



# The Delta Millers' Newsletter

The Gist of the Grist

Fall/Winter 2023

## A Wonderful Year

### At the Old Stone Mill

"A wonderful and informative piece of Canadian history. I enjoyed every minute of being there. The staff really do enjoy what they do". This is one of our 5 star Google reviews from this summer. Our visitor guest book this year shows similar sentiments such as "Great tour. Knowledgeable Staff". With the mill now set up with improved self-interpretation, we offer our visitors both options since not everyone wants a guided tour. Our guest book also shows this, "Impressive! An outstanding self-guided interpretive experience". Plus a litany of "excellent", "awesome", "wonderful", and "amazing" comments plus one from a visitor from Florida who wrote "beautiful, better than any mill in the US".

All of these comments are extremely gratifying to our volunteers who have put in a huge amount of effort to make the mill the presentation showcase it is today. Comments such as these from our visitors are our reward for all this hard work. It is as well for our summer staff, who get direct feedback from visitors about the importance of heritage, particularly tangible heritage such as the Old Stone Mill, an original building on its original landscape. We're a rarity and people do appreciate the work we've put in to preserve (lots of comments about the wonderful restoration we've done) and present the Old Stone Mill.

This year we had our master miller, Chris Wooding, teach several of our summer staff and our youngest director how to operate the millstones. This not only gave us the flexibility to do milling when Chris was not available, but for our interpretive staff this hands on experience with making flour using our 200-year-old millstones assisted with their knowledge of the process and how to interpret it.

We had four youth in the mill this summer, all local, three from Delta and one from Lyndhurst. Three were high school students; William Brown, Natalia McDonald and Blake Fox, and one, Tyler Howard, was in his 20s. With the high school students only available fulltime in July and August, Tyler manned the mill on his own on weekdays from May long weekend through to the end of June. We had our high school students in on weekends through that period. Once the main season started, we generally

Name	City/Province	Comments
John & Jee Jackson Aug 2nd 23	Norfolk ON	We writ! So interesting!
Nelma Muska	Toronto ON	So interesting!
Miller Stevenson	Kingston ON	it was so entertaining
Arian Brown	Kingston	it was fun
Nancy Koanhee	Kingston	Great tour!
Katly Campbell	Australia	guide!
MARIE FEENEY	ORANGEVILLE	
Betty McDonald	Dundas	
Chris Stearny & Stone Edgfield	Moncton, NB	lovely and informative.
Stew & Jamie Sealy	Newmarket ON	
Joseph Payne & Bridget Payne	Vancouver BC	Great tour. Knowledgeable staff
Sarah Holt	Sand. Bristol, NY	

This page from our 2023 guestbook not only reflects some of the nice comments we received but also the geographic diversity of our visitors.



In Period Costume

For our 60th celebration, we had our staff wear period costuming, set up by Katherine Killins. In the past we've used billowing uncomfortable skirts for the women, this year Katherine tried something different—here we see Natalia McDonald in her costume. This also more closely reflects what a woman would have worn in the early 1800s.

The Delta Mill Society is a volunteer, non-profit organization, dedicated to preserving heritage and presenting milling technology of the 1800s.

The Delta Mill Society, P.O. Box 172, Delta, Ontario K0E 1G0 – Email: info@deltamill.org – Website: www.deltamill.org.

Newsletter editor: Ken Watson. All photos, unless otherwise credited, are by Ken.

had three students in the mill on any given day. This allowed for two to be conducting guided tours while one stayed in the shop to greet new visitors and/or make sales. In addition to their primary job as mill interpreters, all worked in rotation on various mill duties such as opening and closing the mill, doing the daily cobweb sweep and maintaining the inventory listing.

