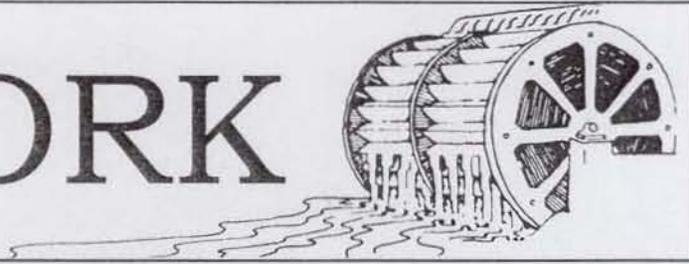


# MILLWORK



January, 1996

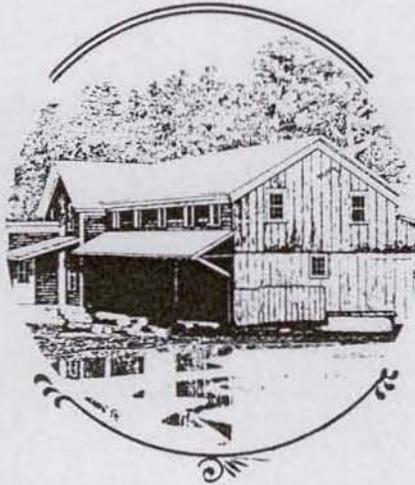
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Vol. 10 - No. 1

## What's News?

### **Hanford Mills 150th Anniversary ...**

In 1846, the first part of the mill was built by Jonathan Parris, and it has been a story of change since that year. Now, 150 years later, we see the growth and change of a small community and the milling industry within its borders. This year, in 1996, we are celebrating the 150th anniversary of Hanford Mills in various ways. To memorialize the anniversary, we have printed newly designed membership cards. When you send in your dues this year, you will receive one of these new cards with our waterwheel logo in the background, your name, membership number and validation dates.



Rather than have one big celebration, we are adding extra features to all of our regular special events. The Ice Harvest will feature a professional iceharvester, an ice sculpture, more teams

*Con't. on page 6*

### **A Gift from Senator Moynihan and Chrysler...**

On November 1, 1995, Director Jane Shepherd flew to Washington, DC. to receive a gift from Senator Patrick Moynihan. The Senator recently won a Chrysler mini-van at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC. Since he is not allowed to keep such gifts, the senator chose to donate the van to Hanford Mills Museum. The Chrysler Company flew Jane to Washington to receive the keys to the van.

The staff at the museum will use the new van to travel to museum conferences, to visit local craft shows, to take museum exhibits and programs on the road, and to make other necessary trips. This will save using staff members' vehicles for museum business. The staff at Hanford Mills Museum would like to thank Senator Moynihan for remembering the museum with his gift.



## CHRYSLER CORPORATION

## Museum People

**In Memory of...** Hanford Mills Museum is sad to announce the death this last summer of Dr. Frank Cyr. While Dr. Cyr worked many years in the education field, he was best known as the "Father of the Yellow School Bus" - making school bus transportation safer.

Dr. Cyr was connected to Hanford Mills Museum almost from its very beginning. He helped organize the non-profit group that purchased the mill from first museum owner, Ken Kelso. He went on to become an active board member, and continued to keep in touch after he retired. Dr. Frank Cyr will be missed by many people.

**Staff Notes ...** This Fall, maintenance man, Roy Cotten, experienced a car accident. Mill Foreman, Robert Grassi was hurt in another accident (see his story, p.10). Both men are back to work as of the beginning of January. On a happier note, curator Caroline Meek was married in October, 1995 to John de Marrais. As you can see, she is now using her married name.

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## What's News?

### **Museum Awarded**

**IMS Grant ...** This Fall, Hanford Mills Museum was awarded a \$35,000 General Operating Support grant by the Institute of Museum Services (IMS). There were 1,070 applications and 27 awards were made totaling \$21,958,070.

Support of this nature is much needed and greatly appreciated at Hanford Mills Museum. We will be using it for daily operations of the museum, education programs, and milling projects. This year's drought and poor weather conditions have greatly affected the museums General Fund making this a very needed and useful award.

Museums receiving General Operating Support grants have demonstrated outstanding

performance in all areas of museum operations. To apply, each institution must perform a complete self-evaluation involving every aspect of their operation from collections care and maintenance to educational programs and exhibitions. Applications are evaluated by peer reviewers, professionals in the museum field with an average of 13 years experience.

General Operating Support is the Institute of Museum Service's top priority program with 81% of programs funds. Operating support is continually cited as the most difficult type of funding for museums to raise. General Operating Support grants are nationally recognized achievements of excellence that help recipients to find private funds. 87% of GOS

grantees report that they use their grants for educational activities.

Diane F. Frankel, Director of the Institute of Museum Services, commented, "Since 1978, IMS General Operating Support has taken a substantial role in encouraging the best in museum practice. The grant provides national recognition for museum that have the highest approval of their peers. It is a stamp of achievement that sparks vital public-private partnerships. Museums will use these awards to do what they do best: educate, fascinate, inspire, illuminate, inform, enhance, and enrich the lives of hundreds of thousands of visitors each year."



### **A Living Classroom is**

**Donated ...** On April 27, 1996, during our annual Arbor Day Celebration, 21 trees will be dedicated in the name of John G. Gertsch, a Congressional Medal of Honor recipient. The trees originate from seeds collected at sites where the events of American history occurred or from trees that stand at the homes of famous citizens. The tree-planting project is called a Living Classroom - an educational resource where trees from historic homes and sites will teach history, environmentalism and patriotism to generations of students. The \$1,500 package of trees and materials for teachers and students, were provided by an anonymous donor through the American Forests organization. Included in our tree donation are Redbuds associated with Clara Barton, the first Delicious Apple, Cherry Trees from Washington, DC, Red Maples from George



Washington's Mt. Vernon and Charles A. Lindbergh, White Oaks associated with Abraham Lincoln, Chestnut Oaks associated with Franklin D. Roosevelt, Silver Maples from the Civil War battleground of Shiloh, and White Birches from Walden Pond Woods.

