

**History of the old white Grist Mill
on the Four Mile Creek on lot 193
Township of Niagara by Alexander Servos
Niagara Historical Society 1914**

In the year 1800, Benjamin Pickard of the Township of Niagara, in the County of Lincoln, built a grist mill on lot 193 on the Four Mile Creek, military reserve of the Township of Niagara, said mill contained one run of stone, which was brought from Eusopas in the State of New York.

The machinery was all made of wood-the wheels and shafting: There was not' an iron wheel in the old mill. The mill is built of very heavy timber. All of the posts and beams are fourteen inches square, as well as the sills. The girths, studding and braces are all hewn out. Not one piece of timber in the frame is sawn. The sills and posts are of white oak and all the other timber is white wood.

During the war of 1812-14, when the Americans had possession of Fort George and Niagara, there were several skirmishes in or near, the town, out at the Ball farm and the cross-roads (now Virgil), the wounded all being taken to the mill, which was used for a hospital for some length of time.

At this time the Americans went out from Fort George and were met by the militia, who \were lying in wait for them but were too few in number to hold their own and had to retreat farther into the country, and in order to do so quietly they threw over one hundred American muskets and bayonets which they had captured, into the mill pond, to prevent them from again falling into the hands of the Americans.. The arms all sank into the millpond and remain there until the present day.

In 1810 the mill became the property of Abraham Secord, and, in 1815 the late Samuel Street became owner, who in 1818 sold it to the late Wm. S. Servos, and in 1859 it became the property of Alexander Servos, the writer of this short sketch. In 1893 he sold the property to W m. Chaplin. The original owner, Benjamin Pickard, was buried in the graveyard on the farm where there were a great many, of the first.settlers buried. After it became the property of Mr. Chaplin, he caused all the old tombstones to be removed and ploughed the graveyard, levelling down the, graves and cultivating it as the other land. Many of the bodies had, however, previously been removed to St. Catharines cemetery. The mill still remains standing and is in a good state of repair.