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Grist Mill in Busti

For many years the village of Busti has been a choice location for a gristmill. Surrounded by an excellent farming country and with no competition nearer than Jamestown, the mill at Busti has always had a fine custom business and an extensive patronage upon the south from is Warren Co., Pa. Soles, for many years was proprietor of these mills, then Carpenter was part owner. After Carpenter and Mitchell owned the property, until Carpenter sold out his interest to Harmon G. Mitchell, who since than has been sole proprietor. The water power is quite durable being upon the Stillwater, and having 8½ ft. head, with considerable of a pond which to draw. The past season has been exceptionally dry, but usually there is water sufficient to keep the Mill running all the time.

Mr. Mitchell has lately been improving this property, and the object of this article is to notice these improvements, No change has been made in the dam, which is in perfect order, neither has the outside of the mill been improved except by two dormer windows in the roof made necessary by the inside improvements. The mill has three run of stone with three pairs of French Burr mill stones. Mr. M, took up the husks from the foundation and laid them anew entirely out of stone, brick and iron, and this has been characteristic of all the improvements made, durability has been especially kept in view. The old water wheels were thrown out and three of Nichols Turbine water wheels substituted · two of them are 4 ft. in diameter and one, which runs the smut mill machinery is 24 in. in diameter, revolving 154 times per minute. The larger wheels use 200 inches water are from 25 to 30 horse power and make 77 revolutions per minute. The coarse grain run of stone will grind 30 bushels corn or 45 bushels corn and oats mixed in an hour. The wheat run which is also connected to the Smut mill machinery will grind from 8 to 12 bushels wheat per hour, The Smut Mill used is Montgomery's manufactured at Silver Creek, A short distance from the front door of the mill are two receiving hoppers one for wheat and one for coarse grains, and the grain brought to the mill is emptied into these receivers. There is also a receiver on the same floor for corn in the rear which is emptied through an opening of the floor into a sort of barrel with a revolving threshing mashing (sic) at the bottom which effectually shells the corn separating the corn from the cob. All the lifting there is about the mill is to take the grain from the wagon at the front steps up on R. R. trucks, deliver them to the receiving hoppers where the grain is emptied and thence forward all lifting and transferring of the grain until it is delivered again to the bag or barrel is performed wholly and most perfectly by elevators and garners, all operated by machinery. All the work of the mill can be

done upon the first story without going either below or above. In the upper story are the buckwheat screen, smut mill machinery, flour screen, bins for storage of grain and garners for meal and feed. The flour screen is entirely new and is composed of beautiful silk goods imported from Germany, and which would make a lovely summer dress for a lady, it also makes splendid flour being useful as well as ornamental. There is a new wrinkle, about the flour screen by which the imperfectly crushed wheat is returned again to the hopper and reground, thus increasing the yield of flour above that ordinarily ground.

In short no expense has been spared by Mr. Mitchell in his improvements to get the very best as well as the most durable machinery, and to avail himself of the skill and ingenuity of the best mechanics to make his mill convenient and practical.

Without any increased head he has by improved machinery enlarged the capacity of the mill nearly 100 per cent and yet can do all the business with two men.

Mr. Mitchell's improvements have cost him between \$2,500 and \$3,000. His mill wright has been Ben. Nichols of Jamestown, not only a most excellent practical mill wright, but also the inventor of the Turbine water wheels put into the mill. It is not the object of this article to write up this wheel. Suffice it to say that it is conceded to be the best in use, upon these ground. It is moderate in price, simple in construction and economical in the use of water. There are two of these wheels in use in Russelburg, five in Randolph and seven in Jamestown &c, and wherever used they give perfect satisfaction.

These Turbine water wheels and all the gearing and iron mill machinery and castings used in making the improvements to the Busti mill were manufactured at Jamestown by John T. Wilson. There are 15 pairs of cog wheels used in driving the machinery and the nicety with which they fit and the stillness and smoothness with which they revolve are a credit to the manufacturer. Johnny takes pride in doing good work and has an ambition as a manufacturer to supply his shops with the best machinery and turn out as perfect work as any of the neighboring places. He is constantly increasing his facilities for business and of course greatly increasing his trade – and thus doing his full share in building up our town.

R. H. Frew is the head miller of the Busti mills. As Frew was born in a grist mill (or might have been if he had chose) of course he understands his biz. Mitchell is also usually on hand. Besides the Grist mill there is also a saw mill connected with the water power, though logs have become rather scarce. No improvement has been made in Busti for many years of such importance to that place as the work we have been describing. Mr. Mitchell designs to make the custom business a specialty, but expects to manufacture merchant flour to some extent. When the narrow gauge R. R. shall be completed through the Stillwater valley, which will be at no distant day, the facilities of the Busti mill to stock with grain and market flour and meal in the Oil regions will be second to no other point. Such a railroad will not only give an immense start to the mercantile, milling, and manufacturing of Busti, but will also fetch right at the doors of almost every farmer in the valley on of the best markets in the United States.