

*Featured Exhibit 2024 - 2025*



237 - 249 West Main Street, Ephrata, PA 17522  
(717) 733-1616  
[HSCV@cocalicovalleyhs.org](mailto:HSCV@cocalicovalleyhs.org)

# The Cocalico Valley Textile History

## 2024 - 2025

In March of 2024 the Historical Society of the Cocalico Valley debuted its new featured exhibit, *"The Cocalico Valley Textile History"*. It ran for two years, through the end of 2025. The Cocalico Valley was an active producer of textile that included shoes, silk, dresses, hats, hosiery and more. For about 100 years, roughly covering 1850 – 1950, there were about 70 textile factories here in northern Lancaster County. The textile industry here became a huge source of employment and productivity.

In the past we have developed new exhibits that would run for two years before being taken down and forgotten. The 2022 – 2023 exhibit *"From Ephrata to Three Star General"* celebrated the remarkable career of Lieutenant General Ronald Blanck, D.O. U. S. Army. This was the first exhibit that we preserved by making a video of it. Videos are expensive, however, but we soon came to realize the importance of preserving these special 2-year exhibits so they can be valued and enjoyed beyond the life of their display.

Consequently, we have created this photographic album of the Cocalico Valley Textile History as an effective way to keep the story alive for future reference. In the pages that follow you will find nearly all the items that were part of our 2024-2025 featured exhibit. We have added a few explanatory notes to enhance the story. This may become a model for future exhibits. We welcome your feedback and suggestions.

Here is a brief index of what you will find.

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# Cocalico Valley Textile History

This is an overview of about 70 textile factories found in the Cocalico Valley through the years. This list is not exhaustive. We welcome your help to make this more complete. If you have anything to add, please see our librarian or one of the docents. Thank You!

**The following lists are organized by the products they made.  
Dates of operation are included where known.**

## Hats

<b>Company</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Location, Etc.</b>
Bollman	1868 – present	Adamstown
Redcay Hat Manufacturing <i>Became Adamstown Hat Co.</i>	Ca. 1870 – 1920 1920 - ?	Adamstown
Handel's Hato Co. - <i>became</i> Coldren's Hat Co.	- 1901	Adamstown
F & M Hats	1912 – present	Denver

## Shoes

<b>Company</b>	<b>Years</b>	<b>Location</b>
Miller, Hess & Co.	1901 – 1984	Akron
Denver Shoe Co. <i>Became B &amp; E Shoe Co.</i>	? - 1908 1908 – 1921	Denver <i>B &amp; E was bought by A. N. Wolf in 1921</i>
Eby Shoe/Fleet Air	1914 – 1985	Ephrata
A. N. Wolf	1922 -	Denver
Highland Shoe	- 1984	Akron
Ephrata Shoe Co.	1929 – 2000	Ephrata
Ba-Ru-Be	1954 – 1973	Ephrata

## Hosiery

Company	Years	Location
Ephrata Hosiery Mill	1896 - 1934	Ephrata
William L. Hyman	1900 -	Ephrata
Adamstown Hosiery <i>Became Mohn's Hosiery</i>	1909 - 1921 1921 - 1935	Adamstown
Conestoga	-1925	Brownstown
Lincoln Hosiery	1935 -	Lincoln (now Ephrata)
Hope Manufacturing		Adamstown; Denver
Prestige		Ephrata
Blue Line Hosiery		Denver
Worley's Hosiery		Reamstown
Blue Cross Knitting		Adamstown
Century Hosiery Mill		Adamstown
Super Tex Hosiery	Restarted 1938	Ephrata

## Silk

Company	Years	Location
Westerhoff Bros. & Napier	1897-1936	Ephrata
Stunzi Bros., then Stunzi Sons	1927 - 1931 1931 - ca. 1958	Ephrata
Shirk Silk Waist Co.	1900 -	Ephrata

## Apparel

Company	Years	Location
Walter W. Moyer	1901 - 1974	Ephrata
Gerber Children's Wear	1974 - 1993	Successor to W. W. Moyer
Leshner & Raig	1903 - 1940	Reamstown
Daisey Shirt/Givler Shirt Co.	1912 - 1925	Ephrata
Progressive Shirt	1912 -	Ephrata
Zook Woolen Mill	1914 -	Akron
Denver Textiles		Denver
Solodar & Husin	-1928	Ephrata
Ephrata Shirt Co	1928 - 1951	Ephrata
Givler & Solodar Shirt	1928	Ephrata
Husin Shirt Co.	1928	Ephrata
Yorktowne Manufacturing	1930 -	Ephrata
Keystone Nightwear Co.	1933 -	Reinholds
Dutchmaid	1934 - 1985	Ephrata
Cinderella Knitting	1944 - 1993	Denver
Shorenson	1947-	Brownstown
Hopeland Mfg	1947 -	Hopeland
Mijan/Hemmerich's Shirt	1947 -	Denver
H & H Garment Co.	- 1962	Denver
D & M Dress	1960 -	
H & H Garment Co.	- 1962	Denver

## Apparel, continued

Ephrata Atlas Overall Co.	- 2003	Ephrata
Terry Manufacturing		Akron
Hesteco Manufacturing	1954 - 1992	Ephrata
Ephrata Garment Co. <i>Formerly H &amp; H, Denver</i>	1962 -	Ephrata
Liebovitz & Sons (shirts)		Ephrata

# BOLLMAN HAT COMPANY

## BOLLMAN HAT COMPANY

Mr. George Bollman and Isaac Sowers of Adamstown became partners in a hat factory business in 1868, using a building that was once a distillery. This building was located across the street from the present location of Geo. W. Bollman and Co. Inc. George Bollman learned the hat trade during the time he was boarded out with the Levi Bendel family in Adamstown. He learned his trade in Levi Bendel's factory working as a hat finisher. By age 30, George Bollman was ready to form his own hat business.

After a period of six years, Isaac Sowers left the business and in 1875 George Bollman purchased 22 acres of land, water rights and an old barn at a cost of \$2200 and erected a 2 1/2 story, frame building to begin hat manufacturing for himself. Here his company produced 60 dozen hats daily with an employment of 60 persons. They made only men's hats in black color.

Three years later, on March 18, 1878, fire destroyed this building. George Bollman immediately rented a building to continue production and began building a new factory where the former one had been destroyed.

In 1896, color hats and ladies' hats were introduced into the hat making business at Bollmans. Also, George W. Bollman, George's son, entered the business around 1897 after graduating from high school and having served some time as a hat maker in a hat factory in Montello, Pa. George W. Bollman bought the business from the estate of George Bollman when the elder George died in 1900 and continued the business.

Harvesting was somewhat limited to the summer and early fall months for Bollman so George W. went into the hosiery business to provide employment for the remainder of the year. He purchased the Blue Cross Knitting Mills at the corner of Bowmanville Road and Main Street for this purpose.

Business prospered and by the 1930's the frame building had been replaced by a new brick building, which subsequently was added to and changed several times over the years. In 1931, Bollman built a carbonizing plant so it could scour and carbonize its own wool without being dependent on other wool cleaners. Now Bollmans was able to complete the hat making process from the first steps of cleaning the wool to the finished product.

In 1947, Bollmans purchased a building in San Marcos, Texas, to have its wool scoured at the source of the raw wool supply. This meant considerable savings in shipping costs because the weight of scoured wool is 40 - 60 per cent less than that of its dirty condition. This plant can clean over 15 million pounds of wool annually. The company continued to grow and expand and in 1968 opened its own sales organization in New York.

George W. Bollman died in 1940, but his five sons continued to operate the hat business. George C., Paul W., Frederick G., Richard G., and Daniel W. Bollman became actively engaged in the hat business. George C. Bollman became a distinguished leader in the nation's hat business when he was named "Hat Man of the Year" in 1968.

Over the years George W. Bollman Co. Inc., has bought out equipment, supplies and other items from many of the hat businesses that went out of business. In the late 1940's Bradford of Haverhill Company in Mass., in 1955,

Merrimac in Amosbury, Mass., in 1968, Neumann-Endler Company of Danbury, Conn., and also Triboro Co. of New York in the same year. These again are examples of what was happening to most of the companies during the years of downsizing business while the Bollmans continued to be successful. In April of 1974 the Bollman brothers sold their interests in the company to a new management team: Don G. MacLeod, Kenneth Hopkins, Richard S. Keena, Lowell W. Hartman, and Wilbur L. Glass. They presently manage Bollman Hat Company.

