

ZIOCK BUILDING (also referred to as Tower Bldg.)

Rockford: Textile Capital of North America (c. 1900 to 1930)

Includes: [history of textile industry & select metal fabricating/hardware](#); [Ziock & Aldeen families](#); [Rockford Textile Co. & Amerock](#)

"Knitting District": northern end of Water Power (District) just south of railroad tracks between S. Main & the Rock River
and first 2 blocks north of railroad track between S. Main & the River (including S. Wyman)

Textile supremacy: 1900-1935

Date	Event	Business	Individual	Source
26 Sept 1866	Partnership (inception of knitting industry in Rockford)	Burson & Nelson - cotton socks	John Nelson & W. W. Burson (investors: Ralph Emerson, Wm. A. Talcott)	<i>Morning Star</i> , 10 Nov 1892; "Hosiery Industry & How it Began", letter - W.W. Burson
27 Aug 1867	Patent #28950: knitting yarn trademark design featuring words "Manchester Knitting Yarn"	St. Charles Woolen Mills	William Ziock, St. Louis, MO	www.vintage-reprints.com/catalog/1867
1868, 1870, 1875	Patents issued: parallel-row power knitting machine to connect foot & heel of socks/stocking	Burson & Nelson	John Nelson, William Worth Burson	"Nuggets of History" Rkfd Historical Society
8 Oct 1870	BIRTH OF ROCKFORD TEXTILE INDUSTRY: First seamless sock produced (using "presser hook" automatic machine)	Burson & Nelson	John Nelson, William Worth Burson	<i>Morning Star</i> , 10 Nov 1892; "Hosiery Industry & How it Began", letter - W.W. Burson
Nov 1877	Dissolution	Burson & Nelson	John Nelson, William Worth Burson	<i>Morning Star</i> , 10 Nov 1892; "Hosiery Industry & How it Began", letter - W.W. Burson
1880	Name Change from Nelson-Burson Co & Incorporation	Frank R. Brown Co./Nelson Knitting Co.	John Nelson, Frank R. Brown	1) 1938 local article: "Famed Nelson Machine Made over Industry"
1879-1881	Founding, 1879; Incorporation, 29 Nov 1881	Rockford Mitten Co. - woolen goods & leather mittens (supplier - St. Charles Woolen Mills)	Founders/John Nelson & William Talcott; investor/Ralph Emerson; supplier/W.H. Ziock, Sr.	1) 1946 interview, W.H. Ziock, Jr./1881; 2) 1938 local article/1881; 3) www.carrollscorner.net/ZiockBuilding.htm -1881; 4) RM&H Co records @ No. IL Regional. History Center/1879
1880-1881	TEXTILE INDUSTRY	F.R. Brown & Co (Water Power); Burson & Nelson (N end of Water Power); Graham's Mill (702 S. Main)	<i>Burson & Nelson est. 8 years ago: produce seamless hosiery</i>	1880-81 Rockford City Directory
1885-1886	TEXTILE INDUSTRY	Nelson Knitting (Water Power); S.B. Wilkins Co. South End Wyman)	<i>No listing for Ziock</i>	1885-86 Rockford City Directory
1885	Rockford Mitten Co. purchased by W. H. Ziock & merged with St. Charles (MO) Woolen Mills	Rockford Mitten & Hosiery Co. - hosiery replaced leather gloves + yarn, stockings, blanket goods	William H. Ziock, Sr.	1) 1946 interview, W.H. Ziock, Jr./1881; 2) 1938 local article/1881; 3) www.carrollscorner.net/ZiockBuilding.htm -1881; 4) RM&H Co records @ No. IL Regional. History Center/1879
1887-88	TEXTILE INDUSTRY	Nelson Knitting (S. Wyman on Water Power); RM&H Co (corner Wyman & Cedar); S.B.Wilkins (corner Wyman & Cedar)	initial listings for Ziock: William, Pres & Treas, RM&H (res. 1217 E. State); Edward J. (Rundquist & Ziock (res 645 S. Main)	1887-88 Rockford City Directory
1888	First carload of cotton yarn to Rkfd via IL Central from Bibb Mfg. (Macon, GA)	Nelson Knitting Co.	John Nelson	<i>Register Star</i> 30 Jun 1940 "Spotlight on 60-yr Record of Nelson Knitting Co."
1889-1890	TEXTILE INDUSTRY	Nelson Knitting (S. Main on Water Power); RM&H (corner Wyman & Cedar); S. B. Wilkins (corner Cedar & Wyman)		1889-1890 Rockford City Directory
1890	Founding	Forest City Knitting (Catherine Street) - cotton ribbed socks & later athletic socks	sons of John Nelson: Fritz, William & Oscar	1938 article
1892	Founding	Burson Knitting (socks); Burson Mfg. Co. (knitting machine mfg.) - site of S.B. Wilkins Co at foot of Cedar St.	W. W. Burson	1938 local article: "Famed Nelson Machine Made over Industry"
7 Feb 1893	Patent issued: #491460 - _____	Rockford Mitten & Hosiery Co.	William H. Ziock, Sr.	Google patents: #491460 (filed 19 Sept 1892)
19 Jun 1900	Purchase of E-half of Lot #4, Block #4 (transaction begun 13 Jun 1895 when back taxes purchased by Ziock)	Rockford Mitten & Hosiery Co.	William H. Ziock, Sr.	Book 171, pg 499
1903	Construction completed: Rockford's first "skyscraper"	Rockford Dry Goods Store (State & Main) - Wallach Block	Andrew Ashton	<i>Rockford Star</i> : 17 Jan 1984, "First 'skyscraper' hasn't long to live"
1903	Construction of Ziock Block residences: for RM&H workers ((Winnebago/Court/ Jefferson/Mulberry) - 14 duplexes & 4-family	Rockford Mitten & Hosiery Co.	William H. Ziock, Sr.	"Rockford: 1920 & Beyond", Eric A. Johnson
1903	Founding	National Lock Co. - mfg. mortise locks & ancillary hardware	P.A. Peterson, Levi Faust & Frank G. Hoglund (latter remained in leadership role)	"Rockford: 1920 & Beyond", Eric A. Johnson

