

District of Ross Mills

Ross Mills Newsletter

November 2017

Contact Emory ~ 338-5792 or email us at rossmillsnewsletter@gmail.com

Holiday Happenings

**Annual Craft Show
Falcon's Nest**

(Formally Ross Grange Hall)

2001 E. Main Street, Falconer

**Saturday, November 18, 2017
10am - 3:30pm**

- Many Crafters
- Lunch available
- Free admission
- Easy Parking and Access



Come visit us: Ross Grange #305



This past week, a life long member of Ross Mills Community passed away, Lois Burch Bowder. The Burch's lived on Route 380 not far from Sister's Restaurant, the house they lived in is now gone. The place they lived was originally called "Chestnut Ridge Farm."

Lois was a member of the Ross Mills Church of God. She was going to school down in Ross Mills when the school was closed. She was a student that transferred to Falconer.

In honor of Lois passing, Sister's Restaurant made a gesture of honor toward her and her patronage to the restaurant. She will surely be missed by many in the community.

The answer to our Kimball-Stand question came to us from the Fenton Museum (Norman Carlson):

There used to be an Inn by the name of **Kimball Stand Inn**, built in 1827, it stood on a plot of land, about 25 acres, facing the corner of the roads leading to Jamestown and Falconer, on the south and Gerry and Stockton on the north.

When and How the Pavilion Came About

In 2004 we decided to build a pavilion. We had no plans — so we started thinking how we should build it. We looked at some other pavilions and that gave us some ideas. We knew that we needed an enclosed part and then we were to plan a size and what material to use. At first I looked into cement blocks, but at that time Gary Nelson had to remove some spruce trees that were getting too big. They were sometimes falling into his pond and house. They were planted over 50 years before by Gary's Aunt and Uncle Betty and Louie Lord.

I said to Gary, "What do you think about making logs in links we could use and sawing out lumber for a pavilion?" He said, "I would love to do that!" So I drew up plans so we would know what we needed to saw.

John Laun had a band saw mill that he got and had never run. He told me before he liked me and set it up for him so he could find out how to use it.

So in 2005, Gary and I fell the trees, cut them in logs, working on the side of the hill with Jay's four wheel drive tractor. We loaded the logs on Jay's trailer taking them sawed in the size lumber we needed. We brought them lumber back and stuck it up to dry - using Jay's tractor and trailer.

Joe Zampogna helped run the saw mill - he had sawed lumber in the past and so he is good at it. Several days most weeks Joe, Gary, and I would run the saw mill throughout the summer. Pat Russell gave us some white pine logs that we sawed into boards. Joe planed them and we finished the inside of the pavilion with the knotty white pine.

In September of 2005, Duane Dustin came from across the road with a back hoe and dug for a footer that was 24 feet by 24 feet. We put a wall in and put the sill on for the winter using donated cement blocks that were donated by the Dustin's and some by Phil Pratt. Then we build the pavilion in 2006.

~ Emory Holmquist

The rafts were firmly boarded together with coupling plank, and when a shanty was built, pilot needed, provisions and other necessities supplied, they were equipped and ready for their trip down the Allegheny, if the river was in the proper stage which was generally the case, as it took about the same stage of water to get out of the similar straits.

It took from four to six days to run to Pittsburg; landing at night in some convenient eddy, as the Allegheny was too rapid and dangerous to run at night, except under unavoidable circumstances.

Arrived at Pittsburg, unless the lumber was to be disposed of there, two Alleghenies were put into one grand Ohio fleet which was run to Cincinnati, Louisville or other intermediate points.

These trips were generally made on the spring freshet—usually in the month of March or April—and during the preceding winter it was a busy time with lumbermen in seeking their mill with logs, and in hauling the lumber out on the small streams to the larger ones where it was to be rafted; and with the single makers who were diligently at work day and evening in shingle shanties, turning out as large a stack as possible, ready for the spring market as they went in, most of all for money they could raise to support their families and make payments on their loans.

How like a dream to look back forty years as I can see it, as it was then, and in imagination follow the winding sled roads through the woods from one little opening to another, or to some settler's camp in the woods without an opening, each with a log house for the family and a log shanty where they worked all the winter shingle making.

EMORY ARMSTRONG (ROSS)
ROSS MILLS, W. VA. JANUARY 1825
Back

If any of my younger readers have ever seen the upper Cassadaga Creek about and above South Stockton they might well be surprised and wonder how a lumber raft could ever be run down that small stream.

When I give for the benefit of the uninitiated the size of a raft, they may be still more surprised.

The usual size of a five platform piece, as they were sometimes called, was sixteen feet wide, and the length of five sixteen foot beams, making the length from seventy to eighty feet, according to whether the bottom frame or ribs was rapped, which would make the difference in length. These rafts were from fifteen to twenty courses deep and were rigged up with an oak or sweep on each end to guide the raft. This was a pretty large raft to run out of so small a stream. They were run in single rafts to the mouth of the Cassadaga where two were unraped together putting one before the other, making the raft twice as long, in which shape they were run into the Allegheny River at Warren, where they were coupled together into an Allegheny fleet, three abreast and twenty long (in raffman's parlance); the twenty long being twenty platforms or four rafts long—together twelve pieces.