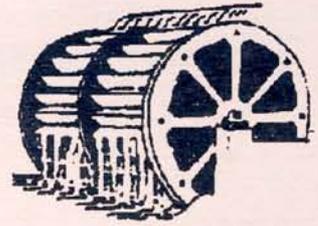


MILLWORK



Spring, 1998

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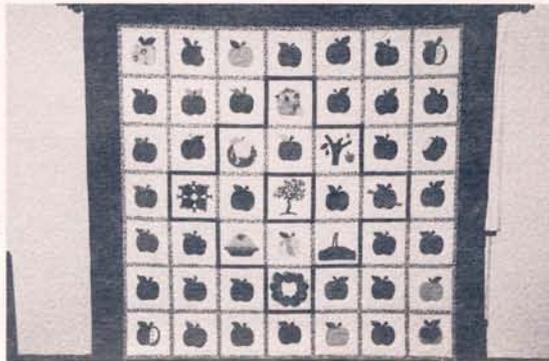
What's News?

A Reminder

This spring the special beauty of the mill will not only be outside, but inside. We have a beautiful hand crafted queen size quilt on display. It is covered with hand appliqued apples. Some on trees, in baskets, wreaths, and even in a pie, but the combination makes an exquisite heirloom that everyone will want to win.

The quilt was made by the Susquehanna Valley Quilters Guild and donated by them to the Hanford Mills Museum for use as a fund-raiser. The theme of apples was chosen to honor the memory of Richard Applebaugh who was a good friend and supporter of Hanford Mills. He and his wife, Peg, were very active in community affairs in Oneonta and had real concern for the history and natural beauty of our area.

The Apple Quilt will be raffled on October 10, 1998. The tickets are only \$1. You can purchase them at the Hanford Mills Gift Shop. The proceeds will go to the endowment, and the money raised will be matched dollar for dollar by the O'Connor Foundation. As we grow this endowment fund, we will be assured that Hanford Mills will be a part of the future. Please stop by and take a chance on the Apple Quilt - it is a chance where you can't possibly lose.



In Memoriam

Hanford Mills Museum would like to take this space to remember an East Meredith resident who made a big impact on Hanford Mills. The Museum staff is saddened with the passing of Larry MacClintock, who died of a sudden stroke on March 21, 1998 at the age of 68.

While Larry never was a museum board member or donor of thousands of dollars, he did important work for the Museum. As a local contractor, Mr. MacClintock did much of the original restoration work at Hanford Mills Museum. He helped stabilize buildings and fixed the floors that our visitors walk over each day. He and his family helped the Museum acquire the John Hanford Farmstead.

We know that in Larry's family there has always been a tradition of caring for the community. This tradition can be traced all the way back to his great-grandfather (see Worker Article, page 5), and it is carried on by his children, but we will still miss Larry MacClintock.



Correction

Hanford Mills Museum would like to thank Margaret Parris Schmitt and Lenore Crandall for giving us more information about Lulu Briggs Every, whose story appeared in the last Millwork. Both Margaret and Lenore are relatives of Lulu and were able to give us more information than we were able to find in the Museum archives. Lulu and her husband Marshall had three children, Leta, Harold and Glenn. They lived on a farm in Bloomville, NY. Marshall died young and since Lulu was buried under her husband's last name, I assumed she remained a widow. Lulu actually married her husband's brother, Lavern Every. She was living in Vestal, NY when she died.

I also mistakenly identified Emma as Lulu's aunt, while she was actually her older sister. Emma married a local man named Charles Palmer. They had two daughters and a son.

Thank you again to Margaret and Lenore for their help in setting the story straight.



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The John Hanford Farmhouse - Part I

by Jane McCone

Author's Note: This summer, there will be a new roof put on the Hanford House and then it will be painted. In the Spring of 1999, Hanford Mills Museum will refurbish the interior of the Historic John Hanford House, put in a well, and add a handicap accessible lift. These projects are made possible through funding from the O'Connor Foundation.



John Hanford's Farmhouse, circa 1910.

In celebration of the upcoming projects Millwork is publishing a two part history of the Hanford House.

John Hanford was the son of D.J. Hanford, mill owner. John grew up with his brothers, Horace and Will, and sister, Elizabeth in the small rural village where their father's business and farm was located. John worked many years on his father's farm. He also learned to be a mason, carpenter, builder, and butcher. Eventually, John bought the meat market and ran it and the Post Office that was located there. He and his wife lived in the apartment above. This building is the two story green structure across the street from the Hanford House.

By the end of the 1890s, D.J.'s son, Will, and daughter, Elizabeth, were the only ones living in the farm house. John and his wife, Lizzie, may have ran his father's 80 acre farm while still living in the meat market building. John was seldom involved in the operation of the sawmill. When their father, D.J., died in 1899, he left the mill to Horace and Will, and money to John. John then bought the farm from the estate. He sold his meat market and became a full time farmer. John

grew hay, corn, potatoes, a few chickens, a couple pigs and a small herd of cows. His dairy barn was located across a small creek at the back of his house. The barn featured an inside silo and an attached ice house. Behind the original farmhouse, which John and his wife now lived in, was a creamery. D.J. had powered the machinery in the creamery with a turbine run off water from the mill's tail race.

In 1909, John built a new home. But first he moved his father's old homestead north several hundred feet. He detached a lean-to from it, which he then made part of one of his farm implement outbuildings. He attached the creamery to the back of his new house creating the kitchen and woodshed/washroom wing.

