



Pine Mill News

Friends of the Pine Creek Grist Mill Spring 2018 Issue

President's Column

By Tom Hanifan & Heather Shoppa



This year's mill clean up crew from Durant High School

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The next meeting of the Friends of the Pine Creek Grist Mill will be our annual pot luck and business meeting. It will be April 14th at 5PM at the Muscatine County Extension office on the North side of Isett Ave. Come to the rear door on the side of the building.

Eager and inquisitive young faces. That's what our school field trips are all about. Classes began coming in late April. Sixteen school groups came from Muscatine, Mt. Pleasant, Wilton, Buffalo, Highland, West Liberty, Louisa-Muscatine, Illinois City, Davenport, Blue Grass plus some home school groups. Field trips take many days of staff and volunteer dedication. We thank our donors for making it possible.

It is heart-warming when we hear back from the teachers. This came from a teacher in Mt. Pleasant.

"Thank you for such a wonderful trip! We enjoyed learning about the Grist Mill, using the old tools, and experiencing the schoolhouse! We learned so much! The students couldn't stop talking about grinding corn and making butter. You have a beautiful museum! Thank you for sharing it with us!"

Park staff is not at full capacity yet. Park Manager Gwen Prentice retired in January. It is our understanding that a replacement has been selected and will be announced soon. Her assistant Jordan Yaley is expected back soon. He has been gone for many weeks to complete National Guard training. We thank Andrew Kuckler for filling in even though he is also at Lake Geode. We also thank DNR regional supervisor Tom Basten for his support.

Many hands make light work. United Way sponsors a Community Day of Caring that matches volunteers with community organizations needing a hand. This spring students from Durant High School helped us prepare the mill and log cabin for school trips and family visitors. They were great to work

with and enjoyed themselves. We could not have finished this huge task without them.

We are looking for history-minded volunteers to interpret the log cabin on weekend afternoons. We will give you the information that you will need. Several times last summer members of Friends opened the cabin to tell visitors the cabin's story and how it was rebuilt. As soon as the door opened we had visitors. If you are interested contact Tom Hanifan at 563-554-4819 or tomhanifan@yahoo.com.

I like to look at our guest book to learn two things. 1) How do our visitors find out about the mill/cabin? As you would expect, word of mouth is the winner. Right behind is the Internet and social media. 2) Where do our foreign visitors come from? Last year they came from India, England, Italy, Romania, Scotland, Germany, Spain and Samoa.

Want to learn more about what we do? Interested in volunteering? Come to a meeting. Meet other volunteers and the park staff. We normally meet at 9 AM on the 2nd Saturday of the month. We meet at the Muscatine County Extension Office on Isett Ave. Come to the back door. Check our Facebook page for details or contact Tom at 563-554-4819 or tomhanifan@yahoo.com. We also place notices in local news sources.



At left Dick Stoltenburg is lubricating the millstone thrust bearing. At right Dick Klauer is replacing a rotted window sill.

It occurred to me as I sat down to write 2018's spring restoration column that all of my spring columns said pretty much the same thing. This time of year it is hard to come up with any new news about the mill and our activities, I will do my best to try to.

Since this newsletter is so late getting published the spring startup of the mill has been completed. Normally we start work at the mill the second week in April. By then the weather has warmed up and park staff is ready to turn the water system on.

This year things did not work out that way. The winter's cold weather held on weeks longer than normal, we lost two weeks of work at the mill putting us behind getting the mill open and running for the May school program.

Our first task is to give the mill a rough cleaning. Mostly we pick up what I call racoon reminders and sweep up the worst of the dead insects. There have been years when there were so many dead Japanese lady beetles on the floor that it felt like you were walking on popcorn. I have come to the conclusion that some organizing force instructs all of the beetles in Muscatine County to gather at the mill in the fall to die.

Once we had the mill opened up and tidied up a bit we were ready for the Durant High School student volunteers to come to the mill to give it a complete spring cleaning. We are very fortunate to have these students services. They are a good hard working bunch of young people that take supervision well. The Durant girls all knew how to do general cleaning, the boys not so much. Down in the basement I could hear Dick Stoltenburg giving some boys serious instruction on the fine art of washing windows. The idea being to *clean* the window, not merely move the dirt to a new location on it. Dick pointed out to the boys that knowing how

to properly wash a window would prepared them for their future married life.

Once the mill is cleaned up, the next important step is to give the mill a through inspection. Once that is done if no problems are found all of the machinery in the mill must be lubricated. This is very important for it a bearing is allowed to run dry a fire may result. We use about a gallon of number 80 gear oil every year on the machinery.

We are now at the point where the machinery can be tested after sitting motionless all winter. One of us keeps watch on each floor as the machinery is started. After a little groaning the motors come up to speed and if all went well the mill is running again.

