

The Totoket Historical Society, Inc.

REVISED

STUDY OF NORTHFORD - NORTH BRANFORD INDUSTRIAL SITES

(Rev. February, 1973)

- N.B. 1. Throughout this text the writer's comments are denoted by the use of brackets followed by an asterisk.
2. Numbers 1 through 37 refer to site numbers on the attached map.

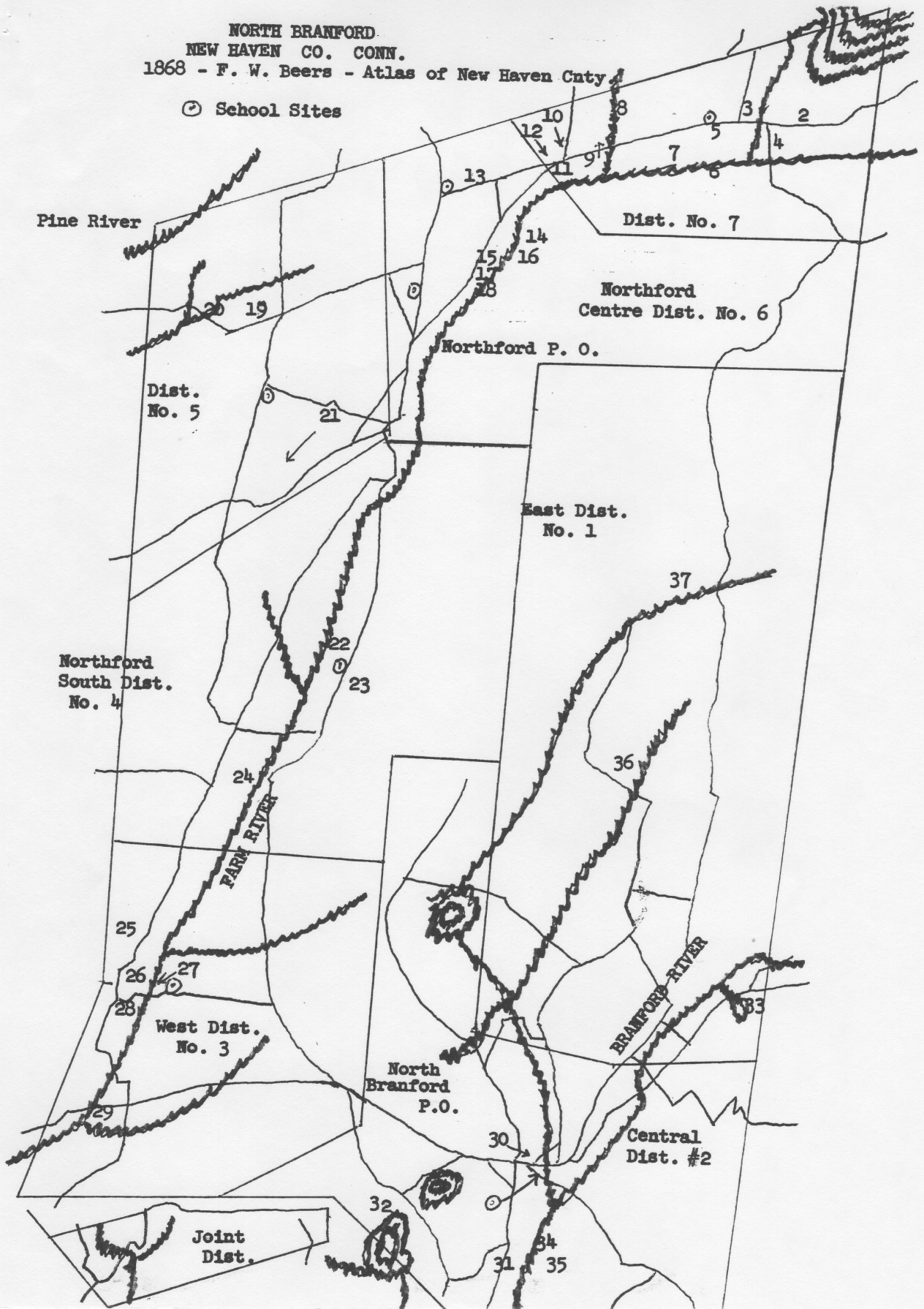
G. S. Miller Northford

References

1. Chandler, George B., History of Connecticut, Vol. IV., ed. by Norris Galpin Osborn (The States History Company, New York) 1925.
2. Cook, George W. My Recollections of Northford, 1935.
3. May, Earl Chapman, Century of Silver (Robert M. McBride And Co. New York) 1947
4. Rockey, J. L., ed. History of New Haven County, Vol. 2. (W. Preston CO., New York) 1892
5. Maps :
 - a) Beers, F. W., New Haven County, Connecticut, Atlas of 1868.
 - b) Blodgett, William, Connecticut, New & Correct Map of, One of the United states of America. 1792.
 - c) Conn. State Highway Dept., Right of Way Map #728. July 30, 1929.
 - d) New Haven County, Map of 1852.
6. Price List, Northford Manufacturing Company. Beinecke Library, Yale University, Call Number UAI/N 815 n.d.
7. Advertisement. Smith & Cowles "Self Operating Horse Hay Rake." 1861.

NORTH BRANFORD
NEW HAVEN CO. CONN.
1868 - F. W. Beers - Atlas of New Haven Cnty

⊙ School Sites



1. [Robert Coe offers information in 1964 that this location provided the only grey lime this side of Pennsylvania and that the plaster for the ceilings of Guilford's "Old Stone House." was made from this lime, probably subsequent to initial construction date of that house. Some old machinery is reported still visible at the location]*
2. Toll Gate, Ref. #2.
3. A) Saw Mill. Ref. #5b.
B) Grist Mill, Ref. #5b.
"Thelus Todd lived next, a good farmer, and owned the Grist Mill. His, son Milo ran the mill for a time and had a good business. Farmers raised much grain in those day... Mr. Todd brought in from northern New York state many cattle in the fall of the year and it took 21 days to drive them through. Farmers brought them to feed their hay." Ref. #2.
C) Paper Mill. Ref. #5a.
"During the. Civil War, straw paper which was used for wrapping everything was very profitable to manufacture, so Milo Todd built a large building and installed expensive machinery only to find he did not have water power enough to run it, so he traded with D. S. Stevens for his property in Quinnipiac and the Stevens family came to Northford. He had a nice family of girls and boys, also a spoon business which employed 30 people." Ref. #2.
4. Saw Mill, Ref. #5a.
5. Button FY., Ref. #5d.