John's new house, like Horace and Will's homes, was like so many buildings built in the community at the time. It was in the style of rural, late Victorian houses, similar to those in pattern books of the time period. Patterns, plans or designs for all of these homes have never been found. And the question of who actually built them is still asked. There were a number of men in the region capable of building, one being a

Hanford uncle. John was known to have done plenty of carpentry and masonry work prior to this time, so could well have built the house himself with some hired help.

John built the house on part of the original house's foundation. The front foundation of the new house is perfectly laid, sculptured block. In the rear of the house,

where the foundation is the old field stone built by a former mill owner, John covered the foundation with tin fabricated to look like the block work in the front of his house. Appearance must have been important to him, especially of the masonry. D.J. Hanford had used his basement for a spring house. Spring water from the hill was piped into the basement, ran through a trough where cans of milk or food stuffs were placed. The water then ran out a drain pipe in the rear wall. One village resident remembers John Hanford acquiring stone for his house by blasting it out of the ground with black powder.

John built a large fruit and vegetable storage room with bins for potatoes or cabbages and squash. There are meat hooks and shelves. Coming into this room from the outside is a cold air duct and at the opposite end of the room is another duct for air to leave the room. To help seal the room so the cold air could not escape, the wooden walls were covered with leftover wall paper from the rest of the house. This wall paper is still in place and is very good condition giving the museum excellent samples to use when restoration of the upstairs begins.

Con't. on page 9

A Trip Down Memory Lane

by Gordon Roberts

In December of 1997, the Trustees of the Hanford Mills Museum asked me if I would be willing to be the Chairman of the Hanford Mills Museum Board. I am pleased to have this opportunity, in view of the fact that the Hanford Mills Museum is not new to me.

I was born about 1½ miles from the Mill in 1924. My parents, Earl and Loreen Roberts, had settled on the farm in 1919. I went to the Mill with my father from 1924 until 1946 as a customer. Ken Kelso, who saved the mill in 1967, was also a personal friend since childhood. I spent a great deal of time with Ken and was pleased to watch his progress from 1967 until 1973. We will always be indebted to Ken for the work, effort and money that he invested in the museum. If Ken hadn't had the foresight in 1967, we would not have the Hanford Mills Museum today.

The community of East Meredith has been very much a part of my life. I would like to go back in history and recall one of the many trips that I took with my Dad during the 1930s.

Taking a trip into East Meredith wasn't something that we did on a spur of the moment. The trip was well planned, including lists of feed, lumber, hardware and groceries that were needed. We always had three horses, so if there was a problem with one, we would still have a good team. In addition, in the summer time, we needed the third horse to rake hay or pull the cultivator.

In the morning I would help Dad harness the horses and hook them up to the wagon or bob sleigh, depending on the season of the year. The travel time to East Meredith was about

45 minutes (though in miles we weren't that far away). There were two creameries in East Meredith from which the local farmers shipped their milk. It was not unusual for us to stop at one of them to see the Creamery Manager and to pick up some cotton cloths. These were made about twelve inches square for the purpose of straining out the foreign material that might be in our milk.

Any heavy items that we needed for the farm were shipped by rail. When they arrived in East Meredith, Orrie Smith, the station agent, would send us a card that he was holding our purchase for us. The railroad served East Meredith from 1900 until 1960. Since the Railroad Depot was near the creamery, this was usually our second stop. I was always in hopes that the train would come through while we were at the depot. It was exciting to see the powerful steam engine spewing black smoke as it pulled into the station. After delivering some of its load at the depot, it would pull up to the water tank to fill up before continuing on toward Bloomville or Oneonta.



Gordon Roberts

Since Hanford Mills was the hub of the community, that was always our next stop. We would go to the feed mill first to load enough grain to feed our farm animals for about two weeks. On our way to the office we might stop at the sawmill to pick up a few 2 by 4s and other boards that were always needed on the farm. It was always exciting to stop at the office in the Hardware Store. If Horace Hanford hadn't planned to work in the mill that day, you might find him dressed in a suit sitting behind his desk.

I was always intrigued by Horace's hands. His fingers had many sharp angles as the result of the many hours that he had spent working with saws. In those days, if your fingers were caught in one of the saws, they would rush you off to Dr. Craig in Davenport Center. He would stitch up the wound and put the finger in a splint to allow the bones to knit together. This is why Horace's hands looked a little weird.

If we needed any hardware, we would wander through the hardware department, much as we would any hardware store. Then we would return to the office and Frank Pizza, the bookkeeper, would add up our purchases on their black Burroughs adding machine.

I always looked forward to our next stop at the Haynes blacksmith shop. I was in hopes that Charlie would be shoeing a horse. I could always count on the fact that Jesse Haynes, Charlie's father, would be operating the forge to heat the iron to make all kinds of metal products. I wondered why his chewing tobacco was such a very important part of his every-

Con't. on page 4

Memories - con't. from page 3
day life.

We had two general stores in East Meredith. One was owned by Fred Adair, which housed the post office. The other was owned by the Henderson Brothers. Both were prominent members of our community, consequently, we always tried to support each store. We stopped in at Fred Adair's store first and purchased some men's socks and work gloves. Then we drove on to Henderson's store and purchased our groceries before heading back to the farm.

