



MADE IN TOMPKINS COUNTY

A TIMELINE OF LOCAL ENTERPRISE

Tompkins County is well known for its educational institutions. What is less known is its rich industrial history. From its earliest days it has been the home of inventors and entrepreneurs - people who laid the commercial foundation of a prosperous community. From grist mills to high tech, local enterprise has encompassed world renowned guns, iron bridges, calendar clocks, steam engines, drive chains, and much more. This broad survey takes a look at the long sweep of enterprise in Tompkins County, from its earliest days to the 21st century.

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THE HISTORY CENTER WOULD LIKE TO THANK SPONSOR FOR THE GENEROUS SUPPORT

TOMPKINS COUNTY
THE HISTORY CENTER
Local history. Local pride.



1830 **WHEEL OAK COMPANY**

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1830 **WHEEL OAK COMPANY**

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W. S. Wilson sets Rules at Book Bazaar Prices.
Business Book Transactions
 226

CHARLES H. HILLICK'S
University Book Bindery

BLANK BOOK MANUFACTORY,
 14 & 16 SOUTH TIOGA ST.

Book of Publications 1884, p. 23

1900 **REED AND MONTGOMERY BICYCLE**

...

1887 **CRANDALL MACHINE COMPANY**

CRANDALL TYPEWRITER

...

1883 **ITHACA GUN COMPANY**

...

1900 **CORNELL INCUBATOR MANUFACTURING COMPANY**

...

THE EARLIEST DAYS

The first essential for industrial development is power. Tompkins County's varied topography offered the early settlers ample water power for the establishment of mills along our swiftly flowing creeks. Sawmills and gristmills were soon followed by factories that produced such things as cotton and fine furniture, all powered by the water that flowed into Cayuga Lake.

The first recorded mill in Tompkins County was established on Cascadilla Creek by Jacob Yapple ca. 1790-1800.



n.d. (R20.137)

The **Fall Creek Milling Company** was established in about 1830 and produced some of the best grades of flour in Tompkins County. It prospered until the 20th century.



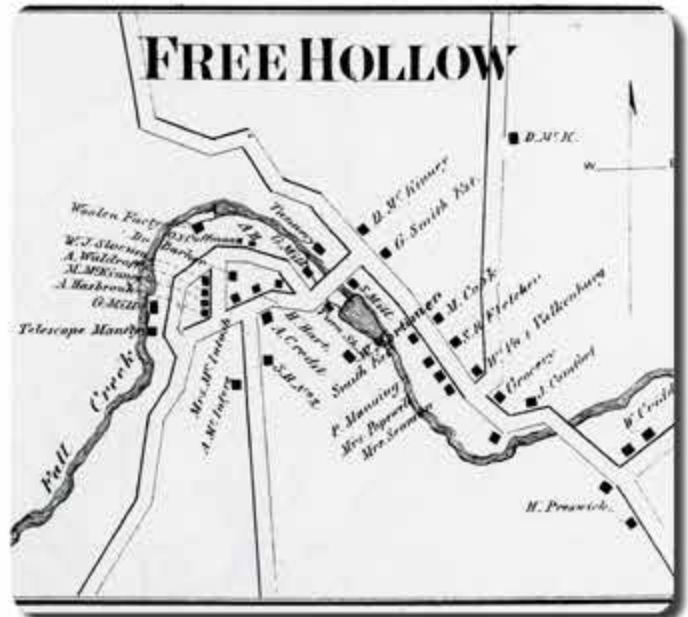
ca. 1865 (SIV - 00812)

Ithaca Falls provided power for several mills in Ithaca's early industrial days.



n.d. (R20.128)

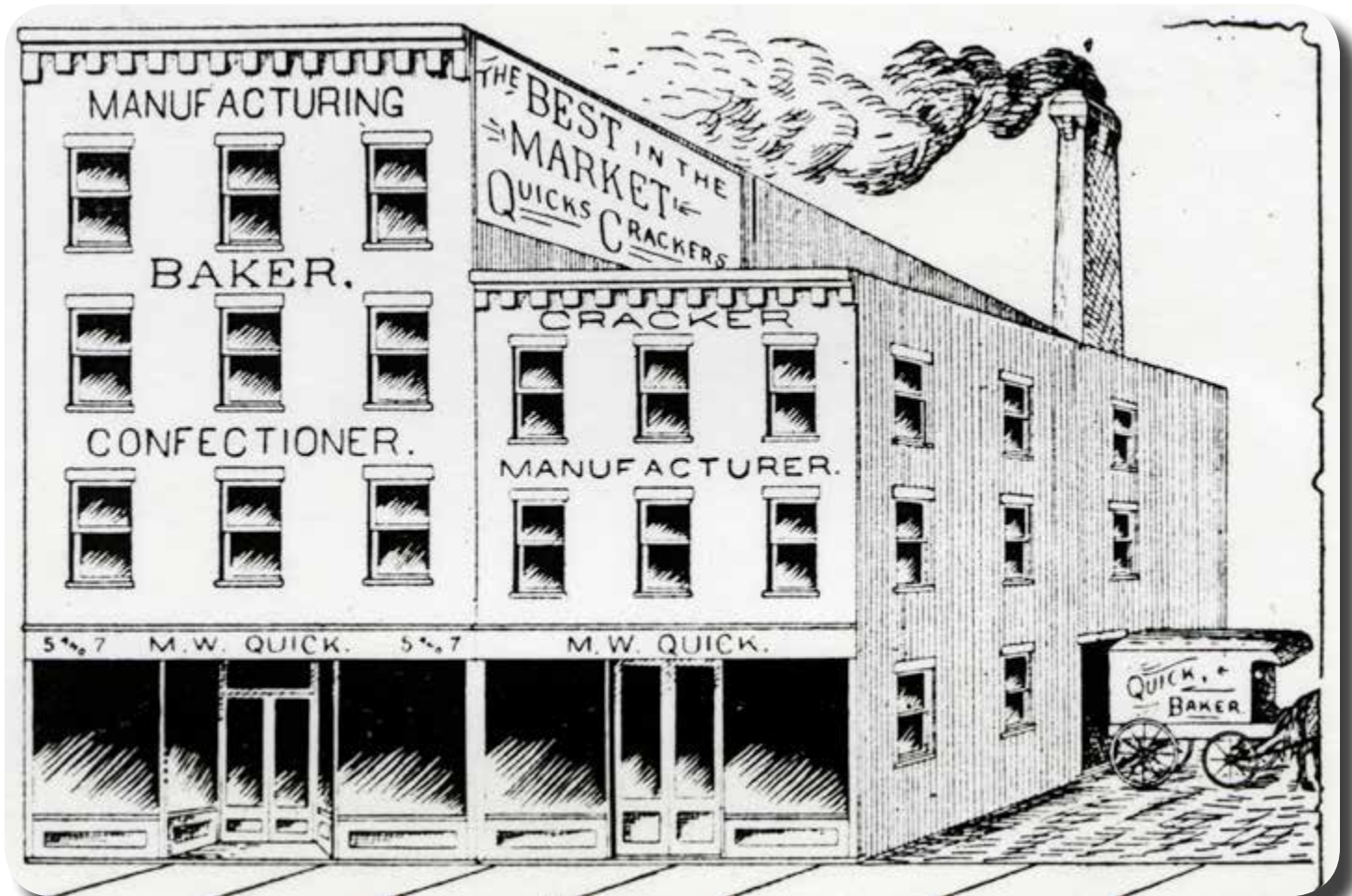
Originally called Free Hollow, Forest Home, which is situated on Fall Creek in the Town of Ithaca, was a thriving industrial center during the mid-19th century. According to Forest Home historian Bruce Brittain, "Free Hollow had specialized woodworking, cooper, turning, and cabinet shops. . . . Cloth and paper were important industries, too, with paper, woolen, knitting, and mitten mills located along the creek."



