



# Pine Mill News

Friends of the Pine Creek Grist Mill Fall 2014 Issue

## President's Column

By Tom Hanifan

As 2014 comes to a close I want to share a few thoughts.

We thank the families, businesses, and organizations whose donations made possible another successful year. Without donors we would not have an interpretation program. There are too many donors to list here. However we thank these major donors since the last newsletter: Phyllis Bartling, Brandi Zinn, Tony Carl and Kohl's Department Stores.

The interpretation crew has been busy. We had 1019 children and adults on school field trips. We offer a hands-on learning program to teach students about the mill, life in the 1800's, and about nature. We are nearly booked up for 2015 already. Family attendance was second highest ever – 6856.

Even though we have not finished rebuilding our 1850's log cabin, we are already using it as part of our interpretation program. During school field trips, Heritage Day, and Ghosts of Pine Creek it was used as a site to talk about old time cooking and the use of plants. We also used the cabin area to give children the experience of using old time tools. Chinking between the logs is finished. If Mother Nature cooperates we hope to have the chimney and the roof finished this fall.

We had another beautiful fall day for our Wildcat Den Trail Run/walk. The course is difficult but we have a hard core of people that come back year after year.

Heritage Day was a success again. We could not do it without the volunteers from WalMart. They spent Friday helping us set up and then helped us in many ways during the event. WalMart also sends a crew of Scouts to help us tear down at the end of the day.

These are long and hard days and we really appreciate their hard work and enthusiasm. The Moline Kohls store sent a crew to help us clean for Heritage Day. It was a good year for spiders. United Way sponsors a program called Community Day of Caring. They sent a crew of volunteers to help us clean the mill after Heritage Day.

"Ghosts of Pine Creek" in October is another popular family event. About 135 adults and children came for a fun evening of learning about history and listening to historic music. The theme was "Seasons". About 30 volunteers and interpreters were part of the show. It takes a great deal of time to gut and carve 50 pumpkins and decorate the area.

We can always use more volunteers. Do you know of anyone who is interested in helping with events? Anyone who is interested in restoring the mill? No matter what your skill set is, we have a job for you. Besides supporting Pine Mill, you are going to have fun! You can put in just as much or as little time as you want. If you are interested in volunteering, contact one of our officers.

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Another Happy Pine Mill Runner

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**Mill Meetings:  
9:00 AM the 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Saturday each month**

**Check our web page  
and Facebook for  
dates and locations  
every month.**

# Restoration Report

By David Metz



Frank Kelly repairing damaged windows in the mill's basement.



The Klauer brothers are threading a suction pipe for the boiler feed pump.



Electrician Larry Driscoll is installing the motor controls and the frequency drive for the new steam engine motor.



Frank Kelly (left) and a new volunteer Dick Stoltenburg are repairing the David Bradley mill in the kids area of the mill.

It seemed sometimes that work this summer has been all three steps forward and then two steps back. Between the flood, vacations and illness the restoration crew has not been able to do everything this season that we had hoped. There is some good news, the mill is running well and all of our exhibits were in good shape when we closed the mill down for the season.

Work is almost completed on installing the new motor that will power the steam engine. The control system has been installed and the motor mounted. All that needs to be done to complete the installation is to remove the line shaft speed reducer and connect the drive chain to the motor. Like so many simple projects this one took far longer than I wanted due to losing some of our valuable workers due to illness this season.

After a lot of struggle we finally got the boiler feed pump working again. The problem has been air leaks in the intake piping that caused the pump to lose its prime. We did a close inspection of its piping and found three fittings that had cracked due to water left in them freezing over the winter. These were all replaced and a better drain valve installed. Getting rid of the leaking fittings improved things a great deal. We still had issues with holding the prime in the pump between times when the mill was run. The solution to this was to add a hidden electric pump that primes the feed pump whenever the mill is started. Next year after we inspect for more freezing damage the pump will be working reliably.

Maintenance of the mill and its machinery is a big part of our job. This fall we repaired windows that had broken or cracked glass. We also fixed numerous cracks where grist leaked out chutes and machinery. Both of the hand cranked mills in the kids section needed repair along with the mini-millstones. It's surprising how much wear and tear on machines kids can do.

To keep our visitors experience fresh we need to update our interpretive exhibits periodically. Two years ago the late Ken Hyman proposed that we have

an exhibit that showed the process of how the pioneers trimmed a log into a square beam using only hand tools like an axe and an adze. Sadly Ken never got to complete this exhibit. The good news is that Tom Hanifan and I found a new volunteer that has experience with timber frame construction (this is how the mill's frame work was built) who volunteered to build the exhibit for us this winter. Besides showing the process of converting a raw tree trunk in stages to a square beam the exhibit will also show how the beam is fastened to another with a mortis and tendon joint and wood pegs.

