

The Buckland Times ^{60¢}

December 1994

Available at



Hilliardville

As late as 1950 Hilliardville had a place on most maps of Connecticut. It was considered to be part of Buckland, which in turn was part of Manchester. You can be sure it still has a place in Manchester's history, and in the hearts and memories of people who grew up there, worked there and visited relatives there. You cross into Hilliardville south of the Railroad crossing bridge on Adams St. although I'm not sure exactly where. It's southern boundary seems to have been Middle Turnpike, eastern and western boundaries are uncertain. The village centered around the area where the Bigelow Brook and the Hockanum River come together. I think few people realize that this is one of the first places that was settled by white men in what is today Manchester, or that the old Hilliard Mill may be the oldest Woolen Mill in the country! The first white settler according to known records was John Allen who was granted land in 1672 by the General Assembly "near his saw mill on the Saw Mill River" (now the Hockanum). There was a need for lumber in the growing towns along the Connecticut River. (see A New England Pattern p.34 by Wm. E. Buckley) There then seems to be a 100 year gap in what anyone knows about this area. I think you have to wonder how old some of the remaining houses might be. The house next to the brook? or the one north of the Hockanum? The next event mentioned in most of the usual histories is the establishment of a cloth mill here about 1780 by Aaron Buckland. Aaron Buckland may be more responsible than anyone else for leaving the Buckland name with this part of town. He seems to have been it's leading citizen in that era. I hope to write more about him and the Buckland family in future issues and the Manchester Historical Society is hoping to borrow the full length portrait of Aaron that was left to the Lebenon Hist. Soc. for display.

It has been difficult to find much of anything written about Hilliardville in any era, but fortunately I received letters from Virginia Armstrong Roberts who now lives in Florida, Russell Culver who now lives in Virginia and the Southergill brothers now of Winsted, Ct. and Gt. Barrington, Ma.. All have family roots in Buckland and Hilliardville and once were neighbors. In fact for a while everyone I talked to had relatives who worked in the mill or lived on Adams St., so many that I don't have room to mention them all. Virginia's grandfather, Walter Weeder was the "Boss Spinner" for the E.E.Hilliard Co. for 38 years. Russell's grandfather Fred Colton went to work there sometime before 1896 according to Manchester City Directories and eventually became there Master Mechanic and Chief Engineer. I also talked to Virginia's brother Earle Armstrong and his wife Dorothy who live in So. Windsor. They have graciously provided the pictures for this issue. Earle at one time was Bob Meek's partner in Meek's Express, a trucking company that was located in one of the old Adams Mill buildings. (they found in that building an old Seth Thomas clock that they believe may have come from the office of the Adams Mill. It has been refinished and is hanging over their mantle) Their Armstrong grandparents also lived in Hilliardville. David and Jennie (Davis) Armstrong were Scots-Irish born in Ireland with Scots Ancestors. (and if you go back far enough you'll find that the Scots were originally an Irish tribe! who invaded the land of the Picts!) In any case the Armstrongs were living on Adams St. south of the brook in 1888 when they were married at the North Congregational Church. The wedding certificate says that David was a "paper maker" perhaps at the Peter Adams Paper Mill further down Adams St. which burned in 1897. He later worked at the Bon Ami Co. on Hilliard St.. Walter & Minnie (Maynard) Weeder came to Hilliardville from Sommers, Ct. so that Walter could take that job at the mill. David Armstrong Jr. married their daughter Myrtle Weeder (who was

