

## Chapter XVIII

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### THE GRANITE INDUSTRY      THE OLD TANYARD SOME LONG ESTABLISHED BUSINESS FIRMS

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#### *The Granite Industry*

Fall River is built on a hill of granite and in localities where the mineral constituents are so arranged and crystalized to make quarrying possible, a rock of exceptional beauty and durability is available. In fact, Fall River granite is so hard, that it is difficult to cut and dress and modern methods used with finer grained rock cannot be used profitably.

Major Bradford Durfee and his nephew Benjamin Davol, brother of Stephen and William C. Davol, were among the first to engage in the granite business. Major Durfee "worked" the Big Berry ledge on the shore of Quequechan River. Later Mr. Davol bought the ledge at the north end of Quarry Street subsequently owned by William and John Beattie, Jr. Mr. Davol was also a contractor. He built the Groton Monument in Connecticut and Fort Adams in Newport of Fall River granite. He furnished dimension stones for the original City Hall and the old Granite Block.

For years granite blocks were used for pavements and men were constantly employed shaping them by hand from larger blocks of granite.

It was formerly a common sight to see John Mingo, (who was thought to be a descendant of local Indians but who probably came from the West Indies), driving a pair of oxen hitched to a contraption with two wheels, seven or eight feet in diameter, conveying curbing or large blocks of granite. The Mingos lived in their house which was near the shore of the North Pond at the South Narrows.

#### *The Old Tanyard (1808)*

The old tanyard was situated on the south side of Bedford Street at the foot of Rock Street prior to the time when Third Street was extended over the Quequechan River. It occupied a space<sup>1</sup> between the old post office

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<sup>1</sup> Building mentioned is shown on picture of old Post Office.

building and the Troy Mill building, and extended southerly by the stream. I remember it as being operated by Edmund Chase, but it was founded by his father Obadiah Chase in 1808 and continued in operation for about seventy-five years. One of the oldest land marks in Fall River was one of the shops which remained upon this lot until the time of the Fall River fire in 1928.

When the tannery was in operation it was a busy industry and the dressing of hides brought in by the farmers in this locality was an important art, which became more important when the mills were built and there was a demand for belting, but when belt making became an important industry elsewhere, the local manufacturers were undersold and business waned.

The old belt shed was along and close to (being a long shed) the shores of the Quequechan River. In front of that was a building which, when Third Street was put through to Bedford Street, was at the southwest corner of those streets and was owned by Chauncey H. Sears until it was sold for enlarged post office purposes after the big fire of 1928. In early times the front offices of this building were used as an office by the Seaconnet Mill and then there were two front offices, one used by N. B. Everett & Co., the other by Edward B. Varney, cotton brokers. After that it was used as an office building until sold to the Federal Government.

### SOME LONG-ESTABLISHED BUSINESS FIRMS

#### *Cook Borden Co., Inc.*

The lumber business conducted under this well known name was first located on Lindsey's Wharf at the foot of Central Street in 1833. In 1846 it was moved to "Bowenville", its present location on Davol Street, at the foot of Turner Street.

Cook Borden died September 20, 1880, leaving three sons who succeeded to his business. Jerome C. Borden acquired the interests of his brothers and carried on the business until his death in 1930. The business was reorganized and modernized in 1877. In 1910, when motor trucks took the place of horse delivery, the business began to deal in building materials other than lumber. Since 1930 Richard C. B. Hartley, Cook Borden's great-grandson, has been the treasurer of the corporation and Jerome C. Borden's son-in-law, Everett N. Slade, its president.

Just to the north of Cook Borden Wharf was the favorite swimming shore of the boys of Bowenville and the "Hill", known as Rocky Bottom. It was from the piles and projecting rocks of the wharf that the more venture-

some practiced diving. There too was located the Read Brothers' Boat House where a number of Fall River pleasure boats were built.

### *Adams Bookstore*

For many years there were two bookstores in Fall River known to all shoppers, — Earl's (later Earl and Bamford's) store in the old granite block and Adams Bookstore, now doing business under the same caption at 165 North Main Street. We venture to state that these two stores conducted the first commercial lending libraries in Fall River.

