



Danbury Hatting Timeline

18th Century

- 1780- Zadock Benedict starts a hat shop near site of present Post Office on Main Street

19th Century

- 1836 - 134,000 hats were manufactured yearly in Danbury
- 1853 - James S. Taylor invents machine for felting or sizing wool hats. Three hundred of these machines are sent all over the U.S.
- 1860 - 1,500,000 hats manufactured yearly in Danbury
- 1880 - Four and a half million hats manufactured yearly in Danbury. Danbury unionized long before the rest of the country
- 1882 - Hatter's strike
- 1890 - 5,000,000 manufactured yearly in Danbury. Lock-out inaugurated, hat factories closed to the Trimmer's Union
- 1895 - There were 33 hat manufacturers in Danbury

20th Century

- 1902 - Beginning of hatters Union strike against D.E. Loewe Co.
- 1904 - Danbury is responsible for almost 24% of the total value of all hats produced in the U.S.
- 1906 - Lee Hat Company is established. The directors of United Hatters adopt a minimum wage scale of one dollar an hour for a forty-four hour work week
- 1923 - Six hat manufacturers left in Danbury
- 1953 - Hatters Day Parade
- Ground breaking for new United Jewish Center in November
- Only one hat factory is left in Danbury - Danbury Rough Hat Company, 19 Delay Street
- Lee Hat Factory fire
- 1987 - Last hat factory in Danbury closes