



A Company History

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More Memories of Leeds



Home office in Leeds, U.K.



CELEBRATING 120 Years

1888 ————— 1909 ————— 1971 ————— 1984 ————— 1991 ————— 2001 ————— 2003 ————— 2005 ————— 2008

TECHNOLOGY • INNOVATION • QUALITY • VALUE

While quite a few well-known engineering firms have come and gone, the family firm of Thomas Fletcher (T.F.) & James Henry (J.H.) Braime has stood the test of time for the past 120 years.

The sons of George and Mary Braime, T.F. and J.H. hailed from the village of Rothwell in the United Kingdom where their father was the local veterinary surgeon.

Thomas, the eldest brother, started his career by apprenticing with the McLaren engineers in Hunslet. After an accident in which he lost his thumb, T.F. had the chance to work on an idea which had been germinating in his mind for some time. In 1888, he took a small building on Leek Street in Hunslet where he began fabricating oil cans and producing small pressings with a fly press. Thus, the humble beginnings of T.F. & J.H. Braime Ltd. was founded.

A local newspaper, the Rothwell Times reported that, "The well known patent steel oil can brought out by (Braime) is becoming extensively used."



As oil can orders began pouring in from customs around the world, the demand encouraged T.F. to look for larger premises where he could expand his business. With the success of his rapidly growing metal pressing business, T.F. brought his brother Harry (J.H.) into the business.

Harry was a man of abounding energy. Although trained to follow his father as a veterinary surgeon, he had a great engineering brain and, with his help, the firm grew and progressed.

In 1909 Braime introduced the first seamless steel bucket, an innovation that further showed the genius and ingenuity of the Braime brothers.



A photograph taken in 1943 to commemorate 50 years in service. From left to right: D. Hodgson, J.E. Ward, J. Saville and T.F. Braime.

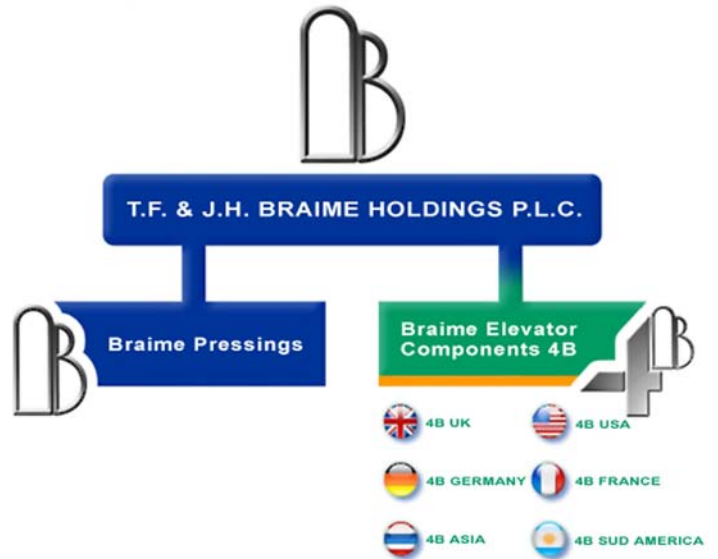
The rise of the newly emerging motoring industry increased the demand for metal pressings, and soon even larger premises were needed. Plans were put under way for a new factory to be built on vacant land in Leeds.

The new factory opened in 1911 and was fully operational in time to take an active part in the war effort between 1914 and 1918. In 1917 the brothers built the first factory dining hall in Leeds in order to provide hot meals for their workers on the night shift. It was opened by Princess Mary, and between WWI and WWII it was renowned for its dance floor.



A general view of the press shop in the early 1920s.

Corporate Structure



In 1930 Harry died and was interred in the grave of his father and mother in Rothwell churchyard. T.F. lived to be 94 and was active in the firm throughout the second war. At no time did the brothers forget the village where they had been born. The partners always took a fatherly interest in their employees. In the 1950's, in recognition of employee loyalty, the Braime brothers were pioneers in the creation of employee profit sharing programs.

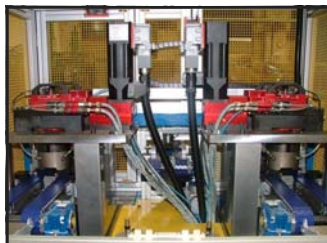
The 1950's also saw the incorporation of the firm into T.F. & J.H. Braime Holdings PLC, which obtained a full quote on the London stock exchange. When T.F. Braime passed away, the company remained with the family and continued to expand and prosper.

In 1971 Braime founded a new subsidiary, 4B Elevator Components Ltd. 4B was established to serve the material handling needs of the elevator and conveyor markets. By 1984, 4B had expanded its product line into electronic components. 1984 also marked the year that 4B founded its first international office in the USA.



4B East Peoria, IL USA

Between 1991 and 2005, 4B had expanded operations to include offices in France, South America, Asia and Germany. With the world's largest range of elevator and conveyor components, 4B's material handling division has led the field in elevator bucket design and manufacture by supplying the highest quality products. 4B's electronic division specializes in level controls, intelligent sensors and safety control systems that prevent costly downtime and reduce the risk of explosions in hazardous areas.



Latest high-tech factory equipment



Aerial view of the factory in Leeds, U.K.

In 2008, the firm is celebrating 120 years of being in business and continues to be successful under the leadership of Nicholas Braime. The UK factory is still situated on a six acre site in Leeds and employs 150 people. Today, The Braime Group and its subsidiaries are major suppliers to a wide range of industries including the automotive, commercial vehicle, fire prevention, commercial catering, material handling, medical, petrochemical, refrigeration, utility and components for conveyors and elevators world-wide.

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