

Pine Mill News

Published by the Friends of the
Pine Creek Grist Mill
Wildcat Den State Park
Muscatine, Iowa



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Mill Meetings:

9:00AM The 2nd
Saturday each
Month

Check our web
Page for the dates
and locations.

Notes from the President

What a winter!! Even with snow on the ground we are beginning to gear up for the 2014 season. Visitors and school classes will be coming in a few weeks. A new interpretive book has been written for handicapped visitors who cannot see the basement or upper floors. It may also be put on our Web page.

We have a new Vice President for interpretation. Heather Shoppa was one of our first tour guides, then served for several years as the director of the Muscatine visitor bureau. She is now a substitute teacher. We are excited to have her vision and enthusiasm. Her experience in the tourism industry is a bonus.

Employees of two Kohl's Department Stores are planning to come on April 22nd (9 AM – noon) to help us prepare the mill for visitors. We greatly appreciate the help and they seem to enjoy helping us. Would you like to join us? Lunch is provided.

Without donors we would not have an interpretation program. Donors have been stepping up. However, we are still short of our goal. WalMart has made a major donation. We also thank our corporate donors Kent Corporation, Martin & Whitacre, Members Credit Union, First National Bank, Community Bank, Precision Equipment, HNI Corp, MUSCO Lighting, SSAB, and New Hope Foundation.

We appreciate donations from families and individuals. We received major donations from the Howe Foundation, Loryann Eis, C. R. Scherrer, Phyllis Bartling, Curtis Kerschinske, and Chuck Missel.

In the last newsletter we forgot to thank donors to our fall Ghosts of Pine Creek event. We thank these people and businesses: Fareway Grocery, Fred Hoopes Farm, LeClaire Boy Scouts, Mainstreet Hy-Vee, Jan Phillips (Muscatine Com-

munity College), Laura Musser Museum, and Wal-Mart

The Internet and social media have become important tools to bring visitors to the mill. A recent survey of travelers conducted by the Great River Road Commission found that various forms of digital technology (GPS, Google, smartphones and tablet computers) are the 3rd, 4th, and 5th most frequently used means of finding destinations like the mill. What ranked higher? Highway signs and state road maps.

We are looking for more paid tour guides. If you are interested in learning more about the mill and telling visitors what you know, call Julie at 563-299-6024. We are also in need of volunteers to help with the school field trips in May. Would you like to help kids learn how to use old time tools, teach about wildflowers, or tell children about furs? Call Julie.

We are looking for ear corn and shelled corn to run through the mill during demonstrations. Do you know of a source? Call Tom at 563-263-4818. We can use a few old-looking wood barrels to place around the mill. If you know of any, call Dave at 563-263-4222.

Wildcat Den State Park has good news. It looks like the 2nd staff position will be returning. That will be a big help to ranger Jim Ohl. The repair work on the dam and the bridge is nearly done.

We are now able to see statistics of how often various parts of our Web site are being used. A big surprise was how often the newsletters were read. We were also surprised how many times the Restoration page was viewed, even though it had not been updated for a long time. So, the Restoration page will be undergoing additions and changes.

Warm weather is coming. Come out to the Park and the mill.

Restoration Report

By David Metz



Every year it seems the Penstock gate is damaged by ice coming down the creek. Here we are repairing the penstock gate in 2009. That year we had plenty of water flowing in Pine Creek and we had to work out of a boat.



Jerry Kieth is testing the hand cranked corn sheller, one of the new interpretive exhibits that he helped to build in 2013.



Gary Otto is washing out the historic wood barrels that were donated to the mill to be used for grain storage. Do we need more of these to replace the steel garbage cans that are still being used in the mill?

This winter I spent some time looking back over some of my old restoration reports that I have made to the Friends and the DNR. I started working with the restoration crew in 2001, so this will be the 13th season that I have been involved with restoring Pine Mills. When I first showed up at the mill the late Jim Tomasson along with Bob DeLong and Dick Clevenger were doing the bulk of the work. They and some others had just gotten the millstones to turn again. What a huge accomplishment that was!

From there the crew got the electric motor installed so the mill could be run whenever we wanted it to. Next the corn milling plant was restored and next work began on restoring the steam engine. In time we were able to fully restore two of the mills three milling plants. Working with my friends on the restoration crew putting Pine Mills back into running condition has been a great experience. As restoration supervisor the question for me is what are we going to do this coming 2014 season at the mill.

