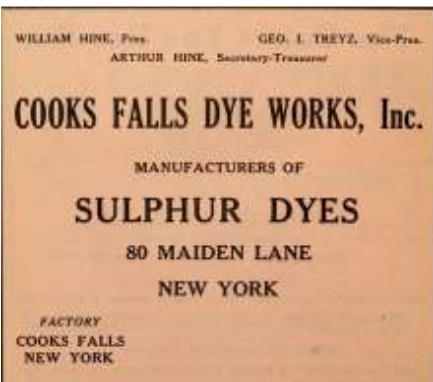


Cooks Falls



Originally called Butternut Grove by John and Robert Cook who built their log cabin on the banks of the Beaver Kill River about seven miles west of the meeting of the Beaver Kill and Willowemoc Rivers. Other pioneer families soon joined the Cook brothers and ran thousands of feet of timber to the lower Delaware River markets during the century of rafting on the Beaver Kill. The falls on the Beaver Kill made it impossible to float large timber rafts through the river and this prompted the blasting of the falls.



The Cooks Falls Dye Works, Inc. was established in May 1918, the principal owners were George I. Treyz and William, Harry, Arthur and Herbert Hines. Another successful collaboration was made with a Treyz's friend and summer boarder, German chemist, Dr. Hans Brunning, who operated the clothing dye plant on Russell Brook. When the supply of German dyes was cut off during World War I, the Cooks Fall's Dye Works supplied most of the khaki/olive drab dye for U.S. military uniforms.

The O & W railroad promoted the Catskills to New York City residents, issuing their annual tourist guide "Summer Homes." These guides sold the Catskill's healthy air, scenic views, trout rich streams and inexpensive vacations just a few hours from the city. Cooks Falls attracted tourists starting in the late 1800's, when the Catskill Mountain region gave birth to the American fly fishing tradition. The West and East Branches of the Delaware and the Beaver Kill, attracted many anglers that stayed at the hotels and boarding houses.

