

PAPER MILLS IN AMERICA.

Much has been said and written, and many conflicting statements given to the public, in regard to the first paper mill and paper making in America, in consequence of which the writer was induced to give the matter the most scrutinizing attention. He therefore made the most careful research, and collected from the oldest original records and the localities where the first mills were built, and from statements of the oldest inhabitants in the neighborhood and oldest members of the family, and all knowledge they have from their fathers and grandfathers. The first record we have is of a tract of land which was leased and held by Samuel Carpenter, and owned by William Harwood; it was a custom at that time and is yet in Western States, to lease property for a number of years, with the privilege to buy it within a certain number of years, by paying a said or fixed rental. So it appears that Carpenter had a tract from Harwood, but had not yet title, but in the meantime tried to arrange to dispose of part of it, and made an agreement with William Rittenhouse for twenty acres of it, on September 29, 1690, provided he would buy it; because we find the following recital, viz., "that the grant of the said twenty acres (so called) was made by virtue and in consequence of an agreement made between the said Samuel Carpenter and William Rittenhouse and others, in the year A. D. 1690, for the term of nine hundred and ninety (990) years from thence then next ensuing."

A Deed by William Harwood to Samuel Carpenter in fee for 100 acres of land in Roxborough township, county of Philadelphia, province of Pennsylvania, in 1693, 4th month, and acknowledged December 6, 1693.

On February 9, 1705-6. A Deed from Samuel Carpenter to William Rittenhouse for 20 acres of land, part of the above 100 acres, for and during the term of nine hundred and seventy-five (975) years (fifteen years had already