(Map from New Topographical Atlas of Tompkins County, NY, 1866)

1835

M.W. QUICK BAKER AND CONFECTIONER



ca. 1890 (J30.64)

According to *Ithaca, N.Y. as a City of Residence and Manufacture* (1891), “A general line of Crackers, Cakes, Candies and Confections” was manufactured and sold at **M.W. Quick’s** establishment on State Street in Ithaca. First established in 1835 by J. L. Whitten, it was taken over by Quick in 1890. It closed around 1910.

1836

DRYDEN WOOLEN MILL

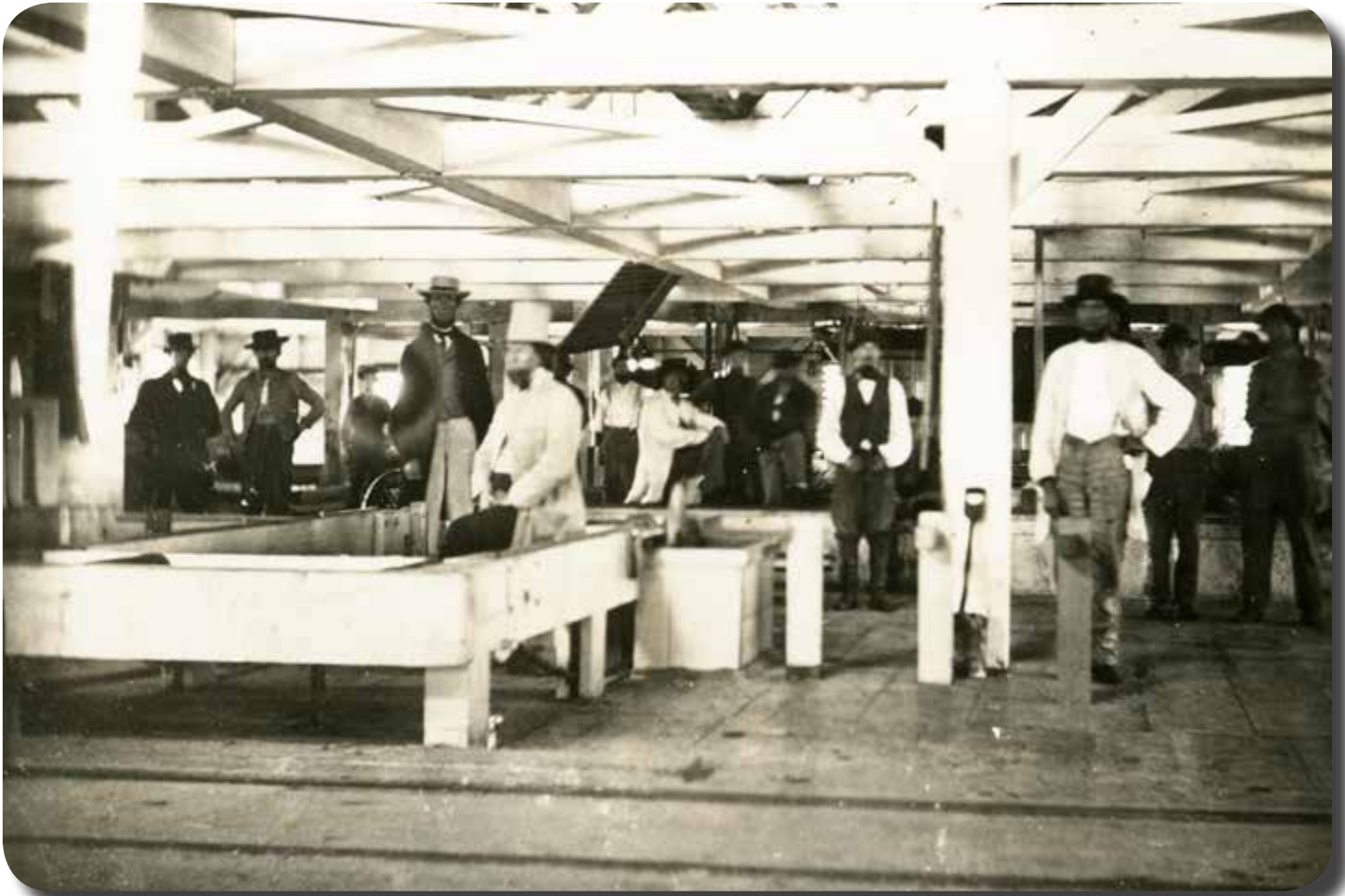


(Photograph courtesy the DTHS)

The **Dryden Woolen Mill** provided employment for a number of local residents until the 1890s. Textiles were produced in Dryden until well into the 20th century. The **Dryden Blanket Company**, which later became the **Atlantic Woolen Mill**, made “shoddy,” which was used to make blankets for soldiers during World War I. Many women were employed there in the late 19th and early 20th century, and some posed proudly with their large scissors for a company photo.

1842

ITHACA POTTERY WORKS

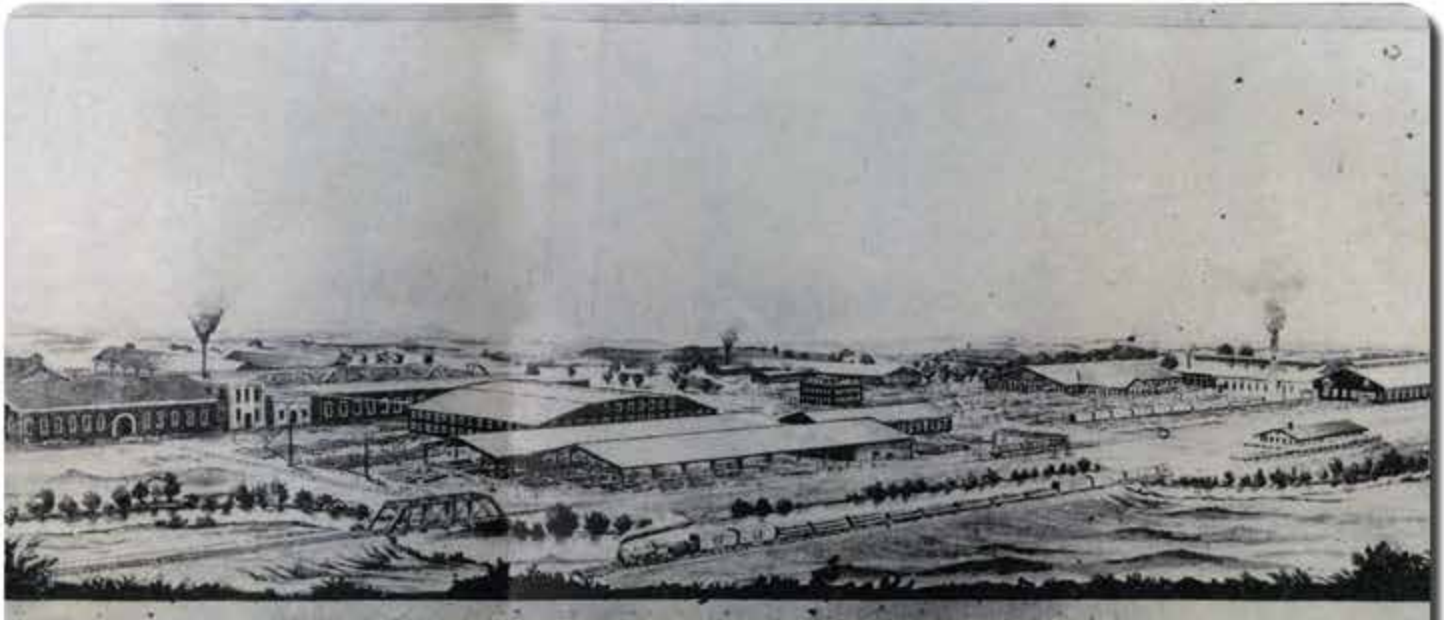


ca.1860 (J30.13)

The **Ithaca Pottery Works** was established in 1842 by Elijah Cornell, father of Cornell University's founder. It thrived for a half century at the base of Ithaca Falls, changing ownership several times. Some of the stoneware crocks in The History Center's collection were made there, and are inscribed with "Ithaca, NY" in beautiful blue. The last owner to operate the works as a pottery was James Macumber. It closed in 1890.