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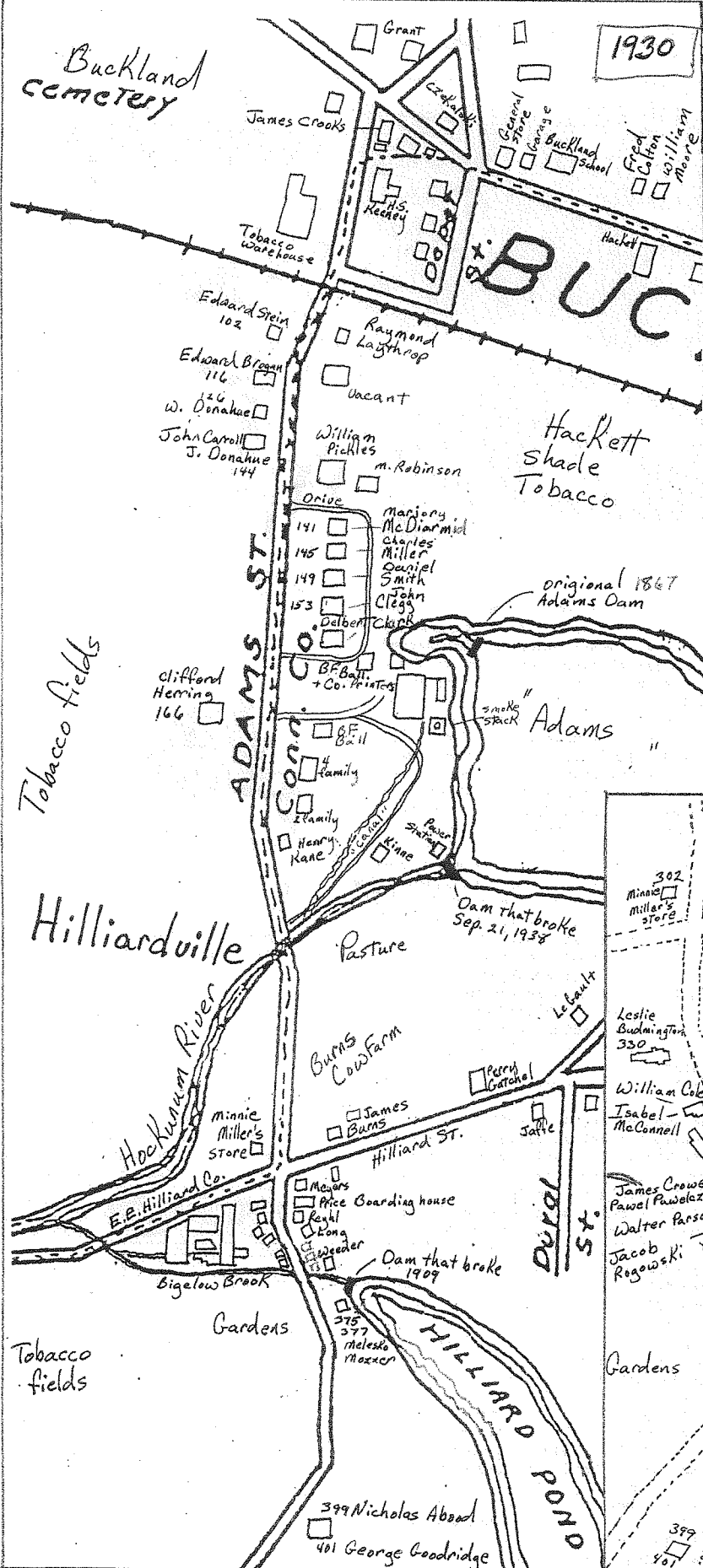
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Thanks to everyone who helped to make this issue possible & HAPPY NEW YEAR

pictured above left - Walter & Minnie Weeder standing at left, Myrtle Weeder holding her bicycle.

643-8313

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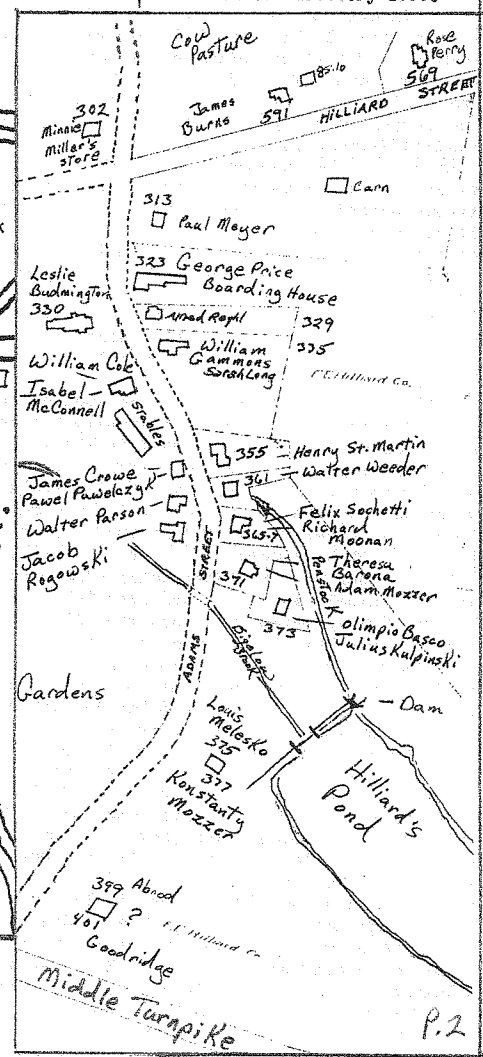
1930



Left - map of Adams St. about 1930. I started with the map from the 1923 Directory. Dick Keeney, Judy Meyer, Paul Aceto, Virginia Roberts, Earl Armstrong, John Melesko added buildings & names, etc. The 1930 Directory added more names, but had no names for the 4-family, 2-family, & 1-family just north of the Hooknum. Perhaps the names given for 38-52 Adams St. which did not exist north of the R.R. track according to everyone I've talked to, belong in this 4-family, & 2-family. Henry Kane is listed as living at 31 Adams St. for many years. That house did not exist either and no one seems to remember Henry Kane.