Usually some morning in early April we gather at the mill, open it up and give the entire plant a careful inspection. I hope the weather cooperates with us this year and we can get into the mill on schedule. Our first job is to clean the place up a little to get it ready for the Kohls volunteers to clean. Supplies have to be inventoried and purchased, the machinery lubricated and tested and the mill generally put in order.

Once that is out of the way our first project will be to repair the damage penstock gate (again). Last year due to illness the man who had previously done our welding for us was not available. This year we have a new volunteer that can do the work and that has the right equipment. I have also found someone that can

build the very tricky to fabricate transition that goes between the boiler smoke box and the mill smoke stack. It will be good to finally see the boiler's cosmetic finally finished.

Over the winter the wooden beams that support the millstones have a habit of shifting putting the bedstone out of level, or as the old time millers would have said "out of tram." I hope that this spring we can finally figure out how to properly balance the runner stone so we can do grinding on the millstones again. I have found some new literature on that subject that may be of help to us.

Another old project that I would like to get started on is the timber framing exhibit that Ken Hyman proposed before his illness. This would consist of a portion of a log showing how a millwright would square it off beam and then make the mortis and tendon joints that held the mill's beams together. This would be a new exhibit that would take the place of some of the old tools that we have displayed on the first floor in the lean-to.

If we want to keep the mill an interesting experience for return visitors we need to be adding new exhibits periodically and retiring old ones. The plan would be to recycle exhibits every few years so the mill keeps up a fresh appearance. Do you have an idea for a new interpretive exhibit for the mill? Or if you do would you like to be involved in its creation? If so let me know.

Besides new exhibits we need to think about how we can improve the appearance of what currently exists in the mill. Tom Hanifan recently brought up with me the issue of the steel garbage cans that we store grain in. Do these detract from the historic appearance of the mill? Do we want

Continued on Page 10

Pine Creek Grist Mill Needs a Few Good Volunteers!

There is no question that the Friends of Pine Creek Grist Mill is one of the most effective non-profit organizations in Muscatine County. The responsibility that the Iowa DNR has given us to restore and interpret the mill is huge. It takes a great deal of work from our dedicated volunteers to keep the program going.

Our concern is how to keep the Friends program continuing into the future. While all of our dues paying members dedication to the mill is appreciated the truth is that most of the actual day to day work of keeping the Friends going is done by a small core group of volunteers. Today we are asking you, our current members to take on a more active role and become one the Friends key members.

We need an injection of fresh blood, that is new people joining or present members stepping up into new roles. Simply put, the Friends need new active volunteers! Those of us that have been highly involved with the Friends can tell you that the work we do is highly rewarding. The fellowship is great and the work can be a lot of fun.

How does volunteering benefit you?

You can be involved with:

- A much loved historic site
- A regional historic and tourist attraction
- A regional educational resource

Gain satisfaction from helping preserve a regional treasure

Learn about the mill, its history, and how it worked

Gain satisfaction from telling the mill's story to children and adults



HERITAGE DAY

RESTORATION



You will be working with dedicated volunteers and staff

You pick the projects that interests you.

You have a flexible schedule, work as little or as much as you want.

There are Many Interesting Activities that you can do.

We have jobs that match enthusiasm, skills and time

You can work on our restoration crew to restore the mill

You can help raise funds using your contacts and expertise

You can help restore our 1850's log cabin

You can assist the mill's tour guides

You can be part of Pine Mill's school tour program by demonstrating old time tools, lead nature walks, and more

Like running? You can help manage our annual trail run

Are you active on the web? You can help manage our Facebook page and Web site

You can help with the fall Ghosts of Pine Creek event. Be an interpreter, carve pumpkins, and more

If you are interested in taking a larger role in the Friends contact President Tom Hanifan or V.P. David Metz

Motor Mill Update

By David Metz

If you are looking for a mill to visit here in Iowa this summer one of the most interesting is Motor Mill located to the southeast of Elkader, Iowa on the Turkey River. The mill is owned by Clayton County and is being restored and interpreted by the non-profit Motor Mill Foundation. The mill is a striking five story stone structure built between the river and a high limestone bluff in a very scenic area.

