

Celebrating 200 years of consistent business, consistent change and forward thinking.

<p>1808 Gurdon Caswell builds his first paper mill on the south bank of the Black River opposite Beebe's Island, above Cowan's Grist Mill. The Pioneer Mill, as it was called, probably employed four or five men and as many women, and was capable of turning out 150 pounds of paper a day.</p>	<p>1824 George W. Knowlton, a young bookkeeper, and Clarke Rice, a young printer, form a partnership to purchase the Pioneer Mill for \$7,000. The business becomes known as Knowlton & Rice, a book printer and bindery. The owners collect rags for paper and deliver the finished books to area schools by horse and wagon as far north as Potsdam, NY.</p>	<p>1833 The name Knowlton & Rice becomes synonymous with printing. Webster's spelling books, Cobb's Series of Spellers and Readers, Pierce's Grammar, Ruger's Arithmetic and the Knowlton and Rice Common Almanac are all published here.</p>	<p>1851 Singer patents the sewing machine.</p>	<p>1865 Robert E. Lee surrenders at Appomattox and President Lincoln is assassinated.</p>	<p>1876 George Armstrong Custer defeated at Little Big Horn.</p>	<p>1892 The corporation known as Knowlton Brothers, Inc. is formed and the partnership sold to the corporation for \$100,000. George W. Knowlton Jr. becomes the first corporation president, a position he holds for 39 years.</p>	<p>1907 The company's first duplex machine is installed for the making of a red and black duplex paper used to protect film rolls produced by the young Eastman Kodak Company. Over the next two decades, Knowlton will branch out into different lines of colored papers, including the first mimeograph paper, laminated bakelite products, dental x-ray films, and other photographic packaging paper.</p>	<p>1914 Knowlton Brothers, Inc., is awarded a contract to furnish the government with several grades of cover paper.</p>	<p>1926 Knowlton Brothers, Inc. introduces group health insurance to its employees, becoming one of the first paper companies in the country to offer this benefit.</p>	<p>1932 Theodore Knowlton, Seymour's younger brother, joins the company and seeks new areas where the existing machinery and equipment could operate profitably. This initiative launches a significant shift into industrial technical products such as latex saturated low density products.</p>	<p>1938 Theodore, a graduate of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, becomes the company's third president.</p>	<p>1945 Atomic bomb ends World War II.</p>	<p>1954 Under the management of President David C. Knowlton, a new pilot-size paper machine is designed for research and development. The machine is a Fourdrinier type 42 that can produce explorative paper from 12" - 18" wide. Considerable experimental work is directed toward the use of unusual natural fibers as well as synthetic fibers. Papers are made on the machine using glass, nylon, rayon, Dnyel and ceramic fibers in order to evaluate their potential for production. The company invests extensively in control equipment to produce products within the very close tolerances necessary to meet customer requirements.</p>	<p>1960 A new research program is underway to find uses for a new stretchable paper in the specialty paper field. The new extensible paper is used mainly for paper bags to hold heavy powders such as lime, cement and fertilizers, and stretches rather than breaks when dropped. When most paper mills are closing in northern New York, Knowlton Brothers is concentrating on specialty papers that are too complicated for big machines to manufacture. The machine's flexibility allows Knowlton to change products and markets as technology evolves.</p>	<p>1970 The merger of Knowlton Brothers Inc. of Watertown and Eaton-Dikeman Company, Mount Holly Springs, PA is announced. David C. Knowlton remains as President and Eaton-Dikeman becomes a subsidiary of Knowlton Brothers. The newly acquired firm concentrates on the manufacture of filter papers for the food, chemical, beverage and pharmaceutical industries.</p>	<p>1974 Knowlton Brothers announces the opening of its new plant in Madisonville, KY. This new mill includes a 130 inch Fourdrinier, the largest paper machine in the world devoted exclusively to the production of impregnated filter paper.