Bollmans took over Adamstown Hat Company in 1979 and by 1980 they were producing 380,989 dozen men's hats annually and 189,338 ladies' hat bodies annually. Over recent years, production in western hats and ladies' hat bodies has increased, particularly in western hat production.

A unique feature of Bollman's operation is the carbonizing plant. Bollmans carbonizes (scours and cleans) wool for many different enterprises other than the felt hat industry, such as flat felt, industrial felt, piano felt and decorative felt users. In carbonizing, the vegetable matter is removed from the wool by soaking it in sulphuric acid and baking the wool at 250 and 300 degrees. This process does not effect the wool, but it removes seeds and grass and other vegetable matter that clings to the wool. The vegetable matter is then crushed and dusted off of the wool. Some wool is then scoured (washed) to complete the cleaning process.

About 50 persons work in the carbonizing plant on two shifts. In a year's time they clean 5 million pounds of wool per year or about 1,000 bags of wool each week.

In 1981, Bollmans added an addition of 60,000 square feet adjoining the carbonizing plant and trimming department. The new area will expand these two areas and will be used for shipping, scene manufacture and more storage space.

## BOLLMAN EMPLOYEES

Listed below are some of the employees that have worked at the factory for over 15 years. The first list is from the 100th Anniversary Booklet and the second list is from a Christmas Dinner Publication of 1980. These lists are proof of the long association of the workers with the industry.

### 1968 LIST

50-55 YEARS

Howard A. Demming

45-50 YEARS

Fred G. Bollman, George C. Bollman, Franklin E. Curley,

Evelyn E. Graeff, John M. Hertz

40-45 YEARS

Paul W. Bollman, Henry L. Dietrich, Jane K. Dietrich,

Harvey M. Sensong

35-40 YEARS

Roy G. Becker, Richard G. Bollman, William Rudy Broseman, I. Lester Dennis, Eugene E. Fritz, Wilbur L. Glass, Charles W. Gockley, Wilma R. Harding, Harold Hassler, LeRoy H. Kachel, John G. Laird, Ivan G. Lorsch, Elmer K. Mohn, Lester Rutt, Arlington R. Schlegel, Charles H. Shiffer, Clifford H. Shirk, Florence S. Steffy, Jennie Sweigart, Cyril E. Wingenroth.





**BOLLMAN HAT COMPANY**  
Since 1888

Kangol Featured in Teen Vogue

By Susan McDevitt | Jan 29, 2014 | Kangol

**teenVOGUE**

**20 Best Winter Hats to Stay Warm, Cozy, & Stylish This Season**

You've never truly seen a bucket hat if you've never seen a Kangol hat. While black, white, and red are classic options, why not opt for a fun pastel color like this lilac? Adding a Kangol hat to a fit will always make it the better, and there are always plenty of special offers to choose from to help your wallet.



Teen Vogue featured our Kangol Furgora in the article "20 Best Winter Hats to Stay Warm, Cozy, & Stylish This Season." Teen Vogue has 7,100,000 unique viewers per month.

View the article here:  
<https://www.teenvogue.com/story/best-winter-hats>

# DUTCHMAID

## *The Story of Dutchmaid*

Dutchmaid began in 1934, When the country was in the midst of the depression. Unemployment was widespread. People were disheartened. But one prominent physician living in the small town of Ephrata, Pennsylvania, found a way to help dispel some of that discouragement.

When Dr. Warren Fake was offered a chance to buy hosiery machines at a bankruptcy sale, he saw an opportunity to provide much needed employment for the people in his community.

He installed the machinery in his garage, hired people to run them, and then hired more people to sell the stockings door-to-door. Dr. Fake's venture was the beginning of a thriving business. Within two years the business outgrew the garage and a new building was needed. Through the years, that growth continued. During that time, besides a large facility in Ephrata, nine production mills, either owned or affiliated with the business, were turning out Dutchmaid fashions. The company was still family owned and operated.

In the early 50's, party plan selling had been a vital ingredient in Dutchmaid's success. Dutchmaid fashions were not in a store – they were only available through local independent Dutchmaid Fashion Stylists.

A fashion stylist sells Dutchmaid clothing in her area. She is a vital contact between Dutchmaid and the public. For party plan selling, Dutchmaid hostesses give parties for the Stylist. The hostess establishes a party atmosphere and invites friends, neighbors and relatives to her home. In return, she receives free clothing and gifts.

But the main attractions is the Dutchmaid fashions. The Fashion Stylist shows the clothes, points out their various quality and style features, and often invites guests to try them on. The guests may order the garments they want, payment and deliver dates are arranged, and the hostess wraps up the evening by serving light refreshments.

Our customers know that when they buy Dutchmaid, they're getting the most out of their fashion dollar.



Dr. Warren Fake

# Dutchmaid



EPHRATA, PENNSYLVANIA

Ladies' Outerwear

Underwear/Nightwear

Dutchmaid (Ephrata) sales/sample book, 1971-1972

The majority of the sleeve compartments hold a style sample card picturing and describing an item of clothing; fabric samples are mounted to the reverse of some cards.

(Gift of the Ahemathy Family)



**Dutchmaid Fashions**  
 A sampling of clothing that  
 would only be available  
 through the local independent  
 Fashion Stylist



**Hostesses: You could win a fabulous prize in Dutchmaid's Prize Bonanza!** Hold a Dutchmaid party between January 2 and March 23, 1994, and you could win an exquisite hand-made quilt or one of 30 other fabulous prizes!

During the contest, your Dutchmaid party will give you the best of both worlds: AND a chance of a prize!

**Grand Prize**

For a grand prize, you could win a quilt made by hand in the Netherlands for Dutchmaid. The quilt will be made by hand in the Netherlands for Dutchmaid. The quilt will be made by hand in the Netherlands for Dutchmaid.



**10 Second Prizes**

10 second prizes will be given to the hostesses who have the most Dutchmaid parties during the contest. The prizes will be given to the hostesses who have the most Dutchmaid parties during the contest.

**5 First Prizes**

5 first prizes will be given to the hostesses who have the most Dutchmaid parties during the contest. The prizes will be given to the hostesses who have the most Dutchmaid parties during the contest.



**25 Third Prizes**

25 third prizes will be given to the hostesses who have the most Dutchmaid parties during the contest. The prizes will be given to the hostesses who have the most Dutchmaid parties during the contest.

**50 Fourth Prizes**

50 fourth prizes will be given to the hostesses who have the most Dutchmaid parties during the contest. The prizes will be given to the hostesses who have the most Dutchmaid parties during the contest.



**Grand Prize**

For a grand prize, you could win a quilt made by hand in the Netherlands for Dutchmaid. The quilt will be made by hand in the Netherlands for Dutchmaid.

Don't miss out on this exciting contest. Book your party today!



