

November 13, 1942

Mr. Charles M. Thomas,  
Department of History,  
Ohio State University,  
Columbus, Ohio.

Dear Mr. Thomas:

The Ohio Archaeological and Historical Society quarterly for July, 1942, at Page 185, states that the first paper mill in Ohio was built on the Little Miami River in 1810. I believe this honor belongs to East Liverpool, formerly Fawcettstown. Browne's Western Calendar for 1807, published at Cincinnati in 1806, contains a letter from a gentleman to the Editor dated Fawcettstown, Columbiana County, July 21, 1806:

"The road from Fawcettstown, up the bank of the river, is open, and leads to Little Beaver Creek; six miles on which is a grist and saw-mill. A tollbridge is erecting, which is, by act of Legislature, to stand good for a term of fifty years. The creek is full of large rocks, and affords a romantic scene.

"About two miles up from the mouth is a paper mill, built of stone, and admirably calculated to perform a great deal of business. The paper made at this mill is equal, if not superior, to any made this side of the mountains; and there is every reason to suppose, from the attention paid to the manufacturing, that a large stroke of business will be successfully carried on. How strange to say that, though there are not less than ten or twelve printing presses in the State of Ohio, yet the only paper mill in the State is situated within one mile of its eastern boundary. There does not appear to be a better, or more sure and lucrative speculation."

The earliest history of Columbiana County, published in 1879 at Page 175, contains the following:

"In 1805 or 1806, John Bever and John Coulter built a paper-mill, for making writing paper, on Little Beaver Creek, near its mouth, and called it the Ohio Paper Mill. It was the first industry of its kind in Ohio, and the second west of the Alleghenies. The mill-dam was carried away some years after the enterprise was started, and the paper-mill became a thing of the past."

John Bever, in his will dated January 26, 1832, devised to his daughter his  $3/4$  interest in the Ohio Paper Mill in St. Clair Township, Columbiana County, Ohio. He stated that the other  $1/4$  part belonged to Jacob Bowman of Brownsville (Pa.). Bever estimated his  $3/4$  interest at \$9,000.

Map  
of  
Canal

Sandy & Beaver Canal

Sealed Proposals

Will be received at the office of the Sandy & Beaver Canal Company in New Lisbon until Saturday the 24th of January inst. for furnishing the timber and plank and framing and setting up

Lock Gates at the following points on the Eastern Division. viz:

4	Locks of about 6-1/2 ft. lift in Furnace hollow
4	do of " 13 " " in Do Do
5	do of " 6 " " in New Lisbon
1	do of " 5 " " at Elkton No. 24
1	do of " 6 " " Below Elkton No. 25
1	do of " 6 " " Near Middle Beaver No. 32
1	do of " 6 " " Near Heap's factory " 40
1	do of " 6 " " At Dam No. 13 " 42
1	do of " 6 " " At Hambleton's Mills " 43

Lock No. 42 at Dam No. 13 is a Guard Lock, and requires only two new Lower Gates.

The timber for the Gates and Balance Beams to be of good sound white oak. The plank to be of white oak or white pine.

For further particulars, see "Specification for a Composite Lock", or inquire at the Canal Office.

Office of Sandy & Beaver

Canal Company

New Lisbon Jan. 18th 1846 )

Chas D. Hostetter  
Secty. S. & B. C. Co.