

Goulds History

Advancing technologies and fluid
solutions for over 150 years



ITT

Engineered for life

Goulds...

A Tradition of Innovative Market Leadership

The pump manufacturing business in Seneca Falls, New York began in 1839 when Paine and Caldwell began to build wooden pumps.

A year later, Abel Downs began to make wooden pumps in an old cotton factory building, while Cowing and Seymour took over the old clock factory for the manufacture of their own line of wooden pumps. Paine & Caldwell went out of business.

In 1844, Abel Downs and John Wheeler joined forces. Downs & Wheeler became Downs, Mynderse & Co. in 1846.

In 1848, in Seneca Falls, a tiny village in upstate New York (later the meeting place for the first Woman's Rights Convention). **Seabury S. Gould** purchased the interests of Edward Mynderse and H.C. Silsby in Downs, Mynderse & Co. and the firm became Downs & Co.

The next year brought the Great Gold Rush of the Forty-niners. Goulds cast the first all-iron pump that year. Gould believed in the possibilities of the iron pump. He keenly watched as the first pump casting emerged from its mold of sand. A pump, he believed, would overcome all the disadvantages of wood. One that would be strong and efficient and would provide fresh flowing water for the pioneers

who were opening the West, the farms in the East, and plantations down South.

Although Seabury was a man of unusual vision, perhaps not even he could imagine what the future held for the pump and to what uses it would be put to as man developed new technologies and devised new sciences. The pump would become the heart of industry.

Goulds Manufacturing Company, began. The new canals in New York State were beginning a revolution in the movement of goods and people.

Gould made pumps and more. Because Goulds had a foundry, they produced all kinds of cast products such as corn shellers, bells, sad irons, sinks, tools, and a line of fire engines.

When Millard Fillmore of neighboring Cayuga County was the President of the United States, the transcontinental railroad was opening the magnificent west. It also created an opportunity for Goulds Pumps. The trains needed water, and generally water was only to be had when windmills operated to pump it from wells. Often trains were delayed for days. The problem eventually was solved by steam powered pumps, the earliest of which was devised by Goulds in Seneca Falls.



Seabury S. Gould I
1848-1872



James H. Gould
1872-1896



“Goulds has become the world’s largest manufacturer because it has refused to grow old, because we have continually looked forward, confident that we possessed in men, in management, in materials, and in money, resources sufficient to meet the needs and demands of each successive generation.”

... Norman J. Gould

As true today as it was in 1938.

In 1855, Downs and Company, with **Seabury S. Gould I** at its helm, built a new factory.

In 1864 the company was incorporated in the state of New York. In 1869, the name of the company was changed from Downs & Company to Goulds Manufacturing Company. Seabury, the founder, ran the company until after the Civil War. In 1879, the entire plant, except the foundry was destroyed by fire. **James H. Gould** took over as Goulds President from 1872 to 1896, the period of America’s great industrial boom. The nation was rapidly expanding westward. He assumed the burden of reconstructing the ruined factory.

At the turn of the 19th century, 1896 to 1908, Seabury Gould II was President. The nation’s manufacturing business was the greatest in world history. During his administration a ten acre plot was purchased, familiarly known as Rumseyville. In 1898, construction was started. Sixty acres of land were added to the original purchase. Goulds Manufacturing found a new home on its current 70 acre parcel.

Norman Judd Gould, the grandson of the founder, was the company’s fourth President and the last

member of the Gould family to serve in management of the company. Norman was named after his maternal grandfather, Norman B. Judd. As a delegate to the Republican National Convention in Chicago in 1861, Norman B. Judd nominated for President of the United States, the name of Abraham Lincoln. Norman Judd Gould continued in his Grandfather’s footsteps. He served his company, his village, his state, and his nation with devotion and distinction. He was a member of the House of Representatives from the 36th District of New York from 1915 to 1923 and signed the Declaration of War against the Imperial German Government in 1917.

In 1926, the company name was changed to Goulds Pumps, Inc. As the fourth Gould President, Congressman Norman J. Gould guided the company through the periods of vast changes in technologies and products. This period of fifty-six years covered two world wars and the Korean War, from age 31 until his death at the age of 87. Norman J. Gould served the longest term as president of Goulds Manufacturing Company from 1908-1964. The company ownership was transferred from family owned to public and employee ownership of stock at this time.



Seabury S. Gould II
1896-1908



Norman J. Gould
1908-1964

Innovation Timeline...

1848	Goulds first wooden pump banded with iron.
1849	First all iron water well pump introduced.
1885	Goulds introduces its first fire engine with its new deluge suction and lift pump.
1920	The first hard metal slurry pump is introduced.
1921	America's appetite for power leads to the expansion of coal exploration and mining. The first rubber lined slurry pump is developed and marketed to service this market.
1923	Introduced the first close-coupled pump. This pump used the motor shaft to directly drive the pump's impeller thus simplifying the design and reducing the amount of space required.
1932	The first self priming centrifugal pump was developed. First paper stock pump is introduced.
1937	First back pull-out pump was introduced and became the forerunner to the ANSI process pump design.
1961	Model 3196, the first AVS (American Voluntary Standards) Pump, was introduced by Goulds.
1967	The 3196 was adapted to ANSI Standards. It would become the most popular process pump in history.
1969	Goulds introduces the first Teflon lined pump for aggressive chemical handling.
1995	The patented Taperbore Plus optimizes seal chamber design and results in extended seal life.
1999	PumpSmart® intelligent flow control is introduced providing greater process control plus significantly reduced operating and life cycle costs for pumping equipment.
2003	EZMAG® metallic magnetic drive process pump wins industry awards for its simple, reliable design.
2004	ProSmart™ wireless predictive monitoring systems are introduced.

Past Presidents of Goulds...

James N. McComb 1964–1971
Robert L. Tarnow 1971–1978
Vincent A. Napolitano 1978–1984
Steven V. Ardia 1984–1994
Thomas C. McDermott 1994–1997

From 1964 until 1997 Goulds Pumps was effectively managed by five Presidents who expanded the product portfolio and led Goulds into growing global markets through acquisition and product development.

In 1997 Goulds Pumps was acquired by ITT Corporation forming the largest pump company in the world.