Adams Bookstore started business in a building on the southeasterly corner of North Main and Bank Streets, January 15, 1842. Robert Adams was the first proprietor. The building was destroyed by the fire of 1843 and temporary quarters were procured on Main Street, opposite where the First Baptist Church now stands; then moved to South Main Street in a building which occupied a part of the Borden Block site. Very soon after this it was again moved across the street into a wooden building, one of several structures, long known as "asbestos row". In this row of low wooden buildings, between Pocasset and Anawan Streets, many fires kindled but reconstructions or repairs were always possible.

The store remained in this location for forty-seven years. It was conducted by its founder for forty years, who was succeeded by his son Edward S. Adams. When a change of location became necessary, temporary quarters on Market Street were occupied while a new building was in the process of erection at 165 North Main Street. Edward S. Adams retired from active business in 1917 and the store passed into the hands of Laughlin W. McFarland,<sup>2</sup> who had started as an errand boy in the store in 1886.

### *O. B. Wetherell & Son Company*

The business of O. B. Wetherell & Son Company is now owned by Howard B. Wetherell. This business was established by Daniel A. Wetherell in 1842, so that for ninety-eight years the firm has been manufacturing roller covers. In the spinning of yarn, the yarn is first slenderized by passing over rolls which are operated at different speeds and the rolls are so covered that they will retain a grip on the cotton threads while the threads are being stretched. Much study was given to this problem by the fathers of the cotton industry and the solution was reached by Daniel H.

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<sup>2</sup> Mr. McFarland sold the business to Harry Singleton in 1944.

Wetherell, who was at first connected with the Hopewell Mills in Taunton. He was induced to come to Fall River by Lazarus Borden, who was then the agent of the Metacomet Manufacturing Company in this city. Mr. Wetherell thus became the first maker of roller coverings in Fall River and laid the foundation of an industry with which the family name has ever since been associated.

Daniel H. Wetherell designed and constructed the major part of his own machinery. Upon his death a nephew, also named Daniel Wetherell, succeeded to the business and entered into a co-partnership with Orin B. Wetherell under the name of D. and O. B. Wetherell. When Daniel Wetherell died in 1893, Howard B. Wetherell, a son of Orin B. Wetherell, formed with him the firm of O. B. Wetherell & Son and the business was incorporated under the same name in 1907. The business was later consolidated with that of the Davis & McLane Manufacturing Company and when Orin B. Wetherell deceased in 1918 the corporation was dissolved. Howard B. Wetherell<sup>3</sup> still continues the business under the corporate name.

### *Hutchinson's Art Shop*

Hutchinson's Art Shop, now owned by Raymond L. Hutchinson and conducted from a store in the building at the northeasterly corner of Second and Borden Streets, had its inception in 1846 in the cabinet-makers shop of Abner L. Westgate, in a store which extended from South Main Street to Second Street, in a building which occupied a part of the present site of Borden Block. Westgate sold furniture from his front store and carried on his cabinet making, including picture framing, from the Second Street location. By 1869 picture framing had grown to be the main line and pictures were added. It was owned at this time by Joseph C. Westgate and later was carried on by J. C. Westgate and Son.

In 1874 a dwelling house on the opposite side of Second Street was raised and the firm occupied the store provided beneath. The son J. Oscar Westgate died in 1880.

George B. Pierce and William J. Hutchinson bought the business in 1883. Mr. Pierce retired in 1899 and since the death of William J. Hutchinson in 1927, his son has been the proprietor.

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<sup>3</sup> Howard B. Wetherell died January 2, 1945. He bequeathed the business to Elbridge C. Merrill, an employee for 27 years.

*Samuel Hyde Company*

Samuel Hyde founded the business of Samuel Hyde Co. over ninety years ago. He was born in 1822 and after his marriage lived at the present location of the plant, 266 Ferry Street. He soon established a shop which is attached to his residence where liquor was sold. Subsequently the bottling business began. Its primitive equipment was enlarged and modernized when the sale of liquor was prohibited. Samuel Hyde, Jr. and his wife continued the manufacture of carbonized beverages until Mr. Hyde's death in 1928. Then his two sons Dr. James S. Hyde and William J. Hyde carried on the business until Dr. Hyde became the sole owner in 1936. Thomas Haworth had been associated with this business since 1881 and he continued as a manager until his death in 1937 when Dr. Hyde became the active manager and devoted his whole time to it, when still more modern machinery was installed. When Dr. Hyde died in the summer of 1938 his widow, Minna B. Hyde, became and still is the manager of the business, of which she and his two sons Hervey G. Hyde and Samuel Hyde the 3rd are owners.

