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Grist from the mills of history

By Shirley Kowalchuk on August 11, 2016

Posted in [Education](#), [History](#), [Northeast](#)

In a cool respite of perfectly manicured park space in East Kildonan, there are two thick circular granite stones on display. They look like stylized Bauhaus patio tables.

I want to discover why someone once said this park, of all places, is the spot where if given the chance, he would bring an international visitor to learn of EK’s past.

That person is Jim Smith, a long time archivist and historian who lives in North Kildonan and whose specialty is municipal history.



Archivist, historian Jim Smith beside millstones on Edison Avenue in East Kildonan. /SHIRLEY KOWALCHUK

In his company, one will often hear an impromptu history of the surrounding space – often concerning a history one wouldn’t even consider. (Know about the history of that local A&W, perchance? Well, I do... now.)

So I meet Jim one sunny morning at Edison Avenue and Henderson Highway, where the granite stone

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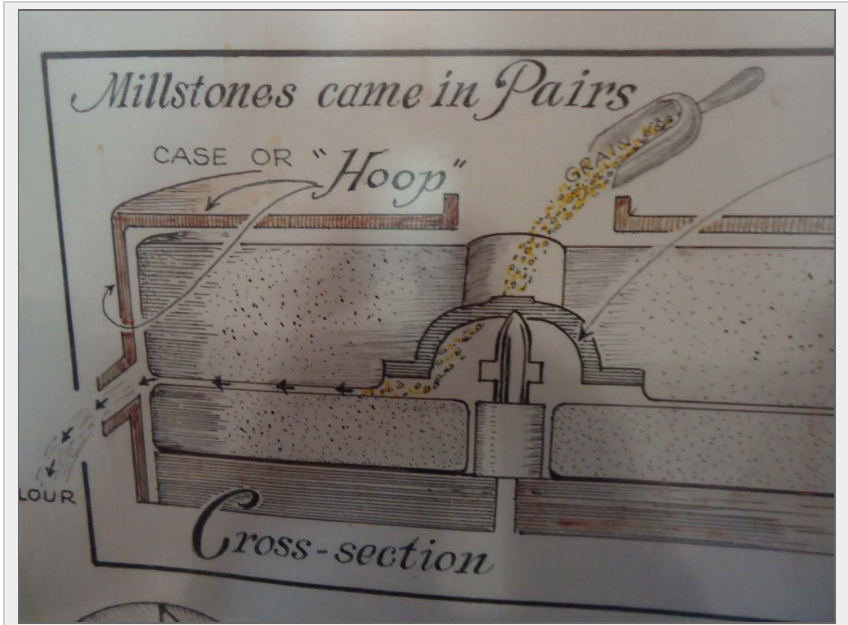


Meccano set for adults: scaffolding rises on Bannatyne. PHOTO by Greg Petzold

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RIVER CITY 360

circles are on display. I park my vehicle in front of one of the numerous apartment blocks on Edison Avenue close by.



Millstones used to crush grain were a fixture of early Red River settlement. /SHIRLEY KOWALCHUK

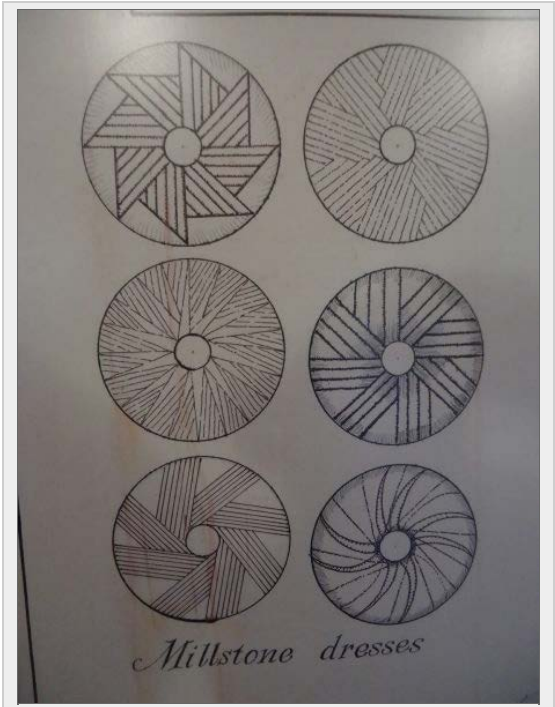
The stones themselves may well have started their journey to this spot from Scotland on board seafaring ships sailing into Hudson Bay in the early days of the Selkirk Settlement at Red River. Arriving in the Bay, they would have been transferred into York boats to make the long river journey to the Red River colony, where Red River lots were granted to Selkirk Settlers east of the river in what is now Elmwood, East Kildonan and North Kildonan. (The Selkirk Settlement was not limited to “Old Kildonan” west of the Red).

The stones are of chiseled granite and were once used to grind grains. I can’t imagine portaging millstones – can you?

Perhaps the last leg of their journey was within a creaking ox cart from the Forks where the Hudson Bay Company’s Fort Garry was situated. Lastly, perhaps the weighty stones were rafted across the Red River to its east side, right into what became Water Mill Creek. The name occurred sometime after 1926. The exact date of the Matheson Mill construction is unknown.

The Matheson stones are chiseled on one side in a unique pattern which can be seen on the underside of their display. The granite stones are so hard they did not wear down significantly, although the chiseled designs did need “redressing”, or re-chiseling ever so often. This was part of the miller’s job, or that of an itinerant stone dresser. (If the stones were made of a softer stone, they would have produced sand within the flour they ground).

The monument was officially unveiled in the park on June 28, 1966 as a memorial to the Selkirk settlers, and to the Matheson Mill, one of the earliest mills in the NorthWest.