6. Mill Site. [The heirs of Mrs. Charles A. Simpson have an oil painting done by Wilford Linsly (1849-1900) of an old mill that supposedly stood at a site on Farm River two miles north from the center of Northford]*
7. Sol's Path. [At this location are remnants of a large and primitive system of earth works. certainly used for the control of water. There is no known written reference to these works. Nearby, however. is a very large spring about which the owners have found numerous Indian artifacts. This gives some credance to the belief that this location may have been the earliest area occupied by settlers in this immediate area. The earth works must be attributed to the settlers. During the turn of the century, cider was made at this site]*

8. Saw Mill. [A painting of Dea , William ff'altby's reciprocating saw mill, done by Wilford Linsly (1849-1900) is owned by the heirs of Mrs. Charles A. Simpson.]*
 "On the 17th of December, 1854, his hip was dislocated by a fall over the drum of the water wheel of a saw mill, which precipitated him a great distance and badly injured him, but after a year he recovered." Ref. #4.
9. Tucker's BLSS. Ref. #5d.
 "Willis Tucker had a blacksmith shop and when you went to get a horse shod the first thing he had to do was to make the nails to shoe him with, but about this time, 1862, I think, Thadeous Fowler who lived where Mr. McNamara now lives, invented the Fowler horse shoe nail [See #15 A below* made by machinery, and the same nail is made today under the name of the Capewell horse shoe nail." Ref. #2.
10. A) Wooden Buttons.
 "Jonathan Fowler lived in a big house on the corner afterwards owned by John Wood. He had a button shop in the rear where he made wooden buttons." Ref. #2.
 B) B. S. Sh., Ref. #5a. [This blacksmith shop was presumably run by John Wood.]*
11. Millers Hotel, Ref. #5d.
12. Tannery. Ref. #5d.
 "Next came Jacob Harrison who had a tannery." Ref. #2.
13. Store.
 "The first store in Northford was kept by Lorenzo Harrison in the house on the hill where Cecerrelli now lives." Ref. #2.
14. Grist Mill. Ref. North Branford Town Records, Vol. 1-469.
 Julius and Milinda Maltby to Samuel Maltby "All rights title, etc. in 1/4 pt. of a grist mill standing on Stony River so called near the Middletown and New Haven Turnpike road a little Westerly of the ten mile stone in Northford, together with all its priveleges, etc. Sept. 4, 1827." Recorded June 24, 1836.
 [It is assumed that this reference pertains to the "Old Dam" at the head of the former Brush Shop Pond and is the same one exposed during the 1970 spring wash out of the "Big Dam." This "old dam" was constructed of heavy logs and planks.]*

