

AUMSVILLE LANDMARK CONTINUES TO GRIND FLOUR



Highberger's flour and feed mill at Aumsville, landmark of horse and buggy days, continues a milling tradition established at Aumsville when Henry L. Turner founded a milling enterprise here in the 1860s.

Highberger's Mill One of Few Survivors of Its Kind

By BEN MAXWELL

Highberger's Flour and Feed mill at Aumsville, Marion County landmark dating far back into horse and buggy times and framed in a manner suggesting the architecture of the 1860s, is one of the few survivors of its kind.

Until a few decades ago country flour mills flourished at Champoog, Sydney, Scott Mills, Jefferson and elsewhere in Marion county. Highberger's mill at Aumsville is one of the few survivors from these earlier times.

A more reliable source, states that Henry L. Turner, his son-in-law, Amos Davis, erected a flour mill here in the early 1860s when the hamlet was called Hoggum. The name Hoggum is supposed to have originated from the fact that a great deal of surplus wheat was raised in the region. Wheat, however, had but slight market value until it was fed to hogs that brought a fair price. An increasing porcine population gave the place the name, "Hoggum."

Before the mill had been completed Amos Davis died, December 26, 1863, and Turner, out of fondness for his son-in-law, called the place Amosville which soon became corrupted to Aumsville. When the postoffice was first established nearby with Cyrenus Condit as first postmaster the place was called Condit. But the name was changed to Aumsville when John W. Cusick became postmaster March 11, 1868.

When the Oregon & California Railway built through Turner in the early 1870s a good deal of Aumsville business gravitated to that nearby railroad center. In the early 1880s, however, the narrow gauge railroad approached the locality and enterprise revived. In 1880 M. Cockerline & Co., were millers at Aumsville, Joseph Asham, shoemaker; Isaac H. Small, grocer; Charles D. Wollford, general merchandise and Skidmore and Zumwalt, blacksmiths.

At the turn of the century Aumsville had a population of 100. Swank & Brinkman were proprietors of the flour mill; William P. Gilbert operated Aumsville hotel. T. T. Shaw was village dentist, Speer Brothers had the general store in 1903 and Lewis Bleakney, a carpenter by trade, served as justice of the peace. In 1900 the village had an excellent grade school with two teachers: J. E. Towle, principal and Miss Nellie Starr, assistant.

Come 1915 and the town had a population of 350, a high and graded public school, two denominational churches, a privately owned electric lighting system, a commercial club, weekly newspaper, a flouring and sawmill and a bank with \$51,000 on deposit.

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