

Factories

Framework knitting began as a domestic occupation based in the home or in small workshops, such as can be seen at the Ruddington Framework Knitting Museum. As technological advances enabled machines to be steam powered, and as lace machines increased in weight and size, factory production started to become the norm.

The factory grew up around a cotton mill established by Peter Nightingale in 1784 and later, under John Smedley, specialised in the manufacture of hosiery.

Hosiery factory of John Smedley, Lea, Derbyshire, c.1962. MS 627/1/2/108.

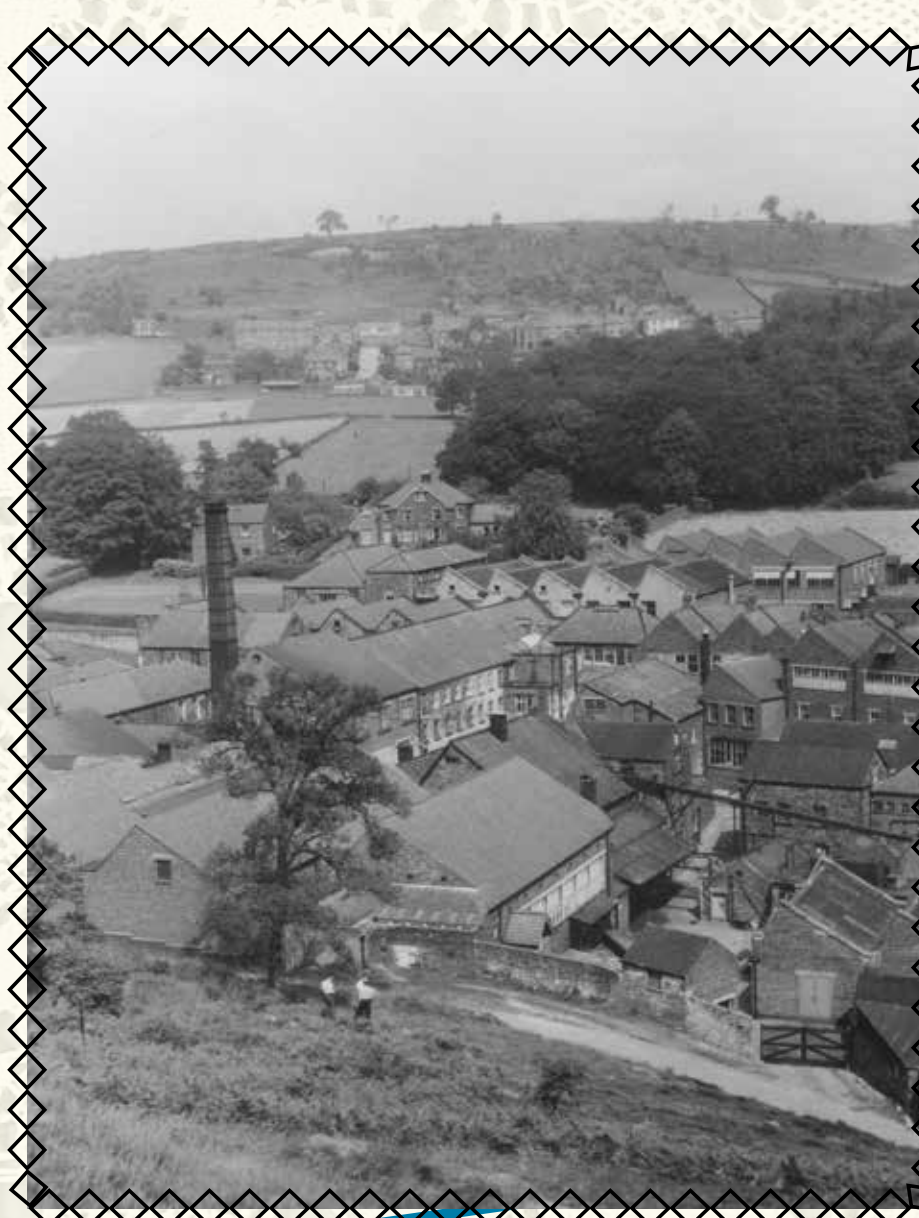
GEORGE BRETTE & Co



This photograph shows the warehouse, built in 1834, from which a large part of the framework knitting industry in Derbyshire was controlled.

Hosiery factory of George Brettle & Company, Chapel Street, Belper, Derbyshire, c.1959-1961. MS 627/1/1/29.

JOHN SMEDLEY



The firm extended its premises on Nottingham Road in 1964 and equipped it with Bentley-Cotton knitting machines. At this stage it employed 470 people, over 400 of whom were women.

Hosiery factory of Dalkeith Knitwear Ltd, Nottingham Road, Alfreton, Derbyshire, c.1964. BDA 12/11.

BLACK BROS & BODEN



Castlefields Mill was one of the first of the lace factories to be built in Derby. The maypole and swings provided for the workers and their families are visible in the foreground.