This year we had to fight the spring battle to make the basement flat belts stay on their respective pulleys. How the belts track on their pulleys is effected by the mill's temperature and humidity. It seems they never run quite the same way from year to year. Returning the millstone drive belts to their pulleys is difficult, or it was until Clarence Klauer came up with the idea of using a sort of shoe horn to ease sliding the belts back on. After using his method I wondered why we had not thought of this years before?

There are many other tasks to getting the mill ready for the season. We have to clean out any spoiled grain left from the previous season. A particularly nasty cleaning job is cleaning up behind any bats that had lived in between the shutters and windows. You must wear gloves and face mask when doing this.

Over the winter I fabricated a new control lever for the three roller corn mill to replace the original cast iron lever that has broken several times. The new lever is made from steel and there is no chance it will break. The new lever was made to resemble the original one as much as practical to retain the historic appearance of the machine.



Clarence Klauer is installing the new control lever on the three roller corn mill.

Speaking of the corn mill for the first time we had problems with mouse nests clogging its elevators and chutes. Normally the mice build in other locations, not this year. When we started up the corn mill we wondered where all the shelled corn was going. Not a kernel came out of the second floor chute. While tracking down the clog we opened an inspection cover on the second floor and released a bushel of shelled corn that spilled all over the floor. After a lot of sweeping we recovered all of the corn, it was recycled back into the system. On the plus side in the process we discovered some minor issues with the heads of the corn elevators that someday will need attention.



Dick Stoltenburg is cleaning up the great corn spill while Clarence Klauer is repairing a chute.

One favorite job of mine is to get the bucket elevator exhibit working again. In early May I made a trip to the Stringtown Store in Kalona, Iowa to buy three fifty pound bags of wheat to replace the old now moldy wheat. It takes about 75 pounds of wheat for the exhibit to work properly. We have to make sure that all of the gates in the elevator system are set properly or else the wheat will go somewhere we don't want it to be when the machinery starts.

Over the winter the turbine pit fills with mud preventing the turbine from spinning. To get it the pit cleaned out and the turbine spinning again we have to reinstall the steel rod that opens and closes the penstock gate that is located out on the wall north of the mill. The rod is removed every fall to prevent it from being damaged by the ice that comes down the creek in the spring. We have to hang a ladder over the railing and lower it down to the water. One of us has to climb down the ladder and reconnect the operating rod. Once we can open the outer gate water flows through the penstock into the pit. Next one of us climbs down into the pit, stands on the turbine's top and using a shovel stirs up the mud so the water exiting the turbine washes it out of the pit and down the creek.

There are a lot of other little jobs to get the mill ready for the year. Cleaning supplies have to be inventoried and

restocked. This year we spent about \$150 just on cleaning supplies. Interpretive signs and exhibits have to be inspected and repaired or replaced as needed. This winter some of our signs were badly mouse eaten and had to be replaced. The hand cranked corn sheller needed repairs and several windows in the basement needed rotted out sills and broken panes replaced.

A job that we need to do more often that got done is the cleaning of the mill shop. The shop has a tendency to become a disorderly catch all for stuff. This years big clean out got started when Tom Hanifan asked if we had any square nails in stock. Tom uses the special nails in the school program Pioneer Tools program. Obtaining a supply of these nails is not trivial as a 50 pound box costs over \$200! After an hour of cleaning Dick Stoltenburg discovered where our two boxes of nails had hidden themselves away. Toms now back in the kids nailing business.

As we dug through the shop I encountered a lot of old memories of past projects, some successful, others not so much. Back in the south corner we found a remainder of one of my worst ideas. Several years ago I had a bright idea, I would replace the wheat in the elevator exhibit with plastic resin beads. The beads would eliminate the problem with mice eating the wheat and mold. The late Jim Tomasson and myself obtained a barrel of beads from a local factory and dumped them into the elevator system.

What I had not thought of is that when the elevators and chutes leaked wheat, the vermin in the mill ate most of it up, they did not eat the plastic beads. Once the elevator got set in motion we had a steady rain of tiny white beads raining down everywhere. The beads also made the floor slippery and rolled all over the place. The beads did not last long, after being removed from the system they lingered in a trash barrel in the shop as a reminder of a bad idea. They are no longer with us and hopefully will soon be forgotten.

What are our plans for the 2018 season? I would like to do two projects, one is the outhouse (non-functional) for the pioneer log cabin. I am sure that this once common fixture on every Iowa farm would be a revelation for today's kids! The other project I have in mind is another "kids love a crank" exhibit showing how a wooden paddle grain augers worked. Instead of being made from a continuous steel spiral as they are today, the augers were made from a hexagonal wood shaft that had a series of wooden paddles inserted into it. I envision making a small wood auger patterned after the historic ones. Kids could crank it moving some corn from a hopper to a bin and back again.

Do you have an idea on how the mill and cabin experience can be improved for our visitors? If you do we would love to hear it. Contact myself, Tom Hanifan or Heather Shoppa with your ideas.