What are the plans for next season? First off we will complete the installation of the new steam engine electric motor. Next I would like to put one of the mill's three stands of double roller mill back in operation. Chances are we will never grind any wheat with it that would take the restoration of far too many other machines. We can place the roller mill in motion again adding another dynamic attraction to the mill.

Our last job every fall is to get the mill ready for winter. This summer we modified the penstock gate structure so that once the operating rod is removed there is nothing for the ice flows on the creek to strike or damage. The rod is out and in storage for the winter and the gate is closed. Inside of the mill very little needed to be done. The last of the grain is cleaned up and certain bare metal parts of the machines oiled to protect them from rust. The interpretive staff have cleaned up the country store and put all of our merchandise in storage till next season.

One last thing: Do you have any ideas for new exhibits we could build for the mill? If you do we would like to hear you have in mind. Don't forget that we are looking for someone that is interested in broom making for our school program and Heritage Day. We are fortunate to have a complete set of hand operated broom making machines in storage. All we need is someone to take on this project and

# Ghosts of Pine Creek 2014

By Julie Whitehall

The Ghosts of Pine Creek came for the seventh year to share their knowledge and stories about life in the 1800's. This year's theme was Seasons.

As the guests arrived they were greeted and offered a chance to play a few games while waiting for their tour to begin. As the tour started the journey back to 1850 they walked pumpkin lit paths to each destination.

When approaching the first stop at the 1800 log cabin the guests could hear music of the time period. Ghost Nick and Charlie delighted the crowd with their talents of fiddle and banjo. While talking with their ghost friend Dianne about all the work that the season of spring would bring them.

As they left the cabin they followed the pumpkin path to find Azuba Nye (Ben's wife) sitting on a bench outside of the mill. She told the guests of all the work that she and her daughters Harriet and Laura had been doing this summer. She had brought a picnic down to the Mill so the girls could spend some time with their father.

Next stop took us across the 1878 bridge to the backside of the Mill. There we were greeted by a melodic sound of an Indian flute. Our Indian friend Dan shared stories, songs and facts about the season of autumn. He even taught us a song while playing his native drum.

As we crossed the creek and entered Pine Creek Mill we went up to the second floor. Here the sounds of guitar and mandolin filled our ears. Kris and Rochelle were caught practicing their Christmas tunes. In their cozy room they taught us of all the things winter would bring a family in the 1800's.

At the end of each tour they came to the Mill for warmth and treats. Thank you to all the Ghosts who appeared again this year to teach us so much about life in the 1800's.



**Diane Schlitzer, and musicians Nick Hardy and Charlie Leslein at the Log Cabin**

*The staff of Pine Creek Grist Mill would like to thank these people and businesses. Without your gifts of time, talents, and supplies this event would not be possible.*

Alex & Lynn Barnett	Dan Lybarger
Michelle Berns	Mainstreet Hy-Vee
Gary & Karen Christiansen	Jim Miller
Pat Dunker	Dianne Schlitzer
Shea Everhart	Allison, Heather, & Natalie
Tom & Marlene Hanifan	Shoppa
Fred Hoopes Farm	Rochelle Street
Nick Hardy	Wal-Mart
Charlie Leslein	West Side Store
LeClaire Boy Scout Troop 46	Darren & Julie Whitehall
Kris Lee	

## Meet Lita Scarlette our new fund raiser

By Frank Kelly



Miss. Laetitia Yaoura is from Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire and wants to learn more about the funding of American philanthropic organizations.

She's decided to study development and fund raising in a "learn by doing" approach and has chosen The Friends of the Pine Creek Grist Mill as her model. She will be assisting Tom Hanifan with fund raising.

Lita Scarlette, as she's known locally, is working on a degree in business administration at Muscatine Community College, and has studied previously at Wisconsin International University College which has its main campus in Ghana.

As part of her studies of American non-profit funding, she toured the Mill with Dave Metz and Frank Kelly, and is studying the Mill's history and value to the Muscatine area as a cultural foundation stone, an historic business and a tourist and educational site.

# Life in Pine Mills Log Cabin

By Mrs. Susan Snyder

The old house that contained our log cabin was Mrs. Sue Snyder's (Brei) childhood playhouse. Here she shares some of her memories of it with us.

When Ryan Schneider tore down an old house that stood on his property he discovered that it contained within its walls a pioneer log cabin. As originally built the cabin measured 14 X 17 feet. It had a sleeping loft and a full basement below. We know almost nothing of the cabin's early years other than that a tree ring study of the logs showed the trees were felled in 1857 and 1858. Over the years the owner(s) of the cabin built a house around it.

