

V. Mae Teeters.

* my great-great uncle - a major in the War of the Rebellion a.k.a. the Civil War.

v. Tom's Grand father

3. Margaret, Harold, Alice, Loy ^{4th} Howard Bond's - father.

McComb History

by Parlee C. Grose

UNION GRIST MILLS BURN

The Herald of January 8, 1902, reported:

"The Union Grist Mills, owned by M. A. Loy, Tillman Bond, and O. G. Loy, under the firm name of Loy, Bond and Co., were destroyed by fire Monday morning about 3 o'clock, together with all their contents, part of which consisted of grain belonging to Chas. Shuler and the members of the stock company which conducted the elevators in connection with the mills."

"The Union Grist Mills were built in 1858 by Isaac Cusac. Since then they have been owned by numerous persons."

STORY OF MCCOMB'S GRIST AND FLOUR MILLS

In Elisha Todd's "Recollections" we read: "Thomas W. Todd, the youngest brother of Benj. Todd, moved here in the early settlement of the township. . . he conceived the idea of building a horse mill. Having ascertained where he could get a set of burrs suitable for the purpose, he set to work at once and soon had a mill in running order. The exact time it was built I have not been able to ascertain, but it must have been as early as 1838."

In Brown's History of Hancock County, (published in 1886,) it is stated that along about 1841 "William Todd built a horse-mill, then the only contrivance in the township for grinding corn or wheat. . . In 1845 Thomas Pickens erected a grist mill on Pickens Run, which was in operation and did good service for many years. In 1850. . . a small grist mill (was put up) by S. H. Fairchild, which ran about eight years. In 1857 or 1858 Isaac Cusac erected and put in operation steam flouring mill in the same

village. In 1884 this mill was remodeled and the roller process put in, which renders it one of the finest mills in Hancock County."

In the Hardesty Historical Atlas of Hancock County, published in 1875, there is a map of the town of McComb as it existed at that date and on this map there is shown a "steam grist mill" located south of the railroad on Walnut Street where the Cadillac glass plant now stands.

Concerning the Thomas W. Todd horse mill, Elisha Todd's "Recollections" further state: "From the time the first grain was threshed after harvest until late in the fall, it was thronged with customers. Some came in as far as 10 or 15 miles. At such times it was run day and night, some then having to wait as long as two or three days for their turn. Customers always furnished their own teams. There was one other horse mill in the county, located at Findlay and built some time before this one. The grinding capacity of our mill here was from 50 to 75 bushels in 24 hours."

Elisha Todd further states: "Mr. Beardley in his 'History of Hancock County,' in speaking of Pleasant township says, 'The first flouring mill was built by Thomas Pickens in 1845 on Pickens Run. Previous to that time a hand mill owned by William Todd was the only means of making bread stuff in the township.'

"In this statement he is all wrong, for beside the horse mill built by Mr. Todd, he also built a flouring mill on Allgire Run, southeast of James Brown's residence on land now owned by Mr. Leader. This mill was run by water. Both mills were built before the Pickens mill. As for the hand mill, there never was one owned or operated in this township. One or two such mills were used in Portage township."

FROM THE TODD HORSE MILL TO THE UNION GRIST MILLS

In the above accounts it would seem (taking the "Thomas W." to be the same person as the "William" Todd) that the sequence of McComb's early flour and grist mills runs something like this:

The Thomas W. or William Todd horse mill—built around 1838.

The Thomas W. or William Todd flour mill (Built on Allgire Run)—built between 1838 and 1845.

The Thomas Pickens grist mill (erected on Pickens Run northwest of McComb)—1845.

The Fairchild grist mill (erected in McComb and used about eight years)—1850.

The Isaac Cusac steam flouring mill (the "steam grist mill" and the only mill shown on the Hardesty Atlas map of McComb in 1875)—built in 1858.

The Cusac mill remodeled (probably to become McComb's Union Grist Mills)—1884.

The Shepard Elevator (this flour and grist mill, at some date as yet not determined, was built during the latter part of the 1800s on or near the site of the present Co-Op Elevator and in the 90s was operated by R. A. Shepard and Co., and was known as the McComb Elevators.)

The Cruikshank elevator. Immediately after the Union Grist Mills burned down early in 1902 the Cruikshank brothers of Prairie Depot, O., purchased the location and built a new elevator, which in time passed to other ownership and became known by the farmers as the West End elevator. Built in 1902, it stood for many years, was finally destroyed by fire and was not rebuilt.

4. FATHER-IN-LAW TO TILLMAN BOND

Elisha Todd, a widower, was a next door neighbor to us when we were very young. We called him "Grand pa" - his bachelor son was our "Uncle Ben". We were all "best friends".

Mae Loy Teeters

Contributed by:

Tom Loy

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Tom is the son of Harvey D. and Edna Gail

Harvey, the son Oscar George Loy, who was the son of Martin A. Loy.