1849

GROTON IRON BRIDGE COMPANY



WORKS OF THE GROTON BRIDGE AND MANUFACTURING CO.

n.d. (J30,206)

According to Groton Town Historian Rosemarie Tucker, "The Charles Perrigo and Company was established by Charles and Lyman Perrigo as early as 1849 as a foundry and a machine shop. In 1877, the firm began the manufacture of iron bridges. Soon afterward, the **Groton Iron Bridge Company** was formed and incorporated. In 1887, the Perrigo's company merged to become the **Groton Bridge and Manufacturing Company**. . . Groton bridges were constructed throughout the United States and other countries." *From Images of America - Groton.*



Chas. Perrigo & Co., Groton, N. Y., Manufacturers of Threshing Machines, Clover Hullers, Horse Powers.

n.d. (J30,70 left, D20,238)

GROTON BRIDGE COMPANY

**GROTON BRIDGE CO.
GROTON, N. Y.**



STEEL BRIDGES, SLUICE PIPES and BUILDINGS. Large amount of Beams, Angles, Channels and Plate, always in stock. Estimates furnished promptly. Advise us of any work to be built in your locality.



Groton Bridge sign on bridge between Newbury and Williamsport, PA 1985
D20.174

GROTON BRIDGE COMPANY

BRIDGE CONTRACT.

THIS CONTRACT, made this 6 day of Oct A. D. 1907 by and between

The Groton Bridge Company,

of the Town of Groton, and State of New York, party of the first part, and the town of Itasca County of Tompkins State of N.Y. by the undersigned its Agent duly authorized, party of the second part.

WITNESSETH. That the party of the first part contracts and agrees, to and with the party of the second part, to build, paint and make complete and have ready for use by the 1st day of Jan 1908 for the party of the second part, a Steel and Wrought Iron Painted Bridge and no abutments as herein more fully set forth and described, over the stream called Fall Creek at a point where the Forest Home road crosses said stream in the town of Itasca county of Tompkins and State of N.Y. according to the following specifications and annexed plans, if any, forming a part of this contract, viz: Said bridge to be about 80 feet long, extreme length; to be built in one span of 76 feet in the clear, bridge to have one roadway 16 feet clear width and 20 footway 20 feet clear width, and all the materials for said bridge, ~~except lumber~~, are to be furnished by the party of the first part and are to be of good and suitable quality, and the work to be done in a thorough and workmanlike manner.

And the party of the second part contracts and agrees to furnish ready for the superstructure, the abutments and piers and at right angles to the center line of said bridge, by the 1st day of Dec A. D. 1907 and to pay the party of the first part the sum of Five Thousand Dollars and old bridge Dollars for the said Bridge, as follows viz: eighty per cent. on the day of delivery of the iron material of said bridge, at the nearest railroad station to bridge site and the remainder on the completion of said bridge, said payment to be made in Bank March 1st 1908 one half certificate of indebtedness due March 1st 1908 with interest at 5%

In case the abutments and piers are not ready for the superstructure at the date above given, eighty per cent. of the contract price shall be paid on the completion of the Bridge at works ready for erection and the Bridge shall be shipped to nearest railroad station to bridge site or be allowed to remain at works, at the option of the party of the second part, and the party of the second part further agrees to let the party of the first part have free use of the old Bridge at or near aforesaid place, for the putting up of trestle work and for other purposes as may be for convenience in erecting said iron Bridge.

The right is reserved to change shape of sections, but not to lessen their cross sections.

Said bridge to be a Painted Truss with concrete floor and built according to plans and specifications with a capacity of 15 tons on four wheels. The right is reserved to wait until warm weather before putting on concrete if maintenance of roadway is held.

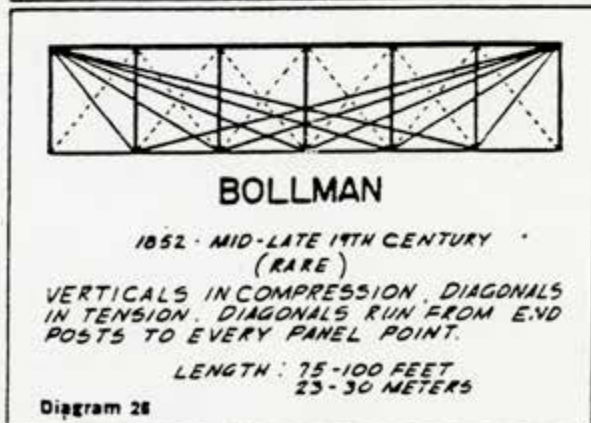
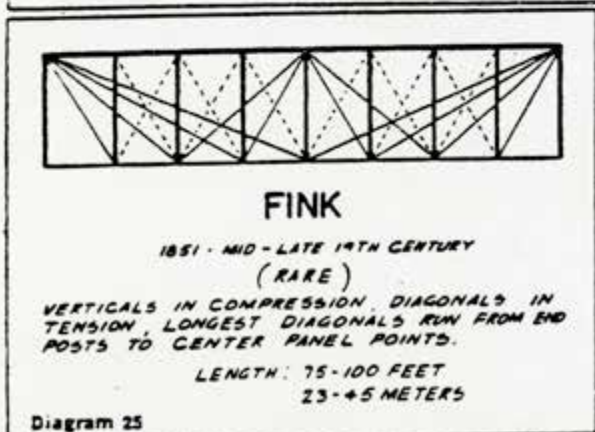
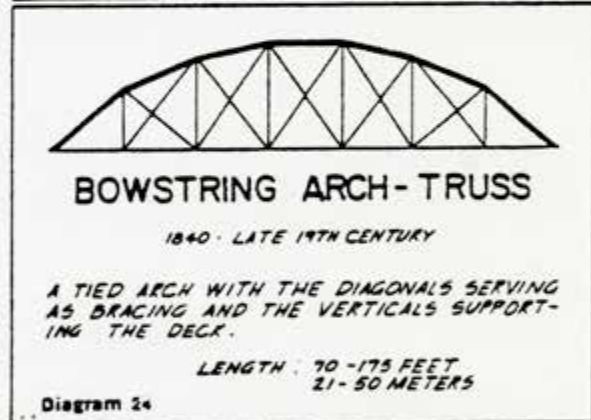
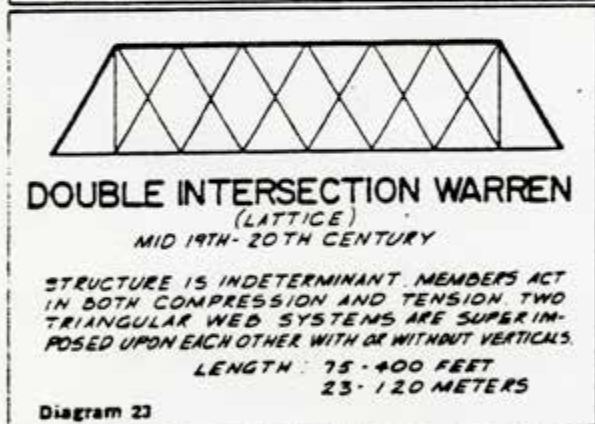
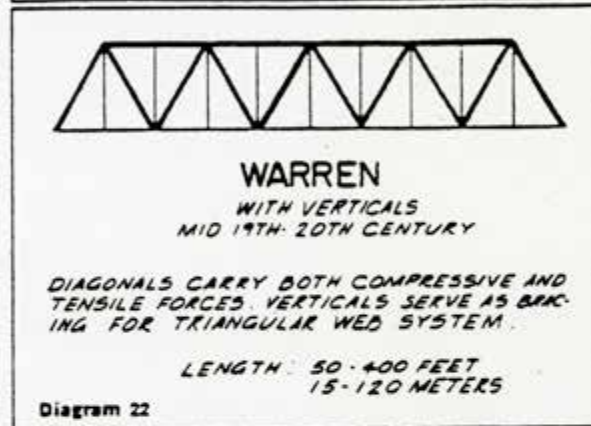
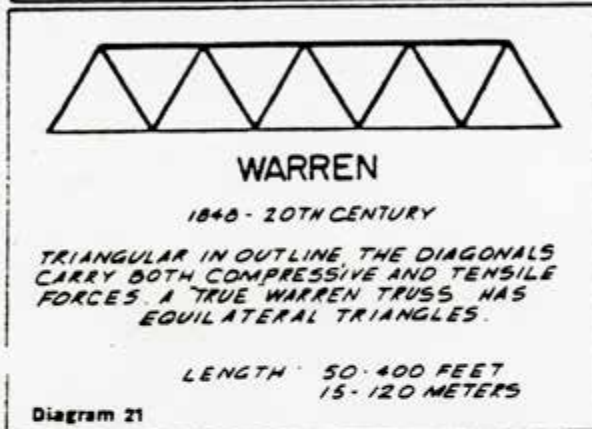
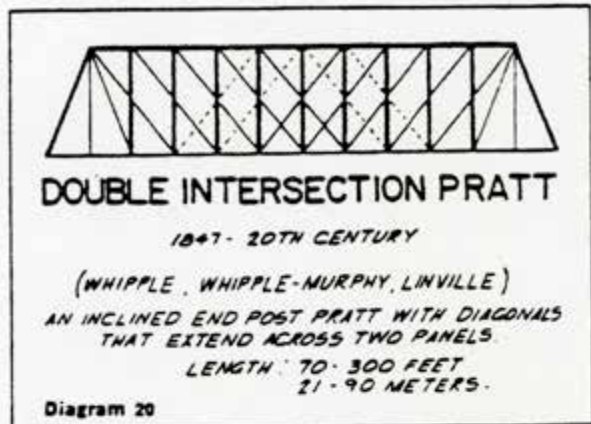
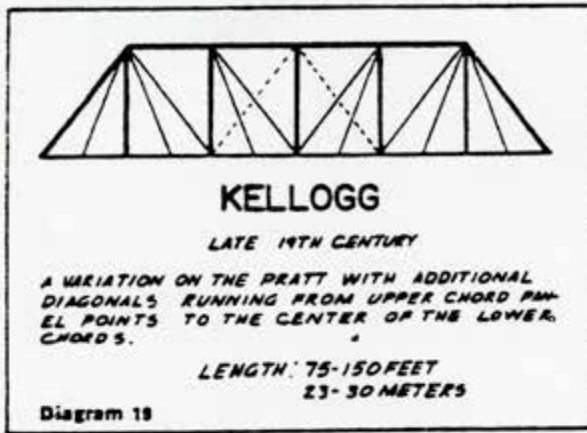
And the party of the first part is not held responsible for delays in delivery of material from rolling mills, nor for materials in transit, nor for strikes, nor for action of the elements, nor for circumstances beyond their reasonable control.

