



# **Bush Mill History**

by

**Jay Dixon**

**April 14, 2008**

**Copyright 2008, All Rights Reserved**

# **BUSH MILL HISTORY**

**By**

**Jay Dixon Ph.D.**

**April 14, 2008**

Jay (James H.) Dixon has a Ph.D. in Political Science (Quantitative Methods and International Relations), University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; an M.A. in Political Science (Public Administration and Public Policy), University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; a Masters of Political Science, Auburn University, Montgomery, Alabama; and a Bachelor of Aviation Management (With highest Honors), Auburn University School of Engineering, Auburn Alabama. He has conducted in-depth research on a range of topics and has written books, articles, and scholarly papers.

The Bush Mill history is mostly oral history, passing from one generation to another, changing its dimension, shape and color in the telling and retelling. Historical facts are blurred, so folklore fills gaps in our knowledge. My objective is to set the record straight, at least in terms of ownership of the Bush Mill property. I've approached this project as a research scientist, minimizing errors by paying meticulous attention to detail, confirming historical facts and verifying judgments about those facts.<sup>1</sup>

More often than not, those who write about the Bush Mill start with Valentine Bush and his wife, Nancy Gose. I'll start with earlier facts that are relevant to the Bush Mill story and need to be told.

Before 1859, Joshua and Sarah Addington owned the land where the Bush Mill stands now. The mill property was part of three hundred acres on Amos Branch and Copper Creek that Joshua and Sarah Addington sold to John Dickenson, of Russell County, on January 18, 1859.<sup>2</sup> John Dickenson built a grist mill on Amos Branch, one mile northwest of Nickelsville. His mill, a log structure, served Nickelsville and the larger community until it was destroyed by fire. Nobody knows the exact date of the fire, but this story is often told in one guise or another: "The original mill was destroyed by fire on April 1 in the late 1800's. It is said that because of this taking place on April 1 (April Fool's Day), farmers working in nearby fields were reluctant to come help fight the fire when asked, because they thought it was an April Fool's joke. After they became aware that the mill was actually on fire, they came to help; but it was too far gone to save it."<sup>3</sup> It's an historical fact that the mill burned. I can't vouch for the credibility of the rest of the story.

On November 12, 1870, John Dickenson and Fanny, his wife, sold the mill property to Valentine Bush. A partial extract of the deed reads:<sup>4</sup>

"THIS DEED made this 12th day of November in the year 1870 between John Dickenson and Fanny his wife of the County of Russell and state of Virginia of the first part and Valentine Bush, of the county of Scott and state aforesaid of the second part.

Witnesseth that the said John Dickenson & Fanny his wife for and in consideration of the sum of \$6000.00 Six thousand dollars to them in hand paid by the said Valentine Bush before the sealing and delivery of this act doth grant bargain & sell and by these presents hath granted bargained and sold unto the said Bush and his heirs with covenants of general warranty a certain tract or parcel of land lying and being in the county of Scott one mile from and North West of Nickelsville and **known as the Mill property** and bounded as follows to wit: Beginning at a spring known as the school house spring on the west side of Amos Branch ...."<sup>5</sup>

The deed also stipulated that the (school house) spring was to be divided equally with James Culbertson's two sons.

Valentine Bush and his family probably operated the mill for John Dickenson before Bush bought it on November 12, 1870.<sup>6</sup> For in 1866, his son, George G., "...was sitting astride his horse while it was drinking from Amos's branch, next to the grist mill, and was ambushed by an unknown assassin. The shot killed him instantly and Valentine found [him] lying in the water. George is buried in the Nickelsville First Baptist Church Cemetery in the older, smaller section.... The headstone reads: Felled by the hand of an assassin."<sup>7</sup>

Valentine Bush and his wife, Nancy Gose Bush and family, including W.T. Frazier, his son-in-law, definitely operated the mill in 1870. W.T Frazier married Bush's daughter, Elisa A. (Bush) Frazier.<sup>8</sup>

We can assume that the mill burned in 1895.<sup>9</sup> Valentine Bush's family—primarily W.T. Frazier, Stephen Bush and William Bush—started building the new Bush Mill in 1896.<sup>10</sup> They surely used the limestone foundation stones—taken from Copper Ridge—that supported the old log mill as well as the fifteen-hundred (1,500) foot mill race from the limestone dam upstream to the mill. They probably replaced the short section of wooden race that connected the earthen race to the water wheel for the wooden section, more than likely, was destroyed by the fire.