Congressional Medal of Honor recipient John G. Gertsch will be memorialized by the dedication ceremony at Hanford Mills Museum. The Congressional Medal of Honor is the nation's highest award for military valor "above and beyond the call of duty." Established by Congress in 1862, the Medal of Honor has been awarded to only

3,401 persons since its inception. Staff Sergeant John G. Gertsch was cited for his heroic deeds while serving in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War. While serving as a platoon leader, S/Sgt. Gertsch was able to save many lives, and ultimately lost his own.

Across the nation, Medal of Honor recipients will be participating in similar events at military installations, schools and community areas. Over the next five years, the 3,400 men and 1 woman who have earned the Medal of Honor will be ultimately memorialized with a Living Classroom dedicated to each. This national program was initiated on Arbor Day, 1994 when the National Living Classroom was planted and dedicated at Arlington National Cemetery. There, 50 trees - one for each state - stand in tribute to the states' Medal of Honor recipients. Hanford Mills Museum is proud to be the home of one of these Living Classrooms.



# "After the Interlude of Farms" - The Forests of New York State

By Henry Kernan

*Editor's Note: Henry Kernan is an independent forest consultant. He has worked in the United States and many other countries, and has also been a visiting Professor of International Forestry at Syracuse University. Mr. Kernan maintains his own forest land near his home in South Worcester, NY.*

Two centuries ago, the forests of Delaware and Otsego counties were rapidly giving way to fields for corn and cattle. They have since come back from the hill tops and swamps to which horse-drawn, hand-tooled farming once confined them. They now dominate the landscape again, nearly as they had since the retreat of the Wisconsin glacier more than ten thousand years ago. Nevertheless, the interlude of field and farm has left indelible marks on the landscape and within the forest itself. Woodlands in turn have a profound influence upon how we live our lives. More knowledge about them will help us to appreciate and enhance their values.

Forests exist as highly complex, interlocking systems of living and non-living components. They are also dynamic, changing over time and space, but at rates to which the human mind conforms only with difficulty. To comprehend, we are obliged to organize and classify. Here we are among the northern hardwoods, the principal forest type of New England and New York. On the north this type gives way to the spruce and fir of northern New England and Canada. On the south, we find oak and hickories.

The principal tree species of the northern hardwood forest type are birches, maples, beech and hemlock. We are thus in the forest of maple sugar and dazzling autumn foliage. Northern hardwoods create a deep, dense forest because they germinate and survive in the shade. Without drastic disturbance, these species eventually take over most forest land within the region. Birch is less tolerant than the others of

shade above and duff on the forest floor. Nevertheless birch survives with the others because seedlings can grow upon the punkie logs and upturned roots so typical of the deep woods.

Why then do not stands of northern hardwoods replace the mixtures of tree species we see so commonly around us?

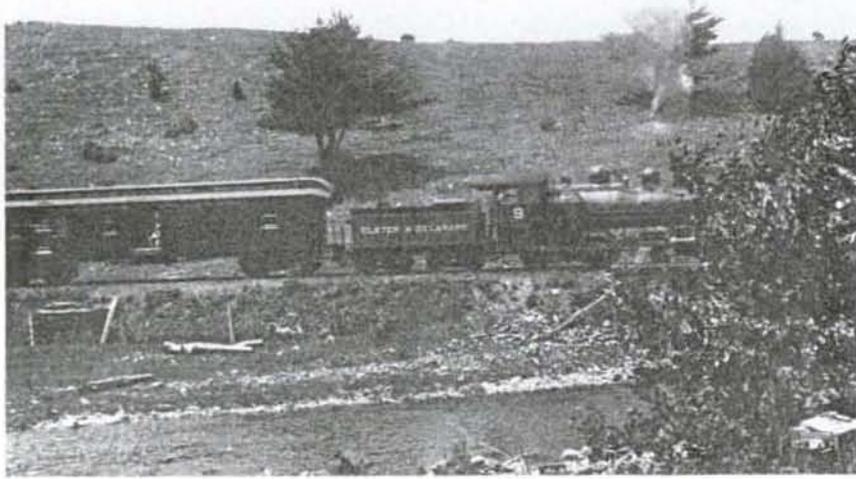
Disturbances in all degrees from minor to drastic shape the composition of all forests. Here and in the tropics the principal agent is wind. Elsewhere the agent may be fire, or drought, or floods, or epidemics of insects or pathogens. Hurricanes do in most northern hardwoods long before they complete the life span which their physiology would allow.

After disturbance they lose dominance to a group of light-seeded, light-loving species, fast growing, and several of which are far more valuable for commercial use. Among this group are ash, black cherry, red maple, basswood and white pine. They also grow among the northern hardwoods, but always with their crowns in full sunlight.

Such species do add variety, beauty, value and habitat favorable to wildlife. Hence measures to increase and prolong their presence. Because their seedlings do best in full sunlight and mineral soil, those measures include heavy cutting.

Another aspect of human influence upon forest land is the species mix that appears on land no longer cultivated for crops or pasture. The species are most often light-loving and fast growing, capable of compet-

*Con't. on page 4*



*This picture, taken about 1910 shows the hillside behind the mill. That same bare hill is covered with a forest today.*

*Forests - con't. from page 3*  
ing with grasses and shrubs. They serve to suppress such competitors and prepare the ground for forest trees. Among the pioneer species are poplar, pin cherry, hawthorn and shadblow.

