England on June 9, 1768. He became involved in the textile industry at the age of 22. Slater quickly rose to prominence, inventing numerous machines that dramatically increased the efficiency of textile production. His most famous invention was the water frame, which used water power to operate the machinery. Slater's inventions profoundly transformed the textile industry and the economy of New England. Textile industry Facts, information, and pictures Encyclopedia.com Samuel Slater. Son of a yeoman farmer, Samuel Slater was born in Belper, Derbyshire, England on June 9, 1768. He became involved in the textile industry at the age of 22.