Ryan carefully documented the cabin as he dismantled it with the idea that sometime in the future it could be restored. Years passed with the cabin stored in Ryan's barn, eventually in the spring of 2011 the restoration of the cabin started on property that the Friends owned at the edge of Wildcat Den State Park. This summer Sue and her family visited Pine Mills and provided us with some of her reminiscences. Her story starts with her grandparents' move to New Era.



Mrs. Susan Snyder at the Log Cabin

My dad, Jake, married my mom, Ruby in 1941. They lived upstairs at the New Era store owned by the Crow family. They helped the Crows with store keeping and delivering groceries. When I came along in 1947, they lived in the old house. Grandpa died shortly before I was born. My dad took over the farm, and Grandma moved to town, and we moved into the new house.

As you know, the old house was built over an old log cabin. As a baby, my bedroom was in the upstairs in the cabin. By this time the house was quite run down. Mom was horrified to see mice running over me in my crib. The bathroom was outdoors. The



The Brei family home in the 1940's. The Old House that contained the log cabin is to the left. The cabin was in the left side of the Old House. The New House that the family lived is to the right. The new house burned in 1933

The Brei family (George and Phillipine "Bena") moved to New Era in 1912 from the farm just southwest of the Krell Cemetery because they wanted the children to be involved in the activities at New Era. They lived in the existing old house. It had a living room, small bedroom and kitchen downstairs and two bedrooms upstairs. In 1915 they built a new house to the front and west of the old house. The Brei's had six children. In 1937 the new house burned, so they lived in the old house until a second new house was built on the foundation of the first in 1938.



As the Old House came down the cabin is revealed.

water came from a cistern by the back porch with a hand pump at the kitchen sink, or from the windmill just west of the house. Mom was glad to get moved into the new house.

The cabin had lath and plaster covering the logs on the inside. My family used the old house (cabin) for storing farm and family items. This included things like the left over construction materials that were used to build the rural telephone line. There was a stove of some kind setting against the wall that is now the restored cabin's fireplace. A small steep ladder going up over the stove gave access to the second floor. The basement also had a stove in it, the family stored food there.

When I was a little girl, the old house was my playhouse. I preferred the old living room. The wall paper and plaster was falling off in places, and things were stored there. It was dusty and dirty and cobwebby. I kept it sort of swept. There was an old car seat where I could curl up and read or pet a kitty, and a desk with a fold-down front where I liked to sit and write or draw. It was pleasant when the rain was falling. One day Dad took me into the little room on the back of the house where he kept his tools and had a workshop and showed me a place where the plaster had fallen off. There were chinked logs a foot or more across! My playroom was actually a log cabin! That explained why the window frames and walls were



The Old House just before it was demolished.

over a foot thick. I am now the only living person who actually lived in the old log cabin.

My husband and I have 4 children, 8 grandchildren, and 1 great-grandchild on the way! All are healthy and happy. My husband is a retired maintenance man, and I still work part time doing home care for children who have serious healthcare needs as a RN.

## Work Goes on at the Log Cabin

Work on the log cabin went on right up till our recent snowfall. The main effort has been to complete the fireplace chimney, the roof, and the chinking on the interior and exterior of the cabin. Work got held up a bit when the engine on our much repaired antique cement mixer finally wore out. This is not surprising since the mixer dates from 1947 making it 67 years old.

Gary was able to locate a new engine for the mixer at a very reasonable price. Once he got it installed the mixer was back in action and work went on. The only other minor problem the crew ran into was lifting the heavy stone blocks up to the top of the chimney. The solution was simple, just use smaller stone blocks.

With those minor problems out of the way construction went on until it became too cold to work. After the roof and chimney are completed work will start on the cabin's windows and doors. The doors and windows will be as true to the period as practical and have historically correct hardware made by local blacksmith Steve Hubbell.

Even in its unfinished state the cabin has been in use. For Heritage Day this year the old time tools and pioneer cooking exhibits were moved to it. Visitors found the cabin at the end of a new trail that park staff kindly installed for us. The new trail starts at the end of the parking lot sidewalk, winds a short



Jim Weggen laying stone around the Cabin's chimney liner

distance through the trees and ends behind the cabin. The cabin also got use at this years Ghosts of Pine Creek. When it is completed and furnished it will be great addition to Pine Mills. If you are interested in helping with the restoration of the cabin or have an artifact that would be appropriate to place in it when the cabin is completed please contact Tom Hanifan.

