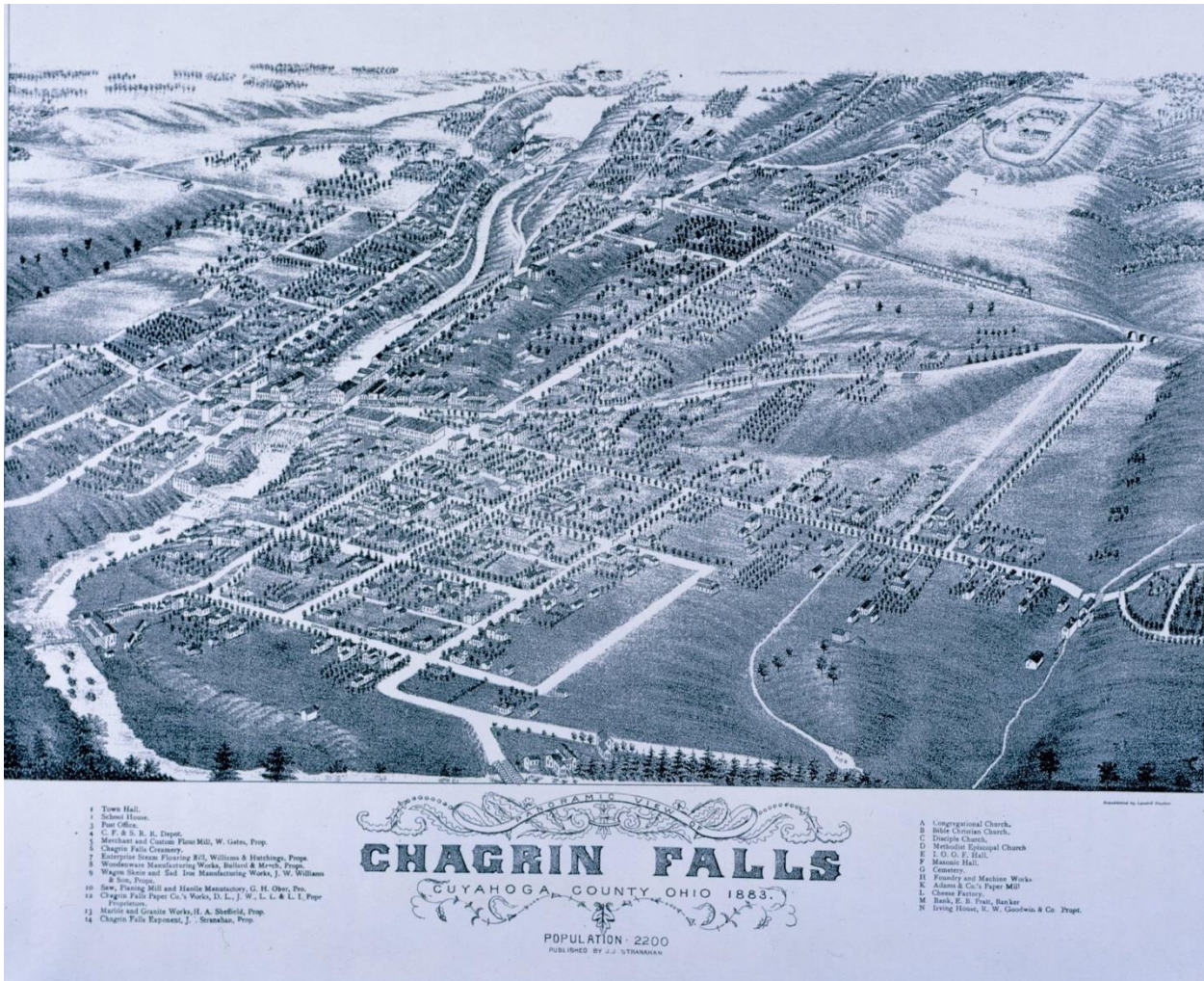


CHAGRIN FALLS

EARLY INDUSTRIES



MILLS

Chagrin Falls is historically a mill town. Taking advantage of the power generated from the Chagrin River, Chagrin Falls was once home to at least 9 mills. Listed below are a few of the mills that have existed in Chagrin's early days. This list is not all inclusive. An excellent history of the mills, written by Don Barriball, is available at the Chagrin Falls Historical website:

<http://www.chagrinfallshistoricalsociety.org/mill-town-on-the-chagrin-river>

Mill: **Bushnell**
Also known as: **Nettleton Foundry, The Williams Co., J.W. Williams & Son, A.C. Williams Co.**
Product: **Sawmill, Foundry, Sad Irons, Tools,**
Year Built: **1834**



Location: End of Pearl Street (West Washington Street)

Summary: First dam built on the Chagrin River in Chagrin Falls by Chester Bushnell in 1834. Originally a saw mill, the mill was situated on the north side of the river. Sam Nettleton erected a furnace and building on the south side to produce iron in 1837. Reverend Benajah Williams purchased the business in 1840. His son John W. Williams purchased the business in 1844. Business became J.W. Williams & Son in 1865 when Adam C. Williams, John's son, joined the business. A.C. Williams bought the company in 1886 and added the manufacture of sad irons, at one time making 1,500 irons a day. The mill was damaged by floods (1878, 1883) and fires (1889, 1892) resulting in the company moving to Ravenna, Ohio in 1892, where it is still in business.

Mill: Woodard & Carpenter
Also known as: Rose & Smith, Cyrus Millard, Chagrin Falls Machine Shop & Foundry, River Machine Company
Product: Grist Mill, Foundry, Machine Shop
Year Built: 1835



Location: Near intersection of Miles and Solon Roads, behind Chagrin Pet and Garden

Summary: Originally built as a Grist mill by John Woodard and Benjamin Carpenter in 1835. The mill was destroyed by a flood in 1841 and was never rebuilt. Mr. Bentley purchased the millstones and installed them at his mill in Bentleyville. Willis Rosa and Ira Smith were operating a foundry and machine shop on the site in 1874 and were in business there until 1889. In 1888, Cyrus Millard built a foundry and machine shop, known as The Chagrin Falls Machine Shop & Foundry, on the west side of the river on Miles road. This business was sold to Everett Kline and Solon Smith in 1901 and renamed The River Machine Company. The buildings were destroyed in a fire in 1906.

Mill: Fenkell
Also known as: Gates, Chagrin Falls Mills, Muggleton & Burt
Product: Grist Mill
Year Built: 1836



View of dam on top of natural falls. Current bridge is wider than one in picture. The dam is no longer there.

Location: On top of Natural falls by popcorn shop

Summary: This mill was a grist mill, built by George Fenkell in 1836. He erected a dam on top of the natural falls. The property went through many owners but was always used as a grist mill and was active till purchased by the Chagrin Falls Village in 1931. At that time the mill was razed but the sales office portion, built by Washington Gates in 1874, was left and is now the Popcorn Shop.

Mill: Graves
Also known as: Chagrin Falls Paper Company
Product: Sawmill, Paper mill, Planing mill
Year Built: 1837



Location: Riverside park, next to Chagrin Hardware

Summary: Noah Graves built a saw mill at this location in 1837. He also built a paper mill in front of the saw mill in 1841 that utilized the same dam as the saw mill. Ownership of these mills changed hands many times. The buildings were razed in 1931.

