

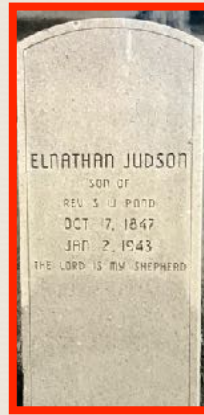
These communities were dependent on their local mill as bread was a staple part of the diet.

To operate the mill, the miller places the grain to be ground in the funnel-like hopper above the pair of millstones, after first taking out the miller's toll. Then the miller opens the sluice gate that lets water into the water wheel. As the weight of falling water turns the water wheel, large gears turning smaller gears make the shaft turn faster, much as the large gear on the peddles of a bicycle will turn the smaller gear on the wheel more rapidly.

This power is transmitted to a vertical spindle, upon which rests a large, flat disc of stone, often weighing a ton or more. This stone spins just above, but not quite touching, an identical stone set stationary in the floor of the mill. Both stones have a pattern of grooves cut into their faces. As one stone turns above the other, their grooves cross much like scissor blades. Grain falling through the hole, or "eye", in the runner stone is cut apart as it passes between the two stones, according to an article in **The Northwestern Miller**, Volume 77, No. 7 on February 17, 1909.

The miller can adjust the distance between the stones to regulate how finely the grain is ground. The milled grains move around the cover that is over the stones, until it falls through a hole into the meal chest. From there it can be scooped up into a sack to be taken home for baking. In Shakopee at that time, about 10,000 bushels a week were delivered and paid for in cash, at a higher rate than at any other point within 20 miles. Products milled included flour, bolted corn, ground grains, and livestock feed. According to Rebecca Pond in 1972, the huge 100 pound sacks of flour sold for 5 cents a bag.

Rebecca Pond remembered that there was a wheel house by the mill, and that her father used to shut down the business once or twice a year. "Then she would put on goggles to protect her eyes and sit down with a long time with a pick and hammer, sharpening the grinding stones."



The Pond Grist Mill was operated by a water-powered turbine. In later years, a gasoline engine was purchased, but never used much. The mill was closed soon after, in 1908.

Elnathan Judson Pond died on January 2, 1943. He was 95 years old. He was buried at Valley Cemetery in Shakopee, according to *Find a Grave memorial page for Elnathan Judson Pond (17 Oct 1847–2 Jan 1943)*, *Find a Grave Memorial ID 51041810*, citing *Valley Cemetery, Shakopee*. One year and six days later, Wilhelmine Minnie Catharina Elisabeth Markus Pond died at age 81 years old in Shakopee, and was buried next to her husband at Valley Cemetery in Shakopee according to *Find a Grave memorial page for Minnie Elizabeth Markus Pond (21 Oct 1862–8 Jan 1944)*, *Find a Grave Memorial ID 52665284*, citing *Valley Cemetery, Shakopee, Scott County, Minnesota, USA*.



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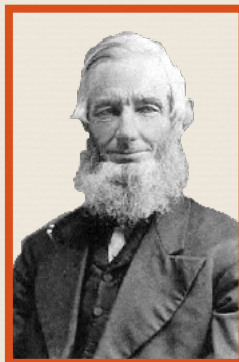
Elnathan  
Judson Pond  
1847-1943



Elnathan Judson Pond was born in Prairieville (later Shakopee) Minnesota Territory on October 17, 1847, the third of four children of Reverend Samuel Pond Sr. and Cordelia Eggleston Pond, who moved to Tinta Oturwe, which they called Prairieville as missionaries in the fall of 1847. "Between the mission house and the Minnesota River lay a beautiful and fertile tract of 'bottom land,' as it was ordinarily termed, subject to annual or biennial overflow. . ."

"On one side of this fertile tract ran a clear sparkling stream of water, flowing from the spring before described; itself bounded in turn by a rocky bluff rising precipitously from the brink of the stream. This land was bounded on the other side by the Minnesota, sweeping in a beautiful curve around its border. This piece of land was cultivated by the (Dakota) Indians, and when not covered by water, tadpoles and fishes, in the months of June and July was rich with waving corn," said Samuel William Pond Jr. in the book **Two Volunteer Missionaries Among the Dakotas or the Story of the Labor of Samuel W. And Gideon Pond** in 1893.

Reverend Samuel Pond Sr. and Cordelia Eggleston Pond took care of their children, including Jennette Clarissa Pond (born May 6, 1842 in Minneapolis, and died April 2, 1862 in Shakopee,) Rebecca Cordelia Pond Dean (born October 10, 1844 in Bloomington), Elnathan (born October 17, 1847 in Prairieville), and



Rev. Samuel Pond with three of his four children of Samuel and Cordelia Eggleston Pond: Rebecca Cordelia Pond (1844-1912); Elnathan Judson Pond (1847-1943); and Samuel William Pond Jr (1850-1916.). This first child, Jeanette Clarissa Pond (1842-1862) died before a picture was taken.

Samuel William Pond Jr. (born April 20, 1850 in Holmes Landing.)

Elnathan married Wilhelmine Minnie Catharina Elisabeth Markus in Shakopee on June 24, 1879. Minnie was born on October 21, 1862, daughter of William (1823-1895) and Wilhelmina (1832-1908) Markus. Elnathan and Minnie had six children. Elnathan's younger brother, Samuel William Pond Jr. married Irene Goodrich Boyden. The two couples started housekeeping at the mission farm. Later, Elnathan and Minnie moved across the road to a 170 acre farm. This farm is now part of The Landing in Shakopee, according to *Pond Grist Mill Is Start of Something Big* by Ginger Timmons, Scott County Historical Society, **Shakopee Valley News**, August 30, 1972.

Elnathan Judson Pond and Samuel Pond, Jr., sons of Reverend Samuel Pond, Sr. and

Cordelia Eggleston Pond, built the Pond Grist Mill in 1875. The mill was built for supplementary income. Elnathan and Wilhelmine's seven room, two-story frame house, complete with summer kitchen and woodshed, stood about a block east of the mill. The families moved the big barn from the mission farm to Elnathan and Wilhelmine's farm.

The mill first opened for business around September 1875. A notice in the **Shakopee Weekly Argus** read: "S.W. Pond's mill is now running. Custom work in flour and feed done promptly." Although the terms gristmill can refer to any mill that grinds grain, the terms were used historically for a local mill where farmers brought their own grain and received back ground meal or flour, minus a percentage called the "miller's toll." Early mills were almost always built and supported by farming communities and the miller received the "miller's toll" in lieu of wages. Most towns and villages had their own mill so that local farmers could easily transport their grain there to be milled.



The Pond Grist Mill in Shakopee in 1908, 1928, and 2008 from the Shakopee Heritage Society.