## We Learn About Life at the Mill and the Economics of Pine Mills from the Missel Family.

I have often thought that in our modern studies of Pine Mill's history the Missel family has not received the attention that they deserve. To fully understand and interpret the mill we must consider not just its beginnings with Nye, we must give due attention to the mill's other owners as well. Of great importance to Pine Mills story is the Missel family. They owned and operated the mill from just after its modernization by Herman Huchendorf until its closing and incorporation into Wild Cat Den State Park, that is the Missels owned the mill longer than any one else.

The story of the Missels starts with the birth of two brothers in Wurttemberg, Germany in the 1850's. Older brother Joseph was born on January 9, 1850 and his younger brother Michael on February 1, 1857. Their father Jacob Missel had worked as a miller in the Alsace-Lorraine region so it is not surprising that his sons worked as millers when they immigrated to America.

The record we have today of Joseph's early life is confused and contradictory. The only central fact we have today is that the Franco-Prussian war between France and Germany affected him. The war occurred in 1871 (when Joseph was 21 years of age) with most of the fighting occurring in the region where the Missel family lived. We know only for certain that at age 24 in 1874 Joseph left Germany. One family source says that he had served in the German army during the war; another says that he immigrated to avoid serving in the army. In any case America with its economic opportunity and personal freedom beckoned.

Again we have contradictory accounts that he either book passage, or stowed away on the steamer "Absinthe" out of Liverpool, England. His first stop was Hamburg, New York, a small town located on the shore of Lake Erie. Arriving there on May 12, 1874, Joseph like many new immigrants found himself doing less than desirable work. His first employment being to dig up an old graveyard so the crumbling caskets could be moved to make room for new construction. No doubt not finding this work to his liking, he moved on west in a few months and arrived in Muscatine, Iowa on September 20, 1874.

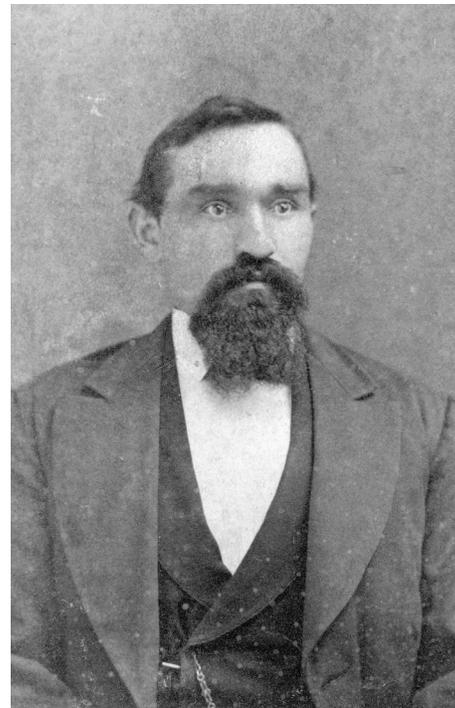
In Muscatine our young German immigrant went to night school. Like my own German ancestors I am sure that he worked to perfect his English and learn something of the engineering trades. Soon he was traveling up and down the Mississippi inspecting land and building saw

mills. While he did not find good employment during his time in Hamburg, New York, he must have found love for in 1876 he returned there to marry Miss Elizabeth Weckeman. There in Hamburg their first child, John Charles Missel was born.

Sometime afterward Joseph and his wife moved to Ellinwood, Kansas where another child, a daughter was born in 1878. Why they moved there and what work Joseph did is not known. America's wheat production was moving into this region in the 1870's. Kansas land was cheap and Ellinwood had begun to attract a large number of German immigrants. A large steam flour mill was under construction during the time Joseph lived there. Perhaps this is what brought him to the town. All did not go well in Ellinwood for his wife Elizabeth died there in 1879 of typhoid fever. Adding to Joseph's woes, during the epidemic Joseph's son John Charles had been accidentally given an excessive dose of typhoid vaccine. The overdose left the boy mildly retarded

After his wife's death Joseph moved back to Muscatine, Iowa. Back in Muscatine two notable things happened in 1881. First the widower Joseph married a local Muscatine girl Mary Ann Bulster. Next his younger brother Michael emigrated from Germany to join him in Muscatine. The two brothers must have been close for in 1883 Michael married Miss Margaret Bulster the sister of Joseph's wife Mary Ann.

Sometime during this period Joseph almost lost his son. A tramp kidnapped Joseph's son John Charles. As the tramp traveled across the country he forced the boy to go house-to-house begging for food and money for his "sick father". Joseph had the missing child's photograph



Joseph Missel

published in the newspapers and finally someone in Indiana recognized the child and returned him to his family.