- 31 Kane Henry
- 38 Kinne William P
- 42 Malatian Mark N
- 44 Wright Nellie E Mrs
- 46 Patterson William E
- 47 Depot st ends
- 48 Brick Mary Mrs
- 51 N Y N H & H E R crosses
- 52 Farrington Dana A
- Hilinski Stephen
- Stone Rufus B

below - Detail of Hilliardville. The map provided by the Engineering Dept. at Town Hall, names from the Manchester Directory 1930.



* The next ROCKANUM LINEAR TRAIL WALK will take place Sunday March 19, 1995 and will begin at the Adams Mill RESTAURANT parking lot, 165 Adams St. ALL ARE WELCOME.



Buckland School 1907-back row - Minnie Spillane, Ester Brendall, Lillian Jeffers, Ida Irish, Lotty Irish, Helen Grant, Grace Spillane, Myrtle Weeder, Cristine McConnell, Gertrude McCue, Edith Williams, Clifford Beebe, Earl Davis, Samuel Newbery, David Armstrong, Peter Jeffers, Raymond Lathrop, Lee Webb, Tom Maloney.

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almost the girl next door) and they had 4 children, Virginia, Walter, Earle, and Barbara. I was advised not to mention birth dates. Minnie Weeder may have worked occasionally in the Hilliard Co. office, but women had busy home schedules in those days. Monday was "very definitely" wash day. Virginia Roberts writes that, "They would take the trolley to Hartford every Saturday morning early to do their shopping, getting home about 4 to 5 o'clock. She baked beans every Saturday for Saturday night supper and Sunday breakfast. The beans would be in the oven while they did the shopping. She would stew a chicken and serve it on biscuits." As you can tell, the *Maysands* had Connecticut Yankee ancestors - going back to the first settlers of Windsor. They settled in at 361 Adams St. for a long stay.

I was put in touch with Stella Krieski Kittel by her nephew, Robert Krause. She is the senior member of this group, proud to say she was born May 7, 1908. Her grandfather Anthony Krieski and her father Frank then 12 yrs. old came to America about 1900. Anthony worked at the Hilliard mill, perhaps in the dye house. Anthony made 3 trips back to Poland finally bringing his wife over. Frank married Anna Lukas in 1907. Anna was born in Poland and came to America on her own in 1905 at the age of 16, but she had brothers and sisters in Manchester already, and she made the trip with Anthony Krieski a family friend. Frank and Anna Krieski had 3 children Stella, Frank and John. They were living in one of the houses next to the brook in 1909 when the dam on Hilliard's pond broke. Naturally she heard stories about that. You'll find pictures of the broken dam in the new picture book of old Manchester. A postcard was made to commemorate the event. Frank Krieski was a spinner at the mill for many years working under Mr. Weeder. You'll find him in the photo on p.5. Anna Krieski worked there as a spooler as did many of the women. William Cole was her Boss. Stella herself went to work at the mill part time at the age of 14 as a pattern maker. She remembers attending the "old Buckland" school a 2 room school with 3 grades in each room and an old wood furnace in the basement. She also remembers attending Halloween parties in the Hilliard stables which are now the home of Bentz Sheet Metal Shop, Kenn Welding, and Walt Soadden's Black Smith Shop. She remembers Jim Virginia as the watchman at the mill. He was also the fireman, tending the fire boxes, and he helped to unload the soft coal which was used to fire the boiler. He was pitch black from head to toe when finished with that job. There were three generations of Hilliards who owned and operated the mills Elisha Edgerton Hilliard, Elisha Clinton, and Elisha Earnest Hilliard. It was E.C. Hilliard who moved his family to Hartford about 1890. His sisters Maria Henrietta and Adelaide Clementine Hilliard continued to live at 330 Adams St. for the rest of their lives. I've been told that the lawn that stretched to the corner of Adams & Hilliard Sts. was kept beautifully landscaped - mowed with a one horse lawn mower. Stella recalls that the Hilliards kept a summer home back in the woods that once surrounded Hilliard's Pond. At one time the pond extended back into what is now the Parkade, and those woods were known as Hilliard's Woods. I've heard about swimming in the pond, hunting mushrooms in the woods, and choke cherries, fishing for brook trout (18 inches perhaps the record length) and hunting for turtles for turtle soup. 330 Adams St. today is the Four Seasons Sun Rooms.

