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GRAHAMTON AND THE EARLY TEXTILE MILLS OF KENTUCKY

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Read before The Filson Club, April 6, 1931

The textile industry is one of the oldest and one of the youngest essential industries. Hand spinning and weaving go back to the earliest days of ancient civilization, and they remained our methods of producing yarns and cloths until recent times. It was only in the latter half of the eighteenth century that inventions were developed which made practicable power spinning and weaving, and it was not until the beginning of the nineteenth century that the utilization of water power and steam power in these arts founded the modern textile industry. This revolution began with a group of fundamental inventions between 1760 and 1800: Hargreaves' carding machine and spinning jenny between 1760 and 1770; Arkwright's roller spinner, 1769; Crompton's mule (so-called because it is a cross between a spinning jenny and the Arkwright spinning frame), 1779; Cartwright's power loom, 1787; Watt's improvement in the steam engine, 1769; and, to supply cotton in large quantities, Whitney's cotton gin, in 1793.¹

The first textile mill in New England—and this run by horse-power—was the Beverly Mill. It began operations in January, 1789, but went out of existence in 1807. The modern textile industry in this country really began with Samuel Slater who, as an apprentice, had learned the methods from Arkwright and his apprentice Strutt. Slater was the first one in America able to do carding and spinning with power. His mill, at Pawtucket, was

started December 29, 1790. In this mill he was able to spin yarns up to No. 50. The first woolen mill operated by power machinery was in 1794 at Newburyport. The first mill in the world where the whole process of cotton manufacturing, from spinning to weaving, was carried on by power was that of the Boston Manufacturing Company, which was incorporated February 23, 1813. It was in the years 1814 to 1836, when Lowell became a city, that the great New England industry was developed.¹

The beginning of the textile industry in the South was contemporary with that in New England, but it did not develop to any large proportions. In South Carolina, in Maryland, in Delaware, small beginnings were made. Walton says: "Six small horse-power mills for the spinning of cotton were started in 1809 in Kentucky. A water power mill was put in operation in the same year in Petersburg, Virginia, also in Nashville, but the real development of the cotton spinning in the South has been largely since the War."²

According to Holland Thompson,³ the earliest textile developments in North Carolina were as follows: The first cotton mill, and one of the first south of the Potomac, was built about 1813 near Lincolnton. In 1820 Colonel Joel Battle started the Rocky Mount Cotton Mills in Edgecomb County. It made coarse yarns, 4's to 12's. The first application of steam-power was at the Mt. Hecla mills at Greensboro, about 1830. Soon after 1830 E. M. Holt built a mill on Alamance Creek, which is said to have had a continuous and prosperous existence, but I have not been able to get replies to letters concerning the Alamance mill. This did not in its early days go beyond making yarns.

Broadus Mitchell says, speaking of South Carolina, "Mr. Kohn believes that the one with the longest record is that founded at Autun near Pendleton in 1838."⁴ I have received from Mr. E. N. Sitton, the president of the Pendleton Manufacturing Company, the owners of the mill referred to, a brief history of this mill. It commenced operations in February, 1838, as a carding and spinning mill. It ran through the Civil War and, except for interruptions during receivership in the 1870's, has been in continuous operation.

The history of the textile mills of Kentucky is exceedingly meager. I can find no authentic information except that which

I abstract herewith. According to a paper by Mr. J. A. Piquet, which has been put at my disposal by the Louisville Industrial Foundation, it is said that in 1789 there was formed at Danville a pioneer industrial foundation called the Kentucky Society for the Encouragement of Manufactures, and that, as a result of this, a cotton factory was started which carded fifteen to twenty pounds a day and had a spinning machine working seventy spindles and two looms for fine and coarse stockings. This is said to have been "the first textile plant in the West." It must have had a short existence. I can find no trace, except Walton's statement, of the six small horse-power mills for the spinning of cotton, which were started in 1809 in Kentucky. Doubtless they were simply small horse-power mills started for carding and spinning, and perhaps weaving, to meet local needs.

Mr. Philip S. Tuley, president of the Louisville Cotton Mills Company, to whom I am indebted for much help, informs me that the Tarascon Mills at Shippingport [part of Louisville], which was built as a flour mill in 1815 to 1819 (Collins), was at one time a woolen mill, but I have been unable to learn anything of this use of it. Also through Mr. Tuley's kindness I have been able to learn of most of the other early textile mills in the State. Apparently none of these mills, except two, go back very far. In the latter part of the nineteenth century Louisville had a number of mills producing jeans and doe-skins: The Old Kentucky Woolen Mills, The Falls City Woolen Mills, the Eclipse Woolen Mills, and the Louisville Woolen Mills—all of which have gone out of existence, except one, which is now idle. There was at one time a woolen mill at Franklin, Simpson County, but it has long since been dismantled. Two of the oldest mills now in operation are the Henderson Woolen Mills, organized in 1885, and the Mayfield Mill, established in 1860. There are some interesting small custom mills in isolated locations in the State, such as the Green River Woolen Mills, established in 1890, at Phil, Casey County, which manufactures and deals in jeans, linseys, flannels, blankets and yarns; but these are not old. In my correspondence on this subject, I frequently have had the comment that there had been older power mills in the State, but nobody could designate any of them; if any existed I have not been able to find trace of them. I am inclined to believe that, except for horse-driven mills, I have found the oldest mills in the State.

