G. Walker, architect of Rock Hill is preparing the plans. The building will be three stories with a dye house, boiler rooms, and two warehouses. The village will contain 30 houses arranged in a circular design with a community house in the center. Mr. L. A. Pope of Rock Hill has the contract for the first two houses for workers. All the houses in the village will be of individual design and have pebble dash outside.

From the *Rock Hill Herald*, February 7, 1920: Mrs. Fred W. Brooks, Jr. of Detroit, Michigan, daughter of Senator Truman H. Newberry, is a guest of Mrs. Wylie W. Carhartt, at the Carhartt Bungalow.

From the *Rock Hill Herald*, October 2, 1925: Hamilton Carhartt Cotton Mill #2 on the river has been sold to a corporation of local investors. Mr. C. L. Cobb represents the buyers. The plan is to erect thirty new houses and have day and night shifts. It will employ between 200 and 300 people. York Wilson is the President. The mill had suspended operation over a year ago. The Carhartt Company is also selling its mill in Elberton, Georgia but is trying to maintain the #1 mill in Rock Hill, which produces denim.

From the *Rock Hill Herald*, August 7, 1959: The paper contained a biography of Mr. Carhartt and his investments in Rock Hill. It reports that the Red River mill was built in 1913-1914 [sic]. This mill was named Hamilton Carhartt Mill #2 [the downtown mill was then called mill #1]. The area was at first named Carhartt Station, and later became known as Red River. In 1925, Mill #2 was sold to the Red River Cotton Mills, organized by York and Bill Wilson. In 1944, it was sold again to Harden Manufacturing (Dan LaFar) and has been known as Farmac Mills. “There are a number of persons in Rock Hill who knew Hamilton Carhartt. One of these is Mrs. Bertha Talbert of State Street whose father was employed to look after the grounds of Mill #1. She recalls the winter home in its heyday, the bungalow, as the main house was called, the guest house where Hamilton Carhartt, Jr. and his children later spent much time, and a kitchen set off from the house.” In 1937, Mr. Carhartt and his wife Annette were killed in an auto accident in Detroit.