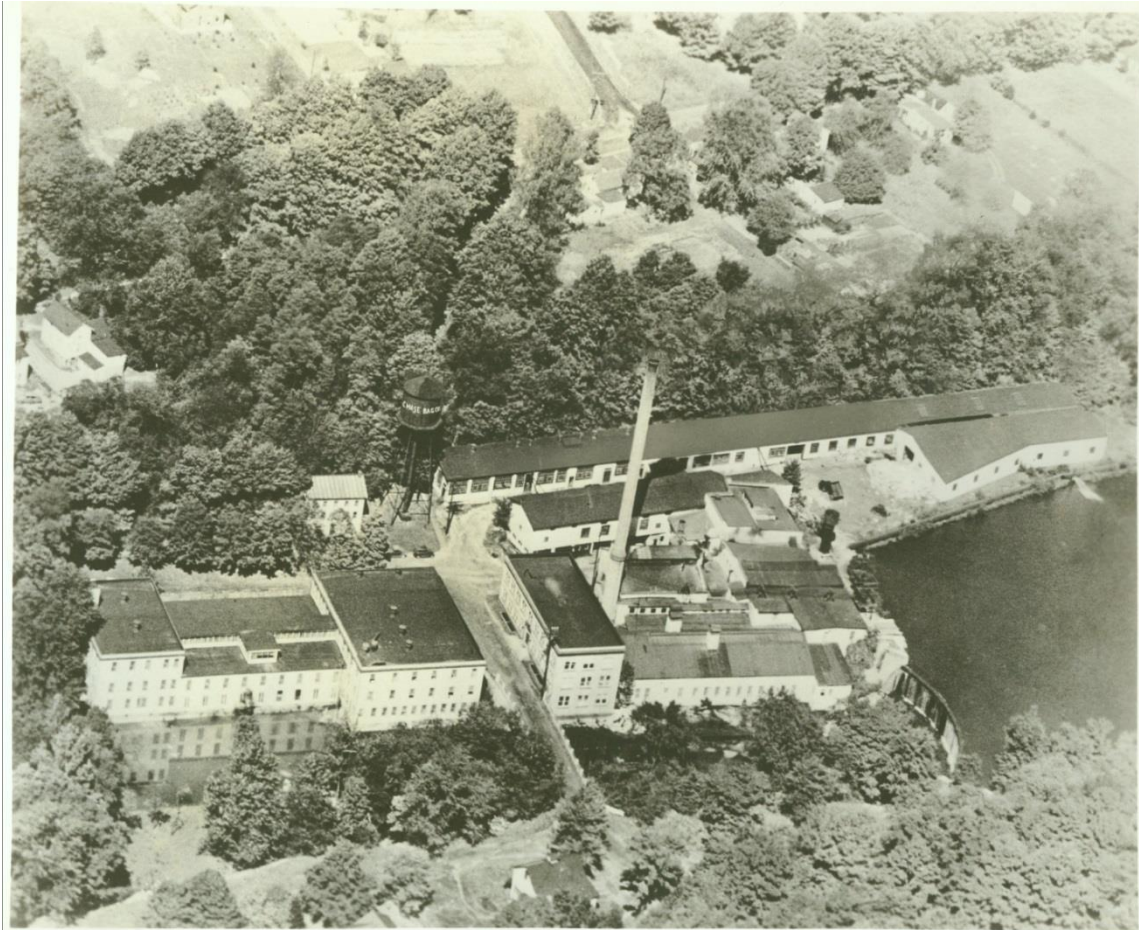
Mill: Goodwin
Product: Joinery, Planing, Finished Sawing, Lathe turnings
Year Built: 1840

NO PICTURE

Location: Solon Road, near current baseball field

Summary: This mill was built by Eleazor Goodwin in 1840. The mill used the dam to power machinery to provide wood working such as turnings, joinery and finished and dimensional lumber sawing.

Mill: **Bliss & Mayhew**
Also known as: **Davis & Sons, Adams Bros, Adams Bag Co., Chase Bag Co., IVEX, Spillway**
Product: **Flour mill, Woolen mill, Paper Mill**
Year Built: **1841**



Aerial view. All buildings to the left of the bridge were removed when the bridge was reconstructed in the 1990's

Location: Cleveland Street by Mill Street (Current Spillway)

Summary: This is the last remaining mill facility in the village. It is currently undergoing renovation as the Spillway complex, but some of the original mill buildings will be re-purposed for new uses. Aaron Bliss and John Mayhew built the dam and flour mill in 1841. The mill was changed over to a woolen mill just a few years later. In the mid 1840's, the mill was converted to paper manufacturing. Damaged by floods and explosions during its many years, the mill continued to make paper products and bags until 2004.

Mill: White
Also known as: White Axe Factory, Force Woolen mill
Product: Axe handles, Woolen mill
Year Built: 1842



White Axe Factory, looking northwest from near Hamlet Hills. Current Whitesburg parking lot is near where the road curves below buildings on left.