1883 found our newlywed Michael and his older brother Joseph working for Herman Huchendorf at Pine Mills. This is the year of the great flood on Pine Creek. Huchendorf and his two of his employees (Otto Kroeger and Michael Missel) saw the waters of Pine Creek rising at an alarming rate. To save as much flour as possible, they had spent the day carrying what they could from the first to the second. Local farmer Edgar Kemper tells us how the men survived:

*"As the water came in they (Otto Kroeger and Mike Missel) decided to leave the mill. It was dark and as they stepped out and were going to try to make it to higher ground, they were swept away. They caught themselves on the bridge. They couldn't go west so they went off to the East end of the bridge as the West end was carried away. They walked a mile to a neighbor and stayed overnight."*

Herman Huchendorf rode out the flood in his mill and in his opinion barely survived it. Michael must have enjoyed his time working for Huchendorf for he spoke often of his respect for Huchendorf and that he considered him to be a great man.

### Michael Missel's First Mill

Michael had his own ambitions however and wanted to have a mill of his own. This led him in 1884 to lease Bunker's mill in Washington County, Iowa. Bunker's mill was located on the English river between the towns of Kalona and Richmond. Built in 1839 the mill was one of the earliest in operation in Iowa. David Bunker owned and operated the mill. Upon his death in 1883 his son took it over until he leased it to Michael Missel.

Until he had himself established Michael left his wife "Maggie" and his children behind in Muscatine. His letters to them in the spring of 1884 show that he had become very fluent in English, something his family took great pride in. His letters tell of how lonely he was and how he missed his family. Work was slow at the mill that spring for the bridge across the river near the mill had failed. The farmers from the south side could not come to his mill until the bridge had been repaired and this hurt his business. He had found a "Bohemian" German church to attend on Sundays and worried about the English river flooding in the spring. On a lighter side he commented that while his own appetite was poor due to a cold, his "old ladies the chicken and cat and dog" are always first to the kitchen and have good appetites.

Michael's family soon joined him in Kalona where another of their children was born. How long Michael leased Bunker mill is not known. The Bunker family sold the mill to Henry Ord in 1890. Thus it is safe to say that Michael returned to Pine Mill sometime before the sale of Bunker mill. Back at Pine Mills he found Huchendorf modernizing the mill in 1890, converting it to the latest roller mill technology.

### The Purchase of Pine Mills

Huchendorf was not happy with the remodeled mill however. Huchendorf family tradition is that he grew tired



**Bunker Mill**

Michael Missel leased this mill located on the English River south of Kalona, Iowa.

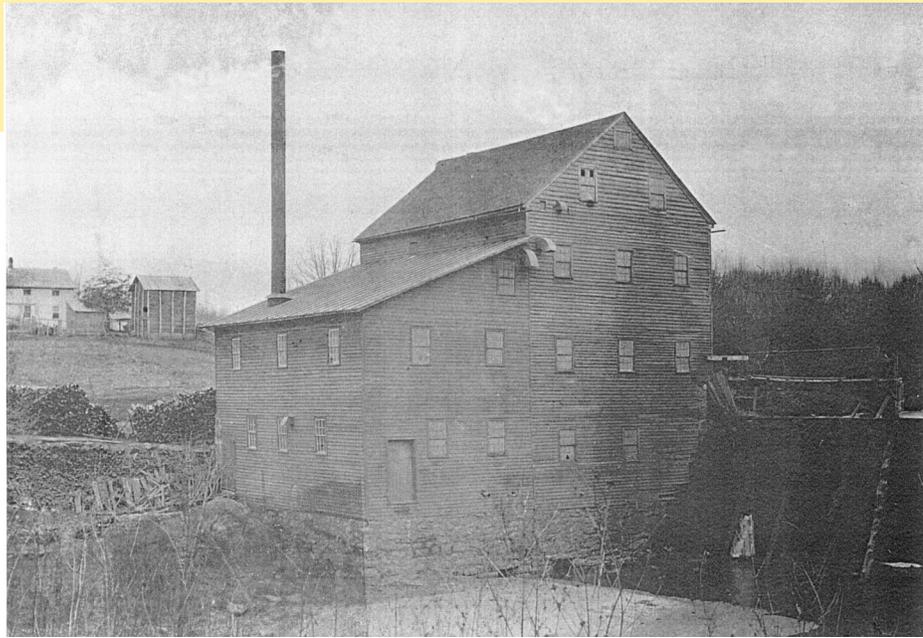
of the flash floods that Pine Creek was prone to. Huchendorf decided that he wanted to operate a mill anywhere but on a creek, thus he sold Pine Mills to Michael and Joseph Missel in November of 1893. The brothers paid Huchendorf \$5,000 for the mill (\$117,870 in 2009 dollars). They financed the purchase of the mill thusly:

Joseph Missel:	\$1,100
Michael Missel:	\$ 800
Loan from Edward Kemper	\$2,600
Loan from Davenport Savings Bank	\$ 500

Edward Kemper had a farm near the mill so it is not surprising that he knew the Missel brothers well. For the next several years' payments to Edward Kemper can be found in the "expenses" column of the account book as the Missel brothers paid off the loan. Kemper had a long relationship with the mill. His name is often found in the mill's books both as a customer and as a supplier of grain and firewood though out the period the account books cover.

