

JAMES YICK, ROCHESTER, N. Y.

**Evansville Grist Mill--its Miller.**

We met an old friend and fellow townsman, Mr. Wm. Leedle, on the street the other evening, and who informed us that he had come to Evansville to take charge of Messrs. Nichols & Bevier's mill. We thought it a good idea, and so expressed ourself at the time. For really, our knowledge does not extend to a man better qualified, or one who has had more experience in custom milling than he, and these gentlemen are fortunate in securing his services.

Mr. Leedle is long and favorably known to this community, and his work has stood the test of experience, and those qualified to judge of good work—the public.

He has made milling the study of his whole life; having first learned the business in England, and for nearly twenty years, in this county, he has given it the closest attention; besides, he has a skill for the business that cannot be fully acquired by practice, alone.

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January 18, 1871, Evansville Review, p. 4, col.

1, Evansville, Wisconsin

—The management of the grange store, at Stoughton, has changed hands. Mr. McManus has resigned and the business hereafter is to be run by W. H. Leedle, as agent, says the *Courier*.

April 26, 1876, Evansville Review, p. 3, col. 2, Evansville, Wisconsin

Messrs. Leedle, of Union, have been putting an addition to their flouring mill making the building now 40 x 50. The mill has been recently overhauled and put in good order for business. They now have one of the best mills in the country, as shown by the immense patronage they are having.

January 29, 1879, Evansville Review, p. 3, col. 3, Evansville, Wisconsin

A visit to the mill formerly owned by N. Davenport but now by W. Leedle & Son shows it is much improved. They now have plenty of room for their increasing business. The Cooksville mill has all the grinding it can do.

April 23, 1879, Janesville Gazette, "Cooksville" news, p. 3, col. 2, Janesville, Wisconsin

Wm. Leedle of the Stoughton flour and Feed business, was in town Monday and made us a call. We are glad to learn that he is engage in a growing and prosperous business.

July 22, 1882, Evansville Review, p. 1, col. 3, Evansville, Wisconsin

Mr. Joseph Leedle has opened a flour and feed store in Mr. Potter's building. Mr. Leedle is a practical miller and intends keeping a full line and the best the market affords. He should have a hearty encouragement as his line will be direct and solely with that class of goods.

July 2, 1889, Evansville Review, p. 1, col. 3, Evansville, Wisconsin

Miss Millie Leedle came up from Rockford Saturday and is a guest of her aunt Mrs. H. D. Morgan.

March 16, 1895, The Badger, p. 1, col. 2, Evansville, Wisconsin

### Leedle family

A very worthy and notable occasion was that of the celebrating of the 50th wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. William Leedle at their home in Cooksville, on Saturday Dec. 3, 1898. From their popularity, long residence and wide acquaintance gathered nearly one hundred guests, relatives and friends of many years, who enjoyed this social occasion in feasting and visiting, as such old acquaintances only can in reminiscences of the past and their younger days.

The following list of those present, date of settlement and their ages will give some idea of what might be expected and pleasures, subsequent at such a meeting.

### Name, Settlement, Age

James Gillies, 1847, 83  
John Atkinson, 1847, 81  
Mrs. Atkinson, 1848, 81  
John Newell, 1857, 78  
Mrs. Newell, 1854, 56  
John Hart, 1850, 69  
Mrs. Hart, 1848, 55  
E. Stoneburner, 1854, 68  
Mrs. Stoneburner, '51, 62  
Wm. Atkinson, 1848, 59  
Mrs. Atkinson, 1844, 59  
Mrs. Davenport, 1847, 64  
D. A. VanVleck, 1846, 54  
Mrs. Van Vleck, 1846, 52  
Mrs. Belle Lee, 1848, 50  
Mrs. Ellen Love, 1848, 50  
Ham Wells, 1847, 82  
J. K. Porter, 1846, 80  
J. P. VanVleck, 1846, 80  
G. E. Newman, 1849, 75  
Thos. Morgan, 1847, 74  
Wm. Leedle, 1849, 72  
Mrs. Leedle, 1849, 51  
J. A. Savage, 1847, 55  
Mrs. Savage, 1851, 53  
Robert Leedle, 1857, 60