Location: Whitesburg Pond, Northeast of Spillway

Summary: This mill was built by Hervey White in 1842. The White Axe Factory manufactured axe handles until 1860's. In 1870, Charles Force converted the mill into a woolen mill. He produced mostly dress material and window shades into the late 1870's. He put the property up for sale after 1878. The factory complex included the mills, barns and the White house, which stood on the property until it burned down in 1968. Like many of the dams and mills along the river, it had its fair share of flood damage. The dam finally collapsed and Whitesburg Park was created on this property.

Mill: **Bullard & Northrup**
Also known as: **Bullard Woodenware, Bullard & Son(s), Earl Bros. Woolen mill, O'Malley Planing mill**
Product: **Woodenware, Woolen mill, Sawmill, foundry**
Year Built: **1842**



Bullard Woodenware mill in 1870.

Location: North end of Water street

Summary: This mill was built by Curtis Bullard and Cornelius Northrup in 1842. The woodenware mill was on the south side of the river and the woolen mill was on the north side. The woodenware made butter molds; receiving a patent for the machine that manufactured them. They also produced rolling pins, potato mashers, steak pounders, butter prints, bowls and other wood items. At one time, it was the leading manufacturer of these products in the United States. The mill was in business until 1895, when the demand for butter molds ceased. The location was idle until destroyed by the flood of 1913.

The woolen mill on the north side of the river produced wool cloth for 25 years. It was then converted to a planing mill by J.O'Malley in 1874. This mill produced finished and dimensional lumber until 1877. The mill itself was destroyed by fire in 1888. O'Malley built a newer building just east of this mill and closer to Main street in 1877-78. This building was purchased by the Deerlick Oil Stone Co. in 1899.

Mill: **Bliss & Bliss**
Product: **Chairs, Woolen mill, Foundry, Machine Shop**
Also known as: **Pease Chair Factory, Bliss Woolen Mill, Force Woolen Mill, Adin Gauntt Foundry & Machine Shop**
Year Built: **1843**



Location: Solon Road on the north end of River Run Park

Summary: Obadiah and J.N Bliss built a dam the Chagrin river, just a little south of the Woodard and Carpenter dam in 1843. It was originally used to manufacture chairs but was then converted to a woolen mill. It manufactured woolen products until 1853 when it was converted to a machine shop and foundry by Adin Gauntt. The mill was in business at this location to at least 1879.

