New York Biscuit Company later National Biscuit Company (NABISCO)

Located on Franklin and Green Streets, the company was formed from mergers of a number of cracker and cookie baking companies. Like NECCO, it had a number of factories in Cambridge and throughout the US. Women held a number of positions in the factory, some in the offices as stenographers and telephone operators.

Polaroid

Originally located at 730 Main Street, it then moved to Memorial Drive. The company was noted for its fast developing film and cameras. The founder and director, the engineer Edwin Land, hired a number of women he called his "Princesses" who rose to important positions as chemists and photographers.

Meroe Morse was hired by Land right out of college in 1945 and worked at Polaroid as photographer and head of the film emulsion division until her untimely death in 1969 at 46. She held numerous patents.

Vivian Walworth joined Polaroid in 1944 and worked as a research chemist on three dimensional films. After Polaroid collapsed, she founded Stereoview with other Polaroid former employees to make three dimensional printers in North Cambridge. Three women who joined her are officers of the new company. She is still active at ninety.

Not all relationships of the company with women were happy ones. Caroline Hunter, an African-American woman working as a chemist, was fired after publicly protesting the use of Polaroid film to make ID photos for the apartheid South African government. Now teacher and vice principal at CRLS, she received the Rosa Parks Memorial Award from NEA in 2012.

Woman in Business

Every year, from 1868 until the 1940s, about ten to twenty women were listed in the City Directory as proprietors of boarding houses in Cambridgeport. About the same number ran dressmaking businesses. Other women opened small stores.

If married, a woman who opened a store had to file a statement with the city explaining that she and not her husband would be the owner and proprietor.