They framed the new Bush Mill with oak beams, joists,

and studs and covered the outside with yellow poplar siding from a water sawmill upstream on Amos Branch. "The first bushel of wheat was poured into the mill at 5 p.m., September 24, 1897, by W.T. Frazier and Frank Stewart. Jim Stewart, the first millwright was responsible for building the spouts, troughs, boxes, and assembling the machinery. Machinery was supplied by Tyler and Tate of Knoxville, Tenn. Jim Stewart also built the first wheel for the mill which was made of wood.<sup>11</sup> Later, the second or present wheel was hauled by wagon from Gate City by Harve Castle and Will Elam."<sup>12</sup>

The Bush Mill was the center of community life. People brought bushels of wheat and corn by horse-drawn wagons. Some carried their "turn of corn" [sack full] to the mill by horseback. They waited in line for millers to grind their product. Meanwhile, they shared stories.

The Bush Mill millers charged a grinding toll. "For one bushel of wheat [60 lbs.] one would receive 37 lbs. of flour and 12 lbs. of bran. The price for grinding one bushel of corn was one toll dish (1 gal.) full."<sup>13</sup> At harvest time, the mill operated around the clock. The night miller or millers hung oil lamps from the ceiling to illuminate the milling operation. W.T Frazier provided overnight lodging for those who needed it. His wife, Eliza A., cooked for the guests and mill workers.

Five years later, Valentine Bush, now 94 years old, deeded about sixty-three acres of land, including the Bush Mill, to his grandchildren. In the end, the Bush Mill and about 16½ acres were kept out of the transaction. The deed to the grandchildren reads:<sup>14</sup>

"This deed made and entered into this 17th day of November 1902 by and between Valentine Bush of the first part and R.S. Richmond, Nellie Carrico, Lizzie Richmond, Maud Richmond and Allie Horn of the second part and all of the county of Scott and state of Virginia, Witnesseth, that for and in consideration of the sum of one dollar in hand paid to the party of the first part the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged and for the further consideration of the love and affection I have for my grandchildren, I do hereby grant bargain and sell and by these presents have conveyed a certain tract or parcel of land lying and being in the county aforesaid, on the waters of Amos Branch and being a part of my land on which Bush's Mill is

situated, unto the said R.S. Richmond, Nellie Carrico, Lizzie Richmond, Maud Richmond and Allie Horn and their heirs with covenants of general warranty, said tract of land bounded as follows, bounded on the west and north by D.R Culbertson, on the east by E. Meade and on the south by my land yet to be divided and containing 63 acres be the same more or less together with all appurtenances thereunto attached unto the said R.S. Richmond, Nellie Carrico, Lizzie Richmond, Maud Richmond and Allie Horn and their heirs forever against the claims of all persons whomsoever. Given under my hand and seal the day and year first above written."

V. Bush    Seal

Valentine Bush died in 1904. On September 23, 1909, his heirs sold the mill and about 16½ acres to J.H. Darter.<sup>15</sup> The deed reads in part:

"THIS DEED, made the 23rd day of Sept. in the year 1909 between F.P. Bush and Lou Bush his wife, W.T. Frayser [Frazier] and Eliza A. [Bush] His wife all of the county of Scott and State of Va. James F. Bush and Mary Bush his wife of the County of Bedford and State of Va. Marion T. Bush and Laura A. Bush his wife of the county of Lawrence and State of Ky. Wm. S. Bush and Nannie J. Bush of the county of Young and State of Texas partes [parties] to the first part and J.H. Darter of the county of Russell and State of Virginia, party of the second part.