Two local businessmen John Thompson and James Crosby started construction of the five story stone mill in April of 1868. The two entrepreneurs had grand plans for the location. They laid out a town that they called Motor, built the flour mill and had plans for a woolen mill as well that would be added onto the mill building. Why the prospective town and mill were named *Motor* is not known today. Thompson and Crosby had big plans for the mills and town for they began building a narrow gauge railroad to connect Motor to the Mississippi River.

The flour mill the partners built had four 48" French buhr stones and three turbines for power. Two of the turbines



Motor Mill from the new bridge. The building on the right is the cooperage where the mill's flour barrels were made. There are no windows on the second floor of the mill because the bins that fed the four millstones were located along that wall.

powered the millstones; the third powered the rest of the mill's machinery. Technically the most interesting thing about Motor Mill is that the process it used is that of an Oliver Evans automated mill right down to having a Hopper Boy, a method of cooling grist that had been largely abandoned by the time the mill was built.



Motor Mills first floor. The platform on the river side of the mill has the four millstones set into it. Various cut off chutes that fed the millstones and the flour packing stations can be seen hanging from the ceiling.

The partners ambitious plans did not go as well as they had hoped. The woolen mill project fell though and the town lots did not sell like they had hoped. Then flooding delayed and finally stopped construction on the rail line. The changes that happened in Iowa agriculture during this period did not help the flour mill. Invasions of wheat rust and cinch bugs in the 1870 are wiped out Iowa's wheat fields and farmers turned to other crops. The final blow to the mill came in 1883 when a flood damaged the dam putting it out of commission.

After the mill closed all of the machinery except for one grain cleaner on the fifth floor was sold and removed. Only the mill's four bed stones were left in place probably because they were too heavy to move. A local farm family purchased the mill in 1903 and used it for agricultural purposes like storing hay for the next 80 years.

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The farmers that owned the old mill eventually began mining it for its lumber. The grain storage bins, chutes and even most of the flooring on the upper floors were removed leaving just the mill's internal framework. The Motor Mill Foundation has done a huge amount of restoration work on the mill. First they had to replace all of the missing flooring, then they replaced all of the mill's windows and they had a new roof installed. As time passed they collected some historic milling equipment such as bolters and grain cleaners to install in the mill and began to set up some interpretive exhibits.

The restoration of Motor Mill faced one more huge challenge, the replacement of the historic bridge that crossed the Turkey River almost at the mill's door. When the mill was built Clayton County built a three span wood bridge across the river to serve the mill. When that bridge needed replacing the county purchased a two span steel pinned Pratt truss bridge to go in its place. These Pratt truss bridges were very popular with county governments



Motor Mills new bridge is being assembled on an island in the Turkey River that is just down stream from the mill.

of the time. They were cost effective and sold as kits that local contractors could install.

In 1991 a flood on the Turkey River carried away the south span of the bridge stopping access to the mill from the south. Another flood in 2008 destroyed the north span of the bridge completing the bridges destruction. Technical director of the Motor Mill foundation Jon Deneui took on the job of getting the bridge replaced. Facing some huge challenges eventually he secured federal funding for half of the project from FEMA and the other half came from a State of Iowa REAP grant.

Construction of the new bridge began in September of 2012 and it opened in December. The new bridge is four feet higher above the river to give it additional flood protection. The new spans are a modern design that still has the appearance of the historic Pratt truss bridge they replaced. Total cost of the bridge project came to \$1,000,000. This is an amazing example of what a dedicated volunteer organization can do.

If you wish to visit Motor Mill first check their web site www.motormill.org for the hours when the mill is open. There is a camp site at the mill and a ramp for canoe access to the river. For the scenic route to the mill take highway 13 north towards Elkader. About a mile south of Elkader on highway 13 turn right (east) onto Grandview Road. Take it to Galaxy Road and turn left at the "T" intersection onto Galaxy Road. Follow Galaxy north to Motor Mill.



Two motor cranes were used to lift each of the completed bridge spans from the island. The cranes carried the span to the piers and then lifted it into place. This photo was taken by John Nikolai from the sixth floor of the mill.

Spring at Pine Creek Grist Mill

By Julie Whitehall

Though the winter has been brutal. The staff at Pine Creek look forward to the first signs of spring. For us it means Spring Field Trips.

May 2014 will be the beginning of our Spring School Field Trips at Pine Creek Grist Mill. The Mill opens its door to greet the 100's of students, teachers, and parents who attend each year.

