



Made in Berkshire *Papermaking at Eaton, Crane & Pike*

Paper was big business in 1917. Mills throughout Berkshire County were working full tilt making paper from cotton or wood pulp. For example, Crane & Co. in Dalton was making paper for U.S. currency and a thousand other uses.

Factories sprung up to make that paper into consumer products. In Pittsfield, the Hurlbut Stationary Company purchased a building – the former Eli Terry clock factory - on South Church Street. It was 1893, and over the course of the next 90 years, this factory was the center of a complicated succession of corporate mergers.

Through all the changes, thousands of workers made a living making paper into boxes, envelopes, stationery, and many other products.

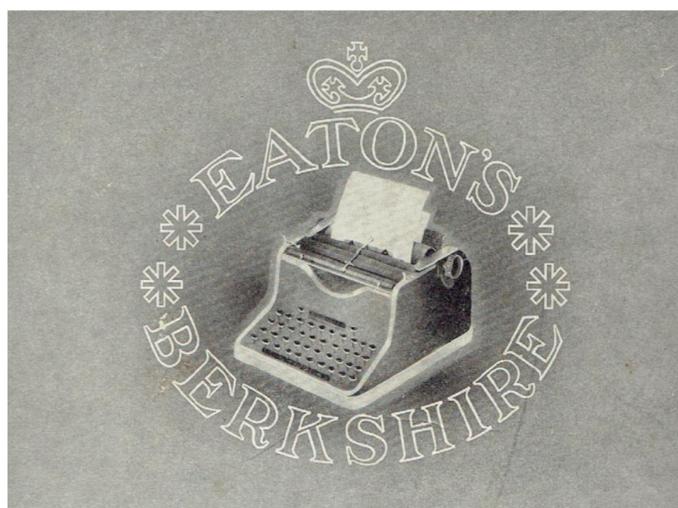
In 1917-1918, the time the photographs in this exhibit were taken, the company was known as Eaton, Crane, & Pike. The company had absorbed a typewriter paper company, and a box-making company, and expanded the factory buildings. In 1908, an agreement with Crane & Co. to supply the paper led to the inclusion of their corporate name.

By 1916, with an employment of more than 1,000 people, Eaton, Crane & Pike produced 1.5 million sheets of stationery and 1.5 million envelopes daily. The company's market included the United States, Canada, Cuba, South America, Mexico, and the Hawaiian Islands, with exotic product names to match.

The company continued to change. By 1932, Crane no longer supplied the paper. The Eaton Paper Company was purchased by a company that also owned Sheaffer Pen Company. In 1976 they merged under the same Sheaffer-Eaton, making such products as "At-a-Glance" calendars and Eaton's Corrasable Bond typewriter paper.



Factory building 1908 (above and 1907 (below). Note name change.



After a series of layoffs, Sheaffer-Eaton closed its Pittsfield operations in the late 1980s. The old brick buildings on South Church Street are now condominiums and the headquarters of the *Berkshire Eagle*. The newer building on West Housatonic Street is now the headquarters of Blue Q. Eaton Paper is still made, in Wisconsin. Shaeffer, a division of Bic, still makes fine writing instruments, though elsewhere.

The photographs in the exhibit were taken by several photographers, including Edwin Hale Lincoln and A.B. Phelan. The glass plate negatives are in the collection of the Berkshire Historical Society.