Although the single trees grow rapidly, the change from old field to forest requires many years. Hence the preference for plantations of conifers such as red pine, Scotch pine and spruce. In the course of time native hardwoods are almost certain to replace them.

Other agents of drastic change are foreign insects and pathogens to which our native trees have distress-

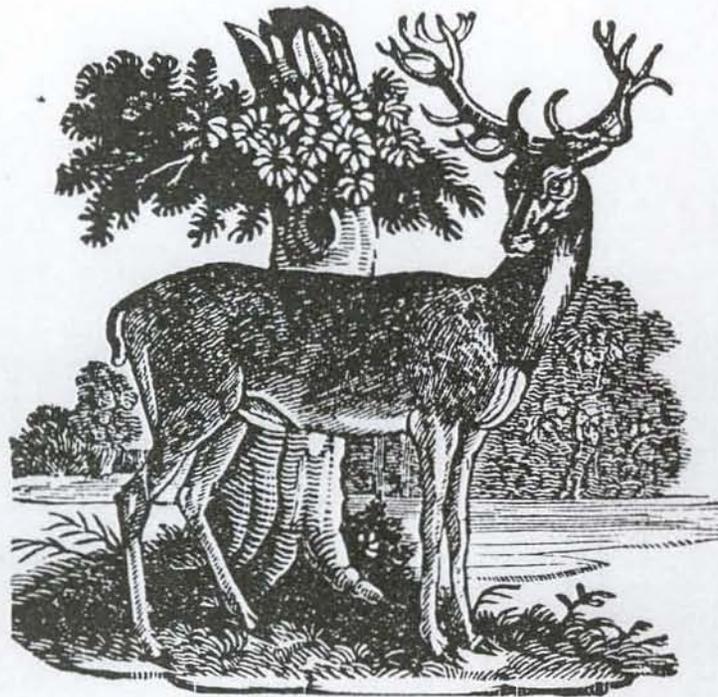
ingly low resistance. Several of the most virulent are the chestnut blight, the gypsy moth,

most drastic living influence upon the forest is the white-tail deer. The numbers and food

preferences of this graceful, appealing and predatory creature are shaping the composition and structure of our forest. Human activities are, to some extent, subject to control. Those of deer are not.

Otsego and Delaware counties have between them one million acres of forest land, 62% of their area and close to the state average. Forests are thus the most extensive form of land

use once again, after the interlude of farms.



the white pine blister rust and the Dutch elm disease.

Nevertheless probably the

## Learning About Living History

By Mark Watson

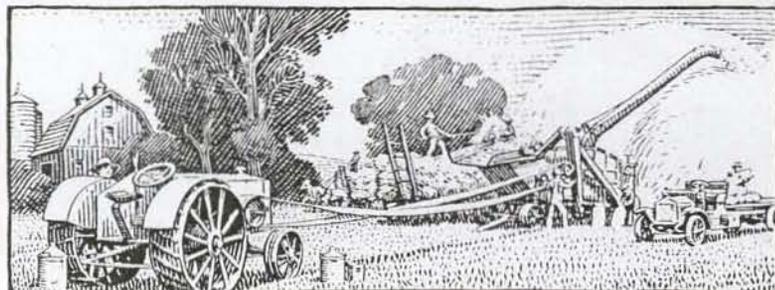
Curator Caroline de Marrais and educator Mark Watson went to the annual national conference of the Association For Living Historical Farms and Agricultural Museums (ALHFAM) held in June, 1995 in Hiram, Ohio. This 24th annual meeting, entitled "History: Something We Do!" was attended by several hundred people from the United States, Canada and Great Britain.

ALHFAM was founded to be an organization where members could share ideas and problems associated with living history sites, museums and presentations. Every year, the conference offers many workshops and learning sessions. Subjects discussed this year at

ALHFAM include livestock, machinery, foodways, reproduction of historical objects, seeds and plants, historic clothing, education, organizational partnerships and the use of computers for museums. In addition to the conference headquarters at Hiram College, tours and classes were also held at a number of nearby locations including Century Village in

Burton, Hale Farm and Village in Bath, and Lake Farmpark in Kirtland.

The strength of ALHFAM's conference is that many of the lessons taught there can be used at museums of all kinds. Sharing ideas and challenges, as well as meeting museum workers, were the most fulfilling aspects of attending the national meeting.



# Zachariah Bundy - "All He was Good for was to Sell Booze"

by Caroline de Marrais

Hanford Mills had hundreds of employees throughout its 85 years in Hanford family hands, but we know little about the work and lives of these employees. Occasionally, a worker will have a strange or interesting legend attached to his name that causes us to want to know more about him. Such a man is Zachariah Bundy.

What are the legends surrounding Zachariah Bundy's name? According to Elma Mitchell's History of East Meredith, volume 1, Zachariah Bundy lost one of his legs "from a fever sore or something similar." They buried the amputated appendage in the East Meredith cemetery. As the story goes, Zachariah had problems with cramps in his missing leg. He was told that if they dug up his amputated leg and straightened it, his problem would be solved. The cure supposedly work. Later, Zachariah worked for D.J. Hanford in his new mill. Disaster struck again. According to an article written by R.M. Stinson in 1922 reminiscing about the past for the Delaware Dairyman newspaper, "Zack Bundy ... stuck his hand up against a revolving circular saw, which left him with only one good arm, and as he was also shy a leg, about all he was good for was to sell booze, at least that was the way the excise board of the town of Meredith looked at it, so they gave him a hotel license."