These field trips are made possible by your donations. If you would like to donate to the Spring Field Trips please make checks payable to **Friends of the Mill**. Checks can be mailed to:

Gladys Mittman
2906 Provence Lane
Muscatine, Iowa 52761

The staff begins working on the Spring Field Trips in February. This year we are looking forward to the following schools who will be attending:

Wilson Elementary(Davenport)
Highland Elementary(Riverside/Ainsworth)
Buffalo Elementary
Muscatine Home School Group
Madison Elementary
Mulberry Elementary
Washington Elementary
Franklin Elementary
Louisa Muscatine Elementary
Iowa City Home School Group
Bluegrass Elementary
Madison Elementary (Davenport)

Log Cabin Progress

By Bob Willis

The log cabin crew is looking forward to getting started this spring and have been discussing the upcoming projects. As of the end of the year the logs are all up and in place. The chimneys for the fire place and the bake oven are partially constructed. The roof is complete up to where we need to finish the chimneys before tying in the roof. One coat of chinking is completed on the outside of the logs and the inside chinking has yet to be started. The chinking requires 2 or 3 coats to completely fill the spaces between the logs. We have been discussing the installation of the doors and windows and just exactly what we want to use for them. We expect to complete the reconstruction this year.



The Log Cabin this winter. This spring the doors and windows will be built and installed.

Photo credit: Gary Christiansen

A Few Words From Your Newsletter Editor

By David Metz

The feedback I am receiving from our readers is that you enjoy the historical articles that we have in the newsletter. For that reason I have tried to keep the usual recipes and bad poetry that often fill newsletters to a minimum. A new feature this issue keeping with our emphasis on history will be a page of historic advertisements taken from milling trade publications such as the Northern Miller Magazine. The advertisements in this issue are from the early 1900's. You have to imagine the owners of Pine Mills looking through the pages of the Northern Miller and day dreaming about what these advertisements offered.

Sadly there is a limit to the amount of historical material available on the subject of local mills. Periodically I go on the hunt for more on line and at the Musser public library. These sources are becoming exhausted so to keep our newsletter going I need submissions and ideas from you our readers. Specifically I am looking for historic photographs, old newspaper accounts and new material that you author. Do you have any pioneer family history that your would like to share? Or stories about other mills in the area or early Muscatine County industries? Anything that would be of interest to readers of this newsletter will be considered.

If you have anything for the newsletter or some new ideas on how we can make it better, please contact me at email: davemetz@machlink.com or by phone at 563-263-4222.

Old Time Mill Advertisements

CABLE ADDRESS: "SAX" NASHVILLE.

MODEL MILL Co.
NASHVILLE, TENN., U.S.A.

W. LITTERER, PRES.
W. C. MYERS, SEC. & TREAS.

MANUFACTURERS OF

PURE WINTER WHEAT FLOUR

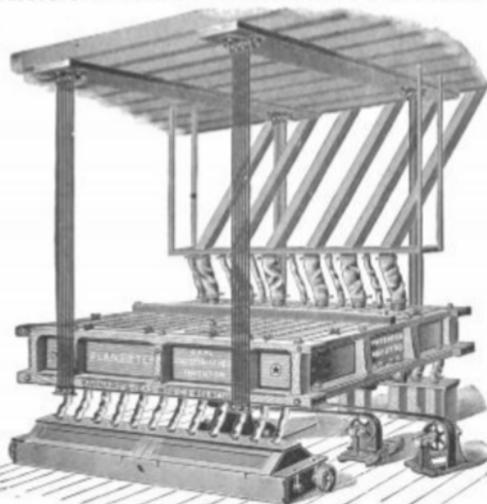
FOR EXPORT AND DOMESTIC TRADE.

CORRESPONDENCE INVITED.

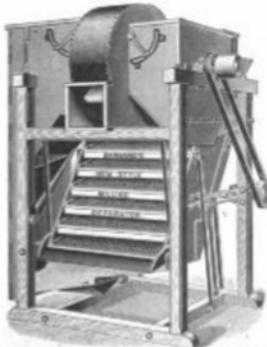


AND NOW WHILE THE PLANSIFTER IS THE GREAT AND ONLY SIEVE MACHINE

There are other Machines required to make a complete and Satisfactory Mill.