THE GROTON BRIDGE COMPANY, N. H. Hallday Contracting agent.

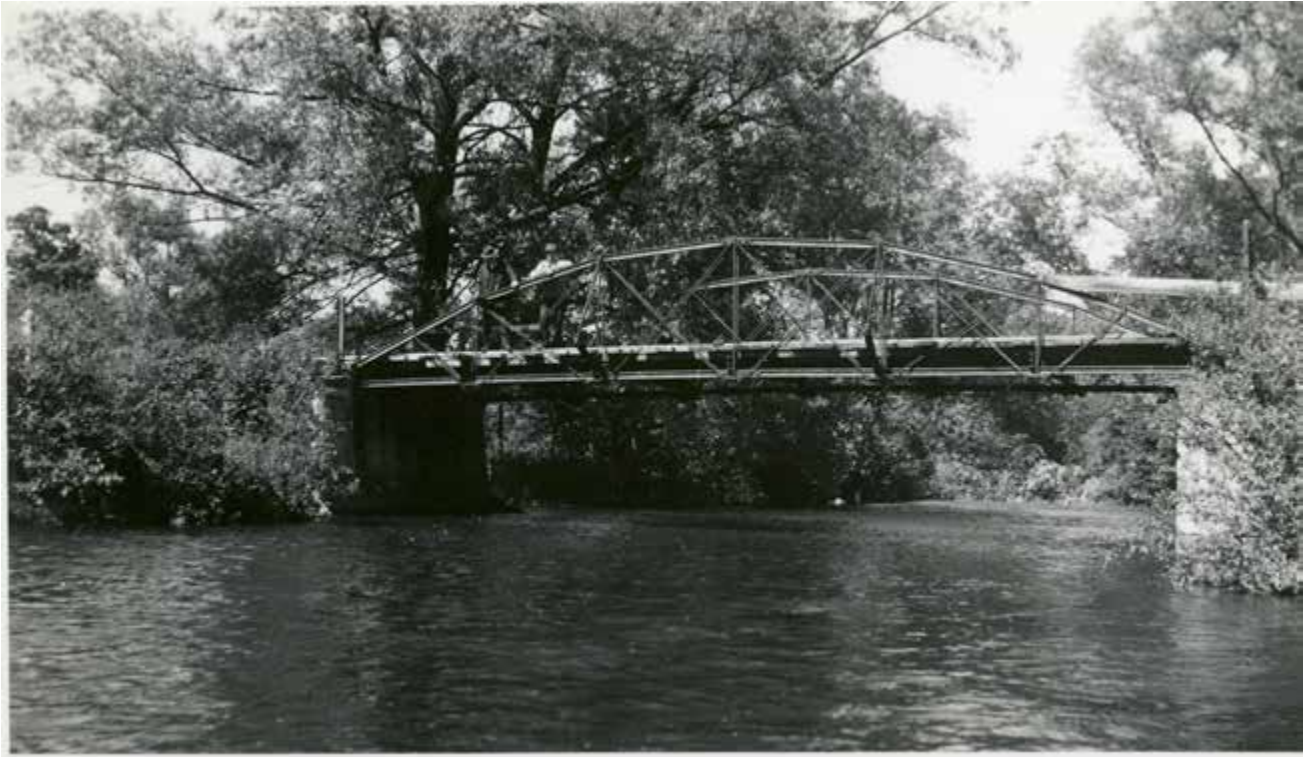
John J. Hausman, Supervisor [L. S.] P. O. Address Pake Willett, S. of P
L. P. Colegrove, J. P. [L. S.] P. O. Address S. M. Madryke, S. of P
Groton Van Orman Club [L. S.] P. O. Address J. W. Chesler, J. P.