Millstone dresses: chiseled designs on stone’s underside.

/SHIRLEY KOWALCHUK



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LOCAL HEROES



Fringe performers score Rhodes scholarships

By Trevor Smith on January 10, 2013

Two Winnipeggers who graced the stages of Winnipeg’s Fringe Festival are the latest recipients of Rhodes scholarships and will soon be on their way to study at Oxford University.

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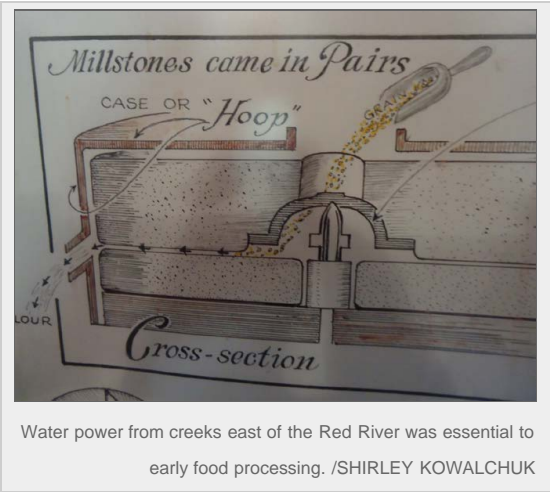
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Matheson Mill was a water mill – impounded water was diverted into a narrow channel, speeding it up to drive a water wheel that turned the grinding stones. Two pairs of circular stones, laying atop and close to each other, ground seed kernels into flour between them. The interior surfaces, chiseled with specific designs called “dresses”, moved the resulting flour to its exit at the stone’s periphery. The millstones mounted in the park are both dressing side down, positioned this way for unknown reasons.

The only other two-set mill in the Red River area was owned by Louis Riel’s father. Today these stones are on display in front of the St. Boniface Museum.



Accounts reveal the Matheson Mill was still in operation in 1868 or 1870. Yet an 1850 report by the Hudson Bay Company listing all mills in the Red River area does not include the Matheson Mill. However long it operated, during its time, the mill was the hub of the North Kildonan community.

After the mill was either torn down, fell down, or was washed away at some unknown date, the stones began a mysterious journey. Today, only two of the four stones are on display at the park. (Read about the mystery of the other two millstones on CNC: [Solving the missing millstones mystery](#)).

Even before considering the mystery of the missing millstones, it’s hard to imagine a mill once operated somewhere close by. I can’t even imagine, as vehicles speed noisily by on Henderson Highway, that a creek once meandered through here.

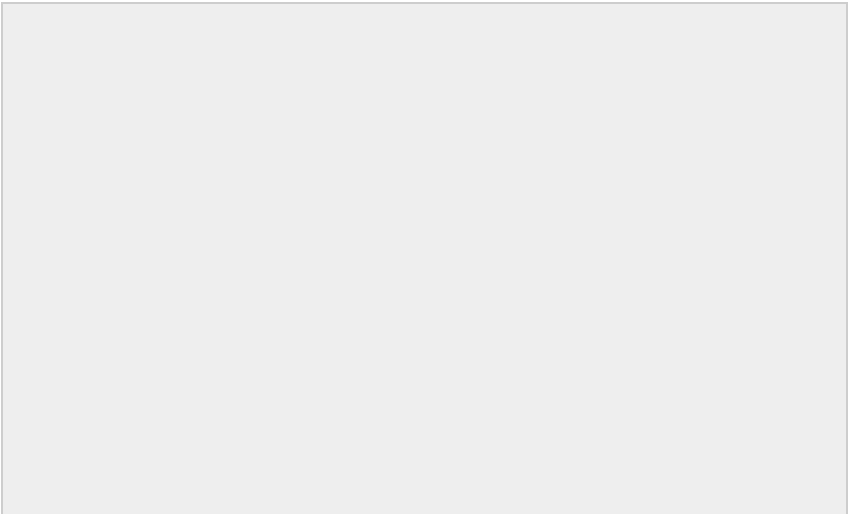
Today, the area is a concentrated suburban residential district where once tall grass prairie was crossed with sweeping buffalo paths to then become farm fields and domestic grazing lands.

An early account mentions an Aboriginal encampment at the loop of the Red River, where Elmwood begins (around O’Dawda Park today). Glass beads and fire pits were discovered when Brazier Street was dug up for reconstruction in the 1990’s near Talbot Avenue.

Quest for Water Mill Creek

It is all very hard to imagine, so Jim and I begin a journey to pick up on any remnants of this time. We drive to a spot nearby just north of the Curtis Hotel on Henderson Highway.

“That apartment block actually sits on the creek,” Jim says. “I’m sure it (the creek) was filled in to some degree...”





Jim Smith at Water Mill Creek site near former Matheson Mill location. /SHIRLEY KOWALCHUK

He says this would be a good place to situate a plaque to commemorate Water Mill Creek, (later known as McLeod Creek). He estimates the creek at this spot to have been 75 feet wide. Recorded oral histories reveal reminiscences of the mill being here just north of the spot where the Curtis Hotel is now.

It's a day after a torrential Winnipeg downpour and a water vacuum truck is servicing one of the apartments. As we take up the trail of the curving, low areas that once flowed with water, Jim estimates the spot of the Matheson Mill to be somewhere between the apartments north of the Curtis Hotel and Brazier Street.

"Mill Creek, as it was called then, probably wouldn't have had a lot of water in it for a good part of the year. Probably in the spring, of course, after the snow melt and if you had a lot of rain it would fill in. I'm sure there were times where there wouldn't have been a lot of water to move the water wheel," says Jim.