These can all be supplied by one firm, **MAKING THE LARGEST LINE OF MILLING MACHINERY IN THE WORLD.**



NEW STYLE MILLING SEPARATOR.



THE DAISY PACKER.

BARNARD & LEAS MFG. Co.
MOLINE, ILLINOIS.

R. C. STONE, Springfield, Mo., Agent for Missouri, Indian Territory, Arkansas, Texas and Old Mexico.
BARNARD MACHINERY CO., Enterprise, Kans., General Agent for Kansas, Colorado and Oklahoma.
W. R. TALLEY, Nashville, Tenn., General Agent for Kentucky, Tennessee, Georgia and Alabama.
CHARLES R. MANOR, Stanleyton, Va., General Agent for Virginia, Maryland, W. Virginia and N. Carolina.

Like all industries millers had their own trade publications. These advertisements were taken from issues of the Northern Miller published in the 1900's. No doubt the owners of Pine Mills were avid readers. Besides advertisements for machinery and mill supplies there were ads for wholesale flour.

At left the Barnard & Leas Company of Moline, Illinois offers its latest machines. This is the same company that installed most of the current machines installed by Pine Mills owner in 1890.

Note the position of the man's body in the ad for mill picks below. This is how you reclined while dressing a millstone.

JOHN C. HIGGINS & SON,
Manufacturers and dealers in

MILL PICKS
Halsted & Kenzie Sts., Chicago.



Picks will be sent on 30 or 60 days trial, to any responsible miller in the U. S. or Canada, and if not superior in every respect to any other pick made in this or any other country, there will be no charge, and I will pay all express charges to and from Chicago. All my picks are made of a special steel which is *manuf'd expressly for me* at Sheffield, England. My customers can thus be assured of a good article, and share with me the profits of direct importation. Reference furnished from every State and Territory in the U. S. and Canada. Send for Circular and Price List.

Parker's Mill

By David Metz

This month on the next page we bring you the tragic story of the destruction of the Parker Mill in Moscow, Iowa. On Oct 6th, 1897 the mill's boiler exploded causing death and injury. Following is the account of the disaster that appeared in the Muscatine Journal. The story of the mill can be better understood with some background. Parker Mill had a very different business model than Pine Mills that we know so well.

In 1897 the town of Moscow had two mills, Moscow Mill & Dam Company located on and powered by the Cedar River. It operated as far as is known only as a flour mill. Parker Mill was a completely different type of operation; it combined in one building a saw mill, feed mill and a cream separator. This combination is not as strange as it sounds for in 1897 electricity had not become widely available yet. Most industrial facilities, even small ones, were still powered by a steam engine and boiler. Thus if a facility in a small town with a limited market could produce income from a variety of sources that required power, then it made good economic sense to combine several small businesses into one.

Another clue to the nature of Parker Mill's business is that it had been located near the railroad tracks that passed through town. Owned by J.E. Parker, his saw mill provided a market for local lumbering operations and it could ship lumber by rail to other markets. Since farmers had to come to his mill everyday to ship their cream, having a mill to grind their grain into feed provided a convenient service for them as well.

This brings us to another combination, the cream separator and the railroad. Parker's Mill operated as a dairy collection point. In the 1890's there were a variety of gravity and hand cranked centrifugal cream separators available to the farmer. Any farmer could separate his cream; the trick as always is marketing what you have. That is getting the cream to the creamery for processing into butter.

The railroads solved this problem with the institution of the milk train. Up to the 1930's milk trains were a fixture of rural American life. Typically they consisted of a small locomotive pulling a combination mail and passenger car, a refrigerator car for the milk, a freight car and a caboose. The train's *milk run* as they called it had the train stopping at every small town, road crossing and place where farmers could drop off their milk cans for collection by the train's crew. On the return trip the cans were returned for the farmers to collect. The same train handled the modest

freight, mail and passenger service that the small farm towns along its route required.

Over the years this system improved with better insulated milk cars that used ice for cooling. Eventually glass lined steel bulk tanks were installed in the milk cars eliminating the need to handle each farms milk cans. And this brings us back to the vital role that Parker's Mill played in this system. Some dairies processed whole milk; others made butter and were only interested in purchasing cream. If the dairy farmer could have his cream separated at the collection point, that saved him labor and he could take his skimmed milk back to the farm to feed to his hogs.

