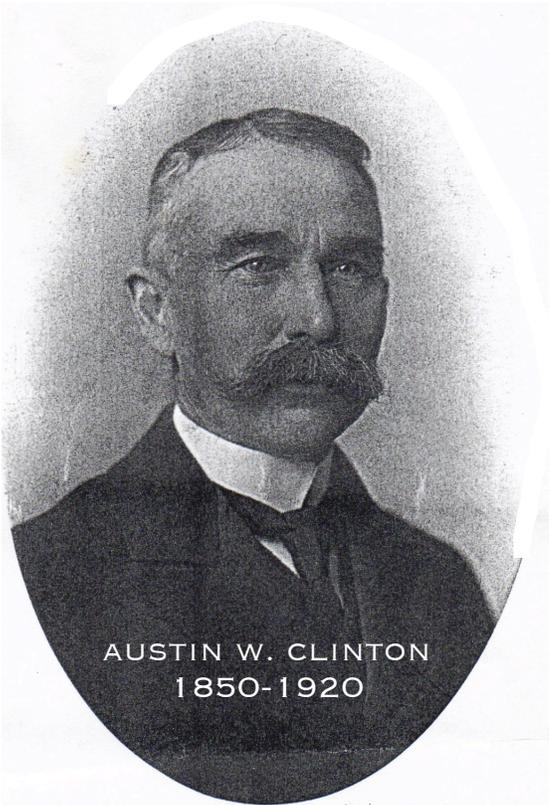


# HISTORY OF SPOOL MFG

138-140 BALDWIN STREET JOHNSON CITY, NEW YORK (FORMERLY LESTERSHIRE)



**A**USTIN W, SON OF ROYAL WELLS CLINTON, WAS BORN 11 MARCH 1850, IN NEWARK VALLEY, NEW YORK. HE ATTENDED THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF HIS NATIVE TOWN, THE CAZENOVIA SEMINARY, THE WYOMING SEMINARY, AND CORNELL UNIVERSITY, FROM WHICH HE WAS GRADUATED IN THE CLASS OF 1872, WITH THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF SCIENCE. FROM 1872 TO 1874 HE TAUGHT NATURAL SCIENCE IN WYOMING SEMINARY. HE THEN WENT ABROAD, AND UPON HIS RETURN, IN 1875, HE LOCATED TO HARFORD, NEW YORK AND ENGAGED IN THE LUMBER BUSINESS AND OPERATED A SAWMILL. IN 1882-83 HE WAS SUPERVISOR OF THE TOWN OF HARFORD, AND FOR TEN YEARS WAS POSTMASTER THERE. HE REMOVED TO GALETON, PENNSYLVANIA, WHERE HE HAD LUMBER INTEREST. SINCE 1895 HE WAS IN THE LUMBER BUSINESS IN BINGHAMTON, AND MADE HIS HOME IN THAT CITY. HE WAS A DIRECTOR OF THE TIOGA NATIONAL BANK, IN OWEGO; OF THE PEOPLE'S BANK, IN BINGHAMTON AND TREASURER OF THE LESTERSHIRE LUMBER AND BOX COMPANY.

IN 1903, AUSTIN W. CLINTON, INVESTED IN THE MAWSON SPOOL AND BOBBIN COMPANY IN LESTERSHIRE, NEW YORK, IN WHICH MR. MAWSON WAS PRESIDENT AND INSTALLED SON HARRY CLINTON AS SECRETARY - TREASURER. SOON AFTER, THE COMPANY WAS REORGANIZED AS THE LESTERSHIRE MANUFACTURING SPOOL COMPANY WITH AUSTIN AS PRESIDENT AND HARRY AS TREASURER AND MANAGER.

IN 1916 LESTERSHIRE VOTED TO CHANGE THE VILLAGE'S NAME TO JOHNSON CITY IN HONOR OF GEORGE F JOHNSON. A YEAR LATER, IN 1917 HARRY WAS MADE PRESIDENT OF THE SPOOL COMPANY AND AUSTIN RETIRED. IN 1920 HARRY'S BROTHER, LOU, JOINED HIM. IN THE 1930'S HARRY AND LOU'S SONS WERE BROUGHT INTO THE SPOOL BUSINESS. THE COMPANY'S PRODUCTS INCLUDED SPOOLS, BOBBINS AND SHUTTLES FOR THE NEW ENGLAND TEXTILE INDUSTRY, WHICH WAS THE BULK OF THE BUSINESS.

AFTER WWII IT WAS FOUND THAT THE SPOOL FACTORY PRODUCTS FOR THE TEXTILE INDUSTRY COULD BE MADE MORE DURABLE AND CHEAPLY OUT OF METAL AND FIBERBOARD MATERIALS. THE SPOOL FACTORY, UNABLE TO CONVERT, STARTED LOSING BUSINESS AND IN 1951 SOLD OUT TO NATIONAL VULCANIZED FIBER COMPANY IN WILMINGTON, DELAWARE AND 10 YEARS LATER THE SPOOL OPERATION WAS MOVED TO WILMINGTON.