I always enjoyed the trip

home laying on the feed bags munching on some Cracker Jacks. As we were leaving town, we went by the East Meredith Presbyterian Church on our left. This church was a very important part of my life with the Christian Endeavor Society.

The next landmark as we left town was the East Meredith District #15 School on our left. This was the two room school that both my wife, Alyce, and I graduated from. One room was for the grades one through four, and the second room was for the fifth through the eighth grade. I will always remember Florence

Waters, who served at the 5th to 8th grade teacher for many years. She had a great influence on the lives of all of the graduates of this school.

After completing a rather full day in East Meredith, we arrived home in time to complete the farm chores, milk the cows and go to bed. I was thankful that we had the opportunity to grow up in the birth place of the Hanford Mills Museum.

Thank you for joining me on this trip down the memory lane of my childhood.



History Day a Great Success!

by Stacy Ward

On Saturday, March 7, nearly forty students participated in the first Catskill Regional History Day Contest sponsored by both Hanford Mills Museum and the Catskill Regional Teacher Center. The event illustrates an important partnership between community organizations and area school systems. Hanford Mills valued its supporting role in this worthwhile experience.

History Day is a nationally organized event that fosters student interest and involvement in primary and secondary source research on important historical topics. Each year a specific theme is selected and students base their projects on ideas that relate to that theme. This year students focused on "Migration in History: People, Ideas, Cultures." At the Catskill Regional History Day Contest, topics reflected the students' wide interests and backgrounds. For example, projects discussed the Underground Railroad and the Trail of Tears, as well as the immigration experience at Ellis Island.

Middle and High school teachers introduce their students to the History Day process

at the beginning of the school year. At this time, students select a topic and embark on the research process. The Regional History Day competition in March is a culmination of the students' research that has been ongoing for months. The History Day format offers a variety of mediums in which the students can present their research. Working either individually or in groups of two to five, students can construct a table top exhibit, produce a stage performance, create a media presentation or write a historical paper. Each project must be accompanied by an annotated bibliography.

Hanford Mills Museum and the Catskill Regional Teacher Center invited local community members to also take an active role in this event by serving as judges for the competition. During the day of the competition, students had an opportunity to discuss or present their projects to the judges. From this interaction, the judges obtained a clear understanding of the students' focuses plus the research process the students used. The judges analyzed the

students' entries on the historical quality, relation to the theme of "Migration in History" as well as the overall clarity of the presentation. The judges reviewed the students' work on evaluation forms. They also offered constructive comments that the students can keep in mind when involved with future research projects.

First and second place winners were announced at the completion of the Catskill Regional History Day Competition. Our regional event is the first step toward the New York State and National History Day Competitions. Regional events, such as ours, took place all over the state of New York during the month of March. The students that placed first and second at the Regional History Day competitions will participate in the statewide competition held on May 2, 1998 at the New York State Historical Association in Cooperstown. The finalists from the statewide competition will compete in the National event held at the University of Maryland in College Park, Maryland in June.

Con't. on page 12

Merritt Seeley Roberts - "Of Revolutionary Stock"

by Caroline de Marrais

In this Millwork we took some time to remember Larry MacClintock for his contributions to and work at Hanford Mills Museum. For our worker article, we would like to remember Larry's great-grandfather, who also made a difference in Hanford Mills. We would like to you meet Merritt Seeley Roberts.

The Larry's family has a distinguished history. Merritt Roberts' great-grandfather, Amos Roberts, from Bedford, Westchester County, New York served as a private of the line in the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War. Merritt's mother's family, the Seeleys also fought in the Revolutionary War. Amos and his family moved to Delaware County after the war, settling near Bloomville. One story goes that Amos sold his land along the Hudson River for Continental money that was so worthless he could barely purchase what was wilderness in Delaware County. Despite the difficult beginnings, Amos was able to prosper, building first a cabin then a home in the "wilderness."

It is likely that Merritt Seeley Roberts was born on that very farm in 1829. Merritt was the son of Joseph Worden Roberts (one of Amos' many grandsons) and Mary Seeley. Approximately a year later, Joseph W. Roberts decided to settle on his own land, moving about five miles west. The move brought him closer to a growing hamlet known as Brier Street, later called East Meredith. The original Amos Roberts farm was left to Joseph W.'s brother, Eli. Like his grandfather, Joseph W. prospered and with his son's help built a very productive farm.

Merritt first attended local school then was sent to the Fergusonville Academy in the



The Roberts farmhouse or "mansion." Merritt and his wife, Adelia, are seated in the front yard on chairs.

nearby town of Davenport. At the time, the Academy was a well known boarding school. After school, Merritt returned to help on his father's farm. Then in 1852, at the age of about 22, Merritt married the girl next door, Adelia Brownell. Since the Brownells had moved into the area first, it is very likely that Merritt and Adelia had known each other practically since birth. About a year later they had a son, James Albert and then six years later they had a daughter they named Clara. While the Roberts farm prospered, the Roberts children did not. Both died in 1860 of what they called "spinal fever," possibly polio. Adelia wrote to her sister Elizabeth Brownell Hanford at the time that it seemed that she had more than her share of trouble, and it sometimes seemed greater than she could bear. Adelia and Merritt did go on to bear it, however, and had two more children, Joseph I. and Maud, who lived to adulthood.

While Merritt Roberts is honored here as a mill worker, he had many jobs in the East Meredith area. First and fore-

most, Merritt was a farmer and a very successful one. As his obituary stated,

The homestead was little more than a wilderness when it came into possession of the family and he helped cut the timber and converted(?) the land into one of the most productive farms in the county.

The family farm was so successful that the Roberts were able to build a large, beautiful house, once referred to in a newspaper wedding announcement as a "mansion."

Merritt Roberts also "dealt considerably in real estate." It is in this capacity that Merritt Roberts first became directly involved with the mill in East Meredith. By April 1858, the mill's owner, William Barber, owed a total of \$637.53 on two mortgages he had taken out on property he owned (including the mill). Not being able to pay his bills, the mill was foreclosed on and went up for auction on April 22, 1858. Merritt Roberts bought the property for \$502. Then four days later, he turned around and sold the mill to Ephraim Douglas for \$525 and held the mortgage for the same

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Merritt - con't. from page 5
amount. Mr. Douglas was a better risk than the former owner, and paid off his mortgage. He would later go on, two years later, to sell the mill to D.J. Hanford. Merritt Roberts is also recorded in mill records as working there in 1873, though the records are silent on what sort of work he did.

Merritt Roberts was also very civic minded. As a director of the Delaware & Otsego Railroad, Merritt helped bring the railroad to East Meredith. The Ulster and Delaware Railroad had originally planned to pass through Harpersfield, NY which meant that East Meredith would have been bypassed. When the U & D reached Bloomville, their board decided they did not want to go by way of Harpersfield. So a new company was formed, the D & O Railroad, with a board of directors from local towns. This "new" railroad was mapped out to go from Bloomville to Oneonta by way of towns like East Meredith. In this way, the U & D (which was really behind the D & O) could say it was bankrupt and could no longer continue laying rails, while the D & O began work on the new route. Even before any work was done, the D & O leased their route to

the U & D. While this was no help for Harpersfield, it did benefit East Meredith. The Delaware County Dairyman newspaper reported on May 15, 1891 that

J.H. Thompson and M.S. Roberts, directors of the D. & O. R.R., went to Kingston Monday, driving to Bloomville, where they expected to be met by a special train of Pullmans.

This was right after the lease agreement was made. Unfortunately, even the D & O had trouble financing a railroad, and it wasn't until late 1899, that a reorganized Ulster and Delaware Railroad reached East Meredith. At least, Merritt Roberts was alive to see the fruits of his labor. Merritt also served as a recruiting officer during the Civil War, on the Board of Supervisors for the Town of Kortright (where he lived) for two years and was also on the Board of Trustees for the East Meredith Presbyterian Church.

Merritt Roberts wasn't all work and no play, however. This notice from the Delaware County Dairyman of May 31, 1895 suggests that Merritt enjoyed a bit of fishing:

Dr. George Entler, of Oneonta, was the guest of M. S. Roberts last week. The doctor, who is a great fisherman, was looking after the speckled beauties. Thirty fine ones was the result

of one day's work.

And even work was fun when events like this were held:

Husking bees are the order of the day (or night) here now. 165 bushels were husked in one night last week at Wm. Brownell's and about the same at M. S. Roberts'. November 6, 1896, Delaware County Dairyman.

Merritt S. Roberts was also involved in Masonic lodges both in Delhi and Oneonta.

It can be said that Merritt S. Roberts was above average - "Revolutionary" - in everything he did. He was able to maintain a very prosperous farm, he did very well in real estate deals, and he did all he could to help East Meredith. Merritt Roberts was even above average at the end of his life when he died in 1923 at the age of 93, his wife having preceded him in 1919 at the age of about 88. An unidentified newspaper clipping about his death tells us that

Mr. Roberts was the oldest member of Oneonta lodge F. & A. M., having joined the lodge in 1864 . . . Mr. Roberts took great pride in his Masonic affiliations and attended a lodge meeting in this city when over 90 years old.

Merritt Roberts was buried in the East Meredith Cemetery in a Masonic service attended by many family and friends "despite the inclemency of the weather and the condition of the roads" as another unidentified article tells us.

In the end, Merritt Seeley Roberts made a big impact both on East Meredith and Hanford Mills. Today his legacy is carried on in various branches of the Roberts family, including the MacClintock family (descended directly from Merritt) and Gordon Roberts (descended from one of Merritt's uncles). Hanford Mills Museum would like to thank Merritt Seeley Roberts (of Revolutionary stock) for helping save what was to become Hanford Mills Museum.



Roberts/Brownell family gathering. Merritt Roberts & his wife are on the far left of the photograph. The caption on the original noted "Aggregate ages when picture was taken in September 1911 was 635 years."



Remembering the Maine

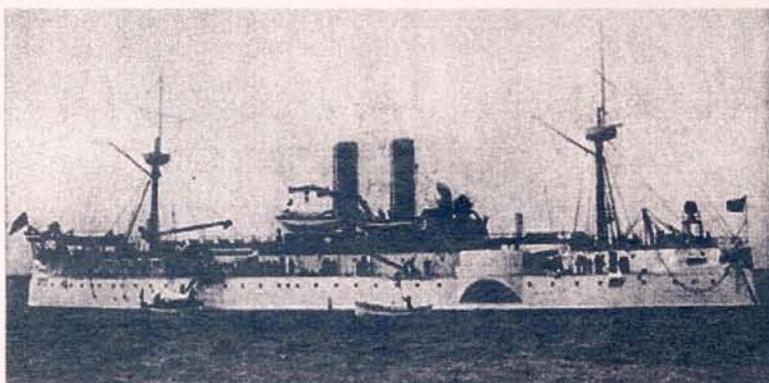
by Caroline de Marrais

Throughout American history there are fragments of images and quotes that are still remembered today, yet whose origins can barely be recalled. One such saying is "Remember the Maine!" A hundred years ago, it aroused tremendous American patriotism, yet today the reason is almost forgotten. It sounds like a battle

cry, but what could it have been for? What was the Maine and why should it be important? Why was the Maine remembered in East Meredith, New York and throughout the United States?

