

union of capital, intelligence, and effort, at that time rare in the Colonies.

It is a remarkable fact, which we must not pass over, that the introduction of the manufacture of paper into America by the Rittenhouses occurred about the same time it was established in Great Britain. That the manufacture of paper carried on by the Rittenhouses, has been carried on by their descendants down to the present time, will be seen by the following: William Nixon, who with George F. Feinour founded the paper manufacturing establishment of Feinour & Nixon, was a descendant of the original Rittenhouses. Nicholas Rittenhouse (fourth generation) had a son named Martin, whose daughter Susanna, married Daniel Adams Nixon, a paper maker, who was the father of William and Martin Nixon, and W. H. Nixon was a son of William Nixon.

The firm of Martin & W. H. Nixon was established in 1879, and incorporated in 1888. Previous to that, however, the little business started by the worthy Mennonite Bishop Wilhelm Rittenhouse had grown to such proportions that a new and larger site was necessary. A tract of land was taken between the canal and the Schuylkill river, at Manayunk, in the Twenty-first Ward, and the first building was erected which now forms the great Flat Rock Works, covering an area of nearly three acres, and comprising fifteen distinct buildings, with improved machinery and appliances. The little business established by the Rittenhouses in 1690, has thus blossomed forth into a great and important industry, and it has for two centuries been conducted and developed by the old Bishop's family and his descendants. In 1866 the growth of the business again necessitated a search for more room, and the Vine Street Mill was established at Vine street wharf on the Schuylkill river. This factory is devoted exclusively to the manufacture of Manilla paper for making bags, and the machinery has the power of producing five tons of manilla paper per day. There is also a bag