

LEGACY FOR KIDS

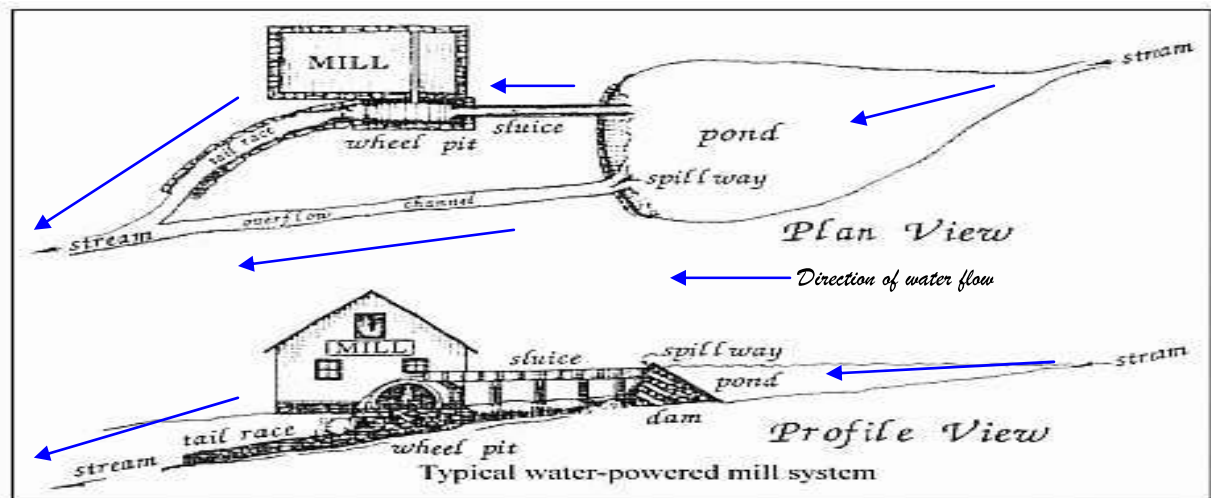
NUMBER 4

GRIST MILLS

Grist mills were constructed in the early years of white settlement in Walworth County. The purpose of these mills, which were usually located on water ways like Honey Creek and White River was to grind corn, wheat and other grains like rye, oats and barley to make flour for the early settlers. The plentiful and fertile soil and climate of southeastern Wisconsin (including Walworth County) made wheat the ideal first major crop here. After many years of wheat farming, a fungus invaded the area called wheat leaf rust. It was a fungus which destroyed many farmers' crops. They turned to raising corn and dairy farming as a result. Never the less, grist mills remained an important part of every small town, city and crossroads where a good flowing water way existed.

A dam would be built on the river to hold back water. Water from the pond would be moved toward a water wheel at the mill which would then, by a system of axels and gears spin a stone called the "running stone". This stone spun around over still stone underneath called the "bed stone." Each stone had

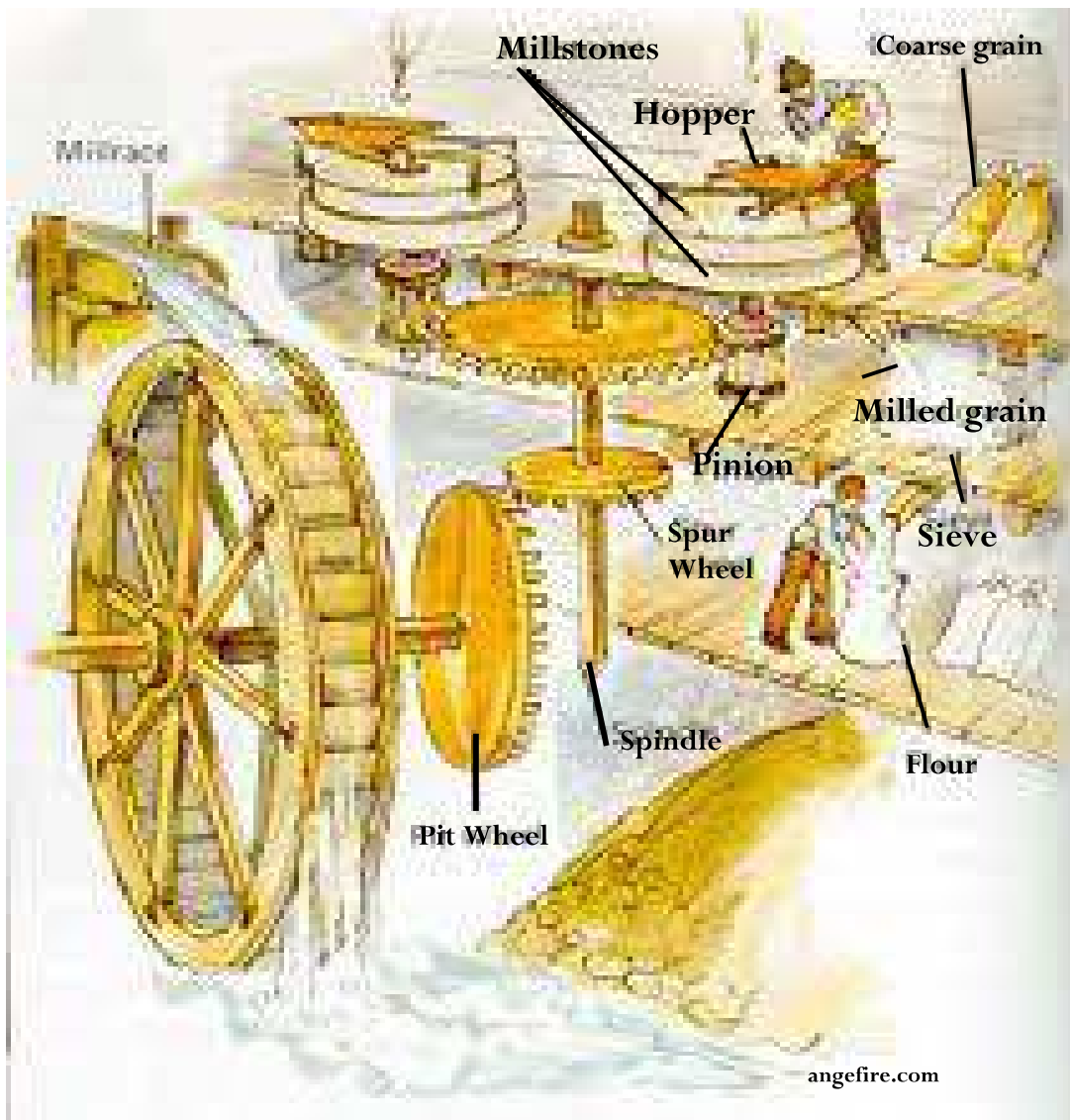
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sharp edged grooves which would cut and grind the grain into flour between the stones. As the flour or grist spun out from the millstones, it would be gathered and bagged and returned to the farmer who brought in the grain in the first place. The farmer would leave a portion of the bagged grist as payment or pay the mill owner or “miller” cash for his work and the use of his mill.

Parts of a Grist Mill



AROUND OUR COUNTY



Town of Whitewater, City of Whitewater

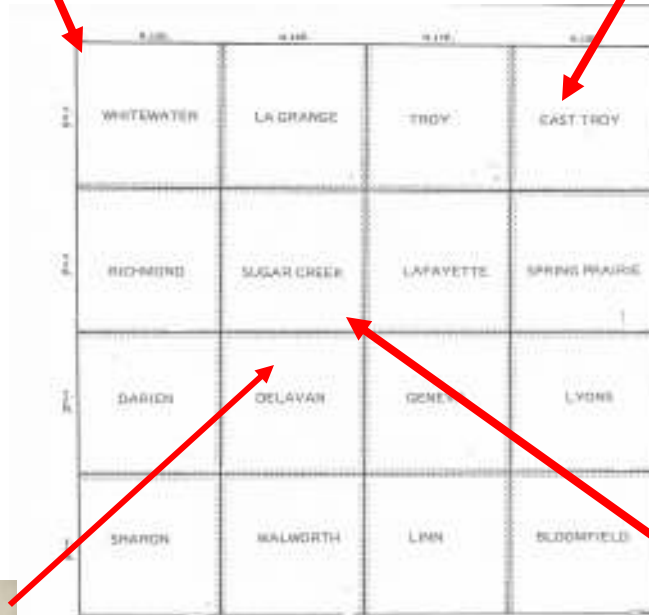
Old City of Whitewater Water Tower to be replaced by new water tower. What will happen to the "Witches Tower?"



Town of East Troy, Village of East Troy

The Cobblestone (originally the Buena Vista House) built in 1847 may be in trouble. Should it be razed?

Towns of Walworth County Map



Town of Delavan, City of Delavan

City Park is undergoing a big change. Will the circus statues remain?



Town of Sugar Creek, City of Elkhorn.

The Municipal Building at 9 West Walworth Street is up for sale. Who will be the next owner?



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COUNTY

Historic Photograph of Walworth County



The old grist mill building along a water way in the City of Delavan in 1910. Flowing water was the power needed to turn the wheel that eventually created flour or grist out of wheat, corn and other grains.

KEEP YOUR OWN MYSTERY SOLVING DIARY

Solving history's mysteries is a fun activity. You should keep a diary of your mystery solving successes. Here's what you can do to make your mystery solving even more fun and enjoyable:

1. Notebook—: Find a notebook with many pages in it where you can keep a written record of the history mystery you just solved. Or begin a computer file where you can add to your mystery solving as often as possible.
2. Ponder: Consider a solution you recently discovered. An example might be after reading about grist mills you wondered where the nearest grist mill was (or still is) to where you live. You can ask people around you who may know or look it up in the library or on line. Once you have solved that mystery, jot it down or keyboard it into your History Mystery Notebook.
3. Keep your entry short and to the point. You did it! Look back once in a while and marvel at how successful you have been and feel good about your mystery solving talent.