To find the answers to these questions, we have to begin with Spain's discovery of the New World. In the 1500s, Spain claimed huge expanses of the American continents. It was not long before Spain ruled a large part of the world. Over time, however, it lost most of its holdings. By the 1830s, Spain held only a scattering of islands - Cuba, Puerto Rico, Guam, the Philippines and a few others. As Cubans and Filipinos began to agitate for their independence, Spain refused to let go.

What was the United States' interest in this? America and its citizens owned a large amount of property in these islands, especially sugar plantations in Cuba. As the fight for freedom became more violent, American interests were threatened. Also, the United States was not averse to acquiring more territories for its own use, and it saw in these conflicts a way to make a profit. Still, American presidents in the 1890s, first Grover Cleveland and then William McKinley, avoided conflict, urging Spain to free its colonies. This policy



"Remember the Maine!"

changed in February of 1898 with two incidents.

With increasing unrest in various Spanish islands, the United States sent one of its newest battleships, the Maine, on a "friendly" visit to Cuba in January. The first incident seemed small - the Spanish Ambassador criticized President McKinley in a letter that the New York Journal published on February 9. Americans and the President were angered. Then, at 9:30 p.m. on February 15, the Maine experienced two explosions and sank soon after. The blast killed two hundred and fifty men.

This mysterious explosion marked the first involvement of the East Meredith area in the growing conflict. This notice appeared in the East Meredith column of the March 4, 1898 edition of the Delaware County Dairyman newspaper:

Captain Sigsbee, of the ill-fated battleship Maine, has numerous relatives in Davenport, and is a cousin of Mrs. Hudson, of this place.

Captain Charles D. Sigsbee was not only a captain, but *the* commanding officer of the Maine. This is a portion of his first hand account of the sinking:

I was just closing a letter to my family when I felt the crash of

the explosion. It was a bursting, rending, and crashing sound, a roar of immense volume, largely metallic in character. It was succeeded by a metallic sound - probably of falling debris - a trembling and lurching motion of the vessel, then an impression of subsidence, attended by

an eclipse of the electric lights and intense darkness within the cabin. I knew immediately that the Maine had been blown up and that she was sinking . . . I observed, among the shouts or noises apparently on shore, that faint cries were coming from the water, and I could see dimly white, floating bodies, which gave me a better knowledge of the real situation than anything else.

Even before an investigation announced that the explosion was caused by a floating mine, many Americans called for war. Even today there are arguments as to whether the Maine was actually sunk by an outside mine, by an internal accident, or by someone trying to force the United States into war with Spain.

Whatever the cause of the sinking of the Maine, the United States formally declared war on Spain on April 25, 1898. The East Meredith area supported it wholeheartedly and with great national pride. This quote comes from the London Star, but was copied in an unidentified local newspaper clipped by Charles Hanford for his scrap book. The article was titled "America Wholly Right. Spain Wholly Wrong"

... The crusade against Spanish cruelty in Cuba is one which does honor to the American

Con't. on page 8

War - con't. from page 7

people . . . While we should prefer to see Cuba set free from Spanish oppression by peaceful negotiations, yet we hope with all our heart that, if war be unavoidable, the arms of America will be crowned with victory.

With feelings like this, America and East Meredith went into what would become known as the Spanish-American War with patriotism and enthusiasm. Quotes like the following from the local newspaper made it seem like a entertaining war, almost like watching sports today:

The Meredith Telephone Co. are about extending their lines to Davenport Center. That telephone is hot stuff for us. We get our war news now warm from the county seat. Thompson chalks it on a bulletin board and sets it out side. Henderson will leave a postage stamp half licked to read the 'latest' to a new arrival.
May 13, 1898

The war began in earnest, not in Cuba, but in the Philippines where the native peoples were also rebelling against Spanish rule. Here, Admiral George Dewey soundly defeated the Spanish navy in Manila Bay on May 1. In six hours, Dewey and his fleet of 10 ships sank all of Spain's eight vessels. Admiral



Admiral George Dewey

Dewey's victory caught the attention of the American people and he became one of the best known heroes of the war. Portraits of the admiral were printed and distributed. One even found its way to the walls of Hanford Mills where it has hung for nearly one hundred years. It would still be a few months before the Philippine Islands were completely subdued, but this first and successful battle would be the pattern for all further American victories.

In June and July, the fighting turned back to Cuba. Troops landed at Guantanamo Bay, then moved on to Santiago. On July 1, the famous charges up San Juan and Kettle Hills were made by the Rough Riders, making Teddy Roosevelt another war hero. On July 3, the U.S. Navy halted and sank the fleeing Spanish fleet in Santiago Bay - the Spanish lost all six of their ships. Elizabeth Hanford recorded the event in her diary on July 4, writing "hear great victory from War Santiago is taken & Stars & Stripes are there floating." Spanish forces in Santiago actually surrendered on July 15. After months of negotiations, the Treaty of Peace was signed in Paris on December 10.

