



E.I. du Pont de Nemours & Company Repauno Works historical files 2387

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Summary Information

Repository:	Manuscripts and Archives
Creator:	E.I. du Pont de Nemours & Company. Repauno Works
Title:	E.I. du Pont de Nemours & Company Repauno Works historical files
ID:	2387
Date [inclusive]:	1918-1983
Date [bulk]:	1965-1983
Physical Description:	1 Linear Foot
Language of the Material:	English .
Abstract:	E.I. du Pont de Nemours & Company Repauno Works manufactured high explosive dynamite. The company began as the Repauno Chemical Company on June 7, 1880 founded by Lammot du Pont (1831-1884). Lammot du Pont was a chemist working for the family business, E.I. du Pont de Nemours & Company, a chemical company which originally produced gunpowder. This collection consists of material for the 100th anniversary of the E.I. du Pont de Nemours & Company Repauno Works.

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Historical Note

E.I. du Pont de Nemours & Company Repauno Works manufactured high explosive dynamite. The company began as the Repauno Chemical Company on June 7, 1880 founded by Lammot du Pont (1831-1884). Lammot du Pont was a chemist working for the family business, E.I. du Pont de Nemours & Company, a chemical company which originally produced gunpowder. Additional subscriptions were secured from E.I. du Pont de Nemours & Company (DuPont Company), the Laflin & Rand Powder Company, and the Hazard Powder Company, the latter already controlled by the DuPont Company. Initially, the DuPont Company did not get involved in dynamite production directly; it felt the product too new and dangerous, but supported Lammot du Pont in his efforts. The company built its works at a remote site on the Delaware River near Gibbstown, New Jersey, taking its name from nearby Repaupo Creek. Explosions claimed a number of lives over the course of dynamite production, including Lammot du Pont's in an explosion in 1884.

The Eastern Dynamite Company was incorporated in New Jersey on June 28, 1895, for the purpose of acquiring the stocks of the Repauno Chemical Company, the Hercules Powder Company in California, and the Atlantic Dynamite Company and operating them in the interest of the big three gunpowder producers. In 1902, the cousins Alfred I. du Pont (1864-1935), Pierre S. du Pont (1870-1954) and T. Coleman du Pont (1863-1930) acquired control of DuPont, Laflin & Rand and Hazard, and in the following year they vested all operations in the E.I. du Pont de Nemours Powder Company. The Repauno Chemical Company was merged into the Eastern Dynamite Company in May 1904. In 1902, the du Ponts built the Eastern Laboratory, one of their first research facilities, at the Repauno Works.

In 1912, DuPont was ruled in violation of the antitrust laws, and to restore competition, parts of its assets were transferred to two new, independent firms, the Atlas Powder Company and the Hercules Powder Company. Under this plan, the Eastern Dynamite Company was dissolved, and its plants distributed among the new companies. The Repauno Works stayed with E.I. du Pont de Nemours & Company as part of its Explosives Department.

The Eastern Laboratory was responsible for bringing production of TNT to Repauno. After the TNT manufacturing process was refined, production moved from the Eastern Laboratory to Repauno. Despite following strict safety procedures, the Repauno Works experienced another devastating explosion on May 15, 1916. The explosion killed fourteen people and destroyed two buildings. The explosion stood for nearly fifty years as the worst in DuPont Company history. The TNT plant was not rebuilt at Repauno. Following World War I, chemists at the Eastern Laboratory began to explore acid production. Throughout the interwar period and following World War II, acid production was refined. In 1954, dynamite production was phased out in favor of the production of commodity chemicals, primarily acids, especially nitric acid. In 1980, the Repauno Works celebrated its centennial anniversary.

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Scope and Content

This collection consists of a small historical file formerly kept at the Repauno Works. The majority of the materials focuses on the 100th anniversary of the Works. There are company histories prepared for the centennial, as well as, correspondence, guest lists, and thank you notes from centennial attendees. Included are organizational charts, other information about the Repauno Works, and various DuPont employee publications including *Dynam-Item*.

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Arrangement

Arranged alphabetically by subject.

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Related Materials

Related Material

Repauno Works photographs (Accession 1976.309), Audiovisual Collections and Digital Initiatives Department, Hagley Museum and Library

Separated Materials

Publications from this collection are housed in the Published Collections Department, Hagley Museum and Library.

E.I. du Pont de Nemours & Company Repauno Works photographs and films (Accession 2015.226), Audiovisual Collections and Digital Initiatives Department, Hagley Museum and Library

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Controlled Access Headings

- Explosives industry
- Ordnance.

- Weapons industry -- Employees
- Factories
- Dynamite
- Explosions

Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Instances
1940 Plant Employee Survey (workers information for different parts of plant)	box 1
150th Anniversary of the DuPont Company, 1952	box 1
25th Anniversary (Victoria Plant), 1979	box 1
25th Anniversary celebration of Beaumont Works, 1981	box 1
Carney Point dismantling, 1978	box 1
Centennial Celebration - Repauno Works - Correspondence, 1980	box 1
Centennial Celebration - Repauno Works - Presentation, 1980	box 1
Centennial Celebration - Repauno Works - Guest list, 1980	box 1
Communicators - Graphic Communications Division Service Directory	box 1
<i>DuPont Magazine</i>	box 1
<i>DuPont Oval</i>	box 1
Eastern Laboratory Organization Charts, 1959-1970	box 1
Fires, Explosions, and Accidents at Repauno, 1932	box 1
Gibbstown, New Jersey History	box 1
Grasselli Plant Safety Day, 1980	box 1
Labor Relations History, 1962	box 1
Line Cuts - material for Repauno Christmas newsletter, 1960	box 1
Major injury - fatality report, 1959	box 1
Map of Bridgeport, NJ, 1953	box 1
Meetings of Dynam-Item Staff, 1919	box 1
Newspapers, 1940	box 1
NRC exhibit, 1980	box 1
Open house, Repauno Works, 1965	box 1
People, 19191945194919501958	box 1

Photographs of various DuPont plants, 1955-19601974	box 1
Repauno History - Company Histories, 1980-1983	box 1
Repauno History - Correspondence, 1964-19671973	box 1
Repauno History - Articles, 194019511967	box 1
