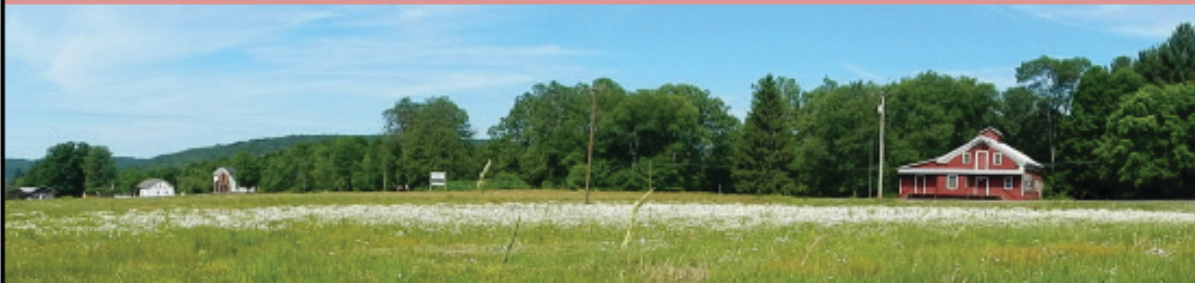
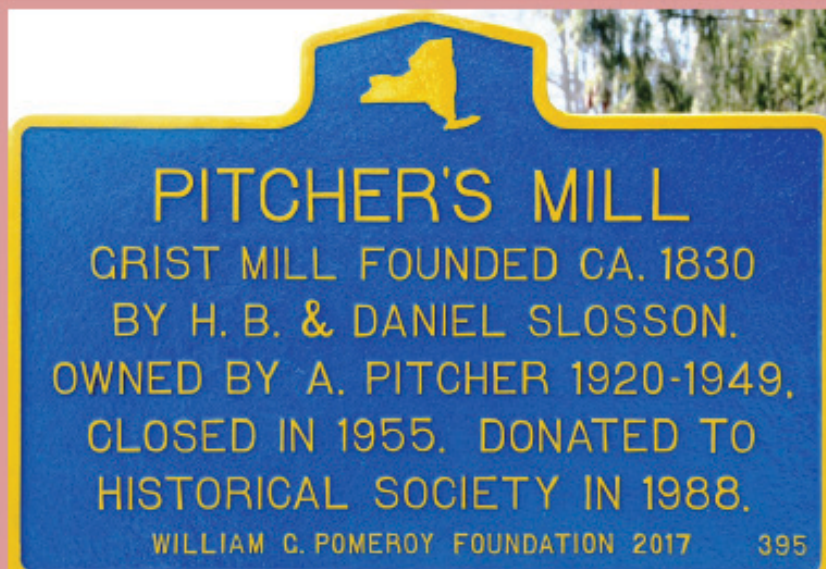


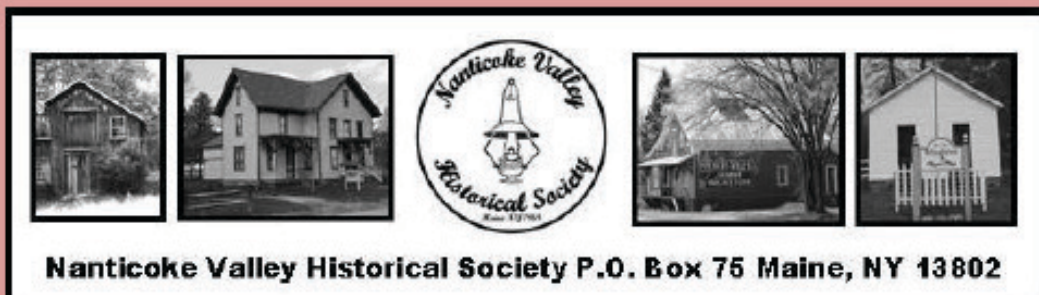
*Nanticoke Valley Historical Society  
of Maine, New York*



