

FORT ERIE MILL:::::

1795.

66 from THE SIMCOE PAPERS.

OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF UPPER CANADA.

Council Chambers, Newark, August 16th., 1795

Present:

The Hon'ble Peter Russel, Chairman  
The Hon'ble Alexr. Grant; The Hon'ble Aeneas Shaw.

The Petition of Wm Dunbar.

Stating that your petitioner bought of John Garner Lot 1 in the township of Fort Erie, a favourable spot for a Mill. That your petitioner was at a great expence in cutting through solid rock to supply the Mill water. That the unexpected decrease of the Lake waters soon deprived your petitioner of his labour, & left him involved in so much debt, his creditors took from him his farm; but in consideration for his great labour and expence, left him the Mill and site, which he now humbly prays that his excellency would be pleaded to confirm to him, independent of the Lot no. 1.

Recommended to His Excellency to grant the prayer of the Petition so far as relates to the Mill & site.

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1820::: On Feb. - 1820 Grant & Kerby took a step to provide for future purchase of the Grist Mill at Fort Erie Rapids, from William Dunbar. The Mill had been built some thirty years before, by W. m. Dunbar and Dunbar had cut a canal through solid rock for a considerable distance, for supplying it with water from the river. It escaped destruction during the war of 1812-14.

Life of hon. Col Kerby by Cruikshank:::::

1831. On 14th. of Jan 1831 William Dunbar gave Kerby a quit claim deed of his interests in the Fort Erie Mills for the sum of one thousand pounds.

KERBY'S RED MILL:::

In 1796 a Thomas Clark went into partnership with a Samuel St., and Robert Nichol. It lasted three years, and they built warehouses at Queenston, Chippewa and Fort Erie.

Kerby then went into partnership on his own with Robert Grant. Under the firm of Grant & Kerby they leased the Warehouses at the above locations.

In 1820 Grant & Kerby took steps to provide for future purchase of the Grist Mill at Fort Erie Rapids, from William Dunbar. This Mill was situated at the head of the Rapids about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile upstream from Waterloo Ferry landing then at the foot of Catherine St. A channel was deepened in the Rock along the shore line of the River to make the Mill race. The next closest Mill was at Chippewa so all the wheat grown within ten miles of the village was brought to Fort Erie Mills. In order to keep the Mill fully employed it was necessary to import grain from other areas, and this entailed a great deal of work for Kerby and his partner. During the winter the Mill was often idle, because of ice jams in the River; and at times of the year it was out of operation for lack of sufficient water. Kerby sought help from the Government to have a canal built which would not only assure a plentiful supply of water, but would also allow safe passage of boats upstream in the area of the Rapids. To further this dream a committee of prominent men in the village was formed, and for several years heated discussions for and against this venture were heard around the village. Finally the idea was shelved because of financial reasons, and lack of interest in the right places.

In 1823 Grant & Kerby sold a third of their interest in the Mill to Benjamin Hardison. He died shortly afterwards and Kerby took over the operation of the Mill.

In 1831 Grant & Kerby broke up their partnership, and Kerby went into the business on his own. In this same year Wm. Dunbar gave Kerby a quit claim deed of his interests in the Fort Erie Mills for one thousand pounds.

In 1843 because of poor health, and the pressure of his public offices, which made his Mill unprofitable; Kerby sold out to Buffalo interests.

Exerts from the Life of Col. Kerby by A.E. Cruikshank.

1796::; Benjamin Hardison .

John Garner sold to Benjamin Hardison:::

::::: that is to say, a lot of land in the aforesaid (the township of Bertie) on the Niagara River (not including the Mill Site, occupied by William Dunbar).

Beginning at a post marked no 1. in the north \_\_\_\_\_ of the lands reserved for the Crown in Fort Erie, being the south west angle of lot no. 1, fronting the Niagara River: thence north twenty chains: thence east to the site of the Mill, occupied by William Dunbar, seventy four chains more or less: thence along the boundary of the said Mill site, parallel to the Niagara River, southerly to the Military Lands: thence west along the boundary of the said Military Lands, sixty two chains to the place of the beginning; containing one hundred and thirty acres more or less, with an allowance for a road.

Witness: George Forsyth

Thorn & \_\_\_\_\_

Registered Nov. 1st. 1796.

Original: St. Catharines Museum.

1798::: John Garner of Bertie to Benjamin Hardison of Bertie.

By which the said John Garner have bargained released, sold, and confirmed unto the said Benjamin Hardison, his heirs and assigns forever, all and singular that tract of land, situated in the Township of Bertie in the County of Lincoln, in the District of Niagara: containing by admeasurement 100 acres more or less: being lot no.1., in the second concession of the said Township, and butted and bounded as follows: That is to say beginning at the south east angle of the said lot, then north twenty chains, then west twenty chains then south twenty chains, then east to the place of the beginning.

Witness: Thomas Dickson of Queenston Esquire.

Alexander Douglas of Bertie, Merchant.

Registered 13th., day of Aug. 1798.

Ezekeil Woodruff: Deputy Registrar.

No. 79.

Original : St. Catharines Museum.



1801. David Powell, Lieutenant of Provincial Marines

; Benjamin Hardison , Fort Erie Rapids.

By which the said David Cowan have granted bargained sold and released unto the said Benjamin Hardison , his heirs and assigns forever; all that parcel of land situated in the Township of Bertie in the County of Lincoln, in the District of Niagara; containing by admeasurement 200 acres & 50, the same more or less; composed of lots no. 2 in the 1st concession & the 2nd. concession., of the Township; butted and bounded, that is to say ; beginning at the north west angle of no. 1 in the 2nd. con. , from the River; north 20 chains, thence east to within 1 chain of the top of the bank of the River, Niagara, one hundred and twenty-six chains more or less: thence southerly along the said river and at the distance of one chain from the top of the said bank, twenty chains more or less to lot no. one, and thence west to the front of the third con., one hundred and twenty six chains more or less, to the place of the beginning; reserving two acres

WITNESS. John Warren of Bertie Sr.

Alexander Douglas; Merchant.

Original : Microfilm-St. Catherines Museum.