John Melesko describes Mr. Hilliard (Elisha Earnest-3rd generation) as being tall, thin, and wearing a big straw hat. He continued to live in Hartford at 36 Woodland St.. John goes on to say that Mr. Hilliard rode in a Packard soft top, driven by his nephew, Ludius Hilliard Barbour. It was this car that was serviced at Walt Keensay's garage. John Melesko was Stella's next door neighbor until the Meleskos moved across the street to a larger apartment. Their rent went from \$7.00 a month to \$7.50 a month and was taken directly out of your pay, because all of these houses were owned by the company. John's parents were Lithuanian. Their name was originally spelled Meleskuite. His father Louis (Ludwig) was born in the city and worked their in the factories and mills before coming to America. He worked as a weaver and had the honor of teaching young Mr. Hilliard the weaving end of the business. His mother Rose (Rosalia) was born on a farm in a peasant village. With the help

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of her uncle she came to Hartford and then got a job with the Shephards in So. Windsor as a housekeeper. They were married and had 5 children Ann, John born Feb. 2, 1914, Stanley & Helen who died as an infant and Alice. They lived in several places through the years, depending on where work was available - Westfield & Springfield, Ma. and Buckland and Hilliardville. At one time they lived in the "old Buckland Inn". It was a brick building built by Aaron Buckland with a fireplace in all of the bedrooms. It stood on the north side of Tolland tnpk. east of Buckland St.. When John's father bought that house he asked about fire insurance, but was told he didn't need any because brick houses didn't burn! It did burn in 1917 or 18, leaving the Melesko family to start over again. John remembers Leslie Edgington as Superintendent in charge of the mill in Mr. Hilliard's absence and all of the buildings. His wife was the pattern designer for the mill. They lived at 330 Adams St. after 1924. There are older and newer sections of the mill. The three story brick section being the newest. When that was built John says it was used to prop up one of the older sections which was leaning! The spinning Dept. was moved into the 3rd floor of the new building; spooling Dept. into the 2nd; weaving Shop into the first. The old building was then used for packing and shipping. There was also a washroom which used water from Hilliard's Pond, a Dye house and a tick room, according to John's recollection.

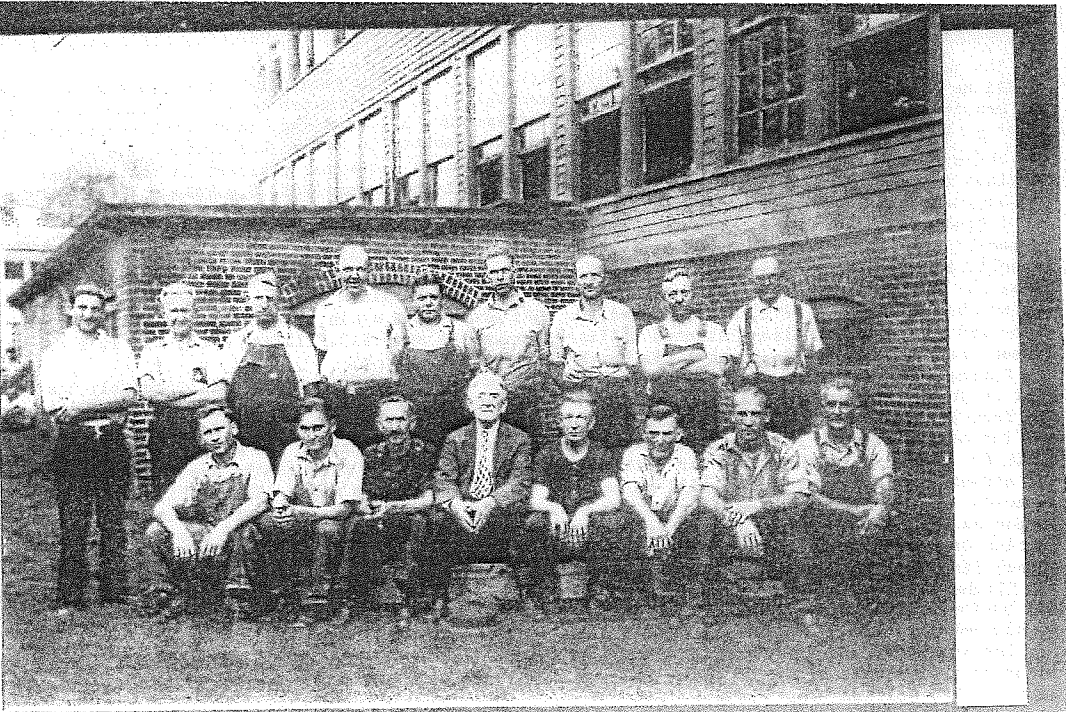
Sella and John went on to explain that work at the Hilliard mill was seasonal, the busiest months being in the spring and summer when woolen cloth was made for the coming winter. At other times there were lay-offs. The Hilliard family owned farmland on Middle Tnpk. and west of Adams St.. At one time those fields were planted with tobacco, a Mr. Johnson being the farmer in charge. When the mill was slow the extra hands were put to work on the tobacco crop. In the next story you'll read and realize that this farmland was probably first used to grow grain and hay for the horses that were needed to haul supplies from Hartford and woolen goods back. Perhaps these fields were converted when the R.R. was built and so many horses were no longer needed. I have been reminded that William Kinne the teamster was hauling bales of wool from the train station, not cotton. The soft coal was dumped in an area which can still be seen behind Buckland Cemetery and hauled from there to the mill and houses. You'll also see mentioned a herd of cows. Perhaps they were kept on the N.E. corner of Adams & Hilliard Sts. That corner was later known as the Burns Cow Farm.