Commissioner of the town of H. A. Brown

GROTON BRIDGE COMPANY



GROTON BRIDGE COMPANY



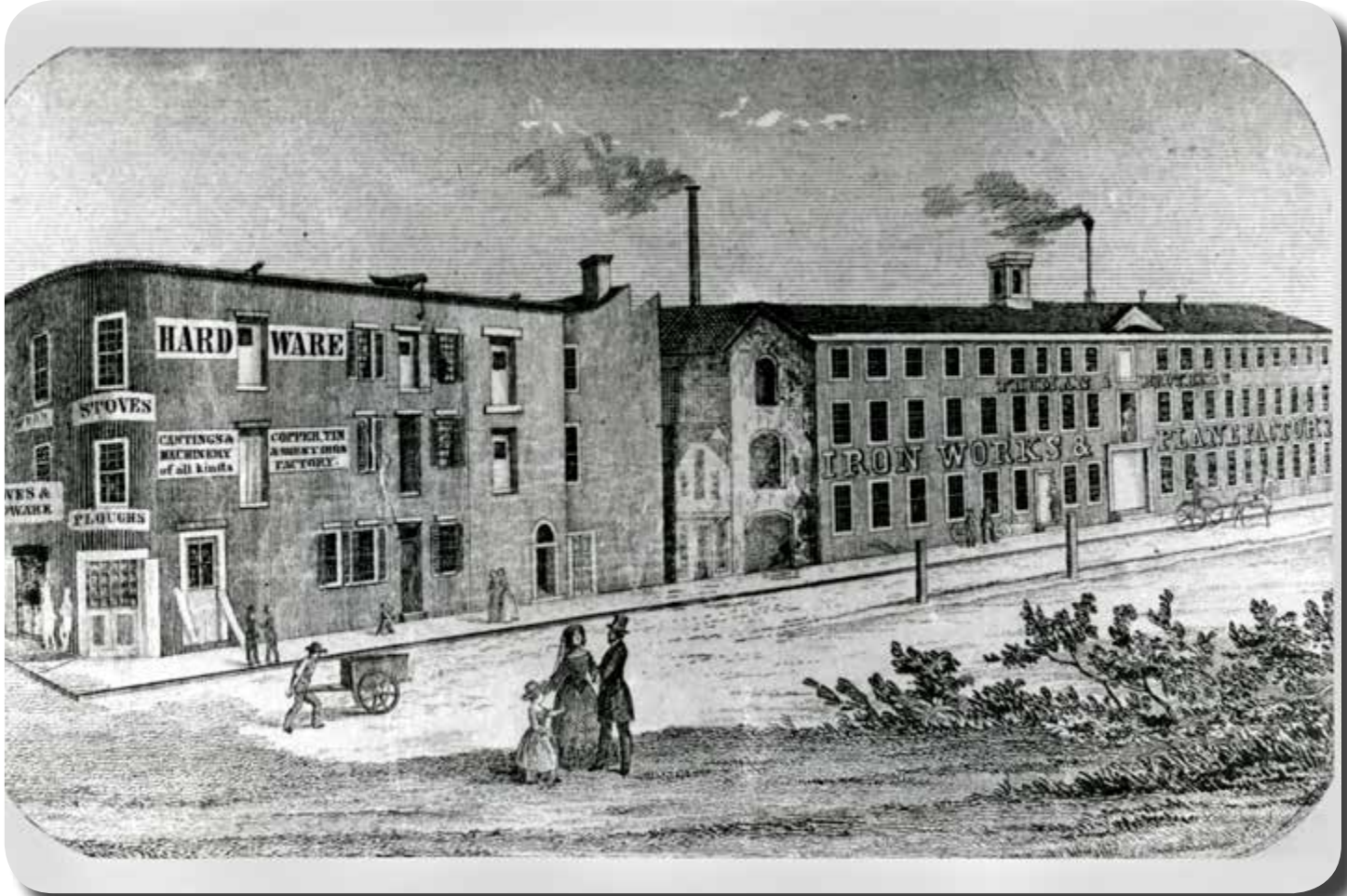
Groton Bridge curved top beam view, 1946
D20.158



Red Mill Road, Dryden. Gene Endres photographer

1853

TREMAN & BROTHERS HARDWARE STORE AND IRON WORKS



n.d. (J30.55)

Treman & Brothers Hardware Store and Iron Works were established in 1853, producing a variety of industrial products, including plows, machinery and stoves. They were located on the corner of Cayuga and Green Streets during the mid-19th century.

1865

REYNOLDS & LANG



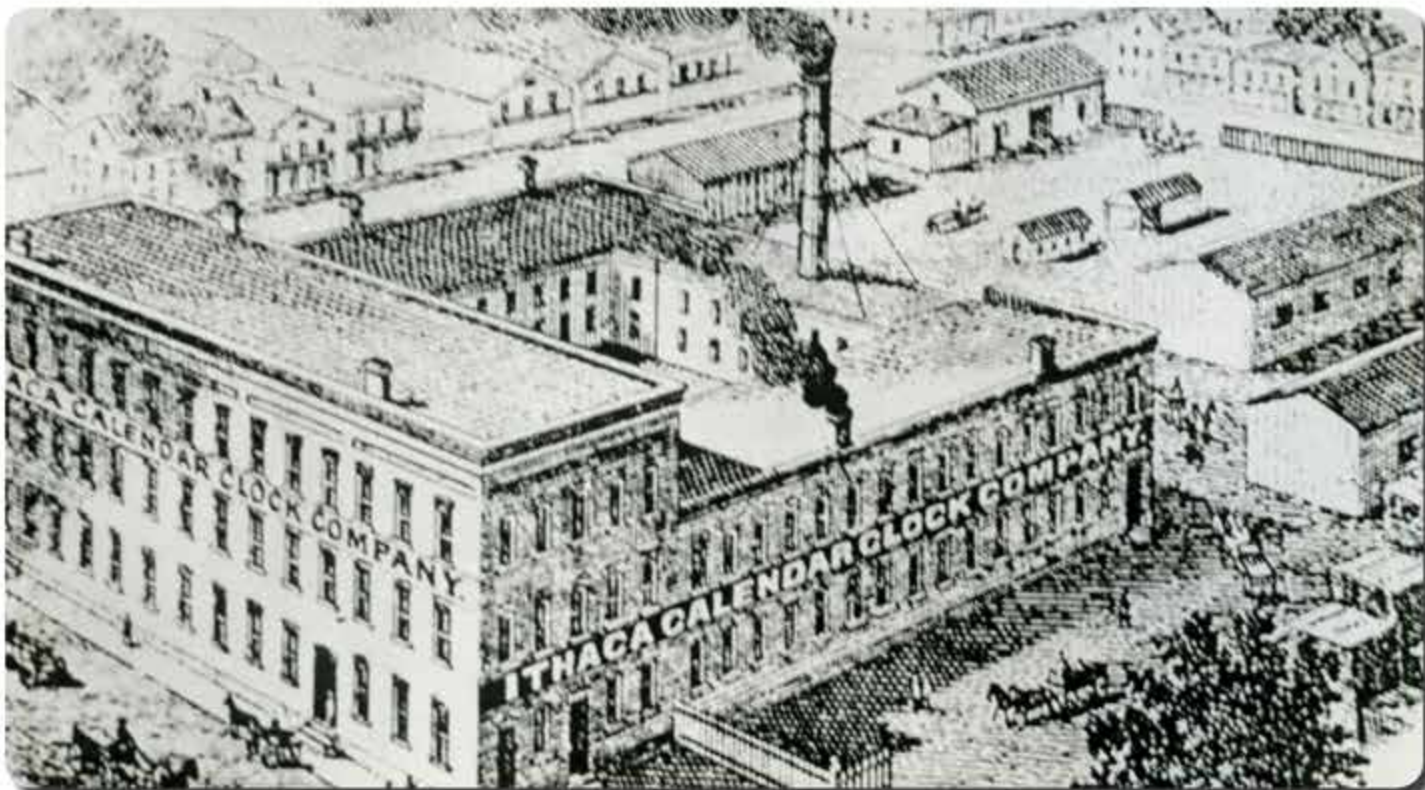
n.d. (J30.111)

In 1841, J.S. Reynolds became an apprentice at the foundry on Tioga Street originally established by McCormick & Coy in 1840. By 1861, Reynolds had become skilled in his trade and he leased the building. In 1865, he formed a partnership with machinist J.B. Lang, and they carried on business there, as **Reynolds & Lang, Iron Founders and Machinists**, until 1870, when they re-located to Green Street.

After the death of Reynolds in 1891, Lang entered into a partnership with Ernest D. Button. The **Lang and Button Company** manufactured, sold, and repaired steam engines, agricultural implements, automobiles, and other machinery. In 1907, the company was re-named the **J.B. Lang Engine and Garage Company**. They produced steam engines until 1921, and in the 1940s began selling and repairing Studebakers. The company lasted until the early 1950s.

1866

ITHACA CALENDAR CLOCK



ca. 1870 (J30.39)

The **Ithaca Calendar Clock Company** was formed using inventions first developed in 1853, and patented in the 1860s. The factory was originally located in a few rooms on Cayuga Street and later moved to a larger facility on State Street. In 1874, the company erected a three-story brick factory on Dey Street, occupying it the following year with sixty workers “turning out thirty clocks per day.” Following a major fire in 1876, the structure was immediately rebuilt and production continued. Declines in sales led to bankruptcy in 1918, but today Ithaca Calendar Clocks are treasured collectors’ items.



n.d. (G25.15)

Calendar clocks were capable of displaying the time, date, month, and day of the week, and were made in 15 different languages and sold all over the world. Pictured are the inside mechanisms of one of the calendar clocks.



n.d. (A30.8)

The **Ithaca Calendar Clock** factory employed about 34 people in the 1880s and produced more than 6,000 clocks annually.