The mill also hosted a few special events, including our 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration in mid-August. This was a celebration of 60 years of volunteerism that has made the mill what it is today. It was in August of 1963 that Hastings Steele signed the deed for the mill over to four trustees who then formed the Delta Mill Society. We had our staff and many of our volunteers outfitted in period costuming to the delight of visitors that day (thanks to Katherine for setting up the period costuming). We were very fortunate to have the last remaining trustee, Beth Robinson, at 103 years young, able to visit us. She just didn't show up, she took a complete tour of the mill, all three floors, it was hard to keep up with her. She was very pleased at what the DMS has accomplished, and continues to accomplish. William Brown did three milling demonstrations on the day, each to a good crowd of interested onlookers.

The mill season was capped off with a very successful Delta Harvest Festival with wonderful weather and very good crowds, back to pre-COVID numbers. It was a great way to end the season. We brought back a couple of our students, William and Blake, to help us out on the day. We had good quality entries for the bread baking contest, including submissions from a school class (grades 7-8). We had that class (about 17 youth) in for a tour of the mill a couple of weeks before. That tour included a presentation by Katherine Killins on the secrets of how to make good bread. The results showed in the quality of their submissions. Winners of the contest can be found on our website. We also offered free bread tasting (as we did for the 60<sup>th</sup> celebration on the 19<sup>th</sup>) with two types of award winning breads made using Old Stone Mill whole wheat flour, baked by Pat Watson. We also had a free handout with those recipes, that certainly sparked a number of flour sales – we were completely sold out by the end of the day.

Our summer staff were trained and monitored by DMS directors Anna, Katherine, Ken and Sharon – it was nice to see the students' enthusiasm and genuine interest in the heritage the mill represents.

In late November the mill be magically lit with "candles" in each of the windows. Thanks to Moel Benoit for all the work required to make the mill a literal bright spot in Delta during the Christmas season.



### **Milling Certificates**

In recognition of their training in how to run the millstones and produce good quality flour, we awarded our young millers with a Certificate of Completion. Here we see, from top left, our master miller Chris Wooding with Jared Hayes, William Brown and Blake Fox, and Tyler Howard with director and curator emeritus, Paul George.



### **Fun at the 60th**

Blake taking Anna for a dance to the music of Judi Longstreet and Run of the Mill who played in the mill at our 60th celebration in August and also at Harvest Festival. Their music set toes a tapping.

## Old Town Hall – Collections

The Old Town Hall serves two purposes. One is for the public: the washrooms are available to the general public when the mill is open, and the hall hosts many public events through the season. The other is housing our business office and the majority of our artefact collections and research files.

This year marked the fourth year of our collections project, to properly document, to museum standards, everything we have in our collections (and we have a lot!). The project is done under the direction of our Collection's Chair, Sally Wanless, assisted by Ken Watson and also this year by Paul George, our former curator, now our "curator emeritus" and newest board director. Our seasonal staff person, Rebecca Rothwell, returned for her third year with us. Since, as a cost saving measure, the Old Town Hall is minimally heated, we had Rebecca start with us in April once the weather warmed up and continued with us to the end of October when it got too cold.

While the documentation of our collection is ongoing, we also worked this year on dispersing several items in our collection that didn't in any way meet our mandate. Another issue for us (and many other museums) is that we've run out of storage room (ran out several years ago). Our goal is to find good homes for these items, ideally locations where they can be put on public display. We were able to re-home several items including our full size paper mache cow which moooved from the Old Town Hall to Forfar, where it is now on display at Forfar Dairy. We also had items from various local manufacturers, including several items made at the Smart's Foundry in Brockville which we donated to the Brockville Museum. Plus we donated items to Upper Canada Village and the Hastings County Museum of Agricultural Heritage.



### How to Make Bread

Katherine Killins demonstrates tips and tricks of how to make good quality bread to a Grade 7-8 class. They also got a tour of the mill from Anna and Ken.



### A Very Special Guest

Beth Robinson (centre), one of the original trustees of the mill in 1963, visited us during our 60th anniversary. Beth is 103 years young and is flanked in this photo by Joan Delaney (l) and Anna Greenhorn (r).



