



*This is artist George Kratz' concept of River Valley mill at Sagers Corners. In the background stands the farm later occupied by the Kane family. Legend has it another mill stood near the barn on that property.*

have been the hardest stone in the world. A settler of 1855 said they were hauled north from Trenton with seven teams of oxen, over a corduroy road through the Heagle swamp. The mill was likely a three-story building built with local stone and timber with a water wheel. Mr. Louis Descent of Stirling was miller for many years. The last miller was a German. The mill produced wheat flour,

buckwheat flour and ground grains, or grist, to be used as animal food. Cider was also produced.

In 1914, the building was removed. The timbers and tongue and groove planks were bought by a local farmer to be used for his new barn. One of the grinding stones, thankfully, has been preserved in its original state and placed in the River Valley Pioneer Cemetery.

### THE STIRLING FIRE OF JUNE 14, 1883

*by Lewis Zandbergen*

A pretty time in small towns in the summer and humidity haven't yet combined to make the slightest movement unbearable, trees have their summer coats creating pleasant bowers over village sidewalks, creeks aren't yet choked with algae, and an evening stroll is still a pleasant pastime. On Thursday night, June 14, 1883, most Stirling residents had headed for bed, but the crew of *The Stirling News-Argus*, the village's weekly

paper, in its fourth year of existence, laboured into the evening to get the week's edition ready. They finished about 11 p.m. and headed for home. No doubt owner and editor John H. Thompson personally locked the door behind him before he left. While on their way to their homes, *News-Argus* workers later reported, they did not smell smoke or detect anything unusual on the village's main thoroughfare. However, as they passed Dr. George W. Faulkner's home at 64 Front Street