*Pitcher's Grist Mill  
Circa 1830 \$5.00 Donation*



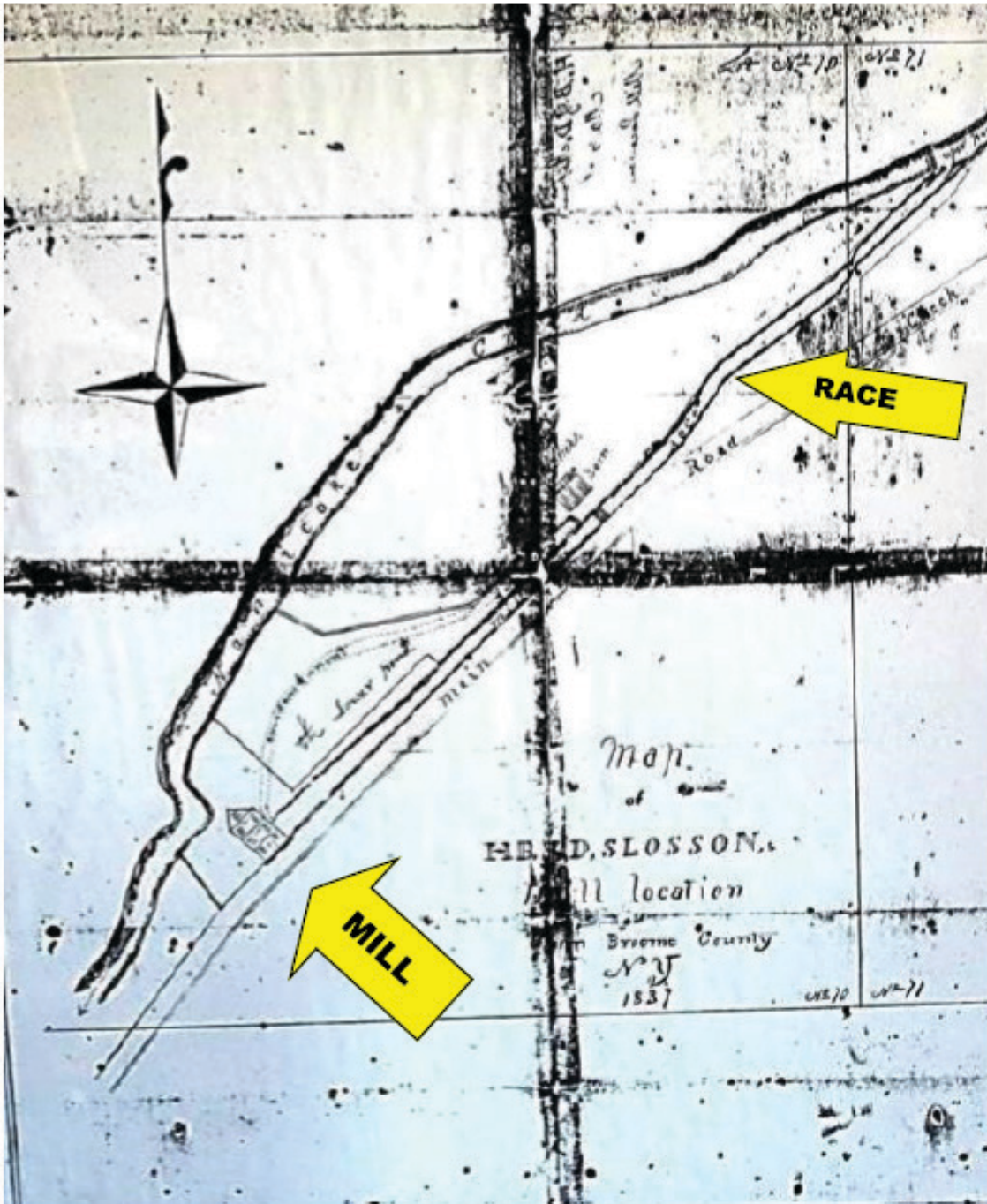
**Donated by William G. Pomeroy Foundation 2017**



**Nanticoke Valley Historical Society P.O. Box 75 Maine, NY 13802**

Check our Website: [www.nanticokevalleyhistoricalsociety.com](http://www.nanticokevalleyhistoricalsociety.com)  
and our Facebook page





Hand drawn map of the area around the Mill in 1837. It hangs in the office of the mill. The Maine Road, now NYS Route 26 ended about one half mile south of the mill and crossed the creek via a bridge where it connected to Tiona Road and Nanticoke Road. The lower mill pond was kept full by a "race" that paralleled the road and joined the creek near the barn which has the flag painted on it.