15. [The details of this site, as well as that of #17 warrant considerable attention and confirmation. The large dam at this site was probably built about mid 19th century. It was washed out about 1926 and rebuilt by Mr. Joseph Bianchi. Again it was washed out in the spring of 1970. Photographs taken about 1920 are in the Totoket Societies' photo file.]*

A) Maltby Fowler made the first four-wheel vehicle in the state. Subsequently he made buttons of bone, ivory, bone and wood , keeping four pedlar's carts on the road, combs, spoons, gimlets and pens were later added. His six sons were William, George, DeGrasse, Horace, Frederick and Thadeus. Ref. #1 & #4.

"The development of pin manufacturing, centering in the Naugatuck Valley and Winsted, is due to incentive genius, coupled with the presence in this vicinity of the brass and wire industry. until 1800 the manufacture of pins was peculiarly difficult. The head was made of coiled wire and fabricated separately from the shaft, the manufacture of the couplet pin requiring eighteen separate operations. In the Colonies particularly, pins were costly articles, being almost entirely imported - as indeed they continued to be until about 1830. At the time of the Revolution pins were sold for 7 shilling 6 pence a dozen, and at even earlier dates there were mentioned in will and inventories "a paper of pinnes" along with other personal belongings.

There is a record of the manufacture of pins in Rhode Island, and it is said that even solid-headed pins were made on a small scale in Providence by the time of the Revolution. In 1775 Leonard Chester of Wethersfield, asked the aid of the Legislature to erect a pin factory in that town, but the project was abandoned. A few years later the eccentric Apollos Kinsley, inventor of many remarkable machines, both practical and impractical, produced a device for making pins which was evidently unsuccessful.

In 1824 a machine was invented to make solid lead pins by driving part of the pin into a countersunk hole, a notable advance over the wire head pin. Samuel Wright, an American, invented the machine in England, and in a short time only solid-headed pins were being made in either country. In 1831, however, Dr. John Ireland Howe of Bellevue Hospital, New York, invented a machine which would make a pin in one operation, adding improvements to his invention during the next ten years. During the same period two other inventors were successful with the same problem - Slocum & Jellson of Poughkeepsie, New York, and the Fowler Brothers of Northford, Connecticut.

Of these, the Fowler machine was undoubtedly the best.

The inventiveness of the Fowler family, marked through several generations is noteworthy. One Maltby Fowler, who settled in Northford, made the first four-wheel vehicle built in the State. Subsequently he left his coppering trade and began the manufacture of the inevitable buttons of bone, ivory, horn, and wood, keeping four peddlers' carts on the road. Pocket combs and other trifles were later added. Of Maltby Fowler's twelve children, all showed mechanical ingenuity; and two, DeGrasse and Thaddeus, produced astonishingly varied inventions, including a press for perforating tin, a machine for drawing out brass tubing, a screw machine which turned out 6,000 screws per minute, cigar and cigarette making machines which are still in use, a washing machine and a power press which was manufactured for many years in Middletown, the Fowler horse-nail machinery, a reaper and binder and other smaller or less successful inventions.

But the most important of this connection, however, are the contributions to pin machinery. Horace Fowler is said to have left a set of dies laid away in the drawer of a tool chest, and from them after his death his son developed the principle of the machine for the production of solid-head pins which was used by them successfully for a considerable time. But the industry finally gravitated to the Naugatuck Valley, when the entire business was later sold to Brown & Elton and moved to Waterbury. In the meantime Dr. Howe, requiring skilled mechanics and urged by Anson Phelps, had also located his enterprise in Derby.

After the solution of the problem of the production of a pin with a satisfactory head made by one process, there remained the further problem of the production of a pin-sticking machine. The success of such a machine was vital to the industry. The tedious process of inserting the pins in paper constituted a large part of the cost of the articles. When Dr. Howe, working with Slocum & Jellson of Poughkeepsie, perfected a pin-sticking machine, these makers secured a great advantage over the Fowlers. Later, Thaddeus Fowler invented three machines of this character, but unfortunately too late for employment in the Fowler factory. These machines gave to the United States control of the pin industry. Without them 90 packs had been filled by 60 female-operatives in one day - an aggregate of about 300,000 pins. With them, one woman may pour into a hopper gallons of pins which come out neatly arranged on paper -- "a mystery to all save the inventor and no one but the operator is ever permitted to enter the room." The Howe Manufacturing Company carried on a large and profitable business in Derby until 1908, when it was brought out by Plume & Atwood." Ref. #1.