Many local New York boys gladly went to war. One wrote the editor of the Delaware County Dairyman newspaper on July 1, 1898. His letter appeared in the July 8 paper:

We are to be 'tin soldiers' no longer; that is, we are to leave coast defenses for Manila by the first of next week . . . The boys are very much pleased with the order, and nearly every one had much rather be with Dewey than on coast duty; and the idea of work in Cuba is not so pleasant to us as the Philippines . . . As far as I can learn the whole regiment is ready to go and pleased with the orders.
O.F. Sampson

With the surrender of Cuba, the Delaware County Dairyman

declared "The War is Over" on August 19, 1898. They wrote

From henceforth the American nation holds the highest place among the governments of the world, and the sneers of pompous royalty have given place to the highest respect and admiration. We have demonstrated the truth of our claim that great standing armies and military equipages are not necessary to the maintenance of a strong government - that the loyalty and patriotism of the people is the safeguard of the nation, invincible against any foe.

The article went on to worry about America's control of the Philippines, showing the paternalism and prejudices of the times:

What to do with the Philippine islands is a problem. Certainly they should not revert to Spain and its tyrannical government; but the islands with their hordes of semi-barbarous population would be an undesirable possession for a nation like ours, and we should hesitate to assume the responsibility of their acquirement; but the question arises as to how far duty bids us to accept the responsibility, or to share it with others.

During the war, the U.S. Navy captured Guam, annexed Hawaii, and by the end, the United States retained those islands plus Puerto Rico, and purchased the Philippine Islands for \$20,000,000 (later, in 1899, Philippine insurrectionists declared war on the United States and fighting did not conclude until 1902). In the end, the war cost the United States \$250 million.

The question of what to do with what they won was not the only problem the United States faced at the end of the war. American troops also had to face infectious disease. As early as July 28, troops were ordered back from Cuba in an attempt to avoid an outbreak of yellow fever. The Delaware County Dairyman newspaper reported on September 9, 1898 that

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War - con't. from page 8

Joseph McNeely, formerly of Kortright, but late a soldier in the 7th Infantry, died of yellow fever at Santiago. His wife, who came from Denver to nurse him, is also expected to die.

It is reported that due to the war, the United States lost only 3,000 lives, but 90% of those deaths were due to infectious disease. As the local paper shows, not only soldiers died.

There was a plus side to the Spanish-American War, however. It was the United States' first chance to flex its muscles and show the world what it could do. As the Delaware County Dairyman put it on August 19, 1898

A "nation of shop keepers and grain and pork raisers," are we? Then some of the boastful military nations would do well to change their occupations.

Admiral Dewey was a special favorite of the American citizens. His complete defeat of the Spanish navy in Manila Bay fired people's patriotism. Poems, such as the one following appeared:

**Oh, dewey was the morning
Upon the first of May,
And Dewey was the Admiral
Down in Manila Bay.
And dewey were the Regent's eyes
Them orbs of royal blue,
And dew we feel discouraged?
dew not think we dew!**

House - con't. from page 2

John Hanford was a farmer with a herd of about 80 good milk cows. Modern times came with modern conveniences. John purchased and installed in the basement of his home a Hercules three horsepower gasoline engine to run a vacuum pump. These were used to operate his Nu-Way milking equipment in the barn across the creek. An engine of that size, though not large, could still be used to shell corn, run a separator, turn a washing machine, crank a grindstone, saw wood, pump, and other labor intensive tasks. A pulley in the basement, located in line

UNCLE SAM'S MEASURE

Is of interest to all the powers of Karops
Your measure is of particular interest to us
We have some excellent material for

SUMMER SUITINGS

That ought to be made up at once. Getting
too late in the season to have it lying on our
tables. Not too late, however, to be of great
service to you

We will make a special price for a special
occasion. You will like the goods the moment
you see them—the quality is splendid—and we
would like your dollars...

**WE MAKE A SPECIALTY
OF CLEANING OUR PATRONS'**

MORSE & CO., Merchant Tailors, UNADILLA

in Franklin, Wednesday, Sept. 7th, and every two weeks.



This advertisement appeared in the September 23, 1898 edition of the Delaware County Dairyman.

Note all the "Powers of Europe" peering over the fence as our Uncle Sam is "measured" for his new suit.

Patriotism during the Spanish-American War was shown in all sorts of ways.

It was published in the Minneapolis Tribune on October 1898, but many children since have learned it in school when studying American history. Dewey even considered running for president in 1900. Dewey's popularity in East Meredith is very evident. Not only was his portrait hung in the mill, but East Meredith celebrated a "Dewey Day" on September 29, 1899. This was the day before Admiral Dewey led a victory parade in New York City. Elizabeth Hanford wrote about it in her diary, "Today is Dewey day. A Holiday, no School."

This year, 1998, marks the one hundredth anniversary of the Spanish-American War. Like the Gulf War, it was short and successful. It caused

American patriotism to grow and allowed the military to test new weapons (the Maine was one of the first "modern" United States battleships to be built and the first ship to be purely the product of American naval design). On the negative side, it cost the United States a great deal and left soldiers disabled by disease. Many have forgot the Spanish-American War, but Hanford Mills Museum still remembers. A number of years ago, we removed the Dewey portrait from the mill to protect its fading colors. This year we have returned an exact copy of the very same picture to the original location. Today, Admiral Dewey again watches over East Meredith mill workers.