In September, a dedicated work crew (Paul, Moel and Ken) with the assistance of Gord French and his tractor, moved a very heavy smutter, a set of scales (also heavy) and a French burrstone (again, heavy) from Art Cowan's barn, where they had been stored since 2008, back to Delta. These had been part of a mill collection we'd purchased from a mill in Quebec. In order to get our operating millstones and bolter, these other items came as part of the package deal. Thanks to Art for kindly storing these items for several more years than originally intended and thanks to Gord French for providing his tractor and his skill set as an operator and heavy object rigger to helping us move these items. We plan to put the French burrstone on display on the south outer wall of the Blacksmith Shop (a project for next spring).

Despite the dispersals, we still have hundreds of objects in our collections. These have now all been documented to the extent we can and Rebecca has also been working to re-organize them in our storage areas on the second floor of the Old Town Hall. It's been a mammoth behind-the-scenes project. In addition to the paper documentation in our files (a large filing cabinet filled with these), we have a digital index of all the items on an excel spreadsheet so that artefact documentation is now easy to locate.

## Old Town Hall – Events

Liz Priebe looks after Old Town Hall rentals and events and she's been kept very busy this year with that responsibility. It can be said that the Old Town Hall was a "happening place" this year with events ranging from swing dancing to small hall concerts. The year started off at the Maple Syrup Festival with our hugely successful Ginormous Book Sale in the Old Town Hall, co-sponsored by the Delta Mill Society and the Rideau Lakes Library. While a mammoth undertaking to set up, it is our single largest fundraiser. June saw a couple of musical events, Mary's Merry Minstrels did old time country and gospel music and we had an evening of classic country music by DJ Lee Pankow. Rentals of the hall also picked up this year, including a couple of wedding receptions (with the Old Stone Mill hosting one of the weddings).

There was more music in the fall with a small halls concert in October featuring Ben Caplan. We have another small halls concert coming up on December 1 featuring Ron Sexsmith and Christmas concert with the Mensen family on December 23. November also saw our annual craft fair hosted in the hall.



Bossy the Cow now on display at Forfar Dairy



This fall, a work party of Paul George, Moel Benoit and Ken Watson, ably assisted by Gord French and his tractor, moved several heavy items from Art Cowan's barn back to Delta. Here we see a French burrstone being secured to Gord's tractor.



**Concert in the Old Town Hall**

The Mensen family entertain an audience in the Old Town Hall last Christmas. They will be back again this year, on December 23, starting at 7 pm. For those feeling a bit peckish prior to the concert, a mac and cheese or chili dinner will start at 5 pm. See our website for details. Everyone is welcome! Photo by Liz Priebe.

## Blacksmith Shop

We had our newly renovated Blacksmith Shop open to the public on several Saturdays this summer. Our Blacksmith Coordinator, Art Shaw, is now being helped by Megan Carter and Mike Armstrong of Armstrong and Carter Ironworks on Daytown Road. They are now starting to play an active role as DMS volunteers. In addition to Art, Megan had the shop open to the public on a few Saturdays this summer.

One of the very interesting things we did this year was to host a "hammer in" of the Ontario Artist Blacksmith Association on September 9. The renovation and expansion of our shop in 2022 now provided the room and quality of facility able to host such an event. It was hugely successful with many blacksmiths from various parts of Ontario, and even a few from Quebec, showing up. It was an all day event with the Delta Mill Society hosting a luncheon for the group featuring delicious pulled pork prepared by DMS director Lisa Martin. It was so successful in fact that we are now looking at this being a yearly event, to be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday in September. In 2024 it will be held on September 14.

Megan and Mike are also blacksmithing trainers, they taught courses at the Waldie Blacksmith Shop in Milton Ontario (run by the Milton Historical Society). They are now offering courses in our Blacksmith Shop, starting off with 1 on 1 or 2 on 1 sessions to provide personal blacksmithing training. Whether you've never touched a blacksmith hammer or have some prior experience, they will tailor training to your wants and needs. See their website for information and registration details: <http://www.acironworks.com/workshops.html>



### Blacksmithing Demonstration

Megan Carter describing a project she's working on to an interested group of blacksmiths from the Ontario Artist Blacksmith Association at their "hammer-in" at our Blacksmith Shop on September 9.