Besides the mill the property the brothers bought had income in the form of the sale of butter and eggs. The purchase of "hens" for \$30 from Huchendorf indicates that the sale of eggs was an ongoing business at Pine Mills. It is part of Iowa farm lore that the farmer's wife cared for the farms chickens and kept the "egg money" for her own use for their home.

To get things started in their new business the brothers also bought the items below. To show comparative value today, a web based inflation calculator has been used to convert the 1893 dollars to 2009 dollars



	1893	2009
One spring wagon:	\$60.00	\$1,414
Chickens	\$7.50	\$176.75
15 grain sacks	\$3.00	\$70.00
Hogs	\$8.50	\$200.00
3 books	\$1.95	\$45.95
1 broom for the mill	\$0.30	\$7.00
1 box wagon grease	\$0.10	\$2.35
Roof on the mill	\$30.00	\$707.00
New boiler for mill	\$225.00	\$5,302

Labor also figured in the mills expenses. In 1893 Albert Clemons worked at the mill from seven to fifteen days a month. He earned \$1.25 a day (\$29.45 in 2009 dollars) for what would have been a long hard days work.

The two brothers and their families occupied the large miller's house at the top of the mill that overlooked Pine Mills. Joseph's family owned the front half of the house and Michael's the rear half. The account books show that Joseph and Michael divided the mill's profits and expenses evenly between themselves on a monthly basis. This partnership lasted till 1896. The family oral tradition is that the two brothers had serious fight, the reason for it is not known. The fight ended the partnership with Joseph leaving Pine Mills and moving back to Muscatine. One of the causes may have been that the mill could not produce enough income to support two families. This may be true for by the 1890's most of Iowa's small gristmills had closed. The account books also support this theory for in 1896 the mill made only "clear profit" of \$179.19. In 1897 the mill's books closed with a loss of \$24.90

After Joseph left, Michael operated the mill. Regular payments of \$175 to Joseph begin to appear in the expense columns of the account books as Michael

### Pine Mills in the Early 1890's

This is the mill as Michael & Joseph would have seen it. To the left can be seen the stacks of cord wood that fueled the boiler. Upper left is the miller's house and a corn crib.

purchased his brother's share of the mill. Joseph moved back to Muscatine and soon opened "Joe Missel Feed Mill." in Muscatine. He located his mill in a two-story brick building that had previously been the stable used by the nearby Hershey Lumber Company office. The mill's highly visible location on Elm Street just off Hershey Street overlooked the Mississippi River. Keeping up with the latest technology, Joseph powered his feed mill with a gasoline engine.

One indication of Joseph's relationship with Pine Mills after his departure from the partnership is that he maintained a commercial account with the mill. In 1899 for example he took regular deliveries of sacks of flour from Pine Mills and even a bushel of apples totaling \$26.00. Sales to Joseph increased year by year till in 1905 he was purchasing bran (as a feed additive) in lots of 100 to 400 pounds. This is in addition to continued purchases of flour. No entries for sales to Joseph have been found after 1906 when they tapered off. Sadly no other records of Joseph's Muscatine mill exist today. It is possible (as shown by Joseph's later employment record) that the feed mill closed by 1907. It definitely did not operate by 1912, as it is not shown on the Sanborn Fire Map of that year.

Joseph's practical experience as a millwright stood him well for after he closed his feed mill he became the superintendent of the Musser Lumber Company for 25 years. During this period the Musser Lumber Company grew into a large manufacturer of windows and doors, a perfect place for a man with Joseph's knowledge of machinery and practical engineering. Joseph Missel died at his home in Muscatine on December 12, 1932 at age 82. He had suffered on December 1 what was then called apoplexy, that is what is termed a stroke today. His wife Mary Ann had preceded him in death in 1928.

### **Life at Pine Mills**

Under the ownership of Michael Missel life went on at Pine Mills. On a busy day at the mill there could be twelve or more farm wagons pulled up in the yard. The mill operated on a first come, first served basis so some of the farmers that came to the mill had to stay overnight. Michael's wife Maggie boarded the visiting farmers in their large house. If there were unexpected guests for supper the children would be told "FHB, FHB!" Code for "Family Hold Back" so there would be enough food for the customers boarding with them. In those days before the First World War fruit of any kind, even prunes, were considered to be a great treat. Once when stewed prunes were served for supper their mother told the children that they could have only four prunes each. One child then told the farmers boarding with them that night that if she could have only four prunes, that was all they could have too!