There are, however, two textile mills in Kentucky of authentic old age that are of distinct interest in the history of the textile industry in this country. Although they are situated a thousand miles from the district where the textile industry had its start and its first great growth in the United States, they date back to the very beginning of the industry in this country. These are the Maysville Cotton Mill at Maysville and the Grahamton Cotton Mill at Grahamton, in Meade County, both of which have had a continuous existence of over ninety years.

THE MAYSVILLE COTTON MILL

The Maysville Cotton Mill was established in Maysville in the 1830's. Mr. Robert A. Cochran^a estimates the date as "about 1834." It is one of the two oldest textile mills in the State, and by three years the oldest in continuous operation in one place. The mill was built by William Shotwell, but his ownership was short, and he was succeeded by William Gosling. The property passed to the firm of January and Wood from 1848 to 1851 and has since been operated by interests connected with the January, Wood and Cochran families. The original mill was sixty-three by thirty-three feet, and three stories high, with a loft. It has been added to from time to time, but the original structure is still in use and is the middle portion of the present plant; it can be distinguished by its dormer windows. It has been a steam mill from the first. Its early machinery came from Patterson, New Jersey, and was brought down the Ohio River from Pittsburgh. Some of the later machinery was imported from England. It has always confined itself to spinning, and has never made cloth. Its products have been batting, cordage, twine, cotton rope, miner's wicks, and carpet warp. In recent years it has confined itself to the manufacture of cordage, carpet warp, and plain and fancy twine. Its brands of these are among the best known on the market. It had a disastrous fire in May, 1915, after which it was rebuilt and equipped according to the highest standards of modern efficiency. At present it is in as active and prosperous a condition as it ever has been in the ninety-six years of its existence.

It has been in continuous operation since the first building was erected, with one or two exceptions of a few months. One of these was during the Civil War, when, owing to inability to secure raw

cotton, the mill was closed from November, 1861, to March, 1862. After March, 1862, it was able to run continuously, January and Wood, during this period, paying as high as \$1.75 per pound for cotton.

THE GRAHAMTON MILL

The Grahamton textile mill is located in Meade County, on Otter Creek, five miles from the point where this stream empties into the Ohio River.⁶ It is not surprising to find an old cotton mill at Maysville, for Maysville is one of the oldest settlements in the State. Maysville and Louisville were the most important early ports of entry. With river transportation dead and railroads the arteries of heavy traffic, it is hard to realize now, however, how this mill at Grahamton could have been located, and successfully operated for ninety-three years, forty-five miles from Louisville in the gorge of Otter Creek and the hills of Meade County, for, while the Otter Creek Valley was settled early, it is still a wild and primitive district—not one in which technical industries would be expected to develop or flourish. Otter Creek, however, and the next creek west, Doe Run, have been a region of grain mills; both of these creeks in cutting their way through the escarpment that connects the plateau of Meade County with the level of the Ohio River descend rapidly and furnish several good water-power sites. In the early part of the eighteenth century there were built on these creeks, including the Grahamton Mill, three fine stone mills that are still standing. The best of these water-power sites was at the "Big Falls" of Otter Creek at Grahamton. Here Otter Creek has cut a chasm 400 or 500 feet deep through the limestone to the bottom of the gorge. At one point it has a fall of about twenty feet. David Brandenburg, in 1813, bought this water-power site from Philip C. S. Barbour, a son of the first owner, who had acquired 3,000 acres above the mouth of Otter Creek, and immediately thereafter Brandenburg built a dam and grain mill at this location.⁷

It is a wild and beautiful spot. As Professor Samuel G. Boyd vividly describes it: "Grahamton is one of the most picturesque spots in Kentucky. After tumbling over the falls, the creek swings away to form a giant horseshoe seven or eight hundred feet across, the eastern bank rising abruptly 200 feet above the

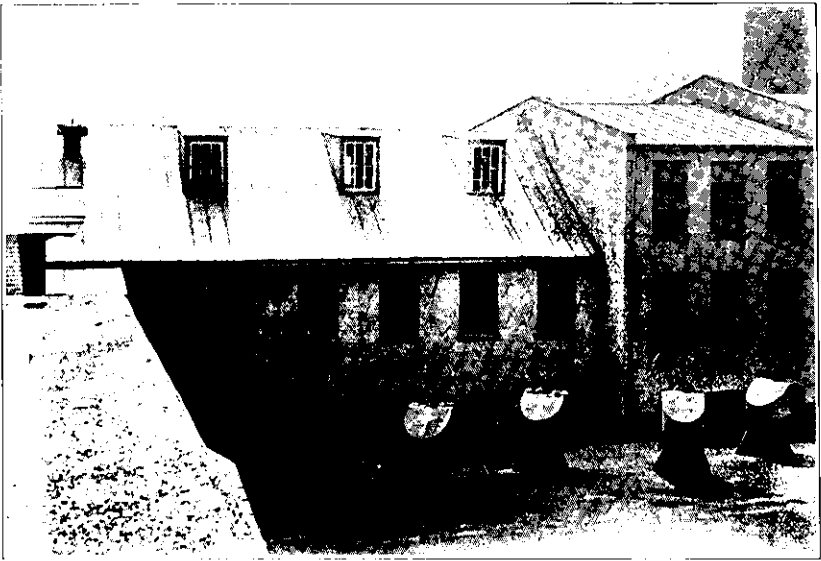
stream to a cedar-crowned crest, the whole forming a huge amphitheater, with the weather-beaten cottages of the village and the four-story mill buildings of greystone occupying the stage." Even today its big stone buildings, active with manufacturing, seem incongruous in this rough backwoods setting.