</p>	<p>1979 Iranian Revolution and hostage-taking at the U.S. Embassy in Tehran.</p>	<p>1983 Three entities are merged into Knowlton Brothers which are later renamed Filtration Sciences.</p>	<p>1987 Franklin D. Cean purchases the former Knowlton Brothers, Inc. Watertown, NY mill from Filtration Sciences Corporation. The company's name is changed to Knowlton Specialty Papers, Inc. and the Watertown mill is operated as a completely independent entity.</p>	<p>1993 Internet expands with the World Wide Web.</p>	<p>1999 A new boiler is installed, fueled by vapors from the resins used at the Knowlton mill. The boiler replaces an incinerator that was burning an off-gassed air stream from the saturator division. It also replaces a boiler that was fired by natural gas and oil, which generated about half as much steam as the new boiler. Knowlton applies to economic development agencies for \$3.825 million in financing to add a second paper machine, allowing the company to expand its manufacturing capability from single-layered to multi-layered composite materials.</p>	<p>2002 Disaster strikes Knowlton when a fire at its Watertown mill kills one worker and injures several more. The mechanical failure disrupts operations at the saturator plant for five months. The management team begins repairs to bring operations back on line. However, insurers dispute the approximately \$7.5 million dollar claim.</p>	<p>2007 Frank Cean celebrates 20 years as owner of Knowlton. John McMahon is hired as VP of Sales & Marketing. A new marketing identity is launched, along with a new web site and brochure.</p>	
<p>1809 Thomas Jefferson completes his second term as President of the United States.</p>	<p>1829 "Old Hickory" Andrew Jackson is elected president.</p>	<p>1837 Charles Dickens authors "Oliver Twist."</p>	<p>1854 Charles Brown and Edward Chamberlain purchase the Mill for \$9,000. They also assume a \$13,000 10-year mortgage at 7%, payable annually. The mill changes its name to Brown & Chamberlain.</p>	<p>1867 Alfred Nobel patents dynamite.</p>	<p>1879 Thomas Edison registers patent for the light bulb.</p>	<p>1881 Knowlton begins advertising its cover papers as Kamargo Mills Products. Kamargo is an Oneida Indian name for Black River.</p>	<p>1885 An automatic sprinkler system is installed and New England Mutual insures the company against fire. Paper is now being made with equal portions of rags and wood pulp. The mill begins producing a cover for photographic tintypes.</p>	<p>1895 H.G. Wells writes "The Time Machine".</p>	<p>1908 Some of the first Kraft paper manufactured in the U.S. is made by Knowlton Brothers. Previously it was manufactured from Kraft pulp imported from Sweden by Charles F. Hubbs & Co. New York City.</p>	<p>1918 Knowlton Brothers purchases the Harmon Machine Company from A.H. LaFevre. Mr. LaFevre reserves the right to use the plant for two years to enable him to get a new building for the business.</p>	<p>1919 John C. Knowlton dies.</p>	<p>1929 Theodore E. Knowlton receives his first patent, #1731467 for "Methods and Apparatus for Preventing Offset in Printing." Over the next decade he'll receive four more: #1873207 and #1922372 for "Methods and Apparatus for Preventing Offset in Printing," #213004 for "Printing," and #2139164 for "Methods and Apparatus for Preventing Slipping in Printing."</p>	<p>1934 After a year of experimentation, Knowlton Brothers introduces a new absorbent paper that removes excess kitchen grease from foods to make them crisp and digestible. It's made available to households in the Watertown area and sold at the W. Conde Hardware Company.</p>	<p>1941 Japanese attack Pearl Harbor and U.S. declares war.</p>	<p>1943 Knowlton Brothers enters its first agreement with the Circle K Union (now known as the International Brotherhood of Papermakers).</p>	<p>1947 Marshall Plan quashes Communist expansion.</p>	<p>1948 Theodore Knowlton turns over the reins of the presidency to his son, David C. Knowlton; the family's fourth generation to head the company.</p>	<p>1955 An auto in every driveway, America tunes into TV, and radio goes hip-hop.</p>	<p>1957 Sputnik launches the space age.</p>	<p>1959 Knowlton installs a flocculating tank outside its Black River factory to eliminate radioactive particles from its water supply. This tank is used for the photographic backing paper made for Polaroid, Ansco and Kodak. An air filtering system also is installed, enabling rapid changeover from one to another color or type of paper without contamination, or waste, caused by mixing different kinds of pulp.</p>	<p>1963 Civil Rights movement grows..</p>	<p>1965 Franklin D. Cean joins Knowlton.</p>	<p>1967 Knowlton Brothers purchases Southern Specialty Paper Co. located in Chattanooga, TN. This company had previously entered the field of filter paper manufacturing and was an ideal complement to the Watertown facility.</p>	<p>1968 Vietnam War protests amid race riots in many American cities.</p>