Finally there is the issue of the mill's boiler. Sadly boiler explosions were far too common in the 19th century. Their occurrence peaked sharply in 1900 at 400 a year. The number fell off drastically afterwards due to new state laws licensing boilers and their operators, increased inspections and rise of electric power.

All it took is a few minutes of inattention to put a boiler at risk. The two most common causes of boiler explosions were low water and mechanical failure. As the steam engine the boiler powered ran it consumed the water in the boiler. A pump or a device called an injector fed water back into the boiler periodically. All it took is a few moments of inattention by the fireman for the water level to fall dangerously low. When this happened the remaining water in the boiler could instantly flash into steam. This flash raised the steam pressure so fast that the safety valve could not release it. The result would be a devastating explosion.

Mechanical failures were also common if the boiler did not receive proper care. Over time the metal itself could fatigue causing cracks to develop around rivets that could lead to failure. Corrosion could be another issue. In the 1890's the average small mill boiler used whatever water supply that the mill had available. Any chemicals and sediment in the water combined with the heat and pressure could corrode the boiler from the inside out. A boiler that looked in good shape on the outside could have a shell that had become dangerously thin.

What caused the tragedy at Parker's Mill is not known. Sadly the only record we have of this unique business is the report of the boiler explosion that follows. If you know of any additional information about Parker's Mill please let us know.

A Terrible Explosion!

This month from the *Muscatine Journal* of October 6th, 1897 we bring you the story of the destruction of Parker Mill in Moscow, Iowa.

Killed by Explosion!

Will Spears and Fred Marolf Instantly Killed By a Boiler Explosion at Moscow

WILL HUNT PROBABLY FATALY HURT

**The Parker Mill a Complete Wreck
A 2,000 Pound Section of the Boiler Carried 420 Feet – Several others Injured by The Accident –
Spears
Head Blown Off – Marolf Frightfully Cut**

The quiet little town of Moscow, in Moscow township, was abused this morning as it never has before, and several families are left to mourn. Situated south and west of town, a block north of the creamery and just south of the Rock Island Railroad track, was located the feed and sawmill and cream separator of J.E. Parker, a frame building covered with sheet iron, being L shaped. The south part was occupied by the creamery and the north part by the sawmill, while the east part was used as a grist mill. Near the center was located the boiler, of 85 horse power, but it is there no longer, because at 9:02 o'clock this morning the boiler, which was in charge of Will R. Spear, without a sign of warning exploded with terrific force under a pressure of 100 pounds of steam, and completely wrecked the plant, besides instantly killing Mr. Speers, Fred Maroff, a farmer and seriously injuring an eighteen year old boy named Will Hunt, and injuring Sherman Lang and bruising J.E. Parker.

The pen fails to give an accurate description of the awful scene. The JOURNAL dispatched a representative to the wreck and he reached that point about 11:30. As described the plant was L shaped and only a portion of the east wing of the structure remains.

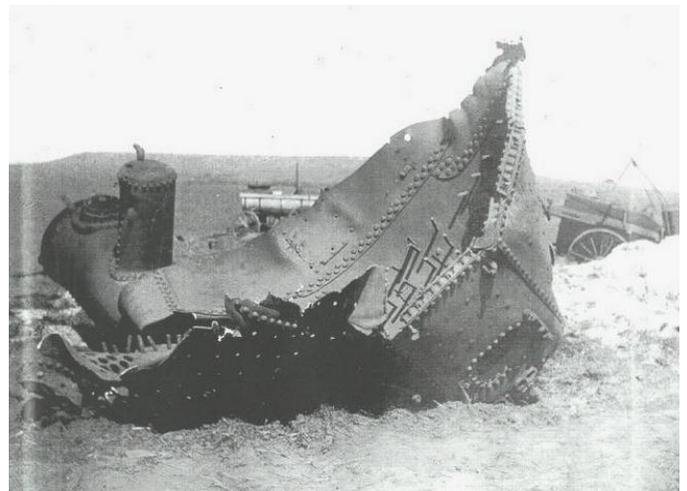
Mr. Parker was standing amid the ruins and appeared to be dazed, but told the story of the explosion: "I was standing at the lever here and had run this log into the saw about four feet, while Sherman Lange was on the other side, being the off-bearer, when there was a pretty loud report and the air was filled with sticks and other flying debris, while a large section of the boiler lay

within four feet of where he had stood and the great wonder is that the section did not strike him as it flew past him." Lang was knocked over into the saw dust pit and was struck by a flying missile and cut in the back of the head, while another struck him on the top of the head."