Call today to book your party. 1-800-368-3333

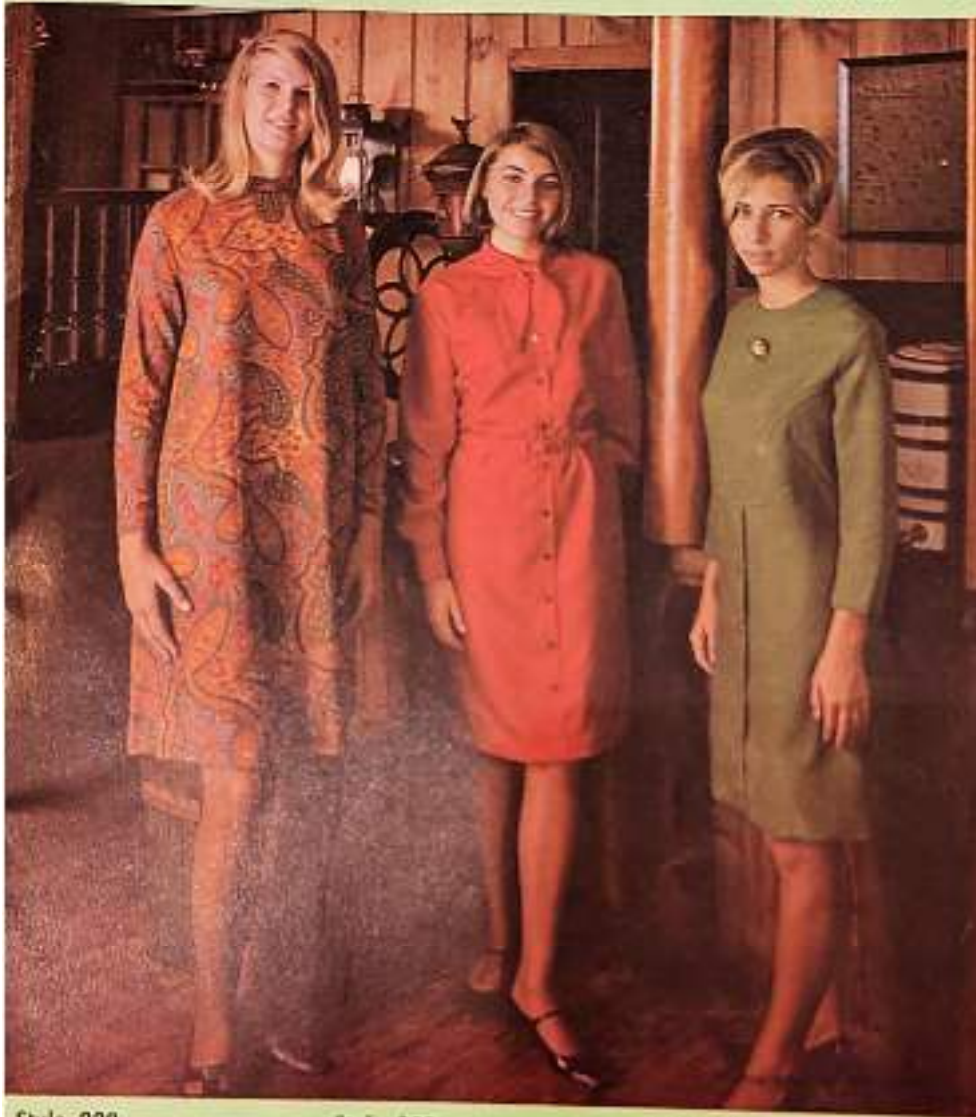


YOUR LOCAL DEMONSTRATOR IS:

**DUTCHMAID INC.**

Ephrata, Pennsylvania 17522

FALL & WINTER - 67



**Style 220 —  
Ladies' Tent Dress**

Simple, free-flowing lines in a widely modern print, zipper back, long sleeves and roll bias collar all add up to the last word in fashion. Tangerine Print (Shown), Green Print. Sizes 32 to 44. 100% Orlon Acrylic. **\$12.98**

**Style 352 —  
Ladies' Shift Dress**

Casual simplicity for town and country, with long sleeves with buttoned cuffs, tie at neckline, button front and self belt. Moss, Black and Red (Shown). Sizes 30 to 44. 65% Rayon, 35% Acetate. **\$10.49**

**Style 371 —  
Ladies' A-Line Wool Shift**

Sure flattery for all figure types. Sure flattery for all figure types. Long sleeves with dart, set-in yoke with top stitching, sloping darts, button trim below yoke, back zipper and A-line skirt. Parsley (Shown) and Turquoise. Sizes 30 to 42. 100% Bonded Wool. **\$17.49**

- Tired of being stuck in a job where you're overworked and underpaid?
- Want to earn money and be home with your children?
- Need some money to buy the "extras" you want, but can't afford?
- Looking for a new, exciting activity to fill up the empty hours?

# DUTCHMAID IS FOR YOU!

## Why Dutchmaid?

- Earn \$100, \$200 a week or more—PART-TIME
- Set your own hours
- No experience needed
- FREE training program
- Room for advancement
- Have a fulfilling career AND be a full-time mother
- Wear the latest fashions—FREE
- Big discount for personal purchases
- Gain poise and confidence
- Win exciting trips, prizes, awards and many extras!



**CALL TODAY! There's no obligation!**



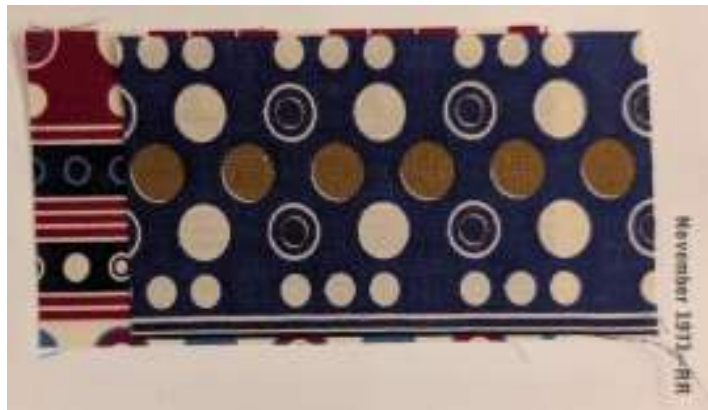
Quality Fashions at Practical Prices

Box 1000, New Street  
Ephrata, PA 17522  
(717) 733-4121

Your stylist is:



1-14/11



November 1971-RR



2-9/72

ALL LENGTHS ARE APPROXIMATE.

Length for Style 995 is as follows:

Size	3	4	5	6	8	10	12
Side Seam	21 $\frac{1}{2}$	23	25 $\frac{1}{2}$	27 $\frac{1}{2}$	30 $\frac{1}{2}$	32 $\frac{1}{2}$	34 $\frac{1}{2}$
Size	14	15					
Side Seam	36 $\frac{1}{2}$	38 $\frac{1}{2}$					
Length for Style 995S is as follows:							
Size	3	4	5	6	8	10	12
Side Seam	21 $\frac{1}{2}$	23 $\frac{1}{2}$	26	28	31 $\frac{1}{2}$	33 $\frac{1}{2}$	35 $\frac{1}{2}$
Size	14	16					
Side Seam	37 $\frac{1}{2}$	39 $\frac{1}{2}$					

# F & M HAT

## THE FICHTHORN HAT MAKERS

### TIMELINE

1700s Reading, Pa.

Hat making was Reading's first industry.

Among the early hatmakers:

Michael Fichthorn, the first of the Fichthorn hat makers, was working at his trade during the time of the American Revolution.

Michael's brothers, Jacob and Philip, followed as hatmakers in Reading by 1766.

Another brother, Andrew, was a gunsmith.

They were the sons of Michael Fichthorn, a tailor, who came to America and settled in Reading in 1743.

1795 Adamstown, Pa.

Jacob Fichthorn moved from Berks County to Cocalico Township in Lancaster County sometime between 1791 and 1795. His name appeared on tax records as a hatmaker - the first of many hatmakers in and around Adamstown.

1800

The Adamstown census of 1800 listed Jacob Fichthorn as a hatmaker.

He will be recognized in future years as the Pioneer Hat Maker in the small town where he chose to settle.

1810 - 1830

Jacob's son, Philip, was making hats in 1810 and continued until his death in 1833.

By 1830, Jacob's son William was on the Adamstown census as a hatmaker.

In nineteenth century Adamstown, hat making was a family affair. Fathers taught their sons. They also, at times, taught their sons-in-law and/or brothers-in-law the trade of hatting.

1840s

Jacob's grandsons became hatmakers.

Hats were still made by hand in small shops; however, the Fichthorn hatmakers were the first to use steam power in wool hat production.

1850s - 1860s

Isaac Fichthorn made hats in a shop behind his home on Adamstown's Main Street.

His operating business records date to 1852.

In 1850 Isaac was one of two Master Hatters in town according to census records that year.

The other Master Hatter was Lail Harndel, who learned the hat trade as a fifteen year old in 1823 when he was apprenticed with Isaac's father, Philip Fichthorn.

Seven Fichthorns were hatmakers in 1850.

1870s

Isaac's son, Samuel Radey Fichthorn, was the 4th generation hatmaker and his records date to 1872.

The years 1875-76 saw two large hat factories built on Main Street in Adamstown.

One of these factories was the Fichthorn & Radey Hat Company on West Main Street near the Lancaster County House.

In 1873 there were five separate hat factories in town.

It was during this period that women began working at hatting as trimmers and finishers.