### **WHO BUILT PITCHER'S MILL ?**

In 1830 the brothers Daniel Slosson, and Henry Belden built the first mill. Archie Pitcher owned the mill from 1925 - 1941 and gave his name to the building. The mill closed in 1955. ( See pages 11 & 12). When the mill was built, **Andrew Jackson** was our 7<sup>th</sup> president. He held office from March 4, 1829 to March 4, 1837. "Flour from this mill went west with the 49ers; and Sunrise Pancake Flour, made at the mill from locally grown buckwheat, was exceptionally famous." A.P. Lewis



Researched in Broome County, NY Clerk's Office 1996

PITCHER'S MILL LAND RECORDS

GRANTOR	GRANTEE	LIBER/PAGE	DATED/FILED	LOCATION
Robert Gosman	Henry Smith	12/63	June 19, 1829/July 24, 1829	Tn of Union, Broome Co. NY, p/o Lt 70 GDBP 53 A 38Perches
Henry Smith & Wife	Jolan Fisher	12/64	July 24, 1829/July 24, 1829	Same as 12/63
Daniel Locke & Wife	William West & Daniel Slosson	18/400	Sept 3, 1836/Sept. 3, 1836	
Nathan Howard & Wife Benjamin F. Lewis & Wife John T. Davis & Wife	Seth Carrman Seth Carrman Seth Carrman	79/569 79/495 79/496-		
Seth Carrman	Abram H. Green	83/527	1870/1870	1/2 lot in Mill, property P/o Lt 70 GDBP 2A117Rods + 2A2rrods8Rods See the 3 deeds in Liber 79
Seth Carrman by Extr Abram H. Green by Extr	Harry I VansSice et al Harry I VansSice & Emma	263/350 263/351	Feb 15, 1916/feb 21, 1916 Feb 15, 1916/Feg 21, 1915	1/2 lot see 18/40 & 83/527 & Will of Abram 120/122 Road Right of Way Life Use Parcel 1 is Mill Property; Parcel 2 is in 18/400 of L170GDBP
Harry I VansSice & Emma Emma F VansSice, Widow Emma F. VansSice, Wild Harry I VansSice & David Coleman, wid. Archie N. Pitcher, et al Philip N. Pitcher, et al Ira Pitcher Demond & Alice P. Blatchley Pitchers Mills, Inc.	Broome Co. David Coleman (Philip N. Pitcher) Archie R. Pitcher & Eliana M. Pitcher Philip N. Pitcher R. Carl & Pitchers Mills, Inc Eva Belle Taylor R. Carl & Eva Belle Taylor	281/54 284/422 294/559	July 23, 1918/July 24, 1918 Feb 13, 1919/Mar 25, 1919 Mar 4, 1920/Jun 11, 1920	
John R. & Elsie L. Lainhardt John R. & Ann B. Weld Ann B. Weld Bowers Foundation	John R. & Elsie Lainhardt John R. & Ann B. Weld John S. & Ann B. Weld John S. & Ann B. Weld John S. & Ann B. Weld Bowers Foundation Nanticoke Valley Historical Assoc	379/179 550/524 709/299 709/374 805/416 891/208 912/234 1092/651 1239/817 1434/329 1743/34	Sep 9, 1927 May 29, 1945 Feb 1, 1949/May 10, 1949 Feb 1, 1949/May 10, 1949 Jul 15, 1952/Jul 17, 1952 Jan 17, 1955/Apr 5, 1955 Jan 19, 1955/Nov 11, 1955 Jun 16, 1965/Jun 18, 1965 May 27, 1976/May 28, 1976 Feb 14, 1985/Feb 21, 1985 Dec 29, 1988/Dec 30, 1988	E. side of Rt. 26 See 18/400 + Parcel from 379/179 across road See 550/524 4 1/2 A include Mill property Parcel 2 in 123/817; Parcel 3 in 1092/651 See 709/374 - Mill Property 70 R. frontage on Rt. 26, 0.58 Acre