## Everything Else

The Delta Mill Society is a very large operation, run by volunteers. We own three heritage buildings and as you can see from the above, we are engaged in numerous heritage activities. Our volunteers do what each has the time and capacity to do. For instance, our youngest director, balancing his volunteer time with a full time job, does the safety audits of our buildings, taught our students how to clean the grates on the mill races this summer, cleaned and refilled our moving the grain display and is going through the research files donated to us by Paul Fritz this spring in order to sort them into categories and relevance to the DMS.

So, a big thanks to the entire board, Ken Watson (President), Katherine Killins (Vice-President), Sharon Okum (Treasurer), Lisa Martin (Secretary), Moel Benoit, Paul George, Anna Greenhorn, Jared Hayes, Liz Priebe, Art Shaw and Sally Wanless. Also, big thanks to our volunteer miller and grower of our grain, Chris Wooding, to our financial accounts monitor, Eva Wheaton and to Megan Carter and Mike Armstrong, now assisting us with the Blacksmith Shop.

This spring we had Darlene Campbell volunteer her skills as a sign painter do up our 16 foot Blacksmith Shop sign. We also had several people come out and help us out with Old Stone Mill events, including Joan Delaney, Barry Martin, Mike Preczner, Laura Redman, Peter Redman, and Penny Sawyer. We also had many volunteer helpers with Old Town Hall events including; Mary Elizabeth Clark, Claire Cowley, Doug Cowley, Teri Daly, Paola Durando, Kate Earl, Janet Fahey, Maggie George, Pat Greenhorn, Nancee Grundy, Russell Grundy, Peggy Hawn, Donna Healey, Michelle Lewin, Connie McCullough, Betty Anne Nolan, Grant Ross, Howard Sedding, Vicki Stevenson, Joanne van Dreumel, Doug Wilson, and Val Wilson. Thanks to all and to any names we might have missed.

We also thank our musical entertainers—Mary's Merry Minstrels, The Mensen Family, and DJ Lee Pankow, all of whom did fundraisers for us in the Old Town Hall and also thanks to Judi Longstreet and her "Run of the Mill" musicians who played at events in the Old Stone Mill.

## The Rocky Early Years of the Old Stone Mill

The Old Stone Mill is a survivor of a bygone era. While most mills that were once prevalent throughout this region are now simply ruins on the landscape, a reference on an old map or just a fading memory, the Old Stone Mill stands fully intact, cared for and interpreted to the public. Part of the reason was the success of the mill during its operating life. That it survived as a commercial success though to the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century is a testament to some of its owners. But it had a few close calls along the way, particularly in its early years.

On June 10, 1808, Abel Stevens sold his mills (sawmill and grist mill) and property north of those mills to William Jones for the sum of £375. Jones came from a prominent family, his father, Ephraim, was a large landholder and his brothers were all very successful. William was born in Verchères, Québec (on the south shore of the St. Lawrence River, just downstream of Montreal) in 1782 and named Guillaume, which is the French form of the name William. His mother, Charlotte Coursolles, was from Verchères. In 1788 his family moved from Montreal to the newly created Lunenburg District of Québec (essentially what is now eastern Ontario) and in 1790 his father Ephraim received a large land grant in Augusta Township.