Date	Event	Business	Individual	Source
22 Dec 1904	Purchase of W-half of Lot #4 and N-half of Lot #5, Block #4		William H. Ziock, Sr. from Elisha Woodruff & George McGuire	Book 193, Pg 200 (Recorder's Office)
31 Dec 1904	Grant of Ziock Block housing (Court, Mulberry, Winnebago, Peach/Jefferson)		William H. Ziock, Sr. to Mathilde Ziock, daughter	Book 194, pg 172
21 Mar 1905	Death of W.H. Ziock, Sr. (1830-1905); Presidency to son, W.H. Ziock, Jr.	Rockford Mitten & Hosiery Co., founder	William H. Ziock, Jr. (1863-1957)	1) 1837 article; 2) 1946 interview w. W.H. Ziock, Jr.; 3) Winn. County Vitals-Death
30 Dec 1905	Quit Claim Deed of property on S. Main, Block #4 (Lots #4 & #5)	Rockford Mitten & Hosiery Co.	Matilda Ziock (sister) to sons Wm. H. & Edward & Marie Boehman (widow), Edward & Nellie E. Voight	Quit Claim Deed Book 197, Page 260
1907	Construction of 130,000 SF multi-floor textile factory at 222 S. Main - now called Tapco Building	Burson Knitting Co.		Rockford Register Star, 6 Mar 2010 "Rkfd could be Next Owner"
1910	Incorporation	B-Z-B Knitting Co. - women's silk hose	W. H. Ziock, Jr, Frank Brown	1938 article
1912	TEXTILE INDUSTRY	RM&H (418 S. Wyman); Nelson Knitting (600 W. Wyman); B-Z-B (418-20 S. Main); Burson (506 S. Main)	Ziock Paper Box listed at 420 S. Main	1912 Rockford City Directory
1915	Business affiliations & residence (850 Haskell)	Pres - RM&H Co, Ziock Paper Box Co, King Co; VP - Nelson Knitting	William H. Ziock, Jr. + wife, Lulu	1915 Rockford City Directory
1915	TEXTILE INDUSTRY	B-Z-B Knitting (417 S. Wyman); Burson Knitting (506 S. Main St.); Forest City Knitting (Catherine & Magnolia); Nelson Knitting (600 S. Wyman); RM&H (418 S. Wyman)	Ziock Paper Box and King Co. also listed at 417 S. Wyman	1915 Rockford City Directory
28 Oct 1918	Name Change from Rockford Mitten & Hosiery Co to Rockford Textile Mills	Rockford Textile Mills	William H. Ziock, Jr.	1) www.carrollscorner.net/ZiockBuilding.htm; 2) RM&H Co records @ No. IL Regional History Center
1919	Construction, 1902 - 7th St: "1 million SF Peterson & Johnson designed factory as Rockford's largest single industrial plant" ("Rockford 1920 & Beyond")	National Lock Co.		"Rockford: 1920 & Beyond", Eric A. Johnson;
17 Sept 1919	Permit for demolition of building at 416 S. Main	Ziock Paper Box Co.	William H. Ziock, Jr.	Contractor: The Holm Page Co. Permit #137
18 Oct 1919	Permit for construction of 13-story fireproof factory	Ziock Paper Box Co.	William H. Ziock, Jr.	Contractor: The Holm Page Co. Permit #292