Charles Kaselauskas called to be sure I knew about the Burns Farm. His good friend Sandy Burns grew up there with his brother Robert and two sisters. Their father James had 10-12 cows that grazed on that corner all the way to the Hockanum. The house stood behind those two majestic trees across from the Purdy Corp.'s main office, the barn and silo were near there too. Charles tells me that this was a very modern operation. They were the first in the area to have a milking machine - a Ford model. John Melesko worked for them one in a while helping to fill the silo and pack it down. Milk was available in the village for 3 qts. for 25¢, and before Minnie Miller opened her store on the opposite corner the Burns family kept a small store at their farm. The Aceto family moved into that house about 1937. Dick Keeney had me call Paul Aceto to ask him about the day the dam broke on the Adams Pond, Sept. 21, 1938 at 11:00 A.M. Only hours before the great hurricane struck. Yes, Paul remembered sitting on the side of the hill waiting for the dam to break, he was about 7 yrs. old - that must have been quite a show, and quite a day! Luckily most of the houses in the village were not flooded because they were on slightly higher ground. The lower floor of the mill was flooded damaging some newer weaving machines, but most of the people I spoke to agree that the mill was already closed at that time. I was hoping to write about the labor dispute and strike that closed the mill, but none of the people I've mentioned took part in the strike, either because they were supervisory personnel (Bosses) or because they lived in company houses and were told they would lose their rents, or because they had moved or taken new jobs. None could remember hearing much about it, fathers and grandfathers didn't talk much about it. It was the same with most everyone I talked to. I did some looking in the Manchester Herald but found nothing, probably because I was looking too late. The first record in the deeds showing that Mr. Hilliard is planning to sell out is in Jan. 1940, so I searched 1938-9. Virginia John and others agree that the strike took place between 1935 & 7. Mr. Hilliard died Oct. 18, 1951, his obituary calls it "an extended strike". It also mentions his \$35,000 donation to Manchester Memorial Hospital calling him an "art patron and benefactor of hospitals". John Melesko believes that the mill may have opened once or twice for short times before it closed for the last time. Some workers like Walter Weeder are listed in the Directories as employed by the E.E.H.Co. in 1938 but not 1939. It seems the flood may have ended any hopes of reopening as a woolen mill. The Hilliard Co. using the name Waverly Mills bought the Adams mill properties including the pond in 1902. They built the electric generating station which still stands near the old sandstone blocks from the dam, and near the Hockanum Linear trail. The electricity was used in the mill and the village although some houses did not get electricity until about 1920. John Melesko recalls that the dam was in need of repair, but the was new machinery in the generating station. Mr. Hilliard was not concerned about the Hilliard pond dam because it had newly poured concrete, but the Adams dam was just sandstone blocks. It gave way under tremendous pressure. Like all the other cloth mills in New England the Hilliard Co. was competing against mills in the south that were paying lower wages. Perhaps Mr. Hilliard bought that new weaving and generating equipment in hopes of gaining back the competitive edge, Perhaps the cost of clean-up and repair or finding another source of power made it impossible to reopen.