Compiled by Sheryl & Jerry Green Copy in entrance way of mill





1866  
Map







**Water entering the mill on the north side directly from the mill pond. Photo from ca 1910. Note the mill keepers house in the background . See photo page 7.**





What did a Grist Mill make? "A gristmill (also: grist mill, corn mill or flour mill) grinds grain into flour. The term can refer to both the grinding mechanism and the building that holds it." One of the main products was animal feed. The flour was of high quality and in 1849 was shipped to California. From 1925 to 1941 it was owned and operated by Archie Pitcher. After 1941 the mill was powered by an electric motor. The Lainhart family owned and operated the mill from 1945 to 1955. The mill no longer operated after that and the electric motor was sold to New Hope Mills in Moravia NY where it still operates. The Weld family owned the mill and mill keepers house, where they lived. Mr. Weld was a professor at Harpur College. In 1985 the Bowers Foundation purchased the mill with the hope of restoring it. The Bowers Foundation donated the mill to the NVHS in 1988 and the rest, as they say, is history thanks to Tom Kotasek and many volunteers. The mill is open for touring on Sunday's from July to September from 1 – 4 or by appointment. Many school children have tours of the mill each year, thus learning about their towns history.



**Henry Belden Slosson**

Married May 1833

Sabrina Leonard *Muzzy* Slosson

(1.2.1810 - 1.6.1867)

Born in Newark Valley NY

Daughter of Jonas Muzzy and Theresa  
Moore

Find A Grave Memorial# 112468138

Burial: Evergreen Cemetery Owego, NY

Find A Grave Memorial# 112468118



History of Broome County, New York 1885": "Moses Delano and **Nathaniel Slosson** are said to have been the first settlers in the vicinity of East Maine. They located there about the beginning of the present century." The original Slosson (*George Slawson*) arrived on the "Jonas" in 1636 in Lynn, MA.

**Nathaniel Slosson; 3.1.1764 - 8.29.1822**  
**Rhonda Judd Slosson; 1.19.1775- 8.27.1857**

Married 10.8.1804 to Rhonda, previously married to Eunice Sisson Slosson\* 1766- 2.22.1804, parents to four children

*Children (6)*

Orizas Judd 7.23.1807 - 2.11.1862

**Henry Belden+++** 11.30.1808 - 1.8.1864

Buried in Owego NY

Sarah Judd \* 10.24.1810 - 2.10.1826

**Daniel+++** 8.31.1812 - 8.24.1853

Buried in Maine, Cemetery

Grove 8 months \*\* 8.6.1815 -4.14.1816

John 1.13.1817-1.14.1817

\*\* Grove first person to be buried in Maine Cemetery

+++ Built "Pitcher's Mill" with brother

**Daniel**

Born: August 31, 1812 In Stockbridge MA

Baptism: 1819 Congregational Church of Maine NY

Died: August 24, 1853 Scranton PA Aged 41 Yrs.

\* Buried at the Cone Hill Cemetery, Richmond, Berkshire County, MA



Ca. 1900



**Save The Mill 1996:  
(Bottom photos)  
Nancy Berry, Tom Kotasek,  
Diane Waples,  
Kerin Flannery  
(on the ladder)**





### Mill History

Maine posses an historic site that few communities in the United States can display. It's an old water power grist mill, using massive millstones to grind grain into feed or flour. At one time the mill had three sets of millstones and had a grinding capacity of between two and three tons of grist per day. Flour from this mill went west with the 49'ers. Sunrise Pancake Flour made at the mill, from locally grown buckwheat, was exceptionally famous.

Pitcher's mill is one of Broome County's oldest landmarks. It was built in 1830 by brothers, Daniel and Beldon Slosson. Hand hewn red beech timbers 10x14 inches constitute the frame work of the building and were cut from the virgin forest on the hills nearby. The millstones made of Nova Scotia granite are four feet in diameter and weigh almost a ton each. Picking and trimming the furrows (sharpening) of the millstones was a regular task in order to grind fine flour. This was done twice a year by a skilled "stone chipper".