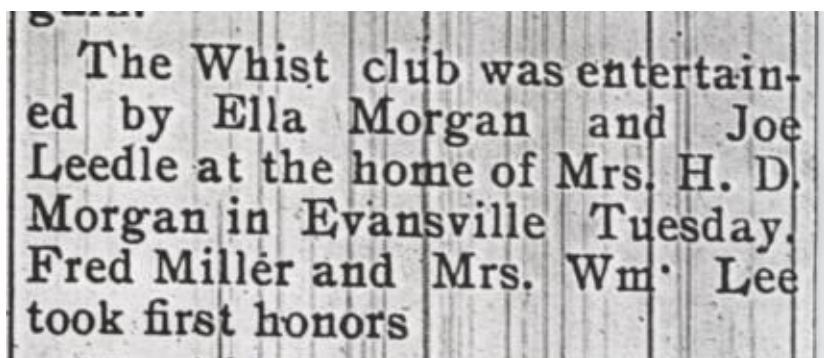
Mrs. Leedle, 1844, 57  
Floy Pierce, 1852, 55  
N. Slauson, 1848, 50  
C. S. Preston, 1848, 50  
T. Shurrum, 1844, 54

Those from away were Robert Leedle, Harrison Wiley, Edward Durkee, W. H. Larson, William Pope, with their wives, from Worth county, Ia. John Atkinson, William Atkinson, Johnson Hart, S. C. Stebbins and wives, from Stoughton. T. F. Shurrum, D. A. VanVleck, and wives; Msdms. Belle Lee and Emma Phillips, from Evansville. Mr. and Mrs. H. D. Morgan and son Burnice, from Racine. Mr. and Mrs. Osborne, and Harley Leedle from Western Union Junction.

December 13, 1898, The Tribune, p. 1, col. 7, Evansville, Wisconsin

Died: Sunday evening, April 2, at his home in Cooksville, **Mr. Wm. Leedle**, aged 84 years.

April 8, 1899, The Badger, Evansville, Wisconsin



"Cooksville"

February 4, 1904, Evansville Review, Evansville, Wisconsin

**Mrs. Maria Leedle** has broken up housekeeping for the winter. Joe and Harley Leedle went to Edgerton for the first of the week, and Mrs. Leedle went to Evansville for a visit with her daughter Mrs. H. D. Morgan, ere she goes to Edgerton.

"Cooksville" news, p. 8, col. 1, December 1, 1904, Evansville Review, Evansville, Wisconsin

**Joseph R. Leedle** passed to the life beyond, Wednesday morning, Jan. 3, aged 54 years.

Taken in the prime of life, when the future promises, bright and pleasant; with a spirit of friendship permeating his breast towards all mankind is the sudden ending of the deceased. From infancy to the present time he has been a resident of Cooksville. Following his occupation as a miller, he was personally known throughout the country and his friends are a legion. Strictly conscientious in the discharge of his duties; honesty of purpose in transactions, was parents, brother and sister, their joys were his joys; their pleasures his pleasure.

With his mother, the father having died several years ago, he has made his home, and to her has been a devoted companion. Loyal to her every interest and comfort, he derived untold pleasure in ministering to her wants: to no one else will he be so deeply missed as by that kind mother.

J. R. Leedle was born in Cooksville, Rock County, Sept. 11, 1851 and was married in 1870 to Miss Mary Courtier. To that union two children were born, Harley W. and Mrs. Millie Osborn of Kenosha, both of whom survive him, the mother having preceded him to the home above. Besides these a

brother, William H. of Edgerton, and a sister, Mrs. H. D. Morgan of Evansville, to mourn the loss of a loyal kind hearted man.

The many friends deeply sympathize with the bereaved, in this hour of deep affliction and may the memories of the comforting words uttered by the deceased ere the spirit fled, prove a balm to their sundered hearts.

Funeral services will be held from the home of his sister in this city, Friday at one p.m. sharp. The Rev. Harlan, with whom he had been acquainted for some time, officiating.