1919	Initial Phase Construction: Ziock Bldg beginning with 9-story portion - "13-story reinforced concrete textile factory on 2-acre, 5-building downtown campus... built by world's largest hosiery producer" ("Rkfd 1920 & Beyond")	RM&H Co. "to meet the growing demand for its woollen hosiery and socks" ("Rkfd 1920 & Beyond")	William H. Ziock, Jr.	1) www.carrollscorner.net/ZiockBuilding.htm; 2) "Rockford: 1920 & Beyond", Eric A. Johnson; 3) www.fundinguniverse.com/company-histories/Amerock-Corp (constr 1918)
1920	New tenant at 416 South Main St.	Ziock (later Rockford) Paper Box Co.	William H. Ziock, Jr.	1920 Rockford City Directory
1920	TEXTILE INDUSTRY	B-Z-B (328-30 S. Wyman); Burson (210 S. Cedar); Forest City (212 Catherine); Nelson Knitting (600 S. Wyman); RM&H (418 S. Wyman)	Ziock Paper Box listed at 416 S. Main St.	1920 Rockford City Directory
1924	Second Phase Construction: Ziock Bldg.: 14-story wing to west side of complex; Rockford's FIRST SKYSCRAPER	Rockford Mitten & Hosiery Co. - socks & silk hose		1) www.emporis.com; 2) Register Star, 29 Aug 2007 "Deal Set on Tapco, Amerock"; 3) www.carrollscorner.net/Ziock states 1924
1926	Relocation: from Water Power to Kent Street plant	Nelson Knitting Co. (Kent St.)	Antes S. Ruhl, Pres; W.H. Ziock, Jr. VP	"Hosiery Industry Carries Fame of Rockford Abroad" (local paper, 1927 or later)
1924-1926	Additions, 1902 - 7th St.	National Lock Co.		"Rockford: 1920 & Beyond", Eric A. Johnson
1928	Founding	Aldeen Manufacturing Co. - cabinet, kitchen & window hardware to finish mfg. and retail	Principals - brothers, Reuben Aldeen (Supt of Ops) & Wilhelm Gedor Aldeen (VP Engineering @ NL) + 10 others from National Lock	1) "Rockford 1920 & Beyond", Eric A. Johnson; 2) www.fundinguniverse.com/company-histories/Amerock-Corp
1928	Lease half of 12th floor of Ziock Building (with only access to the roof!)	Aldeen Manufacturing Co.	Reuben & Gedor Aldeen	1) "Rockford 1920 & Beyond", Eric A. Johnson; 2) www.fundinguniverse.com/company-histories/Amerock-Corp; 3) www.rusticahardware.com
1928	Founding	Contour Hosiery Mills (1616 S. Main St.)		1938 article
1930's	Name change from Aldeen Mfg. Co. & purchase of 15-acres for future expansion	American Cabinet Hardware		www.fundinguniverse.com/company-histories/Amerock-corp
1938	Textile Employment: 2,500-3000	INDUSTRY WIDE		1938 article
1939	Acquisition by Keystone Steel & Wire (Peoria, IL)	National Lock Co.		"Rockford 1920 & Beyond", Eric A. Johnson
1940	Brand name created: Amerock (combines America & Rockford) -sales reach \$3 million	American Cabinet Hardware	Reuben & Gedor Aldeen	www.fundinguniverse.com/company-histories/Amerock-corp
1940	Hosiery production hits 1 million dozen	Nelson Knitting Co	Tuve J. Floden, Pres & Treas; Waite Talcott, VP	Register Star 30 Jun 1940 "Spotlight on 60-yr Record of Nelson Knitting Co."