<p>1812 A defeated Napoleon retreats from Russia.</p>	<p>1818 The Pioneer Mill and a second mill built by Caswell are sold to Seth Otis of Watertown and John C. Holtbrook, presumably to settle a debt.</p>	<p>1829 Gold is discovered in California.</p>	<p>1832 Knowlton and Rice purchase machinery for making a continuous sheet of paper, known then as the Fourdrinier machine (36" cylinder). It was the first of its kind in Jefferson County. The paper capacity grows to 700 pounds per day.</p>	<p>1857 Dred Scott decision returns fugitive slave to his "owners".</p>	<p>1873 A new waterwheel and grinders are installed to produce wood pulp. Paper is now being made with equal portions of rags and wood pulp. The mill begins producing a cover for photographic tintypes.</p>	<p>1888 George W. Knowlton Jr. becomes president of the new Ontario Paper Co., at Glen Park, N.Y.</p>	<p>1901 William McKinley assassinated by anarchist at World's Fair in Buffalo, NY.</p>	<p>1903 Wright Brothers fly for the first time.</p>	<p>1905 Albert Einstein proposes his Special Theory of Relativity.</p>	<p>1913 Knowlton purchases adjoining property from New York Airbrake. A storehouse for rags, sulphite and other raw materials is built on the site and new boilers are installed. A new finishing room also is added to the mill, so paper does not have to be carted across the street.</p>	<p>1920 The Great War is over, but Knowlton Brothers stands firm with other U.S. paper makers in continuing its boycott of cheaper German dyes, thus enabling the infant dye business in the U.S. to grow.</p>	<p>1920 The Stock Market crashes, launching the Great Depression.</p>	<p>1931 George W. Knowlton Jr. dies shortly after turning over management of the company to his eldest son, G. Seymour Knowlton.</p>	<p>1936 Low-density papers are adapted for use as oil filter media for internal combustion engines. Among many technological innovations, Knowlton develops a carbon-filled sheet which conducts electricity and can be coated for automatic reproduction of telegraph messages.</p>	<p>1937 Polystyrene resins introduced by Dow Chemical.</p>	<p>1939 Germany's invasion of Poland starts World War II.</p>	<p>1940 With the onset of World War II, Knowlton's expertise in low-density papers makes possible the production of filters for gas masks.</p>	<p>1941 The company's name is changed to Knowlton Specialty Papers, Inc. and the Watertown mill is operated as a completely independent entity.</p>	<p>1943 Knowlton Brothers begins routine monitoring of process water for atomic radiation - pioneering this aspect of quality control, particularly as applied to photographic papers.</p>	<p>1947 Rise of feminism and ecology.</p>	<p>1952 Knowlton Brothers begins routine monitoring of process water for atomic radiation - pioneering this aspect of quality control, particularly as applied to photographic papers.</p>	<p>1957 Sputnik launches the space age.</p>	<p>1959 Knowlton installs a flocculating tank outside its Black River factory to eliminate radioactive particles from its water supply. This tank is used for the photographic backing paper made for Polaroid, Ansco and Kodak. An air filtering system also is installed, enabling rapid changeover from one to another color or type of paper without contamination, or waste, caused by mixing different kinds of pulp.</p>	<p>1963 Civilian's try to climb the wall of the U.S. embassy when South Vietnam surrenders to the North.</p>
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200TH ANNIVERSARY
We are proud of our upstate New York heritage. We dedicate ourselves to the next 200 years as the "Pioneer" technology manufacturer in emerging markets and products.