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U.S. Mica Industry Pioneers: The Ruggles and Bowers Families

By Mr. Fred E. Davis Iii

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Paperback. 452 pages. Dimensions: 9.0in. x 6.0in. x 1.0in. Mica is one of the most useful and versatile minerals. It has been used since 40,000 B. C. E. , and is still used today in everything from cosmetics to advanced electronics. Two families started the mica industry in the U. S. in the early 1800s and this is their story. It began with Sam Ruggles, a Boston merchant and grocer who purchased property in New Hampshire and had local folks quarry the mica. Many myths about Sam Ruggles abound, but historically accurate accounts of his family history and mica business are virtually nonexistent. Sam's business included several members of his immediate family, his nephew and grand-nephew, grandsons and great-grandson. Clearly, there is a need for a thoroughly documented history of Sam Ruggles. For over 60 years in the 1800s, the Ruggles only competition was James Bowers, a self-sufficient farmer in New Hampshire, and his family. James loved collecting rocks and minerals and was a mineral dealer. This led him into the mica business that continued across three generations of his family with mines in two states....



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