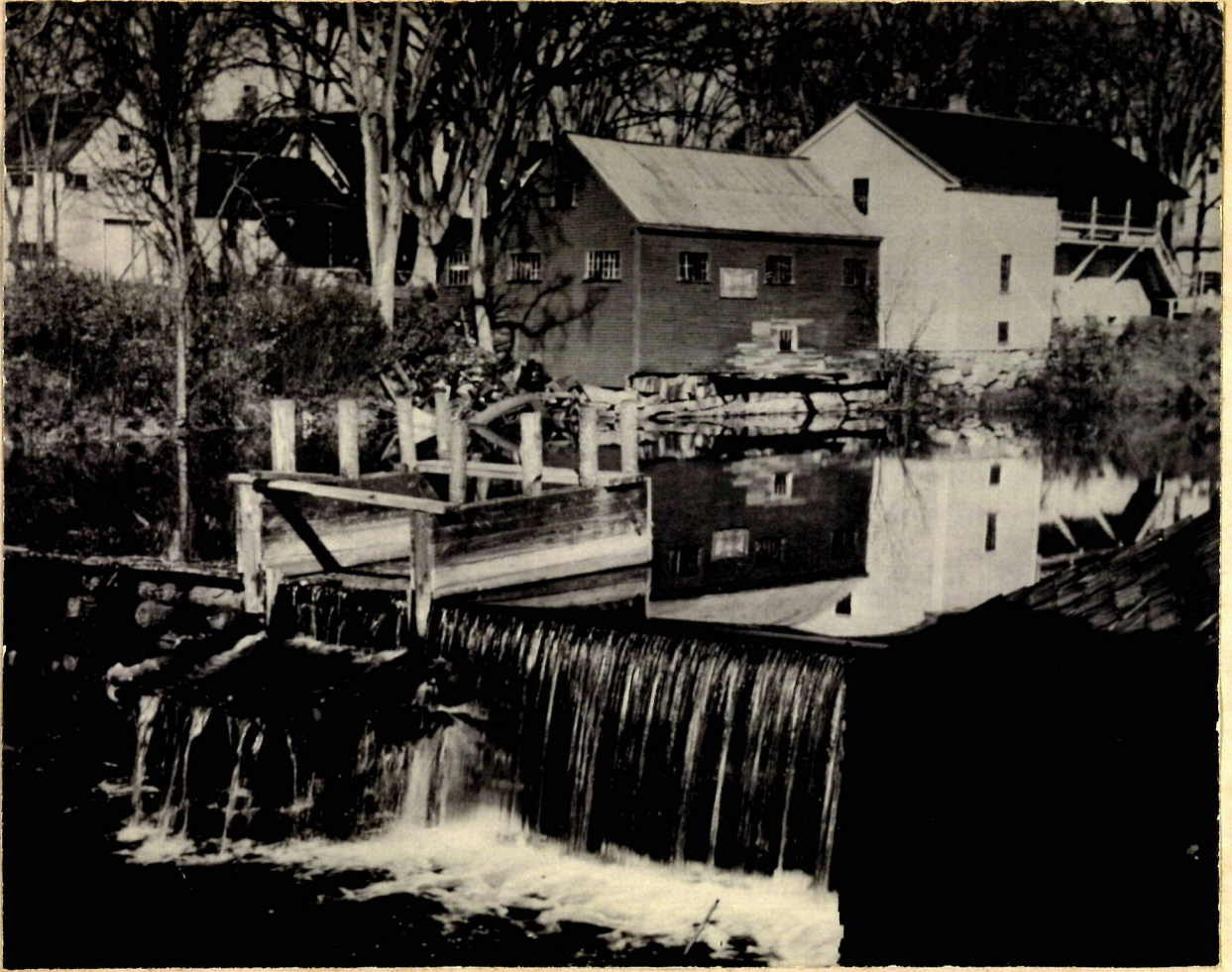


HISTORY

The building is located on the Crooked River in Harrison, Maine in the small village of Bolsters Mills. Bolsters mills was originally all in the town of Otisfield until that part west of the river was merged with Harrison. The land was purchased in 1846 by Moors Hancock to construct a store. An 1857 atlas shows the building in its current location. It was known as the Moors Hancock Store until a relative of Hancock sold it to Ernest L. Gay in the early 1900's. Ernest owned the store for almost 40 years and it was operated as the Stuart & Gay Store. It also housed the Post Office, Bolsters Mills Telegraph & Telephone Company, an American Express, Co. terminal, a gas station and a back room was used by a barber once a week. As seen in the attached photos there used to be blacksmith shop just to the south of this building and that was the last building before the old Bolsters Mills dam. Just below the dam were the grist mill, carding mill and fulling mill. A sawmill was operated on the Otisfield side of the river and logs would be floated down the river to the mill. The dam was replaced in 1987 with a major set of rapids made from split granite. This was the last obstruction to be removed to allow the native landlocked salmon to reach their spawning grounds.