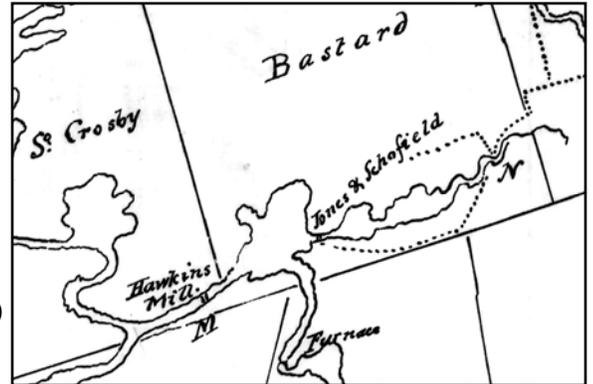
It's unclear exactly when William moved to Delta. He was involved at Lyndhurst with his father, Ephraim, who acquired a partial interest in the land and ironworks there. In 1804, William Jones is shown as being half owner of the sawmill at Lyndhurst purchased by his father that year. So he was in the region and would have been familiar with Abel Stevens' operations in Delta. William is in Delta by 1807 since he's shown as running a still in Delta that year. At some point Jones hooked up with Ira Schofield (b.1776) as a business partner. Ira Schofield was a witness to the 1808 sale of Stevens' mills and property to William Jones. At that time, Stevens' grist mill was under lease to Nicholas Mattice. Stevens also sold some of his property south of his mills to Mattice for £100. Ira Schofield was also a witness that agreement done on the same day as Stevens' sale to Jones.

It appears that Mattice continued milling that year in Stevens' former grist mill, now owned by William Jones. Jones that year is shown as operating a 168 gallon still and Abel Stevens is shown as operating a 70 gallon still. While stills are often associated with grist mills (access to the needed grain), we see at other sites (ie. Chaffeys) that they are often set up in a separate building. In 1805, assessment records show Abel Stevens operating a 70 gallon still, presumably the same one he was later operating in 1808. William Jones was assessed for a 150 gallon still in 1807 and for a 168 gallon still in 1808.

In 1809, Ira Schofield is shown as operating a grist mill, which would have been Stevens' old grist mill, now owned by William Jones, and also a 168 gallon still, presumably Jones' still. Abel Stevens is also milling, now at his son's (Abel Stevens Jr.) newly constructed grist mill at the north end of town on today's Cowans Creek. Stevens is also shown that year as operating a 76 gallon still. William appears to be in Lyndhurst that year operating the grist mill there.

Anecdotal stories have Stevens' old grist mill burning down, likely in the latter part of 1809. In 1810 we see Jones and Schofield operating a merchant shop, storehouse and sawmill in Delta, but there is no mention of a grist mill. We don't know if the burning down of Stevens' old grist mill sparked Jones' to build a new mill, or whether that was the plan all along when he purchased Stevens' land in 1808. Construction of the Old Stone Mill started in the spring of 1810.

The building of the Old Stone Mill was a mammoth undertaking. It was purpose built as a merchant mill (a mill that bought grain and produced flour for sale) using the patented design of American inventor Oliver Evans. Evans revolutionized the flour industry in the late 1700s with his design for an automatic mill described at the time as an "Improved Merchant Flour Mill". In 1790 for instance, George Washington (U.S. president), hired Evans to convert his



### Early Map Reference

This 1815 map shows "Jones and Schofield", the operators of the grist mill in Delta. "Hawkins Mill" is Haskins mill (a sawmill) at White Fish Falls (Morton). Furnace at that time was the burned out remains of the former furnace and foundry in that location (Lyndhurst).

mills at Mt. Vernon to Evans' new process. In 1795 Evans wrote a book detailing his process and it became the bible for how grist mills were to be built. His book was re-printed 15 times through to the mid-1800s.

We don't (yet) know the name of the millwright who built the Old Stone Mill, but he was clearly highly skilled. He was obviously very familiar with the Oliver Evans process and he designed and built a spectacular example of an Oliver Evans mill. Contrary to prior belief, the Old Stone Mill is not a rebuild of the Abel Stevens grist mill, it's not even close to the same location. Stevens original mills were in the stream valley at the foot of the rapids coming out of Upper Beverley Lake (originally two smaller lakes). His mills were likely built on glacial deposits (till or bedded clay) as recently revealed in the "big dig" behind the Jubilee block. But a big stone building needs bedrock support and the closest surface bedrock was to the north of Stevens' original mills. Accordingly the Old Stone Mill was located about 50m away from where Stevens' grist mill had been located. A new channel from Upper Beverley Lake was constructed, excavated through the bedrock using pry bars and black powder blasting. The sounds of construction rang out in Delta through 1810 and 1811.