Lace factory of Black Bros & Boden, Castlefields, Derby, c.1962. MS 627/1/2/75.

TATHAM & Co LTD



Tatham was typical of many lace making families where the production developed from domestic setting to a tenement factory in which they worked their own machines and rented out space to other lace makers.

Tatham & Co Ltd, Kensington Works, Nottingham Road, Ilkeston. BTI 4/1.

WOLSEY LTD



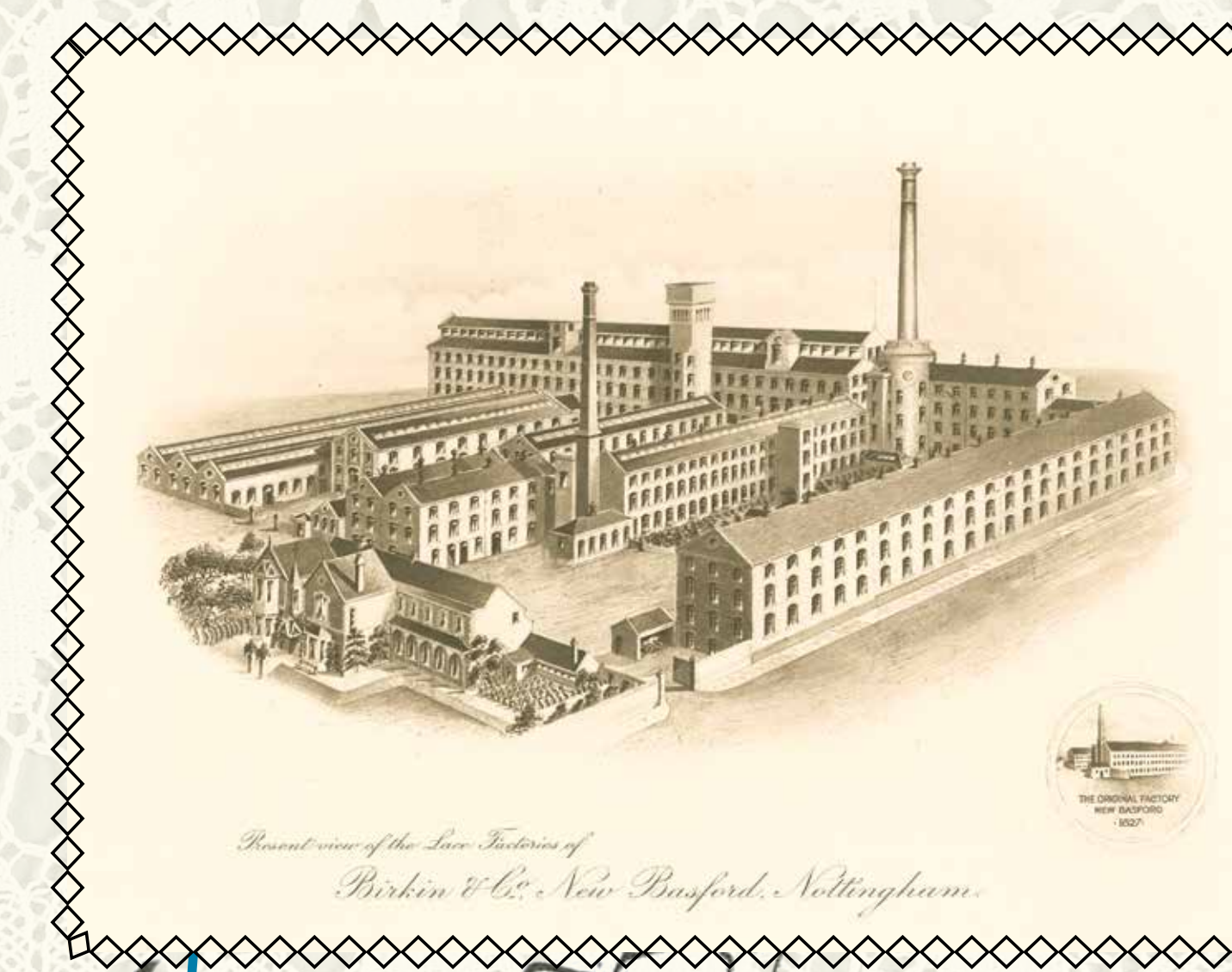
Larger hosiery firms grew by opening new plants in rural towns and colliery villages. Wolsey of Leicester opened its branch at Kimberley in c.1920.

Hosiery factory of Wolsey Limited, Victoria Mill, Eastwood Road, Kimberley, c.1962. MS 627/1/2/115.

The Basford factory was once the head office and had its own dye house and lace-dressing rooms (most firms would outsource these processes).

Lace factory of Birkin & Co, New Basford, Nottingham, 1914. East Midlands Special Collection Pamphlet Not 3.D34 NOT.

