

MILFORD TIMES

June 24, 1927--Story about Hudson's Mill:

About 1832 Isaiah Hudson moved his family into the woods of Oakland County, making a home on the banks of the Huron river about two and a half miles southwest of the village of Milford, where he found a waterpower for his purpose. Here he built in the river a dam to control the stream, and a rude building, putting in an upright saw. Here he sawed oak logs into lumber for any who brought them there.

As pine lumber was a long distance away, with no railroad or water transportation, and country far from such as we have today, this was a great convenience for any who used rough lumber, and the sawmill was in until timber grew scarce in the oak openings, and railroads brought lumber nearer, when it was no longer needed or used.

The waterpower was still good, and a son, Frances (sic) Hudson, decided to use it in the manufacture of wooden hand rakes. He put up a substantial two-story building at the point where the highway crosses the river, on the east side of the stream, and north side of the highway. He fitted the upper story as a home for himself and his family, and in the lower room put a turning lathe, connected with a waterwheel and driven by it. Here a few articles of simple furniture for household use were made. The writer still has a square table made there in the year '44, but the business was the making of hand rakes, which were then a necessity in every hay or harvest field, and until the advent of the horse rake, and later the harvester, this factory furnished work for two or three men. Machinery crowded out, largely, the call for hand rakes, and Mr. Hudson sold the property to Mr. Watson, he, later, to William White, who made of it a cider mill, which has followed the sawmill and the factory into oblivion. May it long remain there with its kindred.

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