WITNESSETH: That for and in consideration of the sun [sum] of one hundred and twenty-five dollars (\$125.00) in hand paid the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged the said parties of the first part do hereby grant bargain and sell and by these presents do convey unto the said party of the second part with general warranty all their interest in the undivided lands of Stephen Bush Dec., lying in Scott County, state of Va. On the East side of Amos Branch adjoining the lands of H.J. Broadwater and others and bounded as follows, Beginning at a hickory and Gum, corner to H.J. and C.C. Broadwater land [**property description continues**]... to the beginning, corner containing 16½ acres be the same more or less. IT is hereby provided that parties of the first part retain all rights to minerals and shall have all necessary mining privileges to above described tract of land, Witness the following signatures and seals all parties mining must keep all fences up."<sup>16</sup>

|                            |        |
|----------------------------|--------|
| M.F. Bush                  | (Seal) |
| Laura Bush                 | (Seal) |
| W.S. Bush                  | (Seal) |
| Nannie J. Bush             | (Seal) |
| Eliza A. Frayser [Frazier] | (Seal) |
| W.T. Frayser [Frazier]     | (Seal) |
| J.H. Bush                  | (Seal) |
| F.P. Bush                  | (Seal) |
| L.E. Bush                  | (Seal) |

J.H. Darter and J.M. Darter were partners in the Bush Mill property. About two years later, J.M. sold his half interest to his brother for \$1,500.00. The Deed reads:<sup>17</sup>

“THIS DEED made this 15th day of December 1911 between J.M Darter and Winnie F. Darter, his wife, of the county of Scott and state of Virginia, of the first part, and J.H. Darter of the county of Russell and state aforesaid, of the second part.

Witnesseth: that for and in consideration of the sum of Fifteen \$1500.00 hundred dollars cash in hand paid, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, doth grant bargain sell and convey, unto the said J.H. Darter, our One half undivided interest in and to a certain Roller Mill, and 14 acres of land therewith, situated on Amos Branch in Scott County, Va. adjoining that lands of H.J. Broadwater (et al) and known as the Bush Mill property, together with all the appurtenances thereto belonging, that we are seized of a right to convey said land and property, that we have done no act to encumber said land, that we will warrant and defend the title to said land against the claims of all persons under general warranty, forever. Witness our signatures and seals on day and date, first written above.”

|                  |        |
|------------------|--------|
| J.M. Darter      | (Seal) |
| Winnie F. Darter | (Seal) |

My Great Grandfather, William Washington (W.W.) “Bee” Bond ran the mill for J.H. and J.M Darter. “In early manhood, W.W. Bond became a member of the Masonic Fraternity, and Steadily (sic) advance (sic) and progressed in the work until he became D.D.G.M of this [Scott] county.”<sup>18</sup> The folklore is that Masons held lodge meetings on the second floor of the Bush Mill until a Masonic Lodge was built in Nickelsville. W.W. Bond was the



first Grand Master. His picture is hung in the Nickelsville Lodge.

W.W. Bond, his family and others are shown in this 1909 picture. Note that W.W. Bond's left arm is missing. It was amputated above his elbow because of cancer. My Great Grandmother, Nannie E. (McConnell) Bond, is standing between two unidentified ladies. My Grandfather, the young Samuel Henry Bond, is standing on the timbered pier in front of his brothers, George and Pat.

Samuel H. (S.H.) Bond married my Grandmother, Dona E. (Frazier) Bond on June 17, 1911, and they began housekeeping at the little house on the small lot where the Nickelsville Ruritan Club house is now. At the time, Sam helped his father, W.W. operate the mill for J.H. and J.M. Darter. I've enclosed this 1918 picture of my grandmother, Dona Bond, sitting on a cane chair in her front yard with her children, Elizabeth Fern, the baby, born on March 15, 1918; Verle Baker Bond, on her right; and my mother, Marjorie Loretta, on her left, who is admiring the baby. You can see that the Bush Mill had no roof over the front porch then. Sam and W.W. Bond bought the mill from J.H. Darter on February 18, 1920.<sup>19</sup>



There was no bridge across Amos Branch in those days. The branch east of the water wheel was shallow, wide, and could be forded by horses and wagons and the few cars in Scott County at the time. A cross log for foot traffic was located downstream from where the bridge is now.

The Deed from J.H. Darter to W.W. and S.H. Bond reads:

"This DEED made and entered into this February 18, 1920 by an between J.H. Darter and Nancy Darter, his wife, of Russell County, Virginia, parties of the first part and W.W. & S.H. Bond of Scott County, Virginia, parties of the second part.