The Fairport & Muscatine Potteries

By David Metz

William Chambers platted a town he called Salem between what would become Muscatine and Buffalo, Iowa in 1839. At some point Chamber's Salem became the Village of Fairport

The early settlers that came to what would become Iowa were on the lookout for economically valuable natural resources. Ben Nye for example choose land that had a rare water power site available and a good steam boat landing. Some early settler spotted a rare mineral resource, a deposit of potter's clay along the river at Fairport.

There are several types of clay suitable for making ceramic wares. Ideally the clay should be free of iron, debris and when moist plastic, that is easy to form. The discovery of the clay deposit led to several potteries opening in Fairport. Elijah Sells is credited with founding the Fairfield pottery industry. Sadly very little is known of the histories of the village's and few examples of the products they made survive to this day. For this reason the photos of pottery in this article are from other local potteries that are representative of what was made in Fairport.

The pottery the Fairport companies made were simple utilitarian containers. They were the almost disposable plastic bottles of their day. Feustel Pottery for example made large quantities of whiskey jugs. In the late 1800's retailers purchased whiskey by the barrel and filled their own jugs. You could even bring your own jug and have it refilled at your favorite store. The potteries also made bowls, clay tile, crocks (for pickling foods) and flower pots.



A Montpelier, Iowa four gallon stoneware crock.



A pottery mixing bowl, maker unknown. Marked "Montpelier Iowa" on the bottom

From the Muscatine Journal, April 27, 1882 we have a reporter's story of his visit to Fairport.

Something about the six big Potteries and the manufacture of Stoneware Other matters of importance and interest a Journal representative at "Jugtown."

A Journal representative lit down upon the peaceful precincts of Fairport Tuesday, half supposing that the three or four hours till the arrival of the next train would hang heavily on his hands. What was his astonishment to find himself rushed to the utmost in order to get around and then not see all that is to be seen.

The change that evermarks the advent of the railroad is clearly apparent in the town of jugs, crocks and flower pots. 'Tis' no longer sleepy old "Jugtown." with one mail per week. 'Tis now brisk, bustling Fairport, ten trains and two mails daily; a regular stopping place for boats and it has six large potteries in full operation. There is an air of business, not often seen in a village of its size, while the annual production of stoneware is really astonishing.

THE STONWARE INTEREST

We could not obtain exact figures, but the fact that each of the potteries turns out from 5,000 to 10,000 gaallons per month is sufficient indication of the extent of this industry. The first pottery in Fairport was operated by Mr. George Keck, who may be termed the father of the industry in this section. He came to Fairport in 1843 and has resided there since. Today he operates an extensive pottery which turns out about 5,000 gallons per mouth.

THE OTHER POTTERIES ARE:

Mr. John Sparks, with a production of from 6,000 to 9,000 gallons per month. He has recently shipped two loaded barges up the river.

Mr. John Feustel's, employing four journeymen, and having a capacity of 10,000 gallons per month. Mr. Feustel is running a full force, and his production is probably the largest of the potteries at this time.

Mr. M.S. Lee; with a capacity of 10,000 gallons. Mr. Lee last week shipped up river a barge laden with 36,000 gallons, the largest single shipment, we learn, that has ever gone out of Fairport. John Miller is Mr. Lee's efficient foreman.

Mr. Brunson's with a capacity of 10,000 gallons, per month, in addition to flower pots in the manufacture of which he is slightly engaged.

And last we notice the establishment of Mr. John Shellborn, who devotes his entire attention to the manufacture of flower pots, - yard vases, hanging baskets, etc. together with clay pipes. Mr. Shellborn now turns out a class of work which we did not suppose could be produced this side of Milwaukee, some of his designs in hanging baskets, yard vases etc. being very beautiful. He finds a market for almost his entire production with Geo. W. Dillaway, of Muscatine.

THE CLAY SUPPLY

The clay supply we are informed, practically unlimited, being found in large quantities on both sides of the river near Fairport. The clay is of the best quality and with cheap fuel in abundance, the facilities of Fairport for producing a fine class of stoneware at a low price cannot be excelled.

The John Feustel Pottery



This photo was taken after John Feustel purchased the Russell Pottery in 1874. The cone shaped structure on the right is the potteries kiln.

German immigrant John Feustel had the most notable pottery in Fairport. He began making pottery in 1869 and in 1879 he purchased the Russell Pottery and rebuilt it. He started off manufacturing flower pots and stoneware and some developed a large business making jugs for the retail sale of liquor and other liquids. In those days retail merchants purchased items like whiskey, brandy and vinegar in fifty gallon wooden barrels. Jugs were purchased separately and were filled by a clerk when you made your purchase. To supply this demand Feustel employed fifteen men at his factory.

