NNHS NEWS LETTER

Northville Northampton Historical Society

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Editor
Gail M Cramer

1815 GRISTMILL STONES

Gristmill stones were used to grind oats, corn and other grains harvested by area farmers for use locally in making bread, muffins, pancakes and other baked goods.

Thomas Foster built the first grist mill in the town, on Hunter's Creek near where Prospect Street and Ridge Road converge.

The large round stones you see at both front corners and the right rear of the museum are gristmill stones brought to Northville by wagon from Albany by Joseph Slocum. He built his grist mill on Hunter's Creek also, a few years after Mr. Foster had built his.

According to Washington Frothingham, in 1815, Joseph Slocum hauled the heavy stones by horse or ox-drawn wagon from Albany, he got sick on the way home, so he had to leave them in Galway. Soon after he arrived home he died. His son, Rueben afterward brought the stones to their destination and finished the mill, which was also on Hunter Creek.

A sawmill erected on North Fourth Street on the banks of the Sacandaga in 1929 by John A Willard was built on piers supported by these old gristmill stones. They were discovered when the old building of John A. Willard's was demolished in May 1991. They were moved to the NNHS museum where they can be seen today.

MUSEUM NEWS

Our museum will be open on June 6th during the Trail Days Celebration. Several authors will be at the museum to sign their books.

Come out and visit us and learn about the history of our town and village.

We have lots of pictures, maps, and artifacts, NCS yearbooks dating back to the 20's and much more.

1815 gristmill stone. Members of the NNHS Carl Reese, Ola Thompson, Don Wood, Channing Rockwell, and Terry Warner.

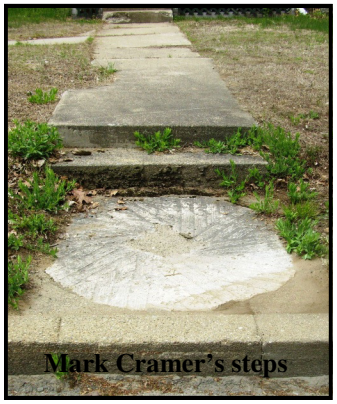
The gristmill stones on either side in the front of the museum. The larger one that you see in the picture to the left is at the right rear of the museum.

THOMAS FOSTER'S GRIST MILL
1790

Thomas Foster built and owned the first Grist Mill in the Town of Northampton in 1790. He built it on Hunter's Creek. These pictures are what's left of the mill. The rocks line the creek and according to Bob Blowers who lives beside Hunter's Creek and near where the old mill was, that there used to be a couple of large tanks at this site, but when some lumbermen lumbered off the property they destroyed the tanks.

There is one of Foster's grist mill stones on the property of Mark Cramer. He told me that his father had found the stones and stood two of them beside his front steps leading to his house. One night in the 1950's someone stole one of them. Mark's Dad, Clarence, declared that they wouldn't steal the other one, so he cemented it into the walk, which is still there today.

One of Foster's grist mill stones



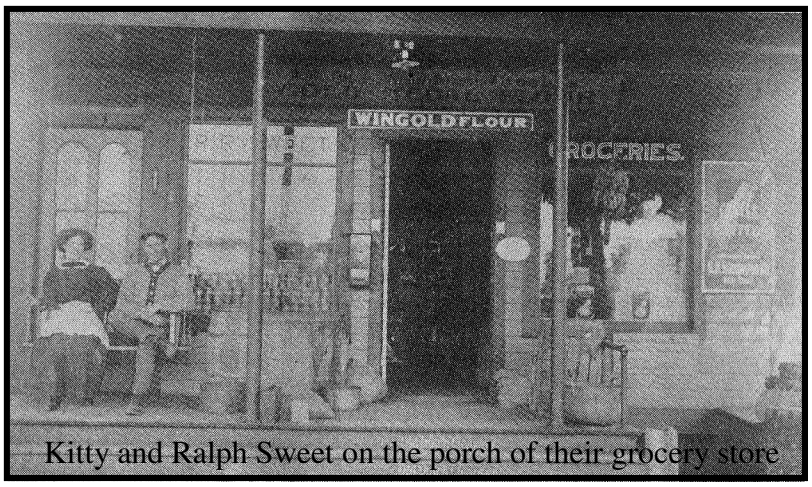
Mark Cramer's steps

Mark Cramer and Bob Blowers were a big help in showing me where the grist mill used to be and I was able to tell them the history of the mill. Note the ridges in the mill stone to aid in grinding the grain.

DO YOU REMEMBER THIS BUILDING?

It was located on North Third Street. Probably most of us that do remember, it didn't look like the picture on the left. In the 1950's it had an addition on it and was Young's Bakery and Ray Allen's Dry Cleaners.

Carl Young's Bakery on the left and
Ray Allen's Dry Cleaning Store



Kitty and Ralph Sweet on the porch of their grocery store

The first to occupy this building was Hod Judson's Glove shop.

1920 it was Ralph and Kitty Sweet's Grocery Store.

Fred Stewart's grocery occupied it next

Arch and Marion (Ellsworth) Dunham's Tea Room

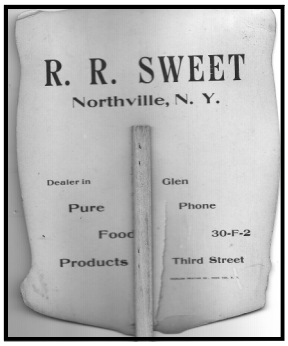
Carl Young's Bakery and
Ray Allen's Dry Cleaners

4 Apartments owned by Harry Russell

Dennis and Sandy Poulin owners

In mid 1970's it was torn down and an attached garage and breezeway were built using some of the lumber from the old building.

Nipper Lawton and Harry W. Van Arnam.
Hod Judson's Glove Shop in the background



Front and back of an advertising fan from
R. R. Sweet's grocery store.

PHOTOS FROM A PALMER PHOTO ALBUM CIRCA 1890 - 1900

Northville ladies on South Main Street. 1898
Note dirt street, side walks, Winnie Hotel far right between the trees.

Sacandaga Park rustic bridge
Esther Palmer in foreground

Tannery Falls on Hunters Creek, Water Street
1898

Tidbit of Information

1815, in a Town of Northampton town meeting, it was voted that $120 be raised for the support of the poor. In 1817, $300. was raised for the same purpose. The Poormaster, together with the Supervisor, was instructed to build or hire a house for the use of the town poor. Quoted from "History of Fulton County" by Washington Frothingham

The NNHS Historical Museum will also be open. The new self walking tour of the history of the local historic business buildings will also be launched. Meet at the museum at noon, where you can walk the tour with a guide.