

A History of Mills in Farmington, Maine

Farmington Falls-above bridge

<i>Year</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Owner</i>	<i>Comments</i>
1788	Saw/grist	Francis Tufts (sold to E. Jones)	
1790		Ebenezer Jones bought ½ and soon after, Jonathan Knowlton bought the other ½.	The “Jones Mill” was not rebuilt after the 1820 freshet.
c.1795	fulling	Jonathan Russ	Russ sold to Jeremiah Stinchfield and Mr. Stanley. (Although the Masonic Bio (1900) states that Jonathon Russ’s son, Henry “operated for many years the grist mill at Farmington Falls).
1799		Jeremiah Stinchfield owns entire mill	Born in New Gloucester, Maine in 1774, as a young boy, Jeremiah spent several years in the fulling business at St. Albans. He settled in Farmington Falls before 1797.
1800	carding	Blake and Morrill	“built in the same space by Blake and Morrill.” David Morrill was a carpenter, joiner and brick mason. His home is still standing on the Chesterville side of the falls bridge (1 st house on the right with a fan over the front door).
1820	Saw	Thomas Chase ran the mill for F. Butler	Saw mill carried away by freshet. Grist mill destroyed by fire. (Saw mill built on the site of Stinchfield’s fulling mill and Morrill’s carding machine)
1821			Saw, grist, carding and fulling mills rebuilt after freshet.
1869	Pulp	Leonard Atwood	Franklin Mill-water poser was insufficient for the pulp mill. The equipment was sold to Hugh Chisolm who started IP in Liv. Falls.
MMN 28308 27501			

Spool Mill MMN:27453, 27516

Farmington Falls-below bridge

<i>Year</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Owner</i>	<i>Comments</i>
1802 MMN 27462	Saw/grist	Ebenezer Jones	"built at the foot of the canal. The mills were supplied with water by a canal from the dam at the head of the falls." Butler p. 260
1814			Grist mill carried away in freshet.
1820			Saw mill carried away by freshet. No further mills on this site. Butler
1833	Clover	Joseph Huse and Moses Craig	Later, machinery moved to Temple Stream near Craig's house

Farmington Falls-Chesterville Side

Year	Type	Owner	Comments
1869	saw	Thomas Williams	"owned a saw mill just above the bridge on the Chesterville side."

Farmington Falls-Ira Morse had a "large business making pottery" in the Falls (?1830's). (Masonic Bios-1900).

Between Farmington Falls and Farmington- Early 1800's, a tannery approx. 1 mile north of Farmington Falls (East side), near the "Gower farm," was bought by Joseph Knowlton. In 1886, John T. Taylor, born in Durham, NH. arrived in Farmington, purchasing the tannery from J. Knowlton, tanned sheepskins and later worked in "wool pulling." He learned the trade when 16 yrs. old at a tannery in Danvers, MA. He started with sheepskins. By 1899, there was little trace of the tannery.

Center Bridge Area

<i>Year</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Owner</i>	<i>Comments</i>
1785	tannery		1 st tannery, most likely in behind MacDonald's, Rite Aid (was part of Few Acres-now Notify MD)
	Saw	Sterns	
	Saw-steam	Erasmus Prescottt	East side of Center bridge
	Corn	B&M	(B&M operated 3 factories-Butler in Sesquicent.)
	Corn	? Prescottt	Located across from the Farmer's Union
1871	grist	Amos Fletcher	"near the depot" on Front St., a steam-mill for converting gypsum into fertilizer, and for grinding grists as well. It burned Aug. 1872
	Corn, beans, apples	Franklin Farm Produce (operated by Percy and then Richard Gould (d. 2008) until 1969/Collins Farm Products Co.	A cooperative located on the site of Rite Aide-former site of the Farmington diner, Irving gas station, MacDonald's

Allen Brook-N.E. part of town-1st fulling mill ? location-found reference to a John Allen at Backus corner-could be the brook by Brinkman's house (future tannery).