*Borden & Remington Company*

In 1837 the drug and medicine business of Doctor Nathan Durfee located on Central Street was purchased by Hale Remington and Company and a line of groceries added to the stock in trade.

About 1850 Robert K. Remington, a son of Hale Remington, took over the business which was carried on in a wooden building near the foot of Anawan Street. Upon the death of R. K. Remington, on November 25, 1886, the business passed into the hands of Edward B. Remington, a son, and Charles F. Borden, a son-in-law. The original company building was on the northeast corner of Anawan and Pond Streets. The local offices are now diagonally across the street at 115 Anawan Street. The company deals in mill supplies, chemicals and dye stuffs, to which has been added a building material department, which branch has grown to large proportions. The sales territory covers all southern New England.

Following Mr. Borden's death in 1905, the control passed to Edward B. Remington, the minority stock being held by Albert A. Harrison and the Borden family. Subsequently Mr. Remington sold his interests and after the death of Mr. Borden's two sons, Mr. Harrison purchased the controlling shares and became president of the company in 1921.

Mr. Harrison, who assisted in the preparation of this sketch, entered the employ of Borden and Remington Company in 1888 as an assistant bookkeeper.

*Joseph A. Bowen Co.*

This coal business was started by Joseph A. Bowen in 1856 and the first coal consigned to him was landed on Morgan's Wharf which he had rented for a coal yard and which he later purchased. It is now a part of the coal properties of the Atwater Coal Co. Mr. Bowen unloaded his own coal, and solicited orders for it, loaded it on his delivery carts and delivered it himself. His sister, Miss Sarah V. Bowen, weighed the coal and kept the books. In 1869 Mr. Bowen bought the property known as Slade's Wharf and Charles P. Stickney, then a wholesale dealer in coal and a man of considerable prominence, became associated with Mr. Bowen under the firm name of J. A. Bowen Co. In 1877 Mr. Bowen returning to his business after an illness found that Mr. Stickney had negotiated firm notes in Boston and could not account for the proceeds. By great persistence and energy Mr. Bowen (being now financially embarrassed) arranged with the banks for an extension of time to meet these obligations, and adjusted this indebtedness within a short time.

The first city office was opened in the Granite Block and was maintained there until the block was destroyed in the fire of 1928. Mr. William A. Dassance, who was first in the office as an office boy, soon became a salesman and a managing assistant until 1888, when Joseph A. Bowen's son, Joseph H. Bowen, graduated from college, after which he took an active interest in the firm from which time the business has been constantly progressive. As new mills were built in Fall River the soft coal industry increased proportionately. Often, within a few consecutive years, as new mills were built, the coal business doubled. Meanwhile the Bowens had become interested in coastwide transportation and managed and had an ownership interest in at least four schooners which were prominent in the transportation of this firm's coal. One, the Mary W. Bowen, a five master, launched in 1900, with a capacity of 3500 tons, and then the largest schooner afloat, was used until 1917 and when she was sold to transport war materials, she was sunk by a submarine on her first trip. One of the others was the Fanny C. Bowen, which was a very well known four-master, much admired by every mariner when she came into these waters. A third, the William O. Snow, on one of her trips to this port, was lost with all on board and never heard from.

Beginning with 1912, Mr. Joseph H. Bowen's sons as they completed their education became interested in the business, and after Joseph A. Bowen's death in 1913 the business was incorporated. In 1915 the plant was modernized by installation of a modern mechanical coal hoisting plant; by motorizing deliveries and later by undertaking to sell petroleum products as a part of the fuel business. At this writing the oil business is more extensive than that of selling coal. This firm and corporation have been pioneers in the development of Pocahontas coal in this section. Since the fire of 1928, at which time most of their records were destroyed, the place of business has been at 100 Pleasant Street, where it is presently located.

*Fall River Steam & Gas Pipe Co.*

This business dates from 1857 when it was started on Pleasant Street near Jesse Street by the William Durfee who had the nick name "Gaspip Bill". Subsequently Joseph Farwell and Charles Burdick conducted the business and George W. Fiske became manager there in 1888. The business was incorporated under the name of the above caption in 1891, and in 1901 the capital was increased to \$22,500, at which time Justin E. Read, the present treasurer and manager, entered in the employ of the company as bookkeeper. In 1906 Mr. Read became manager and in 1910 he acquired the capital stock of the corporation. In 1920 they purchased and moved into the building at the corner of Sixth and Bedford Streets and since that time, except for a period when the building was being repaired due to fire, their extensive business has been conducted from this location.

