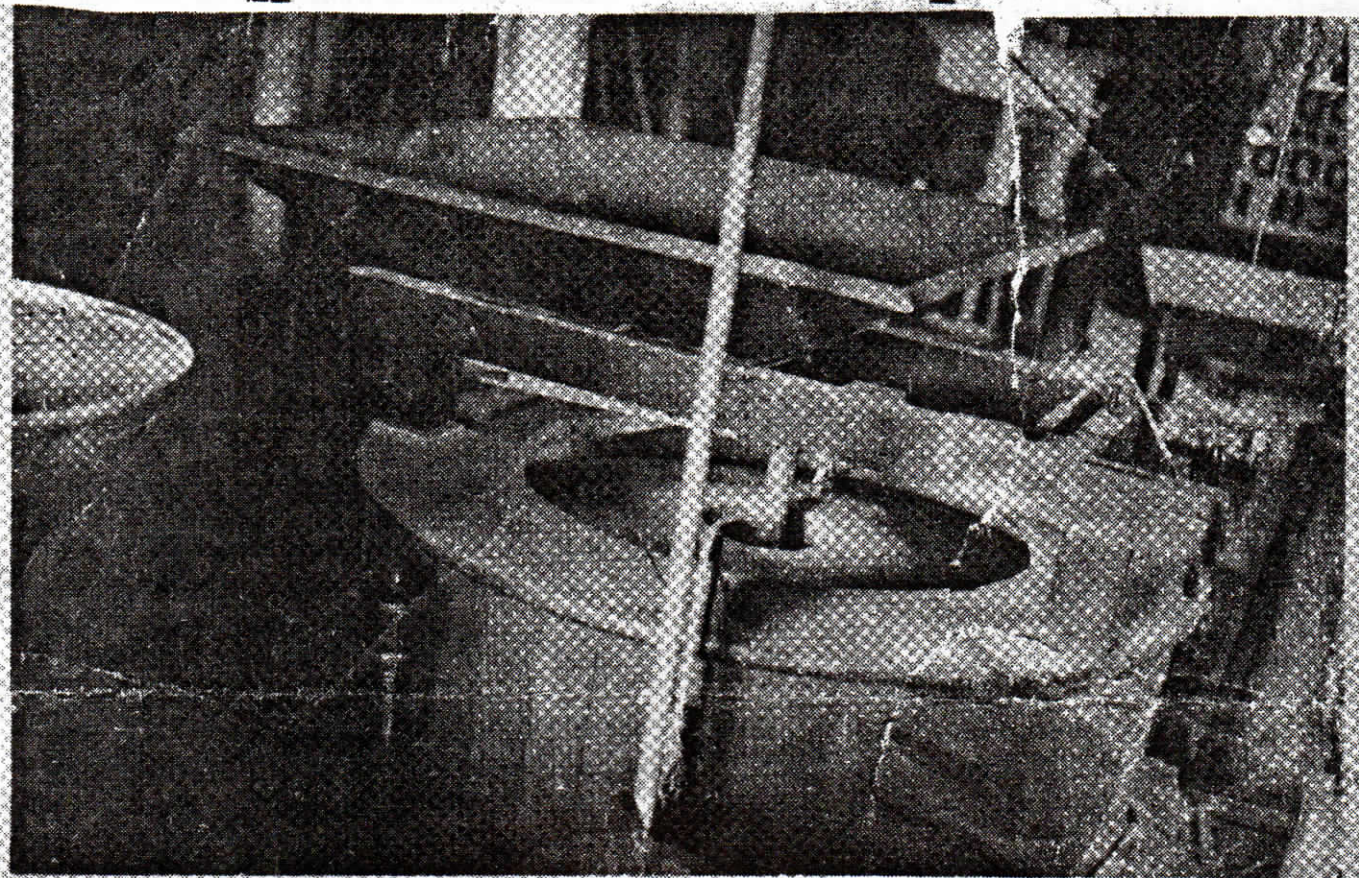


Old Mill is Landmark



HILDEBRAND MILL, now known as Beck's mill, is located one-half mile north of highway 33 on Flint Creek and was established in 1835. The millstones were shipped from France to New Orleans, up the Arkansas River by boat to Fort Gibson, and then on to the millsite by ox wagon. This old mill furnished meal for the Indians and whites over a 50 mile radius for over a century.

During the Civil War, Union forces captured the mill and used it as a Confederate prison. The

prisoners had smallpox and it was scattered for miles around by Indians who came to get meal.

Here the Zeke Proctor feud started which led to the "Gongsnake Tragedy" of April 15, 1873. This fight resulted in the death of eleven people and the wounding of several others. The fight took place near Christie where Proctor was being tried in the Cherokee Court.

The third story of the mill was used as headquarters of the Anti-Horse Thief Association of

the Cherokee Nation.

Mr. Kermit Beck, present owner, has all the old tools, etc., and understands their use as he helped his father when the mill was in operation.

Not many sites have had more Oklahoma history connected with them than the old Saline Court House and the old mill. Not many points in Oklahoma could be made into more scenic parks than can be made of both of these places which are located just off highway 33 in Delaware County.

This article was found in the Roxie Kirby collections and we thought the TL&M readers would enjoy it since there is so much renewed interest in the "Mill" and the efforts to preserve it. -GG