

**“How It’s Made: Bobbins from Draper Corp - Beebe River Plant”**

**Presented by: Richard Mardin and Paul Yelle**

Richard Mardin worked at Beebe River for over 30 years. His job had him hopping all over the plant. He will be sharing his knowledge of how a bobbin was made. This will also be a time of collecting more information - building off of the work Rebecca McCuin did in the 1990s. The cameras will be rolling to collect the information. If you have stories, pictures or items to share and be documented, this is a great time to do it.

The Beebe River plant spans time from when lumberjacks roamed the area. It’s remains are still there, but the golden era was when the Draper Corp owned and ran it. It was state of the art and world renown. They machined some of their own tools and had one of a kind machines. It is best said in the Sunday Herald, April 6, 1924:

“The Beebe River Mill of the Draper Corporation was originally a sawmill operation which got its start through the vision and efforts of Martin Brown and the Parker Young Company. In 1917 the present village of Beebe River was carved out of a valley farm, as the nucleus of an operation to convert spruce logs into prime lumber. During the next seven years 160,000,000 board feet of lumber were cut, and by then the spruce was gone.

At this time, the Draper corporation, the world's largest manufacturer of automatic looms, was looking for a site for a new bobbin mill, with a good supply of hardwood, a railroad, and a potential working force. Since the Beebe River Mill met these qualifications, the whole complex was purchased by the Draper Corporation, in 1925.;

From a crude sawmill, this plant was grown to the point where it is the largest manufacturer of bobbins in the world, averaging over 100,000 bobbins a day and employing about 235 people.

Many buildings have been erected, Finish Mill, Saw and Roughing Mill, Box Shop, Dry Kilns, Maintenance Garage, etc. The central pond, surrounded by evergreens, makes an attractive center for the village. The company has provided a Community Hall, and has maintained a Boarding House, as well as houses and apartments for its employees' use.

The value of the Draper Corporation to the town of Campton can be judged when we realize that, at the present time, its taxes furnish 40% of the total tax income of the town.”

More information at [www.campton.sau48.k12.nh.us/brsh\\_final.htm](http://www.campton.sau48.k12.nh.us/brsh_final.htm)

**Note:** This is also our annual meeting where we do a quick summary of the past year and elect new officers.

The presentation will be at the Old Town Hall in Campton, which is handicap accessible, and open to the public. Refreshments will be served. For information about the Society, check our web site at [www.camptonhistorical.org](http://www.camptonhistorical.org)



This program is sponsored by one of our business partners, the Campton Mobil on route 49 in Campton.