Michael senior made weekly deliveries of flour to the bakeries and retailers in the nearby towns. On these trips he always treated both himself and his horse to a good meal. Michael senior's children frequently spoke of their father's great love of horses. He often remarked to his family how badly the soldiers in the Prussian Army treated their horses and how angry this made him. Perhaps it is not surprising then that the most frequent expense entry (typically \$0.30 to \$0.50) in the books is for "horse feed & dinner." For example this expense appears five times in October 1902. Horse shoeing also appears frequently and often at the same time as "feed & dinner" indicating that Michael had the work done at the same stable where he had the horse fed. In 1910 he purchased a new horse for \$125. Adjusted for inflation, that horse would cost \$2,850 in 2009 dollars.

Michael's son, Michael Junior remembered his childhood at Pine Mills fondly. He remembered that while skinny-dipping in the millpond was forbidden, the children often indulged in it. The great dare being to see who would be the first to brave the frigid waters of Pine Creek when the ice broke up in the spring. The boys also frequently accompanied their father on trips to deliver flour and feed with the mills horse drawn wagon. Michael Junior recalled that during the winter the families supply of apples were stored in a barrel in a corner of the first floor of the mill. A less tasty memory was that every Saturday he and his brothers had to sweep the entire mill down top to bottom to remove the dust that had accumulated from the weeks grinding.

### **Accounting at Pine Mill**

The Missels kept their accounts in six hand written ledger books. In their day a companies books were literally hand written books, not files on a computer hard drive. Both Joseph and Michael made entries in the books with Joseph's the easiest to read. The made their entries sometimes in pencil but mostly in ink. Occasionally the label at the head of a column would be made with an artistic flourish. The dollar sign is not to be seen in the books. Amounts are often written with an equals sign between the dollars and cents. The brothers wrote 15=82 instead of 15.82 and never \$15.82. Since they kept records for both income and expense in the same book (but on separate pages), they often ran out of space on a page. When this happened, they continued on the next available blank page where ever it might be in the book. Thus a month's record that ends on page 50 might continue on page 84! Nor was any space wasted in the books, they filled every page. Since the accounts were written in the book in a somewhat random fashion they are

hard to follow. At the end of every year somewhere in the books there is a simple statement of profit and loss and an inventory of grain and finished products on hand.



*Next issue we will  
continue the Missel  
family story.*

# Kids Quotes!

By Tom Hanifan

Teaching school classes about the past is what we love to do. Read what some of the students have to say. You may find some humor.

- \*I was waiting for that day all year."
- \*My favorite thing was the mill where we made pancakes. Grinding corn was fun."
- \*Learning about Benjamin Nye's history was cool and interesting."
- \*I really liked the two man saw. I loved the feather game. In the hike I learned where you can find mushrooms."
- \*My favorite station was the cemetery because we used genuine coat hangers to find dead bodies underground."
- \*Thank you for giving me the wood. I'm going to make an alligator."
- \*I had the best time of my life. The view from the hill where the hike was is great."
- \*Near where we stopped I saw fungi that looked like it held 1 gallon of water."
- \*One thing I learned was if you rub a leaf of a certain leaf it smells like garlic."
- \*I liked seeing the old school house because I imagined I was going to school there."
- \*It was fun to use the tools. I was happy to keep one of the pieces of wood I cut."

\*When asked to compare what the mill area might have looked like in 1850, several students said "there was no color". They were thinking about photographs.

- \*My favorite station was the old time tools. I liked it because I got to learn how hard they worked to build a house or a mill."
- \*My favorite station was the school. I loved when we wrote with the ink pen and got to put on the apron."
- \*My favorite station was the furs because my mom found a skunk (PU). We had to be blindfolded to feel & hear clues."



## *President's Column Continued*

We are looking for a few bushels of ear corn to run through the mill during demonstrations. Do you know of a source? Call Tom at 563-263-4818.

Travelers with Smartphones have found the mill with an application called TripAdvisor. They can use it to find attractions, hotels, restaurants, and shopping. Here are some of the comments about the mill. "I must admit that as an engineer I am fascinated by the technology that the owner assembled there in the 19th Century." "It was very beautiful, great photo ops." "Sandstone bluffs and plenty of trails for good hiking." "There's a great hands-on tour."