"Thaddeus Fowler of the Northford Fowler's brought joy to the nation's blacksmiths and horse owners by inventing the Fowler horse shoe nail made by machinery instead of by hammer and anvil." Ref. #3.

- B) 1850 "Chapman Maltby owned the brick shop and made axe handles; the first wheel horse rake was invented here. [See item C below]* He made the first desicated cocoanut~ the-meat was taken out, grated and sweetened, kiln dried and put up in packages as it is today. At first they did not save the shells, but later they polished them and put on a wooden handle and made a useful dipper." Ref. #2.

[Mr. & Mrs. Robert Bennitt own wooden and metal boxes in which the desicated cocoanut was packed. The Totoket Historical Society has recovered the following items from the site: 32" unused axe handle, semi-finished gun stock, part of a wooden flail, two apparently wooden covers, several wooden dippers are owned by town residents. Buttons and spoons are also attributed to having been made by E. Chapman Maltby. His dippers were sold in New Haven at:

"Britannia Rimmed @\$3.75/doz.
Plain Dippers @\$3.50!doz."]

"Chapman Maltby proved he had a good idea when he sawed the top of a cocoanut shell, polished it, added a fancy metal rim, attached a neat wooden handle and sold it at a small but fair profit to almost everyone who had a well or needed a dipper.

His brick shop for making axe handles, other tools and buttons was expanded into a brick factory." Ref. #3.

"George Scranton, Sr. who served Chapman Maltby as carpenter, wheelwright and handyman, suggested that, instead of allowing the putrifying cocoanut to rot and despoil the air, it be dried, cut up and sold as food. The Maltby kitchen became a 19th Century research department, laboratory and conference room. Successful results brought the attention of New York interpreneurs, one of whom began selling under a label very similar to Chapman's. Father, Julius Maltby, forbade his son to engage in legal proceedings. Twenty six years after Chapman Maltby had launched his shredded cocoanut on the national market it won a first prize at Phila-delphia's 1876 Centennial... But Northford might have been today the 'shredded cocoanut capital of the world if Grandfather Julius and son Chapman Maltby had not been content to net a mere \$100 a day by manufacturing shredded cocoanut in a conservative small town way." Ref. #3.

c) 1861. [In this year "Smith & Cowles" patented a self-operating horse hay rake. Ref. :#7. Several castings have been recovered by the Totoket Historical Society which might be attributed to this operation. Smith & Cowles, also, apparently continued E. Chapman Maltby's dipper business. Mr. Smith's daughter, Clara Smith, donated money for the construction of the Edward Smith Library.]*

. D) 1870's.

"David Steven's son, Elizur Seneca Stevens, had two brothers, David S. Stevens, *Jr.* and Henry M. Stevens, who at Northford had made a good living printing distinguished cards for business men since 1877. With a flair for the artistic and for mass psychology, they had successfully experimented with valentines and "sparking" cards. The latter carried sentimental messages for bashful swains to thrust into the hands of blushing maidens. The Stevens brothers found an ardent public awaiting those particular areas.

During 1871 they experimented with highly ornamental Christmas cards carrying appropriate messages - and a major industry was born in Northford. The Stevens brothers of Northford with their great walrus mustaches were nationally known for the Christmas cards. At the beginning of the "gay nineties," Christmas cards bore out the spirit of the era. All Northford devoted itself to concocting fancy cards. Families worked over the cards around their dinner tables. Youngsters pasted scraps on the cards and young and old cut out fringes right and left. The more elaborate the card, the more it cost, the better - and to receive a trimmed card was a sure sign of popularity.

The Stevens Brothers' printing plant was so swamped with business that an increased number of employees labored all the year round ---- they were faced with the fact that twenty-five Christmas card competitors had opened their factories in Northford, Connecticut. For nearly a decade Northford was renowned as the Christmas card center of the world." Ref. #3.

