

NEWS RELEASE

Public Information Department
County of Warren



Freeholders Honor Asbury Company's 125 Years

(Franklin Twp., NJ – November 24, 2020) – The Warren County Board of Chosen Freeholders at their final meeting of the year recently honored the 125th anniversary of Asbury Graphite Mill, now known as Asbury Carbons.

Located in the village of Asbury in Franklin Township, Warren County, and just across the Musconetcong River in Hunterdon County, the company has its origins in a business venture started in 1895 by Harry M. Riddle, an ambitious 24-year-old who was an Asbury native. Riddle leased a relative's nearby flour mill that harnessed the swift flow of the Musconetcong, and transformed the mill, which dated to the 1700s, into a facility for refining graphite.

Within a few years the successful company expanded, and throughout its history it has acquired other facilities and companies, expanding into a worldwide corporation that still maintains its headquarters in Asbury.

The company also has taken significant steps to preserve the heritage of its first facility, deeding the original mill to the Musconetcong Watershed Association. The organization is restoring it as

part of its mission to protect and improve the quality of the Musconetcong River and its watershed, including its natural and cultural resources.



Noah Nicholson, president of Asbury Carbons, (third from left) accepts a proclamation from Freeholders James R. Kern III, Jason J. Sarnoski, and Freeholder Director Richard D. Gardner in recognition of the company's 125th anniversary.

“We are proud to have Asbury Graphite in Warren County,” said Freeholder Director Richard D. Gardner, who was raised and still lives within a few miles of the company.

Gardner said he was happy the company chose to stay in Asbury, and keep it part of its name. They could be in another location, but the family-owned corporation opted to improve their offices and further invest in the Village of Asbury.



“I commend them for that,” Gardner said, “It’s a very impressive company.”

Freeholder Jason J. Sarnoski said it was great to honor such a long-standing business, especially in the current environment with how hard it is to keep businesses open. Thanking Asbury Carbons for its achievement, Sarnoski wished them another 125 years in business.

Freeholder James R. Kern III recalled having attended a function the prior year, when he learned much of Asbury Carbon’s history, as well as its prominence in the industry today, both nationally and internationally. “It was just incredible to see the breadth of how large this company has become and the history of being a premiere company in that space,” he said. He was happy to highlight the family and its Warren County history with this gesture.

Noah Nicholson, president of Asbury Carbons, accepted the proclamation with gratitude on behalf of the Riddle family and the company’s more than 300 employees. “People don’t really appreciate everything we do is surrounded by carbon,” he said, mentioning cell phones, lights, brake pads, plastics, eyeglasses and more.

Nicholson thanked the community for its support of this family-owned, family-focused company, adding, “We will be here for another 125 years.”

###

**CELEBRATING THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF
ASBURY GRAPHIC MILLS (ASBURY CARBONS)**

WHEREAS, in 1895 as the Industrial Revolution was well underway and innovation was fueled by intellect, grit and determination, Harry M. Riddle, an ambitious 24-year-old who was a native of Asbury, NJ, began a business venture by leasing a relative's nearby flour mill that harnessed the swift flow of the Musconetcong River; and

WHEREAS, Harry M. Riddle had learned of the vast applications of graphite and its untapped industrial potential, leading him to transform the mill in Asbury, which dated to the 1700s, into a facility for refining graphite; and

WHEREAS, the industrious and energetic Riddle networked to secure global resources and began importing raw graphite materials from Korea and Ceylon, with supplies arriving by rail and making the final miles of their journey by horse and buggy to his emerging company, Asbury Graphite Mills; and

WHEREAS, the company's reputation for quality products and service grew quickly, as Asbury Graphite Mills saw its sales go from 36 tons to 144 tons in Riddle's first three years in business; and

WHEREAS, Asbury Graphite Mills continued its expansion, first adding facilities in the Warren County area, later acquiring other companies around the world and developing new products, and reorganized its businesses under the name Asbury Carbons, Inc., while over the years additional generations of the Riddle family have joined the company: Harry M. Riddle Jr., known as Marvin, in 1914, grandson Harry M. Riddle III, in 1951, and Stephen A. Riddle, great-grandson of the company's founder, in 1987; and

WHEREAS, Asbury Carbons, a vital part of the area's economy, remains a strong and growing family of companies, still based in Asbury, NJ, and is the world's largest independent processor and merchant of graphite while also a major supplier of natural and synthetic graphite, cokes, coals, and all carbon products used around the world; and

WHEREAS, Asbury Carbons has taken significant steps to preserve the heritage of its first facility, deeding the original mill to the Musconetcong Watershed Association, which is restoring it as part of the organization's mission to protect and improve the quality of the Musconetcong River and its watershed, including its natural and cultural resources.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Warren County Board of Chosen Freeholders does hereby congratulate Asbury Carbons, Inc. on the 125th anniversary of its founding as Asbury Graphite Mills and salutes the company for its continued service to the community.

*Richard D. Gardner, Director
Board of Chosen Freeholders*

*James R. Kern III, Deputy Director
Board of Chosen Freeholders*

*Jason J. Sarnoski, Freeholder
Board of Chosen Freeholders*