January 4, 1906, Evansville Review, p. 1, Evansville, Wisconsin

Joseph R. Leedle, aged 54 years died at his home in Cooksville, Wednesday, Jan. 3, 1906. The deceased was born in Cooksville where he followed the occupation of a miller for many years and became widely known throughout this country. Was married to Miss Mary Courtier in 1870, to whom was born two children, Harley W., and Mrs. Millie Osborn of Kenosha; he also leaves a brother William H., of Edgerton, and a sister, Mrs. H. D. Morgan of this city, to mourn their sad loss. The wife preceded him to the beyond some years ago. The funeral services were held at the home of his sister in this city this Friday afternoon at one o'clock with Rev. Rolix Harlan officiating.

January 9, 1906, The Tribune, Evansville, Wisconsin

Harley Leedle and family are now occupying the house on Liberty Street in which Keith Saw and family resided; the latter having moved into rooms over the Enterprise office.

April 7, 1910, Evansville Review

H. W. Leedle has accepted a position in a meat market in Janesville and left for there Tuesday.

August 1, 1912, Evansville Review, p. 5, col. 2, Evansville, Wisconsin

Dorothy Leedle and Daisy Stewart entertained ten little friends at the Leedle home on Liberty Street yesterday afternoon from three to five. The little folks had a good time.

August 1, 1912, Evansville Review, p. 5, col. 2, Evansville, Wisconsin

Mrs. Maria Leedle was given a five o'clock luncheon on Thursday evening in honor of her ninety-first birthday. Ninety-one beautiful roses, contributed by her grandchildren, adorned the table.

April 5, 1917, p. 5, col. 2, Evansville Review, Evansville, Wisconsin

Miss Maria Carr was born March 29, 1826 in Kelfield, England.

Funeral services over the remains of Mrs. Marie Leedle, who died on Tuesday at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Wm. B. Atkinson were held yesterday afternoon at the Atkinson home on N. Prairie St., Rev. Smith of Evansville officiated and burial took place in the cemetery at Cooksville. As pall bearers officiated B. W. Morgan and W. B. Osborn of Racine; H. W. Leedle of Jefferson, Claire Atkins and H. Croft both of Madison and Dr. E. Denison of Evansville.

She was married to William Leedle of Stillingfleet, England, December 3, 1848. In the spring of 1849, they set out for America their destination being Cooksville, Wis. They were seven weeks in crossing the Atlantic. From New York they came by way of the Great Lakes to Milwaukee and from there in wagon hauled by oxen, reaching Cooksville the last week in June. Here Wm. Leedle went into the milling business. The Cooksville mill is still known as the "Leedles Mill." Here in Cooksville for fifty years they walked life's pathway together--sharing its joys and sharing its hardships.

Three children were born to them; William, now residing in Canada; Joseph, who passed out of this life fifteen years ago and Mary Atkinson with whom Mrs. Leedle has made her home the greater part of the time since the death of her husband twenty-two years ago.

Mrs. Leedle passed out of this life Tuesday morning at eight-fifteen, the fifth of October at the age of 94 years, 6 months and 5 days.

Those present at the funeral from out of town were Miss Lila Luddington, Mrs. Boyd, Miss Nora Andrews, Mrs. L. D. Bagley, Mrs. Shaw, Mr. and Mrs. Leedle Dennison, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Dennison, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Porter, Mrs. W. B. Porter; Miss Mae Phillips all of Evansville; Mr. and Mrs. L. D. Atkinson, Mr. and Mrs. Claire J. Atkinson, Miss Ella Morgan, Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Croft of Madison; Mr. and Mrs. Fred Green of Janesville; Mr. and Mrs. T. Houfe, Mrs. Henry Houfe of Edgerton; Frank Newman of Chetek; Mr. and Mrs. S. Champney of Cooksville; Mr. and Mrs. B. W. Morgan and Mr. and Mrs. Will Osborne and son of Racine; Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Leedle of Jefferson, Dr. and Mrs. Dennison.