So, what are the facts behind

Zachariah Bundy's life? He was born in 1825, according to census records. His parents may have been Bennet and Elizabeth Bundy. If this is the



This map from an 1869 Atlas of Delaware County shows the location of Zachariah Bundy's tavern. Note that the mapper accidentally switched his initials with Levi O. Hanford.

case, Zachariah had at least one younger sister named Lucy, and an older brother, Ebenezer, and a younger brother, James. His father was a farmer in Delhi, New York (originally from Connecticut), while his mother came from Stamford, New York. Nothing is known about his early life.

Zachariah probably came to the East Meredith area about the time he married a woman named Rebecca around 1850. They settled on a piece of land at the south end of Briar Street (later East Meredith). Bennet was already living nearby on Sheehan Road. On November 18, 1852, Zachariah sold his land to Amos Barber. It appears he took his wife and first daughter, Augusta (born in 1851) and left the area. We don't know where they went, but they came back three months before the

state census was taken in June of 1855. While they were gone, though, another daughter, named Adelia, was born. During the 1855 census year,

Zachariah was living on Bennet's land. Bennet told the census taker he was a farmer with 55 acres, while Zachariah said he was a carpenter. In that same year Zachariah became a trustee of the East Meredith Freewill Baptist Church.

By 1860, both Zachariah and Bennet moved to the town of Davenport north of East Meredith. Another daughter, Leucina was born in 1857 and a son, William, in 1860. Zachariah did not own land and still worked as a carpenter.

Then in 1862, Zachariah's wife died at the age of 33. She was buried in the East Meredith cemetery. An undated stone for an unnamed child of the Bundy's may be William's grave, since he appears only in the 1860 census.

By 1867, Zachariah was back in the town of Meredith. On December 7, 1867 he bought land at the north end of East Meredith for \$300. Since the deed listed him as a resident of the town of Meredith he was probably living in the area again before he bought land there. The next year, on November 2, 1868, he bought more property adjoining his original purchase for an additional \$675. The total measured about three quarters of an acre. Around this time, Zachariah married his second wife, Jane, 13 years

Con't. on page 6

*Bundy, con't. from page 5*  
his junior. They had a son, James, in 1868.

In all this information there is very little to support the story about Zachariah's leg. Though his first wife is buried in the East Meredith cemetery, there is no grave marked for his leg. And only the fact that Zachariah called himself a carpenter and an article written some 60 years after the fact, supports the idea that he worked at Hanford's mill. But in 1869, Zachariah Bundy did apply for a tavern license with a petition signed by 30 male residents of the town of Meredith. Zachariah's tavern may have been the only one in East Meredith history. Ten years later, in 1879, many residents of the village formed a Temperance Lodge, which may explain the lack of liquor in East Meredith. By 1870, Zachariah and his wife, Jane, had their second son, whom they named Andrew B.

In April of 1871, the Bundy's gave up trying to run a tavern in East Meredith, and sold it to Marvin Simmons for \$1500. In return, they purchased Mr. Simmons' hotel in Davenport Center (three miles north) for \$3000. They mortgaged the

land for the difference in price between the two properties. The next year their first daughter, Susan, was born.

Life was quiet for about three years until disaster struck in 1875 with another run of bad luck. In that year, Zachariah told the state census taker that he was a hotel keeper. Then his daughter Leucina, from his first marriage, died at the age of 18. She was buried next to her mother in East Meredith. Next, their daughter Susan died in November at the age of three. There is no information about what either daughter died of - they may have died about the same time (as there is no month listed on Leucina's stone).

The Bundy's were also having financial problems. In 1875, a special session of the Supreme Court in Delaware County recorded that their property could be foreclosed on if their debts were not paid. On February 12, 1876, Zachariah's land was sold by auction at the "front door of Zachariah Bundy's Hotel at Davenport Center" for \$1000. Then on April 4, their son Andrew died at the age of five. Did all three children die of the same illness? Were the Bundy's in financial trouble

because of medical bills? For now, the historical records are silent.

By the 1880 census, Zachariah was still living in the Davenport area with his wife and only surviving son, James. Unfortunately, the county's copy of this census does not record occupations, so we do not know what Zachariah was doing for a living. Tax records tell us the county paid him \$4 for being the inspector of the first election district in the town of Davenport in 1882. This may indicate that although Zachariah had lost his hotel, he did not lose his standing in the community. Zachariah died on April 15, 1886 at the age of 60. Though Davenport cemetery records put his age at 100, the census consistently shows his birth date as 1825. His wife, Jane, died in 1909 at the age of 71.

Did Zachariah really cut off a hand in Hanford Mills? We may never know for sure, but it is possible. Something caused the carpenter to become a tavern and hotel keeper. His story also serves to remind us how dangerous mill work was and still is today. Because of human nature, we always need dramatic reminders like Zachariah Bundy.



*150 Years, con't. from page 1*  
of draft horses and a snowman building contest. We will be having a Sunday afternoon concert in July featuring the Little Delaware Chamber Players with guest artist Katie Boardman. We plan to have more craftsmen and artists participate in the annual Heritage Craftsmen Weekend and the Gathering of the Artisans. Each event is being developed to be more enjoyable, educational, and rewarding.



Each event will have something to help you enjoy our 150th anniversary.

The Board of Trustees has also asked that we have a Members Gathering in the summer, to celebrate the 150th anniversary and to show our appreciation for all of you. Be watching for more details on this early summer party. You're gonna love it!

A commemorative Christmas decoration is being cast and will be on sale opening day in the



gift shop. This will be a metal medallion with a line drawing of the mill surrounded by a cast holly wreath and bow. These will sell for \$8.00 or \$10.00 by mail.

We want to encourage you to take part in the 150th anniversary of Hanford Mills by joining us for a visit, attending a special event, participating as a volunteer, or just giving us a call. Come and enjoy our year long birthday party!



