



Over 150 years of helping customers meet their visual communication goals!

Our Historic Foundation

1855

Welch was founded as the H.P. Bennett Company. Located in Portland, Maine, the company's major products were stencils, weather vanes and tin badges.

1900

The H.P. Bennett Company was purchased by Benjamin Welch who renamed his new business The Welch Stencil Company.

1920

In 1920, The company was sold and the new owner added rubber stamps, notary seals and engraved plates to the product offering. While the engraving equipment was primarily used for the production of rubber stamps, it was the seed that would germinate into a full service sign company.

1920-1981

Over the next several decades, Welch Stencil Company was sold two more times. The products and services continued to evolve with the focus being stamps and engraved signs. A significant portion of the business was wholesale products for the office products industry.

Birth of a Modern Sign Company

1981

Welch Stencil was purchased by Joel Diamon whose goal was to significantly grow the business. During this period of widespread economic expansion, sales increased by over 200%.

1985

Joel Diamon moved the company to Colonel Westbrook Executive Park in Westbrook, ME. This was the first time the company operated in a modern manufacturing space.

1988

Welch Stencil was purchased by current owners, Terry and Kathy Davis, whose vision was to restructure the organization to facilitate further growth.

1991

Welch Architectural Signage, a division of Welch Stencil, was created to proactively address opportunities created by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Welch became one of the early providers of ADA signs to the New England region.

Welch Architectural Signage became an active participant in the Donor Recognition signage market. Early projects included Temple Beth El, Portland, ME; The Jewish Nursing Home, Longmeadow, MA and Cedar Village, Cincinnati, OH.

2001

The company relocated to Scarborough, ME moving into a design build facility twice the size of its current location.

Major Regional & National Sign Company

2010

Welch Architectural Signage purchased the assets of The Signery, adding wide format printing, vehicle graphics and direct to substrate printing. Changing its name to Welch Signage and Digital Graphics, the company again moved to a new space doubling its current size.

2011

Photopolymer is added to Welch's chem-weld and applied tactile sign technology.

2012

Welch designed, project managed, fabricated and installed its first \$1,000,000 plus sign project including wayfinding, donor recognition, brand and environmental graphics.

In 2012, Welch started its largest sign project in Boston, MA implementing a complete interior sign package in a 23 story, 800,000 square foot corporate headquarters.

2014

After 150 years of fabricating Rubber Stamps, the product line was sold in order to focus solely on growing the sign business.

2015

Welch contracted with a major national corporation and creates its first "Online Store" to serve the needs of their clients 500 plus locations.

A second location serving as a design showroom is opened in Portland, ME.

Welch introduces a new brand and website in order to more accurately portray its current area of focus. Name is changed to Welch Sign.