He had a unique method to distributing his wares, he had his own steamboat named the *Fairport* but called by everyone on the river *The Jug Boat*. The *Fairport* traveled as far north on the Mississippi River as Red Wing, Minnesota stopping at every river town on its way up and back to sell pottery.

When the Iowa deposits of potter's clay were exhausted Feustel and the other potteries mined clay from a deposit directly across from Fairport in Illinois. Feustel hired all of the local farmer and their teams that he could to bring a years supply of clay across the frozen river every winter. He owned several islands in the Mississippi that were logged every winter to supply wood to fire his kiln.

THE MARKET

The market for the stoneware is as yet mainly at St. Paul and other northern cities, nearly all shipments being made by steamboat or barge. In the latter case a barge is loaded, put in charge of a good man, and towed by raft boat to St. Paul. That market being supplied the barge is allowed to float downstream to the next city etc., until the entire cargo is disposed of.

The railroad will, of course, be a great assistance in opening new markets, though as yet no rates can be obtained which will compare with river freights.

A FORTUNE FOR SOME ONE

We are assured that there is no better point in the west for starting drain and sewer tile works than at Fairport, and that there is a fortune awaiting someone who possesses the requisite capital and ability to establish and conduct such an enterprise.



A Muscatine Pottery Co. Butter Jar.

Justice Townsley administers justice or matrimony as the case may be, with grace and dignity, the latest applicants for matrimonial bliss being Bassel L. Rogers and Isabelle Chamberlain, both of this county, on Monday last.

As yet, Fairport has no hotel, but first-rate accommodations can be obtained at the boarding houses of John Feustel and David Morris.

The village school has a large attendance, and is in charge of Mr. A.G. Tyler, who we are informed, gives excellent satisfaction.

Among the things which Fairport wants are a barber :(who would have thought it?) and above all a good ferry boat. It is believed that a ferry will pay a good percent on the investment, the amount of wood, clay, and the number of people to be transported being very large. The people of the Illinois district would thus be enabled to come to Fairport to trade or take the cars as the case may be. We understand that two gentlemen have agreed to subscribe \$1,000 each to start a ferry, if another \$1,000 can be raised.

All in all we were much pleased and not a little surprised at what we saw in Fairport, and assure our readers that a pleasant half day can be spent in looking about Fairfield and its potteries.

Muscatine's Potteries

Fairport did not have all of the counties pottery works. Muscatine had several in the second half of the 1800's. Located in South Muscatine you could find the Muscatine Pottery Company established in 1883 by T. H. Goddard. When mechanization occurred in 1886 the company changed its name to the Muscatine Steam Pottery. They advertised that they made "Pottery of Every Description."

Located on the corner of Mulberry Street and 11th Street You could find the Henry Fuller Stoneware Company. Fuller made flower pots, vases and the ever popular at the time spittoons. Fuller also operated a brick yard on the north end of Sycamore Street.

F. C. Lee operated the Union Pottery between 1891 & 1892 on 11th Street between Mulberry & Orange Streets.

Charles Stark produced in 1902 what is perhaps Muscatine's most unique ceramic ware. At 1200 Oak Street he manufactured clay smoking pipes that sold two for a nickel.

The End of the Potteries

Several factors led to the demise of the Fairport and Muscatine potteries. The cost of shipping heavy crockery made it unprofitable to develop a regional business. Most of the Fairport production was distributed along the river by barge. The development of the modern glass canning jar took away the market for crocks. Prohibition drove the final nail in the coffin by eliminating the market for whiskey jugs and ceramic beer bottles. Today not a trace of the once busy potteries remains.

Credits: Photos are credited to the Muscatine Art Center, Muscatine, Iowa. Special thanks to Virginia Cooper for her valuable assistance supplying research material. Donors of the items in the photos: Bowl, Leonard & Elsie Paul. Four Gallon crock, Art Center Collection. Butter Jar, Mr. George Millet

A Rich Flour Speculation 1897

There is an old saying that the only person that makes money in a Gold Rush is the man that sells picks and shovels. Here is a story from the 1897 July 24th issue of the Modern Miller where the unknown author ponders how he can make a fast buck from the Yukon gold rush of that year.

Many are the stories told now of gold seekers and the rush of business that attended the rich gold strikes of the past. Among them is the tale told an Oregonian interviewer recently by Mr. J. B. Montgomery. Speaking of the mad rush to the Klondike region he said:

“It reminds me of the Chili Flour Companies venture in 1850. At that time I had kinsman, Mr. William G. Moorhead who was the United States Consul at Valparaiso, Chili. His consulate, previous to the rush of gold seekers for California, was worth less \$3,000 per year. The ships that sailed around Cape Horn all stopped at Valparaiso to take in provisions and water. The fees increased his income so that it reached \$25,000 per year.