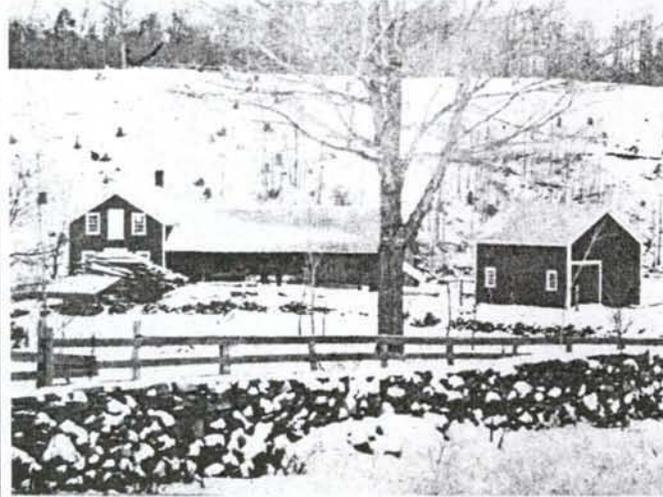
# Same Past - New Understandings

By Caroline de Marrais

While the past never changes, our perception of what happened is constantly changing as new research is done. In the past, Millwork has had a number of articles about different aspects of Hanford Mills history. Now that we have learned many new things about Hanford Mills, we should put it together and retell the history of the mill. We understand what happened at Hanford Mills a little bit differently than we used to.

The story of the mill starts before anyone ever put axe to tree to build it. The land was known as the Goldsborough Banyar Patent - hundreds of acres awarded to Mr. Banyar in 1770. In 1803, the owners of the patent decided to find out exactly what they owned and they hired a surveyor. From that survey comes the first mention of the lot that would later provide land for the Hanfords' mill as well as half the village of East Meredith: Eastern half of Lot 54, 108 acres "A midling good Farm - watered by the Kortright Creek & Two other Streams - on which, Perhaps a Mill Seat - Beech, Birch, Maple & Hemlock Timber."

After that survey, people began to buy land in the Patent and came to settle in the Kortright Creek valley. They built log cabins and started farms and schools. In the late 1830s they began to build businesses and homes of sawn lumber. According to an old history of Delaware County, when the first frame house was built "Phillip Garrison went to the top of the building and proposed the toast: 'And since it goes up so nice and complete, we'll name it the flower of Brier Street.'" Brier Street residents probably bought their lumber in Davenport



*This photograph was probably taken a few years after D.J. Hanford added the gristmill in the winter of 1868/69. It is the oldest photograph of the mill known to exist.*

Center, three miles north on a major road. Brier Street was basically in the "middle of nowhere."

As more people settled in Brier Street, local laborer, Jonathan B. Parris, must have seen a need for a closer sawmill. At 3 miles an hour, a horse drawn wagon trip for lumber in Davenport Center would have taken about two hours on the road - not counting the loading and unloading time. Mr. Parris bought land in 1846 and built a small, seasonal, up-and-down sawmill and a pond on Kortright Creek. This mill would later become Hanford Mills. The mill most likely ran only in the spring, when high water produced enough power to saw rough lumber. It may also have run in the fall, when late rains brought high water. The sawmill was not a money maker. Jonathan Parris owned it until 1851 (about six years), when he sold it to a relative, Truman Parris, who sold it again in 1853. It was then sold to William N. Barber, who tried hard to make it a paying business. Mr. Barber took out mortgage after mortgage, adding timber land and another saw to the mill business. He lost it all in 1858 when his land was

foreclosed on and Merritt S. Roberts bought the mill. Mr. Roberts had no real interest in operating the mill himself. He sold it to Ephraim Douglas and held the mortgage. Ephraim Douglas owned the mill until 1860. An early mill daybook seems to indicate that he hired a young man named David Josiah Hanford to operate the mill for him. In 1860, D.J. Hanford bought the mill from his former employer.

D.J. Hanford must have had a vision that no one else saw. He didn't rely on the mill to provide him with a living. He also bought a farm when he bought the mill. He improved this farm through the Civil War years and did quite well as farm prices rose to war time highs. Even after the war, D.J. improved his farm and left the mill to provide a little extra income in the spring and fall. Finally, in 1868 (the year East Meredith received its first post office and its present name), D.J. Hanford began his mill improvements. He hired local men to build an addition to his mill. A Fly Creek, NY man installed a new gristmill and turbine to grind animal feed and local buckwheat flour. D.J. Hanford also

*Con't. on page 8*

*Past - con't. from page 7*

added a planer to his sawmill. With finished lumber, he could charge higher prices for his product. By 1869, D.J. began to operate his mill on more days throughout the whole year.

Once D.J. got the ball rolling, he kept it going. In 1876, he added a butter tub head cutter. Perhaps a local cooper talked him into buying the machinery for this business or maybe he saw the opportunity for profit as he watched a cooper shape butter tub heads by hand.

Whatever the motivation, the idea worked and D.J. continued to add tub heading machinery, producing about 40,000 heads in a peak production year. Other wood-working machines were added to produce a number of items including cow stanchions, fence posts, siding, building lumber, wagon parts, etc. In 1881, D.J. installed his first steam

engine and perhaps replaced his slow up-and-down saw with a modern circular sawmill. With the steam engine, Hanford Mills could truly be a year round operational mill.

