



New Digital Exhibit Documents History of a Small-town Paper Mill

Located just west of Asheville, North Carolina, and within the headwaters of the Pigeon River, is the small town of Canton, home to the Evergreen Packaging mill, an employee-owned facility. Opened in 1908 as the Champion Fibre Company, the pulp and paper mill has been an economic engine for Canton for more than a century. However, it has also been contributing to the contamination of the westward flowing Pigeon River and sending its sulfur-rich odor to its downwind neighbors for more than a century. Over the course of its lifetime, no matter who has owned it, the mill has had a major impact on area natural resources through activities including timber harvesting, paper production, and product conversion.

The history of a mill that has played a significant role in the environmental and social history in this region is the focus of a new digital exhibit, "[Champion Pulp and Paper Mill in Canton, NC, Timeline](#)." Matt Brantley, a master's student at Duke University's Nicholas School, created this digital exhibit as a class project for Dan Richter, professor of soils and ecology at the Nicholas School. The exhibit uses images and documents from various FHS collections, including the Photograph Collection, Oral History Collection, and Business Files. Matt prepared it with assistance from the FHS Library staff. It can be found in the [Digital Collections section](#) of our website.

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**FHS books make for
great gifts anytime of
year and for any
occasion.**



**We've slashed our prices
on many of our books
and films. HOWEVER, we
cannot have them
delivered in time for the
holidays. [Sale ends on
12/31.](#)**

**Want to put something
under the tree of your**

After reviewing the digital exhibit, Nicolette Cagle, a lecturer in environmental science and policy at the Nicholas School and a new FHS board member, drafted a short homework assignment that incorporates Matt's work into a systems thinking framework for her Forest Measurements students.



In 1925, the Champion Knight logo appeared on a shipment of paper for the first time.

Join Us in Ottawa for Lunch at ASEH!

The Society is sponsoring a luncheon at the upcoming [American Society for Environmental History](#) conference in Ottawa, Canada, on March 26, 2020. Local author Phil Jenkins will regale luncheon attendees with a dynamic portrait of the evolution of the Kitchissippi Shore (the Algonquin name for the Ottawa River).



Phil Jenkins

Phil's talk will draw from his award-winning book, *Acre of Time*. In it he tells of how a single acre in the LeBreton Flats on the shore of the Ottawa River is a representation of many different things: government bullying, colonial oppression, bureaucratic boondoggles, industrial wasteland, and competing visions. Central to the story is Constant

Penency, an Algonquin chief, and one of the last

favorite forest history fan? We recommend giving an FHS membership as a gift. Click [here](#) to place your order.

Cheers!

As 2019 comes to a close, we're reflecting on the many reasons we're grateful for all of you and our work to collect and preserve forest and conservation history. Please help us keep the work going with your membership gift before the end of calendar year. Join or support [online](#) today.

ATTENTION AUTHORS!

Did you recently publish a book? Do you have one coming out soon? If so, please tell your publisher to send us **TWO** review copies: one for our magazine *Forest History Today* and the other for the journal *Environmental History*. Have them sent to:
Eben Lehman
Forest History Society 2925
Academy Road Durham,
NC 27705

All books are entered into our [bibliographic database](#), which is used by scholars around the world to find the latest publications in environmental history.



Indigenous people to actively hunt and trap in the area. Jenkins explores this single acre from pre-history up through the 1960s, when it was part of the land expropriated by the National Capital Commission.

Those attending the conference can sign up when [registering for the conference](#). The event is also open to those in the area wanting to hear this engaging talk and to catch up on the latest Society news from FHS president Steve Anderson. If you wish to join us for lunch but are not attending the conference, please contact Andrea Anderson either [by email](#) or by calling 919-682-9319. Even if you cannot make the lunch but are attending the conference, please stop by our exhibit booth to say "hello" to Steve, FHS archivist Eben Lehman, or FHS historian Jamie Lewis.

Former FHS Board Chair Passes



The Forest History Society has learned of the passing of Herbert Winer, a member of the Society for more than fifty years and former FHS Board member and Board chair. Herb was 98. Educated in forestry, Herb pioneered the field of stand dynamics, and initiated instruction in industrial forestry. He directed logging research in Canada, oversaw Lake State forest science, and helped set safety standards for the logging industry.

Born in New York City in 1921, Herb graduated from Yale University in 1942, where he majored in classics and botany, and then served in the U.S. Army in the

Pacific during World War II. After the war, he completed a PhD in forestry at Yale, and then taught at the Forestry School until moving to Montreal in 1964.

Before leaving Yale, Herb was instrumental in persuading FHS leadership to move the organization from its original home in St. Paul, Minn., to New Haven. FHS became an "actual unit" of Yale but maintained its identity and charter when it moved in June 1964. Herb joined the FHS board the following year, even though, starting that same year he was working for the Pulp and Paper Research Institute of Canada. In 1979 Herb became head of woodlands management at Mead in Dayton, Ohio. Upon retirement in 1988, he returned to the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, where he taught, conducted research, guided students, coached cross-cut saw contests, and even helped design the school's coat of arms.

FHS's relationship with Yale ended in 1969, but Herb remained on the board until 1990. During that time, FHS underwent a great deal of change and growth, and Herb was very much involved in those efforts. Among his many contributions, he worked with Susan Flader in 1977 to draft a five-year program plan, and he served on the committee that oversaw the selection of another new site, which led to FHS relocating from Santa Cruz to Durham in 1984. For these and many other contributions, including serving as board chair from 1987 to 1989, Winer would be elected an FHS Fellow and then as an emeritus member of the FHS Board of Directors.

At Herb's request, the family is not holding funeral services. Those wishing to share their remembrances of Herb Winer or condolences with the family are asked to send them to us [via email](#) and we'll forward them on.

From the Blog

Have you heard how Theodore Roosevelt banned Christmas trees in the White House because of "environmental concerns," only to then have one of his young sons rebel and install a small tree, much to his father's surprise? One version of the story has the Roosevelt children enlisting Gifford Pinchot, the federal chief of forestry, to lecture the president on the basics of forest conservation. Yet despite all evidence to the contrary, the myth grows with each

passing year. What's a forest historian to do but to fight back with the facts. Learn how a patently false myth evolved into accepted belief in a newly updated version of "[President Bans Christmas Trees from White House!](#)"

The end of the year brings with it a touch of nostalgia. Here are a few favorite holiday-themed blog posts from the past:

- [Mary Pickford Stars in "Beverly Hills 90210-Oh Holy Night"](#)
- [Forest Service "Bulletin" Christmas Art Sampler](#)
- [Looking Back at the National Christmas Tree Tradition](#)
- For those who like to sing, there's "[The Twelve Days of Christmas](#)," FHS style
- and [Forgotten Characters: "Ev'rett the Friendly Evergreen"](#)

