



Name: Edwin Binney

Years: 1866- December 17th, 1934

Residence: Shrub Oak, Westchester County, NY

Brief Biography: Edwin Binney was born to Joseph and Annie Binney in 1866 in Shrub Oak, Westchester County. His father founded an early lamp black factory and this ensured Edwin Binney would be put to work as well as attend school from an early age. During his adult life, Binney worked as a traveling paint salesman, before joining forces with his cousin, Charles Harold Smith in a business that produced lamp and carbon black for paint, printing ink, and oil cloth among other items. Early in the 19th century, Binney & Smith would split into a Pigment and Crayon division. Shortly after, the company opened offices and plants worldwide from Pennsylvania to Copenhagen. Besides introducing the colored crayon, Binney & Smith also developed dustless chalk for schools. The actual name “Crayola” was developed by Edwin Binney’s wife and the first box sold contained eight colored crayons selling for a total of five cents.

Major Achievements: Binney consolidated seven carbon black companies into one, the Columbian Carbon Company. Binney was also known for his quiet and calm demeanor and his generosity. During the Depression, Binney gave down on their luck farmers work hand-writing labels on boxes of crayons. At one point Binney & Smith was the United States’s largest producer of natural gas.

For More Information: Edwin Binney: The Founder of Crayola Crayons by Jennifer Blizin Gillis;

Resources: <http://encyclopedia.jrank.org/articles/pages/6118/Binney-Edwin.html>

By Ben Smith