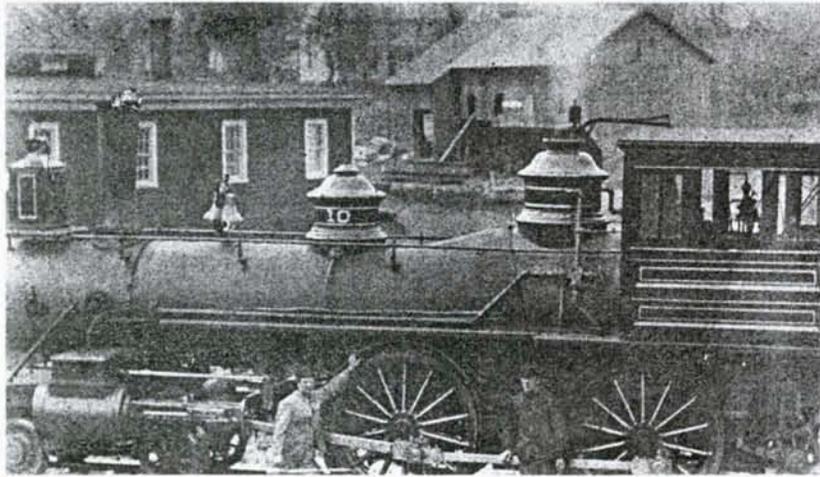
Through the 1880s, D.J. Hanford continued to make improvements and at least one of his sons, Horace, joined the business. Horace Hanford seemed to bring with him a sense of how business records should be kept and maintained. Records that started out as a single "daybook," became daybooks, cash records, check books, letters to and from the Hanfords, receipts, train shipping records and employee time

records. In 1892, the Hanfords added a room to the mill specifically for an office. D.J. continued to expand, adding milk crates to his product list and a larger, more powerful steam engine in 1895. What had started out as a small, rectangular building was now a sprawling mill manufactory with many rooms. The Hanfords also began to handle other businesses on site including hardware and agricultural equipment sales. If the Hanfords couldn't make it for you, you could order it from one of their many catalogs. Then at the age of 63, in 1897,

style stones. They also added an electricity generation plant to light their mill, and, eventually, East Meredith.

The first train finally rumbled behind the mill in July of 1900. Horace must have seen the advantages of having a railroad in his backyard just as his father had twenty years ago (when D.J. sold the right-of-way to the railroad). The Hanford's could get their products to a wider state market, maybe even a national market. They bought machines for making broom and tool handles, which they sold to companies in New York

City, Ohio and New Hampshire. Unfortunately, what Horace didn't see was that his mill was not big enough to compete with large factories. The same trains that brought his handles to larger markets also brought cheaply made products to sell in East Meredith. He may not have seen it at first, but Horace was



*This photograph c.1900, shows an Ulster and Delaware Railroad engine stopped behind the mill. The mill building is on the left and the lumber shed is in the background on the right.*

D.J. Hanford was struck with "paralysis," what we believe today was a stroke. He could no longer participate in the running of his business, though he maintained ownership until his death in 1899.

Horace Hanford took over running the business with the help of his older brother, Herbert Willis. Will (or Bill) had the machine and animal sense, while Horace had the business sense. Together they continued their father's tradition of improving the business. In 1898, they remodeled the gristmill and put in a new steel plate attrition mill that could grind more grain faster than the old

quick to adjust. The handle business did not work - he shut it down. Instead, he became a retailer of the items that the railroad was bringing. The Hanfords built warehouses along the railroad, and began to sell hardware, coal, gasoline engines, more agricultural equipment and even millwork that could be made cheaper in a larger factory than in their own mill.

With their retail businesses, a steady business in milk crates (tub cover sales dropped off with the advent of refrigerated railroad milk cars), the Hanfords continued work using

*Con't. on page 9*

*Past - con't from page 8*

both old-fashioned and modern means of power. In 1910, they added a gasoline engine to power their generator. Later, in 1926, they replaced their old water turbines with an overshot water wheel - the Hanfords still made use of water power whenever they could. In 1929, Will Hanford died, but Horace continued the business. At the end of World War II, in 1945, Horace Hanford was 75 years old. He finally decided to retire, and sold the business to three employee brothers - Frank, Mike and Joe Pizza. He sold them a mill that was doing less sawing and grinding, but had a solid business of retail and feed sales.

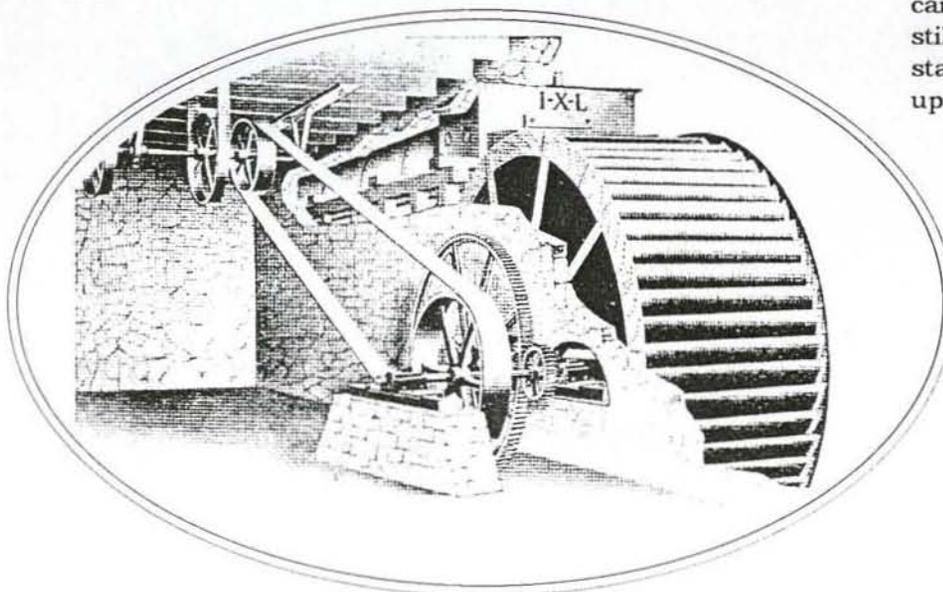
The Pizzas maintained the mill and ran the feed and hardware business for another twenty years. In 1956, Frank sold his interest in the mill to his other two brothers. Then in 1961, they took one of the mill warehouses, used for the storage of feed, and converted it with elevators to a feed mill. This was probably an attempt to shore up a declining business. By the 1960s, the railroad was failing. Trucks were replacing trains as a way of moving products, and because of the automobile, retail sales were becoming centralized in larger