Up until the 1960's a culvert ran beneath Henderson Highway that flowed traces of the Creek. Before this, the Creek ran in places where now upon it sits a Tim Horton's and the Baptist Church on Rowandale Avenue.

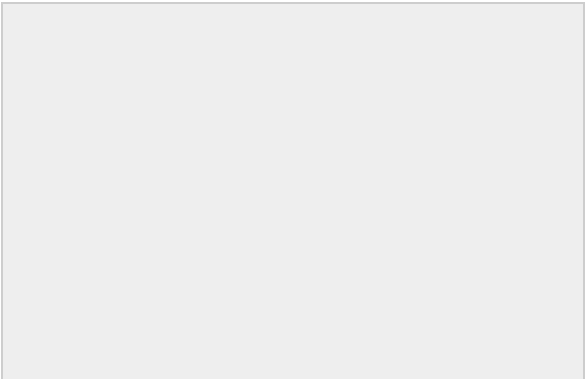
The large dip in the street reflects the creek's path as it continued along to Whellams Lane. Its entrance to the Red River can still be seen north from Chief Peguis Trail on the east bank to Kildonan Settlers Bridge. The creek was simply filled in at various places due to land development.

"(Where it meets the Red River) the creek is still there in a thoroughly natural state, and of course when the river is high it backs up into the creek," Jim explains.

At this spot, a chain ferry crossed the river from the 1870's to 1916. For this reason, Whellams Lane nearby was originally called Ferry Lane.

Crossing the Red at the Kildonan Settlers Bridge, blue plaques upon the bridge each display a name of a local Selkirk Settler.

We head to the only water mill left in Winnipeg – a working reproduction of a mill that was originally built on Sturgeon Creek in 1829, 1830 and 1831. (Roaring spring waters in Sturgeon Creek tore it from its banks each year).



The early mill was built by Metis leader Cuthbert Grant, who was famously involved in the Battle of Seven Oaks. After the third mill destruction, Grant abandoned the mill to build a windmill at Grantown.

Grant's Old Mill Museum

Jim and I arrive at the impressive mill site where friendly guides Jessica, Courtney and Sarah greet us. The old mill now includes museum space filled with artifacts.

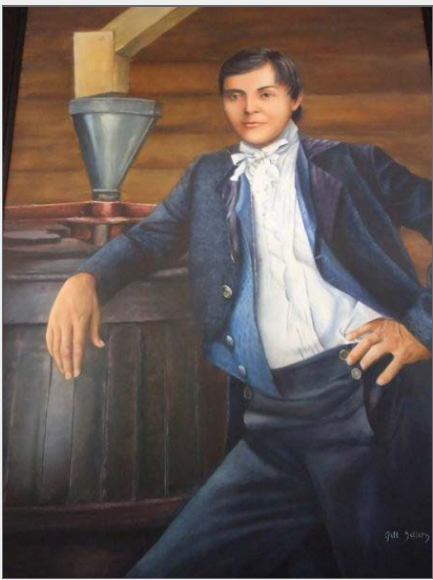


Grant's Old Mill. /SHIRLEY KOWALCHUK

Hanging high upon the wall in the post and beam structure that uses no nails is a facial portrait (and perhaps the only known photo) of Cuthbert Grant. In 2011, Gill Seller painted a full portrait of Grant using this photo to inspire his vision of Grant's assemblage.



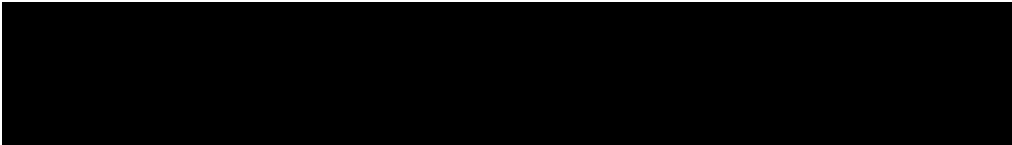
Metis leader Cuthbert Grant. /SHIRLEY KOWALCHUK

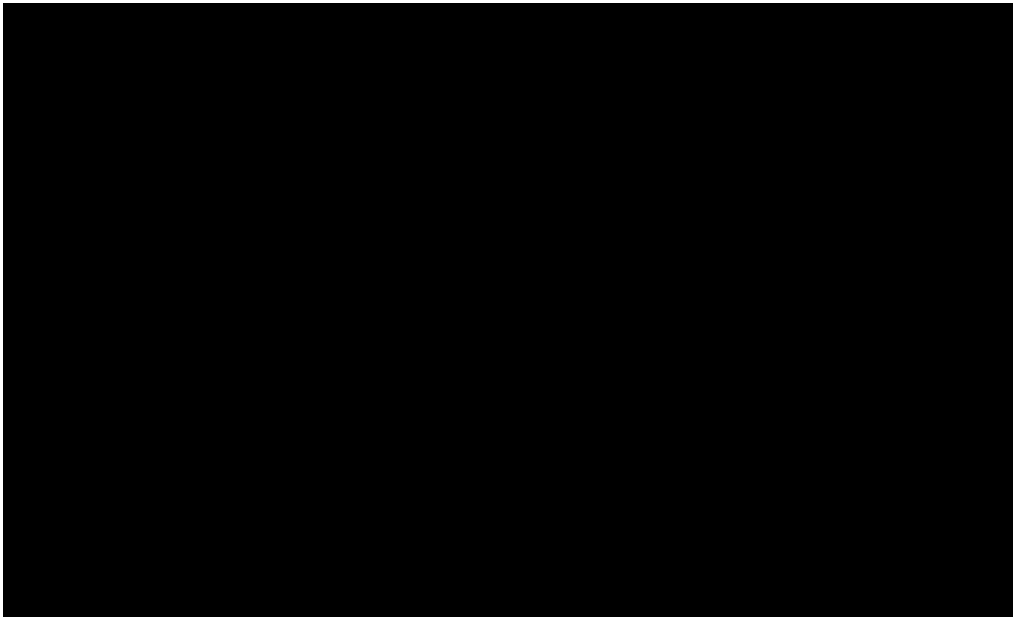


Gil Seller's portrait of Metis leader Cuthbert Grant. /SHIRLEY KOWALCHUK

Jessica starts the mill and it rings out a loud, heavy hum. It produces flour immediately after she pulls a lever that releases grain that flows with a wooshing sound into the area between its large millstones.

