



FLOUR MILL

NORWOOD, ONT.

K. H. Thomas 1966

THE OLD MILL

How often we have heard the old quotation, - "Old Soldiers Never die"... And why should they? Everyone knows how much they have contributed to the founding of Countries, to the establishment of Communities in a land that enjoys so many priveleges and so much freedom and, of which we are justly proud.

Why, then, should our old Historic spots - with particular reference to the Industrial and Social centres - ever die? The above picture represents all that remains of one of these. Like many of the stately monuments erected in various locations, in memory of our "Old Soldiers", it is all that is left to remind us of the heroic effort of our "Old Settlers" to improve the life of those sturdy people whose every effort was for the betterment of an entirely new Community.

It is only a part of the foundation of a Flour Mill erected more than a century ago wherein the principal ingredient of the Staff of Life was manufactured. First, for the benefit it would bring to a rapidly expanding settlement and then with the shipment of any surplus to far away places, even unto to points beyond the Seas.

That Mill, four stories in heighth, plus the basement, was erected in 1847 - 48 by Thomas Buck, the Father of an esteemed citizen of later years in the person of Henry George Buck, generally known to his many friends simply as "H. G. Buck". In the beginning, it was operated by Water-power supplied by the union of the "Big Ouse" and the "Little Ouse" rivers into a huge "Flume" connected to a powerful water-wheel adjoining the Mill. It was capable of producing Seventy-five barrels of flour per day.

Operated by Thomas Buck and his Son for about 25 years, it was then enlarged by the addition of a "Chopping Mill" and equipped with a Steam Plant of 75 Horse Power. In 1891 the usefulness of this Mill was again extended by the installation of a "Dynamo" by means of which our present faithful servant, "Electricity" was introduced to the new Village of Norwood. Thus we may see and realize that this location - apparently only a pile of rubbish - has won for itself a place in "the hall of fame" along with those heroic people who succeeded in winning this land of ours from visible enemies, to create, for all time, a worthwhile place in which to live.

Because this location is well known to be the original Birthplace of our "Friendly Town" it is the opinion of this writer that the Village Fathers would do well to acquire, at the earliest opportunity, this particular site and erect thereon some sort of Memorial to those wonderful people who accomplished so much, under the most extremem hardships, to create this beautiful community which we are so proud to call HOME.