Witnesseth: That for an in consideration of the sum of

Four thousand one hundred twenty five (\$4125) dollars cash in hands paid by parties of the second part to parties of the first part and receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged [by] parties of the first part doth grant, bargain, sell and convey unto the parties of the second part with covenants of general warranty all their interests in and to two certain tracts pieces or parcels of land described as follows:

Tract No. 1 Lying and being in Scott County, Virginia, about one mile from Nickelsville, on Amos' Branch, know as the Old Bush Mill tract, adjoining the lands of H.J. Broadwater, that Estate formerly belonging to Mrs. Eliza Frayser [Frazier], Walter Addington and others and being the same tract conveyed to J.H. and J.M. Darter by the Bush heirs containing fourteen and one half acres be the same more or less.

Tract No. 2 Bounded by the lands of Tract No. 1, C.C. Broadwater, H.J. Broadwater, Formerly known as the Steve Bush tract, Parties of the first part only convey their rights titles and interest in and to this certain tract which was never divided and set a part, this tract as a whole contains (16) sixteen acres more or less.

These two above mentioned tracts to have and to hold unto parties of the second part forever.

Given under our hands and seals this the day and year first above written.

John H. Darter        (SEAL)  
Nancy W. Darter     (SEAL)

W.W. and Sam Bond renamed the Bush Mill, "Bond Roller Mill," and it operated under that name for thirty-two (32) years. Mr. Bill "Cooch" Flanary was one of my Grandfather Sam's first employees. He worked at the mill until he died. Sam's sons, Verle, Bob, Clyde, and Jack helped with milling chores on occasion. Verle Bond worked full time after Mr. Flanary died. He worked at the mill until 1935, when he was hired by the Tennessee Eastman Corporation.<sup>20</sup> Sam Bond hired Bob Hartsock after that, and Mr. Hartsock worked at the Bond Roller Mill for several years.

On December 11, 1920, Sam Bond ordered a six-section level bolter from Salem Foundry and Machine Works, Inc. in Salem, Virginia. The price was \$1,642.00. The bolter and

accessories were delivered and installed in 1922. Also in the 1920's, he replaced the wooden water wheel with a large metal wheel, thirty (30) feet in diameter, four feet wide and generating thirty (30) horsepower at maximum capacity. The wheel cost \$3,500. At first, the metal wheel was supported by a crib of long 10"x 10" oak timbers. Later, sometime in the early 1930's, Sherman Hartsock, a renowned stone mason, built a stone and concrete pillar that replaced the wooden timbers. The pillar stands today. In 1936, Sam Bond also installed the bleacher.

During the Bond Roller Mill years and into the early 1950's farmers continued bringing corn and wheat to the mill for grinding services. Here's a picture of Sam Bond and his son, Robert, in 1945. Sam is feeding corn into the hopper; Robert is scooping out corn meal.



Soon after this picture was taken, Sam was stricken with cancer. My mother, Marjorie Loretta, and father, James Howard Dixon, my sister, Mary Ellen and I left our home in Wilmington, Delaware and moved back to Nickelsville, Virginia. My father ran the mill for my Grandfather Bond and share-cropped tobacco.

This picture of my family was taken in the summer of 1950. From left to right: My sister, Mary Ellen; mother, Marjorie Loretta holding the baby, Florence Elizabeth; my father, James Howard Dixon; and me.



Life was hard at the Bond Roller Mill. Everybody worked. I helped in the mill by tying flour and corn meal sacks, and I helped in the garden and tobacco patch. The job I dreaded most was carrying drinking water from a spring<sup>21</sup> (old schoolhouse spring) located upstream on Amos Branch, about halfway between the mill and the mill dam.

For food, we raised hogs, hunted wild game, fished and, of course, grew garden vegetables. We had a Jersey milk cow, and chickens and ducks for eggs and protein. For pocket

money, I trapped muskrats in Amos Branch and sold the hides to my Great Uncle George Bond, who ran a general store in Nickelsville.