Mr. Moorhead was a man of affairs. He had been a merchant in New York before he was a consul. He saw his opportunity. He consulted with Mr. Waddington and Mr. Whitehead, who were English merchants in Valparaiso. They formed a company; each put in \$25,000 capital. Mr. Moorhead then rode some hundreds of miles down the coast to the flour mills at Conception and made a contract to take all of their output for \$6 per barrel delivered free on board a ship. It cost another dollar in freight to take it to

San Francisco. In 1873 he told me of the outcome of the venture.

“A few days before the first arrival in California a came into Mr. Moorhead’s office in San Francisco.”

“Have you any flour to sell?” He asked.

“Yes; a shipload of 10,000 barrels, which will arrive in a few days.”

“How much do you want for the cargo?”

“I want \$15 per barrel.” Moorhead said.

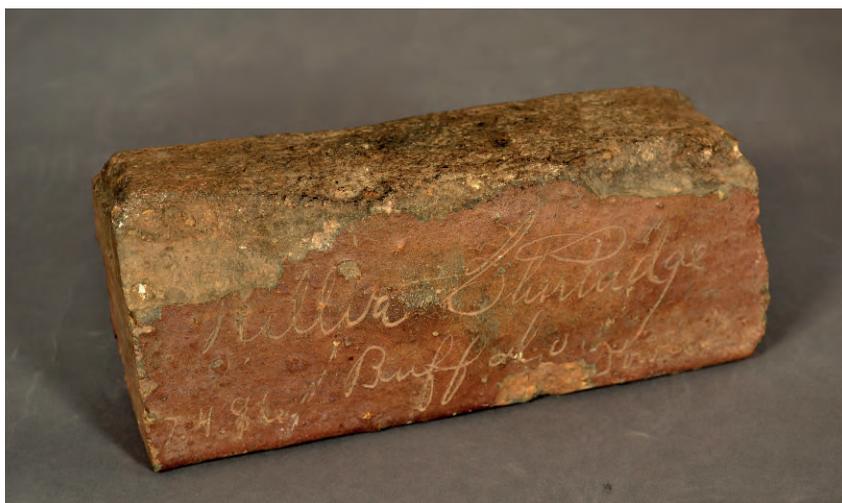
“To cut the story short Mr. Moorhead told me they concluded the terms at \$14.50 per barrel, and without handling the flour they cleared \$75,000 on the first cargo.”

“At the end of 14 months Moorhead, Whitehead & Waddington closed up the Chili Flour Company with a profit of \$700,000.”

It occurs to me that something like this could be done with the current Alaska gold rush. Who knows?

At the mouth of the Yukon River, three miles south are three islands, known as the sand Islands. Professor William Dall of the Smithsonian Institution who spent three years on the Yukon told me that inside these islands there is good water and good anchorage: that ships could lie there in safety and discharge their cargoes in safety into river steamers that could cross through the channel and ascend to Dawson City.

The steamer P. B. Weare, 175 feet long and of 38 foot beam, for a year or more has been running from St. Michaels up the Yukon to Forty Mile Creek, and later to Dawson City. There would be no trouble for other ships to do the same thing. The captain of the Weare told my informant that it took 18 days to up to Dawson City. The voyage is lengthened by stopping to cut wood for fuel. But why could not the passengers be induced to help cut wood and expedite the voyage. No doubt this could be arranged and a fortune be made selling flour to the miners.



Donated to the Muscatine Art Center by Randy Elder this is a fired paving brick marked “Wilber Sturbridge 7/4/86 Buffalo Iowa.” This is the type of brick used on Muscatine’s first paved streets.

The Indian Trails of Muscatine County

By Mr. Rick Biermanz

Ten years ago, I was reading about Spanish explorers in New Mexico and I read that they used stone markers to mark their way through the new territories. I remembered that there used to be a stone Indian trail marker displayed at Muscatine's riverfront park. The marker was no longer there but research showed that the stone was one of three similar markers that showed the trail from the Mississippi River to the Cedar River.

I got in touch with the State Archaeologist's office and was told that there was no evidence that the Indians had marked trails in Muscatine County. I also contacted a historian for the Sauk-Fox Tribe who told me that she knew of no stone markers used by her tribe. She did say that there was a story that a trail following the west bank of the Mississippi had been marked with stones and carvings. Her people hadn't marked it and the trail was there before they moved into the region.

As I studied, I learned that there were thousands of Native American earthworks and burial mounds on both sides of the Mississippi from Clinton to Burlington, with a large concentration in the Muscatine area. Most of these dated to the Havana Hopewell period of 200 BC to 400 AD. This would include the Hopewell presence at Gast Farm and Toolesboro in Louisa County. I wondered why there would be such a large concentration of earthworks in the Muscatine area.