1880s

The Fichthorns were listed as hatmakers in Adamstown in the 1884 "Lancaster County Directory" with Samuel R. Fichthorn part owner of a hat factory.

1890-1910

The 1898 "Atlas of Lancaster County" included a map of Adamstown which showed the location of the two remaining hat factories.

The Fichthorn & Radey Hat Company remained on West Main Street and would continue until a new company was formed by Samuel R's sons.

In 1900 Samuel R. was on the census as a Hat Manufacturer and his son, Daniel E., at age 24 was also listed as a hatmaker.

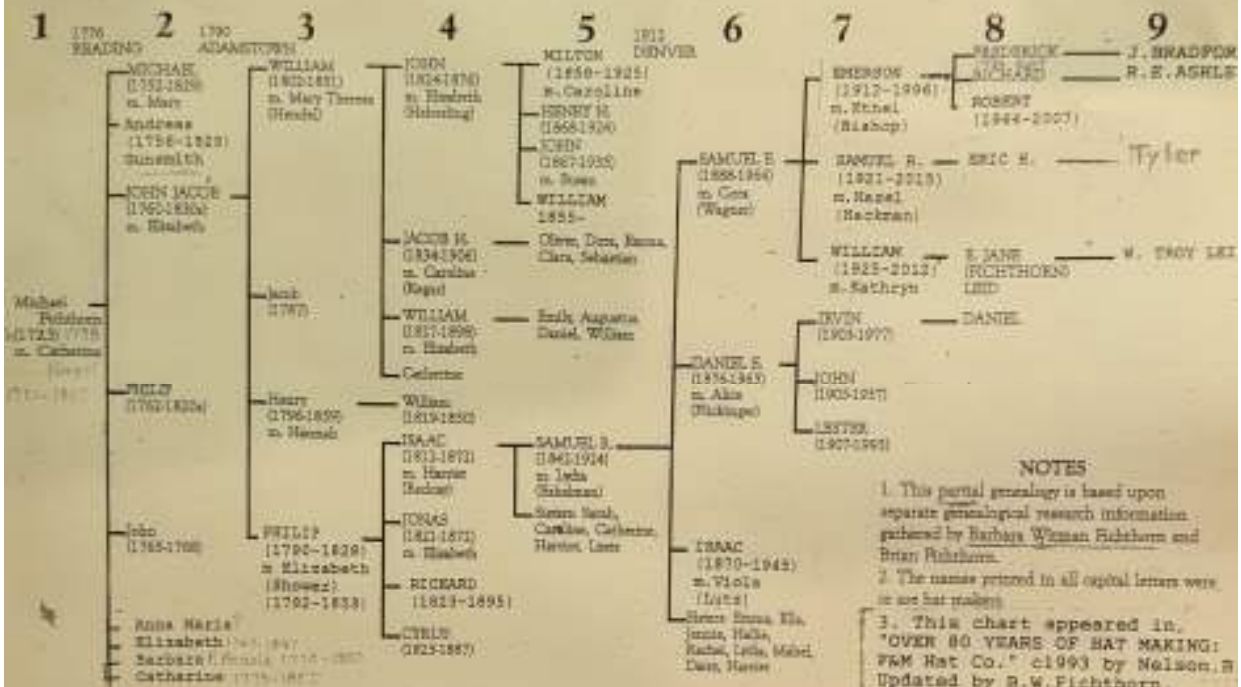
By 1910 Samuel R. was still working at age 67 and another son, Samuel E., at age 21 had become a hatmaker.

1912 Denver, Pa.

Samuel R. Fichthorn's sons, Daniel E. and Samuel E., 3rd generation hatmakers who learned their trade in Adamstown, partnered with their brother-in-law, Ambrose Marburger, and built a hat factory in near by Denver, Pa.

The F&M Hat Company has continued as a family business through-out the 20th century and into the 21st.  
.....From the beginning, 6 generations and over 200 years of hat making!

# THE FICHTHORN HAT MAKERS



## NOTES

1. This partial genealogy is based upon separate genealogical research information gathered by Barbara Weman Fichthorn and Bryan Fichthorn.
2. The names printed in all capital letters were in no hat makers.
3. This chart appeared in, "OVER 80 YEARS OF HAT MAKING: F&M Hat Co." ©1993 by Nelson B. Updated by B.W. Fichthorn.
4. Michael Fichthorn, born 1723, in Germany, was a tailor and settled in Reading, Pennsylvania, around 1743. He was a passenger aboard the ship Phoenix that arrived at Philadelphia from Rotterdam.
5. Michael Fichthorn, of the second generation, made hats in Schremlburg.

2024



1960 1970 1980 1990

**F&M Facts**  
*Every F&M hat is a major leader of F&M Hat leader in the world today. Its reputation earned itself hat maker.*

**EFFANEM** *with* **CRUSHER**



**THE ROLLED CRUSHER**  
**EFFANEM**



**F&M Facts**  
*The F&M F&M is designed after hat formerly known as the "Roller" and began marketing it as the Effanem Rolled Crusher.*  
*In the past decade this is the answer people or people asking about how to represent in wearing a hat.*

**Glenover**



**LANCASTER**  
 For the fashion right  
 easy wearing  
 top value line of  
**WOOL FELT HATS**  
 FOR MEN FOR BOYS

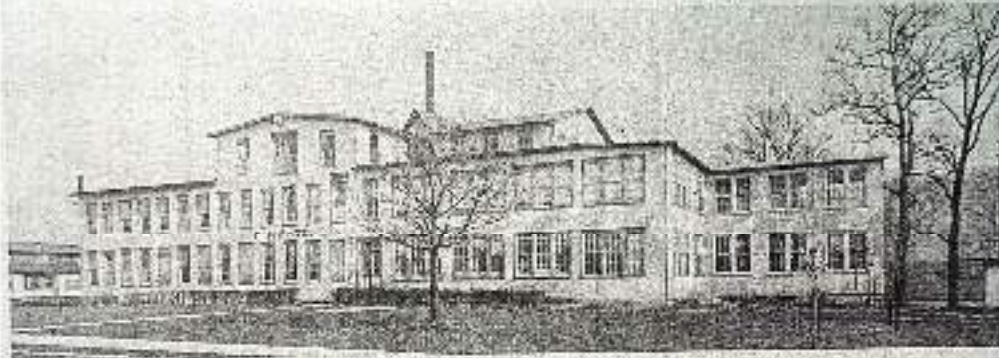


**EFFANEM**  
 THE ROLLED CRUSHER



**LANCASTER Hat Co.**

## Original Home Of F&M Hat Company



As early as 1820, the F&M Hat Company which later of Danvers in 1822 has been established by Frederick Fitchborn. The original building built in Danvers in the early business. The new part was built in 1881. The Company was

established by Daniel and Samuel Fitchborn and Andrew Martberg. The Fitchborn were grandsons of John Fitch who manufactured hats by hand in Andover during the Civil War period. Martberg was the son of inventor,

Allison Martberg. His first place of business was located near the lower Oak Hill and a nearby quarry.

The hat factory building was purchased in 1881 from John Fitchborn and was the longest hat factory, the

first two being the ones built by John Warrenton's old mill. A large one of the same building in the 1800s, the company employed a total of 1000 seasonal workers.

In 1905 a parking lot was established on West Street.

From Jacob M. Weaver, owner of the factory on Water Street.

The present brick building was built in 1881 with the 1881 and having been completed in 1882. The building was incorporated in 1886.



Trim Department, 1914  
Of those in the photo, only  
Alice Fitchborn is identified.





Area  
identified in photo include:  
on  
r  
Burger, son of the founder

OVER 80 YEARS OF  
HAT MAKING



GEORGE W. BOLLMAN & CO., INC.  
F. & M. HAT COMPANY, INC.

— SOLE DISTRIBUTORS —

HENRY POLLAK INC.

NEW YORK

CHickering 4-8400

c. 1958

Items on loan from the F&M Hat Manufacturing Fichthorn Family

## Hats Donated by Barb Fichthorn







Mabel(Graeff)Fichthorn



Carrie Stauffer 1892-1973  
Married Charles E. Fichthorn 1891-1962  
Adamstown, Pa.  
Carrie was the daughter of James and Annie Stauffer

## HOPELAND MANUFACTURING

*Items on loan from the Reber Family: Tom, Terry and Troy - from  
The Hopeland Manufacturing Company*

Hopeland Manufacturing Company began operations in July 1947 in the former General Cigar Company building located in Hopeland, PA. It was founded by the late Wayne A. Reber, Sr., as a lingerie plant.