The mill mechanism itself was donated by Ogilvie Flour Mills. It is more than 100 years old and is electrically powered, explains Jessica. The equipment was still in use before it was donated.

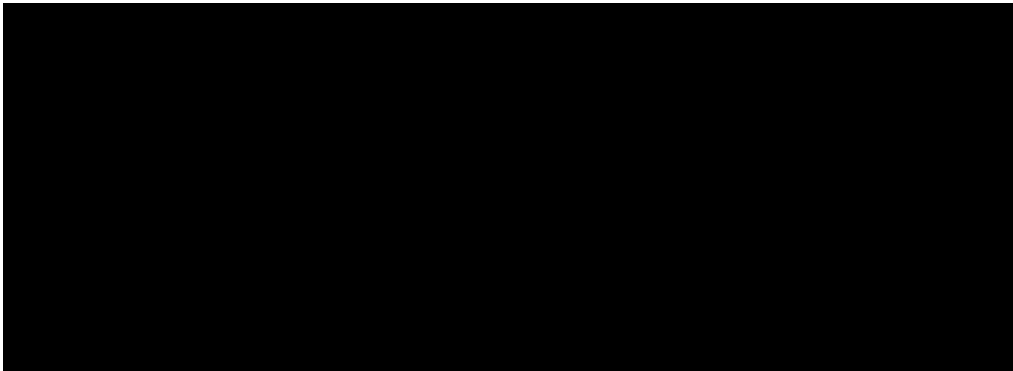


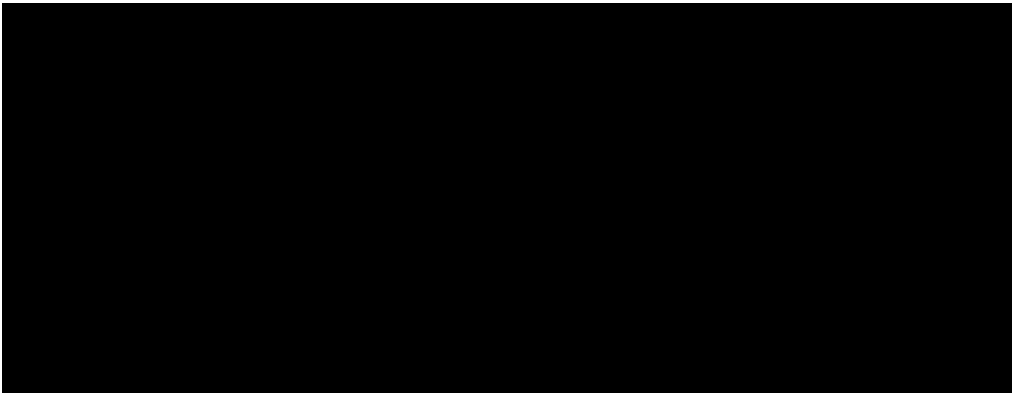


Writer Shirley Kowalchuk and historian Jim Smith at Grant's Old Mill Museum.

The stones within it are of granite; the top “runner” stone is 2000 pounds and stationary bottom “bedstone” weighs about 1000 pounds.

We descend the staircase to another level where a large wooden wheel turns as the mill hums loudly. A wooden scaffold around the huge wheel allows an interesting and dramatic view of its workings. Along an entire wall is written out Cuthbert Grant's lineage, dating back to the 1600's.





Ogilvie donated this flour mill to Grant's Old Mill Museum. /SHIRLEY KOWALCHUK



Courtney, Jessica, Sarah – guides at Grant's Old Mill Museum . /SHIRLEY KOWALCHUK

I had earlier noticed a posting near the Museum's entrance. It describes the forward movement of all peoples in a spirit of reconciliation and collaboration, and the place of history in this path. It lingers with me because of its relative novelty; only a few years ago, such a notice would never have existed.



A sign of the times: Grant's Old Mill offers respect for First Nations. /SHIRLEY KOWALCHUK

Lunch at A&W

Leaving the mill, Jim and I stop for lunch at the A&W on Portage Avenue on the south bank of Sturgeon Creek. Teen and Papa burgers on tray, Jim and I sit down in the busy restaurant.

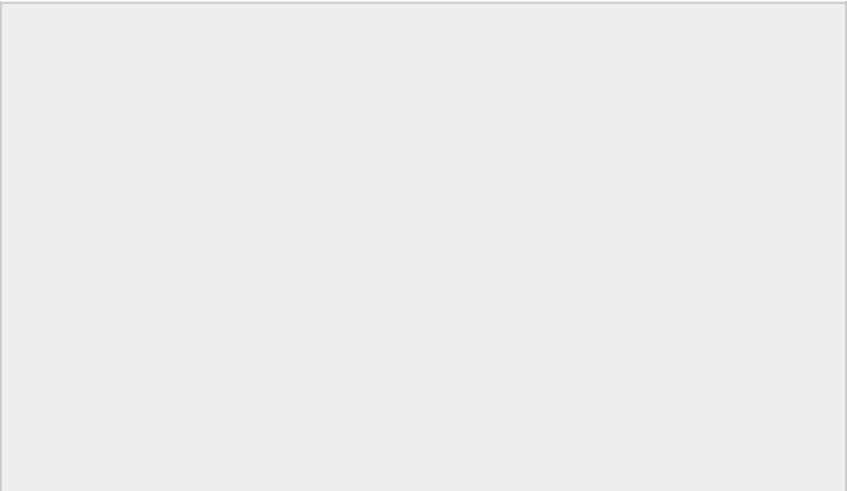
Glancing to the table next to us, to my sheer surprise there sits Senator Murray Sinclair along with a young person. A woman soon joins them.

