

District of Ross Mills

Ross Mills Newsletter
September 2017

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



**The Ross Mills bridge
is open,
complete with new
signs and fresh paint!
Many people are
welcoming the new
bridge.**

Ross Grange Plans Picnic

Ross Grange met to plan the annual calendar of activities and committees.

The picnic will be hosted by Leona Peterson at her home in Gerry on Tuesday August 29, a change from original plans.

The meal will be served at 6:00PM with swimming available earlier. Hot dogs, beverages and table service will be provided. Those attending should bring a dish to share.

The next regular meeting will be September 11 at the Falcon's Nest Banquet Hall with the 7:30 PM meeting preceded by a tureen meal at 6:30 PM

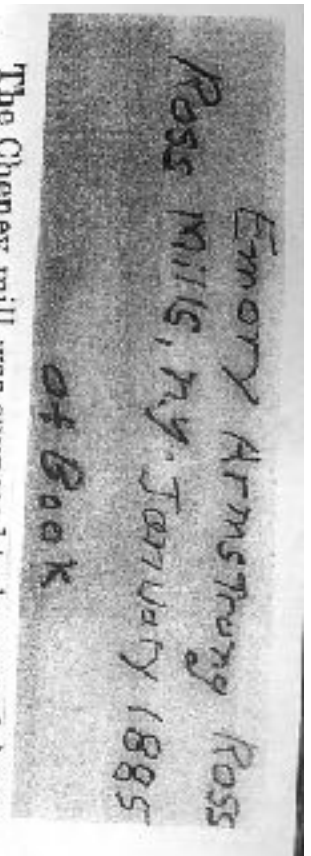
The Cheney mill was supposed to be owned by a Mr. Luther at one time. These mills cut a large amount of lumber for mills on dry or thunder shower streams---as they were sometimes called.

The first mill located on the Cassadaga proper, and the first one up the stream from its mouth, was built by Benjamin Ross at what is now Ross Mills. He with his young wife and one child, moved in the fall of 1816 on an ox sled, into a log house without any floor, doors, or windows; cutting his road from Works Mills (now Falconer) to his future home, and making the first marks of civilization.

In the following spring he commenced and completed the first mill. This mill was located in the bed of the natural stream, thereby forming a part of the dam and occupying the site of the present dam. How long this mill was run, I do not know, but a dam was built on its site, and a new mill, its successor, built on a race dug from the pond, which was a more modern way and in fact became necessary as the old way obstructed navigation.

The mill irons for the first mill were brought from Pittsburg in a canoe; I think it took about two weeks to make the trip up the Allegheny River. How does that compare with our facilities for travel and transportation of the present day? The mill irons included castings for the gig and bull-wheels, big crank and gudgeon for the main water wheel, beaver tail for the pitman, bail dogs and bars for the old fashioned head-blocks, and bull-wheel chain and saw.

How many of the mill men of the present day would know what these phrases mean or what the articles were for? These irons did service in all the



Sister's Restaurant on Rt. 380

Sunday thru Saturday 7am - 2pm

Fridays 7am - 2pm and again later for dinner 4pm - 8pm

mills built in the old style on this site. This last, or second mill, was run only a short time when it was burned.

By this time a number of families were living about and employed on the mill as well as some living in the adjoining new settlements. The mill, I think, was being run by Joseph Darling and others; Darling being on duty when the mill caught fire during the night. Whether from the slab-pile, which was burning at the time, or from lights in the mill, it was never known, as Darling was asleep at the time and barely escaped with his life.

This was in July about 1832, and was a severe blow to my father, as he was not able financially to stand such a loss at that time; and it was enough to discourage any one under the same circumstances.

When the alarm was given my father jumped out of bed and ran as far as the bridge where my mother found him, partially dressed, turning around, the image of despair, the tears streaming down his face, and looking as though he had lost his last friend. She asked him: "What are you standing here for; why don't you try and save something?" With a despondent shake of the head he replied: "No use! might as well let it all go together."