In May 1923 the capital was increased to \$35,000, and the plumbing and heating business was discontinued. The business is now that of a jobbing house. It is interesting to note that in 1892 when Mr. Read became associated with the business, the capital was \$7,500 and the surplus was \$2,200. The report at the end of 1939 shows a capital of \$35,000 and a surplus and reserve amounting to \$67,000.

*John P. Slade & Son*

The business of John P. Slade & Son was established in 1858 by John P. Slade, grandfather of Everett N. Slade, who is the present owner. Until 1892 the business was conducted on the second floor of the old Granite Block at the southwest corner of Central and Main Streets, immediately adjoining the law offices of Morton & Jennings where the writer was a student. It was a typical real estate and insurance office of the old school, through which real estate loans could be arranged. The office also engaged

in a large real estate business. During the first year the firm name was Slade, Macey & Company, Mr. Alexander B. Macey having an interest in the business, and in 1879 Leonard N. Slade, John P. Slade's son, joined his father's business and the firm name became John P. Slade & Son. Mr. Leonard N. Slade was very active in his real estate and insurance business, and the conveyancing which was done for his office was extensive. The writer remembers that on an important occasion, prior to the days of the typewriter, he wrote (in longhand) deeds and mortgages, sixty in all, during twenty-six consecutive hours.

John P. Slade died in 1902 and his son Mr. Leonard N. Slade succeeded to the business. In 1906 Mr. Leonard N. Slade's son, Everett N. Slade, who had been associated with his father for several years, became a member of the firm, and he has been sole owner of the business since the death of his father in 1916. Everett N. Slade is a member of the city, state and national real estate associations, and of the American Institute of Real Estate Appraisers. The business has been conducted in the Fall River National Bank Building since 1892 and has always enjoyed increasing prosperity.

#### *Ashworth Bros. Inc.*

The firm of Ashworth Bros. was founded in Manchester, England, about the year 1860 by George Ashworth, Elijah Ashworth, Robert Ashworth, and Charles Slee, for the manufacture of Card Clothing. The last two men withdrew from the firm.

Later a machine shop was added, and Steam Pumps, Gas Engines, and finally Card Clothing Engines were manufactured.

Robert Ashworth came to America in 1863 and for a time worked for a Mr. Newton. Later he started in business on the east side of French's Hill, making card clothing and paper cop tubes. In 1873, he returned to England and worked for the original firm until 1885, when he came again to America.

In 1886, Ashworth Bros. started to ship their Carding Engine to America and in 1889, Robert Ashworth was appointed their American agent. Acting under his advice, two plots of land were purchased at Fall River from the Globe Yarn Mills and a building erected in 1891.

Soon after Robert Ashworth passed away, his eldest son Henry Ashworth was appointed agent. Under him the making of Card Clothing was started and the company has become the largest card clothing company in America.



The present company was organized in 1905 at which time they bought the American interests, and incorporated in 1910, with R. C. Ashworth as President, and Henry Ashworth, Treasurer and General Manager.

Henry Ashworth, and later R. C. Ashworth, Sr., passed away, and Robert C. Ashworth, Jr., son of R. C. Ashworth, Sr., became President, and George R. Ashworth, son of Henry Ashworth, became Treasurer.

The company operates factories in Fall River, Mass., Worcester, Mass., and Philadelphia, Pa.

#### *Frank Buffinton, Florist*

The business of Frank Buffinton, florist, was started in 1860 by Oliver Buffinton as an activity for his daughter Mary E. Buffinton, who was then very feeble. (She subsequently lived to be 101). After the death of Oliver Buffinton his son Frank Buffinton conducted the business with Mary E. Buffinton. The business is now carried on from the original greenhouses located at 171 Hanover Street by William H. Buffinton and Annie E. Ferguson, who were grandchildren of the original Oliver Buffinton. The name of their uncle Frank Buffinton is still retained as the firm name. They now have no downtown store but their greenhouses are extensive and the business prosperous.