ITHACA CALENDAR CLOCK



MANUFACTURED BY
THE
ITHACA CALENDAR CLOCK CO.
ITHACA, N. Y.

FRIDAY
SATURDAY
SUNDAY
MONDAY

APRIL
MAY
JUNE
JULY

Ithaca Calendar Clock
The Ithaca Calendar Clock is a unique timepiece that combines the functions of a clock, a calendar, and a weather vane. It was designed and manufactured by the Ithaca Calendar Clock Co. in Ithaca, New York.

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1867

ITHACA MANUFACTURING WORKS



n.d. (J30.32)

According to the late Gretchen Sachse, former Tompkins County Historian, the **Ithaca Manufacturing Works** was “originally established as the **Ithaca Agricultural Works**” ...which “failed in 1879 and was purchased by J.W. Hollenbeck of Wilkes-Barre, PA, who reopened the plant and named it the **Ithaca Manufacturing Works**. Hayrakes and cultivators were its primary products. About 1883 it, too, failed.” *The Spirit of Enterprise - Nineteenth Century in Tompkins County.*

1871

FOREST CITY TOBACCO WORKS & CIGAR MANUFACTORY

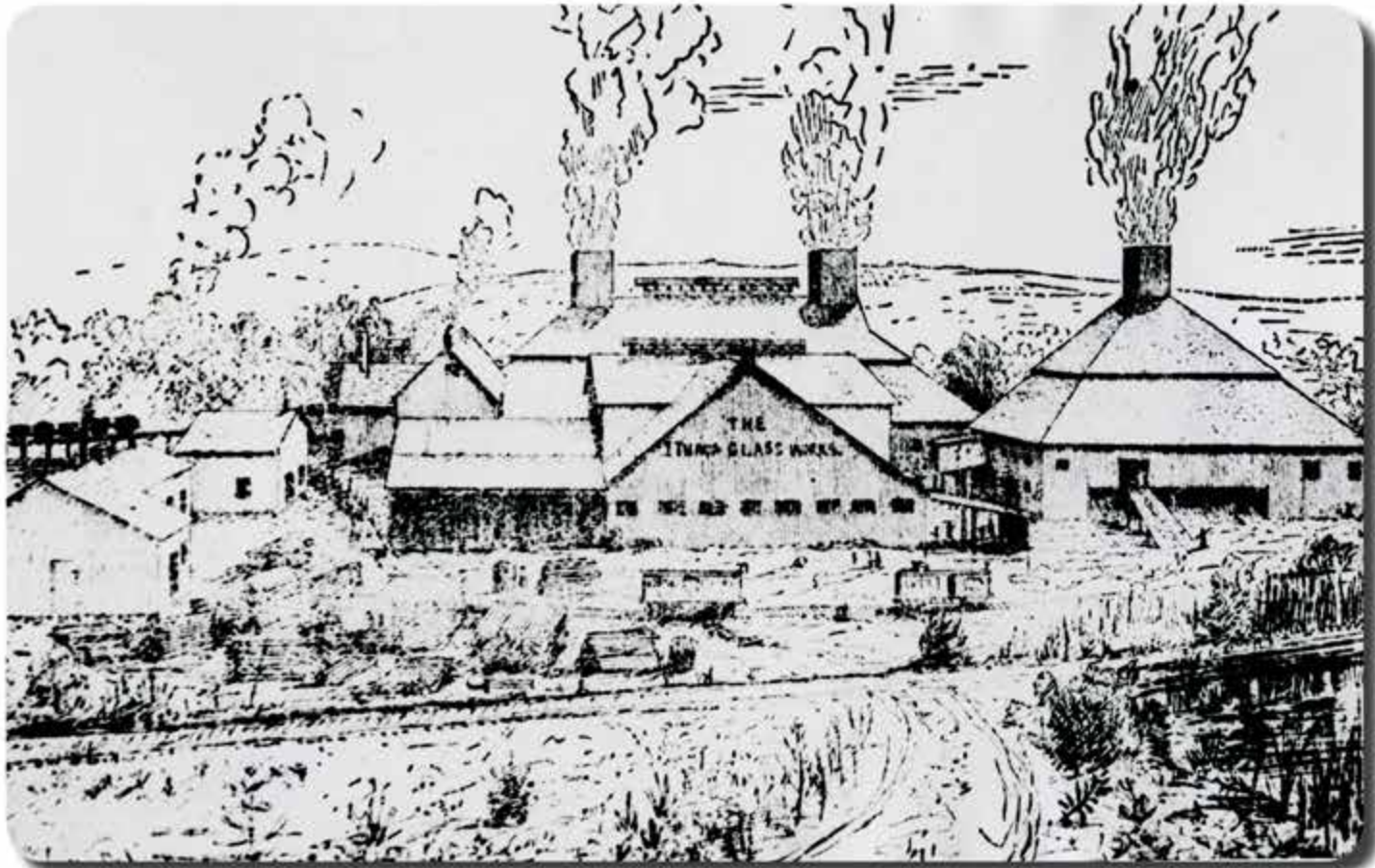


n.d. (J30.53)

The **Forest City Tobacco Works & Cigar Manufactory**, located at the northwest corner of Seneca and Meadow Streets, was one of several tobacco and cigar manufactories in Tompkins County in the 19th century. The building was destroyed by fire in 1873.

1874

ITHACA GLASS WORKS



n.d. (J30.9)

The **Ithaca Glass Works** was established on Third Street in Ithaca. It was one of several glass factories in Tompkins County, most of which made single



n.d. (J30.173)

and double thick sheet glass. The smaller **Freeville Glass Company** produced more artistic and colored glass. Most small glass factories were taken over by larger national consortiums, and the United Glass Company of Pittsburgh acquired the **Ithaca Glass Works** in 1889. Glass factory workers are pictured here outside their workplace.

1877

ITHACA ORGAN COMPANY



n.d. (J30.35)

The **Ithaca Organ Company** manufactured “the best organ in the world,” according to its advertisements. This company also produced pianos until its decline and closure in the mid-1880s.

1880

MORSE CHAIN COMPANY



n.d. (J30.113)

Morse Aircraft Corporation, which built the “Tommy” Scout, a small nimble fighter plane used to train pilots during World War I. This division was sold to Consolidated Aircraft in 1929, and that year Morse Chain merged with **BorgWarner**, while one division of the company was later sold to **Emerson Electric**. **BorgWarner Morse Systems** is still a major employer in Tompkins County, producing motor vehicle parts and systems.



ca. 1918 (J30.142)



ca. 1944 (J30.160)

Women were a major part of the workforce at the **Morse Chain Company** during the World War II years. These workers are identified only by their first names: Ginny, Phyllis, Phyl, and Lois.

MORSE CHAIN COMPANY



1883

ITHACA GUN COMPANY



n.d. (J40.27)

The **Ithaca Gun Company** was founded in 1883 along the rim of Fall Creek gorge. For almost a hundred years it was one of Ithaca's leading industries. The factory was powered by turbines that generated power from the flow of Ithaca Falls until well into the 20th century.



n.d. (J30.113)

During a peak in the 1920s the **Ithaca Gun Company** produced 52,000 weapons per year, including double-barreled shotguns renowned for their workmanship. Ithaca Guns are rare collectors' items today.



ca. 1943 (J40.18)

Ithaca Gun Company workers were major contributors to the war effort during the 1940s, making approximately half of the US Army's .45-caliber pistols.