Hopefully someone will come forward who knows more about the strike. For now the best description of what took place came to me from Norman (known as Unk) Southergill. He spent some of his younger days living with his family in a small cottage next to James Crooks house (corner of Tolland Tnpk. and Adams). That cottage was actually was "the old Buckland School" refurbished after it had been moved across the street to make way for the new school. As he remembers the union wanted to get into the mill, and Mr. Hilliard said "no way". There was a meeting held at the State Theater and a vote taken. The Union was voted in, and when they returned to the mill the doors were locked, just as Mr. Hilliard had said they would be. "He was Boss" and he did "own Hilliardville". He took a "parental" attitude towards his workers and their families, sometimes looking in on someone who was sick to make sure they had enough medicé and enough to eat. He considered his word to be final. I expect he was a Republican. I've been told he didn't agree much with Franklin Roosevelt. The workers felt that the mill would stay closed until he was voted out of office. We know that Elisha Earnest Hilliard never married and had no children, and was nearing retirement age, but he could have left the business in the hands of his nephew. It seems it was after the flood that they made the decision to sell.

I realized that I still didn't know much about the Hilliard family which had owned the mill and most of the village for 100 yrs.. So I went to the Conn. Hist. Soc. on Elizabeth St. in Hartford to see what I could learn. There in their Family name File I found the story which follows. It had no title, no author listed or date, but the author mentions his brother Elisha Hilliard Cooper. Other papers in the file showed that E.H.Cooper had only one brother James Earnest Cooper, so I have put his name on it. He was born Mar. 13, 1873 so he is writing about Hilliardville before 1890 for the most part. Reading this I felt like a window had opened up on the history and life of Hilliardville. There was so much information here that I had not seen before that I thought I should try to publish it. I was sure most of you had never seen it, and would be as interested as I was. It will leave you wondering where "Hawthorn Dell" was. Was that 330 Adams St. or was it closer to the pond, and where were the indigo pits? It confirms what I was told by people who had lived in the village and then adds to it. And so I decided to make this a double issue, being late as usual in any case.

And so with the kind permission of the Connecticut Historical Society, and with thanks to James Earnest Cooper and with the hope that someone will pass our thanks on to his children or grand-children The Buckland Times is pleased to present for the first time what I'm calling "A Sketch of the Life of Elisha Edgerton Hilliard, the Hilliard Mill, and Village" by James Earnest Cooper, his grandson.



THE SPINNING CREW date unknown - front row - Patsy Rubachoa, his son, Frank Krieski, Walter Weeder, Frank Miner, Weaver(?), Steve sekowski, Henry St. Martin, back row, Roping carrier from R'ville(?) Wm. Newbury, Edw. Joyoe, Bill Hoffner, Paul Vasilonus, Harry Nielson, Joe Tomacek, Edmund Dauplise, August Frey. (from back of photo)

A Sketch of the life of Elisha Edgerton Hilliard, the Hilliard Woolen Mill, and Village." by James Earnest Cooper

Ambrose Hilliard, son of Levi and Experience (Edgerton) Hilliard, was born in Norwich, July 16, 1773. His parents dying when he was young, he brought up in the family of his Uncle Elisha Edgerton Jr. He married Jan. 16, 1800 Marcia Dunham, who died Mar. 18, 1809. Ambrose died Jan. 14, 1816. Thus their five children, orphans, the eldest only nine years old, were the second generation in succession to be left on their own resources, without parents at an early age.

The children of Ambrose and Marcia were - Marcia born ----, Clarissa born Oct. 23, 1802, who married Jeremiah Wentworth; Mary born Mar. 3, 1804, who married Lucius Bump; Elisha Edgerton, the subject of this sketch, born Dec. 8, 1806 and Lucius, born in 1808, who died at twenty-four. (In passing I have a number of letters from Mr. Bump to his brother-in-law Elisha, and a more sanctimonious correspondent never lived.)

This young Hilliard family of orphans was scattered among friends and relatives. I have a pathetic little letter in my possession which sister Mary, aged 13, wrote from Mansfield, to Elisha (aged 9) at Lebenon, on Apr. 22, 1817: "I want to see you very much. O' that we had a fathers house that we might live together as brothers and sisters, but be it far from me to murmur or complain" and again "why was it so ordered that we are separated, some in one place and some in another. God only knows." She says she is going to live with Widow Barrows next door to where she lived last winter. "I am going to take care of her silkworms this summer if my health is spared me." She had't heard from Clarissa but Lucius has gone from the doctors to Colonel Kingsbury in Tolland.