#### *Andrew Borden & Son*

This was the first established, of the many houses engaged in the selling and brokerage of cotton. Andrew Borden, born in 1843, went into business in 1860 successively as an employee in Earle's stationery store, in the Troy Mill and in the American Printing Company. Subsequently he spent two years in Memphis, Tenn. in studying the classification and marketing of cotton. Over seventy years ago, he and Thomas E. Brayton organized the firm as Thomas E. Brayton & Co. and when in 1879 Mr. Brayton took charge of the Union Cotton Mfg. Company, Mr. Borden continued the business until he was elected treasurer of the Merchants Manufacturing Company in 1887. Until his retirement from the mill business in 1898 Andrews and Horton carried on this business, but in 1898 Mr. Borden resumed the cotton business in partnership with his son C. D. Borden and subsequently his son-in-law M. Hartwell Adams joined the firm. After the death of Mr. C. D. Borden, approximately ten years ago, Mr. Adams became the sole owner. Andrew Borden was very prominent in civil and political work in addition to his business and held several important public positions. M. Hartwell Adams died October 9, 1940.

### *The Maple Street Laundry*

The Maple Street Laundry was established in 1870 by Alfred Smith and was sold in 1901 to Louise Hewitt. She had then been an employee in the laundry for nineteen years. It was moved to its present location at 680 Maple Street in 1911 when a new laundry building was constructed. Mrs. Hewitt died in 1912 and her son Herbert H. Hewitt, present proprietor, succeeded her.

### *James H. Wilson*

David Wilson moved from Rehoboth to Fall River (Freetown) about 1762. His son Hezekiah and his grand-son Job T. were seafaring men with their homes at Steep Brook.

In the late sixties Job T. and his son, James H., father of the present owner, established the Fall River Oil and Guano Co. on the wharf where the present coal business is now located. This business was later moved to Touisset. In 1872 the present coal and wood business was started. General teaming and heavy work, including the moving of buildings, was also carried on. The Wilsons also operated a bus line from Steep Brook to Globe Village. This was continued until the arrival of the horsecars. The teaming business was discontinued when motor trucks came into use.

Mr. Wilson's whole attention is now given to the sale of coal and wood. This was the second coal business to be started in Fall River.

### *The Congdon and Carpenter Company*

The rapid growth of the textile industry in and around Fall River about seventy years ago required large quantities of materials used by mills in the ordinary course of their business. Such materials were different from the ordinary stock in trade which were to be taken in as raw materials and converted into manufactured goods. They consisted of all sorts of mill supplies, repair parts, and the purchasing of these supply materials, the problem of warehousing them and distributing them became a specialty.

One of the companies which appreciated this situation in these early days was The Congdon & Carpenter Company, which opened a store at 23 Bedford Street in Fall River in 1872. They did business in this location until 1886 when they moved into a new building which was built for them on Pocasset Street. From Pocasset Street they moved to 58 Fourth Street in 1897 which was the location most favorable under the conditions that existed at that time. In 1937 the firm built a warehouse at 583 Bedford Street at the corner of Fourteenth Street, which has been described as one

of the best equipped and the best designed for this sort of business that there is in New England. Of course there are other warehouses which do a similar business and which are much larger, but the unique features of design and equipment distinguished this new warehouse and attracted much favorable attention.

When the company opened its store in 1872, it dealt mainly in hardware and also carried a small stock of bar iron. As time went on the demands of the local blacksmiths, carriage builders, and in general all persons who used horses, for all sorts of horse goods, had to be met. At that time all street traffic and road transportation everywhere was done by means of horses. Therefore, there was a large market for horse shoes, harnesses, blankets, tire steel and many other specialties. The company had a large stock of this material always on hand.

The increased use of iron and steel called for increased stocks of this material and in a relatively few years the sales of bar steel, sheet steel, and a limited number of structural shapes showed a marked increase. Bicycles became popular, and in 1890 the company sold bicycles and all sorts of bicycle equipment, and later on, when automobiles supplanted bicycles a large amount of automobile equipment was put in stock and sold.

At the present time, the company's new warehouse carries a wide variety of steel bars, steel sheets, copper, lead, tin, zinc and heavy hardware such as rope, chain, hoist, bolts and nuts, conductor pipe, gutters, picks, shovels and other tools.

The manager of the first store opened by The Congdon & Carpenter Company in 1872 was Mr. Edward E. Barney who was succeeded in 1879 by Herbert Field. Mr. Field remained as manager until October 1906 and he was followed by Mr. Benjamin D. Wyatt who entered the employ of the firm in October 1880. After Mr. Wyatt's death, on August 1, 1931, Mr. A. L. O'Keefe became manager and remained in that position until March 24, 1938 when he was succeeded by the present manager, Mr. Donald H. Bump. The skillfulness and fidelity of these men have been responsible for the success of this store over a long term of years.