We kept milk and butter in a "blowing cave," about fifty yards downstream from the mill, on the east side of Amos Branch. We used the cave for dairy products until my father built the dairy and smokehouse building that is there today.

By the summer of 1952, Sam Bond was too ill from cancer to work. He stayed at home in Nickelsville. My father got a carpenter job in Kingsport, Tennessee, and we moved into a little log cabin in West Carter's Valley. I started school at Bell Ridge Elementary.

On October 6, 1952, my Grandparents sold the Bond Roller/Bush Mill and mill tract to Lonnie Hartsock. The Deed reads:<sup>22</sup>

"This DEED made and entered into this the 6th day of October, 1952, by and between S.H. Bond and Dona Bond, his wife, parties of the first part, and Lonnie I. Hartsock, party of the second part,

WITNESSETH: That for and in consideration of the sum of SEVEN THOUSAND (\$7,000.00) DOLLARS, to be presented by seven separate Negotiable Promissory Notes, all dated October 6, 1952, made and executed by the party of the second part and payable to S.H. Bond, said notes bearing interest at the rate of six per cent per annum from date; waving the benefit of the homestead exemption, and providing for a ten percent attorney's fee if placed in the hands of an attorney for collection, and said notes to be due and payable on the 1st day of January, of each year, that is the first note shall be due and payable on the 1st day of January 1954, and one of the remaining notes to become due and payable on the 1st day of January on each succeeding and consecutive year, until paid, with the privilege of the maker of said notes to pay all or any part of same at any time prior to maturity; should there be default in the payment of any one note, then, in that event all of the remaining notes become due and payable, and other good and valuable consideration, said parties of the first part do hereby grant, bargain, sell, and convey unto the said party of the second part, with covenants of general warranty, those two

certain tracts or parcels of real estate situate in Johnson Magisterial District, Scott County, Virginia, and being the same real estate conveyed to [W.W. and] S.H. Bond by J.H. Darter and Nancy Darter, his wife, by deed dated the 18th day of February 1920, and of record in the Clerk's office of Scott County, Virginia, in Deed Book No. 157, at page No. 49\* [\*Note: Page No. 49 is wrong. The Page No. is actually 219.], to which reference is hereby made, said tracts being located about one mile from Nickelsville on Amos Branch known as the Old Bush Mill Tract.

TRACT NO. ONE: Adjoining the real estate of the heirs of H.J. Broadwater, the heirs of Eliza Frazier, et. al., H.A. Haga, et. al., and being the same tract conveyed to J.H. and J.M. Darter by Bush Heirs, containing Fourteen and One Half (14 ½) Acres, more or less.

TRACT NO. TWO: Said tract bounded by the lands of tract no. 1; adjoining the real estate of E.W. Addington (formerly C.C. Broadwater); the heirs of H.J. Broadwater (formerly known as the Steve Bush Tract), said tract containing Sixteen (16) Acres more or less.

The aforesaid grantors covenant that they have the right to convey the said land to the said grantee; that the said grantee shall have quiet possession of the said land; and that they will execute such further assurances of said land as may be requisite.

To have and to hold unto the said party of the second part, his heirs and assigns forever, in fee simple.

Witness the following signatures and seals."

S.H. Bond (Seal)  
Dona Bond (Seal)

Lonnie Hartsock operated the mill for a while, mostly grinding corn. He also opened a small store on the smokehouse floor of the small dairy building. Lonnie died before he could pay off the Negotiable Promissory Notes on the two tracts of land. My grandmother, Dona Bond, widowed by then, took the property back on September 22, 1958. The Deed reads:<sup>23</sup>

"THIS DEED, made and entered into this the 22nd day of September, 1958, by and between DARTHULA HARTSOCK

(widow), ROBERT HENRY HARTSOCK (Single), and GRADY HARTSOCK (single), parties of the first part, and Dona Bond, party of the second part.