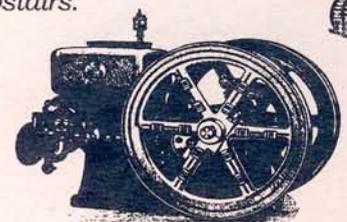


with the engine, is in front of a window. A belt could be put through the window and used to power some piece of equipment in the yard. One possibility is a buzz saw for fire wood since the wood shed section of the house is on that side.

The original furnace that John put in the house is no longer there. There is duct work throughout the house and period registers. When John Hanford died, his estate inventory listed three tons of coal in the basement and "2 Cord Wood." Was the wood burnt in the furnace with the coal, or was the wood for the cookstove upstairs? Perhaps a closer look

at use year-by-year of the residents of the house will explain. The coal in the house basement, whether from the Hanfords or later owners, was obviously put there through a basement window directly above the coal bin and easily accessed from the Hanford driveway along the side of the house.

Next Issue: The Hanford House Upstairs.



Hercules Gas Engine



The Miller and Millstones - Part II

by Robert Grassi

Editor's Note: In the last edition of Millwork, Robert Grassi wrote about the different parts of a millstone. Now he discusses how a stone was sharpened. If you missed the first article, let us know and we'll send you a copy so you won't miss a thing.

The tools of the millstone dresser can be divided into two basic groups, those used for testing and those for cutting the stones.

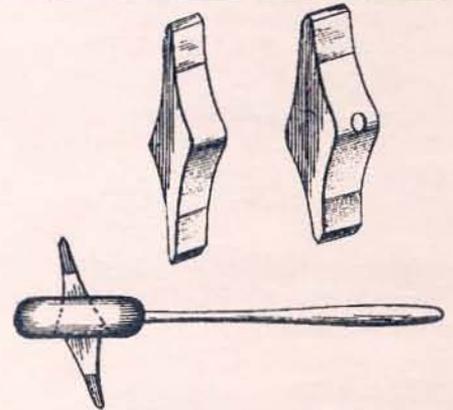
The first work performed by the dresser, once the stones had been pulled apart to expose the grinding surfaces, was to **staff** the stones with the **paint staff**. Paint, often red in color, was applied to the working edge of the staff and then rubbed on the stones. The paint staff highlighted the high spots on the millstones. This indicated to the stone dresser the condition of the stones. The stone dresser removed (**faced off**) any high spots which showed the paint. This trued up the lands to themselves. Several staffings may have been required to get the stones just right. It was imperative that the lands were all in the same plane. This was extremely important when you

consider the close tolerances between a pair of millstones during operation. The paint staff was made of wood, typically over 4 feet in length and 3" to 4" in width, with one surface trued perfectly straight and flat its entire length.

Since wood occasionally warps, the working face of the paint staff had to be trued (**proved**) prior to each use. This was done by using a machined cast iron bar referred to as a **proof staff**. The dresser smeared mineral oil onto the machined surface of the proof staff, and applied the paint staff's working edge. Any obvious high spots were then dressed down with a scraper until the paint staff was trued end to end.

The **furrow stick** was another testing tool used to lay out and check the progress of the furrows. This stick was made of wood 3/8" to 1/2" thick, by whatever width the furrows were to be (1" to 1 1/2"), by about 18" in length. If no previous cracking lines existed on the lands, the furrow stick was used to layout a line to follow for the first cracking. The rest were then cut in by eye without the aid of any layout lines to follow.

The tools for cutting were called **mill picks**. Usually composed of cast steel with hardened tips, millstone picks were shaped not with a point but with a flat broad cutting edge like a chisel. Both ends were formed into a cutting edge approximately 1 1/2" wide. The picks were about 8" to 10" in length, and weighed anywhere from 3 to 6 pounds. Millstone picks came in two forms. One type had an eye in the center for an inserted wooden handle similar to a hammer handle.

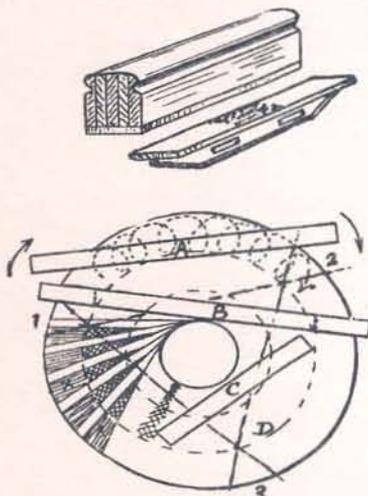


Various types of mill picks.

The other type, without an eye, was inserted into a tapered mortise inside the head of a **thrift**. The thrift was turned out of hardwood and has been described as being similar in form to a wooden sculptor's mallet.

Another cutting tool, less utilized by the dresser, was the **bushing hammer**, which looked like a metal meat tenderizer, similar to what stone cutters and masons were accustomed to. The dresser used it for **facing** (taking down a lot of material) and smoothing the surface. Another form of "bush" similar to the traditional "bush" was marketed as a **furrow pick** and not well accepted by many stone dressers. Instead of multiple points on its cutting ends like the traditional "bush," it utilized long flat chisel ends similar to a millstone pick. A more obscure tool was the millstone dresser's **pritchel**, which was shaped with points on either end. It was used almost exclusively on oat and buckwheat hulling millstones to pocket the surface with small holes.