Mrs. Leedle had a strong beautiful personality. There were lessons in her life for each of us who knew her -- lessons of industry, cheerfulness, patience and faith in our dear Heavenly Father.

October 14, 1920, Evansville Review, p. 5, col. 3, Evansville, Wisconsin

# LOCAL GRADUATE DIES AFTER LONG ILLNESS

**Mrs. Rhinehart Schroeder Passes  
Friday in Footville; Burial  
Made Here Sunday**

Mrs. Rhinehart Schroeder, 34, former local resident and graduate of the Evansville high school, died at 8 a.m. Friday in her home at Footville following an illness of several months. She had been failing in health for nearly a year and had been under a physician's care for sometime.

Funeral services were held at 2:30 p.m. Sunday in the Footville Methodist church with the Rev. A. L. Tucker, pastor, officiating. Burial was made here in Maple Hill cemetery.

Mrs. Schroeder, formerly Miss Daisy Isabelle Stewart, daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. William Stewart, was born northeast of here in Cooksville Aug. 7, 1904 later moving with her parents to Evansville where the family resided for many years in the Stewart residence at the corner of East Liberty and Maple streets.

She was graduated from the Evansville high school in 1922 and was

married July 5, 1925 to Rhinehart Schroeder, who is associated with the Pet Milk company at Footville. She was a member of the Methodist church.

She is survived by her husband; one son, Rodney, 12, at home; two brothers, William and Burton Stewart, Evansville; and one sister, Mrs. Harley Leedle, Jefferson.

# Burton Stewart Dies in Jefferson

**Former Evansville Resident  
and Barber; Buried in  
Maple Hill Cemetery**

Burton Stewart, 51, of Jefferson died at 9 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 6 in the Fort Atkinson hospital, where he had been a patient for two weeks.

Mr. Stewart was born April 16, 1901, in Evansville. He had been employed by the James Manufacturing Co. for six years. While living in Evansville, he was a barber with the late Arthur Dake. He worked for a short period of time at the Antes Press.

Surviving are a sister, Mrs. H. W. Leedle, Jefferson, with whom he lived; a brother, W. J. Stewart, Evansville, and nieces and nephews.

The funeral will be at 1 p.m. Friday in the Matters funeral home, the Rev. Rolland Ferch officiating. Burial will be in Maple Hill cemetery, Evansville.