urban centers. Large feed and lumber companies in Delhi and Oneonta were centers of train and truck shipping. They could offer lower prices than the Pizzas. The Pizzas auctioned off their mill machinery on August 8, 1965, and sold the mill, feed mill and horse barn to West-Nesbitt (a feed company). They kept the hardware store and rented the mill. Mike Pizza then sold his interest in the business to the last brother, Joe, in 1966. When Joe Pizza died in 1967, his heirs sold the last part of the business, the hardware store. It looked as if the mill in East Meredith was doomed.

Ken Kelso, a local farmer, watched the demise of the village. He hated to see East Meredith's history demolished with its businesses and buildings. When the Pizza auction started he began to buy things. The common machines, still useful in 1965 went for higher prices, but machines like a hand hole cutter, doweling machine or a tub cover cutter were useless. Ken Kelso bought them and other machines for almost pennies, including the water wheel (for \$45!). What was he supposed to do with all this old "junk?" West-Nesbitt was asking when he was going

to remove his water wheel from their property, and so instead of taking it out, Ken offered to buy the mill. After the Pizza closing in 1967, Ken Kelso made his own museum, and he let people visit what he had saved. Although the mill had changed hands, it was still in business, though the type of business had changed. The mill was accustomed to that - its business had always been changing and evolving to meet new needs.

Eventually, the museum became too big for Ken Kelso to handle alone. He interested others in Delaware County in the museum, including the late Dr. Frank Cyr. Together, a nonprofit corporation was formed and Hanford Mills Museum came into full being in 1973. Since then, Hanford Mills Museum has restored the Hanfords' water wheel, pond and power system; purchased other property related to the Hanfords; restored machinery to working order; planned many special events and workshops; and educated and entertained thousands of museum visitors - adults and children. Museum staff continues to research the history of the mill and the area, learning all we can to tell the story of Hanford Mills and East Meredith as accurately as we can. While the past may stand still, we hope that our understanding of its history will keep up with the times.



*In 1926, a Fitz water wheel, like the one pictured to the left, cost the Hanfords a little over \$1000. Forty years later, in 1965, it cost Ken Kelso \$45!*

# Projects from the Mill Foreman

By Robert Grassi

Last October, some of you might have heard I had an accident, breaking my foot. After several months of recovery, I returned to work the first of the year. Many thanks to Bill Brindle for seeing to all the business of the mill in my absence, including closing it up for winter.

One of the first orders of business upon my return was the reconstruction of our sawmill skylight. The wood in the original light was quite rotten and in danger of not making it through another season. The new light will be an exact duplicate of the original, including all the joinery and using the original glass. The only difference will be in the materials, cypress instead of white pine, copper instead of tin for the cap, in the hope these materials will outlive the original by quite a few years. Of course, when the reconstructed skylight is painted, you won't be able to tell the difference. If you remember, the woodshop skylight was replaced a few years back, and in its reconstruction cypress and copper were also used. I want to thank members Jim Krickler and Jean Whelan for their generous donation of cypress to construct the new light. We hope this reconstructed skylight will be complete and in place on the sawmill roof by early spring. The original light will be put into our artifact collection.

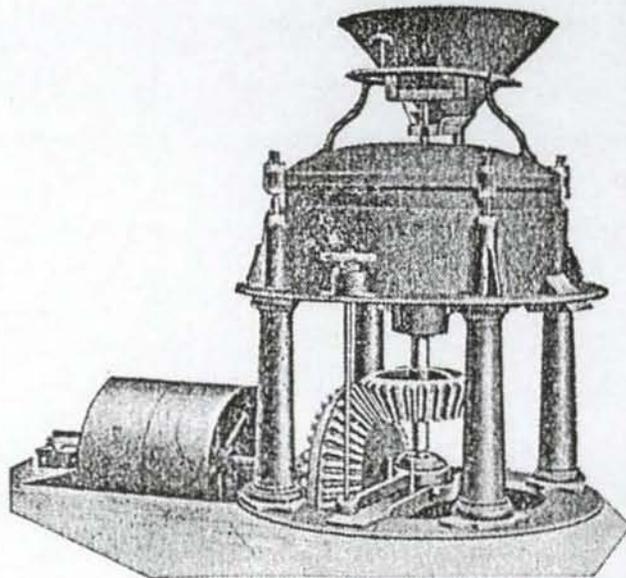
I have plans to operate the gristmill on a more regular basis this season (water permitting), instead of the one or two times a year as in the past. In order to achieve this, we are looking for any interested farmers wanting small amounts of feed ground. Please contact us. We can offer an exchange, if you supply the grain. We plan

to grind to order for demonstration purposes and return to you ground feed. We are in the process of reactivating one of the meal storage bins. This work includes repairs to the bin and associated meal spouts.

While I was inspecting the attic of the gristmill and deciding what repairs had to be made, I also made an interesting discovery. The mill once contained a short bolting/sifting reel for producing cracked corn. At some point, it was removed and perhaps relocated to the basement, where a similar (if not the same) reel is used now for cleaning grain. We have plans to restore the reel in the future.