[In August of 1870 the New Haven-Middletown section of the "air line" rail was opened for operation through Clintonville, two miles away. From 1851 to 1867 Northford had felt certain the tracks would go through town, but in the latter year, the town's industry was doomed when the right of way by-passed the community.]*

E) 1929. New Haven Brush Co. Ref. Ref. #5c

16. The Northford Creamery Company. [The accounts of T. A. Smith Treasurer, are recorded in "The Milk Producers Accounts" of September 24, 1884 through October 1888, owned by Mrs. William D. Carter.
A photograph of the Creamery is in the Totoket Society's photo file.]*
17. A) Paug Manufacturing Company. /The following shares of Capital Stock, valued at \$25 are recorded in a stock certificate book owned by Mrs. William D. Carter.]*
- Cert. #1 for One Hundred & Twenty Shares on ___
to Samuel Maltby.
- Cert. #2 for Forty Shares on November 22, 1855 to O. E. Maltby.
- Cert. #3 for Twenty Shares on Dec. 22. 1855 to Julius Maltby.
- Cert. #4 for Twenty Shares on Nov. 22, 1855 to DeGrasse Maltby.
- Cert. #5 for Eight Shares on ___ ? ___ to E. C. Maltby -.
- Cert. #6 for Ten Shares on Nov. 20, 1855 to William Maltby.
- Cert. #7 for Ten Shares on Nov. 19, 1855 to Henry Maltby Jr.
- Cert. #8 for Twelve Shares on May 3, 1855 to Reuben Augur.
- Cert. #9 for Eight Shares on ___ ?_ to Henry Maltby.
- Cert. #10 for Twenty Shares on ___? ___
to Thomas A. Smith.
[Cert. #10 signed by T. A. Smith, President and Oscar A. Fowler, Secretary, has not been removed from the book]*
- Cert. #11 for Four Shares on Nov. 23. 1855 to F. C. Bartholomew.
- Cert. #12 for Four Shares on Nov. 10, 1855 to Carlos Smith.
[Not removed from the bok]*
- Cert. #13 for Eight Shares on Sept. 10, 1855 to Mrs. Lydia C. Hull.
- Cert. #14. [Stub is missing.]*
- Cert. #15 for Ten Shares on Dec. 1855,
to George Walker.
- Cert. #16 for Six Shares on Jan. 14, 1856 to Langdon Harrison.

Cert. #17 for Sixteen Shares on ? to Lorenzo E. Harrison.

[Signed by T. A. Smith, President and
not removed from the book]*

Cert. ,#18. /Stub is missing]*

Cert. #19 for Eight Shares on Dec. 15, 1855 to Philander Cook

Cert. #20 for Twelve Shares on Jan. 15, 1856 to Ellison Smith

Certs. #21, 22, 23, 24. [Stubs are missing]*

[Stock Transfers recorded in the same book are:]* #1 Ruben N.

Augur, twelve shares to

E. Shapman Maltby, Feb. 29, 1856.

#(?) Henry A. Cook, four shares to

Rueban N. Augur. Esq., March 10, 1856.

#(?) Henry A. Cook, four shares to

Oscar A. Fowler, March 10, 1856.

[Note: Company certification still in
-book and not signed].

#(?) Henry Maltby, eight shares to

Henry Maltby, Jr., December 12, 1856.

#(?) E. C. Maltby, twelve shares to Julius Maltby, January 1,
1857.

#(?) Edward Smith, four shares to

Sidney Cowles, November 15, 1858.

[Notes Company certification still in
-book and not signed]*

#(?) R. N. Augur, four shares to Carlos Smith, March 29, 1959

B) Fox Button Fy. Ref. #5d. [Referred to on that map as S.
Maltby's.]*

C) Northford Hook & Eye Company.

"The Fowlers and Bartholomews, as the Northford Hook &
Eye Company, made those articles several years, and
later manufactured rivets, but sold the machinery to
parties in Chicago." Ref. #4.

"Pins and hooks & eyes were put on cards by women and
children. They were sent to their homes and if they had
nimble fingers and by working fast they could earn from
six to twelve cents per day." Ref. #2.

18. Northford Manufacturing Company.

"Frederick Fowler invented a machine for rolling brass lamp and household goods, and in company with F. C. Bartholomew, Isaac H. Bartholomew and others, formed the Northford Manufacturing Company, which was organized in April, 1854. They occupied large shops, supplementing the water power with steam, and successfully operated about thirty years. Large quantities of tin, japanned and household goods were manufactured and shipped to all parts of the country. Operations were last carried on by F. C. Bartholomew, but for several years the shops have been idle." Ref. #4.

"The tin shop employed twenty five or thirty hands and made pails and pans, cake boxes, cash boxes and every thing in that line." Ref #2.