Just what caused the explosion is not known, but Mr. Parker said they had 100 pounds of steam on and that he had cleaned the boiler two weeks ago and found it in good shape, with scales or rust in it.

Mr. Speer, the fireman, was blown some 40 or 50 feet south of where the explosion occurred and was dead when found. The back of his head was blown off and his face was badly scarred; death was instantaneous. His watch in his vest pocket stopped at 9:02, so that many thought that this was the exact time of the accident. His chin was also broken and one of his arms and legs were also broken. Mr. Speer was about 40 years of age and leaves a wife and child.

Fred Maroff the other victim, resided about six miles north of Moscow in Cedar County, and was delivering milk and cream, having just unloaded and gone into the creamery, when the explosion took place and he was blown out of the



There are no existing photographs of the damage that Parker Mill experienced. This photo shows the twisted remains of a cotton mill boiler of the same time period that exploded. It to landed far from the mill.

of the building and thrown with such violence against a fence post as to kill him instantly. In his left breast there was a deep gash over the heart, the blow received there, being the fatal stroke. He was partially wrapped around the post when found and his skull was cracked besides being otherwise badly mashed and mangled. He was 54 years of age and leaves a wife and ten children, Mrs. Maroff reaching Moscow about 11:00.

The remains of these unfortunates were removed to the Speer home and Drs. Cooling, Lefth and King summoned from Wilton, but they could do nothing as the life was extinct in each, but they turned their attention to Willie Hunt, adopted son of George Hunt, who is probably fatally injured. He was taken to an adjoining home, and it was found that he had received a frightful gash in the right temple, also one on the top of the head; his jaw bone was broken, lips badly cut and teeth knocked out, while his leg was broken at the ankle. He was sitting in the south doorway of the separator when the explosion occurred. He is 18 years of age. He was unconscious when picked up but rallied soon after, and asked what was the matter. He complained of terrible pains inwardly and outwardly and it is feared his injuries may be fatal.

As above stated Sherman Lang was also badly bruised and Mr. Parker was knocked over and received a bad shaking up besides a quite a large bruise on his breast.

Charles Smith was attending the saw but beyond a terrible shaking up and several bruises was not badly hurt, and a farmer named Henry Jacobs, who was making a delivery to the separator or creamery was blown out of this part of the building and received several bad gashes in the head, besides being otherwise slightly injured. He was taken to his home at once so the JOURNAL scribe did not get to see him.

The mill proper was a complete wreck there being nothing left of the sawmill part except the saw and its carrier. Portions thereof were blown quite a distance, while the brick over and around the boiler were scattered for 300 yards in all directions. The main mill was 50 feet long, and the east wing 54 feet, the latter was dismantled, only a small portion of it is standing now, while the south part of the creamery is leveled almost to the ground. That Mr. Parker, Smith and Lang were not numbered among the dead is miraculous, for one third of the back end of the boiler flew in that direction, falling almost at Parker's feet. A central section of the boiler was blown over the grist mill wing and dropped near the structure some 40 feet away. It is about three feet wide and ten or twelve feet long, but the larger portion of the boiler, nearly two thirds of it, was carried over the creamery making a straight shoot southward, striking the Iowa Telephone Companies wire and cutting it in two. Some 200 feet away it struck the ground with the front or blunt end and jumped quite a distance

turning a somersault and then striking the earth again, making a deep hole and then made another complete turn-over and fell some forty or fifty feet away, making the distance from where it originally stood just 420 feet by actual measurement. This portion of the boiler must have weighted something like 2,000 to 2,500 pounds. The casting in the center near the steam dome, had a section about 12 inches square torn out of it, and many who inspected the hull were inclined to think that the boiler was defective. Between where this lay and the remains of the mill were scattered bent flues, large pieces of sheet iron that encased the mill, and bricks and mortar, pieces of iron and lumber were strewn everywhere. The boiler front and doors were blown out into the street and debris was scattered in all directions.

