

Simonds Manufacturing Company
Simonds Saw & Steel Company - Fitchburg, MA



1804	Abel Simonds was born.
1832	Abel Simonds, John T. Farwell and L. C. Sanborn create partnership for manufacture of scythes. The business was operating under the name J. T. Farwell & Co. Their factory was located in West Fitchburg.
1851	The partnership is dissolved and Abel Simonds continuing business with a help from his son Joseph F. Simonds.
1864	Abel Simonds retired. The business was reorganized and Simonds Brothers & Company was formed under the management of his sons, George F. and Alvan A., with a partner Benjamin Snow. They produce machine knives and mower and reaper cutter sections.
1868	Simonds Manufacturing Company (Simonds Mfg. Co.) was incorporated in 1868, with a capital of \$150,000. Their factory is located in Fitchburg, Mass., on the corner of Main and North Streets. The company is owned and managed by Simonds Brothers: George F. - President, Daniel - Superintendent and Vice-president, Alvan A., - Secretary, Thomas T. - Teamster. The new firm began manufacture of machine knives, sickles, cutter sections for mowers and reapers, and planing machine knives.
1875	Abel Simonds passed away.
1876	Simonds Mfg. Co. introduced production of circular saws. They exhibited their circular saws at the Centennial International Exhibition in Philadelphia, PA in 1876.
1878	Simonds Mfg. Co. sold their mower and reaper cutters business. They continued machine knives production, circular saws and introduced new product - logging saws of various kinds.
1880	Simonds Mfg. Co. opens branch store in Chicago, IL. The Fitchburg factory

was enlarged for production of wide band saws.

1884 Second store was opened in Chicago, IL.

1886 San Francisco store was opened.

Simonds Rolling-Machine Company was established and incorporated in November, 1886, with a capital of \$400,000. Acquired all patents for the United States and Canada, which have been granted to Mr. Geo. F. Simonds, relating to the forging of metal articles by rolling.

1887 Aid and Benefit Association was organized for employees of the company.

1888 New Orleans store was opened.

1889 Daniel Simonds elected president of the Simonds Mfg. Co.

1891 Portland, Oregon store was opened. Simonds Saw Company was incorporated in San Francisco.

1892 Simonds Mfg. Co. began building factory in Chicago, IL. Store in New York City was opened.

1894 Simonds Manufacturing Co., Ltd. was incorporated in New Orleans

1898 Seattle, Washington store was opened.

1900 **Simonds Mfg. Co. presents hand saws for the first time at the International Universal Exposition in Paris, 1900.**

In December of 1900 the company began operation of crucible steel plant in Chicago, adjacent to the factory built in 1892.

Fitchburg factory was enlarged with addition dedicated to hand saws manufacturing.

1902 London, UK agency was established.

Simonds Mfg. Co. issued a catalog of their products with hand saws listed for the first time.

1905 **Simonds File Co., Fitchburg, MA.** was established. It absorbed file manufacturing from Simonds Mfg. Co., and Culley File Works, of Fitchburg, MA.

1906 **Simonds Canada Saw Co.** was established. The company acquired control of four plants in Montreal, Province of Quebec, Canada, and has consolidated them with the main office in Montreal.

1911 **Lockport, NY** steel plant started operation. Over time production of steel from Chicago was moved to Lockport.

1920	Simonds Saws, Limited, London, UK was established. An office and shop has been opened at 53 Bayham, Camdentown, London, N. W., where a full line of Simonds saw steel products will be carried.
1922	Simonds Saw & Steel Company was chosen as a new name for all Simonds businesses.
1926	At the end of 1926 Simonds Saw and Steel Co. abandoned production and advertising of hand saws.

1832 -

ABEL SIMONDS of Fitchburg, Massachusetts sets out on his own manufacturing scythes and woodworking knives at the age of 20. He served as an apprentice for seven years prior. He is joined with his brother-in-law John Thurston Farwell in this new venture. Because of Farwell's experience and reputation, the company is originally named J.T. Farwell & Company, the name it would carry until 1851.

1850s - A. Simonds & Company

Abel Simonds buys out John Thurston Farwell and continues manufacturing on his own under the name of A. Simonds & Company. Over the years, all of Abel's sons supported the business in some capacity contributing to its renowned reputation and the creation of a strong enterprise.

1900s - Simonds' Hand Saws (A collector's item)

Simonds Manufacturing Co. was a firmly established player in the saw market. Today, a Simonds handsaw is a collector's item. By 1905, Simonds had one of the first all-electrically operated plants in the United States with its third Fitchburg, MA factory. In January 1906, The Simonds Mfg. Co purchased The Canada Saw Co renaming it Simonds Canada Saw Co.

1930s - First Windowless Factory

The cornerstone for the Intervale Road factory in Fitchburg, Massachusetts was laid for the world's first windowless factory. A comprehensive course by which salesmen are fully trained is started in 1935 known as "The Little Red Schoolhouse". Over the years, Simonds has trained more distributor salespeople than any other industrial products manufacturer.

1940s - Daniel Simonds II takes over..

Daniel Simonds II takes over as president of the company, as the fourth generation takes over the helm of the company. During WWII, the Steel Mill and Fitchburg plants make armor plates for the Allies. A large amount of the armor plate is used in the nose sections of the allied fighter

and bomber airplanes. In addition, cross-cut saws are regulation equipment on all tanks, bombers and assault craft. Ultimately, during the war years, virtually all production at all plants was committed in one way or another to supporting the war effort.

In 1943 Simonds is awarded the first of five Army-Navy "E" Awards for excellence in service to the country.

1950s & 60s - Some Key Acquisitions



Simonds acquired Heller Bros, a top manufacturer of hand files in 1955. The combined file businesses of Simonds and Heller were now #2 in the world, second only to Nicholson.



In 1965, the Simonds family agreed to sell its share of the company to Wallace-Murray Corporation. The combined company was one of the first of the then new industrial conglomerates. By the time Wallace-Murray was acquired by Household International in 1980, Simonds was a very small part of a very large conglomerate. In 1988, senior management along with private investor Greylock Management Co bought the company, returning it to private ownership. The new company was named Simonds Industries Inc.

Armstrong

2000s - And Simonds International today

Simonds enters into a joint venture agreement with Hermacasa in San Pedro Sula, Honduras in 2001, with a 45% ownership to manufacture hand files.

2003 – Simonds acquires the International Knife & Saw (IKS) group of companies and Simonds International is born.

2010 – Simonds completed an asset purchase of the Wood Products Division of Pacific Hoe, once a manufacturer of cutting tools for the wood products industry. The assets leverage the strength of the company reaffirming its position as the Premier Wood Processing Products company in North America.

2012 – Simonds purchases Cal Saw Canada's Wide Band Saw manufacturing assets and Circular Saw finishing assets located in Langley, BC. This acquisition has enabled Simonds to better serve all customers in the Western Canada saw mill market.

2013 – Simonds launches new bandsawing Calculator- SnapShot™ – a unique tool that measures baseline sawing performance in dollars and cents.

2014 – Simonds International announces a split of the corporation into two distinct, separate and focused operating companies. The separation into two distinct businesses enables a sharper management focus on each business to better serve customers and stakeholders. The companies will be Simonds International for wood processing products and Simonds Saw for metal processing products.

Wood Processing Products



Metal Processing Products