The first garments were women's slips and half slips. In 1957 the line was expanded to include women's sleepwear. In March of 1955 Wayne A. Reber, Jr., joined the business. He became the sole owner in 1961. The product line was again diversified to include women's sportswear. This included knit blouses and shift dresses.

By the late 1960's a four story wind was added to the original building. The business continued making women's sportswear until 1981 when the company expanded into children's sportswear.

During the late 1980's an ever-increasing amount of garments that were sown at Hopeland Manufacturing were screen printed by outside contractors. Seeing a need for more screen printing, Hopeland Mfg. Co. undertook a major expansion and diversification. During the year 1987 a new concrete block 4 story addition was added to the plant. Then in March 1988 our new screen printing business Print N Image, was started.

### Hopeland Time Line

1800's General Cigar Company

1940's Lingerie Mill

1980's Children's Clothing

2001 Screen Printing



*Folder, Hemmer and Binder attachments were handmade by skilled Machinists using German Silver Alloy and specialty Swiss pliers until it became automated in the 1990's*







3-1-6830 1089  
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania



Department of State  
Office of the  
Secretary of the Commonwealth

To all to whom These Presents shall come, Greeting:

WHEREAS, under the provisions of the Revenue Corporation Law, approved by the Act of May, Third Session one thousand nine hundred and thirty three, P. L. 681, as amended, the Department of State is authorized and required to issue a

CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION

showing the incorporation of a business corporation organized under the laws of this State.

AND WHEREAS, The application and conditions of said law have been fully complied with to the extent herein so recited as

HEREBY CERTIFYING AS FOLLOWS:

THAT, IN VIRTUE OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THIS COMMONWEALTH AND UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE REVENUE CORPORATION LAW, I do hereby certify, which I have caused to be sealed with the Great Seal of the Commonwealth, under great and honorable consideration of me the Secretary of the Commonwealth of the organized corporation named above, their associates and members, and also those who are hereafter become associates or members of the above or such corporation, that a valid charter and corporate rights and powers are hereby conferred upon and vested in said corporation, and that the same shall be observed and maintained in full force and effect at all times hereafter, and that the same shall be subject to all the duties, requirements, and restrictions specified and required in and by the Revenue Corporation Law and all other applicable laws of this Commonwealth.

WITNESSETH under my Hand and the Great Seal of the Commonwealth, at the City of Philadelphia, this 17th day of September, 1933, in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and thirty-three, and of the Commonwealth the one hundred and

seventy-third  
*Wm. D. Miller*  
Secretary of the Commonwealth





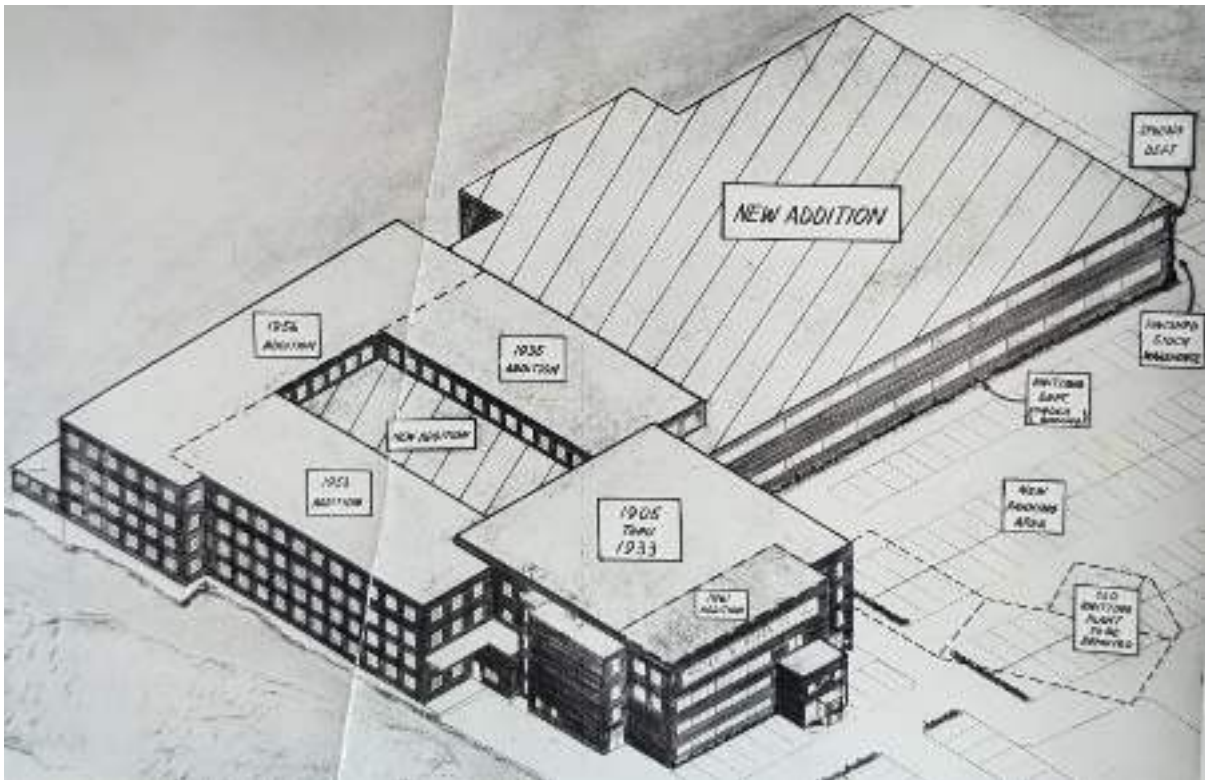




Screen Printing

**WALTER W. MOYER CO.**









**Moyer Company Piecework:**

Ida W. (Fassnacht) Weitzel (1873-1938), an employee of the Walter W. Moyer Co., inserting drawstring tapes into the neck-shoulder openings of Moyer's ladies' vests on the front porch of the Weitzel family's Lincoln home. Some Moyer Company employees were able to do piecework at home until the late 1920's, when the practice was discontinued; articles of clothing were taken to and from their houses with Moyer's delivery wagon and, later, with a company truck.



# Gerber closing Ephrata plant, 315 employees to lose jobs

by Tim Meekal  
New Era Staff Writer

Gerber Childrenswear Inc. said today it would close its Ephrata plant, idling all 315 of its employees.

The 400 W. Main St. plant will begin laying off its workforce on Nov. 13, and close for good on March 31, said Raymond R. McManus, director of human resources.

"Sales at the retail level are soft right now," explained McManus, "and we've found that we have excess manufacturing capacity. That's why we had to evaluate our plants."

Gerber chose to close the Ephrata plant because "it is a very expensive plant for us to operate," said McManus, citing costs of labor, utilities and workers' compensation.

Vic Dickinson, Ephrata's borough manager, called today's announcement "a total surprise. It's a shock. There had been no warning at all, at least none given to us."

Today's announcement marked the second major plant closing in northern Lancaster County in five days. On Thursday, Cinderella Knitting Mill in Denver disclosed plans to shut down, idling 112 workers.

Gerber is the borough's fifth largest employer, according to 1992 Ephrata Area Chamber of Commerce statistics, trailing Ephrata Community Hospital, Ephrata Area School District, Detectives and Science Press.

It also is among the borough's oldest industrial firms. Gerber came to Ephrata in 1974 when it acquired Walter W. Moyer Co., which moved here in 1908 from Reading.

For now, all six other Gerber facilities will stay open, said McManus. They are plants in Fort Kent, Maine; Hallinger, Texas; Lumberton, N.C.; Raleigh, N.C.; and Polk, N.C., and a distribution center in Charlotte, N.C.

"We have no plans to close any other locations right now, although in several of those locations, our total employment is down, as a result of economic conditions," said McManus.

The Ephrata location has been struggling for some time, with one division being spun off in early 1992 and the remaining main plant dwindling in size, down from 380 employees just a year ago.

McManus added that fierce competition from domestic and foreign manufacturers of children's apparel was a factor — but not the only factor — in the plant's demise.

