

MEMORIALS OF FORT ERIE AND EARLY NAVIGATION ON LAKE ERIE:::

page 58: GRIST MILL REGULATIONS::: 1786.

"Secretary's Office, Quebec  
14th., February, 1786."

Several applications having been made to His Honour the Lieutenant Governor, for leave to erect Mills in the new settlement.

Notice is hereby given by the Lieutenant Governor, and Commander-in-Chief of this Province, by and with the advice of His Majesty's Council thereof; that right shall be granted to a person or persons, to erect a Mill in each seigniority or Township, in the situation best adopted for that purpose, for the use of the settlers: which person or persons, shall for a limited time enjoy the right of seigniority in everything regarding the Mill, according to the laws and customs of this Province, as a reward for his or their trouble, and as full compensation for the expence thereby incurred, on the following terms and conditions.

" Certain place in each seigniority or Township, having been pitched upon; which in the opinion of the judges are best adopted by their situations and advantages to have Mills erected upon them; the holder of the lot upon which spot is situated, shall in preference authorised by himself or in company with such other persons, as he may find necessary for that purpose to associate with him in the undertaking: to erect a Grist Mill for the use of the seigniority or Township, under the conditions herein-after recited.

1. That a Grist Mill sufficient in all respects for the use of the settlers in the seigniority or Township shall be erected; and held in readiness for the use; on or before the first day of November next.
2. That said Grist Mill shall be kept in constant repair, and attended to by the persons necessary to grind the grain of the settlers.

" That at the expiration of fifteen years, His Majesty shall resume the seigneurial rights of bannalite, and that the Mills together with all necessary buildings, thereto appertaining, erected in consequence of the agreement; shall then be delivered up to His Majesty, without the right to claim or compensation from the builders, in consideration thereof.

In Lower Canada Mills are often erected in this way, the undertaker enjoying the privileges from the seignior for ten years; but in consideration of the situations and circumstances of the settlers, for their greater encouragement; the term will be extended to fifteen years.

That if at any time before the term of fifteen years has elapsed, it shall be found expedient for His Majesty to resume the rights of bannalite; it shall be lawful there to do; and in that case a just and equitable compensation shall be allowed, to the undertakers under the agreement; to be given under the opinion of five persons; two of whom shall be named on the part of His Majesty, two by the possessors of the Mill, and the fifth by the first four; as well for the first cost of erecting the Mills; as in consideration of a reasonable profit, to be derived from the undertaking.

For the greater encouragement of the undertaker, one batteau properly manned, shall be allowed at His Majesty's expence; to make one trip to carry up from the Lachine, the Mill stones, and for the use of use of each Mill.

All persons willing to undertake the erecting of a Grist Mill, in each seignior or Township, the holder of the Lot upon which the Mill is to be erected, having always the preference; are immediately to signify the same, through the usual channel of their inspectors; those for the seigniories or Townships of Johnstown and Oswegatchie, to Stephen Delancey Esquire: for the seigniories of Townships depending on Cataraqui, to Neil McLean Esquire, Deputu Inspector: and if approved by the Lieutenant Commander- In Chief; they are to be ready

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In the vicinity of Niagara, two places were named as being eligibles for the construction of water Mills: They were at the Falls above 12 mile pond, ten miles from the lake, and 16 from the Garrison: and between the great Falls and Chippeway Creek.

MILLS::: FROM Records of Niagara # 43. by E. A. Cruikshank

THE PETITION OF JAMES MACKLEM, JOHN FANNING & BENJAMIN HARDISON  
OF THE DISTRICT OF NIAGARA , GENTLEMEN .

March 31, 1812.

Humbly Sheweth:

That your petitioners four years since , laid before your Excellency Lieutenant Governor Gore a petition praying for a Grant of a certain Mill seat, lying below the mouth of the River Welland or Chippewa in the Township of Stamford, wherefrom his Excellency promised that he would do everything that laid in his power in our behalf, but probably going to a municipality of business which engaged his attention, we never obtained a final answer on the subject.

Your petitioners have reside in the Province for about twenty years during which period it has been their highest ambition to promote its true interest and prosperity , by the encouragement of its population , and by the promotion of works of public utility which exertions, they conceive, have been crowned with a success, in most respects equal to their wishes. One of your petitioners John Fanning, has been at heavy expences in erecting Mills in this part of the Province, particularly one at Black Creek, which was consumed by fire Feb. last, whereby he sustained a loss of two thousand bushels of wheat.

It is impossible for us to point out the great want of Mills in this part of the Province: the Mills now erected at the Falls and at Bridgewater cannot manufacture near the quality of grrian, now raised in this quarter of the Country, and there are now in the aforesaid Mills upwards of twenty thousand bushels of wheat, though the inhabitants cannot obtain sufficient flour for their own consumption. The said Mills being possessed by a company who adopt such rules and regulations respecting the

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cont::: honor will not cause it to be granted o the aforesaid company,  
but to some worthy person wholly unconnected with said company.

If in the opinion of your Honor, this petition would have  
greater weight with you , by having the support of five hun-  
dred of the most respectable inhabitants of this quarter , their  
signatures for that purpose may be obtained in a few days.

We thurther pray that your Honor will be pleased to cause  
the Honorable Council to take this into their wise consideration,  
and give us an answer to our former petition, which was ably  
supported by the most respectable inhabitants in this part of  
of the Province.

And your Petitioners as in duty bound, will ever pray,

James Macklem

John Fanning

Benjamin Hardison.