#### *Robert A. Wilcox Co. Inc.*

The business was started by Robert A. Wilcox in 1874, taking orders in his home and delivering them by wheelbarrow. After ten years he opened the present store at 116 Bedford Street. The business was incorporated in 1919, at which time the office supplies, school supplies, stationery depart-

ments made it necessary to have three storehouses, three trucks for deliveries, sixteen persons employed in the business and six salesmen.

Upon Mr. Wilcox's death on August 2nd, 1918, Mr. James F. Duggan became interested in the business and managed it for the family. Mr. Wilcox's brother Andrew D. Wilcox for many years had charge of the salesmen.

#### *David Morrison Inc.*

The original plan of Mr. Morrison was the establishment of a shoe shop. With a small stock of shoes and some dry goods he began business, in 1874, in a small store on Pleasant Street, in Flint Village. This is now David Morrison Inc. and is located in a building which he himself erected at 1455 Pleasant Street. Upon his death, his son David C. Morrison succeeded to the management of the business and the character of the business was enlarged, so that the sale of dry goods in several departments is now carried on. When David Morrison died in 1892, his three sons succeeded to the business and it continued as a partnership until 1899 when the partnership was dissolved and David C. Morrison continued to carry on business for his own account until it was incorporated in 1920. This is probably the only department store in Fall River which has continued in business without change of name for sixty-six years.

#### *J. H. Franklin Co.*

J. H. Franklin Co. was established by John H. Franklin in 1875 in rooms over Whitehead's Market at the northeast corner of Main and Market Streets. Franklin was an engraver. Associated with him for a great many years was Robert C. B. Burrell. Burrell was a noted and expert fisherman, returning from his trips with trout from brooks which failed others. At the South Main Street address and afterwards when they moved to 78 Bedford Street in the Metacomet Bank Building, they continued their engraving business and operated a book bindery in connection with their book and job printing business. About 1910 the business passed into the hands of Joseph W. Pratt, Mr. Franklin's brother-in-law, and Mr. Burrell also had an interest in the business under Mr. Franklin's will. A corporation was formed of which Mr. Pratt was treasurer and this business continued until 1928 when it was completely destroyed in the conflagration of that year. Mr. Pratt died in 1936 and Mr. Burrell died in 1938, after which the corporation was dissolved. Miss Ethel M. Pratt, daughter of Mr. Joseph W. Pratt, then became the owner of the business and is still conducting the business at 145 Franklin Street.

*James H. Waring*

The business of James H. Waring, funeral director, now including a funeral home at 178 Winter Street, was established in 1877. The original proprietors were Henry Waring and Thomas Waring doing business as Waring Bros. In 1895 the business was Henry Waring and Son (James H. Waring). Since the death of James H. Waring in 1935 his son Sumner J. Waring has been the sole owner.

*Francis S. Borden*

*Civil Engineer and Land Surveyor*

The oldest surveys, plans and maps to be found in the city are on file in this office, beginning with the survey by Forbes Little, Jr., in 1791 and followed by the plans of Simeon Borden, Nathaniel Smith, I. C. Burgess, Harvey Harnden, Philip D. Borden, A. H. Martine and Thomas Kieran. This office has access to these most important records, which facilitates the accuracy of its work.

In 1893 the business was established by Albert Wolstenholme and B. Thomas Buffinton. When Mr. Wolstenholme was elected superintendent of streets in 1913, B. Thomas Buffinton was the owner until he died in 1914. Mr. Borden continued to work for the Buffinton estate until 1915 when he purchased the business and has since carried it on in his own name. All the old records were saved by Mr. Borden during the great fire of February 2nd, 1928 when the building in which his office was located was completely destroyed.

## NEWSPAPERS

*Fall River Herald News Publishing Company*

The earliest predecessor of the Fall River Herald News Publishing Company was the firm of Almy and Milne composed of Thomas Almy and John C. Milne which, established in 1845, began to publish the Weekly News.