The mill and business that became the Grahamton Manufacturing Company were established in Louisville in 1829 by Robert Graham and Mr. Snead. It can fairly claim to have had a continuous existence since 1829, although it was moved to its present site on Otter Creek in Meade County in 1837. It was a complete textile mill from its beginning in Louisville, having not only cards and spindles but looms, and made cloths. It and the Maysville Mills may contend for the honor of being the oldest textile mill in the State, but Grahamton is, as far as I can find, the first complete textile mill in Kentucky, probably the first one west of the mountains, and one of the oldest, if not the oldest, in continuous operation in the country. It is surely the oldest complete textile mill now in existence in the State and furnishes an interesting item in the history of the textile industry. I can find no other mill that was so long in continuous existence in any other part of the United States.

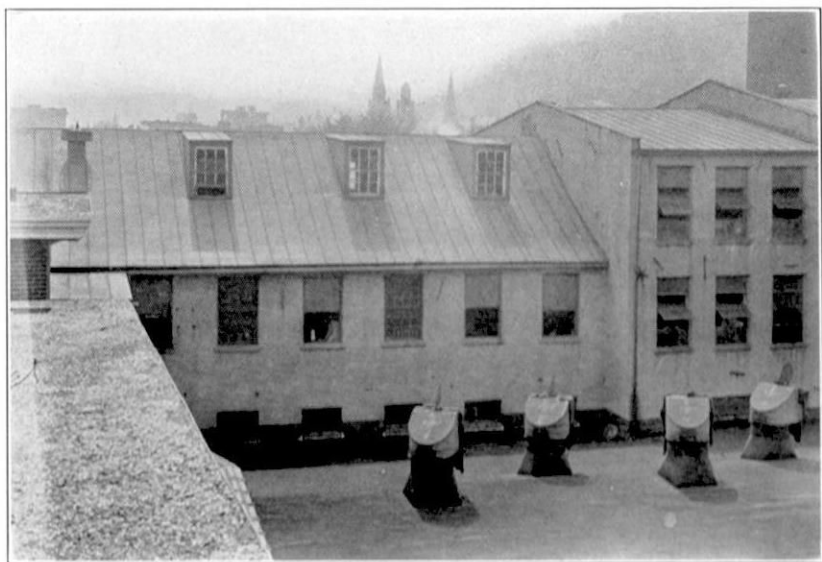
The Graham and Snead mill in Louisville was a steam mill, and, Graham, becoming disturbed by the competition of eastern goods, sought a water-power site for the mill. At this time Thomas Anderson was interested in a lithographic stone quarry on Otter Creek. Professor Boyd says that Anderson probably called Graham's attention to the power site at the Big Falls. At any rate Graham and Anderson formed a corporation, Robert Graham & Company, and, on October 21, 1835, bought David Brandenburg's 335 acres, including the mill site and water power.^a

They shipped the machinery from Louisville to the mouth of Otter Creek. Today one can hardly find a steeper, rougher road than that from Grahamton to the mouth of Otter Creek. At that time there was no road, but Graham and Anderson dragged their machinery with oxen up the valley of the creek to the mill site. They built the present stone mill, put the machinery in it, and named the place Grahamton—not Grahampton.

Snead^a disappears from the picture when the mill was moved to Grahamton. The firm then became Graham, Anderson & Company, probably including at first only Robert Graham and



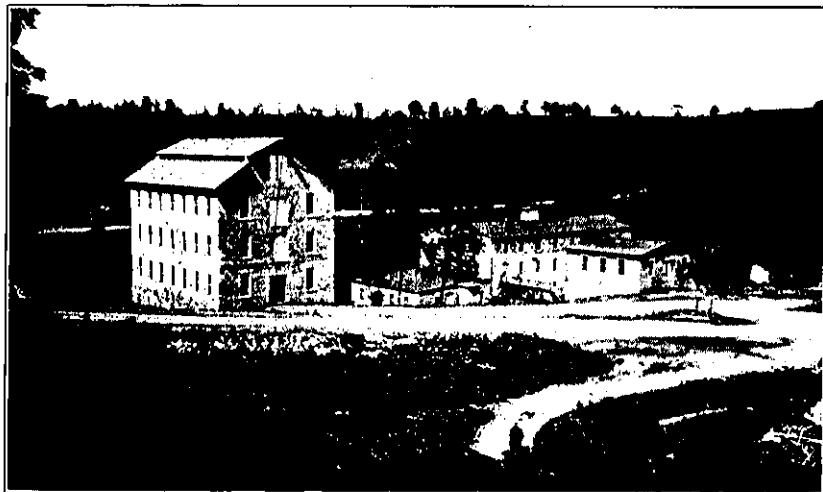
Maysville Woolen Mill, at Maysville, as it appeared in 1930



