



Parkman Historical Society Presents The Grist Mill and Moss Beach (Shangri La)

On July 21, 2005 at 7:30 p.m. a group of residents got together to develop the full story about the Old Mill Pond, aka. Moss Beach, aka. Shangri-La. The small pieces of facts from a variety of sources grew into a very precise picture to be etched into a solid tale of truth. This collaborated effort occurs periodically to help lay a foundation for Parkman History.

Parkman Ohio established in 1804 - Celebrating its bicentennial in 2004.

Samuel Parkman of Boston first came to Parkman in 1797, and later in 1803, to survey the lots for the purpose of a new settlement. Robert B. Parkman, Samuels's nephew, brought his family, and in 1804, 600 acres were designated to become the village of Parkman. August 1, 1805 - the establishment of a post-office occurred, Robert Parkman was appointed as postmaster. His commission was signed by Gideon Granger, then postmaster-general. He continued to hold the office till 1829. In August of 1805, the birth of the first child occurred, Adaline, the eldest daughter of Robert Parkman. That would make her 200 years old in 2005!



Parkman Mill and Lake Ownership:

Parkman family 'til 1832
 Converse purchased it in 1839
 Jesse Pritchard... 1878
 Andrew Coulter
 "Parkman Milling Co." 1908—1918
 (some members include)
 W. H. Cromwell,
 Ed Donaldson,
 Curt Moore,
 J.O.Hoxter,
 Chester Hosmer,
 Volney Johnson
 Forrest Baird 1922—1944
 Narvie Moss 1944—1973
 Bill and Adele Sohm 1973-2001
 Rod and Pam Zeigler 2001-Present

In 1806, a grist mill was built; whether this was done by Samuel or Robert Parkman is not clear, nor is it clear when this first mill was destroyed. Patience and persistence are key traits for millers as the stream which gives life to the mill one day, threatens it with extinction the next. Many had taken the challenge of operating the Parkman Mill.

Narvie E. Moss, the last owner/operator of the Parkman Mill, has spent thousands of dollars harnessing the stream. He rebuilt a 25 foot dam, constructed 29 foot wing walls and bolstered up the mill's sagging foundation after the 1956 flood, another flood responsible for destroying the dam - again. Narvie was very persistent in his battle with the stream. The farmers' appreciation of having their corn ground and their feed grains mixed to specifications was the key reason. In Moss' mill they could buy anything from a can of Dr. Naylor's udder ointment and a box of weevil killer to a 100 pound sack of "pure crushed, triple screened oyster shell for poultry". The continuous rhythm of the Old Mill, gushing waters, the whirling turbines, and the whistling belts was part of the Parkman Atmosphere. It was a real nice place when things are running smoothly. The Moss' ran the mill for 20 years. The Mill closed in 1964 and burned down in September 1967.

Moss Beach (ran by Don Villers) was also a local attraction for the residents to enjoy a cool dip into the waters of the Grand River,

The land and water rights were sold in 1973 to Bill and Adele Sohm who worked ambitiously to create a world class water ski resort called Shangri-La Lake. Shangri-La was a professional competition water-ski club. This private lake paradise benefited the competitive skier with its precision course and wake free runs. Many contributed to the successful development of the Sohm Dream. Creativity was not short as many residents will remember the very colorful dock at the resort. Shangri-La Ski Club closed its doors to the public in 2001, but you can still see skiers challenge the course on nice summer days.

Shangri-La Event Center is presently owned by the Ziegler Family and is now a premier entertainment center designed to cater to weddings and special events.

On very special occasions, you can see Captain Rod cruising around on the SS Shangri-La pontoon boat.