WITNESSETH

That for and in consideration of the sum of ONE (\$1.00) DOLLAR, cash in hand paid by the party of the second part to the party of the first part, at and before the sealing and delivery of this deed, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, and other good and valuable consideration, said parties of the first part do hereby grant, bargain, sell and convey all of their undivided right, title and interest in a certain tract of real estate situate in Johnson Magisterial District, Scott County, Virginia, a mile and a half northwest of Nickelsville, and being Tract No. 1 mentioned and described in the deed from S.H. Bond and Dona Bond to Lonnie I. Hartsock, by deed dated the 6th day of October, 1952, and of record in the Clerk's Office of Scott County, Virginia, in Deed Book 158, page 495, containing 14 ½ acres, more or less, and being described as follows:

Adjoining the real estate of the heirs of H.J. Broadwater, the heirs of Elize Frazier, et. al., H.A. Haga, et. al., and being the same tract conveyed to J.H. and J.M Darter by Bush Heirs, containing 14 ½ acres, more or less, and being Tract No. 1 set out in deed of trust from Lonnie I. Hartsock and Darthula Hartsock, his wife to E.H. Richmond, Trustee, dated the 6th day of October, 1952, and of record in the Clerk's Office of Scott County, Virginia in Deed Book 159, page 7 to which reference is hereby made.

The above mentioned real estate is the property known as the Bush Mill Property, with the old Bush Mill situate thereon.

Darthula Hartsock joins [joins] in this deed for the purpose of releasing her dower interest and any other interest that she may have in the above mentioned real estate.

The aforesaid grantors covenant that they have the right to convey the said land to the said grantee; that the said grantee shall have quiet possession of the said land, free and clear of all encumbrances; that they have done no act to

encumber the said land, and that they execute such further assurances of the said land as may be requisite.

WITNESS the following signatures and seals: "

|                    |        |
|--------------------|--------|
| Darthula Hartsock  | (Seal) |
| Grady Hartsock     | (Seal) |
| Robert H. Hartsock | (Seal) |

On September 26, 1959, Dona Bond sold the property to the Nickelsville Chapter of the Future Farmers of America. The Deed reads:<sup>24</sup>

"THIS DEED, made and entered into this the 26th day of September, 1959, by and between DONA BOND (widow), party of the first part, and H. KYLE SMITH, M.F. MEADE and JAMES TESTERMAN, Trustees of the Nickelsville Chapter of Future Farmers of America, parties of the second part.

WITNESSETH

That for and in consideration of the sum of TWO THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$2000.00), cash in hand paid by the parties of the second part to the party of the first part, at and before the sealing and delivery of this deed, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, and other good and valuable consideration, said party of the first part doth hereby grant, bargain, sell and convey unto H. Kyle Smith, M.F. Meade and James B. Testerman, Trustees, for the use and benefit of the Nickelsville Chapter of Future Farmers of America, with covenants of general warranty, certain tract of real estate situate in Johnson Magisterial District, Scott County, Virginia, and being Tract No. 1 mentioned and described in the Clerk's Office of Scott County, Virginia, in Deed Book 185,<sup>25</sup> page 495, to which reference is hereby made; said real estate adjoining the real estate of the heirs of H.J. Broadwater, the heirs of Elize Frazier, *et al*; H.A. Haga, *et al*; and being the same tract of real estate conveyed to Dona Bond by Darthula Hartsock, *et al*; by deed dated the 22nd day of September, 1958, and of record in the Clerk's Office of Scott County, Virginia, in Deed Book 185, at page 84, to which reference is hereby made, and being the same real estate conveyed to Dona Bond by E.H. Richmond,

Special Commissioner, by deed dated the 15th day of October, 1958, of record in the Clerk's Office of Scott County, Virginia, in Deed Book 185,<sup>25</sup> at page 82, and being known as the Bush Mill property, with the old Bush Mill situate thereon, together with all appurtenances thereto belonging and pertaining.

The aforesaid grantor covenants that she had the right to convey the said land to the said grantees; that the said grantees shall have quiet possession of the said land, free and clear of all encumbrances; that she has done no act to encumber the said land, and that she will execute further assurances of the said land as may be requisite.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD unto the said H. Kyle Smith, M.F. Meade and James B. Testerman, Trustees, for the use and benefit of the Nickelsville Chapter of Future Farmers of America, and their successors and assigns forever, in fee simple.