"We've been reducing our employee count

by attrition, and trying to stabilize things. But unfortunately things have not stabilized and we found it necessary to close the facility," said McManus.

The multi-story plant produces children's t-shirts, underwear and sleep-and-playwear, said McManus.

Today's announcement spells the end to Gerber's four-decade relationship with Ephrata, initiated in the mid-1960s when Gerber began buying infant underwear made by Moyer.

When Gerber bought Moyer in 1974, the firm had 500 employees here. It was renamed Gerber Childrenswear in 1988. But the Ephrata operation eventually fell on hard times.

In January 1992, Gerber said it would eliminate fabric-knitting here, idling 35 workers, and might close its 100-employee fabric dyeing and finishing operation if a buyer wasn't found.

But the next month Skip's Cutting Inc. agreed to buy the fabric dyeing and finishing operation, retaining the operation American Dyeing & Finishing Corp. and offering jobs to the fabric knitters as well.

Staff Writer Anita S. Brown also contributed to this report.

*Newspaper article announcing the closure of the Gerber Childrenswear Inc. factory in Ephrata, Gerber bought the Walter W. Moyer company in 1974.  
Lancaster New Era September 13, 1993, Page C-16*

## ASSORTED ITEMS ON DISPLAY

### *The Cloister Fulling Mill*

One of the earliest examples of the textile industry in the Cocalico Valley can be traced to the Ephrata Cloister. In 1736 Andreas Kropf built a grist mill along the Cocalico Creek. About five years later, in 1741, he sold the mill and the land it was on to the Cloister community. Thus began the Cloister's entrance into milling.

The Brothers of the Cloister expanded the mill until it included 5 separate sections, all in one location. This included the original grist mill, plus a saw mill, a linseed oil mill, a paper mill, and a fulling mill. According to Luthersn Pastor Israel Acrelius, who visited her in 1753, all the mills operated from the power of the same water wheel. This was a remarkable accomplishment. Another visitor commented "*at the same time they are well versed in the mechanical arts, excelling the best artisans of England, as witness the mechanical works of their various mill.*"

Tragedy struck on December 5, 1747, when a fire broke out during the night, destroying much of the mill complex. Not to be deterred, the community quickly rebuilt the structure. By 1756 paper production became so valuable that a second paper mill was built about a quarter of a mile upstream. The new mill became known as the upper mill, while the original complex was known as the lower mill.

The fulling mill at Ephrata was one of the first of its kind in Lancaster County. It is not clear when it was added, but it was operating at the time of the fire in 1747. By 1756 it was one of only four fulling mills in Lancaster County.

The mills at Ephrata underwent numerous changes through the years. They were sold several times in the 19<sup>th</sup> century before coming into the hands of Walter W. Moyer, who closed down the milling operations in 1916. The mill that now exists is not the original structure and it is unsure when it was built. It is believed to have been built following the fire of 1747. We know that by 1768 it was extensively remodeled and likely expanded. It is located along the Cocalico Creek at Old Mill Road and is now owned by the Borough of Ephrata as part of the Haller Homestead Park.



"The final mill operated by the Ephrata community, the fulling mill, is the least recognized or understood. This mill had various functions involved in the final production stages of woolen cloth. After being taken from the loom, the cloth was brought to the mill where it was washed in hot water and "fuller's earth," a fine clay which absorbed the natural lanolin oils in the wool. The mill provided the power for the large post-like beaters which were used in the washing process. The washing also caused the cloth to shrink, tightening the weave of the fabric. Finally, the nap of the cloth was trimmed before it was returned to the customer."

*Michael Showalter, Museum Educator, Ephrata Cloister*



RES. & MILL OF B.C. WENGER.

*sketch of the former Cloister Lower Mill in 1875, when it was owned by Benjamin Wenger.*



*The former Cloister Lower Mill in 1937.*

### *The Fulling Process*

Fulling is a process that cleanses and refines cloth, usually wool. The cloth is placed in vats of water and agitated by hammers driven by the mill's water wheel. This serves to remove lanolin from the wool and purify the cloth. It also is a way to preshrink the cloth and make the threads tighter. The result is material that is more durable and of higher quality.



*A sketch of the fulling process*



*The former Cloister Lower Mill as it appears today.*



*[See description on the next page]*

## 18<sup>th</sup> Century Ephrata Sampler

Rare early sampler, wool and silk on linen, embroidered by Elizabeth Wever/Weber/Weaver of Ephrata. The sampler is dated 1775 and features among the diverse design elements a gentleman with his walking stick and dog, a peacock, a rabbit, birds, a pair of large butterflies, an antlered deer, and two fruit trees. The central panel at the top of the sampler lists Elizabeth Wever (then 12 years old), daughter of Conrad and Magdalena (Eckstein) Wever, and her siblings John, Barbara, Catharina, and Conrad. A small round reserve beneath is embroidered "El / izabeth / Wever The / Daughter of / Conrad And / M Wever / 1775." A small cherub flanks this reserve on either side, along with open-faced red flowers. Flanking the main central panel are panels of dense lettering, now faded and extremely difficult to read. The panel at the left contains parts of a passage from Proverbs: Who can find / a virtuous / woman for / his [sic] price is / far above / rubies. / She seeketh / wool and / flax and worketh / willingly . . ." The panel at the right begins "When this you see remember me." Pictorial elements are embroidered in wool; lettering is embroidered in silk. The border features twining green stems and red, blue and yellow flowers. The attached silk border is now much degraded.

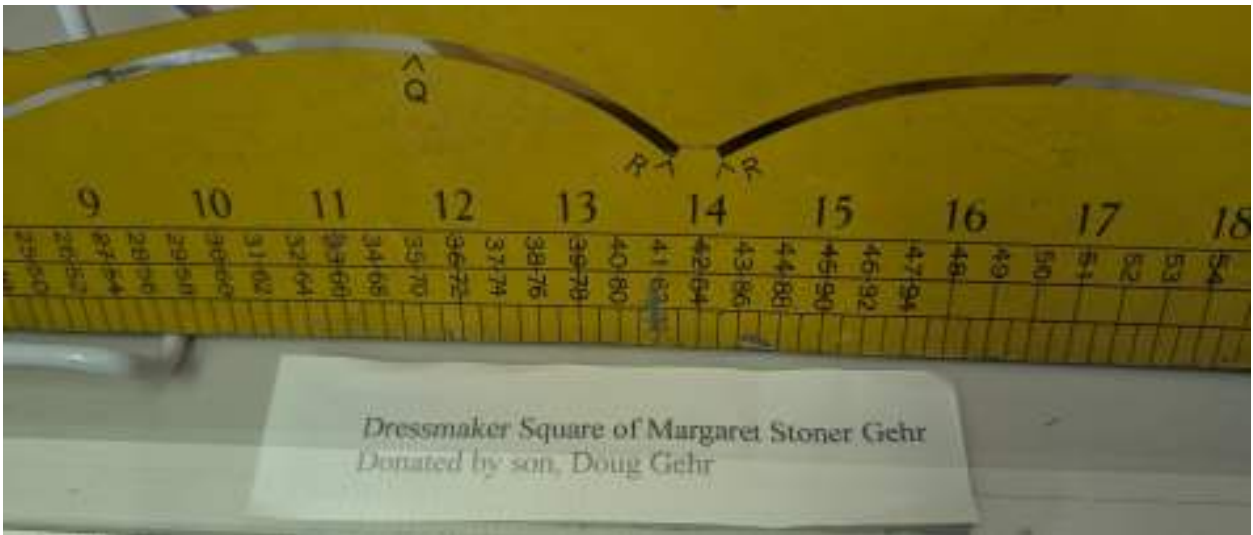
Elizabeth Wever/Weber was born December 3, 1762. Her parents, Conrad and Magdalena Wever, were householder members of the Ephrata Cloister community. She married Philip Krieg, and in 1813 she and her husband, a tavernkeeper, sold the 25-acre tract on which the village of Lincoln was subsequently laid out to surveyor John Reist. Elizabeth (Wever) Krieg died in 1819 and is buried at Rothsville.



