

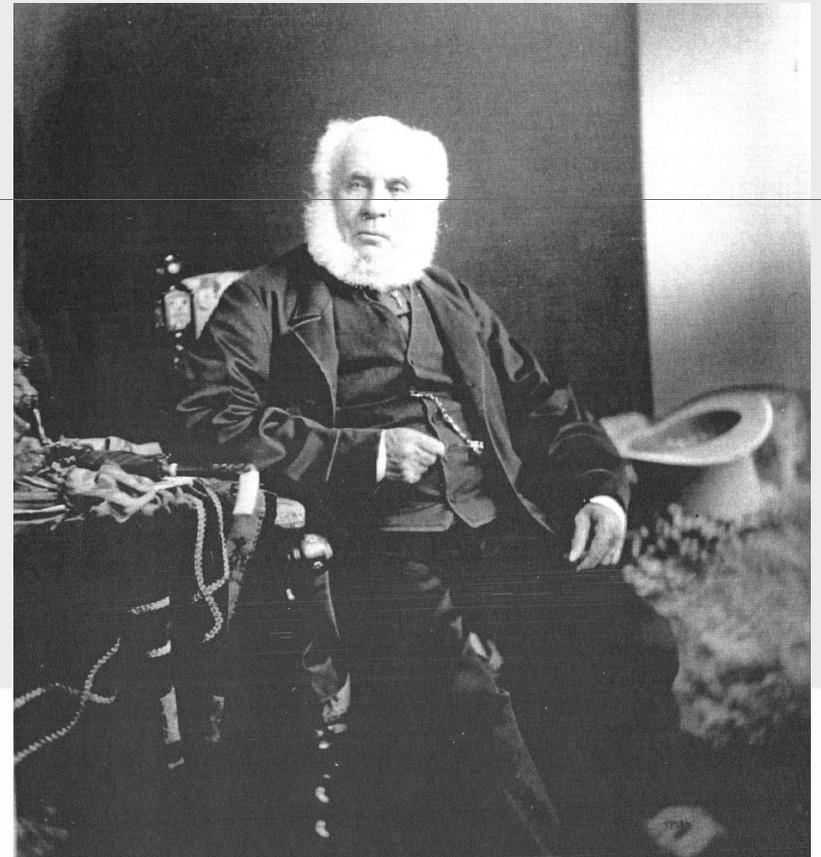
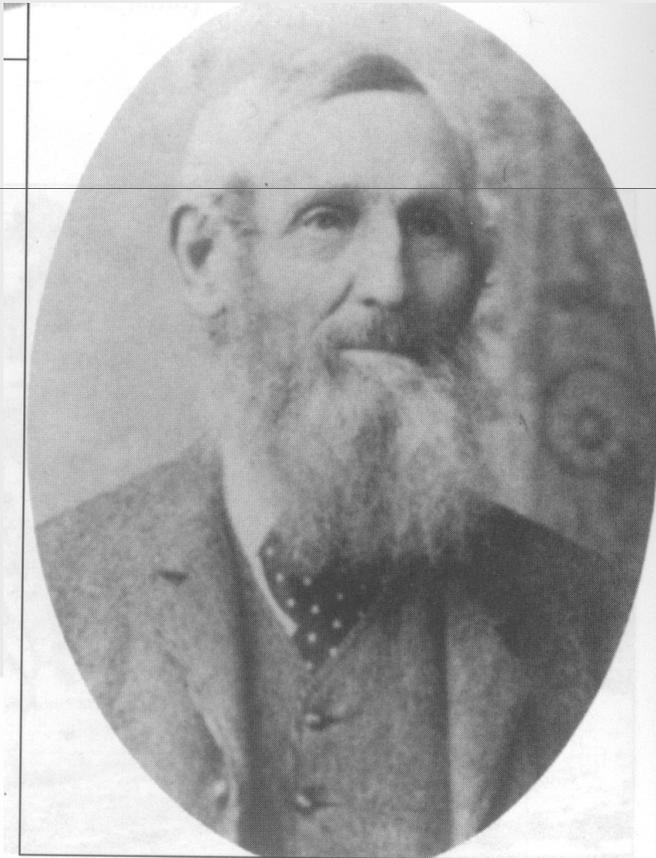
MILLING HISTORY: THE EARLY YEARS

- 1833 – James Crawford tries to damn the Credit River and build a sawmill. This was not successful
- 1837 John Simpson damns the Credit and builds first successful commercial sawmill and carding mill
- Simpson's adopted son, Albert Lambe, opened a sawmill in the centre of town – had a contract with the T. Eaton Co. to supply lumber for furniture until the mill closed in 1930
- 1845 – Crawford sold his land to Francis Silverthorn who built the first grist mill
- The first grist mill was destroyed by fire in 1849 and rebuilt on the same spot
- Most mills at the time were built of stone, but Silverthorn had access to a generous lumber supply



MILLING HISTORY: FRANCIS SILVERTHORN

- Silverthorn over extended his business and found himself in financial difficulties after a three mortgages on the mill property could not be paid.
- Two of these mortgages were private: One with John Wilmot and the second with William Gooderham of Gooderham and Worts, Toronto. The Third was with the Bank of Upper Canada, of which William Gooderham was a Director.



