

Northamptonshire Record Office

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The Records of Harvey Lee Ltd.,
Stamford Road, Kettering.

Accession 1978/180

The firm of A.M. Lee was founded in 1906 at premises in Ebenezer Place, Kettering. The Lee family originated from Plymouth and the founder of the firm, Mr. Harry Lee, was one of thirteen brothers and sisters. The oldest of the children became a minister and removed from Devonshire to become the first minister of the United Reformed Church, Kettering. He also brought up his younger brother, Fred. Harry Lee moved up to Kettering sometime after his brother's arrival in the town and when he began business, worked under the heading of a "shoe mercer". Harry Lee was not in good health and called up one of his younger brothers to help run the business; this was Arthur Moss Lee, who was the grandfather to the present Managing Director, Mr. T.J. Lee. Harry died in 1911 and Arthur Lee took over the firm which, in 1912, moved to new premises in Victoria Street, Kettering.

The firm became a Limited Liability Company in 1922 and the Certificate of Incorporation is dated 24th. February, 1922. In 1935, A.M. Lee Ltd. moved to Tanners Lane, Kettering and when Mr. T.J. Lee joined the Company in 1959, the firm amalgamated with Harvey's - tanners in Nantwich, Cheshire who now owned 50% of the share capital. The name became Harvey Lee Ltd. In 1964, Mr. Arthur Moss Lee died and the Company again moved premises to its present position in 1966. Barrow Hepburn (based at Beverley, Yorkshire, but also with a London office), in 1969 bought out Harvey's and, therefore, became half share owners of Harvey Lee Ltd. The Company sold their remaining half share to Barrow Hepburn Ltd. on 1st. January, 1970 and it was at this time that Mr. Thomas H. Lee (father to T.J. Lee) retired.

The board consists of seven members, including Mr. G.R. Odey (Chairman) and Mr. T.J. Lee (Managing Director). The old firm of A.M. Lee Ltd. is now retained as a private holding company wholly owned by the family.

Products: Leather soles) to manufacturers
 Insoles)
 Half-soles) to the repair industry
 Top pieces (with steel pieces nailed to leather)
 Some composite work

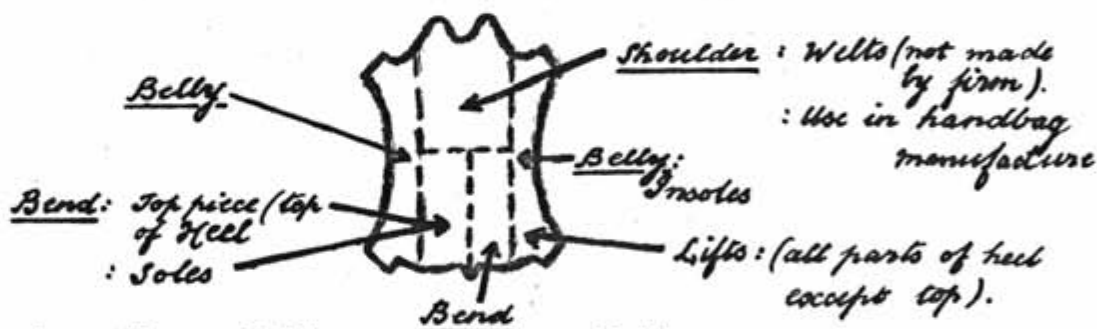
The Records of Harvey Lee Ltd.

(cont.)

Make Up: Processes involve:-

1. Cutting.
2. Evening and Grading by a Leveller. The firm produces six different grades and six different substances.
3. Sorting and Selecting.
4. Piece (known as "P") Soles can be attached.

Material Used: Ox hide - comes from Britain and Ireland.
The skin is cut in the following manner:-



Main Tanneries: Homes-Hall Hull
used by Firm Randall and Porter Ulverston
Claytons Chesterfield

Claytons supply leather which has undergone the full chrome tanning process and these blue soles are used for safety footwear due to their durability and toughness.

Employees: about 30.
at firm

Outlet: Soles - Mens sole manufacturers-all within the County. This represents 80% of production.

Repairside - Goes through leather and grindery merchants and is passed on to individual repair shops throughout the United Kingdom and Ireland. There is no other export trade and this accounts for the remaining 20%.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE RECORD OFFICE

Harvey Lee Ltd.

1. Xerox of Balance Sheet for Mr. H. Lee, Kettering for period ending: 31st. Dec 1906.

2. Indexed Ledger: showing Petty Cash and Sundries; A.M. Lee, private account, Carriage account; National Insurance account; Wages; Insurances to Messrs., R.E. Tingle; Travelling Expenses; Power and Light; Rent and Rates; Discounts Received; Discounts Allowed; Purchases Totals; Sales Totals; Holiday Fund; Unemployment Insurance account; Additions to Plant; Legal Expenses. Dec 1918-Dec 1921.

1 and 2 are stored in Box M5, Stables Room C.

April, 1978.