

Looking For Ideas

Hanford Mills Museum is in the process of collecting and organizing recipes for our very own cookbook! Please send us your favorite **original** recipes along with your name and address so that we may acknowledge your help. If we receive enough replies, we hope to be able to offer this cookbook by next spring - or possibly by Christmas, so don't delay.

Also, we are always looking for new and interesting books for the store. Are there any books that can be related to our site and the area that you would like to see in our store? If so, send us titles, authors and/or publishers for our consideration. Your efforts will be appreciated.



Successful Ice Harvest

On February 4, 1989, Hanford Mills Museum held its first ice harvest in appropriately cold, windy weather. Over seventy-five people attended the event, many of whom pitched right in and helped. Using traditional hand ice saws, 1x1x1 foot blocks were cut from a 225 square foot ice field. Ice tongs were used to pull the blocks from the pond, while a team of horses stood by to haul the blocks away on a sled.

Our newly renovated conference room provided a warm, congenial place to visit and have a snack during the harvest. The ice harvest will be an annual event, providing visitors with an opportunity to learn what it was really like to harvest ice. We may even have an ice house before long, so the ice can be stored for making ice cream on those hot summer days.

MILLWORK is published by the Hanford Mills Museum and distributed free to museum members. For membership information, call (607) 278-5744.

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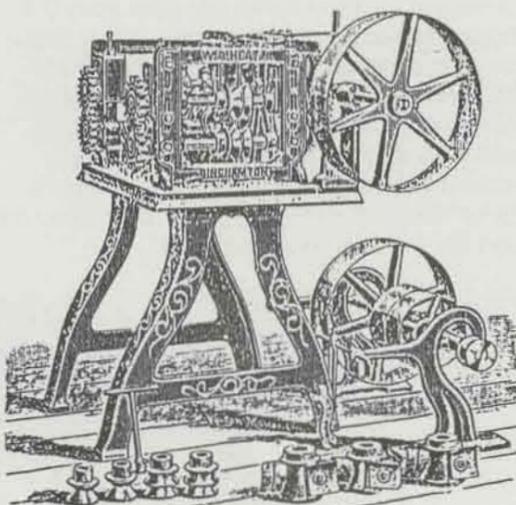
Dowel Machine Installed

In August of 1901, D.J. Hanford & Sons received the following letter from R.K. Teller of Unadilla, dealer in "Coal, Lime, Cement, Brick, Plaster, Etc.":

Gentlemen,
I have a doweling machine and heads for several size rods that I would like to sell. It cost \$125 when new. Will sell for \$35.
Truly Yours,
R.K.Teller

Less than a month later, in response to the Hanfords' request for additional information, Mr. Teller wrote another letter providing detailed specifications, adding "... it is all iron frame and will do good work in the hands of an intelligent man".

Horace and Will waited almost a year before buying the machine in 1902. Museum records do not indicate exactly when the machine was delivered, but on September 19, 1902, they wrote to the W.A. Heath Machinery Co., manufacturer of woodworking machinery in Lestershire, NY (now Johnson City), to order new cutter heads, knives, and springs for their recently purchased "second-hand rod machine made by W.A. Heath." Payment for these parts, totalling \$3.50, was made by check on Nov. 9, 1902 and duly received by the Heath Co. on Dec. 2, 1902. Then on Dec. 12, 1902 the Hanfords sent Mr. Teller a check in the amount of \$20, \$15 less than the original asking price. It is unclear if this was a final payment or payment in full.



Over the winter, this machine was reinstalled in the mill, exactly where it stood when the Hanfords were using it to produce broom and mop handles. It has cutter heads for dowel diameters from 3/8" to 7/8". We'll be demonstrating our "new" rod machine on a regular basis, producing a variety of diameters and lengths. If you're in the market for a new broom or mop handle or maybe curtain rods, we may have just what you are looking for in our gift shop this year. Best of all, you might even see them being made.



Staff Notes

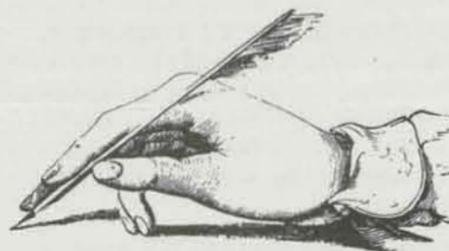
A number of staff changes have taken place over 1989's spring months.

March 31st was Curator Mary S. Dixon's last day of work. She has moved to Concord, New Hampshire to teach at a school for autistic children.

Replacing her is Caroline Meek from Michigan, a recent graduate of the University of Toronto's Museum Studies Program. Caroline holds a Master's Degree and has worked at the Michigan State University Museum, Fort Mackinac, and the Henry Ford Museum & Greenfield Village. She started March 27th.

John Staicer is on leave to finish his Master's Degree at the Cooperstown Graduate Program. Pieter Roos and Peter Zopes have been filling in for John until his return in May.

With opening day upon us we are looking forward to the return of our summer staff, including Pete Svegl, Nancy Baldwin, Ken Craig, Mike and Peg Halpin, and Kathy Larkin.



Welcome Donation

Hanford Mills Museum welcomes the gift of a Craftsman 10" radial arm saw donated recently by Richard McVinney, one of our long time volunteers. This saw will be used in our maintenance and exhibit programs. It will be especially useful in the construction of our new orientation exhibit introducing the Mill and East Meredith to our visitors. This exhibit will open in September, with a members' preview on September 21st.

