It was 1865 when three enterprising businessmen with the names of Finch and Pruyn went out on a limb and purchased a run-down old sawmill along the banks of the Hudson River in the upstate New York community of Glens Falls.

It was a run-down old sawmill at the foot of a hill in the Upstate New York city of Glens Falls that first captured the imagination of brothers Jeremiah and Daniel Finch and their partner, Samuel Pruyn, in 1865, and set in motion a tradition of industrial innovation and corporate leadership that continues today—the tradition of Finch, Pruyn & Co., Inc.

Finch, Pruyn set its sights on the newsprint market, and constructed a groundwood pulp mill and a two-machine paper mill on the site of one of the company’s quarries at a cost of $750,000. Paper production began in September of 1905.

In 1911, a third, larger paper machine was installed in the Finch, Pruyn mill, and the company’s landmark limestone office building, built with materials quarried on the company’s property, was constructed. Newsprint would continue to key the company’s growth through two World Wars and the Great Depression.

By the late 1940’s, however, the market was changing. Newsprint was no longer profitable, and the company was forced to shift gears yet again—this time targeting the higher quality and higher-priced groundwood printing grades. The No. 1 paper machine was replaced with a larger, faster machine, and the other two machines were completely rebuilt.

The occasion of Finch, Pruyn’s 100th anniversary in 1965 brought a major expansion project, highlighted by the dedication on October 8 of the new No. 4 paper machine, which soon doubled the mill’s paper production.

The 1980s brought even further advancements in the way pulp and paper were manufactured at Finch, Pruyn. The acid-based papermaking process was replaced with...
In the 1990s, Finch, Pruyn’s investment in its mill and environmental protection continued. The first half of the 1990s has also seen its share of exciting and innovative developments, highlighted by the $20 million rebuild of the No. 4 paper machine, which has enabled the company to set a litany of new paper production records since going on-line in 1992.

In the year 2000, yet another significant capital investment was made with the construction and opening of a new warehouse specifically designed for storing and processing pulp produced from outside vendors.

Today, Finch, Pruyn produces more than 240,000 tons per year of fine uncoated papers for advertising, publishing and business office uses. The company employs more than 800 people, with a total annual payroll of about $40 million.

In addition to Finch, Pruyn’s outstanding papermaking reputation, the company is widely recognized for its professional, long-term stewardship of more than 166,000 acres of forestland in New York’s famed Adirondack region.

As one of the largest private landowners in New York State, Finch, Pruyn has made a deep commitment to protecting the beauty and natural resources of its forests and the wildlife that make their homes there, while continuing to help meet society’s ever-increasing demand for forest products.

Finch, Pruyn proudly participants in the American Forest & Paper Association’s Sustainable Forestry Initiative, and its forestry practices were recently certified as sustainable by a team of independent forestry experts. In 1999, the company was named “Adirondack Steward of the Year” by the Adirondack Landowners’ Association and the Adirondack Nature Conservancy & Adirondack Land Trust.

Finally, while working diligently to retain its place in the global paper market, Finch, Pruyn has never forgotten its hometown. The company is widely recognized for its generous philanthropic contributions to a wide variety of local organizations, including Glens Falls Hospital, The Hyde Collection art museum and the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.