The Hopewell Culture had an expansive trade network that covered much of the eastern United States and some areas west of the Mississippi River. Trade materials would include copper, lead, pipestone, fresh water pearls, flint and obsidian. Muscatine was at a good geographical location to receive and distribute these resources. Muscatine County is located on the Mississippi River and just downstream of the mouth of the Rock River. Raw copper could be transported from the copper deposits of Lake Superior down the Rock River or the Mississippi to the Hopewell settlements close to

Muscatine. Pipestone, from Minnesota and the Rock River, as well as lead, from the Dubuque area, could be transported down the Rock and Mississippi Rivers. Freshwater pearls have been recovered from clams harvested from the Mississippi at Muscatine. Obsidian, from Wyoming, could be moved along the network of east-west trails that pass through the area.

How were the trails mapped? The original surveyors of the portion of the Wisconsin territory that became eastern Iowa in 1838 and 1839 found evidence of the trails and marked them on the maps they were making. By the late 1830's when the territory was opened for settlement the federal government began to move the Iowa Indian population to the west. As white settlers moved in, they naturally used the existing trails.

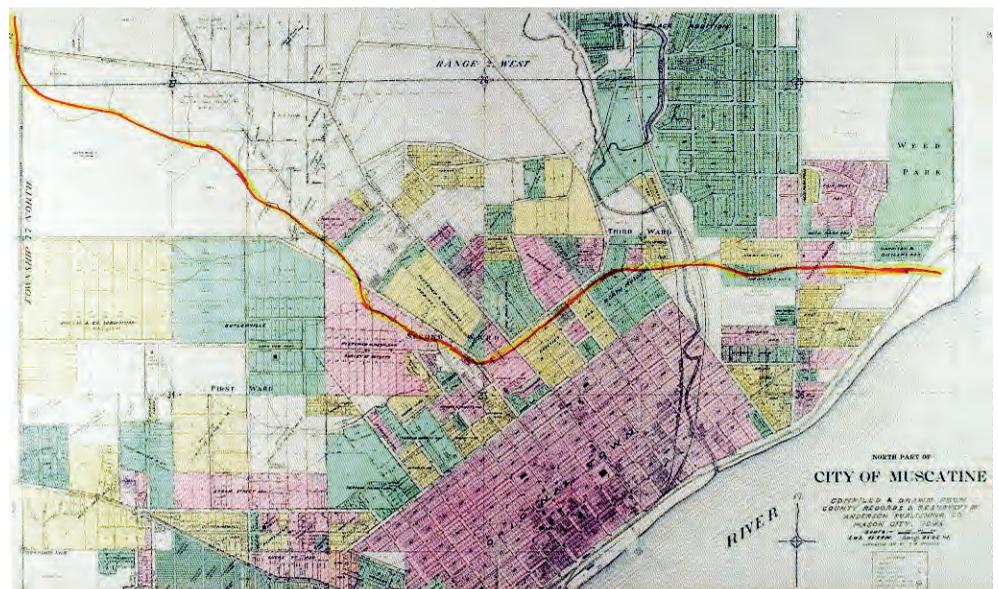
Of special interest to me is the trail that ran from the trading post called Casey's Landing (Located at the intersection of today's Mississippi Drive and Iowa Avenue on the river bank in today's Muscatine) to the Cedar River. There was a place on the Cedar River that I found that had a rock bottom making it a natural ford.