After looking at Sinclair too long – as one does with someone who is so familiar through the media – I spontaneously (and with some feelings of foolishness for staring) – smile at the Senator. I had always admired his work, especially the connection he created to people through the media. He consistently reminds us – or in fact provides first awareness – of Aboriginal issues that so badly need profile.

In retrospect, I think I was dumbstruck at the happenstance of seeing him along our journey of history. (If ever Senator Sinclair might visit the CNC site, he may recognize the hot and tired duo in the photos from that day).

Sure, another reporter would have immediately asked him about his view of the notice at the museum, and what this might indicate for Canada. But somehow I just sit there in contemplation of these things, and eat my lunch with our two tables set beside each other.

I conclude it is the beginning of a new day for the present into which our past moves.





Grist from the mills of history. /SHIRLEY KOWALCHUK

This is the first in a three-part series on Winnipeg’s early history. Check out [Solving the missing millstones mystery](#) and [Home life challenging for early settlers](#) by Shirley Kowalchuk on Community News Commons.

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About **Shirley Kowalchuk**
Shirley Kowalchuk is a Winnipeg writer.

2 responses to “Grist from the mills of history”



Shirley Kowalchuk August 14, 2016 at 10:58 pm | [Permalink](#) | [Log in to reply](#).

I think the “cliffhanger”, Doug, to the following article turns out to be you and Billie, (except it is a tree, not a cliff) -See bottom photo next installment:” Solving the Missing Millstone Mystery”.

Billie the parrot appeared very comfortable seemingly welded to your shoulder as you perched in the tree.

I’m sure his direction came in handy! (He is, after all, used to such things).

Great shot as a result. Thanks to you and Billie.

(Notice the “dressing” or lines on the top of the “table” that were captured in your photo. These grooves cut and ground the grain and funnelled out the flour).

– Shirley



Doug Kretchmer August 11, 2016 at 1:43 pm | [Permalink](#) | [Log in to reply](#).

Great historical story Shirley. Can’t wait to read the second instalment. Talk about a cliffhanger!



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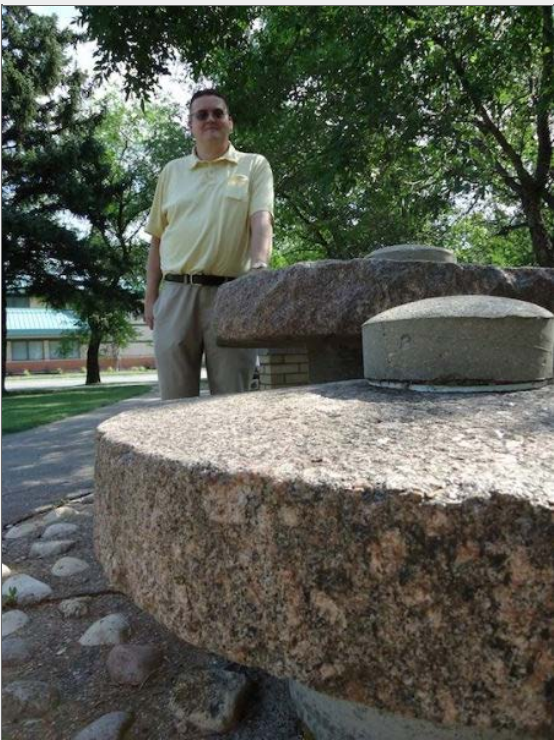
Solving the missing millstones mystery

By Shirley Kowalchuk on August 12, 2016

Posted in [History](#), [Northeast](#), [Politics](#)

Since 1966, two millstones from the long gone, post-1926 Matheson Mill in East Kildonan have been on display in a park at the corner of Henderson Highway and Edison Avenue. Matheson Mill had two sets of stones, meaning there were four millstones in total. (Read CNC article: [Grist from the mills of history](#))

So what has happened to the other two millstones?



Historian Jim Smith with millstones on Edison Ave. in East Kildonan.
/SHIRLEY KOWALCHUK

Accounts and clippings, provided by Jim Smith, president of the North East Winnipeg Historical Society, reflect a confusing trail of clues.

News stories read that in 1956, Frank DeGraaf simply became curious about the stones. (Frank DeGraaf was a descendant of John DeGraff who arrived to Red River in the first party of Dutch immigrants in 1893). He remembered playing by McLean's Creek as a young boy and seeing the millstones lying nearby.

"I know they were there," he states in a March 1979 *Elmwood and East Kildonan Herald* article. "I began a deliberate search when I noticed an unusual indentation in the ground. I scraped through about an inch of earth and revealed the granite."

The millstones, he says, were one atop of each other, but there were only three. He reports that he found the fourth in a nearby home's backyard, mounted as a patio table. Two millstones went to the E.K. park display, and the story cites Degraff as having donated the third millstone to the city.

