

Tales of Old Mission Creek ^{Thurs May 16 - 1985 Hinckley News-SI}

By Gertrude Fosvick

A sawmill had been built on the Northern Pacific Railroad right-of-way about three miles south of Hinckley.

Previous to the Hinckley fire, a small community known as Mission Creek had grown up around this mill as it furnished work for many people. It must have been busy as one article I read said, this first mill had a capacity of three million feet per annum. It was a very good location three miles from Hinckley. The Northern Pacific built years previous provided excellent transportation as it extended straight north and south between Duluth and the Twin Cities. A road had been built parallel to the railroad.

A small depot located west of the tracks near the railroad crossing was a very busy place because of two passenger trains at noon, two flyers afternoon and two fast flyers at night.

The two noon trains made regular daily stops which was a great convenience to anyone who needed to travel. This busy depot served as Post Office for a large surrounding area. No R.F.D. those days and all mail was carried by train.

During the time we were doing research work "100 Years in Pine County," I went to see Mrs. Jenny Jackson, a pioneer still living on the old farm not far from Mission Creek. She was a very interesting lady who had been just a child at the time of the mill. She had a valuable old photograph of the community school. She and her brother are on the picture as well as other attractive children. This picture is now in the Museum, I have been told. From the number of children pictured it appears as if the community was quite large.

I have been unable to find any mention of a church but there was a cemetery there.

All this was located on the hill north of our barn near where now the pumphouse stands.

We were fortunate to have a teacher named Miss Alice Holm, who was from the near community so she knew local history; she was a fire survivor. It is because of her interest in local history that we came to learn about Mission Creek Cemetery. For Memorial Day we would gather beautiful wild flowers and decorate the graves. There was a picket fence around the cemetery.

Some years ago the Highway Department decided to widen Highway 61. They needed land on both sides of the pavement. My mother refused to sign off that area as she had respect for the cemetery. The representative did not believe the cemetery story and quoted, "eminent domain," but I still told him to check it out at the Courthouse. I cannot remember what happened but that area was not molested.

The original mill burned down in 1885, but was immediately rebuilt. At the time of the Hinckley fire, it was owned by the Boyle-Laird Lumber Company who never rebuilt it.

The mill workers all moved away and when my family bought the farm and settled here in 1910, a well and signs of the old cemetery were all that remained of the early lumber mill village.

Not all of the men, however, left the community. Some bought "cut over" land and became pioneer farmers. Among them was Adolph Anderson with whom I had the privilege to visit some years ago. He and his family all worked hard to improve the farm. Mrs. Anderson was a wonderful woman who was very helpful to my mother.

Today a descendant lives on the farm; it is much larger and by hard work and good management has built it into one of the

most modern, productive dairy farms in Pine County.

Several people have suggested to me that it would be appropriate to have a marker placed on the east side of Highway 61 near that large elm tree to indicate the old Mission Creek area, but so far nothing has been done about it.



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This photo was again taken from Ed Freeman's collection. This is a deer hunting camp back in the mid 1930s. The camp was set up east of Hinckley, to the east of the old Fleming logging road.

Pictured from left to right are: Lynn

Freeman, Leo Starken, Jupe Johnson, Ob Thompson, Bill Lammerts and Dolive Pearson.

It was common in those days for a group of men to set up this type of camp for us during deer season.

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Historical Fire Pageant of August 14 and 22, 1954 which included practically the entire town. The

Mission Sawmill

Can not seem to find all letters & interview with Pioneers.

Visited Mrs. Fosvick mother ?? Also was told about Cemetery & remember the case about when Highway Department decided to widen the road and she refused to give the land.

Believe if my mind serves me correctly. The Governor came to settle the problem

Fritz Johnson also gave ~~descrip~~ description of fire at Mission Creek. A U