MILLING HISTORY: THE GOODERHAM YEARS

- In 1859 Silverthorn assigned the mill ownership to James Gooderham and lost it all in 1861 to Gooderham on behalf of the Bank of Upper Canada.
- William Gooderham sent his sons, James and Charles (Holly) to own & manage the mill and area properties
- It was James Gooderham that got the mill up and running and made improvements (including the new office), added the third floor for ventilation and produced up to 320 barrels of grain a day
- James also built a general store on the main street that had up to 20 employees (destroyed by fire 1907)
- James left in 1865 to run the Streetsville mill and Holly took over the Meadowvale operation



MILLING HISTORY: THE GOODERHAM YEARS

- Holly Gooderham did not gain ownership of the mill until 1876
- His biggest contribution to the village was the building of the Gooderham mansion in 1870 at the cost of \$30,000
- Holly sold the mill to Edward Wheeler in 1882, plus all the mill related properties and Mansion, thus ending the Gooderham and Worts era in Meadowvale



MILLING HISTORY...WHEELER TO BROWN

- Edward Wheeler of Wheeler Brothers did not have success with the mill and stopped production in 1893. The mill was sold to Henry Brown in 1895.
- Brown took almost two years of renovations and repairs to reopen the mill in 1897 and he brought the mill back to nearly the level of production as the Gooderhams.



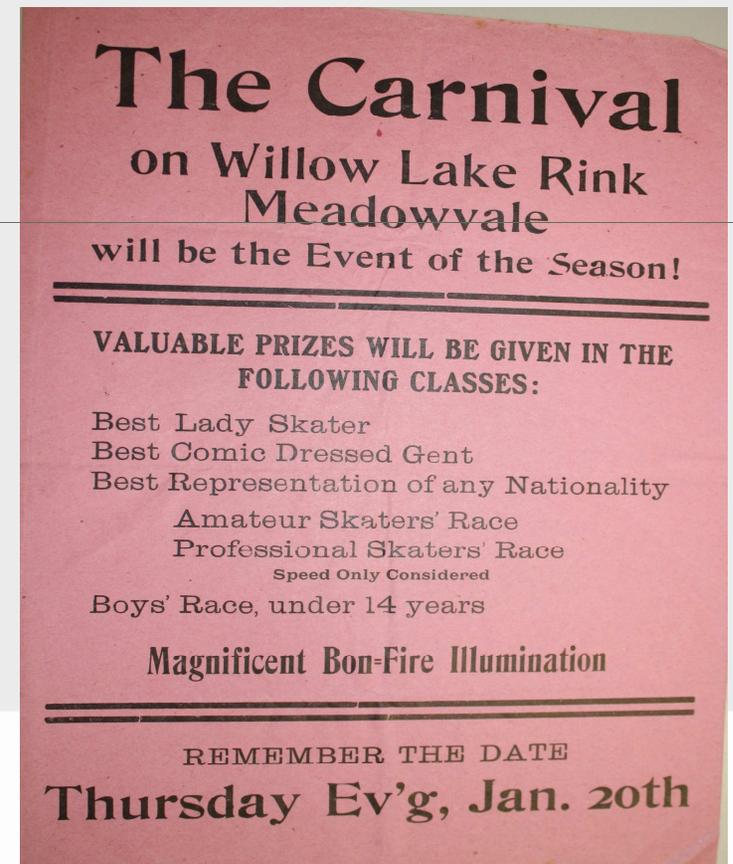
MILLING HISTORY: HENRY BROWN

- Brown's contribution to the mill and the Village in general was a major turning point and development in the history of Meadowvale
- Brown not only revived the mill to a successful operation but he also re-invented the Village as a tourist area



MILLING HISTORY: HENRY BROWN

- He expanded the mill pond to become Willow Lake – added row boats and canoes for rent, cottages for rent, picnic areas, walking trails, willow trees and events/attractions year round
- This sparked the alteration of the Gooderham mansion into a hotel and eventually the creation of Apple Tree Inn and other bed and breakfast type establishments
- Brown tragically died in his own pond in March, 1911 at age 48. His passing was the end of an era.



MILLING HISTORY: 1911 - 1954

- After Brown's death in March 1911, Lillie Brown sold the mill in October to William J. Brett. He owned the mill until 1943.
- Stanley Gorman next owned the mill in 1943 and for the three years he owned it, it may have operated only half that time. The mill was becoming old and in bad need of upgrading.
- Luther and Grace Emerson bought the mill in 1947 and milling operations ceased in 1950.
- The mill was forcibly dismantled by Toronto Township order in 1954. However, the south building along Old Derry Road was not removed until 1963 when the CVC acquired the land from the Emerson's. This ended a century long history of grist milling in Meadowvale.