In 1848 the mill was enlarged to its present size by Dr. William Buttler and William Lincoln. The mill was sold to John P. Davis and Nathan Howard who in turn later sold it to Seth Carman and Abram Green. Archie R. Pitcher bought the mill in 1925 and continued to grind flour and feed until 1941. The famous logo "Sunrise Pancake Flour" was developed by Mr. Pitcher in the mid 30s. The logo and the name Pitcher's Mills have been retained since. The last remaining mill hand known to have worked in the mill while powered by water is Ray Lantz, (in the early 40s). Between 1941 and 1945 the mill belonged to Carl and Eva-Bell Taylor. It was during this period of ownership and

**Newsletter from Tom Kotasek in 1994**

*Continued on page 12*



operation that water power was abandoned in favor of electric power. Howard Taft operated a John Deere tractor and machinery dealership from the flour packing warehouse, across the road. John and Elsie Lainhardt became the owners in 1945 and operated the mill till 1955, when the millstones turned their last. From the mid 20's to mid 50's, the task of dressing the burrs, (sharpening the millstones) was done by Mr. Kibbey, who lived on Solon Pond in North Pitcher. He drove the 40 miles to Maine in his Model-T Ford, spent the rest of the day "chipping", and stayed the night in the millers house. The next day he would complete the job and drive back to Solon Pond. Mr. Kibbey drove only Model-Ts, up to 1961! The "Little Giant" turbine (water motor) was sold in 1947 to New Hope Mills of Moravia, NY, and is still in use. In 1957 John Weld purchased the mill properties. The Welds were the last owners to live in the miller's house, located next to the creek, behind the mill. Then in 1985 the Bowers Foundation purchased the mill for the expressed purpose of being restored as an educational and historic exhibit, open to the public. In 1988 the Bowers Foundation, under the direction of Janet Bowers Bothwell, gave the mill to our local Nanticoke Valley Historical Society.

Since 1957 the large millstones, grinders, mixer, sifters and grain elevators have stood silent. Our mill is silently waiting for the opportunity to "speak" to our future generations, to show a proud part of our past, . . . a part of Branna County, a piece of America!