Meanwhile, we are in the midst of ongoing research into the gristmill's past. We hope to learn more about what was actually custom ground here, compared to what the Hanfords bought and resold. We are also trying to find out how D.J. Hanford operated his gristmill from 1869 to 1898 (the pre-

attrition mill years), when millstones were used and the original drive system was quite different from what we have today. Through the research of curator, Caroline de Marrais, we know more about the initial construction of the gristmill in 1868/69, i.e. workmen, wages, materials and machinery used. For instance, D.J. Hanford purchased a "portable" 32 inch mill on December 8, 1868 from Hart & Munson of Utica, New York. It contained French buhr millstones and had an iron frame. In our collection we have a 24 inch "portable" mill, also with French buhr millstones and an iron frame. We are still working on obtaining more information on this particular mill. We plan to remove the 48 inch millstone, presently sitting on the floor of the gristmill, and replace it with the "portable" mill in our collection. This will help us better interpret D.J. Hanford's original grinding operation.



*This illustration shows a gristmill similar to the "portable" mill in the museum collection. While it may weigh nearly a ton, it is "portable" because you could move it anywhere, and as long as there was a power source to run it, you could grind grain.*

# Child's Play?

By Mark Watson

Besides our regular educational programs, Hanford Mills Museum has many events for kids scheduled this coming spring and summer. The museum's Second Annual Egg Hunt will be held on Saturday, April 6 from 11 am to 2 pm. Admission is free to all. We are hoping to have several hundred kids participate, and every one will go home a winner. Colorful plastic eggs, each with a surprise inside, will be hidden around the mill site. Also, special drawings for prizes will be held. As a bonus, tours of the mill are scheduled at noon and 1 pm.

The museum's official Opening Day this year is Saturday, April 27, which is also our Arbor Day Celebration. Arrangements are underway to have Smokey the Bear greet all visitors. Forester Henry Kernan of South Worcester is graciously donating a large number of white spruce trees and will be at the museum to present them to museum visitors. Mr. Kernan will also provide instructions for replanting.

All Delaware, Otsego, Schoharie and Broome County ninth graders are invited to the museum's Third Annual Youth Day, scheduled for Friday, May 10. This event is designed to give students a chance to learn about a variety of careers and hobbies from experts in many fields. Presenters will offer workshops on the museum grounds. This event is free to all students and includes a complimentary lunch!

Come to the museum Saturday, May 25 and be prepared to have some good, old-fashioned fun. Enjoy the same Parlor and Yard Games your grandparents did. A variety of fun activities will fill the day. We'll play memory and hiding games in

the Hanford house parlor and try "Duck, Duck, Goose," stilts and hoops out in the yard. These are games you can use anywhere - on rainy mornings or boring afternoons, so come learn to have fun the old-fashioned way.

As always, Independence Day at Hanford Mills promises to be exciting. Try your skills at walking on stilts or playing 19th century game "graces". Ice from the previous winter will help freeze the ice cream made by staff and volunteers. Watch as the large freezer turns milk and sugar into ice cream, using an antique gasoline engine for power! To top off the day's festivities, Teddy Roosevelt, always a favorite, portrayed by Paul Stillman, will address the crowd and talk personally with visitors. Bring your Teddy bear and pose for a photo together with the "original" Teddy. Plan on another rousing 4th of July at Hanford Mills Museum.

This year's Summer Apprentice Workshop day camp runs from Monday, July 22 through Friday, July 26. Each day, children will be actively engaged in fun and interesting projects relating to the Mill and its environment. If your children love history and like learning even when they aren't in school, this could be the day camp you are looking for. They will learn about the mill, farming and even old-fashioned chores, and of course, they'll have fun, too.

This is just a sample of what's in store for you this summer. We are planning even more special events. Look for them soon in your membership mailing. If you would like additional information on any of these special events, please call the museum weekdays from 9 am to 5 pm.



## Flying Saucers

by Hazel O'Dell

*Editor's Note: This poem comes from one of our members. The event took place during our Antique Engine Jamboree, on a windy day, as you may guess.*

I saw a flying saucer  
Just the other day.  
The sun had been shining  
But the skies were turning gray.

The chicken was delicious.  
The coffee hit the spot.  
None of us expected  
The treatment that we got.

My coffee cup went rolling.  
We moved as fast as we were able.  
My chicken sprouted wings  
And flew across the table.

My plate poured forth a stream  
Towards two young hapless chaps.  
Thank goodness for us all  
None ended in their laps.

The wind should learn some manners.  
It wasn't funny; still  
I always will remember  
The luncheon at the Mill.

# Briar Street Gift Shop

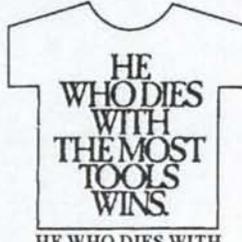
Are you looking for that special gift?  
Do you think you might find it at the Hanford Mills Museum Gift Shop,  
but can't wait until we open the museum in May?  
Don't dispare! We can help you.  
Just call the museum and set up a time to visit our Gift Shop.  
Or, if you know exactly what you want, we can do a mail order.

## TANTIQUE TOOLWEAR

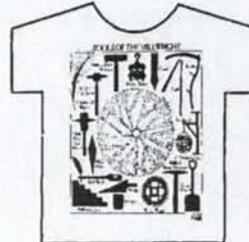
And Other T-Shirts



THERE'S NO TOOL  
LIKE...



HE WHO DIES WITH  
THE MOST...

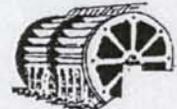


TOOLS OF THE  
MILLWRIGHT

We have:  
Books (about nature, local  
history, crafts, mills,  
agriculture, etc.)  
Mill-made Products (tool  
boxes, crates, benches, etc.)  
Historic Toys & Old Fashioned  
Candy (marbles, tops, jaw  
breakers, stick candy, etc.)  
Food Products (maple syrup,  
honey, pancake mixes, etc.)  
Crafts & Games

**Hanford Mills Museum**

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## MILLWORK



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