William

The front door of the mill is original to the 1810 mill. On the inside, above the upper hinge is the name "William", assumed to be William Jones. It is followed by appears to be an ampersand and then blank. Was "William & Ira" originally written here, with Ira removed after he left Delta?

This mill seems to have done fine in its early years. In 1812, the year that war broke out with the United States, we see Ira Schofield operating the mill with 2 runs of stones. He's also operating a sawmill (newly built) and a merchant shop. Jones got married that year and joined the militia (as did Schofield). From 1813 to 1815 we see the mill operated jointly by Jones and Schofield. In 1816 it's just William Jones and in 1817 it's back to Jones and Schofield.

***In this township [Bastard] is the village of Stone Mills: the mill here, belonging to W. Jones, Esq. is unquestionably the best building of the kind in Upper Canada.*** Quote by Rev. William Smart, 1817—in Statistical Account of Upper Canada, 1822.



In 1818 Ira Schofield left Delta and his brother, James Schofield Jr., took over as miller. He is shown as the miller and as the operator of the sawmill for 1818 and 1819. However, it appears that things were not going well for the mill at that time. In 1819, William took out a mortgage on the mill for £1,358 from his brothers Charles and Jonas Jones, both successful businessmen. From 1820 to 1825 we only see William Jones as the miller. In 1826, for reasons unknown, the mill doesn't operate. There are some indications that William may have moved to Brockville at that time and was trying to lease out the mill. He'd obtained the job of customs collector for Brockville. In 1827 and 1828 it is being operated under lease by J.K. Hartwell and his partner James L. Schofield, Ira's son (b. 1800). As an aside, Joseph Harwell briefly employed a young (16 year old) Walter H. Denaut as a clerk in his general store in about 1824. Walter Denaut, who subsequently left Delta for greener pastures, would later return to Delta and feature prominently in the fortunes of the Old Stone Mill.



Delta in 1816 and 1828

It's unclear if the mill operated in 1829. It didn't operate in 1830 or 1831. William died in Brockville in November 1831. William and Amelia had a daughter in 1828, but she died in 1829, so he had no heirs. William didn't leave a will and, likely due to the mortgage, the mill ended up in the hands of his

Top is a section from an 1816 map showing the buildings in Delta. Bottom is a section from a map dated 22 June 1828, showing that the name had changed by this time to Beverley and noting that it consists of about 30 houses. In 1857 the name was again changed, this time to Delta. 1816 map by Joshua Jebb, RE and 1828 map by J. Walpole, RE. Both maps from Library and Archives Canada, NMC 21941 (Jebb) and NMC 11230 (Walpole)

**DESIRABLE INVESTMENT.**

**WILL BE SOLD,** on Tuesday 17th Nov next, at 7 o'clock P. M. at the **COMMERCIAL HOTEL,** in Brockville, at **PUBLIC AUCTION,** that valuable and well known property situated in Beverly, and known as the **STONE MILLS,** and the Farm adjoining, owned and occupied by the late William Jones Esq.—The Mills consist of a Stone Grist Mill, 60 by 46 feet, three stories high, with one run of Stones in operation, and sufficient room to place one or two run more;—a large wooden building in which there is a Saw Mill, a Mill for cutting, and polishing marble, and a Carding Machine;—with the Mill Yard and out Buildings; the last mentioned Mills are rented at £50 per annum, the lease expires on 5th March 1837; the Grist Mill is not at present leased or occupied;—The Farm is laid out in Village and Park Lots; several of the half-acre Lots have been sold at £25 per Lot;—There is a Stone Dwelling House, Barn, Stable, Wood-House &c. The Mills with Yard and out-buildings will be put up and sold separate from the Farm—the Farm with House &c. will be put up and sold together, or in separate parcels as intending purchasers may require.—A plan of the Farm as laid out into Village and Park Lots will be exhibited at the time of Sale, or may previously be seen by applying to the subscriber or at the Post Office in Beverly.—There will also be offered for Sale at the same time and place, the South-East half of Lot No. 28 in 10th Con. of Bastard, containing 100 acres, also the one Equal half of Lot No. 23 in said Concession containing 100 acres, being the lot of land late in the possession of E. Watson, and on which he made a Clearing; also a part of Lot No. 25 in aforesaid Concession of Bastard, containing about 10 acres, also South-East quarter of Lot No. 2 in 4th Con. of Leeds containing 50 acres, a part being under improvement, with a good Log House.—The terms of the sale of the Mills and Farm in Beverly will be cash or approved Endorsed Notes at 90 days, payable at the Bank (adding interest) the terms of sale of the other property will be made known at the time of sale.—As soon as a lock is completed at the white-fish falls, which is in contemplation, the above property, in Beverly, will be, from its position, the most valuable of any in the back Country as the navigation will then be completed from the Mill to Montreal or Kingston via the Rideau Canal.  
**HENRY JONES.**  
Brockville, Sept. 17th 1835. 30

