MASSON MILLS TIMELINE

Cotton Production at 3 key Arkwright Mills

NOTTINGHAM

CROMFORD

MASSON

MASSON

1730

c.1720 Thomas Lombe's Silk Mill built in Derby

John Kay's Flying Shuttle 1733

1732: Richard Arkwright born in Preston

1740

1738 Wyatt & Paul's spinning frame patent

1742-64 First waterpowered cotton spinning mill established in Northampton by Edward Cave using Wyatt & Paul's machinery

1750

1769 Arkwright builds his first mill in Nottingham

Boulton &Watt steam engine 1763-75

1760

1769 Arkwright's 1st spinning (later known as "water") frame patent

Hargreaves Spinning Jenny 1764

1769 Formation of Richard Arkwright & Co.

Boston Tea Party 1773

1770

1771 White & Shore build paper mill at Masson

American War of Independence 1775-83

1771 Arkwright with Need and Strutt establish Cromford mill

Samual Crompton's Spinning Mule 1779

1780

1775 Arkwright's 2nd patent for var. preparatory cotton processes

Rev. Edmund Cartwright's power loom 1785

1780 Arkwright buys paper mill at Masson on the River Derwent

New Lanark Mill built using Masson design 1785

1790

1783 Arkwright builds his showpiece **Masson Mill** Matlock Bath

French Revolution 1789

c.1783 Arkwright rebuilds the convex Masson weir

First American cotton mill Rhode Island 1790

1800

1786 Arkwright knighted & begins the building of Willersley Castle

Eli Whitney patents Cotton Gin 1794

1787 Arkwright made High Sheriff of Derbyshire

Napoleonic wars 1803-15

1810

1791 Thomas Marshall arrives in America - having been employed as superintendent at Masson Mill from 1786 onwards

Battle of Trafalgar 1805

Battle of Waterloo 1815

1820

1791 Erasmus Darwin's "Botanic Garden" poem about Masson Mill

Peterloo, Manchester 1819

1792 Sir Richard Arkwright dies 3rd August 1792

1830

1801 Masson Mill now powered by two waterwheels

Great Reform Act 1832

1811 Arkwright's Nottingham Mill still in production - now worsted

Queen Victoria crowned 1837

1840

1839 Richard Arkwright junior loses water rights dispute at Cromford

1844-47 Cotton production gradually ending at Cromford Mill due to problems and disputes over water supply

Crimean War 1853-56

1850

1846 320 people employed at Masson Mills

Florence Nightingale goes to Crimea 1854

Charles Darwin *The Origin of Species 1859*

1860

1847 Original waterwheels at Masson Mills replaced by Wren & Bennet waterwheel

1870

1870's All cotton production finally ceases at Cromford Mill

Bell invents telephone 1876

Edison's light bulb1879

1880

1890

1890 Cromford Lower Mill destroyed by fire

Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee 1897

1897 Formation of English Sewing Cotton Co. Vice-Chairman J.E. Lawton ushers in a long new era of prosperity at Masson Mills

Queen Victoria dies 1901

1900

1904 Installation of Masson steam engine and boilers

Einstein's Theory of Relativity 1905

Ford mass produces model T 1913

1910

1911 Central Accrington brick section of Masson Mills added

World War I 1914-18

1927 Masson waterwheel removed

Russian Revolution 1918-20

1920

1928 First water turbine installed at Masson Mills

1928 Glen Mill section added to Masson Mills

1930

1929 Fire destroys top 2 storeys of Cromford 1771 mill

Invention of Nylon 1937

1932 "Great Flood" on the Derwent at Masson Mill

World War II 1939-45

1940

1933 Masson steam engine scrapped and replace by steam turbine

First computer 1948

1950

Elizabeth II crowned 1953

1960

First heart transplant 1967

1968 English Sewing Cotton Co. renamed English Calico Ltd.

First Moon landing 1969

1970

1973 English Calico Ltd. becomes Tootal Group Ltd.

First test tube baby 1978

1980

1991 Takeover of Tootal Group Ltd. by Coats Viyella plc

Collapse of Soviet Empire 1989

1990

1991 Manufacture ceases at Masson after 208 years of continuous production - until 1991 Masson was the oldest working mill in world

2000

1994 Masson turbines start to produce renewable hydroelectricity to power the entire site feeding the surplus into the National Grid

Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site Inscription announced in 2001

2010

1999 Regeneration of Masson Mills ushers in new era as a Working Textile Museum and Shopping Village

2010 Masson still powered by the River Derwent after 227 years