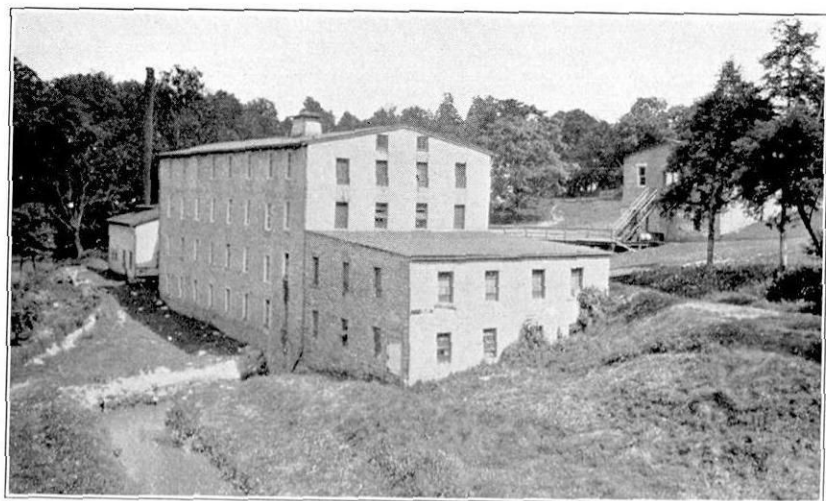
Maysville Woolen Mill, at Maysville, as it appeared in 1930



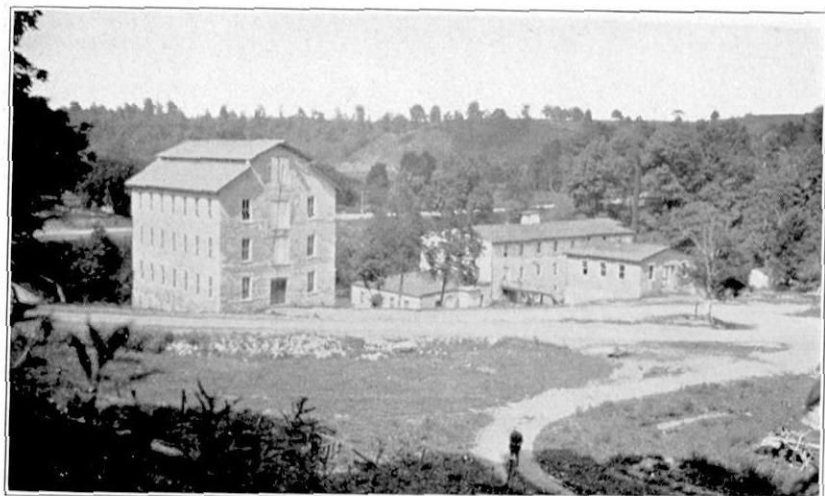
Old textile mill at Grahamton and, to the left, the mill's old tail race, 1930



Old textile mill at Grahamton and, to the left, the comparatively new storage house, 1930



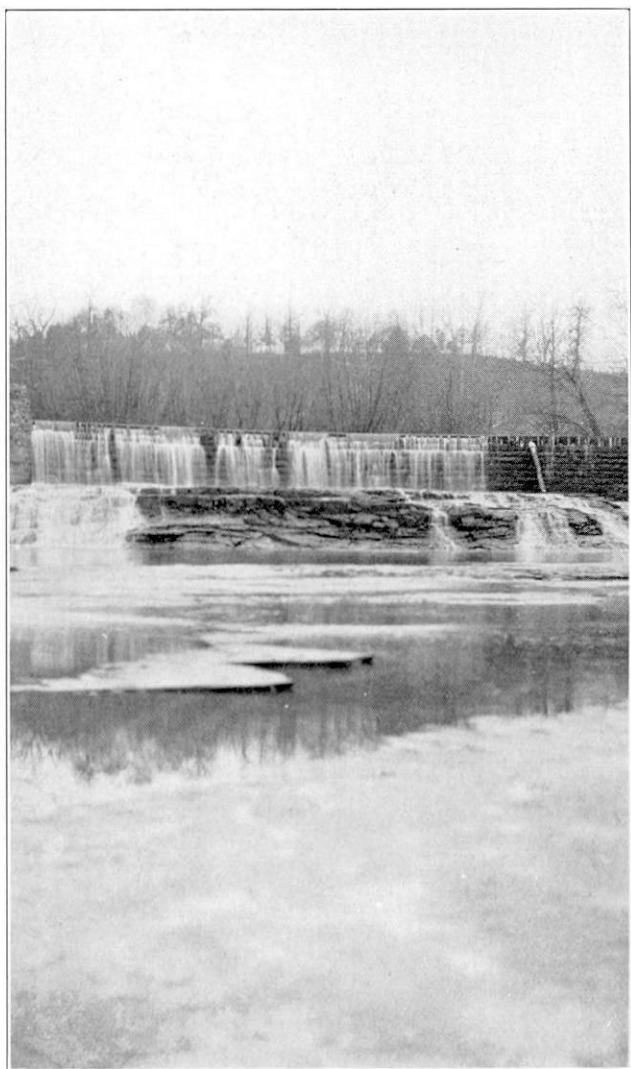
Old textile mill at Grahamton and, to the left, the mill's old tail race, 1930



Old textile mill at Grahamton and, to the left, the comparatively new storage house, 1930



