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SAW AND GRIST MILLS.

The first mill within the limits of the county, as it was before the townships taken from Warren were restored, was erected in the Fall of 1843, by Captain Allen, who was associated in the enterprise with J. D. Parmalee. This mill was on Middle river, and was popularly known as Parmalee's mill. It was first operated for sawing lumber; and the following year facilities were added for grinding wheat.

The first mill in the Northern part of the county, was erected on Big Creek, Madison Township, by George Beebe in 1849.

William H. Meacham erected in 1847, the first mill in the county proper. It was built in what is called East Des Moines, and was operated as a saw mill by horse power. On the same site, the steam mill of J. S. Dean was afterwards erected; and the fine mill of Shepard & Perrior now occupies the same place. At the time Mr. Meacham was running his horse mill, a little saw mill was in existence at the place on Walnut Creek where the railroads now cross that stream. Edward and Edwin Hall built a water flouring mill on the same site on which the mill formerly run by Mr. Williams, now known as the Empire Mills of Jack & Toner, is standing.

B. F. Allen constructed a dam in 1848, two miles above the town on the Des Moines river. It was washed away in 1849.

Hezekiah Fagan erected a mill on Walnut Creek in 1849. Subsequently he was associated with Mr. Fitzsimmons, in operating this mill and another one which they built on Raccoon river.

In 1849, B. F. Allen and C. C. Van built a steam saw-mill South of 'Coon; and the same year Cole, Winchester, and Dean erected the first steam flouring mill on the East side, now known as Shepard & Perrior's mill.

Previous to the building of mills in the county, it was necessary at times, to take grists overland nearly two hundred miles to the mills in Southeastern Iowa. During these protracted trips for bread, much suffering was often endured, not only by the persons who executed the long journey in bad weather; but by the families who were waiting at home for the needed sustenance.

The property known as the Farmer's Mills, East Des Moines, was first built by Daniel Stutzman for a woolen mill. It was transferred to Skinner Brothers for a plow factory; thence to Wheeler, Henry & Depew, for Hominy mills; thence to Joseph Williams, and Ed. Keeler, who changed it to a flouring mill, with two run of $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet burs, giving it a capacity of two hundred bushels per day. The hominy and corn departments, operated by J. D. Williams have the same capacity.

Eagle Flouring Mills, operated by steam, were established in the city by D. A. Tyrrell in 1873. The building is a three story brick. The establishment grinds from forty to fifty thousand bushels of wheat per annum.

Capital Mills, B. C. White proprietor, commenced running in 1865. The building is a three story brick; and the capacity of the mill is one hundred bushels per day.

The Flouring Mills of Gulick & Dye, East Fifth street, have been in successful operation for some time.

Ayres' steam mills, built in early times, in the town, were consumed by fire.

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*by J. M. Dixon -
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