

OUTLINE: DEVELOPMENT OF THE TEXTILE INDUSTRY IN WALDEN

- Jacob and Thomas Walden move from Portsmouth, N.H. to New York City, 1798.
- Population NY County 1790-33,000 people; 1800-60,500 people. This included what is now the Bronx.
- Jacob and Thomas marry into the Pell and Franklin merchant families and conduct business in New York as merchant/traders. In 1807-08 they were merchants at 64 Stone St. They were shippers involved in the cotton trade. They owned and operated several vessels and bought and sold cargoes.
- 1812 NYC Directory listed J.T.Walden as a Merchant at 61 Stone St.
- The War of 1812 and the impact of the impressment of American seamen on American business.
- NYC investors and Jacob and Thomas Walden purchase farm and mill site in Walden.
- 1820-21 NYC Directory listed J.T.Walden Wool Warehouse at 167 Pearl St. Home 467 Broadway.
- 1822 founding of the Franklin Company to establish a woolen mill by Jacob T. Walden, Robert McQueen, Joseph Titcomb, Thomas Walden and William S. Sears.
- 1823 map of the Village of Walden drawn by E. W. Bridges, Chief Engineer of the City of New York. He was hired by Jacob T. Walden to survey the lands he had purchased in 1815 on the Walkkill River and to lay out a system of streets and lots for a planned industrial community. Walden was intending to create an industrial complex on the Walkkill similar to the model developed in Paterson, New Jersey earlier in the century.
- The arrival of Dr. Seth C. Capron in 1823 and the development of the Walkkill Company was the beginning of a thriving cotton milling industry in Walden. The Walkkill Company formed by Jacob T. Walden, Joseph Titcomb, Alfred P. Walden, John M. Capron and Newton M. Capron. The business is affected by the financial decline of 1837. The mill site was eventually sold to the New York Knife Company.
- 1825 NYC Directory listed J.T.Walden Wool Warehouse at 73 John St.
- Sophia Ferris Walden, m. 29 January 1831 to Joseph Pratt Cooke by Rev. Wm. H. Hart (notice says she 2nd dau of Jacob T. Walden, Marriage from the NY Post). She d. Feb 1843, buried Orange Co NY.
- In 1844 the woolen mill firm changed to Scofield, Capron & Co. composed of Augustus F. Scofield, Seth M. Capron and Levi L. Gowdy until the death of Gowdy in June, 1871.
- The firm dissolved in July, 1871 when Scofield died.
- 1871 reorganized under the name Townsend, Gowdy & Co. for three years (1874).
- 1874 mill operated by S.M.Holmes & Co. for one year.
- R.N.Kitchen was the next proprietor for a short time.
- In 1881 the proprietors were Perry, Bartow & Wheeler.
- Giles Andrews operated a woolen mill on Water St. at the foot of Oak St from 1845 until his death in 1869. The building was sold, but was returned to his widow Lucy who then sold it to the Walden Knife Company in 1874. The knife company moved to the site in 1875.
- Demand for textiles increased after the Civil War. Many local residents worked in the mill on Oak St., including children.

OUTLINE: THE GARMENT INDUSTRY IN WALDEN

- 1872 –Wooster purchased store on Main St from Nicholas Fowler

- 1878-79 Orange Co Directory listed Parshall & Wooster, overall manufacturers, Main near Orchard (T.W.Parshall, Ulster Ave and H. B.Wooster, Walden).
- 1879—Wooster expanded store and overall factory
- 1882—firm became Wooster and Stoddard. On the 1885 Sanborn Insurance Map the factory on Main Street was described as including an elevator. They used coal fuel, kerosene oil lamps, heat was provided by stoves and steam. There was a water tank and a night watchman. The firm was still at the Main St location in 1900, but on the 1903 map of Walden the factory is on Elm Street.
- 1887-88 – Walden Knitting Mills, Cotton underwear, Elm St, near Walkkill Valley RR, J. Garland, Secy and Treas. 4 sets cards, 1,080 Sp., 10 Cylinders, 21 Sewing machines, 1 boiler. Source: *The "Blue Book," a Pocket Directory of the Textile Manufacturers of the United States and Canada*. 1888, pages 114 (Middletown & Montgomery), Pg 125 Walden.
- 1890 NYS Factory Inspectors Report listed 47 females and 9 males working for Wooster and Stoddard.
- 1894—Wooster Manufacturing Co advertised Kantrip Overalls in the Souvenir booklet of the Walkkill Valley Farmers' Assn.
- 1920—Cupid Underwear Company started – ladies' silk underwear in Wooster Bldg on Elm St
- 1920—Arrow Corset Cover Co. moved to Walden and opened in the Walker Block. Changed name to Gutman Bros. The business occupied the 2nd and 3rd floors and produced ladies underwear.
- 1921—Walden Garment Manufacturing Co. located in the Trolley Terminal building.
- 1924—Chesnin & Leis, Inc. started in Wooster Building. Moved to new factory on Pine St in 1925. Manufacturers of ladies' underwear. "Love Lee" brand.
- 1924—silk mill built by the Walden Development Company for Imperial Silk Company on Woodruff St under the management of Joseph Melzer.
- 1926—Charles Garrison purchased the stock of the old Wooster Manufacturing Co., and entered the men's clothing business on a wholesale basis, as a jobber at Walden. He served as President of the firm, which was known as the Garrison Sweet Co. It was located at 110 Orange Ave. Garrison retired from business in 1944. He began working for Wooster Mfg. Co. in 1916 until 1924. The firm was sold in that year to John H. Roy, and Garrison worked with Roy until 1925 when he purchased the Wooster stock.
- 1927—fire at Wooster Building – Main and Hepper St
- 1933—Pellissier-Jonas and Rivet purchased Walden Knife Co plant. Processed rabbit fur
- 1933—Chesnin, Leis took over the Gutman Bros factory in the Walker Building. They employed 75 women at that location and another 185 employees (excluding office help) at the Pine Street location.
- 1936—Morris Schwartz arrived in Town of Montgomery. In 1948 he built the factory at 63 Orange Ave – old Walden Printing Bldg –Trade Mark 'Walden Robe'—they made cotton dusters and quilted robes. He died June 11, 1952, and the business was taken over by his brother Irving.
- 1941—Walden Hat Company on Elm St

OTHER GARMENT FACTORIES

- Bobbie Bell
- Ina Dresses
- Penrod Dress Co.
- White Swan Uniforms
- Kitzes Dress Co—Walker Building
- Brook May Coats
- Harry and Fanny Friedman—ladies dresses
- Will and Ann Sanviti – Ulster Av location burned – moved to Sohns Bldg—ladies dresses
- Anthony Sicari – Dawson's Hall—1 Pleasant Avenue—ladies dresses