Dam at old Grahamton mill, on Otter Creek, 1930



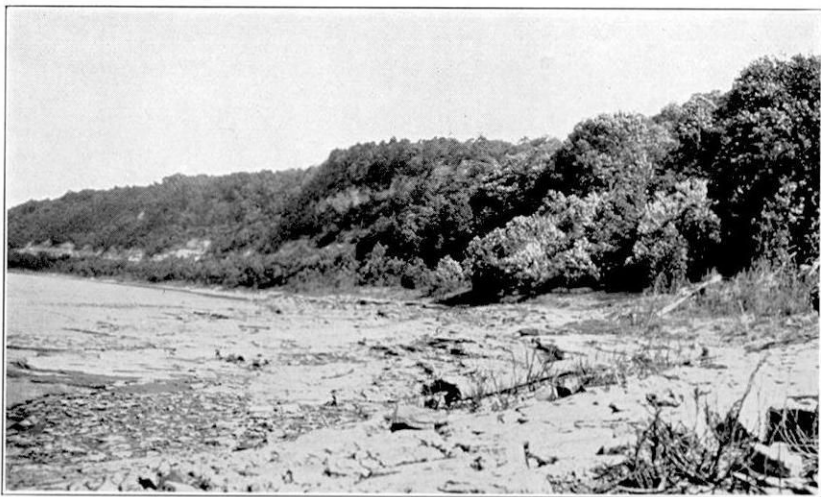
Dam at old Grahamton mill, on Otter Creek, 1930



Abandoned wharf at Rockhaven, on the Ohio, five miles from Grahamton, 1930



Remnants of old paved wharf at Rockhaven, 1930



Abandoned wharf at Rockhaven, on the Ohio, five miles from Grahamton, 1930



Remnants of old paved wharf at Rockhaven, 1930

James Anderson. After a number of years, probably in the late forties, Graham withdrew from the firm and concentrated his interests in warehouses and other businesses at Rockhaven, on the Ohio River, the shipping point which the mill's business had made an important landing. It is now a desolate and abandoned landing. After Graham's withdrawal, the enterprise was incorporated as the Grahamton Manufacturing Company, owned by Thomas Anderson and his sons W. George and Orville Anderson. The management passed to W. George Anderson, who was for many years the active head. In 1868 Archibald M. Robinson bought a one-third interest in the company. He resided at Grahamton from 1868 to 1896 and remained active in its management until his death in 1904. About 1904, that is, at the time of Mr. Robinson's death, the property was bought by Hunt, Bridgeford & Company, who did not actively push the business. In 1906 the operation of it was taken over by The McCord Company, who since that date have energetically worked it, and in 1915 it was bought, at forced sale, by The McCord Company. Thus, the Andersons and their associates owned or conducted the property for nearly eighty years.

During the Civil War the mill ran almost continuously, according to Mr. Peak, except for interruptions caused by guerillas. The superintendent at that time was P. Z. Aylesworth, a partner in the company and long the superintendent, a man who had the loyal support of his employees and the confidence of the community, but he was a Rhode Islander, and this fact was used as a pretext by the guerillas for depredations upon the mill. Except for the interruptions caused by these depredations its operation during the Civil War was continuous.

The original textile mill is the present spinning mill. It is a heavy stone building 60 by 120 feet, originally of two stories and a loft. It was a large mill for the time, almost twice the size of the Maysville Mill (63 by 33 feet). It suffered from a damaging fire in 1913 and after that it was increased in height one story and equipped with new machinery, thereby greatly increasing its capacity. Other buildings have been built as accessories to the mill, but except for these additions the original building has never been enlarged. It is probable that, since the original plant at Louisville was a steam plant, this mill, from the beginning, also used steam, as Mr. Charles H. Peak believes, for auxiliary purposes, but it has always used water-power, as it does today.

The first dam and race were made of wood. About eighty years ago these were replaced by the present fine stone dam and mill race. This dam, with buttresses at either end and with its arch facing upstream, old as it is, might have been built yesterday: it is exactly of the same plan as that of the new-type great irrigation dams being built today.

At first there was only the textile mill. Later, about 1865, a large stone flour mill was erected. Mr. Peak says as much as a thousand bushels of flour was shipped weekly from Grahamton. It ceased to prosper, however, and was converted to its present use as a warehouse for the textile mill.

The mill did carding, spinning, and weaving, and worked in both cotton and wool. I was fortunate in finding in the possession of Mr. Peak the old books¹⁰ of the mill. Most of them were in a bad state, although I found one in perfect preservation; it was marked, "Consignments and Commissions from 1837 to 1841." The first entry in it is September 6, 1837. The date establishes beyond doubt that the mill was a going concern at that time. No entry indicates that the company was then starting a new book for a new business. On the contrary, one could only conclude that it is a successor of preceding volumes. I should say, from this book, that it would be fair to estimate that the mill was started at Grahamton a considerable time earlier, probably within a year after October, 1835, when the property was purchased by Robert Graham & Company. The entries show the production in abundance, in 1837-38, of bats, carpet-chain, candle-wick, and yarns. At this time they were making both cotton yarns and wool yarns, warps, and rope, and "Osnaburgs."