Thomas J. Kotasek

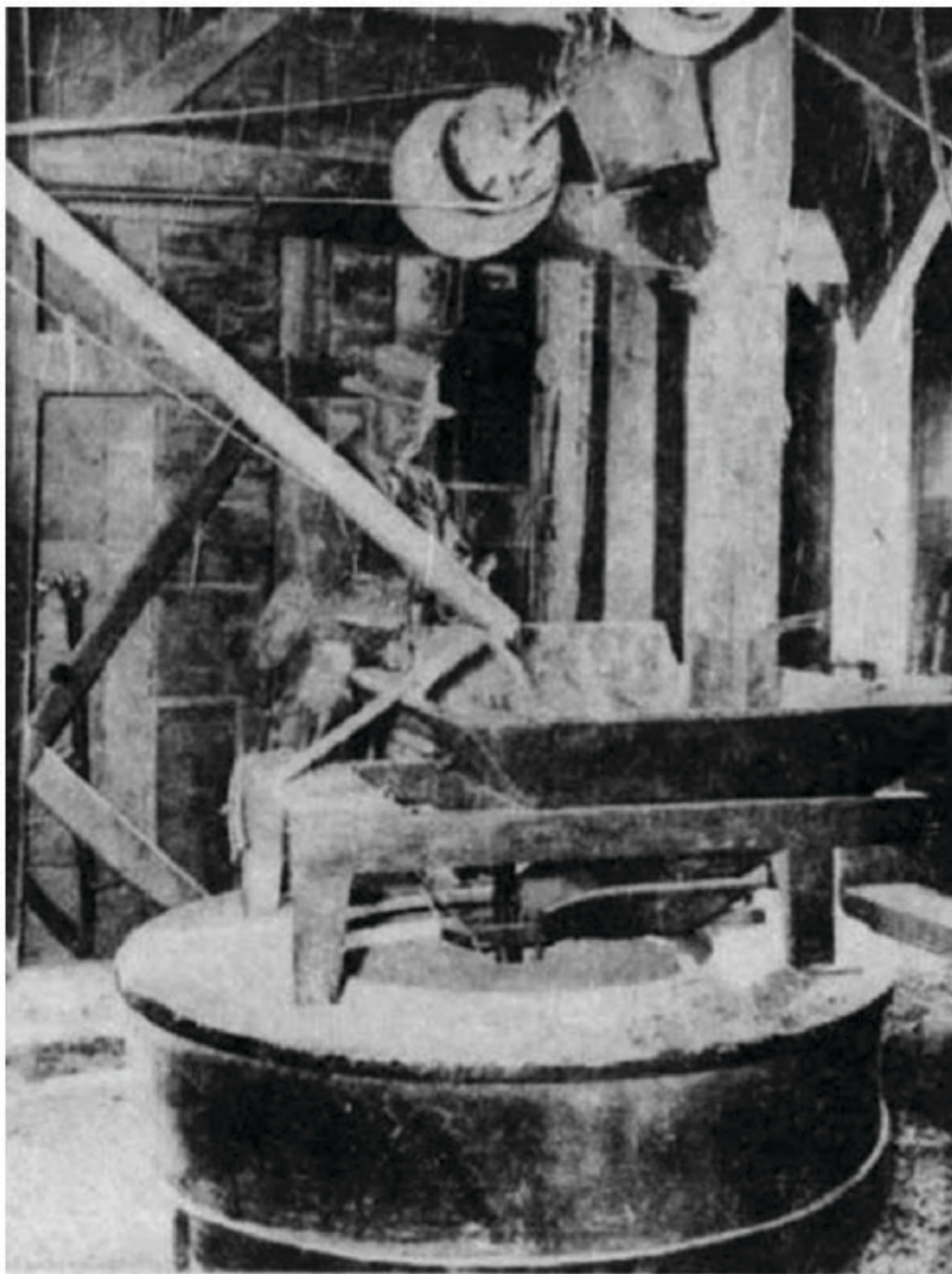
Chairman of Restoration Committee  
Nanticoke Valley Historical Society



Part of the Original Deed,  
 Daniel Locke, of the County of Orleans, in the State of New York, and Mary his wife, for  
 To  
 William and Elizabeth, of the County of Orleans, in the State of New York, and  
 of the first part, and William, of the County of Orleans, of the second part, of the  
 Part of the original deed of the first part for certain in partition of the town of  
 Orleans, to them with heirs, his, the said part of the first part and in consideration of the right  
 therein, is hereby each and every of them, the said part, the said part, the said part, the said part,  
 and the heirs, do grant, bargain, sell, convey, with warranty, to the said part, the said part,  
 of the above part, in their entirety, with heirs, and the heirs, and heirs, the said part, the said part,  
 the said part, the said part, the said part, the said part, the said part, the said part,  
 number Seventeen (17) in the first Division of the lot ten parcels to which the said part, the said part,  
 follow, viz: Beginning at a stake standing on the original record line of said lot between  
 south from the northeast corner of said lot, thence south 46° 25' east 36.64 chains, 78 links, 20  
 feet, thence south 70° 00' east, one chain, 20 links, ten stakes, thence south 47° 30' West 5.6  
 chains, thence to a stake on the line of said lot, thence south 35° 30' East, one chain,  
 viz: thirty two rods of land together, with the privilege of access to the premises at any time.

Part of the original deed (Indenture) September 3 1836, transferring the mill site from Daniel Locke & Wife to William West and Daniel Slosson. Book 18 Page 400. The document is about 2' by 12 inches.





**ROUND AND ROUND SHE GOES**—A. R. Pitcher of Maine, whose grist mill has been in operation continuously since 1830, inspects some buckwheat as it enters the oldfashioned grinding stones to be ground into buckwheat flour. Mr. Pitcher has been owner and operator of the mill for the last 28 years.





—All Photos by a Binghamton Press Photographer.

**JUST ADD MILK**—Mr. Pitcher and Carl Hirsch can bag eight five-pound bags of flour a minute. One of the buckwheat products Mr. Pitcher manufactures is a prepared buckwheat flour which is ready for use with the addition of milk or water.