"NORTHFORD MANUFACTURING COMPANY PRICE LIST

This is a paper-bound pamphlet in the Beinecke Library, Yale University, located in the University Library Card Catalogue by Mrs. Frederick A. Davis and examined by the undersigned on February 10, 1971. Its library call number is Uai N 815 n.d.

It is a pamphlet of about 4 in. by 7 in. bound in a black paper with gilt lettering. There are 24 pages within: a titlepage, blank verso of titlepage, pages numbered 3 through 18 printed with data on articles for sale, and each page surrounded with a double-line border; followed by six blank and unnumbered pages but with the same bordering lines.

In the descriptions below, a slant line (/) indicates a break from one line of printing to the next.

The Cover reads as follows: PRICE LIST / OF THE / NORTHFORD MANUF'G / COMPANY, / NORTHFORD, CONN.

The Titlepage reads as follows, NORTHFORD MANUFACTURING CO., / MANUFACTURERS OF AND DEALERS IN / PLAIN AND FANCY JAPANNED / AND / PRESSED TIN WARE, / LAMP SCREWS AND HOOPS / TINNED AND BLACK IRON RIVETS, / CASH BOX LOCKS, / CANDLESTICK SPRINGS, ? OILER SCREWS AND HOOPS, &c., &c. / NORTHFORD, NEW HAVEN COUNTY, CONN. / NEW HAVEN: / Tuttle, Morehouse & Taylor, Printers, 221 State Street.

Each of the following printed pages lists various articles with their prices to be added in ink in ruled columns at the right. The name of each article is printed in bold-face type; below it are listed the various styles (Fancy, Gilt, Plain) or the sizes by numbers (No. 1, No.2, No.3, etc.)

or sizes by inch-measurements, sometimes by a combination of styles and sizes. Each entry also indicates that the price will be given on a "per Dozen" basis. But the only items for which actual prices are printed are the rivets on page 18, for which it would appear that the Northford Manufacturing Company acted as a sales agent for another company, the Northford Rivet Company.

Page 3 lists the following articles under a heading apparently intended for all of pages 3 through 17 of "Japanned Ware": Cake Boxes (square) in nests of 3, in three numbered sizes. Trunks, 5 in a nest with brass handles, 5 in a nest with Wire handles, and 3 in a nest with wire handles. Dressing cases, 11½ inch and 10½ inch sizes. Knife Trays, square & cornered; or round.

Page 4 lists Deed Boxes (with Hasp) 5 sizes; small (with lock) 5 sizes. Foot Tubs, two sizes, each available in Fancy, Gilt, or Plain, Cash Boxes six sizes ranging from 13½ in. down to 7½ in.

Page 5: Cash Box Trays six sizes, ranging from 13½ in. down to 7½ in. Water Carriers in Fancy, Gilt, or Plain styles. Sugar Boxes, Nos. 1-6, and Nos. 7 and 8 indicated as for Cake; also nests of 3, 4, 6, or 8, in indicated combinations of sizes.

Items on the following pages are here listed by name only, without indications of sizes, styles, etc.:

Page 6: Chamber Pails, Tumblers, Water Pails, Toilet Ware in sets (Fancy, Gilt, or Plain).

Page 7: Toilet Jars, Tumbler Drainers, Spice Boxes, Spoon and Fork Boxes.

Page 8: Pepper Boxes, Canisters, Dust Pans, Nurse Cans.

Page 9. Molasses Cups, Fancy Covered Pails, Match Safes, Spittoons.

Page 10. Candlesticks, Graters, Gravy Strainers, Toy Cups.

Page II: Rattles and Whistles, Toy Pails, Chambers, Toy Buckets, Savings Banks.

Page 12: Toy Coffee Pots, Toy Trunks, Flower Boxes, Tin Oilers. Sundries (these are listed as Comb Cases, Spit Cups, Sugar Bowls, Canopies, Candle Moulds, Candle Mould Tips, Candle Mould Tubes).

Page 13: Perforated Tin, Grater Blanks, A B C Plates, Pail Covers.

Page 14: Dining Plates, Soup Plates, Pie Plates, Coffee Pot Covers.

Page 15: Patties, Scollops, Washington Cake Pans, Wash Bowl Bottoms.

Page 16: Milk Skimmers, Candlestick Tops, Candlestick Springs, Tea Kettle Breasts Covers.

Page 17: Oil Lamp Screws and Hooks; Pot Covers (26 sizes listed, ranging from 7¼ inches up to 13½ inches).

