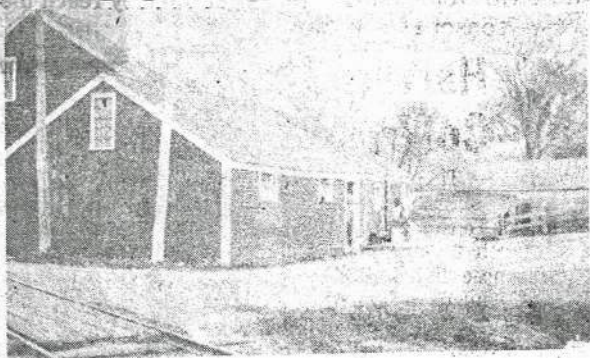


# Recollections



This old saw and grist mill located on Stony Brook at Westford Depot and formerly owned by Heywood and Burbeck was for many years the scene of thriving industry.

by June W. Kennedy  
**GRIST & SAW MILL**

The Heywood and Burbeck Grist and Saw Mill was located at Westford Depot on the uphill side of the railroad tracks. Bulk grain was shipped in by the carload. As much as 20 ton of bulk wheat, oats, bran and corn were brought by railroad, run along the track and finally transferred onto the elevators of the grist mill. At first much of the grain was local, but as time went on more and more was imported. Not only was grain ground here, but burlap bags of cornmeal and grain products were sold on the premises too. Logs were likewise transported to the mill to be sawn into usable lumber. A box shop was also located in the vicinity.

The mill itself was built of solid construction having mortise and tenon joints pinned

with wooden pegs. When the place was torn down, a horse supplied the power for a block and tackle, one end being chained to a large tree.

George W. Heywood lived in the house situated on the triangle above the depot. Mr. Burbeck lived with the Heywood family for many years. Mr. Heywood served on the Library Building Committee, served in the Legislature and spent his final days at the old homestead once located on the present Stanley Smith property. Heywood Road, recently constructed in the new development on Depot Hill, no doubt received its name from the Heywood family.

Mr. Burbeck was a quieter man. His glass eye, the result of a lumbering accident, was a source of curiosity to the village children.