### Double Weave Coverlet

Double weave geometric coverlet of red and dark blue wool and white cotton, ca. 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter, 19<sup>th</sup> century; the maker is unknown. The coverlet is seamed down the center and the top edge is finished with a narrow hem. There is a double pine tree border along the fringed sides and the fringed bottom edge; the tree motif is formed by modifying the design of the main pattern. The coverlet is believed to have belonged to the family of Israel N. Widder (1849-1930) and Leah (Erb) Widder of Ephrata Twp., probably passing to them from a parent or another member of their parents' generation. Prior to the introduction of the Jacquard loom, as well as or some time afterwards, weavers produced coverlets such as this one, which featured a wide variety of pleasing geometrical designs.

(Lizzie Widder Collection, Gift of the Borough of Ephrata)





#### Peter Leisey Jacquard Coverlet

Jacquard coverlet, dark red and dark blue wool on a white cotton warp. The pattern features repeating roses and eight-petaled blooms and a twining vine border further enclosed by diamonds and checks. The coverlet is seamed down the center and displays the weaver's name in both lower corner blocks: "Made / by / Peter / Leisey / Lancaster / Co / Cocalico / Township." The Jacquard loom, fitted with a mechanism utilizing perforated cards, was used for the first time in Philadelphia in the 1820's. It permitted weavers to create complex floral and figural patterns, which could not have been produced with the looms in use prior to its introduction.

Peter Leisey, who resided in today's West Cocalico Twp., was born in 1802 to the German immigrant Joseph Leisey. Joseph Leisey was indentured to John Bucher and learned the weaving trade from him; he continued to work in Cocalico Township until his death in 1826. His weaver's pattern book is in a private collection. Peter Leisey's pattern book is in the rare book department of the Free Library of Philadelphia.

(Gift of Col. George S. Howard)

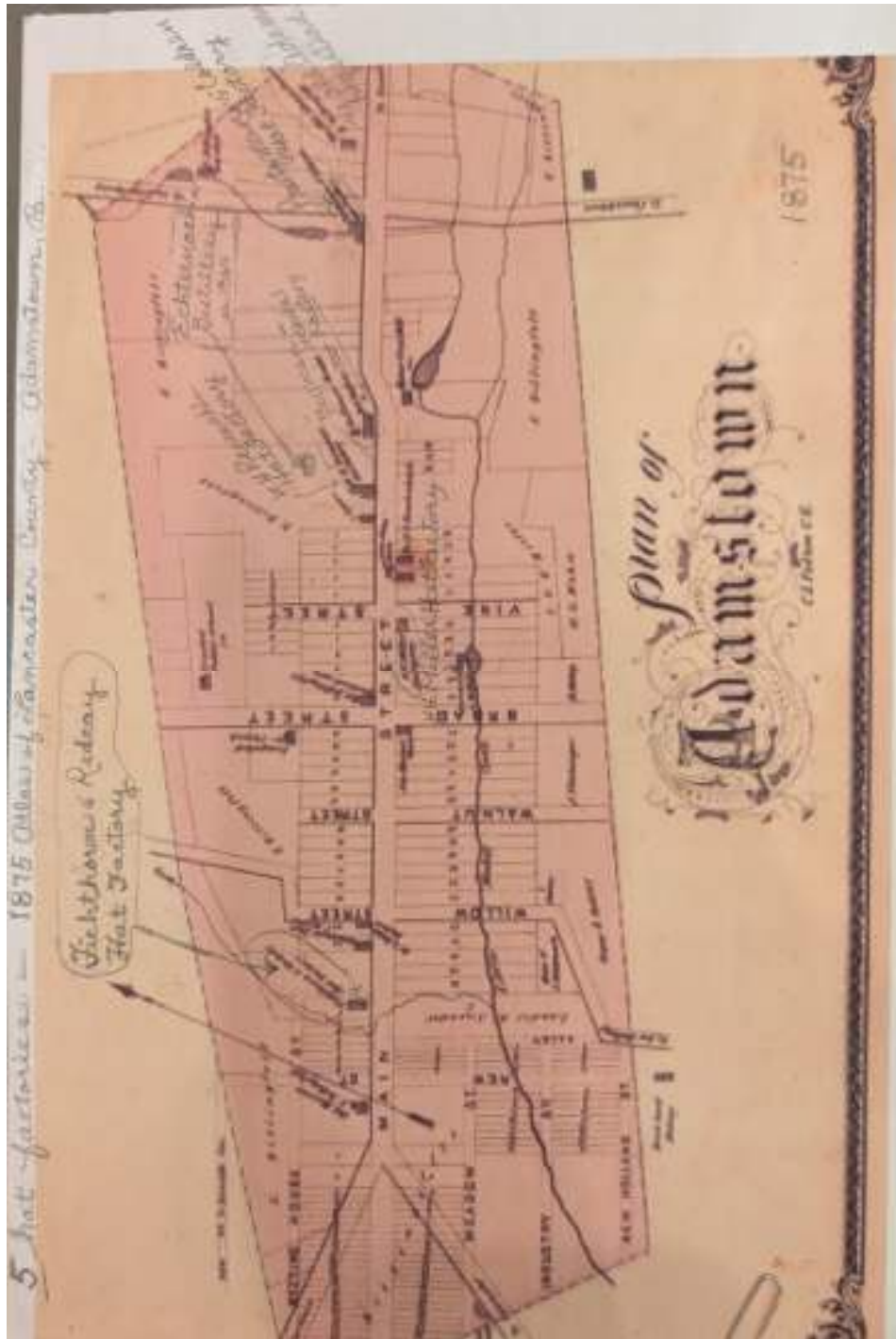


**Peter Leisey Family Bible**

Family Bible of coverlet weaver Peter Leisi/Leisey (1802-1859) and his wife Lydia Mellinger (1808-1892) of West Cocalico Township. The bookplate reads "Eigenthum / von / Peter Leisi / und / seiner Frau Lydia, geboren / Mellinger / in West Cocalico Ts: Lancaster Co Pa / den vereinigten Staaten / von Nord Amerika / 1852." The Bible contains an entry for the couple's marriage and that of their daughter Lydia, through whom the Bible descended; there are German script entries for the births and deaths of Peter and Lydia, the births of their 10 children, and death of their first child.

(Gift of Scott A. Mellinger)





Newspaper Clippings Arranged By Date

NOVEMBER 5, 1919.

**EPHRATA.**

Friday morning Samuel Hagy and Chas. Bixler, of Ephrata, and Galen Bishop, of Adamstown, left for the Pocono mountains, where they will spend a week gunning for rabbits, pheasants and squirrels. The trip was made in Samuel Hagy's auto.

M. B. Angstadt spent several days in New York City on business and pleasure.

Mrs. Edwin Caswell, of New Holland, spent Thursday in Ephrata visiting Iru J. Keith and family.

Mr. and Mrs. Howard Worrell, of Ardmore, motored to Ephrata Thursday and visited Mrs. Worrell's mother, Mrs. Emma Kurtz, of Duke street.

Thursday evening a player piano was placed in the lodge room in the Mentzer building. A. W. Mentzer's sons purchased it from R. D. Von Nieda.

Hyman Solodar has purchased a new truck. Mr. Soldar and Earl Weaver brought it from New York City to Ephrata last Sunday. The business of the factory has increased to such an extent that it is unable to fill the orders unless some of the work is finished in the homes. The truck will be used in conveying material to and from the homes.

*Lancaster Examiner, November 5, 1919*

OCTOBER 15, 1920.

**EPHRATA MANUFACTURER  
SUED BY NEW YORK FIRM**

A suit for the recovery of \$500 has been brought in the Lancaster Common Pleas Court against Hyman Husin, of Ephrata, by L. Loewy & Son, Inc.; of New York. The plaintiffs allege that their corporation purchased the Ephrata Shirt Works, of which Hyman Husin and Hyman Solodar were proprietors, several years ago, and that following this action, on February 15, 1919, a written contract was entered into with Husin, of Ephrata, by L. Loewy & Son, Inc., which should not engage in the shirt business nor work as an operator in Ephrata, nor within a radius of 25 miles of that borough, under a forfeit of \$500. The plaintiffs claim that he violated this contract, and that on April 1, 1919, and since, he has engaged in the manufacturing of shirts in that borough, and that in consequence they have suffered at least \$500 damages.

*Lancaster Examiner and the Semi-Weekly New Era  
October 15, 1920, page 2*

**DISSOLUTION NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given that the Shirt Factory business heretofore conducted under the firm name of Ephrata Shirt Co., has been dissolved bearing the date of November 5th, 1932.