Bowyer's Mills ME - 1940 -

F. WARE

BOLSTER'S MILLS(PINHOOK) OVER THE YEARS

1. Mail came from Portland, by coach and span 3X a week. A 2 day round trip.
2. U.S. Post Office - Stuart & Gay - Spiller - Rich
3. American Express Co. Terminal - Stuart & Gay.
4. Telephone and Telegraph Co. Stuart & Gay.
5. Portland Packing Co. Corn Shop.
6. Commercial Fox Farm(Silver). Operated by Ernest Gay, General Store Owner. Watering tile still in little brook. He kept one trout in it.
7. First dam and sawmill $\frac{1}{2}$ mi. below village. Built by Gilson. (1805). On H. side
8. In 1819 the dam in village was built with sawmill on Otisfield side.
9. Fulling Mill. Worked cloth woven by people in their homes. Changed to a shingle and planing mill in 1870
10. Grist mill, 1820. 11. Carding mill . . . All 3 went in freshet of 1896.
12. Tannery - carriage shop - furniture factory. *A potash*
13. Cobbler shop, run by Horrace Barrows. On bank above Cook boathouse.
14. Shoe shop. Work brought in from city of Lynn to "last & bottom" shoes. Stood on bank between Gay and Bert Weston houses.
15. Barrel stave mill. Stood beyond the Dorman(Leavitt) house.
16. 6 resident physicians; Silas Blake, Josiah Blake, Barrows, Cobb, Weston & Dr. E.A. Wight being the last. My uncle and a horse & buggy-Flivver Dr.
17. Bolster's Mills Debating Society. Took place in Stuart's Hall.
18. Stuart's Hall. Dance Hall and Stage. In house on corner which burned.
19. Claxton Press. Printed the programs for Debating Society. Where Dr. Wight
20. found all his printing equipment years later and where by father, Lawrence, learned to use and print his -
20. BOLSTER'S MILLS ITEM: It appeared April, May, June and July of 1899. He was 19 years old with a grade school education before entering Bridgton Ac.
21. *Grange Hall. Crooked River Grange #32.*
22. Mason Hall. Crooked River Lodge No. 152, A.F. & A.M.
23. Horse watering tub in Stuart Square.
24. The Riverside Inn. Stood between Gay's house and the Brick house. Cap't Wentworth Stuart held trials, had traveling actors and jugglers.
25. The Little Red Schoolhouse. Torn down and replaced by larger 2-room bldg.
26. Library. On the Cook property. Dr. Wight's first office.
27. Bolster's Mills Fish and Game Association.
28. Bolster's Mills snow roller in a shed by Fred Weston's pasture gate.
29. Norway-S. Paris Stage.
30. 3 blacksmith shops, 1 on Otis. side, 2 on Harr. side. Walker Mills was the last and only one I knew. He had an ox shoeing sling. *Francis Chute*
31. A boy's camp. Run by my father, Lawrence Wight.
32. Falconry equipment business. Lawrence Wight. Sent things all over the world
33. Commercial egg and turkey farm. Dr. Wight. Shipped to Boston.
34. Cattle dealer. Bert Weston.
35. Retail lightening rod salesman. Bert Weston.
36. Cushman Bakery Products delivery truck. *Charles Lang, Bill Roberts, Ed Tarbow, Walter Mitzner.*
37. Commercial ice house. Ernest Gay, Bert Weston & Walker Mills. Norton Jillson said, when cutting ice you had to be careful not to slip in the "slarup". A mixture of water, ice chips, dirt, sawdust and horse manure.
38. Resident carpenter and house builder. Worthy Barrows & others.
39. Resident plumber and stone mason. Walt Whitman.
40. Dr. Wight owned a narrow strip of land from the dam, just N of the brick house to his own. He installed an hydraulic ram to pump water to his farm.
41. Eastern Star - attached to the Mason Hall.
42. Fred Clark laid the first pipes for a village water supply in 1905. It would later become the Bolster's Mills Water Co. and become defunct in 1993
43. There were 3 stores in the village, not all operating at the same time.
44. Breeder of show fowl called Houdans. Dr. E.A. Wight
45. A newspaper called the PINHOOK GAZETTE, 1886. Written by a teacher. 1 issue
46. Resident lawyer and Judge. J. Bennett Pike.
47. Commercial Trappers: Sumner Skillings and Bracket Small.
48. Village livestock cemetery. Anyone could use Fred Weston's pasture. Sand.
49. *Dr. E.A. Wight* 50. A parsonage and resident minister.