Fairbanks

<i>Year</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Owner</i>	<i>Comments</i>
1794	Grist	Jason Cony and Robert Jones	
1797	Saw mill added	Hartson Cony-brother to J. Cony	"started digging the canal upon upon which the present mills stand." Butler
1801		John Patterson	Mills burned soon after buying
1807 MMN 27445	Saw/grist	Joseph Fairbanks	Bought the remains and completed the canal. Joseph Jr., ran the mill for nearly 40 years.
1810	Carding/fulling	John and Eben Shaw	Just below dam. Carding mill ended in 1840 Also bought an interest in the first fulling mill at the Falls approx. 1804 which was owned by Enoch Wood and Luke Perkins of Winthrop. This mill was partially destroyed by fire under their ownership. (Masonic Bios-1900). Unable to determine if this is a different mill or one already named above.
1810	Tannery Bark	Luther Townsend	On the site of former Jason Cony's grist mill.
c. 1820?	Tannery	Elijah Butler	Later run by his son Winthrop Butler. The tannery was discontinued in 1835. Located 360 Fairbanks Rd. (across from the old Elsworth Crocker home)
1820			Freshet wiped out all mills
c.1830	Clover	Moses Craig/Joseph Huse	The machinery was moved to Temple Stream c. 1833.
1827			Freshet wiped out tannery-rebuilt.
1832	Tannery	Joshua Adams	Destroyed by fire and rebuilt
c. 1834	Tannery	H. Brooks/ A. Osgood	Sold to C. Hutchins(unknown date) and closed in 1870. Located just north of Paul (deceased)and Joan

			Brinkman's driveway.
1845	Saw/shingle	George Ranger Enoch Staples	
1842 MMN 27510 27511 28071	Saw	Hillman	Located at the end of Twigsnapper Road. This road connected the Ramsdel Road and Holley Road, prior to Rt. 27. The berms of the dam are still present (2008).
1871	Cheese	Sandy River Cheese Co.	Maine's first cheese factory.

Walton's Mill

Year	Type of Mill	owner	Comments
1781	saw	Reuben Colburn/Stephen Pullen	In 1782, a grist mill was added. The stones hauled from Winthrop in the winter of 1781. In 1785, a freshet destroyed the mills.
1790		Eaton and Starling	Rebuilt mills
?	carding	Capt. Abner Davis	Rebuilt-possibly after the 1820 freshet
1836		Butterfield and Witham	Rebuilt. In 1845, "It now has 4 run of stones, one of them Burr stones with a superior cleanser." Parker
1884	Grain threshing Rake maker	Amos Hobbs and Son	"Extensively engaged in making rakes and in the fall threshing grain." Butler p. 260
1884	saw	Joseph Gould	"250,000 feet of lumber are sawed yearly." Butler

West Farmington

	Corn	E.W. Marble	
	Creamery		The creamery house still stands (2008) along side the railroad bed. The train would stop to load the milk cans and bring the cream to the Turner Creamery
	Pottery	Norcross	
	Brick		"Brickyard Rd." is located off of Oak St.

Temple Stream/Russel's Mill

Year	Type	Owner	Comments
1825	Saw mill	Nathaniel Russell	
1827		Issac Russell owned upon Nathaniel's death	<p>Nathaniel sold to Issac Butterfield in 1844. The mill was destroyed in a freshet c. 1845. It evidently was rebuilt as it was sold to Charles Russell in 1853. Charles sold to James Libby in 1860. In 1870, Libby sold to Henry Priest of Liberty Maine. The mill was then converted into a manufactory of excelsior. In 1892, the mill was purchased by Charles Holley.</p> <p>Of interest, is the covered bridge at "Russell's Mills" spanning Temple Stream (formerly Starling or Davis Mill Stream). A truck crashed through the bridge in Sept. 1967. The fire dept. burned the bridge in April 1968 and the new bridge put into place.</p>
c. 1833	Clover	Moses Craig/Joseph Huse	In production for several years. (?Clover Mill Road)

Farmington, Other

Year	Type	Owner	Comments
	Corn, beans, apples	J.W. Pratt	
	Corn-golden bantam	E.R. Weathern & Sons	Located on the Whittier Road, just before the high school on the left. Colonial house, now the home of the Pillsbury's.
1870 MMN 28076	Tannery	J.P. Thwing	Located approx. between 192-204 Perham St., Run by steam power. 1874 J.P. Thwing owned the house on the corner of Court and Fountain, later the home of Harold A. Titcomb "Green Acres." Now the home of Jan and Ellen Roberts.
	Brickyard	Belcher	
	Door, sash and blind		Located near the UMF amphitheatre
1884 MNN 27506	Box , wooden handles	Russel Estes and Sons Box Co.	Located where the Margaret Chase Smith Apts. Are (2008). The train tracks crossed in front of the building. Employed 150 people in
	Corn		Located just north of Edgewood Manor nursing home. (Just beyond is the former site of Toy Factory which became Maine Dowel Co. This building came down in 2005). The corn canning building is in poor repair are still present close to the road.