Page .18s NORTHFORD RIVET COMPANY'S / RIVETS / Patent Finish -- Warranted. / Iron, black, 18 sizes ranging from 8 oz. @ 40¢ per M. to 14 lb. @ 3.60 per M. Iron, tinned, 14 sizes ranging from 8 oz. ~ 48¢ per M. to 7 lb. @ 2.75 per M. At the bottom right the word "Discount." [See pg.8, #c]*

NOTE. Not including the rivets listed on page 18, I count 64 categories of Japanned Tinware entered on this price list. It is much to be regretted that the Price List is undated and that the company sales manager did not enter the prices of any of the articles (other than rivets) offered for sale. Yet the price list does indicate the wide variety of products handled by this Northford company. Leonard W. Labaree." Ref. #6.

19. "Oak Elbows". Elbows for ships are supposed to have been made by Benjamin Johnson who used 40 yoke of oxen.]*
20. BL. S. S. Ref. #5d. [Indicates possible ownership by W. Baldwin]*
21. A Brown Stone Quarry was operated here before 1850 by Dan Jones. The stones for the Northford Congregational Church, the Northford Cemetery and many house foundations came from this site.]*
22. L. Blakesly & Sons, Ref. #5d.
23. Bunnell & Co., Ref. #5d.

24. A) Saw Mill, Ref. #5b and #5d.

"Foot Sawmill and Other Industry Sites - Old Forest Road Sawmill:
 1707-1875: Fulling Mill: 1776-1828 Carding House: 1829-1853 Dye
 House: 1776-1830 Clothier's Shop adjoining: 1776-1829
 Cider Mill: 1742-1784 Smoke House: 1776-1784

In 1707 Joseph Foote agreed with his brother Isaac to share in building a mill on the 'Stoney River' on the land inherited in 1692 from their father's estate in the 3rd Division of Branford lands. Presumably they promptly set to work as the house now lived in by the Livingstons, which was built by Joseph Foote, must have built shortly thereafter, and some of its huge beams are sawed, unusual in that period.

Nothing of the sawmill but the sluice-way and massive stone foundations remain. The mill building was still standing in the early 1900's. By 1852 the dam and mill were 'out of repair and not in running order', but were revived and in 1953 it was called the 'Lower End Saw Mill Co.' The dam was in a natural narrow place and was originally wide enough for carts to pass across the top.

For many years there was a fulling mill for processing wool cloth, as well as a clothier's shop and dye house. The first mention of the fulling mill is in land records for 1776. A 1792 map gives the fulling mill as north of the sawmill, but the Augur Genealogy of 1904 gives the site as south of the west end of the dam, opposite the sawmill. One of the part owners of both the saw and fulling mills in 1799 was Calvin Mansfield who kept a diary in the early 1800's. Among the entries are notes of damages due and paid, the dates he began to full cloth (the pond could only be flooded from October 1 to May 1), and a sad entry for February 1, 1821 - 'My Dam went away'. After 1829 there is no further mention of the fulling mill but a carding house appears, perhaps using the same building, existing until 1853.

No one person ever owned the mills. They were divided into shares, sometimes two to four, and from about 1816 there were up to sixteen shareholders, and tracing the fractional ownership is practically impossible.

A 'cyder mill' existed from 1742 to 1784 and a 'smoak house', 1776-1784. Within the last hundred years there was an icehouse on the millpond (foundations still visible), and on the east side of the road in long-gone buildings there were at different times a hardware shop and an abattoir.

These dates have been taken almost entirely from land records, and therefore all the mills probably existed longer. /s/ Elizabeth A. Livingston, March 1973."

B) Fulling Mill .•

"In the Connecticut Journal of November 25th, 1801, appeared the following advertisement of a fulling mill in this town:

John Maltby

Informs his Customers and others, as water is scarce among the Clothiers, he has a good supply of water, and dresses cloth in the neatest order, that he is in want of what is called Cash, for which he will dress cloth on the shortest notice.

He lives in Northford, a place called Pog.

North from Branford, along as you'd Jog."

"Two years before this, Calvin Mansfield, who had removed from Northford to North Haven, advertised a new mill there. John Maltby, who had bought the old works at Branford, writes, 'Messrs. Printers, I saw in your paper, No. 1665, a pompous advertisement of one Calvin Mansfield, of North Haven, setting forth a plurality of clothiers' works. That gentleman seemeth to be very fond of showing his name in the public prints. I believe he never owned clothier's works anywhere; I am certain that the clothier's shop and tools which he advertises for sale is not his, but the property of the subscriber, and it is not for sale. I should not have noticed the imposition so much as to put pen to paper had I been alone concerned. But this trouble I give myself to undeceive the public. John Maltby, Northford, in Branford, Oct. 1st, 1799."