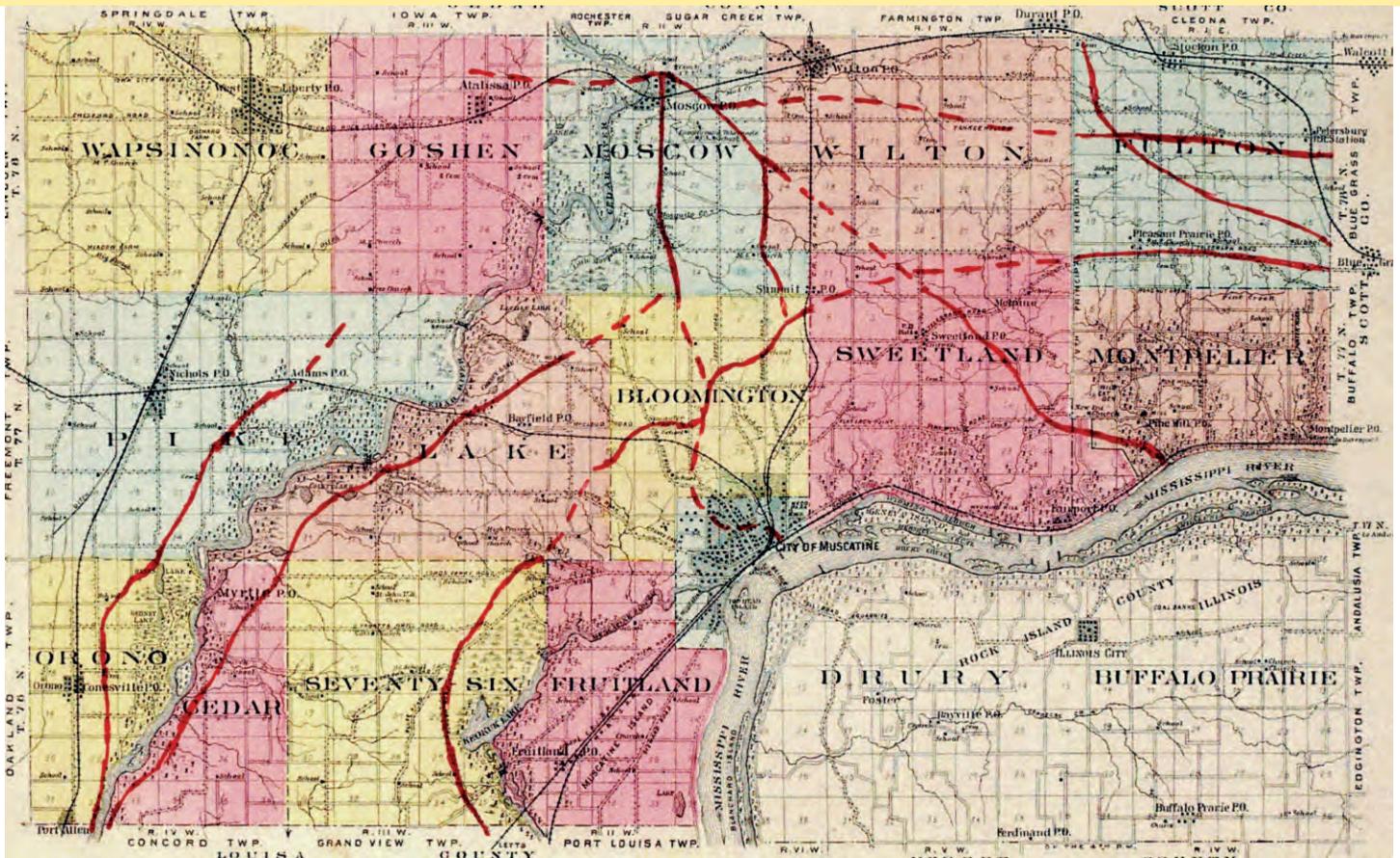
The trail continued on to West Liberty and then to Iowa City following close to where highway 6 is today. On west it went into Nebraska, and on to Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. From there the trail met a network of trails that became the famous Santa Fe Trail.

It is not certain where the trail crossed the Mississippi on its way east. My theory is that it was at the bottom of Muscatine's Sherman Street. Once across the river the trail went on to the Milan, Illinois area. The route of the trail is not known. For hundreds of years there had been a large Indian village there inhabited by the Sac & Fox tribes. From the village the Sac Trail ran east to the Detroit, MI. Area.

The Indian trail through Muscatine, Iowa. Papoose Creek made a natural route from the prairie bluff down to the Mississippi River.

The creek originally ran directly to the river through what is now downtown Muscatine. In the late 1800's the creek was directed through a huge storm sewer that begins near the corner of Cedar Street and Parham.





The Indian trails of Muscatine, Iowa. The solid red lines show trails whose locations have been identified. The dashed lines show probable locations of trains and how they connected.

Not shown is the possible trail along the Mississippi River to Pine Creek.

Hubinger's 1899 Topographical Map of Muscatine County

There is evidence of Indian habitation in the Wildcat Den State Park area. There were Indian mounds near Pine Creek overlooking the river. The overhanging rock walls in the valleys in the park sheltered Indians for thousands of years.

If you have any questions or interest in my research, please contact me.

Mr. Rick Bierman email: richard_bierman@q.com



An Indian artifact of unknown purpose found by Mr. Bierman in the Cedar River. It is perfectly smooth and symmetrical.



Also found at the Cedar River is this hoe or scraping tool. The napping marks where flint was chipped away are visible.



The arrowhead was found on a sandbar on the Cedar River. The color shows that the flint was heated in a fire to make it easier to work.

Annual Ken Hyman Memorial Trail Run

By Tom Hanifan

The annual Ken Hyman Memorial trail run/walk will be Saturday Sept. 8th at 8 AM. The course is a 5K (3.1 miles) route beginning and ending in the upper picnic area. Most of the course is off-road following marked trails through the park's scenic natural areas. This is a unique event that brings a mix of serious runners seeking a challenge and casual walkers wanting to see the park in a different way.

