

We Griffin

OUR HEARTS WILL ALWAYS BE HERE!

GRIFFIN DAILY NEWS

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GOVERNMENT/INDUSTRY A1



LANDRA LARSON/DAILY NEWS

1888 Mills Board of Managers Vice Chairman Doug Tingle is pictured with Lauren McCoy, Product Development, and Director of Visual Merchandising Timi Majek in Studio 33.

1888 Mills a world leader in textiles

BY LANDRA LARSON
STAFF WRITER
LLARSON@GRIFFINDAILYNEWS.COM

1888 Mills is a world leader in the textile industry and its corporate headquarters is in Griffin.

It is the largest towel manufacturer in the United States and is in the top five worldwide.

Howard Gossett, Doug Tingle and members of the Cheatham family formed the company in 1996.

"We all worked for Dundee and in the early 90s there was a major shift in the industry," said Tingle.

The domestic textile industry began moving offshore and companies in the United States slowly closed. Dundee Mills was sold to Springs Industries.

"When you take Griffin, Thomaston, Pike and Lamar into consideration, over 8,000 jobs were lost," said Tingle.

The founders of 1888 knew globalization of the industry was coming but at the same time "knew jobs in Griffin were important," said Tingle.

"We decided to maintain jobs in Griffin, while establishing a global



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Lynn West, who works as a creeler for 1888 Mills, is pictured with one of the machines she manages.

platform in the industry and this has occurred," Tingle said.

The group settled on the name 1888 Mills, the year Dundee Mills was founded, giving a nod to the rich textile heritage in Spalding County and surrounding counties.

Today the company is a global manufacturer with 15,000 employees.

The 1888 Mills corporate offices, manufacturing facility and distribu-

tion center moved to its current location in 2015 at 375 Airport Road, filling three buildings totaling 500,000 square feet with employees, machinery and product.

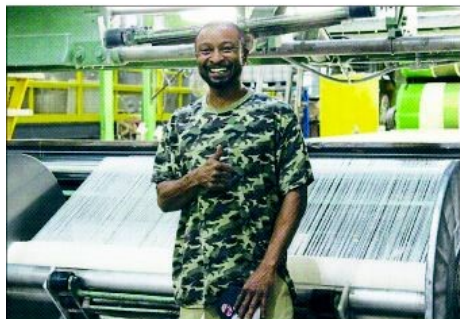
"We are very thankful to the city of Griffin and the Griffin-Spalding Development Authority without whom we could not have made this giant leap," said Tingle.

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William Bentley has been working for 1888 Mills for five years. "I enjoy working here, especially working for Mr. Doug," said Bentley. The company is dependent on Bentley to run one of the older drying machines in the building.



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Austin Parikh and Denoris Westbrook are material handlers at 1888 Mills in Griffin, North Carolina.



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Tina Walker has been working for 1888 Mills in Griffin for 15 years. Walker is a quality assurance auditor. There are washing and drying suites where product is tested as well as labs for other testing and development purposes.



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Timi Majek and Lauren McCoy are pictured with 1888 Mills products in Studio 33.



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Adriana Pena is running the weaving machinery, which is made by Toyota. In the hallway of the manufacturing building there is a sign that reads "146,790 hours without a lost-time accident."

MILLS

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

"We stayed in the community. We ran our old location while moving to the new one. We missed no production time and lost no employees during the transition," Tingle said.

"We doubled our production capacity, increased sales and added 85 jobs. We are very blessed with our business and our growth," said Tingle.

"It is important that I recognize our U.S. partners John Simon and Abdul Yaqub," said Tingle. Yaqub is chairman of the Board of Managers and Simon is the company's chief executive officer.

"We have a fantastic management team," said Tingle.

The company's other offices include a showroom in New York City, a sourcing office in Shanghai, China, and offices in Manchester, England.

Their mills and distribution centers, in addition to Griffin, are in Pakistan and Bangladesh.

Towels make up two-thirds of the company's business but additional products include bedding, window drapery, kitchen textiles, health-care apparel, lab coats, chef coats and hospital gowns.

1888 Mills sells predominantly to retail companies, like Walmart and Target, and the hospitality and health-care industries.

"Our sales force is global," said Tingle. "We have expanded our footprint into Canada, Europe and the Middle East."



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In the Griffin manufacturing facility, there are looms from Japan, dryers from Italy, warping/sizing and finishing machines from the United States, along with Japanese and German technology in the fabrication room. Lynn Viles is pictured with the Texpa machine she operates, which cuts and hems the towels.

These jobs are important," said Tingle. "For every job we have here, it affects three jobs in the community. They have a trickle-down effect."

"As I watch the shifts change 24 hours a day, seven days a week in Griffin, I have learned what is important about this business is the people," said Tingle. "How many lives have we affected, how many houses and cars have we helped to buy, and how many kids of employees have been sent to local schools?"

"I feel paternalistic toward our employees," said Tingle. "We have employees that came with us from Dundee. I'm proud of 1888 Mills, but I am more proud of the relationships with employees, partners, shareholders and our community."

One special distinction the Griffin manufacturing center holds is its own label named Made Here. "Each Made Here

communities," said Tingle.

The company's brand purpose is: "Weaving a Better World."

"We as a company feel responsible to our shareholders, employees, community and vendors," said Tingle. "We take this responsibility very seriously."

"We have influence in the communities we serve through the promotion of education, technology, health care and jobs," said Tingle.

In Bangladesh and Pakistan, the company is building hospitals, schools and other projects to contribute to the lives of employees and their communities.

In addition to the continued job growth — over 20 employees are being added in Griffin due to a new contract — the company supports the local community in a number of ways.

They are supporters of groups including the Christian Women's Center, the Griffin Area Con-

technology, accountants — every discipline you can think of and that is not even including our manufacturing jobs," Tingle said.

"There is so much potential here. Atlanta will continue to expand south and with the new airport and transportation corridor, Griffin is poised to take advantage of some real opportunities," said Tingle.

Being housed within close proximity to the Atlanta airport, the 1888 Mills Corporate Headquarters has visitors coming in from around the world.

Employees from the closed Chicago office and some from the New York City offices have moved to Griffin.

"They love it here," said Tingle. "They enjoy the friendly atmosphere, the climate, and what is going on downtown."

It is clear that Doug Tingle loves it here as well.

"I love our community," said Tingle. "I graduated from Griffin High and Georgia Tech. I ended up at Dundee, which was a phenomenal place to work, and I raised my family here."

Tingle's wife is Emelie McLaurin Tingle and they have three married sons, Doug, Clay and Chris.

"I've had a great life," said Tingle. "Griffin is a great place. I've never had any desire to live anywhere else."

"I still have a passion for what I do," said Tingle. "We birthed this baby and we have a lot of people who depend on us. You always think you can do better, but we are blessed with what we have here at 1888 Mills, and it has been very rewarding."

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