

The Parkmount Cotton Mills in Aston Township

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The construction of the Parkmount Mill on the Peter Hill's property on the north side of Glen Riddle Road in Aston Township near the forks of the Chester Creek was begun in 1831. The work was done to the specification of the brothers, Samuel and James Riddle and the mill

was named in honor of their Irish home. The Hills invested seven thousand dollars in the dam, race, and water wheel, and ten thousand dollars more in the mill building. The structure was made of a local green stone, called serpentine, and was one hundred and thirty two feet long and fifty eight feet wide, two stories and an attic, and was set along a sloping hillside on the north side of the main branch of the creek, just above the forks.

The dam was about five feet high, and a relatively short race, perhaps one hundred yards long, ran along the hillside to the water wheel. The wheel was a breast wheel, at the upstream end of the mill and was roofed over with boards. The road curved around the mill and crossed over the race by the Picker house to the covered bridge that led across the creek to John B. Duckett's paper mill. The Riddles operated the mill until 1841. It was in turn leased by John Dixon and others, and finally by George Callaghan, during whose occupancy it was burned in 1863. John Burnley, George Gladhill and George Mallison in 1866 erected another mill on the site under the name of Burnley and Company. The building was destroyed by fire in October, 1887 and rebuilt the following year. George Brown and Sons took over the mill in February, 1903 and continued to operate it till after 1936.