Remember



May 1st is the start of our new membership year. If you are not a member, or if your membership has lapsed, please check the category of your choice and join the **FRIENDS OF HANFORD MILLS** today:

— Student	\$ 5.00
— Individual	\$10.00
— Joint (2 person)	\$15.00
— Family	\$20.00

Memberships run from May 1st to the next May 1st. Please make check payable to Hanford Mills Museum and mail to: Hanford Mills Museum, P.O. Box 99, East Meredith, New York 13757.



The Gristmill

Frozen ground at the beginning of the year allowed us to move a French burrstone into the gristmill. The stone is similar to the first type of grinding stone used by D.J. Hanford when he finished building the gristmill in 1869.

The Museum now demonstrates a steel plate attrition mill. The Hanfords installed the first attrition mill in 1898 and then replaced it with the present one in 1912. Horace Hanford considered these new attrition mills to be an improvement over the older method of milling with stones.

Now the 19th century grinding stone can be compared with the more modern metal burr plates used in the attrition mill.



D.J. Hanford's Variety in Business

By Mary S. Dixon

Editor's Note: One of the most interesting challenges of the history of Hanford Mills is to discover how the site and business changed through time. Mary Dixon has searched our historic document files to record what D.J. Hanford was making and importing for retail sale between 1860 and 1899. It is clear from Mary's article that Mr. Hanford understood the benefits of diversification.

When D.J. Hanford purchased a sawmill, pond, and wooded lot in 1860 in the village of East Meredith, New York, he began his business sawing logs and lumber for local residents. At that time, the majority of village residents were farmers. The needs of the community centered around building materials, firewood, and parts for horse-drawn farming and transportation vehicles. D.J. met the needs of his neighbors by manufacturing a variety of basic wood products including boards, sled crooks, raves, beams, shoes, planks for stone boats, cord wood, leaches, rafters, siding, scantling, sheeting boards, and frames.

Between 1864 and 1870, D.J. began to expand his product line to also include lath, shingles, battens, fence pickets and boards, sled and bob tongues, boxes, joists, studs, runners and wagon reaches, eave molding, axe helves, window sills, rails, clothes and drying racks, and sawdust. One special order during this period were the shelves for L.O. Hanford's store, a dry goods and grocery store in town. Other services were provided including gumming and filing saws, and mending wagons for local residents.

In January of 1869, D.J. began operation of his gristmill, grinding and mixing custom orders, and selling a variety of feed and flour that included buckwheat, oats, corn and rye. Later that year in May, he added planed lumber to the list of wood products and services sold.

The period of 1871 to 1878 saw several more important additions to D.J.'s business enterprise. He began retailing hardware supplies such as nails, sawing tools and oil. He also began cutting tub covers and bottoms, his first mass produced and regionally distributed item, which soon became a major part of his business. Other manufactured wood products and services included varnishing wagons, planing panels, and making stanchions. The sale of feed and flour now included brand names such as Snow Drop, Oriental, Golden Sheaf, Silver Star, and White Rock.

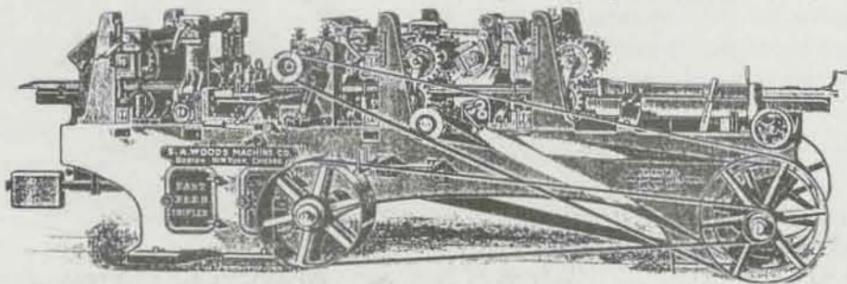


In 1892, the sale of agricultural machinery and implements increased to become a larger portion of the business. In this same year, D.J. began production of butter boxes, crates, flats, and calf crates for the dairy firm of Ayer and McKinney. This box business grew to eventually overtake the tub cover business after the advent of the railroad. The hardware supply section of his business expanded to include a large variety of implement parts for repairs, saw and file sets, and sheathing paper.

The 1879 to 1885 period saw the addition of paint as a major retail product, although the only colors listed were red and gray. No new products appeared until 1886 to 1888, at which time fertilizer became a larger part of the business. Retail goods expanded to include files, varnish, axle compound, belt hooks, various types of saws, and their first line of farm machinery such as rakes and mowing machines. Cloth boards and box boards were produced in large quantities for Smith and Penfield in Delhi, which later became the Delhi Woolen Mills. This company purchased cloth and box boards from D.J. Hanford through 1893.

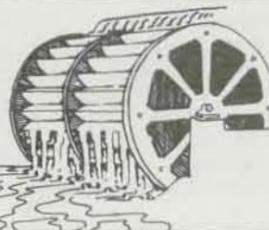
The period between 1893 and 1896 saw a continued growth in hardware supply items: butter workers, separators, cow medicines, salt, bull rings, steel roofing, wire hangers, and bicycle parts. Fertilizers included steamed bone, oyster shells, raw bone, and potato phosphate. Building parts became more refined to include moldings, flooring, and ceiling materials.

After 1896, D.J. suffered from increasingly poor health, and the management of his business was passed on to his sons Horace and Will. The business name changed from D.J. Hanford to D.J. Hanford and Sons, a name which would remain even after D.J.'s death in 1899. Horace and Will continued the practices of their father, adding products, goods and services as the needs and means arose. D.J. had set the stage with his attention to detail, flexibility, and business acumen for the Mill to continue to grow, prosper, and add variety.



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