It is the family tradition that Elisha spent part of his boyhood at the Wentworth's at Mount Hope in Mansfield. The old Wentworth house on the wets side of the main north & south highway, near the bridge, in that village, was standing until recently, but is now destroyed. I have the iron lintel of it's old fireplace in my possession. Elisha, five years old when his mother died, was I suppose apprenticed to some one but by tradition had "bought his time" at the age of 13 and was thereafter free to choose his calling. In Nov. 1824 he apprenticed himself to Sidney Pitkin of Lebenon, to learn the business. The following is the certificate of his satisfactory completion of this apprenticeship:

"This to whom it may concern certifies that Mr. Elisha E. Hilliard commenced his apprenticeship with me in Nov. 1824 for the term of three years and some months, the occupation of which has been principally at dying and dressing cloth with a good opportunity at the practice and art of carding and I further certify that the said Hilliard has faithfully served his apprenticeship and as a young man of industry possessing a good character, steady habits, peaceable and a good workman."

(Lebenon, Feb. 2, 1828)

signed Sidney Pitkin

Acknowledged and found true as a party concerned

signed Joseph Latham

It is to be noted that this certificate is dated at Lebenon and was signed only a month before Sidney Pitkin purchased the Buckland Woolen Mills, mentioned later. It is probable that the apprenticeship was served in Lebenon or its vicinity and that it is possible that Elisha lived in Lebenon from 1817, the date of Mary's letter. The traditions however, I give as told me by mother.

The Aaron Buckland mill was built about 1780 in what is now Buckland in the town of Manchester. Manufactured plain cloth by primitive hand methods with little machinery. It has since had a record of continuous operation, certainly since 1794. Aaron Buckland had sold it to (Manchester land records Vol. I, p. 43 Andrew Williams and Simon Tracy on Sept. 20, 1824 soon after Manchester was set off from the town of East Hartford and on Mar. 13, 1826, Williams and Tracy conveyed the property to Sidney Pitkin (Vol. I p. 274) Mr. Williams evidently no writer, signed the deed with his mark.

To the Buckland mill in 1828 came Sidney Pitkin bringing with him his young assistant, newly released from his apprenticeship. Three years afterwards, Jul. 31, 1831, we find record of the sale to Elisha Hilliard of a quarter interest (Vol. 3, p. 228) or in the language of the deed "one-fourth undivided part," of three described acres of land with two dwellings, barn and other buildings" also one fourth undivided part of a woolen factory standing on the same and the water privilege connected therewith and also the Dye house near the factory and all the machinery belonging to the said factory for the purpose of manufacturing woolen cloth."

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Ten years afterwards, Apr. 26, 1842, Mr. Pitkin sold out his remaining three quarters interest in the mill to Elisha Hilliard (Vol. 5, p. 330) and quit claimed (Vol. 2, p. 501) the ten acres, house and barn, etc. "where the grantee now lives." That the relationship between Mr. Hilliard and Sidney Pitkin continued friendly is attested by the fact that Pitkin chose him to be his executor to settle his estate.

Seven years afterwards, Feb. 4, 1849, Mr. Hilliard sold a quarter interest in the original mill or "satinet factory" as it was for the first time called in the record (Vol. 6, p. 243) to Ralph E. Spencer and the business was for some time thereafter known as Hilliard & Spencer.

I find a mortgage May 5, 1859 from one Bidwell to Elisha E. Hilliard and Norman W. Spencer, of certain personal property including "one 12 year old heifer" and "a yearling heifer" and "wood cut short equal to 10 solid cords", "a franklin stove" "an old Fanning mill" and other things but whether Norman W. Spencer had succeeded to the interest of Ralph E. Spencer, I have not examined and do not know.

Eventually, (about 1871, not verified) Mr. Hilliard became again sole owner and conducted the business alone and with his son Elisha Clinton Hilliard, under the name E. E. Hilliard & Co. and it's corporate successor The E. E. Hilliard Co., until his death in 1881.

Elisha E. Hilliard was also whole or part owner of various other woolen mills, notably the Charter Oak Mill in South Manchester, The Vernon Mill in the Town of Rockville and the Eagle Mill in Glastonbury and from these names come the trade mark brands of the product of the Hilliard Mills.

The old Buckland Mill is said to have made blankets for the army in the war of 1812 and certainly made cloth for uniforms in the Civil War of '61-'65. Some of the very fine cloth, dyed in the old fashioned but effective "Indigo pits" is still to be seen as samples at the mill. Elisha Hilliard's son, Clinton succeeded as proprietor and manager of the business for a number of successful years. My brother, Elisha H. Cooper was second in command under him for nearly 20 years before taking over the management of the Fafnir Bearing Co. of New Britain. The present leader of the enterprise is Earnest Hilliard, the third in the direct line to operate what is now the oldest woolen mill in the United States.

Elisha Edgerton Hilliard prospered and was a man of substance through the years of careful and successful business, deacon of his church in Manchester, a representative in the State Legislature, Tax Collector of his school district and honored and trusted by his neighbors.