Also, they made linseys, cottonades, brown, blue, and white jeans and, later, as stated by Professor Boyd, a special brand of cloth called "Otter Creek Stripe." Mr. Peak says that during the Mexican War they were large producers of canvass for army tents. Miss Robinson informs me that in 1868 they were engaged in the production of seamless two-bushel cotton sacks for grain, both standard 14-ounce and 16-ounce sacks. I know they made these sacks as late as 1880. This was their chief, if not their sole, product until the property passed into the hands of The McCord Company. Only since the management of The McCord Company has the mill been exclusively a spinning mill, confining its production to cotton yarns, especially mop-yarns.

The original purchase of land in 1835 had been for something over three hundred acres. By 1847 this had been increased to over sixteen hundred acres, so that they were not only the owners of the village but they were the landed proprietors of the neighborhood. They must have engaged in farming. They conducted the various businesses of the village, such as general merchandising, blacksmithing, the post office, and other affairs pertaining to town life. The Brandenburg mill had been a trading point for many years, but it is probable that from the start Robert Graham and Company conducted a company store. The store building and office is still standing. It is a one-story frame building with a store-room 60 by 100 feet and, adjoining it, an office 20 by 60 feet. It was in this office that I found the old books of the business.

These books show that their activities were very varied. They carried a surprisingly large and complete stock of general merchandise. A rough estimate of the value of the assets of the business, not including the real estate or mills, judging from one invoice of 1846 which I have examined, would be well over \$20,000. They not only conducted the store for their employees, for whom the prices were the same as they were for outsiders, but they did a large general business with the community and a still larger business of exporting country produce to Louisville. At what time the store business was given up, I am not able to determine, but according to Mr. Peak he had several predecessors before he became the owner of the store about twenty years ago.

An evidence of the stable character of the management of the mill is the few superintendents that it has had throughout its existence. My informant is Mr. Peak. Robert Graham, himself, was the first superintendent. He left to take over interests at Rockhaven and was succeeded by Samuel Sterrett, who, after a few years, quit to build a grist mill of his own farther down Otter Creek. He was succeeded by P. Z. Aylesworth, who remained for many years, until his death. He was followed by John A. Lemmons, an Englishman, and he, twenty-three years ago, by Louis Stoecker, the present superintendent. Five superintendents in ninety-two years!

The Company used for outside work a considerable number of slaves, but negro labor was used only for a short time in the mill itself. The number of mill employees has been, usually, between

forty and sixty, recruited from the people of the district. Naturally, there have grown up families who for generations have been connected with the mill. The working hours have usually been about ten hours a day. The books show that in the early days the wages ranged from 50 cents to \$1.50 per week for children up to \$12.00 for foremen. Professor Boyd has called attention to the difference in the cost of supplies under the old wage condition and present wage conditions. Its labor has, I believe, always been contented.

There is much to indicate an enlightened interest of the firm in its employees. The way the same families have stayed with it is the best evidence of this. While Mr. A. M. Robinson was active in the business from 1868 to 1904, he exerted a religious influence upon the people of the mill and the community. Throughout this time he conducted a lay-mission of the Episcopal Church which resulted in 299 baptisms and 70 confirmations. As a result of his influence, the Chapel of Holy Trinity recently built at Grahamton was, on October 27, 1929, dedicated to his memory.

The Maysville mill and the Grahamton mill are, then, early pioneers in the textile industry of the South, and, indeed, of the country. The Maysville mill began as a steam-power spinning mill about 1834. The Grahamton mill began as a steam-power mill in 1829 in Louisville and was a complete mill from cards to cloth; in 1837 it became a mill, with water and steam power, at Grahamton. The Maysville and the Grahamton mills are probably older than any other mills in the South, and, as far as I can find, the Grahamton mill is the oldest complete mill now in existence. They are monuments to courageous, progressive pioneers in the industry.

It seems to me that the Grahamton mill is particularly interesting in this respect. The Grahamton business was founded 102 years ago; there are now only four businesses in Louisville as old. The Louisville and Nashville Railroad between Louisville and Nashville was completed in 1859—thirty years after Graham and Snead started their mill. Even the Louisville and Nashville Turnpike, which passed within five miles of Grahamton, was not completed until the 1840's—after this mill had been in existence at Grahamton ten or fifteen years. Grahamton is about forty miles from Louisville by river, and five miles from the Ohio River over a road that was and is all steep-hill. They began building a

Telford road pavement to Rockhaven but finished only a mile and a half of it when it was stopped by the prospect of a railroad. It existed thirty-seven years—until 1874—before the Elizabeth-town and Paducah Railroad, now the Illinois Central, was completed between Louisville and Cecelia, and gave the mill railroad transportation at a distance of only three miles.

Grahamton was built in a wilderness—a district that still strikes one as so primitive that the existence of a textile mill there today is a surprise. It was a unique enterprise in that county. Nothing similar exists, or I believe, ever existed anywhere in this part of the State. Its founding is evidence of the enterprise and energy of Robert Graham, and its long persistence is a tribute to the ability of those who have conducted it since his day.

¹ *Story of Textiles*, by Percy Walton. (John S. Lawrence, Boston, 1925.)

