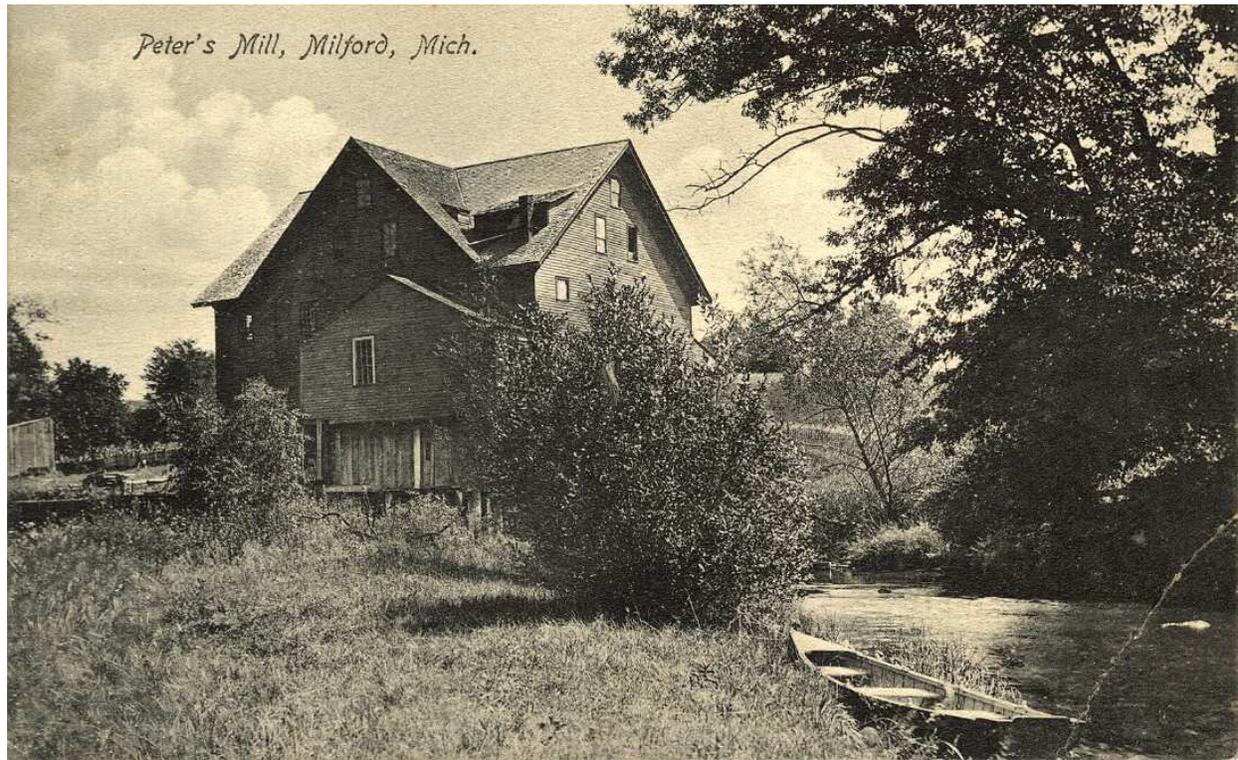


PETERS' MILL HISTORY



This mill was torn down in April 1911 when the present Hubbell dam was built further down the river. We quote from the Times of April 15, 1911:

According to the "History of Oakland County" published in 1877, the first grist mill to be built at Milford was erected by Luman Fuller in 1836. [Error: Deed records, water rights and a lawsuit indicate the mill was built in 1834.] It was on the site of the present Peters Mill. Mr. Fuller operated the mill until 1840 when it was sold to William Wells [Welles]. Jacob Peters came to Milford in 1846, and a year later purchased the mill of Mr. Wells. In connection with it Mr. Peters operated a woolen factory, a tannery and cooperage, and some of the older residents can tell how its products were teamed to Flint, Detroit and Saginaw.

John Peters, a son of Jacob Peters, in time assumed the management of the property and the mill was rebuilt and enlarged by John Peters in the early seventies. Some of the work was done before the railroad was built and most of the pine lumber in the present building was hauled from Flint by team, a load of flour being take [sic] up and a load of lumber brought back.

The original mill started with two run of stone. In rebuilding another run of stone was added and the old wooden water wheel was replaced by iron turbines, the whole improvement entailing a large expense.

The rebuilding was scarcely completed when John Peters sickened of typhoid fever and died. The hard times, following the panic of '73 came on and the mill passed out of the Peters family in 1885 and after several changes of ownership was purchased by the late William Peters in 1902. In the settlement of the latter's estate, the property has passed to F.S. Hubbell.

Being off the railroad, the production of flour was discontinued many years ago, but the mill continued to do a considerable business in feed grinding, it being handy for farmers living southeast of town. A few years ago a saw mill was added in the basement, which was operated more or less each year as logs were available.

E.F. Albright contributed the following reminiscences regarding the mill:

Many pleasant memories of my younger days cling around the old Peters Mill. That was the first building that I entered in Milford. It was in the fall of 1836. I had come from Detroit with Jesse Tenney and John Morse of Highland. They left me among the oak grubs at the east end of the plateau to find my way to Fuller's mill.

There were few buildings on the way, in fact, I only remember three, the Arms dwelling, store and barn. I soon found my way to the foot of the hill and entered the mill. That day, and at that moment, the mill had been started grinding, and one of my oldest friends, Hiram Scollard, stood with his hand under the stream of ground meal as it ran from the stones and by his side stood Luman Fuller, who had been our neighbor at my birthplace in the state of New York.

They gave me a welcome and directed me to the log house in which both families lived and there also I was given a warm welcome and dinner. Of course, at that time it was Fuller's mill and after a time Mr. Fuller sold it to William J. Wells [sic], who I think sold it to Peters.