When dressing a millstone, the dresser reclined on the stone steadying his hands on a sack of



Top: Paint staff and Proof Staff.
Bottom: Staffing the stone.

Con't. on page 11

The Miller - con't. from page 10
 bran (referred to as the **bist**) which gave the control for each blow. The pick was used parallel to the furrows so as to use the entire width of the tool each and every blow. Usually the dresser positioned himself facing the furrows' back edge. With every dressing, the furrows were deepened and broadened (called **freshening up the furrows**) and the cracking lines cut on the lands. It took patience, a sharp eye and a tremendous amount of skill to cut 30 lines per inch. The furrows themselves required skill to achieve a perfectly smooth bottom, even and true taper from back edge to feather edge, and a non-gouged feather edge where it made the transition to the lands.

By the 1860s, millstone dressing machines were invented and patented for the stone dresser's use, including diamond dressers invented for cutting the fine cracking lines. These were sold and undoubtedly used, but many were gimmicks and never really caught on. None of these machines ever completely took the place of mill picks.

In the museum's collection is one of D.J. Hanford's mill picks. It is unusual in that it has replaceable cutting tips. These were marketed as cost effective to the buyer. When the tips wore they were easily replaced for far less cost than the purchase of an entire mill pick. Several companies offered such mill picks for sale. Now extremely rare, many of these sold well, but again they never completely replaced the traditional mill pick. Even to this day, you can still purchase traditional mill picks from several reputable companies.

Once both stones were dressed, they were almost ready to be put back in service. Before this could be done, a few more items had to be checked and

adjusted, if needed. The first was to make sure that the bedstone was set level. Next, the dresser accessed the condition of the neck bearing located in the eye of the bedstone. It had to be tight around the drive spindle with no side to side movement or play. The neck bearing was then lubricated. The drive spindle was then **trammed** (adjusted perpendicular to the face of the leveled bedstone). This was achieved with another testing tool called a **jack stick**. The dresser attached the wooden jack stick to the spindle on one end, with the other end extending to the outer edge of the bedstone. This end had a hole that a quill was inserted through. As the spindle was slowly turned, the quill touched upon the bedstone. The dresser adjusted the spindle until the quill tip touched evenly (360 degrees) all around the periphery of the bedstone. The adjustments for the spindle were located at its base. Then the runner stone was hoisted back into place with the millstone crane and set onto the spindle over the bedstone in working position.

The entire mass of the runner stone rested and pivoted on the tip of the spindle. The weight of a 48" diameter millstone could exceed 2000 pounds. Now both a **standing and running balance** were performed. The standing balance was checked, with the runner stone idle, using lead shot in the **balance pots** on the backing or, if not available, on one of the iron bands that surround the stone. After that was achieved, the mill was started and the running balance was checked, adjusting the balance pots or weights in a vertical plane according to need. When all this work was done the stones were ready to run.

Only a few individuals practice the almost lost craft of milling with millstones (includ-

ing their handling and dressing) today. Most millstone ground flour is produced on small, self-contained, portable mills called edge runners. In fact, an American company is still in business today, producing natural stone millstone mills. These edge runners differ greatly from their earlier predecessors. Vertically set and housed in an iron case, these millstone plants are not that different from steel plate mills. They require significantly less skill to operate, but they still require routine dressing to continue grinding properly. On the practical side of business, one can really understand why a feed mill, like the Hanfords', purchased an attrition mill and retired their millstone mill in 1898. Just the down time between dressing the millstones in comparison to changing the metal plates (unbolting the worn and bolting on the sharpened ones) justified the attrition mill's purchase price. Gone was the need for the skilled labor required to operate the millstones and gone was the millstone era at Hanford Mills.



This advertisement shows the unique type of mill pick D.J. Hanford ordered. The drawing shows how the replaceable tips were held in place.

History Day - con't. from page 4

This was the first year that the Catskill region participated in the National History Day event. We believe that the students and their teachers enjoyed their involvement in the research process that History Day establishes. The number of participants in our Regional competition will continue to increase as more people become aware of the program. Hanford Mills Museum values the importance of regional experiences that bring community leaders, local organizations and the teachers, students and parents of area schools together. We hope by providing the students with the opportunity to conduct important primary and second historical research, they will develop a life long enjoyment of history and study that relates to our past.

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Old Timer (a song)

by Marvin Zachow © 1980

Would you play me a tune on your
 Fiddle, old timer?
 Play me a reel to make me dream.
 Would you sing me that song
 Once again, old timer?
 And bring back a sweet memory.

Well, the working days all done
 And its time to settle down
 The wood box is heaping full,
 Folks are gathered all around
 Take out that old fiddle
 And rosin up the bow
 And play me that song once again.

Fires burning bright,
 Smell the wood smoke in
 The air
 Everyone's feeling fine.
 Oh, they haven't got a care
 There's a twinkle in your eye
 And a song in your heart
 Would you sing me that song
 Once again?

[Repeat first verse]



Dedicated to Bill Power
 of Hinman Hollow, NY,
 who, after all those years,
 still gets them up & dancing.

MILLWORK

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