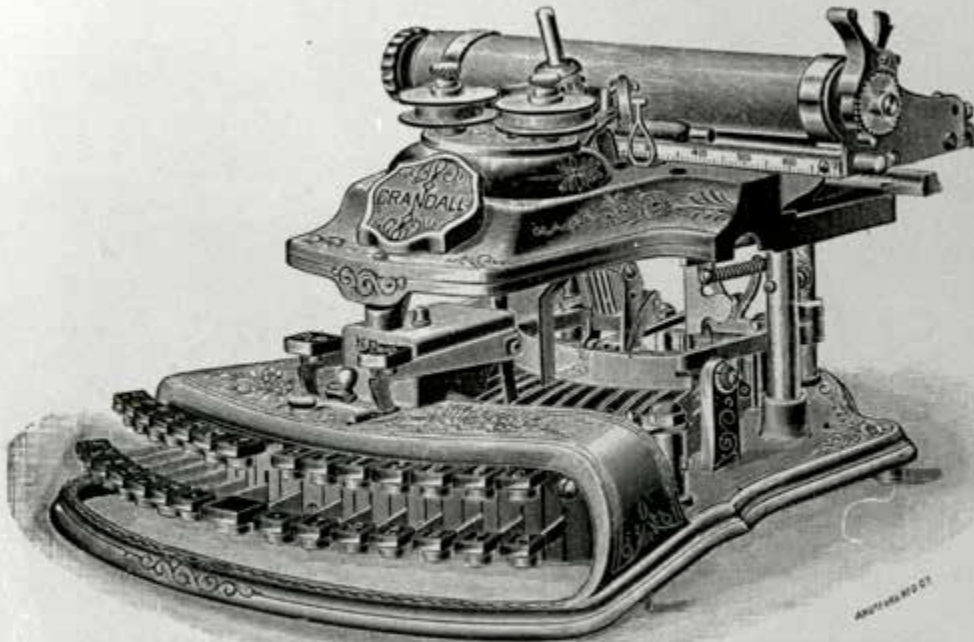
ca. 1944 (J40.5)

Female workers in factory jobs were common during World War II, when men were serving in the armed forces. The **Ithaca Gun Company** was no exception and hired numerous women during the war.

1887

CRANDALL MACHINE COMPANY

CRANDALL TYPEWRITER, THE WRITING MACHINE OF THE PERIOD.



Awarded the
medal for high-
est excellence,
Chicago Expo-
sition, 1893

✦
Purchase Direct of
Manufacturer and save
Agent's Commission.

✦
Easily Learned.
Only 28 Keys.
84 Characters.
Writing always in Sight

WRITE FOR CATALOGUE AND
SPECIMENS OF WRITING.

THE CRANDALL MACHINE CO., MANUFACTURERS,
CROTON, N. Y., U. S. A.

n.d. (M30.11)

The **Crandall Machine Company**, the brainchild of inventor Lucian Crandall, began to make typewriters and bicycles in Groton in the late 1880s. Their Universal Crandall Model #3 was awarded a medal at the 1893 Columbian Exposition in Chicago. The company ceased operation by 1904, but other typewriters were manufactured in Tompkins County until 1960. At that time the **Smith Corona Company** (the result of a 1924 merger between **Corona Typewriter** and the **L.C. Smith Typewriter Company**) moved to a large facility in Cortland. Smith Corona continued manufacturing typewriters until the 1980s.

1900

REED AND MONTGOMERY BINDERY



n.d. (J30.15)

Workers at the **Reed and Montgomery Bindery** of Ithaca are pictured here about 1900. Owned by F.G. Reed and W.W. Montgomery, the bindery was located at 118-124 South Tioga Street. “All kinds of Blank Books ruled and bound to pattern at Reed & Montgomery’s,” read one of their advertisements in the Ithaca City Directory of 1899. By the turn of the 20th century women could often be found at small manufacturing enterprises such as this.

1900

CORNELL INCUBATOR MANUFACTURING COMPANY



n.d. (J30.111)

The **Cornell Incubator Manufacturing Company** was an outgrowth of the chicken farming ventures of Edward Wyckoff. Incorporated in 1900, the factory was located in the same Brindley Street building that later housed the Thomas-Morse Aircraft Corporation in Ithaca. The building also housed the **Wyckoff Lumber and Manufacturing Company**, incorporated in 1906, which supplied materials for the incubators and supplied lumber for customers. Farmers used incubators when there were not enough broody hens to hatch eggs.

The company later branched out into the construction of sectional houses, small temporary structures that were used for churches, cabins, garages, and other purposes.

1912

LANG'S SAUERKRAUT FACTORY



ca. 1920 (courtesy Ulysses Historical Society)

Lang's Sauerkraut Factory opened off King Street, near the Lehigh Valley Railroad Station in Trumansburg. Workers stripped loose leaves off cabbages before cutting and processing them.

1915

WHARTON STUDIOS

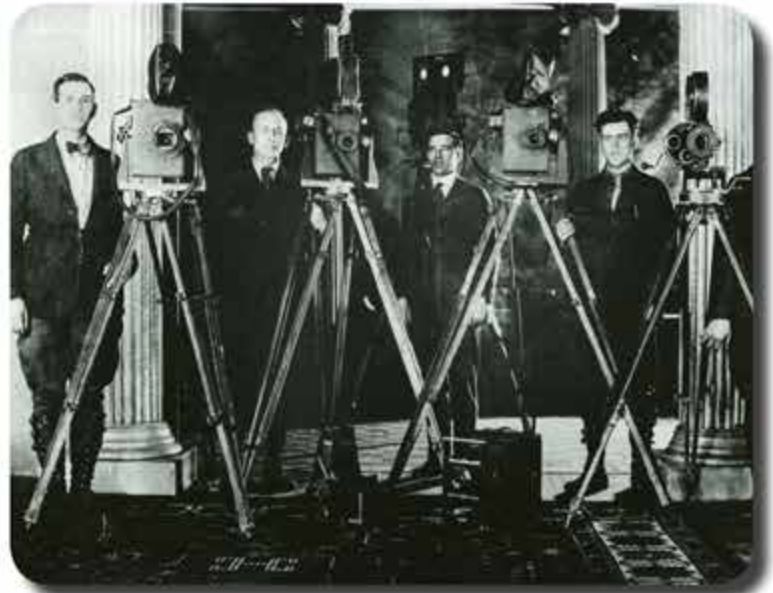


n.d. (J30.9)

Wharton Studios began to make silent films in Ithaca in 1915, mostly at their studios in what is now Stewart Park. One of the most famous was "Patria" with Warner Oland (who later played Charlie Chan), Irene Castle, and Milton Sills, released in 1917. Wharton Studios left Ithaca for Hollywood in 1918.



n.d. (Y30.28)



n.d. (Y30.26)

1931

ANDREWS CONFECTIONERY



1972 (FBO-0147.27)

Andrews Confectionery opened on East State Street in Ithaca in 1931. Anthony Andrews was an immigrant from Greece and he and his wife Ruby made the sweet shop a favorite for locals.

1934

R. APPEL, INC.



ca. 1955 (J31.5)

R. Appel, Inc., known to Ithacans as the “pocketbook factory,” opened in 1934. At its height the company produced almost 1,800 handbags per day which were sold throughout the US and Canada. The company closed around 1959.

Here a worker stitches a leather bag under the watchful eye of company superintendent Oscar T. Swenson, shown at right.

1935

THERM, INC.



ca. 1980s (J30.176)

Therm Incorporated was established in 1935. The company is located in Ithaca and currently manufactures turbine components and blades used in aviation and aerospace technology.

1936

PURITY ICE CREAM



ca. 1953 (courtesy of the Ithaca Journal)

Purity Ice Cream was founded by Cornell University graduate Leo Guentert, who opened his first store at 218 First Street in Ithaca. It moved to its current location at the corner of Meadow and Cascadilla Streets in 1954, and recently expanded to accommodate all their happy customers. Current owners Bruce Lane and Heather Groover Lane make sure it is still a great place to get delicious local ice cream.

1951

CORNELL BUSINESS AND TECHNOLOGY PARK



n.d. (courtesy of realestate.fs.cornell.edu/retail/btp)

The **Cornell Business and Technology Park** was established to provide a “first class environment for local, national, and international office and research firms” and to provide “an interface between Cornell University and the business community.” According to the Cornell website there are more than 80 companies employing more than 2,000 workers here at the area’s premier suburban office park.