WITNESS the following signature and seal: "

Dona Bond                      (Seal)

The Bush Mill is now owned by the Scott County, Virginia School Board and is on long-term lease to the Nickelsville Ruritan Club. The Club members have done some restoration work. They installed electricity, and in 1986, replaced the old crumbling yellow poplar siding with new western cedar that has aged to look like the original. They moved the electric pump motor from the well house and put it in the dairy building, too.<sup>26</sup>

Johnny Hillman has handled milling responsibilities since the Ruritan made the mill operational again. He turns the water wheel and grinds corn during "Bush Mill Days," an annual festival that includes old-time apple-butter making, arts, crafts and music—bluegrass and gospel—and the selling of stone-ground corn meal in Bush Mill bags. Hillman also turns the water wheel on for other special occasions.

Hillman, now eighty two (82) years old, has a long history with the Bush Mill. As a boy, he rode a horse to the mill with his "turn of corn," and waited in line for grinding services. He recalls that people either paid in cash, by toll, or in farm goods (eggs, milk and the like) that my Grandfather could use as barter for merchandise at one of the country stores.

## ENDNOTES

1. This paper is the "Official History of the Bush Mill," written to support the Scott County School Board's application for registration of the Bush Mill on the National Register of Historic Places and the Virginia Landmarks Register.
2. Scott County, Virginia Deed Book 13, pp.224-225.
3. Scott County Virginia Star, Wednesday, October , 1996, p. 5B.
4. Scott County, Virginia Deed Book 16, pp.416-417.
5. Boldfaced for emphasis.
6. Valentine Bush purchased the mill when he was sixty-three (63) years old. It's highly likely his sons and son-in-law, W.T Frazier, did most of the hard labor.
7. "The Bush Family of England, Virginia and Kentucky," Compiled by Roger L. Crum and Julie Adams, August 1997, p. 14.
8. W.T. Frazier's property joined the Bush Mill property. His property passed to his son, Hobert. Today, Bill Jack Frazier, Hobert's son, owns the property. When I was a boy, living at the Bond Roller Mill, I helped Hobert Frazier work in his tobacco patch.
9. One can assume that minimum time elapsed between destruction of old mill and construction of the new one, because the Bush and Frazier families got income from the mill and milling operations were essential for the community.
10. Keep in mind that Valentine Bush was at least 89 years old at this time. I'm sure he did not do any hard labor.
11. W.T. Frazier's son, Clint, was killed in an accident on this wooden water wheel on May 11, 1902.
12. The history differs here. This is Candace Blackwell's account in "The Bush Family...." Op. cit. In the same book, Hope Lewis tells us: "The machinery was shipped from Knoxville by Railroad to Gate City and hauled by log wagons to the mill by J.R. Frazier and Jim Bush. This latter account is usually accepted.
13. Candace Blackwell in "The Bush Family...." Op. cit.
14. Scott County, Virginia Deed Book 42, p. 79.
15. Scott County, Virginia Deed Book 55, p. 55.
16. These people are Bush Heirs.
17. Scott County Deed Book 55, p. 55.
18. Quoted in James H. Dixon, Ph.D., The Dixon Clan, Scotland, Ireland, and America, Gateway Press, Inc., Baltimore, MD, 1996, p. 239. The quote was taken from W.W. Bond's obituary.
19. Scott County, Virginia Deed Book 157, p. 219. The property transaction occurred on February 18, 1920. The deed was not recorded until September 20, 1952.
20. Verle, Bob and Clyde went into military service in World War II. Verle was in the first U.S. Army Ranger unit trained in England. Bob was an Army medic. Clyde was in the Navy. Jack, Sam's youngest son, joined the U.S. Air Force after the war.

## ENDNOTES (continued)

21. See the reference to the "old schoolhouse spring" in the November 12, 1870 deed between John Dickenson and Fanny, his wife, and Valentine Bush for the purchase of the mill property. Scott County, Virginia Deed Book 16, pp.416-417.
22. Scott County Deed Book 158, p. 495.
23. Scott County Deed Book 185, p. 84.
24. Scott County, Virginia Deed Book 191, p.12.
25. The Deed Book No. is actually 158.
26. My father, Howard Dixon, drilled a water-well in 1949, and built a cinderblock structure to enclose the well and electric pump. To gain access to the pump, we had to remove the roof and climb into the enclosure.