This fall about 20 photography enthusiasts came to the park as part of a worldwide experience called "Scott Kelby Worldwide Photo Walk". It is billed as the "Largest social photography event in the world. Photographers of all walks of life and skill levels around the world gathered together to socialize, share and inspire." We opened the mill for photos and then the group walked the trails for more photos. Check out the Flickr page. At the top of the page click on "QCS Worldwide Photo Walk".

<https://www.flickr.com/welcome/242978679/5cbc11e897/>



**At Ghosts of Pine Creek Dan Lybarger does a Native American interpretive program.**

## Have you Considered Planned Giving?

To keep Pine Mills open and the Friends of the Mill in action we have to raise over \$25,000 every year. That is a huge sum for a small non-Profit like the Friends. This is why your donations are so important. One way you can help keep the Friends in action is to consider planned giving. There are many ways you can do this; some of them offer you tax advantages.

Besides cash donations (and we love those), you can donate securities, life insurance by making the Friends the beneficiary or making a bequest in your will. All of these can be used to ensure the long term financial stability of the Friends.

Below is our donation form. Using it you can sponsor a special event, day or week where you are keeping the mill open for the public to visit. If you wish you can dedicate your gift to honor someone important to your life. Your donation will be recognized at the mill on a list of donors.

Keep in mind that while the dues you pay help, they do not begin to cover the costs of our programs - such as opening the mill to visitors, school field trips or restoration. Our visitor's donations and sales at the mill don't cover our costs either. Did you know that it costs about \$18,000 a year to have an interpretation program? And that the Friends receive no funding for interpretation from the Department of Natural Resources? The Friends rely totally on your donations to continue our programs.

There can be tax advantages to donating to the Friends. Your donation of historical items, supplies or other material may be tax deductible as well. Contact your tax preparer or the Friends for more information on this. The Friends have been granted 501(c)(3) non-profit status by the Internal Revenue Service.

### The Friends of the Pine Creek Grist Mill officers are:

David Metz edits your newsletter, contact him if you have any questions about or material for the newsletter.

Mr. Tom Hanifan, President  
Tomhanifan@yahoo.com  
563-263-4818

Mr. David Metz, Vice President  
Davemetz@machlink.com  
563-263-4222

Mrs. Heather Shoppa, Vice President  
hshoppa@yahoo.com  
563-571-5213

Miss. Agnes Digney, Secretary  
319-726-5983

Mrs. Gladys Mittman, Tres.  
Gmittman@machlink.com  
563-263-2451

Pine Creek Grist Mill is on the web and FaceBook! Get downloads of our publications and see photos of the latest happenings.

See us at:

[www.pinecreekgristmill.com](http://www.pinecreekgristmill.com)

### The Friends Need Your Help

The Friends of the Pine Creek Grist Mill is a volunteer organization. To do the many programs we have like the spring school program, Heritage Day, this Newsletter, fund raising, restoration and more we need more help. If the Friends are to continue we need more active members. Regardless of your prior experience there is something for you to. How much time and energy you devote is up to you. This is your chance to help your organization, our projects are fun and the fellowship with other members is great. Contact Tom Hanifan or Dave Metz (contact information is above) if you are interested.

## Donation Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Dates you wish to sponsor \_\_\_\_\_

Person you wish to honor \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Donated \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Make your check payable to:  
Friends of the Pine Creek Grist Mill**

#### Mail it to:

Friends of the Pine Creek Grist Mill  
C/O Mr. Tom Hanifan  
Box 1205  
Muscatine, Iowa 52761

**Friends of the Mill**  
C/O Mr. David Metz  
725 Climer Street  
Muscatine, Iowa 52761  
Return Service Requested

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Muscatine, Iowa  
Permit No. 96



Pine Creek Grist Mill is on the web! Get downloads of all of our publications past and present.  
See us at:

[www.pinecreekgristmill.com](http://www.pinecreekgristmill.com)

Follow what's happening at Pine Creek Grist Mill on:

**facebook**

### The Friends of the Pine Creek Grist Mill

Pine Creek Grist Mill is located in Wildcat Den State Park in Muscatine County one mile north of highway 22 between Muscatine and Davenport, Iowa.

*The mission of the Friends of the Pine Creek Grist Mill is to restore, operate and maintain the Mill and to share the historical significance of the site through educational programs, public tours and events.*

### The Friends of the Pine Creek Grist Mill Membership

#### 2015 Membership

Membership is only \$20.00 per year. Your membership includes  
One year membership in the Friends  
Newsletter three times a year  
An opportunity to learn about and participate in a local historic treasure

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Send this application and your check to: FOM C/O Mrs. Gladys Mittman  
2906 Provence Lane  
Muscatine, Iowa 52761