THE LAST YEAR THE SAWMILL RAN BY WATER POWER WAS 1935. (BELOW)

51. Resident artist: Geneva Dorman Wight. Sold water colors and gave lessons.
52. Resident photographer and optometrist: Leon D. Wight.
53. A hop house.
54. Christian Endeavor League.
55. Women's Christian Temperance Union. Elizabeth L. Scribner, Pres.
56. Northwestern Life Ins. Co., agent. J. Bennett Pike.
57. A Bridgton Stage. The BOLSTER'S MILLS ITEM GIVES THE SCHEDULE.
58. F.H. PIKE: Grocer. Barred P. Rocks for sale & eggs.
59. Village dump, 2 places.
60. A 2-story backhouse on E. face of the Grange Hall. Used up to recent times.
61. Methodist M en of Bolster's Mills.
62. A famous village oak tree.
63. Watering hole in Knight's brook where wagons backed up to fill milk cans.
64. Job Printing: L. N. Wight, printer and publisher.
65. Two split-stone cow underpasses on the Plains Road.
66. A split-stone culvert, for water passage.
67. Unique, individual or shared, water systems from springs w/ water barrels.
68. Itinerant milliner. Boarded at Lil Skillings. Louise Wight remembers h&m.
69. Small "drug store" attached to the Dorman house. Candy, sodas, etc.
70. Ernest Davis came once a week and barbered in a back room above Gay's store.
71. Later he occupied the small bldg. on Otis. side at S. end of bridge.
72. Albert Châte sold tobacco products in this store when Gay would not.
73. First bridge across the river was a wooden structure supported in the middle on a pile of split stones.
74. There were two houses at the foot of Jumper Hill, on opposite sides, occupied by Simeon Haskell and Enoch Haskell.
75. Alvin Rice, and Amos small: Cabinet Makers.
76. Levi C. Nelson: Superior boots and shoes.
77. The Dr. Wight house. Occupied by Wights since 1894. Freeman Fuller re-structured the old house to its present form. Signs of the original size are easily seen. His son, George W. Fuller designed and installed the "ginerbread" finish on the house.
78. Across from this was a large building occupied by Samuel G. Edwards. A carriage and wheelwright shop employing several people.
79. (12) Worthy C. Barrows. Storage and grinding of hemlock bark. Basement for tanning pits and curring shop. Boots harnesses and leather of all kinds.
80. (43) Isaac Bolster Jr. built the first store on the Otisfield side. It was occupied by George Pierce, Wyatt Turner, Ike Skillings, was vacant for a long period and is now the Bolster's Mills General Store.
81. The Walker Mills House was occupied by William Twombly who made fine South of the Tannery there was a potash.

About 300 yars downriver up on the bank there was a building called the Hop House. At one time Hops had been raised.

There was a Cooper's Shop which stood beyond the Dorman house. (now owned by Jeanette Leavitt)

The Cobbler's Shop was run by Horace Barrows. It stood near the Plains Rd., above the Charles Cook Boathouse

Many of the smaller shops did not produce a finished product. They did one particulat part and then the pieces were sent on.

Over the years there were 4 Doctors; Barrows, Cobb, Weston and Wight. Dr. Ed. Wight, being the last, was first a Dr. with a horse and ended with a Model "T".

Slaughtering was done in the big barn owned by John Knight. There was a large iron and bolt ring in the floor. Walker Mills sung the sledge.

THE LAST YEAR THE SAWMILL OPERATED BY DIESEL POWER WAS 1953

49. Large Apiary: Dr. E.A. Wight 50. Parsonage & Resident Minister



HARRISON SIDES OF
WERE 4 MILLS ON THE
THE FRESHET OF
LL AND FULLING MILL.



Holsters Mills Maine.