**1835 Notice of Auction**

The sale included the grist mill and sawmill. The Old Stone mill is described as being 60' x 40' in size—a slight exaggeration from its actual 50' x 35' size.

brother, Charles Jones. Charles sold the mill to William's widow, Amelia, for four shillings. Amelia then sold the mill to Henry Jones (William's cousin) who leased it to Edward Matson from 1832 to 1834. Grain prices crashed in 1834, a likely reason why Matson severed the lease in the fall of that year. Henry Jones put up a "for rent" ad in 1834 (no takers) and then in 1835 he put the mill and sawmill up for sale.

There were no takers in 1835, but in July of 1836, James and Amelia Macdonell purchased the mill from Henry Jones for £500. Amelia was the widow of William Jones and she had originally sold the mill to Henry for £500. She married James (a 6<sup>th</sup> cousin) in October 1835. They took a mortgage for £500 in order to purchase the mill. They put some work into the mill including adding another run of millstones (to total 3 sets) and the mill resumed operating in 1837. By 1839, they were back to 2 sets of millstones and in 1840 they took out another mortgage on the mill and sometime later, took out a third mortgage. James died in August 1847 and in 1848 and 1849, his widow Amelia is shown as operating the mill. The mill didn't appear to make a profit through the Macdonells' ownership, in fact they never paid off any of the three mortgages they'd taken out on mill in order to keep the business afloat.

The story of the Old Stone Mill could have ended there; an old grist mill, unable to make a profit and burdened by debt. However, the mill's fortunes were about to take a dramatic turn. An entrepreneur by the name of Walter Henderson Denaut purchased the mill in February 1850, paying off the three mortgages the Macdonells had taken out. Denaut had a vision for the mill and he was about to implement it. But that's a story for another newsletter.



**Ira Schofield**

Ira is buried in the Denny Cemetery just east of Philipsville. Two of his brothers (James & Peter) and his father (James) are also buried here. Ira's obituary stated that he was a "most zealous freemason" and the freemason symbol adorns the top of his headstone. The exact north-south orientation of the mill, with the entrance door facing due east, speaks to a freemasonry belief. William Jones was also most likely a freemason.

William Jones' burial location has not been found. His parents and two of his brothers are in the Blue Church Cemetery (between Brockville and Prescott) but William is not listed as being there.

James Macdonell is shown as being buried in the Sandy Hill Cemetery (Prescott) although there is no known headstone. Amelia's resting place is unknown.

- Ken Watson

**MEMBERSHIP**

For those reading this who do not have a membership in the Delta Mill Society, please consider one. Our primary support for the work we do in protecting and presenting the Old Stone Mill, as well as the Old Town Hall and the Blacksmith Shop, comes from memberships and donations. A membership form can be found on our website at: [www.deltamill.org/donation.html](http://www.deltamill.org/donation.html) (or just click on the **Donate** menu selection on our home page)

