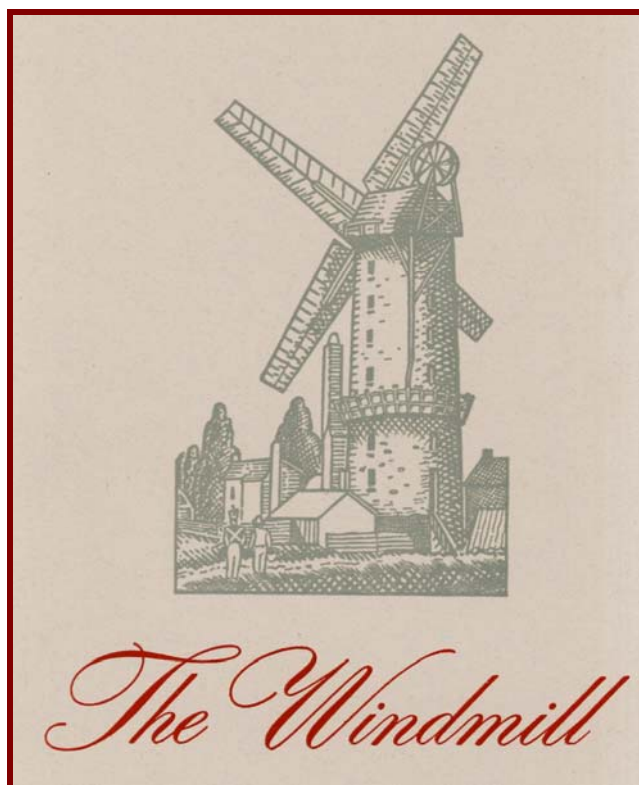


for June 3, 2007

1832: A Year to Remember



Here's a chronology of events related to the Distillery District **175** years ago when James Worts and William Gooderham opened the first business on the site: their lakeside grist mill powered by wind. Worts preceded his friend, brother-in-law and business partner, William Gooderham, to the new world where he prepared the way for both the business and the arrival of the two families about a year later.

Prelude 1831

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|-----------------|---|
| May | James Worts and his 14-year old son, James Gooderham Worts, arrive in Quebec from England |
| Summer | James Worts selects a site on Lake Ontario in York, Upper Canada as the location for a windmill |
| November 26 | Windmill tower completed and covered over to protect from a threatened snowstorm |
| Winter 1831-'32 | Work continues on interior of windmill, awaiting good weather and arrival of machinery and millstones |

1832 was a significant year for the business partners and the little town of York. The “firsts” were both positive – the completion of the windmill and the first sale of flour – and negative – the arrival of cholera that had swept inevitably across the Atlantic ocean into Little York by early summer.

- January 31, 1832** Fire destroys Enoch Turner’s nearby brewery; Worts among the people loaning Turner money to reestablish his enterprise
- March 29** Worts purchases house and property on King Street near the Don River, from the Rev. O’Grady at St. Paul’s Roman Catholic church, to house the Worts and Gooderham families
- April 20** (Good Friday) Main shaft for the windmill arrives aboard the steamboat *Great Britain*; the millstones and castings arrive aboard the schooner *Kingston*
- May** **Gooderham and Worts families** arrive in Quebec aboard the brig *Anne* from Newcastle, England
- mid-June** Cholera reaches York (later Toronto) aboard the *Great Britain*, killing between 250 and 400 people in a town of about 4000
- July 25** **William Gooderham** & 54 others arrive in York, including 11 orphans (perhaps made orphans by cholera during the transatlantic crossing)
- July 27** Partnership of **Worts & Gooderham** established with the opening of an account at Bank of Upper Canada and an initial deposit of £1,823.06
- July 30** First wheat purchased (to be ground when mill finished)
- Fall** Construction of Windmill completed:
- 71 feet tall
 - 105,000 bricks (from Snider and Ward)
 - 216 bushels of lime
 - 100 loads of sand
- October 5** Production of flour begins, with first “run” lasting from October 5th to December 13th

October 27

First recorded sale of flour: five barrels to King Street baker, Robert Ferrier

December 31

By end of 1832, 2991 bushels of wheat had been ground, at an average price of 93-cents; 354.5 barrels of flour had been sold at about \$5.00 each.

Customers came from all classes: from the “Soup Kitchen” at society’s bottom to Lt. Governor Sir John Colborne at society’s pinnacle. Other prominent early customers included Chief Justice John Beverly Robinson, Sheriff William Jarvis, Reverend John Strachan, and Robert Baldwin of Spadina House.

By the end of 1832, the business and the families were well-established in Upper Canada.

Please send your comments or questions to Manager of Heritage Services, Sally Gibson, sg@thedistillerydistrict.com.