² "The first cotton mill in South Carolina, as far as can be ascertained, was started by horse-power in 1787, on James Island, near Charleston. . . . On May 2, 1789, a meeting of citizens was held at Stark's Tavern, Baltimore, for the purpose of establishing a cotton manufactory. . . . The last reference to this manufacturing company is on April 1, 1791, when an advertisement of the directors' meeting appeared in the *Maryland Journal*. It is thought that the industry was not carried on with any great success, for no subsequent records of it have been found. . . . A cotton mill was started in Wilmington, Delaware, by Jacob Broome in 1795, and six small horse-power mills for the spinning of cotton were started in 1809 in Kentucky." —Walton's *Story of Textiles*.

³ *From the Cotton Field to the Cotton Mill*, by Holland Thompson. (The Macmillan Company, 1906):

"The first cotton mill in North Carolina—one of the first south of the Potomac—was built about 1813 near Lincolnton. Some of the machinery was purchased in Providence, Rhode Island, and was hauled by wagon from Philadelphia. Some parts were made by a brother-in-law of the builder Schenck. . . . In 1820 Col. Joel Battle opened the Rocky Mount Cotton Mills in Edgecomb County. Coarse yarn for neighborhood consumption was spun here by negroes. White labor was substituted in 1851. It made yarns 4's to 12's. . . . Apparently the first application of steam to the industry was at the Mt. Hecla mills at Greensboro about 1830. The machinery for this mill was shipped from Philadelphia to Wilmington, then up the Cape Fear River to Fayetteville, and was hauled across the country by wagon. . . . Soon after 1830 E. M. Holt, one of the most successful manufacturers the state has known, built a mill on Alamance Creek. Finding difficulty in disposing of his yarn, he began between 1850 and 1860 the manufacture of coarse, colored cloth known as 'Alamance plaids.' Success attended the venture, and the product became more than locally known. Today, throughout central North Carolina, 'Alamance' is almost universally used as a synonym for coarse ginghams on the shelves of the country merchants. Other mills were built by him and his sons, and the family is prominent in manufacturing at the present time."

⁴ *The Rise of Cotton Mills in the South*, by Broadus Mitchell. Johns Hopkins University Studies in Historical and Political Science.

⁵ All the information I have concerning this mill I owe to Mr. Robert A. Cochran, who was president of the company for thirty years and whose family has been continuously interested in it for eighty-one years.

⁶ In the *Virginia Quarterly Review* for July, 1929, Broadus Mitchell had an article, "Some Southern Industrialists," which showed that the textile industry in the South had barely begun in the twenty-five years before the Civil War. I knew something of the age of the Grahamton mill, and Mitchell's paper suggested that Grahamton might be of some historical interest. I did not expect it to be as old as it proved to be. Running down its history, without any leads to begin with, proved a rather difficult undertaking; but, as such things go, after much correspondence and other effort that

seemed futile, I, all at once, found rich sources of information, from which I was able to piece together its entire history. I am particularly indebted to Mr. C. H. Peak, of Grahamton; Prof. S. G. Boyd, of Jeffersonton; Miss L. L. Robinson, of Louisville, and Mrs. William McGhee, of Brandenburg, and The McCord Company, Louisville.

I literally blundered upon Mr. Peak in my first search for information at Grahamton. His mother worked in the mill when she was a girl; for fourteen years he worked in the mill himself, and for many years he has conducted a general store in the building that was once the company's store and office. I also found in his possession the old books of the company. Although he was seventy-eight years old, he gave me no old man's tale. I found him none too soon, for in March, 1930—less than a year afterwards—he died. The facts he offered he knew in detail: the names of the owners, the superintendents, the foreman, even their initials, and something of their personal history. He did not pretend to be so definite in his dates. Through the mill's books and through information gotten from Miss Robinson I was able to control practically every statement he made, and the accuracy of his knowledge as well as its fullness were remarkable.

Among the things he told me was that the history of the mill had been written about two years ago and published in the *Courier-Journal*. I found it in the issue of March 27, 1927. It is entitled "Grahamton, Kentucky, and the History of the Company—Grist Mills before 1800 were first in Series of Industries on Otter Creek, now the Site of Grahamton Manufacturing Company." I next discovered that the man who had written this article was that indefatigable worker in Kentucky history, my friend and fellow member of The Filson Club; Professor Samuel G. Boyd. I am indebted to Professor Boyd for putting at my disposal his published account—in fact for almost all my information concerning the history of the mill before 1837 and for much of it since then.

⁷ Extracts from Hardin County Court Records, furnished me by Professor S. G. Boyd:

October 11, 1813: "David Brandenburg presented to the County Court of Hardin County, Kentucky, a petition setting forth that he is the proprietor in fee simple and in actual possession of 300 acres of land lying and being in the County and on both sides of Otter creek, a branch of the Ohio river, including the main falls of said creek about two miles above Overton's mill, and that said Brandenburg is desirous of erecting a water, grist and sawmill at said falls with a dam three feet high, and praying that a writ of *ad quod damnum* be awarded him for the purpose of having an inquest held at said falls on the 20th instant in the manner directed by law. Ordered, that the Clerk of this Court issue said writ accordingly."

December 13, 1813: "Commissioners Shadrack Brown, H. B. Truman, William Vartrees, Henry Ditto, Thomas Pearman, Stephen P. Steele, Johanathan Grable, Gideon Kelley, Thomas McCarty, James Lawson, Henry _____, and Ace Chambers, under Robert Miller, deputy of Lewis Wells, Sheriff of Hardin County, visited the falls of Otter Creek and made favorable report and ordered the mill seat established."