The inventory of his estate filed in 1881, shows property appraised at \$325,385.15, including in addition to real estate of \$43,770, investments in various Connecticut companies. The following is a partial list:

379 Collins Co,			
71 National Fire	4035	18 Conn. Gen. Life	1960
33 First Nat. Bank	12780	13 Conn. Fire	18720
47 Hartford Carpet Co	3960	1332 Willimantic	119880
38 Pittsburg Ft. Waym	13160	Linen Co.	
46 Aetna Fire	4950		
	13110		

"going to Grandpa's"

As a child I remember "going to Grandpa's" on every occasion and this meant a visit to the homestead "Hawthorn Dell" beside the mill in Buckland. There was Thanksgiving with chicken pie at one end of the table, turkey at the other and all sorts of good things piled high between - also often Christmas and many summer vacations.

In that family the Sabbath began on Saturday night and ended at sundown on Sunday. During that period only the minimum of work was done. Cooking had been finished in preparation on Sat. and only works of necessity and mercy were permitted, until the end of the sabbath. Often we walked to church in Manchester to give the horses a rest also. Grandfather Hilliard was at least 6 feet tall, well proportioned, solemn and dignified but with a merry quiet twinkle in his eyes. He was quite bald on top of his head but a long look of hair was carefully combed over the side to make such modest show as it was possible.

Grandma, on the other hand, was small, quick, lively and always working at something or reading her Bible - a dot of a woman but cheerful and hustling. On Sunday her heavy black silk dress fairly rustled, especially when we children became restless in church and she reached for that capacious pocket where peppermint lozenges and candied flag root lay for just such emergencies. In early life she took snuff and I have often heard my father tell what a cross it was for her to give it up. She used to ask father to smoke his cigar nearby so that she could enjoy the tobacco by proxy. There life was a busy one. In connection with the mill and the business there was a farm where grain and hay for the many work horses, was raised. All the shipping in my recollection was by horse truck to the railroad, a mile away, but in the early days finished goods were hauled to Hartford and supplies of wool and other raw materials were loaded back, Mr. Hilliard himself often driving the team. Enough cows to furnish the family with milk and cream, cottage cheese and their home made butter. There was a notable line of belted cows whose rich milk indicated some Jersey, or as they then said Alderney with the Holsteins. Before my time the clothing also was made up from mill cloth and the linen woven by hand on hand looms by grandma herself. Stores of preserves, of mincemeat, of dried apples, were put down. Especially I remember the sour cream cookies, never since equalled, chickens around the house and a good old fashioned kitchen garden furnished their share of the larder.

By the mill was the mill pond dam and the pond extended back about a quarter of a mile alongside the house and the "village" where the operators lived. The cloth was stretched to dry on frames that must have covered an acre between the house and the mill, provided with hooks called I think "tender hooks" to which the cloth was hooked and stretched to dry in the sun. I do remember also that the nap of the cloth was raised by scratching on a big wheel in which were embedded the common "teasels" which grow as weeds in New England. I am told that applying the Indigo vegetable dye, fermented in a pit in the dye house from imported Indian Indigo, was truly a trade. When the vat went sick, old Tim Dwyer who brought his trade and only one tooth from England, concocted remarkable remedies including in some instances fresh barnyard manure until the ferment began boiling properly again. The mill "hands", English and Irish lived in the village in company houses and their welfare as well as their wages were a charge upon the purse and energy of the owner. It was feudal on a small scale. The supervision of a sick family was part of the duty of the employer and the children were still young, when after a few terms at the District School, they were taken into light work on the farm and in the mill.

At our earnest request, and no doubt to keep us out of mischief we were permitted to work in the card room of the mill, picking up the fluffy rolls of half made wool, picking faults from cloth and other interesting jobs. But the sun fish in the pond near Mat Long's mother's kitchen, and the yellow plums from the plum tree overhanging the water, clandestine swims up the brook and old Mike audibly "purring" at his work in the barn, are all brighter memories. Trips with Grandpa to Manchester Green to have the horses shod, long sandy rides to Hartford, and over the wooden covered bridge of the Connecticut River and a drive in the business wagon all the way to Wallingford to see the path of the Wallingford tornado, these are memories of Grandpa. I can still hear the sand trickling off the carriage spokes in the wide old East Hartford street.

It was said of Mr. Hilliard that he could tell all about a piece of woolen cloth by the "feel". When his son wanted to install the new invention, the telephone, between scattered mills, he is reported to have said with some reluctance "Well Clint, go ahead and put it in but you can't feel a piece of cloth over that wire." A God-fearing, upright, honorable, tax-paying and successful citizen.