

Guide to Peace Dale Mill-Related Materials at the South County History Center

The Peace Dale Mill is a large mid-19th century manufacturing complex in South Kingstown, Rhode Island. The mill was originally constructed by the Hazard family, owners of the textile-producing Peace Dale Manufacturing Company. The Hazard family is credited with the development and growth of the village of Peace Dale, much of which was directly tied to the success of the mill's operations. At its height, the Peace Dale Manufacturing Company employed approximately 40% of the village's population, and the Hazard family was involved with nearly all aspects of village life.

In 1918, the Hazard family sold the mill to another textile manufacturer, the M.T. Stevens Company of North Andover, Massachusetts. Textile production at the mill reached its peak during World War II, but the end of the war brought significant challenges to the Company, and the mill was closed in 1948. Later, the Palisades Industries of New Jersey purchased the mill and resume textile manufacturing at the site.

Today, the Peace Dale Mill, sometimes called the Palisades Mill, remains an important anchor of activity for the village. In 2011 it was purchased by Eric Thunberg, who has since redeveloped the complex to house a variety of local businesses, including a rock-climbing gym and an award-winning brewery.

The South County History Center preserves a variety of materials documenting the history of the Peace Dale Mill, its workers, and their products. These materials have been donated by several individuals over many decades, and this guide has been created to assist researchers in exploring the Center's varied collections related to the mill. This guide is not intended to be an exhaustive list of resources, and instead it focuses on the most relevant materials as well as those only available at the Center. The creation of this guide has been generously supported by Edith H. Birney.

Archival Materials

- Meeting minutes of the Peace Dale Mill Overseers Club, 1913-1930 (1972.016.0001)
- Peace Dale Knitting Books, 1920-1923 (2015.513.0001, 2023.505.0001)
- M.T. Stevens & Sons Company Pay Stubs, 1947-1949 (2023.001.0003)
- Quit-claim deeds from Peace Dale Manufacturing to Benjamin F. Hammond, 1872-1882 (2023.009.0001)
- Correspondence from local businesspeople regarding the 1906 labor strike (1963.015.1025, 2012.500.0048d)

Objects

- Materials from an 1896 textile exhibit at the Narragansett Library at Hazard Memorial Hall (now the Peace Dale Library), which were donated by Anna Hazard. The collection includes: finely-embroidered India muslin; an early-19th century diaper linen woven by Eliza M. Robinson; grass cloth; a handmade reticule; a late-18th century heavy linen sheet woven by Ruth Maxon; ca. 1892 yarn spun from flax raised in South Kingstown; dimity; a ca. 1750 lace sampler; and several other pieces. (1982.015)
- Shawls manufactured by Peace Dale Manufacturing Company, late 19th century (1965.040.0001, 1982.006.0001)
- Stocking manufactured at the Peace Dale Mill, ca. 1920s (1986.002.0002)
- Two quilts made from fabric fragments manufactured at the Peace Dale Mill. The quilts were made by Annie Dorcas (Holland) Yost, who worked at the mill. (2016.005.0001-.0002)
- Bolt of suiting fabric manufactured at the Peace Dale Mill, 1943 (2018.001.0001)

Photographs

- Photographs of the exterior of the mill, including its construction (2022.501.0001-.0002)
- Photographs of the interior of the mill (2008.500.0110, 2008.500.0112, 2008.500.0151, 2008.500.0187)
- Photographs of Peace Dale Mill workers (2006.004.0001-.0006, 2006.004.0025, 2008.500.0202, 2016.005.0009, 2023.001.0005, 2023.005.0003)
- Postcards of the Peace Dale Mill (2021.502.0016)

Research Library Resources

- *A History of the Peace Dale Manufacturing Company, 1802-1918* (TS1614 S7) by Peter Crawford Stewart (1962)
- *A Precious Heritage: An Account of the Life of Rowland Hazard...* (CT275 H48 H3) by Caroline Hazard (1929)

- *The Hazard Family of Rhode Island 1635-1894* (CS71 H428) by Caroline E. Robinson (1895)
- "Brief History of the Peace Dale Mill and Hazard Family Legacy" (pamphlet) by Marjorie Vogel (1988)

Additional Resources

Researchers may also wish to view the following items available online:

- [*Historic and Architectural Resources of South Kingstown, Rhode Island: A Preliminary Report* by Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission \(1984\)](#)
- [Historic Peace Dale Photograph Collection, South Kingstown Public Library Digital Collections](#)
- ["Peace Dale Historic District" National Register Nomination Form \(1987\)](#)
- ["Peace Dale," Society of Architectural Historians Archipedia](#)
- ["Rhode Island: An Inventory of Historic Engineering and Industrial Sites" \(1978\)](#)
- ["Slave Cloth: Clothing as a Symbol of Bondage" Essay by Talya Housman](#)
- [Peace Dale Manufacturing Company, South Kingstown Public Library Digital Collections](#)
- ["The View from Swamptown: A look at Peace Dale and Weaver's Strike of 1906" by G. Timothy Cranston for *The Independent* \(2016\)](#)

Related materials available at other repositories include:

- [Caroline Hazard papers \(Identifier 1DD5-Hazard\), Wellesley College Archives](#)
- [Peace Dale Manufacturing Company Records \(Identifier Mss:446 1742-1919\), Baker Library Special Collections and Archives, Harvard Business School](#)
- [Peace Dale Manufacturing Company Records \(Catalog Number MSS 483 sq 36\), Rhode Island Historical Society](#)
- [Rowland and Mary \(Peace\) Hazard Papers \(Catalog Number MSS 483 sg 4\), Rhode Island Historical Society](#)