On page 621 of Deed Book D of Hardin County records, dated August 12, 1812, there is a deed from Philip C. S. Barbour, sole heir of Philip Barbour of Orange County, Virginia, by Benjamin Mills, his agent, to Henry Brandenburg of 311 acres on Ohio River and Otter Creek for \$90. One corner of this tract was on a "bluff of Otter Creek and about 25 poles below the 'Big Falls.'"

Under the same date, on page 673 of Deed Book D, Philip C. S. Barbour conveyed to David Brandenburg for \$77.00 300 acres "on the waters of the Ohio river and Otter Creek, adjoining Henry Brandenburg and part of Philip Barbour survey of 3,000 acres patented December 24, 1785."

⁸ Extracts from Meade County Court Records, furnished by Mrs. Wm. McGhee:

Deed Book B, p. 512: "This indenture made this October 21, 1835, between David Brandenburg and wife of the first part, and Robt. Graham & Co, of the county of Jefferson of the second part." No mention of the mill is made in the deed.

Deed Book D, p. 28: "This indenture made Nov 7th 1841 by Samuel Sterrett and wife and John White and wife of the first part and James Anderson, George Anderson and Robert Graham of the second part, Witnesseth, that the same Sam Sterrett and John White heretofore mentioned formed a partnership with said James Anderson, George Anderson and Robt. Graham under the name and style of Robt. Graham & Co." This deed speaks of the grist mill and cotton and wool factory.

Deed Book E, p. 432: "This indenture made Jan. 1st, 1844 by James Anderson and wife of the first part and Thomas Anderson and wife of the second part, all of the

city of Louisville. Parties of the first part for and in consideration of \$14,500, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, have bargained and sold, and do hereby convey to the said Thomas Anderson one undivided third part of all the land heretofore purchased from Brandenburg, containing 337 acres, more or less, and of the land purchased from Humphreys containing 1367 acres, more or less, excepting from the latter tract the portion sold out of the same by Robt. Graham & Co, and also the one undivided third part of the cotton factory with all fixtures, etc."

Deed Book B, p. 96, October 11, 1848: "Know all men by these presents that I, Thomas Anderson of the city of Louisville, Ky, in consideration of my love and affection and one dollar to me paid by my son, Wm. George Anderson, of said city, the receipt whereof I do acknowledge, do by these presents give unto said Wm. Geo. Anderson one undivided $\frac{2}{3}$ part of all the lands purchased by Robt. Graham & Co, from Brandenburg, containing 337 acres and also the land purchased by Robt. Graham & Co, from Humphreys, containing 1367 acres. And also the one undivided $\frac{2}{3}$ part of the cotton factory with all of the fixtures and machinery and also one undivided $\frac{2}{3}$ of all profits of the firm Graham, Anderson & Co, since the formation of that partnership and also one undivided $\frac{2}{3}$ of all slaves. One undivided $\frac{2}{3}$ of the stock of merchandise and of all the stock and material on hand at Grahamton in possession of said Graham, Anderson & Co, at said factory and mills in Meade Co."

The deed of James Anderson and wife in Deed Book E, p. 432, and the deed of W. G. Anderson and wife recorded in Book E, p. 437, are offered as showing the chain of title.

Deed Book V, p. 364, June 11, 1884: Thomas Anderson and wife to A. M. Robinson and Aylsworth.

Deed Book V, p. 369, June 12, 1884: William George Anderson to Grahamton Manufacturing Company.

Deed Book 37, p. 158: Deed made from Henry Weissinger and wife Lena, to George Robinson Hunt, Jr., and J. Robinson Bridgeford.

Deed Book 45, p. 635: October 2, 1915: 1,195 acres of land in Magisterial District Number 1, Meade County, located at Grahamton, and being all the land in Meade County listed and assessed by Hunt, Bridgeford & Company, for taxation with the assessor of Meade County. On Monday, the first day of the April term of court, the sheriff sold at public auction, to the highest bidder, the property herein-after described. The McCord Company, of Louisville, became the purchaser. Price paid, \$332.25.

Deed Book 46, p. 291, October 12, 1915: Hunt-Bridgeford, one-half interest deeded to Charles McCord.

⁹ Snead's (Sneed's) name does not appear under S in the first *Louisville's City Directory, 1832*. Robert Graham's name, however, is given thus: "Graham, Robt., cotton factory, (Snead, G. & Co.) r. n. s. Main n. Jackson," indicating that his residence was on the north side of Main near Jackson Street. Another entry shows: "Jefferson Cotton Factory, north side Main, corner Preston." On page 131 of this Directory, under the head of Manufacturers, is this announcement: "Jefferson Cotton Factory. North side Main near Preston street. Snead, Anderson & Co., Agents. Snead, Graham & Co., Proprietors. Works 1056 spindles, employs 80 hands, and consumes annually 500 bales of Cotton. The yarns from this factory are esteemed preferable to those sent to this city for sale." The *Louisville City Directory for 1836* does not give Snead. Robert Graham's name is followed by: "Jefferson Cotton Factory, house, north side Main between Preston and Jackson."

¹⁰ These account books are now in the Baker Library, Graduate School of Business Administration, Harvard University.