

MADE IN
Northeastern
PA

Each month, we recognize one of the region's top manufacturers with the aid of NEPIRC, the Northeastern Pennsylvania Industrial Resource Center. Since 1988, NEPIRC has been working with manufacturers to improve their productivity, profitability, competitiveness and long-term viability through consultative services.

CELEBRATING
Hendrick 140TH
 ANNIVERSARY
 Continuing a legacy for an innovative future with you

Carbondale manufacturer celebrating 140 years in business

Eli Emery Hendrick was a brilliant inventor, entrepreneur and businessman, who in the 1870s invented a process of punching holes in metal that was first used in creating filtering systems for the oil refinery industry.



Hendrick Manufacturing Company still operates in Carbondale where it was founded 140 years ago.

Hendrick used this process to launch his manufacturing company in Carbondale, Lackawanna County, that has flourished for more than a century and this year is celebrating its 140th anniversary. Hendrick Manufacturing is one of only 400 companies that were founded before 1876 in the U.S. that still exist today. There are about 6 million companies in the U.S.

Hendrick's invention in the 1870s led to many more uses over the years and has had a great impact on industry. In fact, some of Hendrick's early mechanical drawings are on display at the Smithsonian Institute's National Museum of American History.

Hendrick held many patents during the late 1800s. But it was one of his patents in the early 1870s that he sold to John D. Rockefeller that provided the startup capital Hendrick needed to launch Hendrick Manufacturing Company in 1876.

Hendrick died in October of 1909 in Carbondale. The company remained in the family and

was doing well until the late 1980s when several issues arose and the company brought in Michael L. Drake, a professional manager who specialized in company turnarounds, to save the company.

Within two years, Drake, who became president of the company, had resolved its issues and put it back on a path of success. In fact, Hendrick Manufacturing has been profitable every year since 1989.



Michael D. Drake stands before a quote from his father that is on the wall of the Carbondale facility.

Drake continued with the company, and in 1994 purchased it from the Hendrick family. His two sons, Michael D. and Darin, later joined the company and continue as chief executive officer and chief financial officer, respectively. Their father passed away in 2006.

Today, Hendrick's products are manufactured in Carbondale and at plants in Elgin, Illinois, and Owensboro, Kentucky. Their products are used worldwide for a variety of purposes in more than 20 industries including acoustical, agricultural, food service, medical, mining, recycling, auto and lighting.

The company utilizes the most modern technology but also still has some of its presses operating that were built as early as 1910. Those presses are very large and can punch holes in metals up to one inch thick.

Hendrick Manufacturing today employs more than 200 people, with about 130 of them working at the plant in Carbondale. Drake credited the strength of the workforce with its ongoing success and said that employees are rewarded based on profitability. "Our employees earn bonuses upwards of 20 to 40 percent of their annual income based on our profits for the year," he said.

To assist the company with improving the strength of its workforce, Hendrick Manufacturing for nearly 20 years has been taking advantage of services offered by the Northeastern Pennsylvania Industrial Resource Center. "NEPIRC has been helping our company with training in human resources, safety and lean manufacturing, as well as identifying state and federal programs that have provided funding assistance to meet our training needs," Drake said. "We have been very pleased with NEPIRC's services."

This feature is sponsored by...

NEPIRC
 northeastern pennsylvania industrial resource center

PA PREP
 Partnerships for Regional Economic Performance

MAKE IT IN AMERICA
 MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

NORTHEAST PENNSYLVANIA
Business Journal