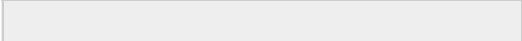
A 1979 compilation of information by Margaret Kennedy mentions a bit of local sleuthing by Mr. W.E. Hobbs to find out the where the stones had been prior to their park display. Hobbs lived for more than forty years near where the Matheson millstones were found and had collected "a considerable amount of data about them."

Due to a reference that indicates the mill might have been moved closer to where Degraff made his discovery, the Kennedy history reveals:

"Mr. W.E. Hobbs, longtime resident of North Kildonan, undertook a detailed scrutiny of McLeod's Creek west of Henderson Highway. He found no clues whatever suggesting (this) site of the former mill. However, Mr. Hobbs thought of asking the late Miss Frances McKay, then with the federal government in Ottawa. Frances was Angus McKay's daughter. Until 1912, he lived on the bank of McLeod's Creek west of the highway.

Frances told Mr. Hobbs that she remembered as a little girl, her father had taken her across the highway to show her a small lake created by a dam. Angus McKay said the Matheson Grist Mill had been built at the east end of the dam, on land that was a little higher than that surrounding it (now Maxwell Place at Brazier St.)."

The site of the mill appears to have always been at this spot. The Kennedy history indicates the



millstones were taken after the mill's demise to the Matheson homestead on Lot 60 (now Edison, Kingsford, Grandview, and Hawthorne Avenues), owned by William (Willie) Matheson.

The stones were moved once again to weigh down a bridge over McLeod Creek during a flood. After waters receded they were removed to the side of the road, where Mr. Hobbs remembers they lay for more than twenty years.

Margaret Matheson, a Matheson grandchild, said she had seen the stones and just "took them for granted." Another report states a tree was growing through the centre of one.

At some unknown date, Mr. Hobbs contacted Harold Matheson, grandson of Angus Matheson, the last operator of the mill. H. Matheson happened to be the secretary-treasurer of the Municipality of North Kildonan. Hobbs suggested the stones be preserved for their historical value.

Around this time, Frank DeGraff was the Superintendent of Public Works for the Municipality of North Kildonan. It so happened that in 1956 he became curious about the stones and made their discovery.

Another Herald story around 1966 said the Parks Board of North Kildonan, when it was formed in 1962, wished to use the millstones to commemorate the settlers. The article states the third stone discovered by Degraff remains on the Degraff's property, listed at Lot 68 North Kildonan. (Two stones had already been placed in the park).

An undated and likely 1979 Kennedy historical compilation mentions how the Degraffs are moving from their McLeod Avenue home "next month, as the final phase of the development south of Raleigh Street is completed" after having lived their entire married lives in the home.

But by March 1979, Frank Degraff said in the Herald newspaper that his donation of the stone to the city included a provision that it be kept in East Kildonan.

According to Jim Smith, there is no record of a millstone donation to the local municipality or the City of Winnipeg.

"It would have been in the meeting minutes of the municipality," says Jim. "The donation would have either been accepted or rejected."

He mentions, for example, the attempted donation of a windmill to the the City of Winnipeg that was not accepted. The windmill now stands in storage at the Manitoba Museum.

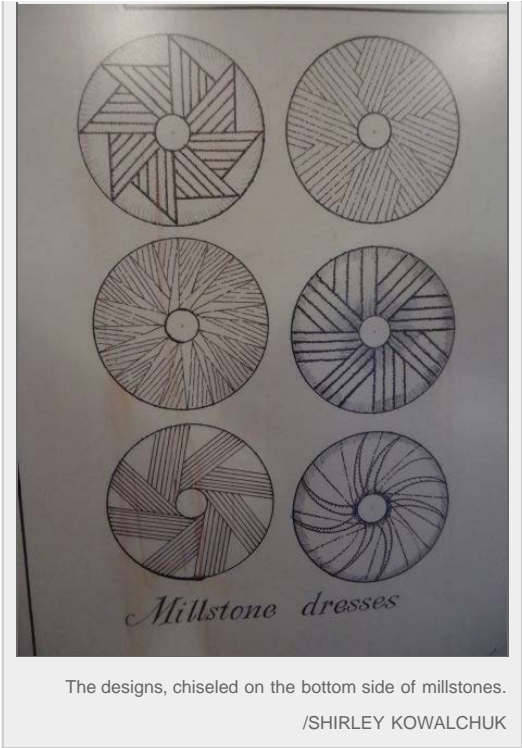
Perhaps the stone was placed in a municipal storage area, and somehow the issue was overlooked and never made it onto the council agenda for discussion regarding its formal acceptance.

In 1972, the Municipality of North Kildonan was absorbed into the City of Winnipeg, along with amalgamation of other surrounding municipalities. With all of this change, the stone may still be gathering dust in a forgotten storage corner of a municipal facility.

Jim wonders if it might have been sadly dumped off in a landfill. "Unless somebody knows otherwise," he says.

Whatever the fate of the stone, "There is no mention of it anywhere," Jim says. "Who knows?"

As for the fourth millstone – the one Degraff found mounted as a backyard patio table in 1956 near the discovery site – what has happened to it? The Kennedy history states: "This homeowner has verbally agreed to the consideration of donating the stone to the city, in his will."





