



Hazard Powder Company Collection
Finding aid and container list

In 1835 Allen Loomis built a small black powder (gunpowder) mill in Powder Hollow in Scitico, then the term for all of eastern Enfield. In 1836 he and several partners formed Loomis, Denslow and Company. In 1837 Augustus Hazard joined the firm and quickly became the driving force behind the gunpowder industry in Enfield. The village that grew around his industry was named Hazardville after him. At its peak the Hazard Powder Company covered hundreds of acres and produced thousands of pounds of black powder each day.

During the Civil War, Hazard Powder produced as much as 40% of the gunpowder used by the Union Army—and also was used early in the war by the Confederates! The shells that fell on Fort Sumter were propelled by Hazard Powder, because Hazard, a friend of Jefferson Davis, had sold much powder to southern states before they seceded.

After Hazard's death in 1868, Hazard Powder was eventually sold to the du Pont company. Though the Hazardville mills continued producing gunpowder, the business never reached the heights it had during the Civil War again. After many years of decline, operations ceased on January 14, 1913, when a major explosion destroyed much of the plant. The site is now partly occupied by Scantic River State Park, where ruins of the old buildings can still be seen.

This collection mainly consists of photographs of various mills and workers, histories of the company, and items belonging to workers and foremen. There are also many physical items relating to Hazard Powder in the museum collection, including gunpowder kegs.

Box: Hazard Powder 1

Folder 1: The Gunpowder Trust, thesis, David Jellison. Several copies.

Folder 2: Photographs

- 10 stereo views, Hazardville village and Powder Hollow area [2012.10.10]
- 23 5"x4" black and white photos, misc. buildings at Hazard Powder Co. [2011.6.10]

Folder 3:

- "Save your lives and property" poster, copies
- "Constitution and By-laws of the Mutual Benefit Association of the Employes [sic] of Hazard Powder Co.," 1885
- "Democratic ticket" advertisement, with Augustus G. Hazard for Lt. Gov. Likely for the 1861 election.
- "Historical Sketches of New England" article on Powder Hollow
- Reception program/pamphlet for Edward Prickett, given to him by employees, 1902
- Info about hand-painted Hazard Powder dresser/cabinet
- Black and white photo, Hazard Powder, from New York office. Copy. [2001.19.24]

- Map: Gordon Property, Powder Hollow, 1944 [2001.19.37]
- DeBell & Richardson history of Hazard Powder

Folder 4: Photographs

- Photograph series of Hazard Powder works, photographer and date unknown, eight photos [80.11.4a-h]
- Photo, unknown. Thompsonville? [1993.3.54]
- Photo: "Denislow King chairman of music committee" [1983.3.7]
- Misc. photos of Powder Hollow [1988.3.20 A-G]
- Photo of Powder Hollow, workers near building [1988.3.18]
- Photos, unknown [*accession listed as 2012.12.7-10, but accession form not found*]
- Three pictures of the Hazard Powder Co. after the 1913 explosion [1983.9.5-7]

Not in folder:

- Book: Charles Compretto, Hazardville's Powder Hollow II
- Framed photo, Scantic River bridge

Box: Hazard Powder 2

- Baker & Tilden Hartford County Atlas map of Hazardville
- 1980.7.1 "Gunpowder manufactured by the Hazard Powder Co. sold here" poster
- Photo: post-explosion at Powder Hollow, shows site of press [1983.9.5]
- Photos: Canister House, unidentified building, upper double wheel mill at Cooper St., horse & wagon near office, horse & cart & 3 men near unidentified building, horse & wagon, cart on rails, 2 men at unidentified building
- Photo of dam with barn in the background
- Photo of unidentified building at edge of large empty field [1993.3.54]
- Letter from E.L. Prickett to Mrs. Kerr about documents regarding company history
- Map of Hazardville traced from Baker & Tilden 1869 Hartford County Atlas
- Copy of engraved portrait of Col. Hazard from exhibit
- Two photos with text, 1/14/1913, new works explosion (from exhibit)
- Thompsonville Press, Jan. 16, 1913 issue, new works explosion coverage
- Col. Augustus G. Hazard and the Hazard Powder Co., Edward Chaining Allen II
- Photos of Powder Hollow [2022.26.17-25]
 - Cannister House
 - Two photos labeled "Index 182" (no other identification)
 - Upper double wheel mill at Cooper St.
 - Mr. Prickett's carriage outside office
 - Unidentified building
- Various photos of Hazard Powder mill, views of various buildings and employees [2012.10.12 1-25, missing 7]