I think that my mother showed more presence of mind and fortitude, for the time being, for she helped to organize a bucket brigade of all the men, women and children who could be mustered into service; she with other women doing nobly in passing pails of water from one to the other, trying to save the lumber, in which they were partially successful, some of the women standing in water up to their knees, exposed to the intense heat, till the flames had spent their fury and reduced to ashes,

what, a few hours before was the pride and hope upon which they depended largely for future support and prosperity. Thus in one short hour went up in smoke and ashes years of labor and incessant toil.

Although my father was despondent and discouraged when he saw the best part of his earthly possessions ascending skyward in flames, it was only of short duration, for, in a few days, he had a force of men hewing and framing timber for a new mill. The neighbors were sympathetic and generous, for they turned out to a man for miles around, and in the short space of six days had the mill frame ready to raise and did raise it on the sixth, as the following stanza improvised for the occasion will testify:

"Here is a good frame
That deserves a good name
And what shall we call it?
Ross' industry, the carpenter's delight,
Framed in six days and raised before night."

That was pretty quick work for those days and shows the energy and perseverance of the hardy settlers, whose will was law, who, inured to hardship and privations, were able to overcome all obstacles of an ordinary nature.

This mill was worn out and rebuilt with modern improvements having the iron or patent water wheel. This was the fourth and last mill owned by my father, who sold it to M. J. Morton, who owned it for a number of years and sold it to Joel Partridge; he rebuilt and sold to Wesley Martin, the present owner.

FOR ALL YOUR POWER EQUIPMENT NEEDS... SEE MIKE GARONSKI



FALCONER REPAIR SERVICE

7731 FALCONER-KEMBALL ST. AND
FALCONER, NEW YORK 11743

761-953-4306

From the files of Ann Dunn

RECIPES FOR MEN

To estimate the number of pounds of barbed wire required to build a fence, or number of posts required, multiply no. rods by no. wires used, multiply result by $1 \frac{1}{10}$ or $(1 \frac{1}{5}$ for double thick Glidden barb wire, or by 1 for plain fence wire), as ordinarily a rod of fence weighs $1 \frac{1}{10}$ pounds.

Required lbs wire for fence 4 wires 160 rd long. Ex. $160 \times 4 \times 1 \frac{1}{10} = 704$ lbs.
 For No. posts, multiply rds by $16 \frac{1}{2}$ (ft in rd) and divide product by distance between posts.

Ex. $\frac{160 \times 16 \frac{1}{2}}{10} = 264$ posts

To calculate the No. of brick required for a wall or house, multiply the total cu.ft. in wall or walls by 22. No. of bricks in wall $40 \times 12 \times 2 = 960$ cu.ft $\times 22 = 21,120$ bricks.

320 cu.in. are allowed for mortar in each cu.ft. 1728 cu.in.

To calculate no. perch of stone in wall, divide total no. cu.ft. in wall by 22.

There are $24 \frac{3}{4}$ cu.ft. in perch. $2 \frac{3}{4}$ cu.ft. are allowed for filling and mortar. If amt of masonry is required divide cu.ft. by $24 \frac{3}{4} =$ perch.

To calculate no. bu. grain in a bin, wagon, or crib, multiply the product of the three dimensions ft. by .8 for shelled or threshed grain or by .4 for corn in ear. If bushels in a pile on a floor be required, multiply the square of the diameter by .7854 and that by $\frac{1}{3}$ the height of pile or cone and that product by .8.

To estimate the weight of hay in a mow, square, or on a wagon, divide the product of the three dimensions in yards (cu.yds) by 20 for loose or 15 for settled hay; the result will be in tons.

To find the value of hay by the ton, multiply the no. of pounds by $\frac{1}{2}$ the price per ton. The result will be in mills, therefore point off 3 decimal places.

To find no. gallons in bbl or cask, add bung & head diameters in inches, divide by two for mean diameter. Multiply square of mean diameter by length of cask in inches. Multiply product by .0034 for wine gal or .0028 for beer gal.