# SYTTENDE MAI

## Leedle's Mill

Cooksville landmark stood from 1840-1946

By Lorraine Hawkinson

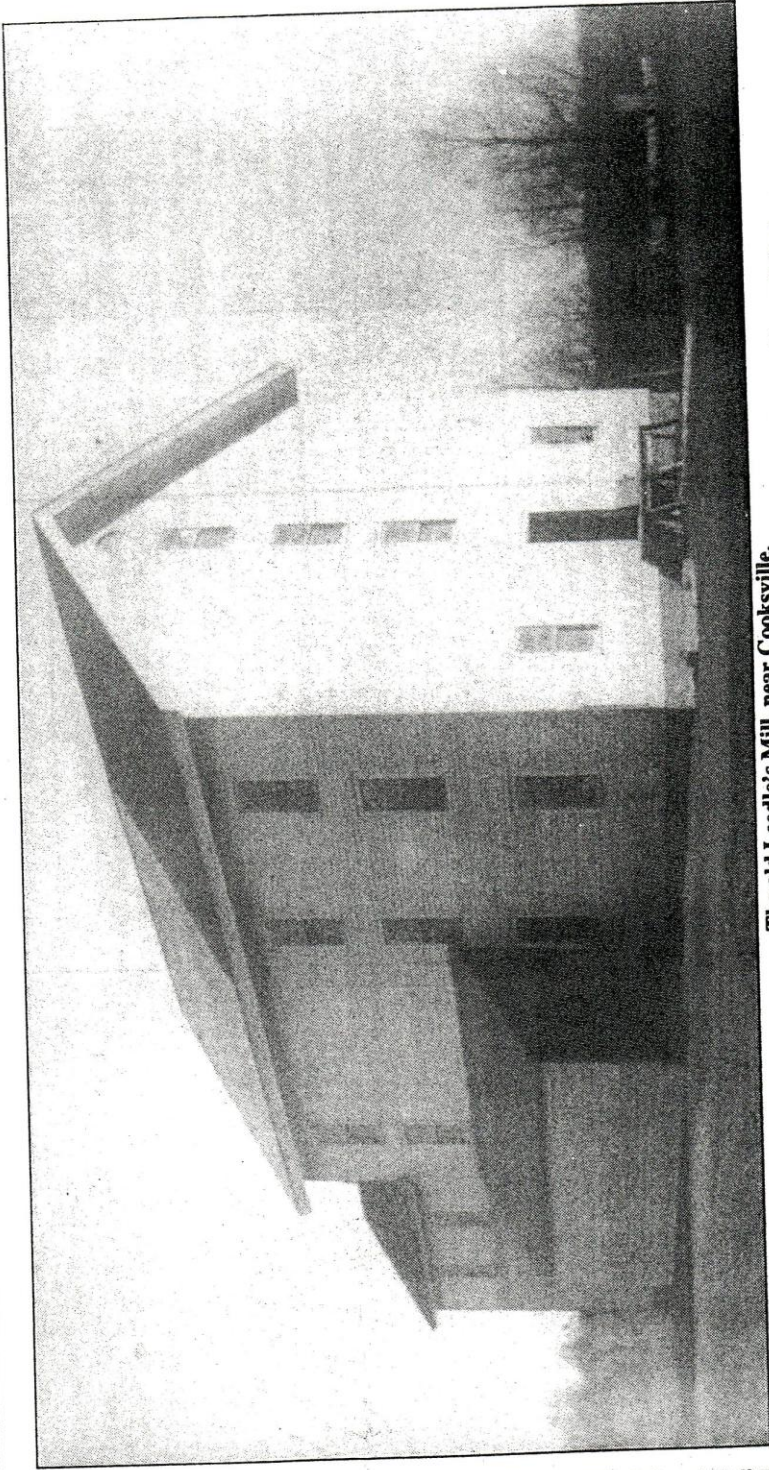
It's gone now, but for years the old Leedle's Mill at Cooksville was a well-known landmark. The mill was a very tall wooden structure located on Badfish Creek, about one half mile northeast of the village. It was one of the first buildings to be built in the Cooksville area.

John Curtis built the building in 1840, and for years the mill ground feed and flour, and was a sawmill as well. Machinery was added to enable the mill to card wool also.

All of these operations were important to the early pioneer families as they settled in increasing numbers on the fertile lands of south-central Wisconsin.

The mill became a legend when it was torn down in 1946 by Gerhard Olson, Stoughton, who used the beams and lumber to build a new home at 1021 Moline Street, the home the Olsons still live in today.

Noah Davenport purchased the mill in the 1860s from Mr. Curtis' heirs and operated it until his untimely death in 1873. Davenport was



The old Leedle's Mill, near Cooksville.

killed in the mill when he fell into the grinding wheel mechanism. He was alone at the time and was found by his five-year-old son, Louis, when he failed to come home for supper.

The next owner was William Leedle, from whom the mill took its name. Leedle and his son ran the mill for a number of years before selling it to two Stoughton men, B. Warner and Hans Anderson. Heavy rains washed out the dam in 1914. It was quickly rebuilt, but when the same thing happened in 1920, milling at Cooksville was abandoned. The old building was sold to Nels Ladd of Stoughton, who

used the mill for many years as a warehouse. With a 33 acre-farm attached to the mill, the property passed into a number of different hands over the years. The Anfin Gjertsons, the Stanley Witzels, and the Arthur Fillhewers were among these. The late Jesse Allen, the former to picnic.

— Courtesy Eugene Kalland

Jesse Warner, lived with her parents at the mill for many years. She could remember the happy times they had at the mill. The mill pond was used as a recreational spot by area residents. It was a good place to boat, swim and ice skate, and the mill grounds served as a very nice place to picnic.

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