Box: Hazard Powder 3

- Photocopy: "John Mathewson's defence against the attacks of Henry Cleaveland" Hazardville, 1853
- Booklet advertising "Hazard Place" formerly Hazard mansion

- Typewritten history: “Powder Hollow” author unknown
- Photograph series of Hazard Powder works, photographer and date unknown, eight photos [80.11.4a-h]
- Photo: “Powder Hollow” [1988.3.20a]
- Photo: “Hazard Powder Co.” accessioned with photos of Thompsonville (?) [1993.3.54]
- “The Legend of Powder Hollow,” newspaper clipping, Hartford Courant, Oct. 19, 1947
- Typewritten history, “Hazard Powder Co.”
- Letter, containing information about people at Hazard Powder Co.
- Photocopy of incorporation papers of Hazard Powder Co., 1854
- Excerpt from a history of Vernon mentioning Hazard Powder
- Topographical map, Scitico side of Powder Hollow, 1958, by Enfield Sewer Commission
- Photo: “Cooper St. Glaze mill,” E.C. Allen
- Photo, no date or label. Post-explosion?
- Photo, Edward Allen: “Press mill with workmen, car of pressed cokes of powder”
- Photo, no date or label. Mill building with workmen.
- Newspaper clipping: Hazard Mansion fire
- Photo, no date or label. Mill building with horses and workmen
- Photo, no date or label. Mill building with horses, wagon, workmen
- Photocopy of Hazardville map from 1869 atlas of Hartford County [2001.19.33]
- Letter to Edward Allen from Dave Jellison about Hazardville families
- Painting done over a photograph: “Scene in Powder Hollow” [80.5.1]
- Photo: “Mr. Lazaere”? [1988.3.19]
- Photos of trees, streams, ponds in Powder Hollow [1988.3.20a-g]
- Copy of photo: “Edward Prickett” [2001.19.7]
- Photo: Powder Hollow buildings [2011.6.10i]
- Photo, mill buildings
- Photo, buildings, horse and wagon, no information
- Photo, bridge over the Scantic.
- Copy of photo, Hazard Powder
- Book: “Explosives in History” by Norman B. Wilkinson, mentions Hazard Powder
- Photo: falls at Powder Hollow
- Photo, no information, Powder Hollow falls
- Photo: “Soda Pond”
- Photo, mill building, worker, no info
- Photocopy: “Notes concerning the Prickett family and others connected with the early history of Hazardville, Conn.”
- Folder: Newspaper clippings about Hazard Powder, Hazard Institute, and Hazardville generally
- Folder: “Typewritten histories, Hazard Powder Co.” [see folder for inventory]
- Powder Hollow artifacts collected and described by Robert Brock, includes photos [2021.22]

Box: Hazard Powder Survey Maps

Rolled items

- Photostat, 1855 advertisement for Hazard gunpowder
- Copy, 1903 survey map “Plans showing the plant of the Hazard Powder Co. at Hazardville & Scitico”
- Transparency of 1903 map

- Enlargements of 1903 map
- “Map of Hazard Powder Plant” 1904, several copies
- Reverse image of 1904 map
- Blue map, large, 1903 and 1904 maps. Originals? **Fragile**

Box: Hazardville/Hazard Powder oversize

- 11x17 enlargement of real photo post card showing new works and dam before explosion
- Photo of Hazard Powder Co. steam plant [1995.3]
- Diagram of Hazard Powder Co. grounds [2022.26.A&B]
- Copies of “Save Your Lives” poster
- “Hazard Powder Co. gunpowder sold here” advertising poster
- Baker & Tilden Hazardville page, from 1869 Hartford County Atlas
- Laminated article, “History of Powder Hollow” by Frank J. Poirot
- Jan. 16, 1913 Thompsonville Press New Works explosion
- Enlarged copies of Scitico map
- Bridge family photo [2014.24.1]
- Circa 1957 aerial photos of Bridge businesses and surroundings [1997.5.39A-B]

Box: Framed Hazard Powder items

- Framed newspaper article, “Hazard’s gunpowder mill took grisly toll on villagers” from the Journal-Inquirer, 1989 [2000.26.1]
- Framed “Hazard’s Electric Gunpowder” broadside
- Framed sheet of four cannon powder labels