BIRKIN & Co



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ARCHIVAL REMNANTS OF THE TEXTILE TRADE

I & R MORLEY LTD



At one point Morley had factories in three counties in the East Midlands, but still used frameworkers and cheveners (embroiders) as outworkers.

Hosiery factory of I & R Morley Ltd, Mansfield Road, Arnold, Nottinghamshire, c.1962. MS 627/1/2/107.

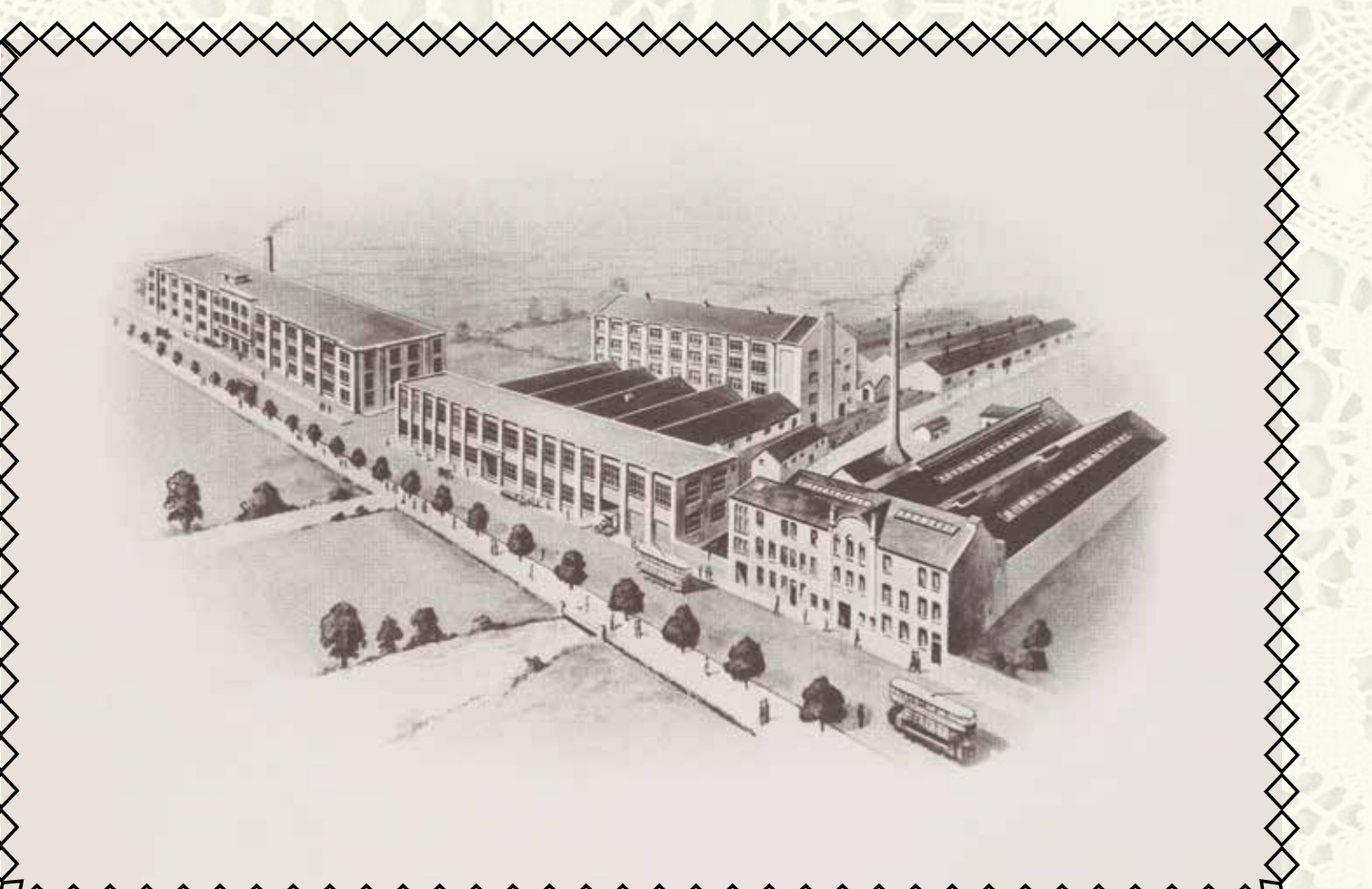
WALLIS AND LONGDEN LTD



Wallis and Longden manufactured Levers lace machines, with a foundry built in 1910.

Machine makers Wallis and Longden, Trent Works, Long Eaton, c.1945. Wa X 4/2.

CHILPRUFE



After Chilprufe was acquired by Pasolds (later Coats Viyella), the East Park Road Factory was no longer totally dedicated to Chilprufe brand but also made clothing for chain stores such as M&S.

Hosiery factory of Chilprufe, Chilprufe Mills, Leicester, 1929. BCH 1/1.

"Chilprufe is the underwear problem well tackled"



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