1957

NATIONAL CASH REGISTER COMPANY



ca. 1975 (J30.174)

The **National Cash Register Company** opened a new regional headquarters on South Hill in Ithaca in 1957. Running three full factory shifts for many years, **NCR** was a major employer in Ithaca until 1991, when AT&T bought the company.

1963

R.A. MOOG COMPANY



n.d. (photograph courtesy Moog Archives)

R.A. Moog Company, founded by Cornell-trained Ph.D. Bob Moog, created a new electronic instrument that would revolutionize the music world. The company was based in a storefront in Trumansburg, but had moved away by 1972, while Dr. Moog himself became world-famous.

1983

TRANSONIC

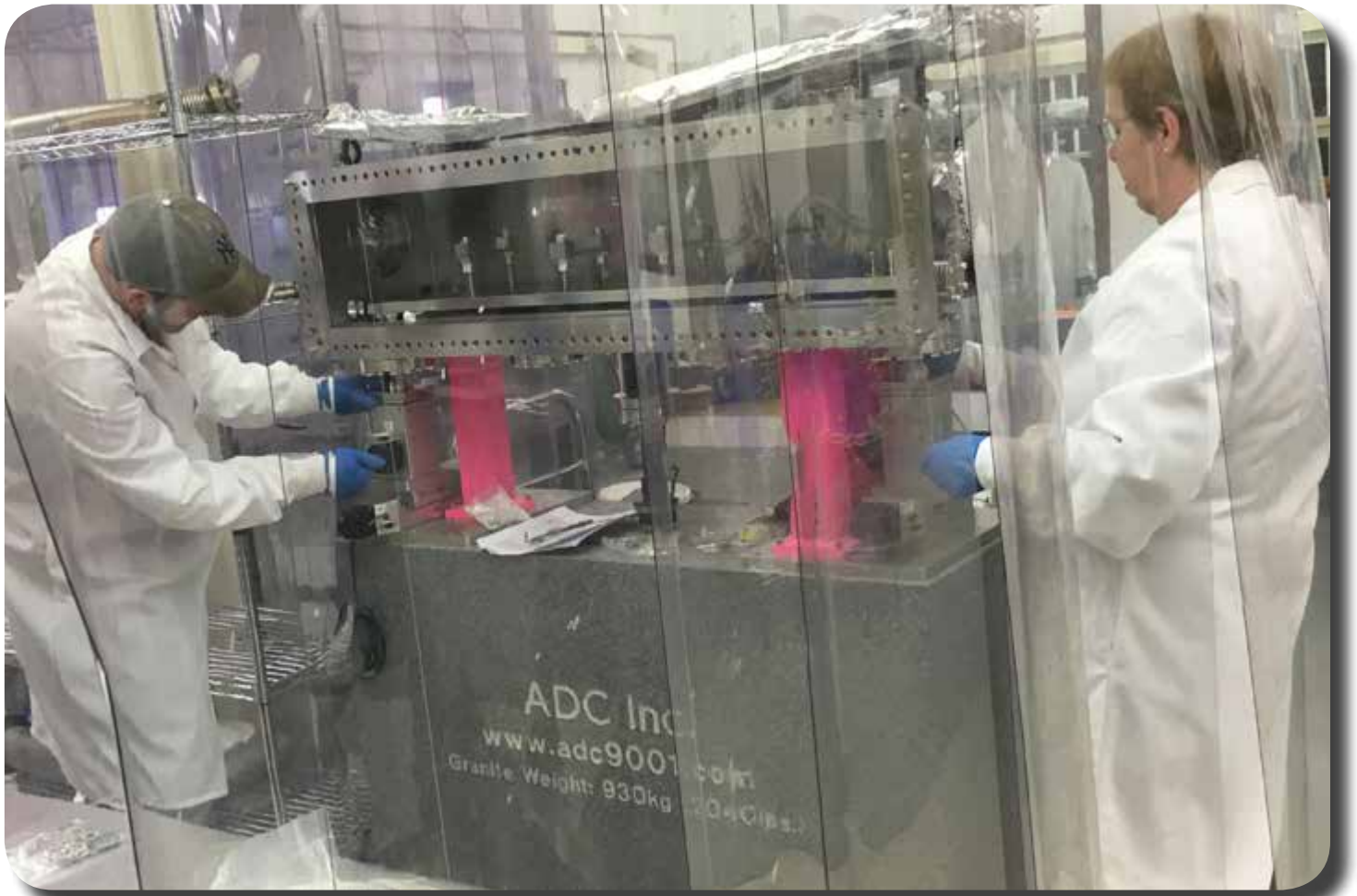


n.d. (courtesy of transonic.com)

Transonic began producing high precision measurement tools for numerous applications in 1983, including surgical and research tools, providing “gold standard diagnostic and research measurement tools.” Their corporate headquarters in Ithaca is only one of the several locations where they serve their customers.

1995

ADVANCE DESIGN CONSULTING



ca. 2010 (courtesy of the Ithaca Journal)

Advance Design Consulting (ADC) was founded in Lansing. This developer of complex scientific instruments and components currently serves a diverse clientele throughout the world, including governments and corporations.

1998

ITHACA BEER COMPANY



n.d. (courtesy of Ithacabeer.com)

The **Ithaca Beer Company** was founded by Dan Mitchell in 1998, with the idea for local beer to “capture the spirit of the Finger Lakes.” The company opened a large new facility in 2012 where its award-winning beers are available in their tap room, beer garden and state-of-the-art brewery. Ithaca Beer is now distributed in 10 different states.

2008

LIFE'S SO SWEET CHOCOLATES



n.d. (courtesy of Lifessosweet.com)

Life's So Sweet Chocolates opened in Trumansburg with owner Darlynn Overbaugh using family recipes to make many of her treats. In 2015 the store moved to Press Bay Alley in Ithaca where it continues to delight customers with chocolates and other sweet things.

21ST CENTURY



n.d. (courtesy of ithacabuilds.com/2014/01/17/the-carey-building)

From gristmills to high tech, Tompkins County has long been a leader in innovation and entrepreneurship. The 21st century has witnessed the growth of vibrant start-ups and basic industries. Chocolatiers, local ice cream and Ithaca Beer thrive alongside high tech firms with a global reach. One sign of local vibrancy is the **Downtown Ithaca Incubator**, a collaboration between Cornell, Ithaca College and TC3. This “hub for economic activity throughout Ithaca and Tompkins County “ promises to “channel rising entrepreneurs into the region to work, grow, and thrive.” According to their website, the Incubator is part of a regional economic development initiative that will foster the “growing startup ecosystem here in Tompkins County.”

This exhibit represents only a small sampling of local industry and commerce over the years, giving a flavor of the many things that have been made in Tompkins County

.

INDUSTRY ADVERTISEMENTS

A. M. SEAMAN,



NOVELTY WORKS.



—MANUFACTURER OF—

Planes, Billiard Cues, Dowel Rods, Hand Screws, &c.

—ALSO—

General Jobbing, Turning & Scroll Sawing.

PRICES REASONABLE. GIVE ME A CALL.

A. M. SEAMAN, 87 N. ALBANY STREET.

J. E. SEAMON & CO.,

MANUFACTURERS AND DEALERS IN

Tobacco, Cigars, Pipes,

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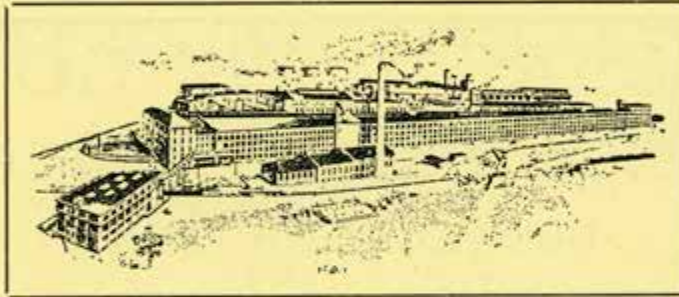
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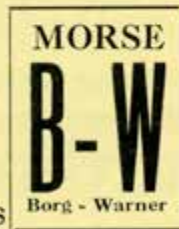


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