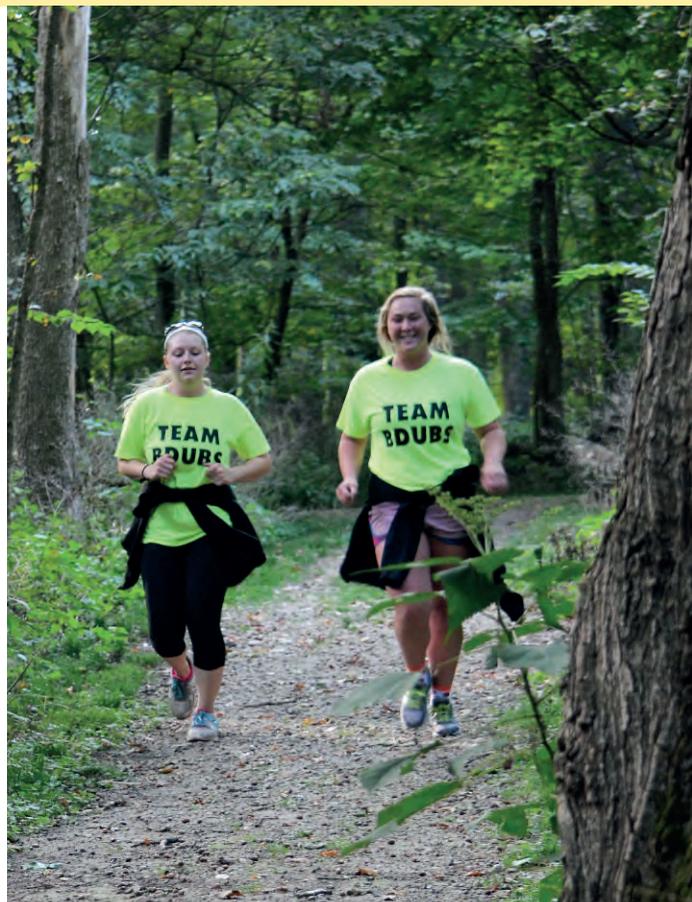
Pictured are 2 of the participants and helpers from Buffalo Wild Wings.

We always need race day volunteers at the registration area and to help direct people on the trail. Can you help us out?

Registration forms will be available at the mill, at the Muscatine Y, and at the Running Wild store in Davenport. You may register online thru the Cornbelt Running Club Web site or the Muscatine Running Club Web site. You may also register online at <https://secure.getmeregistered.com/WildcatRun>.

All proceeds go to Pine Creek Grist Mill. Entry Fee: \$20 through September 5th. Late entries \$25. Make checks payable to Friends of Pine Creek Mill. Additional donations to support the mill are appreciated.

Questions? Contact Tom at 563-554-4819 or at tomhanifan@yahoo.com.



RAGBRAI IS COMING!

By Tom Hanifan

This is a really big deal!

What is RAGBRAI? The Des Moines Registers Annual Great Bike Ride Across Iowa is bringing about 15,000 bike riders past New Era Church and Wildcat Den State Park. Bike riders from all over the world will be passing by on Saturday July 28th. Some members of the Friends will be riding with the herd.

Our neighbors at New Era Church will be playing a major role. The church is planning to have food vendors, drinks, port-a-potties and entertainment. There will even be a bike repair shop at the church. DNR staff and the Friends are working with them to make the day a success. DNR may provide staff from other parks for traffic control and law enforcement. We have offered our public address equipment and expertise in setting it up at the church.

Our tentative plans are to have the mill and cabin open, provide a few port-a-potties and drinks.

We need your help. The church will be sharing part of their proceeds with the Friends of the Mill. In return they are

looking for volunteers. They need help setting up on Friday and during the day on Saturday. We will also need volunteers to greet bikers at the mill and log cabin area.

If you can help please contact:

Friends of the Mill: Tom Hanifan 563-554-4819
Tomhanifan@yahoo.com

New Era Church: Randy Hermann 563-299-2657
rhermann@machlink.com

The Official RAGBRAI web page: <https://ragbrai.com/>

Day by day route Maps: <https://ragbrai.com/routemaps/2018-route-maps/>

More questions? FAQ: <https://ragbrai.com/about/faqs/>

The generosity of donors makes it possible for us to host visitors and provide our school program in 2017. Since the last newsletter many donors have contributed. We hope you were not missed. In addition to those listed below, many people have donated important smaller amounts.

WHEAT LEVEL \$1000 +
Community Foundation of
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FOR THE LOG CABIN
Mark and Carol Kemper

**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



Learn more
about Pine Creek
Grist Mill at our
web page

Learn more
about other
Muscatine area
attractions



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

Do you have something for the newsletter? To keep your newsletter interesting we need your ideas, photos and editorial submissions.

Contact editor Dave Metz with your ideas, comments or questions about the newsletter:
davemetz@machlink.com or
563-263-4222

One look at these kids faces tells you what a wonderful place to visit Pine Mills is. To keep the mill open to the public we need your help. We need your donations to help pay for our summer interpretive staff. We need volunteers to do a variety of fun jobs. Like working with kids, like history, contact us!



Donation Form Your donations keep Pine Mill open to the public

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

www.pinecreekgristmill.com

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

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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

2018 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: F.O.M. C/O Mr. Tom Hanifan
Box 1205
Muscatine, Iowa 52761