"This letter called out Mansfield's reply, which is a specimen of the amenities of discussion then prevailing: 'Messrs. Printers: If my optics did not fail I saw in your Journal No. 1666, a scurvy publication of a certain John Maltby, of Northford. This Maltby, I fancy, thinks it's a pretty novelty to publish his name also, and that in opposition to his betters; -- children and fools have sometimes doubtless spoken the truth, but Maltby appears to me an exception to this general rule. I shall not enlarge, but observe simply that the clothier's works which I advertised in your paper, No. 1665, are in fact Foote's and my property, and for sale within an indisputable title. The public will need no further conviction than to come and see the records and the subscriber. I shall not make another reply to any stuff of Maltby's, but subscribe myself the public's most obedient servant, Calvin Mansfield, North Haven, Oct. 7th, 1799."

"Mansfield was eccentric, but had a genius for invention, and his sons, Sherlock and Hiram, were pioneer manufacturers of wooden buttons and combs near the village of Northford. John Maltby also carried on a large cooperage, the products being carted to Fair Haven. The clothing works were last operated by Henry De Wolf, and the site is now used by William M. Foote for the manufacture of carriage wood parts." Ref. #4.

25. Brockett & Foote, Ref. #5d.
26. A) Grist Mill, Ref. #5b. [The Records of State of Connecticut, 1782, Vol. IV, pp. 201-202, re "Grist Mill and Mill Place in Society of North Branford owned by Thomas Rogers" (May 1782).]
- "On Farm River at Bare Plain, the Rogers Mills have been operated the best part of 200 years. Samuel A. Rogers was the last of that family to own them. The proprietor since 1880 being Charles Page." Ref. #4.
- B) Saw Mill, Ref. #5b.
27. G. N. S. E., J. Robinson, Ref. #5d~
28. B. S. Sh., Ref. #5d.
29. B. S. Sh., Ref. #5d.
30. B. S. Sh., Ref #5d.
31. A) B. S. Sh., Ref. #5d.
- B) Linsley's Axe Manuf. Ref. #5a.
- "Edward A. Linsley had a small forgershop in the southwestern part of the town, where he wrought axes. of a good quality." Ref. #4
33. Axe Helve Fact. Ref. #5a
34. Grist Mill. Ref # 5b
35. Saw Mill. Ref #5b
36. Saw Mill. Ref #5a
37. Saw Mill. Ref #5a

Note 1. " lumber mills were run by Joshua Rose, Charles Todd, the Partridge family and the Foote family. At the latter site Samuel Foote had a carding mill, in which members of the Lindsley family were also interested. A small grist mill, by Samuel Foote, is now kept at that place. At the next site below the milling interests wer controlled by Alden A. Hill, who was largely engaged in getting out ship timbers for the builders at Fair Haven." Ref. #4.

"Comments by Lewellyn Burr - lifelong North Branford resident, on industries in North Branford, October 8, 1970.

Northford Historical Society tea for teachers.

Probably your first impression if you look back at the town would be that it was a strictly farming community, which wasn't entirely correct.

It's true that we had nothing to compare with Trap Rock. You had no shopping centers like you have today, but throughout the town you had various small industries, probably operated by an individual or a family. I was asked especially to note the saw mills and grist mills and that sort of industry.

The first record I've been able to find of any saw mill in the town of North Branford was in August, 1697, and that was operated by a Samuel Hoadley by permission granted for a saw mill on Stoney River which today is known as Farm River. [Possibly either site #4, 6 or 14.]* Stipulated in the grant was that he could sell boards at not over five shillings per board or he could not take more than half of the log for sawing; that was in his grant.

In 1734, Edward Petty set up both a saw mill and fulling mill on Branford River not far from the center. [Probably sites #34 & #35.]* A fulling mill was where they cleaned and thickened cloth. Thicken compares favorably with what you might call sizing today.

Well over 200 years ago Samuel Rogers opened a saw mill which was later known as Pages' saw mill on Mill Road, [Site #26]* by Pages' pond, so called. It was taken over in 1880 by Charles Page.

A saw mill was more or less a winter proposition in this way: the farmers would wait for a sledding snow where they could get their horses and sleds into the woods and they could load on the big logs and take them up to the mill. I've seen