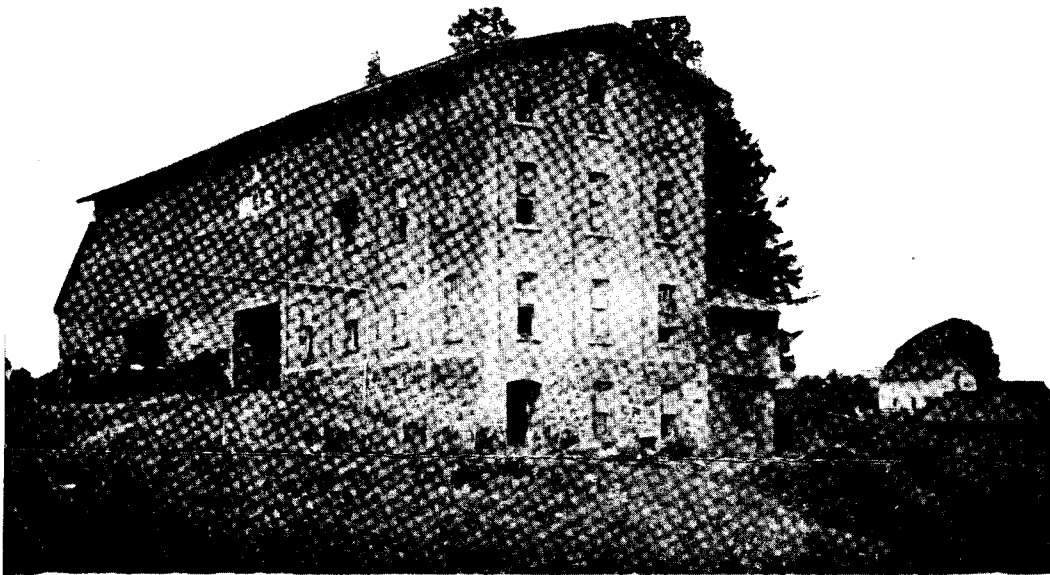


YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Star Mills, McMinnville, Ore.

17939

THE STAR MILL by Ruth Stoller

The Star Flouring Mill, the best known of McMinnville's old flour mills, was a direct descendent of William T. Newby's original grist mill. After getting permission of the territorial legislature and affected land owners to turn some of the water from Baker Creek into Cozine Creek by means of a ditch, Newby erected his mill in 1853. The mill was built on the east side of of the mill race, where the City Park is today. In August of 1857 Newby sold a half interest in this mill for an amazing \$8,000 to E.G. Edson, McMinnville's first postmaster. About this same time (1857) Newby and Edson bought about six acres off of the east end of the Beary donation land claim, which bordered Newby's west line. Edson sold out to Newby in September of 1860 and soon moved to California. Edson got only \$5,000 for his half interest in the mill.

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As sole owner of the mill, W.T. Newby almost immediately sold it to Robert C. Kinney. Kinney had moved to McMinnville from Chehalem Valley so that he could better educate his children. During the next few years Kinney expanded his commercial interests to include a flour mill in Salem and an interest in the Salem woolen Mills. In 1867 the Kinneys moved to Salem and the McMinnville mill was sold in June of 1868 to William K. Smith for the same amount of money that Kinney had paid for it. A month later the mill changed hands again and was purchased by John Sax and George Bangasser for \$9,500. Sax was from Switzerland and Bangasser was born in Alsace Lorraine. Both had come to Oregon about 1852 and both had farmed in Washington County.

The biggest changes in the mill were to take place during the many years that John Sax was owner. Bangasser left the partnership in November of 1875, selling his interest in the mill for \$500. The \$500 price could be an error in the copying of the original deed into the records or may be an indication that something had happened to depreciate Bangasser's half interest.

Evidently, sometime during Sax's ownership the brick building on the opposite side of the mill race was built. By the time the Sax estate sold the mill in 1890, it was being referred to as the Brick Mill and was located on the west side of the mill race.

David Stout bought the Brick Mill, or the McMinnville Milling Company as it was also called, for \$10,000. Shortly thereafter, he sold a half interest in it to his father-in-law, John S. Martin for the usual \$5,000. During the time of Stout's ownership the favorite brand of flour among his customers was the Star brand. The first mention of the Star Mill name in the public records was on September 17, 1894 when John S. Martin sold his interest in the Brick Mill to H.M. Daniel. The value of the mill had increased and this time the half interest sold for \$10,000.

The Daniel family was to continue to hold an interest in the Star Mill for a long time, in fact until it closed. Henry M. Daniel brought his family west from Minnesota in 1873 and soon after to Yamhill County. Before he acquired his part ownership in the Star Mill, Daniel farmed, operated the Trullinger mill at Yamhill for two years, and had an interest in the Lafayette flouring Mill for three years. In June of 1902 Daniel bought out David Stout and became sole owner of the mill. A month later he sold a half interest to his son Ivan L.

The spring of 1908 Isaac Lambright bought an interest in the Star Mill and in August of that year the Star Mill was incorporated with J.M. Daniel as president, Isaac Lambright, vice president, and Ivan L. Daniel secretary and treasurer. Henry Daniel died in December of that year (he was 80 years old) and Lambright succeeded to the presidency and Ivan L. remained secretary-treasurer.

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EVENT: February meeting
WHEN: February 10, 1974
WHERE: PGE meeting room on the road from
Fernwood grange east of Newberg
PROGRAM: pending

Come bring a friend, potluck at 7:00 meeting 8:00 P.M. table
service is limited be sure to bring your

MUSEUM NEWS

We are planning a quilt show in March or April. We have
to find a suitable location. We have been invited to have a
float in the Centennial July 4th celebration.

We have a kid doll body that needs a head. Not very large.
About two inch at base of head should fit. We still need old
photos of the town where you live to complete our files---families
also.

Don't forget the White Elephant table at the February meeting.

October 1 to December 31 we had 144 visitors. Very few on
these dark days. We need to be there to keep the house in order.

Roma Sitton

concluded from previous page.

The mill continued in operation well into the 20th Century
and the building itself stood on the bank opposite the City Park
until recent years. Only the shell of the building remained.
It had burned several years after the structure had been abandoned
as a flour mill.

DUES

If your dues are still not paid why not take care of it
right away. Dues are \$2.00 per person. \$4.00 for man and wife.
For those of you who pay dues to the Oregon State Historical
Society they are up 506 this year, now \$7.50. All dues both
county and state should be sent to:

Mrs. Florence M. Bridenstine
1029 East 4th St.
McMinnville, Ore. 97128

Make all checks payable to: YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY.