

## Area mills



by Dan Wolgemuth

There were at least 22 flour mills in three Townships surrounding Mount Joy: 8 in East Donegal Township, 11 in Rapho Township and 3 in Mount Joy Township. Most were built from 1721 to 1904, with a capacity ranging from 8 to 35 barrels of flour per day. Some of them also had a grist mill, distillery, saw mill, hemp and woolen mill.

They used water power to run over shot or turbine wheels, and were on the Big Chickies, Little Chickies, Donegal, Schock's Run and Back Run Creeks. Most of them were of stone construction.

Sherer's Mill on the Donegal Creek along the Mount Joy and Marietta Pike, was built in 1810 by Henry M. Sherer. In its time it ground wheat for flour and later for many years operated as a grist mill.

One interesting feature of Sherer's Mill is that the dam is upstream from the mill at least 1300 feet. The open mill race flows toward the pike then turns to the right and flows through a tunnel under the hill in front of the farm house on the north side of the pike. Then under the pike and driveway into the mill. There is an open area at the end of the large tunnel showing a date stone on which is written "Invented by Henry M. Sherer 1803."

This mill now owned by Ted Shenk.

For many years there was a creamery on the basement floor at Sherer's, to which the local farmers delivered their milk. It was then separated and the cream and cheese were hauled to the Mount Joy Creamery.

Donegal Mill was built in 1830 by either a Mr. Graybill or Mr. Nissly. It was in the Nissly name for many years. It is now owned by Mrs. Joan Zink and is part of the "Donegal Mills Colonial Plantation," historical project. It is on the Donegal Creek about 3 miles west of Mount Joy. They ground wheat for flour, and grist grinding for the farmers. They also had a cider press and a blacksmith shop nearby.

Horst's Mill, still standing, was built in 1816 by Peter Horst Risser. It is a 3½ story stone building. It is on the Little Chickies Creek about 2 miles upstream from Mount Joy. It is reported that it was closed in 1940.

A Mill south of Newtown, built on the Big Chickies Creek in a 3½ story stone building, was built by John Houts in 1804. Later owned by John M. Erb, it was closed in 1922 and was razed sometime later.

The Marietta Roller Mill was built in 1814 by Henry Sheuer along the Big

Chickies on the Marietta, Lancaster Pike in East Donegal Township. It was a 10 barrel per day mill. It was owned later by a Mr. Kaegel and then sold about 1918. Later it was razed.

One day Mr. Kaegel walked in his bank with a package under his arm wrapped in newspaper. He came to the window of the counter, the grill door was opened, he hand the package in to the clerk and said "give me credit for this" and walked out. The package was opened, it contained \$20,000—in musty 5, 10, and 20 dollar bills.

Spangler's Flour Mill is on North Market Street, Mount Joy. We have no date of its construction. It was run by steam power many years, now by electricity. It has been expanded and is in full operation today. In our time it was owned by J. M. Brandt and J. D. Stehman.

Stauffer's Mill at the Iron Bridge on the Little Chickies Creek was built in 1750 of stone and frame. In the course of time it was owned by Peter Stauffer, then by his son, Amos Stauffer, who quit milling about 1908 and used some of the buildings for storing his crops. Later it was sold to Paul Z. Hess who then razed the buildings.

The mill on the Little Chickies Creek at the last end of Mount Joy was known for many years as Snyder's Mill. It was built

in 1818 by a Mr. Hackman. It was a 10 barrel flour mill, built of stone 3½ stories high. It was in the Snyder family for many years. After they stopped milling it was rented for other purposes. Mr. Michael Nollman, one of the original organizers of The New Standard Co., had leased it for several years. It is said that Mr. K. T. Keller worked for him. In 1944, Reist Seed Co., rented it. Later it was purchased by the Schock Company and razed.

There are at least two more mills on the Big Chickies Creek. One of them was called Centerville Mill. It was in Rapho Township, south east of Mount Joy. In our time, one was owned by I. S. Siegrist and the other by John H. Moore. They were both built in 1804—the Siegrist Mill by Martin Greider, the Moore Mill by Christian Hertzler. Both were a 25 barrel capacity.

It is possible that there are more mills in this area. Besides grist grinding and handling some feed by the above mentioned mills, there are a number of feed mills in our area. Wenger's Feed Mill, Inc., at Rheems. Hiestands at Milton Grove, Agway at Salunga, Wolgemuth Bros., Inc., in Mount Joy, and others. There are also portable units in this area which play a part in preparing food for man and livestock.

## Postal Service history

As we celebrate the bicentennial, it is interesting to know how some of the services we have today, had their beginning. The postal service in pre-Revolutionary America were the domain of private enterprise or the colonies. After the United States achieved its independence, the U.S. Post Office became a branch of the federal government in Washington D.C.

As the country grew, new demands were placed on the postal service. The overland Mail Service, formed in 1858 helped speed letters to the pioneers, and the Pony Express, operational from 1860-61 carried mail from East to West in the days before the Civil War.

After the Civil War, the rails replaced the horse as the chief means of moving mail. During the twentieth century, however, an even faster form of transportation - the airplane - was invented. The first regular scheduled air mail service was inaugurated on May 15, 1918, and by 1924 the United States had 24-hour transcontinental air mail service.

Modernization and increased speed increased the service. In 1855 registered mail service was

introduced. Free city mail service followed in 1863, and ten years later rural free delivery was established. In 1885 special delivery stamps made their appearance, and in 1913 parcel post service was begun.

What about postage stamps? In fact stamp collecting is the number one hobby in the United States. However, postage stamps were not in use until 1847. Long before the postage stamp was invented, the recipient of a letter, not the sender, had to pay for the transportation from one mail station (post) to another. The charges that he paid were referred to as postage. The letters themselves were sealed with a wax and the stamped with a seal or ring design to identify the sender.

The first stamp was issued in England in 1840 and as a result a new revolutionized postal service came into being, for now a person could purchase a stamp and send a letter to any one in Britain. The first stamp in the United States was issued in 1847 and was the fourth country to use stamps for the delivery of mail. From this time on many people became interested in stamps and soon stamp collecting became a very fascinating hobby, collecting them for color, historical

interest, character, and rarity.

In 1921 the Philatelic Agency in Washington D.C., was born giving collectors a central place to purchase stamps for their collections. Today there are better than sixteen million stamp collectors in the United States. Of these, 95% are strictly hobbyists, the 5% are buyers looking for rare stamps and misprints.

Postage stamps are printed to commemorate just about everything, events, persons, flights, presidents, parks, states, poets, writers, railroads, trucking, poultry, space, and even more. Stamp dealers can be found everywhere, and there are several large dealers that can supply the collector with almost any stamp he or she desires. Of course the novice should begin in a small way and gradually build up a larger quantities or even to specialize in a particular kind of stamp or a particular country.

Modernization of the mail service culminated on July 1, 1971, when the U.S. Post Office became the United States Postal Service, a quasi-independent public utility. On that day the new U.S.P.S. issued its first stamp, which shows the Service's streamlined emblem.

## A flag on which we can brag

The Declaration of Independence is very important because it is the symbol of our freedom. Without it we could be ruled by kings from other lands.

Mitchell Drager

### Our Loyal Flag

Our flag is truly a flag on which we can brag. With red stripes of blood and blue oceans of tears, No one knows all of our ancestors' fears. When the battle began, the British ran. But we stood tall—though our army was small. And we won it all.

Patty Meszaros

### I, the Flag

No one knows how I felt, No one really cares, They never ask me of my fears Or of my deathly scares.

I have my marks of pain and war Because no one ever let me down, I will live forever more, of this I am very proud.

I stand for strength and freedom, I will live to never die, I stand for liberty, I will stand forever on high by Carol Saylor

### This is My Life

This is my story I'm bold and I'm true My name is "Old Glory" With my stripes red, white, and blue.

My country, my land Had danger on hand You could tell "The British are coming!" It rang like a bell.

I lived through it. And here I sit In a glass case In a museum base.

Amy Biesecker

### A Great Moment

When all of the colonies were brought together, it gave everyone a new feeling of trust, understanding, and love. Everybody agreed to become friends, and they did.

Kristina Swisher

We think we have it hard. Look back, look back in the past. Then the present. Really we have it easy If we lived during then Bad battles, the wars Know what a hard life is So we are thankful to the past.

Tom B. White

### The Star Spangled Banner

It was twilight when the Americans quieted down. And the British were sure they wouldn't see the American flag in the morning. But in the morning Francis Scott Key who was on one of the British ships woke up at sun rise and saw the American flag. Key had faith in the Americans. After seeing the flag he started a poem and decided to finish it when he got back to the fort. Key died in 1843. And in 1904 the poem was converted to a song and it was given the name the Star Spangled Banner.

Randy Roaten