Mill: Enterprise Mills
Product: Flour mill
Year Built: 1879

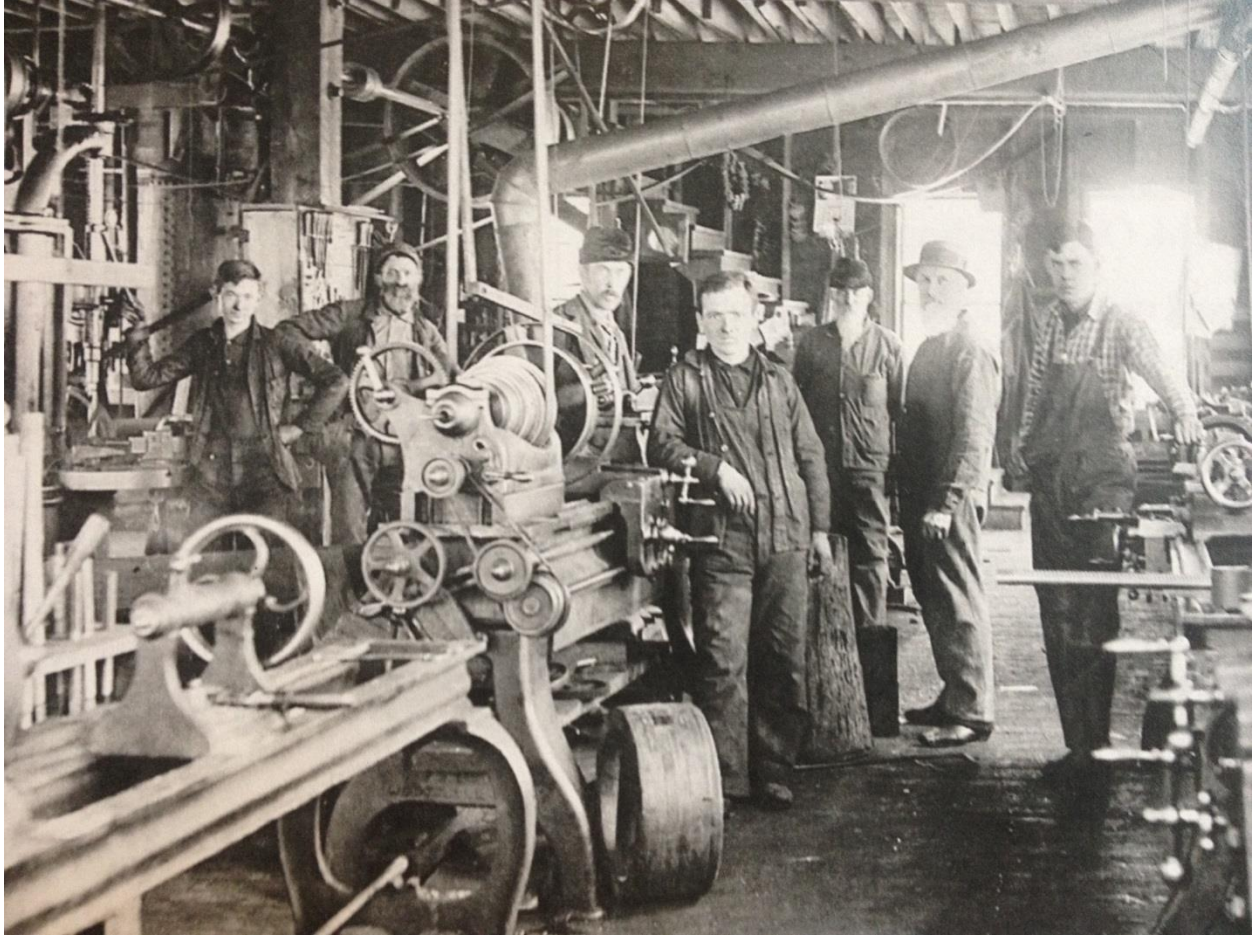


Looking east on Bell, corner of Philomethian

Location: Southeast corner of Bell and Philomethian Streets

Summary: Opened in 1879 by Benajah Williams and William "Boss" Hutchings. This mill utilized power from a steam engine instead of water power. This mill took advantage of its close location to the C.C. & S. R.R.

MANUFACTURING



Chagrin Falls has had its share of manufacturing companies over the years. Many made products that were sold worldwide.

This list is not all inclusive. Publications that go into much more detail, written by Don Barriball, are available at:

<http://www.chagrinfallshistoricalsociety.org/mill-town-on-the-chagrin-river>

<http://www.chagrinfallshistoricalsociety.org/ober-manufacturing-company>

<http://www.chagrinfallshistoricalsociety.org/stranahan-folding-boat>

<http://www.chagrinfallshistoricalsociety.org/history-of-chagrin-falls-hardware>

Company: Ober Manufacturing Company
Product: Saw mill, lathes, Foundry, Machine Shop
Also known as: Ober Brothers Co., Ober Lathe Co.
Year Built: 1874

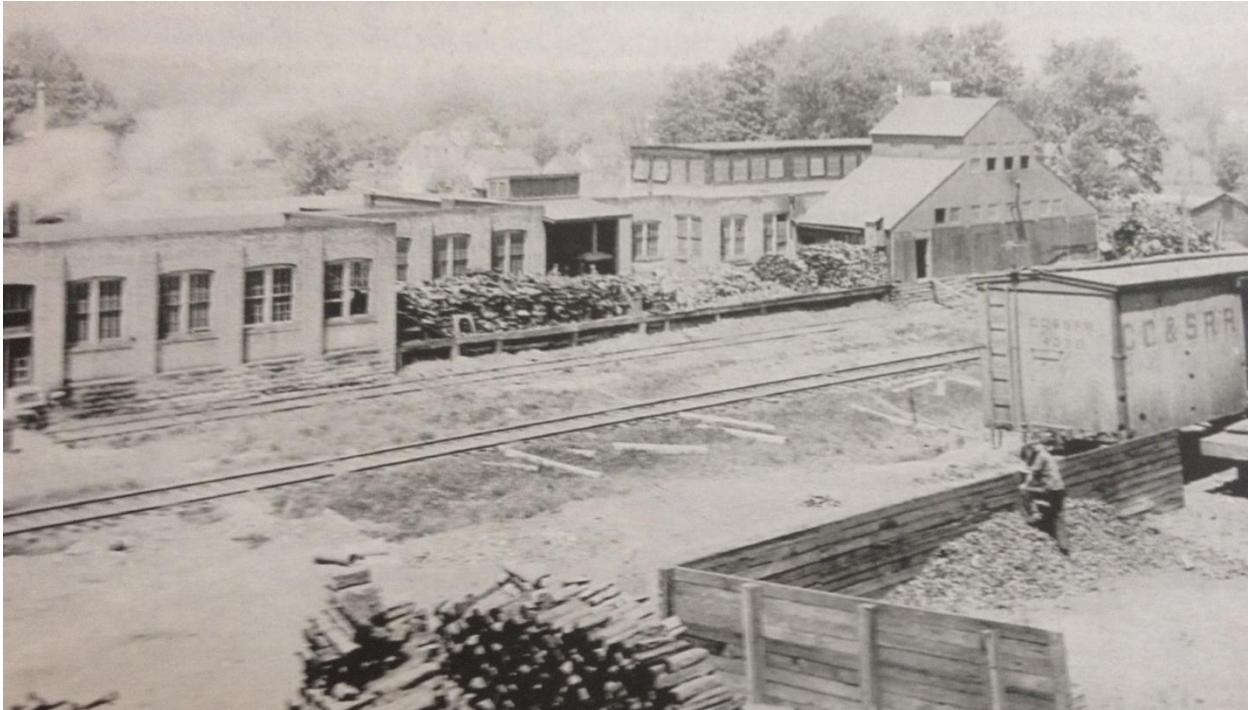


Ober Manufacturing looking north towards Bell St.

Location: South side of Bell Street, between Cleveland and Philomethian Streets.

Summary: This manufacturing concern started in 1874 in Chagrin Falls by John and George Ober. The factory made lumber and turned wood products. George Ober also patented many lathe designs, mostly for patterned turnings, like handles and legs. These lathes and other types of machinery were eventually offered as products also. John left Ober manufacturing to go into furniture retail and undertaking in town. George took over all of Ober Manufacturing. The factory was in Ober hands for three generations until 1959.

Company: Chagrin Falls Manufacturing Company
Product: Foundry, Sad Iron, Coil Springs, Baby food.
Also known as: Ferrosteel, Kirk-Tucker Spring Co., Standard Foundry Co., Chagrin Falls Foundry, Henry Miller Foundry, Climax Motors Devices Co., General Biochemicals
Year Built: 1893



Location: Just south of Greenville Tavern., West side of railroad

Summary: Taking advantage of the Cleveland, Canton & Southern R.R., the Chagrin Falls Manufacturing Company was incorporated in 1893. It started out as a foundry, making the Ober Manufacturing Company's Sad Irons. It became idle in 1895 due to the financial collapse of the time. Ferrosteel leased the property in 1897 and ran there until 1900, when it was purchased by Kirk-Tucker Spring Company which manufactured coil springs. In 1936 the factory was purchased by EFF Laboratories and was re-named General BioChemicals. They manufactured baby dietary formulas, cheese & buttermilk cultures and extracted pro-vitamin A from palm oil. The building is still in use and has gone through many different owners and has manufactured many different types of products.

Company: **Dippo Manufacturing Company, R.C. Products Co.**
Product: **Foundry, Cooking Ranges, Sad Irons, Castings, Flywheels, Furnaces,**
Also known as: **Ferrosteel, Semi-Steel Co., Imperial Steel Co., Henry & Scheibel Co., American Steel and Tin Plate Co., Henry Furnace and Foundry.**
Year Built: **1893**



Location: Just south of Greenville Tavern., East side of railroad

Summary: This factory was built in 1893 to produce Gobeille Pattern Works. The specialty of the factory was Ferrosteel cooking ranges. The company was reorganized as the Ferrosteel Company in 1894. The factory underwent multiple changes producing castings, steel products, sad irons, furnaces, stoves and auto products. The Henry Furnace Company operated the plant making the Moncrief Furnaces until 1926. R. C. Products Co. purchased the property and manufactured steel re-enforced concrete construction beams.