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1941	WWII causes shortage of silk (Japan primary supplier)	Rockford Textile Mills/Mitten & Hosiery Co., B-Z-B Knitting Co, Contour Hosiery Mills		Register Star 2 Aug 1941 "Processing of Silk Halted"
1942	Ziock Bldg. no longer part of textile industry as fully-leased by owner, Rockford Textile Mills	American Cabinet Hardware - support war effort, shifting production to micro-switch parts for planes, subs, tanks, ships and bombs		"Rockford 1920 & Beyond", Eric A. Johnson
1945	Service Awards to 199 employees	Rockford Mitten & Hosiery Co./Rockford Textile Mills	Pres, J. B. Glasner; Wm H. Ziock, Chairman of the Bd. of Dir.	21 Jan 1945, Register Republic, "Honor Old Employees"
23 July 1946	Sale of William Ziock Building & Lots #4 and #5 of Block 4	Ziock Industries to American Cabinet Hdwe.	Roy Ziock	Book 677, pg 493-494
1946	Labor Shortage in Rockford textile mills - driving business from Rockford (Forest City & Nelson mfg. 1/2 heavy work socks in US)	Forest City (work socks), Nelson (socks), B-Z-B (nylons); Burson (spun nylon socks); Rkfd Mitten & Hosiery Co./Rkfd Textile Mills		Register Star, 12 Oct 1946 "Lack of Sufficient Help Still Major Problem of Knitting Mills"
5 Aug 1947	British textile engineer, Cyril H. Slack of Derby, England takes 30 new machines back to UK	Burson Knitting Co.	Cyril H. Slack, F. Longdon & Co. Ltd - mfg. surgical stockings	Register Republic, 5 8 1947, "Rkfd Knitting Machines to help Britain speed production"
1948	Acquisition by Kendall Co. (Boston)	Burson Knitting Co. - women's cotton stockings (1,500 tons of product/yr, largest textile operation w. 500 employees & 2000 machines)		"Rockford 1920 & Beyond", Eric A. Johnson
1949	Relocation of mfg. to South Carolina	Burson Knitting Co.		"Rockford 1920 & Beyond", Eric A. Johnson
1946-1949	Purchase of Ziock Bldg. from Rockford Textile Mills (\$300,000)	American Cabinet Hardware	Reuben & Gedor Aldeen	1) "Rockford 1920 & Beyond", Eric A. Johnson; 2) www.fundinguniverse.com/company-histories/Amerock-Corp
1950-1951	Major addition to Ziock Bldg.: 6-story, \$400,000 addition on south side. TOTAL CAMPUS SF: 230,000	American Cabinet Hardware	Reuben & Gedor Aldeen	"Rockford 1920 & Beyond", Eric A. Johnson
1953	Purchase of Ziock Bldg. from American Cabinet Hdwe (\$500,000)- lease continues through 1956 (Lots #2-6, Block #4)	L.C. Miller & Associates		www.fundinguniverse.com/company-histories/Amerock-corp
1952-1957	Liquidate operations "due to labor/mgt. problems"	Rockford Textile Mills		"RM&H Co. Records", Northern IL Regional History Center
1954	Consolidation	Forest City Knitting into Nelson Knitting at 909 S. Main St.		"Rockford 1920 & Beyond", Eric A. Johnson
1955	Relocation if mfg. operations to Tennessee (due to labor problems)	Rockford Textile Mills		"Rockford: 1920 & Beyond"
By 1955	Name Change & relocation	B-Z-B to Manikin Hosiery Co.		Star, Feb 1957 obit. Of W. H. Ziock, Jr.
By 1955	Name Change & location	Rockford Paper Box Co to Ziock Industries, move to Brownwood TX		Star, Feb 1957 obit. Of W. H. Ziock, Jr.
1956	New campus: 15-acre fastener plant near airport	National Lock Co.		"Rockford 1920 & Beyond", Eric A. Johnson
1956	Relocation to 4000 Auburn St.: "North America's leading cabinet hdwe mfg outgrowing 13-store factory in the Ziock Bldg"	American Cabinet Hardware Corp.	Norris Aldeen, President (named in 1954)	"Rockford: 1920 & Beyond", Eric A. Johnson
1956-1957	Ziock Bldg. vacated following re-location	Amerock	Norris Aldeen, President	Star, Feb 1957 obit. Of W. H. Ziock, Jr.
1956-1957	Name Change from American Cabinet Hardware	Amerock	Norris Aldeen, President	1) "Rockford: 1920 & Beyond", Eric A. Johnson; 2) www.fundinguniverse.com/company-histories/Amerock-Corp
10 Feb 1957	Death: William H. Ziock, Jr.	Rockford Textile Mills, co-founder	William H. Ziock, Chairman of the Board (26 Nov 1863 - Feb 1957)	1) Register Republic & Star 12 Feb 1957 obituaries; 2) Winn County Vitals-Death
1957	Dissolution	RM&H Co./Rkfd Textile Mills 100%-owned subsidiaries: Beloit Hosiery (Seneca Falls, NY); Tenn-Rock Hosiery (McMinnville TN); Manchester Mills, Inc. (Manchester TN)	Records presented by J. H. Ederstrom on 16 Oct 1978	"RM&H Co. Records", Northern IL Regional History Center
1959	Repurchase of Ziock Bldg. for storage	Amerock	Gedor Aldeen, Chairman; Reuben Aldeen, President; Norris Aldeen Admin. VP (1961)	www.fundinguniverse.com/company-histories/Amerock-corp
1960	TEXTILE INDUSTRY - shuttered			"Rockford 1920 & Beyond", Eric A. Johnson
1966	Acquisition by Stanley Works (\$32 million)	Amerock	Norris Aldeen, President	"Rockford: 1920 & Beyond", Eric A. Johnson
early 1970's	Employees: 3,000	National Lock Co.		"Rockford: 1920 & Beyond", Eric A. Johnson
1971	FTC requires Stanley Works to sell Amerock (merger illegal)	Amerock		www.fundinguniverse.com/company-histories/Amerock-corp
1975	Acquisition by Anchor Hocking Corp.	Amerock		"Rockford: 1920 & Beyond", Eric A. Johnson