**HYMAN SOLODAR,  
SAVADA BROS.**

18 Nov. 4t.

*The Ephrata Review, December 2, 1932*

**NEW DRESS FACTORY  
PLANNED AT EPHRATA**

Ephrata — A children's dress factory will be established in the Westerhoff factory building on North State street. Frank W. Eicherly, Columbia, the local representative of the Mar-Ann Dress company, of New York, said at least fifty persons will be given work as soon as that number of machines can be installed.

More will be employed as fast as machines can be installed until 250 persons are employed, Mr. Eicherly said.

*Intelligencer Journal, June 14, 1941 p. 13*

We have a vacancy  
for one experienced

**REPAIRER**

for

**PACKING ROOM**

Steady employment. Good wages and other benefits. Excellent working conditions.

APPLY IN PERSON OR PHONE

**BA-RU-BE, INC.**

17 Lemon St.  
Ephrata, Pa.  
Ephrata RE 3-1251

*Lancaster Intelligencer Journal  
May 27, 1957, Page 49*

City Controller

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT Articles of Amendment to the Articles of Incorporation of BA-RU-BE, INC., a Pennsylvania business corporation having its registered office at Ephrata and Center Avenues, Ephrata, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania 17522, have been filed with and approved by the Department of State of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, on March 18, 1969, for the purpose of obtaining a Certificate of Amendment pursuant to the provisions of the Business Corporation Law of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, approved May 5, 1933, as amended. The nature and character of the amendment is to change the name of the corporation from BA-RU-BE, INC. to ARNO-BART, INC., by which latter name it will hereafter be known.

*Lancaster New Era, April 22, 1969, Page 23*

## During Drill at Brownstown Plant

# Fire Escape Steps Fall, 3 Women Hurt

Three women employees of a Brownstown garment plant were injured, one seriously, last Thursday when the upper steps of the buildings fire escape fell apart during a routine fire drill.

Mrs. Patsy A. DeHaven, 28, of 106 S. State St., Brownstown, was hospitalized with a broken ankle, following the mishap at the Terry Manufacturing Co., School Lane.

Two other employees, tentatively identified as Bonnie Campbell and her sister, Connie, received minor injuries but did not require hospital care.

According to company secretary Jack S. Belsinger, the accident took place last Thursday morning as employees of the factory filed down the one-story fire escape during a fire drill. Such drills, he said, are held every six months.

As company officials reconstruct the accident, said Belsinger, one step on the fire escape separated from the staircase and fell to the ground.

Several other steps, he said, then pulled apart.

Mrs. DeHaven, said Belsinger, apparently fell to the ground, a distance of about eight feet. The others apparently fell to other steps and then down, he said.

### **Made of Wood**

The cause of the step collapse, said Belsinger, appears to be nails that rusted along their interior shafts. The fire escape is constructed of four-inch-square redwood pillars and two-inch-thick redwood steps.

Belsinger said a carpenter began this week to dismantle the fire escape. An entirely new one will be built at the plant, he said.

Mrs. DeHaven was taken to Lancaster General Hospital by the Leola ambulance after the accident. An ambulance company volunteer said the other two injured women sought private medical care.

The Terry Manufacturing Co. is a subsidiary of Colebrook-Terry Inc., which operates garment plants in Leola, Akron, and York and Lebanon counties.

It employs about 115 persons at the Brownstown plant, making ladies' sleepwear and lingerie.

During the company's past 25 years in business, said Belsinger, it has had no serious industrial accidents.

The state Bureau of Occupational and Industrial Safety was unaware of the accident today. Office head James Dommel said, however, that an inspector would be sent to the plant to look into the matter.



New Era Photo by Richard Hertzler

This is the repaired staircase at the Terry Manufacturing Co., Brownstown. Three women employees were hurt in fall on April 27.

## **Teacher Acquitted In Spanking Case**

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. (AP) — A second-grade teacher has been acquitted of child abuse in the spanking of a 7-year-old girl who lied about having gum in her mouth.

Lynn Kistie, 23, a teacher at the Colorado Springs Christian School, had been charged after the parents of the girl noted bruises on the child's buttocks and called police. A County Court jury returned the verdict Tuesday after deliberating for one hour.

But others say the financial edge computing technologies

## Ephrata apparel maker to close, idling 38

by Tim Mekeel  
New Era Staff Writer

Hesteco Manufacturing Co., Inc. will permanently close its Ephrata plant Friday due to a lack of business, idling all 38 workers.

The 11 W. Locust St. facility, which sews children's dresses and sportswear, has been buffeted by a variety of forces.

"It's the economy, the conditions in Pennsylvania, imports — the list goes on and on," said vice president Mac McCrumb.

Hesteco also was hurt by the overall decline of the domestic apparel industry, which has fallen sharply in the past 20 years.

"As other manufacturers close, there is less

work floating around the area for us to tap into, and fewer workers available. It makes business more and more difficult," McCrumb said.

With less work available, the contract sewing company tried to diversify into producing other types of garments.

"But because that was not our forte, we had trouble being competitive," McCrumb said.

Over the plant's history, its workforce "fluctuated dramatically," depending on the workload. It peaked at 45 and troughed at zero, during temporary closings.

Hesteco will offer jobs at its Elizabethtown and Hummelstown plants to the laidoff workers when orders pick up there, McCrumb said.

"We'll do that when work is available, but

work is not currently available. Over the next six weeks, there appears not to be sufficient work. Beyond that, I can't say," McCrumb said.

In the meantime, McCrumb asked other firms who could use the Ephrata workers to contact the International Ladies Garment Workers Union in Harrisburg.

McCrumb did not know how long Hesteco had operated the leased Ephrata facility, its size or its fate.

Hesteco was in the news last July when the U.S. Labor Department approved special benefits for 155 of its Elizabethtown workers. They qualified because they lost their jobs or had their workhours reduced by foreign competition.

*Lancaster New Era, February 26, 1992, page 43*



#### *Top Hat*

*This gentleman's top hat was probably made around 1830. The fabric is felted beaver, and the base of the crown is trimmed with a patterned black silk ribbon.*

*The inside lining is a caramel-colored fabric, embossed at the top with four dancing cherubs, a banner reading "Liberty," and an oval reserve. The reserve, outlined with foliage and flowers, contains the hatter's attribution in gold lettering: "D. BLENSINGER, REAMSTOWN."*

*David Blensinger (c1799-1860) was a Reamstown hatter from at least the early 1820's. His wife was Sarah Stoher. When David Blensinger made his will in 1849, he already described himself as weak in body. Blensinger was possibly poisoned in the course of his work. Hatmakers frequently suffered debilitating neurological symptoms, including headaches, tremors, delirium, and personality disorders, due to years of using mercuric nitrate to felt and cure animal fur. The expression "mad as a hatter" derives from these side effects of mercury exposure.*

*(Acquisitions Fund Purchase)*

SPECIAL THANKS to the following persons who made this exhibit possible.

- The Museum & Library Committee of HSCV
- Maureen Nichols, Committee member who spearheaded the project
- The Fichthorn Family (F & M Hat)
- The Reber Family (Hopeland Manufacturing)

### **ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

For further information on the textile industry in the Cocalico Valley please stop by the Historical Society of the Cocalico Valley (HSCV) library and speak with the librarian. The following books will also have more stories and pictures. All are available to view at the HSCV Library. Those marked with (\*) are also available for sale at HSCV.

HSCV (1984). *A Nostalgic Journey Through the Cocalico Valley*. Science Press.

\*HSCV (1993). *Sights, Scenes, Visions, and Dreams: Looking Back at Ephrata*.

\*Marquet, C. (2011). *Through the Years: Photographic Views of the Cocalico Valley*.

\*Marquet, C. (2008). *Transparences, Reflections, Light : Photographic Views of the Cocalico Valley*. Fulton Press.

Spohn, C. (2016). *Then and Now, A View of Ephrata Borough Through the Decades 1891-2016*.

Tshudy, J. (1982). *Turn of the Century View of Ephrata*.



**237 - 249 West Main Street, Ephrata, PA 17522**

**(717) 733-1616**

**[HSCV@cocalicovalleys.org](mailto:HSCV@cocalicovalleys.org)**