Mr. Parker said it did not make such a terrible noise as one would anticipate. Mrs. Parker his wife, who was in the house, which is about 200 feet east, said she heard a loud noise, and looking out of the door saw wood and other debris flying in all directions, and feels that nothing short of miracles saved her husband.

Residents of the town said there was a loud report, but not such as one would expect to hear from a boiler explosion.

John Teufel and Fred Schafnit were congratulating themselves upon their narrow escape. They had just left the mill a moment before and not much gotten out of harm's way when the explosion took place.

Two teams were tied at posts just east of the south wing and within 25 feet of the boiler, but were not injured at all.

Coroner King was on the grounds but decided not to hold the inquest until this afternoon, or until the dead bodies could be placed in presentable shape.

As one views the ruins and learns where the various parties stood it is hard to contemplate how such a disaster could have occurred without more serious results.

Restoration Report Continued from page 2

to spend the money to replace all of them with more wood barrels? Are there any other changes like this we need to consider? The more input we get on all of the issues involving the mill the better job we can all do interpreting it for the public.

Have you Considered Planned Giving?

To keep Pine Mills open and the Friends of the Mill in action we have to raise over \$25,000 every year. That is a huge sum for a small non-Profit like the Friends. This is why your donations are so important. One way you can help keep the Friends in action is to consider planned giving. There are many ways you can do this; some of them offer you tax advantages.

Besides cash donations (and we love those), you can donate securities, life insurance by making the Friends the beneficiary or making a bequest in your will. All of these can be used to ensure the long term financial stability of the Friends.

Below is our donation form. Using it you can sponsor a special event, day or week where you are keeping the mill open for the public to visit. If you wish you can dedicate you gift to a loved one.

Keep in mind that while the dues you pay help, they do not begin to cover the costs of our programs - such as opening the mill to visitors, school field trips or restoration. Our visitor's donations and sales at the mill cover don't cover our costs either. Did you know that it costs about \$18,000 a year to have an interpretation program? And that the Friends receive no funding for interpretation from the Department of Natural Resources? The Friends rely totally on your donations to continue our programs.

There can be tax advantages to donating to the Friends. Your donation of historical items, supplies or other material may be tax deductible as well. Contact your tax preparer or the Friends for more information on this. The Friends have been granted 501(c)(3) non-profit status by the Internal Revenue Service.

The Friends of the Pine Creek Grist Mill officers are:

David Metz edits your newsletter, contact him if you have any questions about or material for the newsletter.

Mr. Tom Hanifan, President
Tomhanifan@yahoo.com
563-263-4818

Mr. David Metz, Vice President
Davemetz@machlink.com
563-263-4222

Mrs. Heather Shoppa, Vice President
hshoppa@yahoo.com
563-571-5213

Miss. Agnes Digney, Secretary
319-726-5983

Mrs. Gladys Mittman, Tres.
Gmittman@machlink.com
563-263-2451

Pine Creek Grist Mill is on the web! Get downloads of our publications and see photos of the latest happenings.

See us at:

www.pinecreekgristmill.com

Would you like to sponsor a special day, week or month at the Mill? Please fill out and return the form below with your donation. Please indicate the date(s) and your name will be posted at the mill as a sponsor. F.O.M. Has been granted 501(c)(3) status by the Internal Revenue Service.

Name _____

Organization _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____ Dates you wish to sponsor _____

Person you wish to honor _____

Amount Donated \$ _____



Make your check payable to:
Friends of the Pine Creek Grist Mill

Mail it to:
Friends of the Pine Creek Grist Mill
C/O Mr. Tom Hanifan
Box 1205
Muscatine, Iowa 52761



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See us at:

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The Friends of the Pine Creek Grist Mill

Pine Creek Grist Mill is located in Wildcat Den State Park in Muscatine County one mile north of highway 22 between Muscatine and Davenport, Iowa.

The mission of the Friends of the Pine Creek Grist Mill is to restore, operate and maintain the Mill and to share the historical significance of the site through educational programs, public tours and events.

The Friends of the Pine Creek Grist Mill Membership

2014 Membership

Membership is only \$20.00 per year. Your membership includes
One year membership in the Friends
Newsletter three times a year
An opportunity to learn about and participate in a local historic treasure

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone number (_____) _____

E-Mail address _____

Send this application and your check to: FOM C/O Mrs. Gladys Mittman
2906 Provence Lane
Muscatine, Iowa 52761

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