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1977	70% market penetration for retail kitchen product line	Amerock		www.fundinguniverse.com/company-histories/Amerock-corp
1980's	National Lock facilities in Rockford closed as mfg. moves to the Carolinas	National Lock Co.		"Rockford: 1920 & Beyond", Eric A. Johnson
July 1987	Acquisition by Newell-Rubbermaid of parent company, Anchor Hocking Corp. (\$340 million)	Amerock		1) "Rockford: 1920 & Beyond", Eric A. Johnson; 2) www.fundinguniverse.com/company-histories/Amerock.Corp
21 Aug 1991	Death: Reuben Axel Aldeen	Amerock, co-founder	Reuben A. Aldeen (1896-1991)	Social Security Death Index, Ancestry.com
1992	Dissolution	Nelson Knitting Co.		"RM&H Co. Records", Northern IL Regional History Center
1995-2009	Numerous efforts to renovate Amerock Bldg. fall short...	Prospects include: Tim Dixon-Cornerstone Dev. (2001-2003); Liberty Real Estate Group/TAPCO (2001); Mathis (2005); Chad Encheff (2007); Crystal Dev/Vegas (2009); Ricky Trinidad-Rock River Live/Chicago (2010)	River District Framework Plan (Jan 2003) calls for "Adaptive Reuse" for Amerock	www.emporis.com
July 1998	Purchase of Ziock/Amerock Bldg.	Newell Corp. to Prudential Constr. & Dev. Corp (Bellwood, IL)	Tom Wold, President of Prudential	Register Star, 24 Jul 1998
2005	Purchase of Ziock/Amerock Bldg. (\$700,000)	Mathis Properties	Bill Mathis, developer/owner of Crankshaft Bldg at Market & Madison	Rockford Register Star, 6 Mar 2010 "RKfd could be Next Owner"
2008	Foreclosure against Mathis Properties - real estate (Crankshaft Bldg & Amerock Bldg) & other acquired by primary	Associated Bank		Rockford Register Star, 6 Mar 2010 "RKfd could be Next Owner"
Mar-Apr 2010	Acquisition by City of Rockford (\$240,000) from Associated Bank	Ziock/Amerock Building		Rockford Register Star, 6 Mar 2010 "RKfd could be Next Owner"