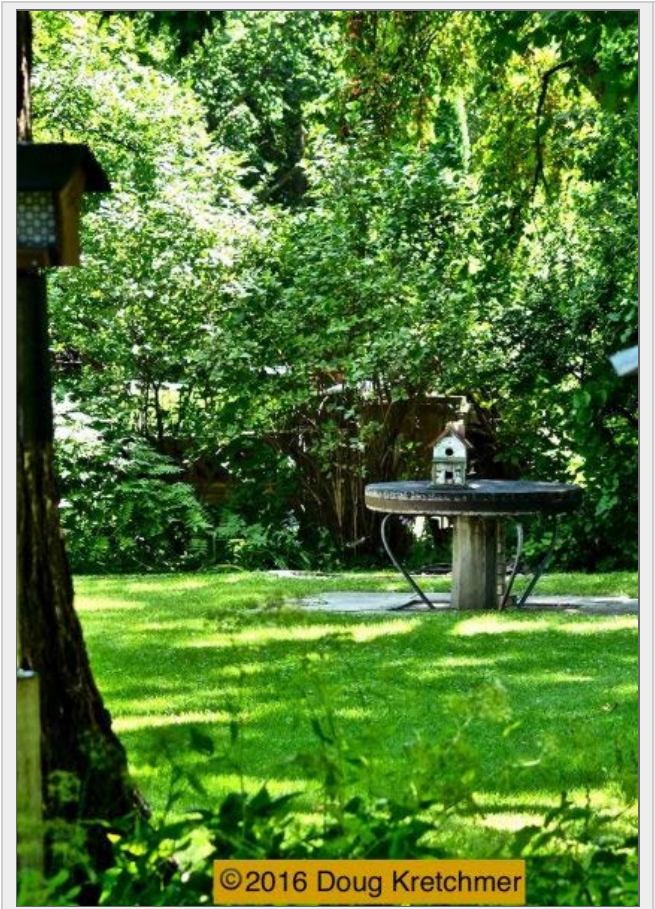
Historic millstone sits in East Kildonan backyard. /DOUG KRETCHMER

Toting binoculars and a camera, Jim and I sleuth a North Kildonan property. Peering through the hedge – low and behold – we spy a round, thick, stone-top table with “dressings” visible on top and typical metal banding on its circumference. It sits on a thick concrete pedestal. A bird house is perched proudly on its granite stone foundation.

The millstone is estimated to weigh in excess of 1000 pounds. Millstones are reputed for their heaviness through many well known biblical references. It is no wonder this millstone, (and perhaps somewhere along the line the Degraff millstone as well) have never again been moved.



Photojournalist Doug Kretchmer climbs nearby tree to take photo of historic millstone. /SHIRLEY KOWALCHUK



Historic millstone's final resting place in a quiet East Kildonan backyard. /DOUG KRETCHMER

This is the second in a three-part series on Winnipeg's early history. Check out [Grist from the mills of history](#) and [Home life challenging for early settlers](#) by Shirley Kowalchuk on Community News Commons.

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Home life challenging for early settlers

By [Shirley Kowalchuk](#) on August 16, 2016
Posted in [Arts & Entertainment](#), [Charitable Organizations](#), [History](#), [Southwest](#)

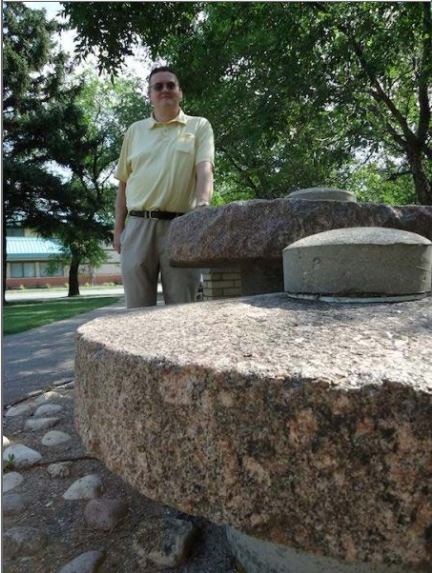
Citizen reporter Shirley Kowalchuk wondered why Jim Smith said the Park at Edison Avenue and Henderson Highway in North Kildonan was the spot where, if given the chance, he would bring an international visitor to learn of this neighbourhood's history.

Jim Smith is an archivist and historian and is currently the President of the North East Winnipeg Historical Society.

The two agreed to meet one sunny morning at the park's millstone display. From there, they embarked on a journey to experience the history of the days of the millstones, and in this way come to understand their significance. The display contains two of the four original stones from the long-gone Matheson Mill once nearby.

They first searched for any evidence of Old Mill Creek whose waters once drove the water wheel of the Matheson Mill.

After journeying on to visit Grant's Old Mill – the last remaining water mill in Winnipeg (a reproduction of a mill built by Cuthbert Grant at Sturgeon Creek) they stopped for lunch at the nearby A&W before driving further down Portage Avenue.



Historian Jim Smith at the millstones on Edison Ave. in East Kildonan. /SHIRLEY KOWALCHUK

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Meccano set for adults: scaffolding rises on Bannatyne. PHOTO by Greg Petzold

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Reporter Shirley Kowalchuk and historian Jim Smith at Grant's Old Mill.

Their last stop was the Historical Museum of St. James – Assiniboia and Brown House. The following is this last part of that journey:

Renewed by our lunch at A&W, we are on again with our search. I think I am hoping to discover a sense of home-life from these times, now that we have traced some geography and experienced a facet of the working world of the mills from long ago.

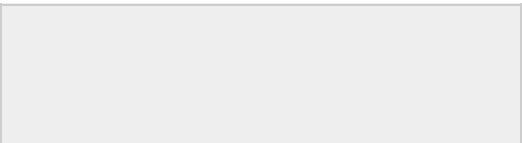
We head to Brown House – the 1856 home of Hudson Bay Company employee William Brown and his metis wife Charlotte Oman and their six children. Beside it sits the Municipal Museum of St. James Assiniboia. (There is also an 1890's Interpretive Centre where visitors can learn about butter making, blacksmithing, early modes of pioneer transportation and more, but we run out of time to visit).



