

## Grand Opening

The 2019 opening of the Hadley Mill Museum is coming quickly. The Board decided to stay with the second and fourth Saturdays from 1-3 p.m.; June, July, August and added September. They also decided to have an “event” June 22. They are looking for members or collectors that would like to display their collection on that Saturday. Display items could include antique engines, tractors, automobiles, or antiques of special interest or even special display. The time would change to 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. We hope that there will be enough interest for this to take place. If you are interested, call Dennis Emery, 810.797.4516, Gary Reamer, 810.797.4302 or Mike Witulski at 810.797.5195.

## Memories, Part II

*In the fall newsletter, Beverly Ingamells Bristol, remembered her early life here in Hadley. Here is the conclusion of her article.*

At one time they showed free movies between the two grocery stores on Monday evenings. You took an old blanket to set on. There was an intermission and folks were expected to honor one of the stores with your purchase of a bottle of pop or a candy bar.

During World War II the candy truck came to down once a week. That was the day you wanted to have a few pennies to buy gum. I loved Ally Greens store in the basement of her home. Gum wasn't very plentiful during war. We bought savings stamps at school

and put them in a book. When you got the book full you could buy a War Bond for \$18.75. If you let it mature it was worth \$25.00.

World War II touched everyone around Hadley. I think because you knew everyone and knew if someone from their family went to war. My only brother Ray was in it. I have vivid memories of it. Everyone in our country was very patriotic and supportive of the war. Radio, newspapers and magazines were the only way we got news. If I was lucky to go to a show in Lapeer with older sisters, they would show a news reel of some of the things that happened in the war. Not like today when you know the news instantly. Maybe that was a good thing not to know.

## This Old Mill

We often have folks visit the mill and wonder how it ran, what made it run and where did it get its power. Looking out over what was once the mill pond but is now lawns makes it difficult to comprehend. The following text is, for the most part, from a small booklet entitled The Old Pratter Mill by Albert Duncan. This mill is located ten miles northeast of the city of Dalton, Georgia.

“The purpose of the dam was to stop the flow of water until it rose to the level of the dam. This was necessary because when water is raised to some height and then let flow downward it has a powerful force. Much more than when it flows gently down a stream. Then, obviously, the water which

wasn't used for running the mill would flow over the dam, and continue its regular route down the creek. The area above the dam was used as a reservoir, more commonly known as a millpond.

In order to run the mill the water was routed around the dam by means of a forebay (water tank). The turbine was stationed in the bottom of the forebay, which is near the lower water level.



**Digging out the forebay or water tank on the south side of the mill.**

A turbine is a water wheel which lies flat near the bottom of the water, and turns in circular motion. As opposed to an overshot or an undershot water wheel which you can see turning, either over or under depending on which one it is.

When the water flowed into the forebay it was filled to the level of the water above the dam. When it was permitted to enter the turbine, it entered through small gates which were fixed all around the outer surfaces of the casting which housed the turbine.

The small gates could be set to control the flow of water that entered the turbine, depending on the power and speed desired. The water then escaped through openings in the bottom of the casting with enough force to turn the rotating spindles of the turbine, which was the source of power for the mill.

In order to open and close the gates, to let water into the turbine, there was a shaft running from the turbine, up through the water and into the mill. This shaft was fitted with a hand wheel so the miller could start and stop the mill, or regulate the power and speed by turning the hand wheel. Our turbine is a James Leffel Turbine Water Wheel.



**Reconstructing the water tank inside the mill . Note the gear system.**

The turbine, which powered the mill and related equipment, had a shaft running from it, up through the water, with a beveled mortised gear mounted on the upper end of it. The mortised gear had hardwood teeth fitted into slots and

secured with hardwood wedges from underneath.”

Another shaft which had a beveled iron gear with metal teeth mounted on the end of it. The teeth of the gears meshed together. This shaft had many pulleys mounted on it with leather belts running around them and continuing around pulleys mounted on the mill machinery. So when the shaft was turned by the turbine, the roller mills and other machinery would operate.

It is preferable to run a beveled mortised gear and a beveled iron gear together, because they run very quietly and smoothly. Plus the fact that metal teeth last much longer running against wood as opposed to running against metal. This results in less down time, and less cost. Because it is less difficult, and less expensive, to replace wooden teeth than it is to replace iron gears.

**When you visit the Hadley Mill, ask one of our members to guide you through this process.**

**2018**

*We extend our sincere  
Sympathies to the families of*

*Dorothy Allis*

*Jerry Perkins*

*Margaret Perkett*

## **Goodrich Mill**

In September, 13, Moses and Enos Goodrich of Clarence, Erie County, New York state, came to Michigan. The brothers purchased 1000 acres of government land in Atlas Township then a part of Lapeer County. With years of hard labor they cleared land near Kearsley Creek and in 1844 they named their little settlement Goodrich from their own family name and began the erection on Kearsley Creek of a flour and grist mill.

By 1846, the millwright, Edward Fortune (the same person who built Hadley’s mill) with assistance, completed the four-story structure complete with dam, raceway and fixtures for \$8,500. On February 15, 1845, the first corn was ground to grist.

During the early 1900’s extensive repairs were made including replacing the old water-driven wheel with a turbine wheel and substituting roller type machinery to grind the grain from the old stone process of grinding. In 1910 the old mill dam and bridge were washed away by the heavy rains. During this period the mill was booming. Flour was hauled to Flint and Lapeer and even shipped to New Your City. A steam engine was installed to propel the machinery when water in the mill race was too low. In 1918 a small power plant was erected adjacent to the mill which lighted the village until Consumers Power Company came to town.

The mill is now gone but its history remains.

