

MILLER'S MILL

The rapidly growing settlement and an expanding wheat production brought a demand for flour and ground feed.

In 1873 William Miller began operating a water-powered mill on a fifteen-acre tract purchased from William S. Frazier for \$125. Included in the deal was an easement to the Walla Walla River for a ditch to carry approximately 55 ft per second of water. (Typical of the pioneer character of the men making the deal, somehow, no deed was given to the property until after Wm. S. had passed away. The heirs accepted the conditions of the agreement without question and signed the necessary papers).

The mill was the old three-stone burr type, powered by a water wheel. The burrs were shipped around Cape Horn and up the Columbia River. It is reported that they were made in Europe, but that has not been verified. Until recently, they lay neglected in the City Park; evidence of how little the present generation regards the tokens of the past. A wakened interest insures their preservation. (*Webmaster: maybe*)

Miller's Mill became a farmer's meeting place and for more than fifty years served well the needs of the town and community. The advent of modern machinery and the building of the large Peacock Mill north of Milton reduced the Miller operation to grinding feeds. A few years later it was closed and a pea cannery used the vacated ground.

The Miller men, William, John and Henry and the women, Josephine (Mrs. Adam Crossman) and Lena (Mrs. Oakley Johnson) came to Milton in 1873. Most of them resided there at the time of their death.

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