Brown House (left) sits beside Municipal Museum of St. James Assiniboia. /SHIRLEY KOWALCHUK

We first enter the 1911 St. James – Assiniboia Municipal Hall that is now a museum operated by the City of Winnipeg. Many artifacts from the old community are curated into various groupings, each representing a slice of life of the times.

In one corner is the 1890's morning suit of the honourable John Taylor, an accomplished English – Metis community leader who spoke French, English, and Cree.



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LOCAL HEROES



Community Voices project shares residents' life stories

By Doug Kretchmer on March 11, 2015

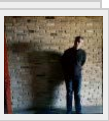
Five films of West Broadway residents sharing stories of their lives are screened at engaging neighborhood event.

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Portuguese tea-tasting and Slovenian stilts at Folklorama 2016

Next to it rests a fabulously diamond tucked pleated leather chair presented to Goerge Thomas Chapman, a local reeve and councillor from 1890 to 1910. The suit looks as if it were about to sit down in the chair.

Turning a corner, we spy a ferocious looking contraption – a “Permanent Wave Machine”. It’s a nest of electrified hot rollers, each with a snaking electrical cord hanging from a central halo above a hair dressing chair.

Our friendly guide explains that ladies could get their hair permanently curled with the use of applied chemicals and heat from the rollers. (The machine was replaced in time by a process known as a “cold wave” that used only chemicals to produce the “perm”).

The implement is within a collection of information concerning Rudolph’s Beauty Parlour, opening at Ferry Road and Ness in 1924. Including a location change, the daughter of the owners operated the salon in the area until 1966.



A suit belonging to John Taylor, 1890’s community leader.
/SHIRLEY KOWALCHUK

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Permanent wave machine in Beauty Parlour display.
/SHIRLEY KOWALCHUK

The quaint tone and concrete physicality of local media of the times is fascinating.

“The Creek News” was printed and published at 251 Silver Street by J. H. Pickering.

It was sophisticated in its coverage of local and international news, and could be delivered “to any address” at 5 cents per copy.

A story covering the Ward 3 Ratepayers Association Meeting details that “...a letter was read regarding the straying of animals in the ward, ...one instance a cow was taken from the charge of the herd boy, and the owners had to pay. The executive will inquire into the provision of the herd bylaw and acquaint Council with the alleged laxity in its observance...”

Many, many fascinating artifacts are presented within themes throughout the hall.

Brown House Municipal Historic Site

As we end our stroll through the museum, we are greeted by another interpreter who leads us to to the fully furnished 1856 Red River frame house next door called Brown House. It was moved from Headingly as a centennial project for the St. James – Assiniboia community.

Brown House feels cozy. Receiving care and attention, it’s been restored to its original state of simplicity without electricity or other modern refurbishments. It is left unheated in winter, which safeguards the home from unnatural thermal expansions caused by home heating in the surrounding cold of winter.



Front room of the restored Brown House. /SHIRLEY KOWALCHUK

Our guide says it was rather luxurious for the time. A railing around the top of the staircase at the second story is surrounded by a relatively large and dramatic open space. Four bedrooms are further located at the circumference of the second floor.

There is no bathroom – an outhouse would have serviced the home.

Jim notes North Kildonan's early settler home – the 1854 Henderson House – is quite similar to Brown House. Both were built within a couple of years of each other and each have the same layout, as well as the same Red River frame architectural construction. The method uses no nails, and instead logs and beams are slotted into each other through notched areas cut into the wood.

Henderson House was a functioning home up until 1976 when it was stripped down and moved in 1979, after plans to relocate it within the area and refurbish it as a local area museum were rejected. It was then moved to the St. Norbert Heritage Park where today it remains on display.

Since 1979, it has received no upkeep aside from placing a tarpaulin upon a leaky area of the roof. It is in a state of deterioration.

The earliest artifact in Brown House predates the home by 10 years. It is a "sampler" of cross stitching used as a pattern for young girls to copy as they learned how to stitch. In a comforting slogan among the soothing themes that were typically displayed in homes of this challenging era, it reads:

*"I know no fear when dangers's near
I'm safe on sea or land
For in heaven a father dear
and he will hold my hand".*

The day turns late, and we have to leave before rush hour traffic (amid construction areas) commences. We bid our knowledgeable guide goodbye.



Needle point sampler from 1846. /SHIRLEY KOWALCHUK

On the drive back, Jim and I have a lively discussion about the lack of bathroom and washing space in the early homes. We consider the labour of heating water on a log stove for a wash-tub bath, and the considerations of outdoor privies in winter.



Kitchen in Brown House. /SHIRLEY KOWALCHUK

We also notice how Brown House, like all pioneer homes of the time, is built with no closets. People inhabiting early settlement homes simply owned fewer clothes than today, kept them in pieces of furniture called wardrobes, hung them from hooks on the wall or folded them onto shelves. All clothes had to be hand washed.

Jim said North Kildonan's Henderson House eventually had a washroom put in under the stairs, in the place that in Brown house was originally used for storage.



Footstool made from bull horns c. 1890's /SHIRLEY KOWALCHUK

As we travel along the wide, old ox cart trail of Portage Avenue back from St. James into East Kildonan, Jim pauses.

“Even the Palace of Versailles had no washrooms originally,” he adds thoughtfully.





1840's christening gown in the Munipal Hall, worn by three generations of a neighbourhood family.

/SHIRLEY KOWALCHUK



Coat hooks above and beside door in Brown House.

/SHIRLEY KOWALCHUK

This is the third in a three-part series on Winnipeg's early history. Check out [Grist from the mills of history](#) and [Solving the missing millstones mystery](#) by Shirley Kowalchuk on Community News Commons.

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About **Shirley Kowalchuk**
Shirley Kowalchuk is a Winnipeg writer.

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