The Spark was the first daily paper. It was published in 1848 and survived only a few weeks. The first daily to survive was the Daily Evening Star, published in 1857 by B. W. Pearce. Noel A. Tripp printed this paper in 1858 under the name of The Daily Beacon. Louis Lapham, Esq. was the editor. This paper in turn was purchased by Almy and Milne and circulated under the name of the Fall River Daily News in 1859 and has been continuous since that time, incorporated with the Fall River Herald News.

In 1864 Franklin L. Almy (not related to Thomas) became a member of the firm and the name was changed to Almy, Milne & Co. Thomas Almy died in 1882.

Upon the death of Franklin L. Almy in 1912, his son Franklin S. Almy became a partner and upon the death of John C. Milne in 1918, his son Joseph D. Milne took over his interests.

The following excerpt, from a front page editorial in "The News" of June 12, 1926 is self explanatory. "The Fall River Daily News prints today its final issue. The News will be published as a part of the Fall River Herald, the two newspapers having been combined by Mr. C. F. Kelly, who recently purchased the controlling interest in The Herald and the Associated Press franchise, circulation, good will and mechanical equipment of The News."

From 1885 to the date of their consolidation, The News, Herald and Globe were rival local newspapers. The News was a Republican paper: a strong temperance advocate, refusing liquor advertisements throughout its existence.

"The Herald" was first published in 1872 under the name of Border City Herald. The paper changed hands in 1876 and became the Fall River Daily Herald. Since that time it has changed hands and policies several times but for the most part has been independent.

The Fall River Daily Globe was a strong Democratic paper. It was established in 1885. At first located in old Court Square, in 1906, the owners erected and occupied quarters in their five story block on North Main Street, now the property of The Fall River Trust Company. Mr. Kelly, the publisher of the Fall River Herald News obtained control of "The Globe" and in its last issue, on February 2, 1929 made the following announcement: "After careful study of all the conditions, I have decided to discontinue publication of the Fall River Globe with the final issue today. I am actuated in this decision solely by the thought that the reading public in this city will be far better served by one superior newspaper than by two less complete newspapers controlled by one publisher."

The three English language local newspapers were thus combined under a single ownership. Cornelius L. Kelly became the owner of the joint enterprise which was conducted by a corporation in which he controlled the shares. Upon his decease in 1938, Charles E. Sevigny became the president and treasurer of the corporation and Edward J. Delaney became the editor with Clarence E. Bury associate editor.

In passing, it might be well to here mention other Fall River newspapers.

The Fall River Monitor<sup>4</sup> was the first paper to be published in Fall River. As a village paper in the town of Troy, it was first issued in 1845. With the exception of a few months in 1865, when it was issued daily, and a short time, in 1865, when its publication was interrupted, the paper was printed weekly. In 1868, it came into the possession of William S. Robertson who kept it in circulation until 1899.

The first French language newspaper was a weekly published in 1874, under the name of *L'Echo du Canada*. This paper and *Le Protecteur Canadien* which followed were widely circulated throughout New England.

*L'Independant*, the present well managed and edited French newspaper was established as a weekly in 1885, and in 1893 became a daily paper.

Portuguese weekly newspapers have appeared frequently. A *Folka Do Povo* and *As Novidades* were the first to be published in 1908. *Novidades* is in circulation today.

A Syrian paper, *Al-Insanyeh* was in print for three or four years beginning in 1917.

The heyday of journalism in Fall River seems to have come in 1925; at that time there were seven weekly and four daily newspapers printed in English, French or Portuguese.

A number of weekly newspapers have been in circulation, which were merely advertising or political mediums published by local printers. Samuel E. Fiske published under ten different titles, for Fall River and neighboring communities.

Attempts have been made to publish a morning paper. A morning edition of the *Fall River Daily Herald* was not a success. The *Tribune*, with quarters in Puritan Hall,<sup>5</sup> beginning in 1890 published three editions daily for a short time but was unable to continue.

Since 1925 there have been consolidations and few new ventures in journalism. The local interest in soccer football was reflected in the publication weekly, for eight months of the year, of *Soccer Field*, 1927-1931. The *Evening Bulletin* was published from 1929 to 1931. In 1934 only four local newspapers could be listed: *Fall River Herald News*, *L'Independant*, *Novidades* and *Portuguese Daily News*. These four have continued to 1940.

<sup>4</sup>For accounts of early journalism see "Fall River and its Industries" 1876 and *History of Fall River* by Henry F. Fenner 1906.

<sup>5</sup>Puritan Hall was in the old Central Congregational Church, then facing Rock Street.

