



JAMES THOMPSON & Co. Inc.

PRODUCT NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2010
www.jamesthompson.com

**"WEAVERS & FINISHERS SINCE
1860"**

150 Years Old & Still Going Strong! Thompson is Oldest Established Textile Firm Still Doing Business in America!

In October 1860, James Thompson opened his doors for business in Valley Falls, NY. We at Thompson today are amazed and proud to be a part of this story of success and longevity! Starting here and continuing with future 2010 Newsletters, we will write about our history. In 1860, the Industrial Revolution was at its peak in the U.S. The growing textile industry was centered in New England and New York; Cotton grown in the South was shipped here for processing into fabrics. Valley Falls, an attractive little town on the Hoosic River, just north of Albany and west of the Massachusetts state line, was the ideal location for James Thompson to build his Mill. Our 1st Mill was completely

"vertical", from spinning of yarns to weaving and finishing. Thompson concentrated on 3 main products: Buckram, Netting and Twine. The #1 fabric at the time was Buckram, as the fashion and social mores of that era dictated that everyone, men and women, wore a hat. The centers of production were New York City, Chicago and Phila. Thompson had established a NYC office and distribution warehouse at 129 W. Broadway for daily deliveries-by horse and wagon-of various styles of Buckram. We also have records of our Chicago connection as early as 1892, with a warehouse on Kinzie St. In addition to Buckram, Mosquito Netting was a Thompson specialty. In fact, part of our "oral

history" is that Thompson netting was provided to the Union Army in the Civil War! In 1893, Thompson won an award at the World's Columbian Exposition, the Chicago World's Fair, in the "Palace of Manufacturers", for Buckram & Twine. "The Buckram is well made & a good product for the purposes of which they are used. The filling & finish in bringing the desired effect, it constitutes a good material for the use of Milliners, always keeping its shape after being pressed into shapes for bonnets". This actual document from 1893 is in our NY office. We will get this photoed for display on the Thompson website.

Will have more- the early 1900's-in next Newsletter.

Ecotec- The Fabric with Moral Fiber!

In Fall 2009, we brought out a 60" 10 oz. Recycled Fiber Duck Cloth. There is an interesting story behind this fabric. It is made from "Ecotec" brand fiber. This fiber is made from a unique process, using fresh fabric scraps from apparel manufacturers all over the globe, whereby the scraps are converted back to useable fiber, and

spun into yarn. Tons of wasted fabric cuts & scraps get tossed into landfills-Ecotec is a start at solving this problem! These yarns are made by Fildi/USA.

Duck Cloth made with this fiber can be marketed as "ecologically friendly", at a cost much lower than Organic fabrics. We are using special Ecotec hang-tags on bolts

and rolls for consumer reference. For now, we offer this in Natural shade. We will be developing new dyed shades and fabrications to offer using Ecotec yarns for Spring 2010.

For more information, you can check ecotecyarn.com website.



**Holiday Greetings
from Sara, Vanessa,
Gail & Anna!**

NEW FABRICS FOR JANUARY 2010

Now ready for delivery is 44" "WILD STRIPES" woven Ticking! We take Black stripe and overdye into Turquoise, Fuchsia, Lime and Yellow-you have to see it! Samples cards available.

FIESTA MUSLIN is 78x76 45" dyed in favorite shades for quilters and home-sewers-8 colors to start. This fabric will also appeal to manufacturer accounts using Meadowlark muslin.

Goodbye John!

After 34 years with Thompson, our Head of Purchasing, John Stutmann, is retiring. John is a real "textile man", working with various fabric firms before finding a home here in 1975. He really knows his textiles. John is also a real sweetheart of a guy, well-loved by all at James Thompson & the industry! John lives in Queens NY, but we hear he may be soon heading for sunny Florida. We will miss him!