

Spanning the Gap

Egypt Mills



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William Nyce came to the Minisink area about 1776 and purchased a large tract of land along the Delaware River in what is now Pike County. His three sons built a grist mill on a stream near the primitive River Road. This being the only grist mill in the area, other settlers came here at regular intervals to purchase flour and meal. In time they came to call this place Egypt because of the analogy between themselves and the brethren of Joseph in Biblical times, who journeyed to Egypt in time of famine to seek bread. The youngest son, Jacob, became owner of the mill. He also ran a store and was the first postmaster of Egypt Mills. A blacksmith shop was on the premises, and eventually a schoolhouse was built.

John, the oldest son, built a reciprocating saw mill a short distance up the creek. He improvised a carriage which moved back and forth by water power rather than manually, the first mill of this type in the



county.

James E. Nyce, great grandson of William, sold the mill in 1889; thus ending the reign of the Nyce family at Egypt Mills. Twelve years later the elite Egypt Mills Club, an association of ardent outdoorsmen, purchased the property. It was sold in 1973 to the United States Government to become part of Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area.

(Above) Postcard "view of Lake and Club" at Egypt Mills.



(Above) Postcards of Egypt Mills PA from 1905 (top) to 1930 (second from bottom). The bottom postcard is undated. (Courtesy of Kathleen Sandt)

(Left) The back of the store in March of 1972. (Middle) The smokehouse, privy, and ice house in March of 1972. The store is the white building at the far right. (Right) Toms Creek near the site of Egypt Mills today.



(Left) Toms Creek from the Toms Creek Trail. (Middle) The Falls below Egypt Mills Pond, seen from Big Egypt Road. (Right) Egypt Mills Pond.





Today, the old foundation of the mill is overgrown with weeds, but the rustic setting of the mill race and mill pond have been preserved. The stream, which has become known as Toms Creek, offers good trout fishing. The creek gives it name to the township approach road and to the small picnic area has been developed in this beautiful natural area.

(Left) An aerial view of the village of Egypt Mills, looking east in April 1968. Old Mine Road NJ and, below it, the Delaware River, are visible across the top of the photograph. Rt. 209 runs across the photo, one field below the river. Below (west of) Rt. 209 is the old alignment of Rt. 209, now called Egypt Mills Road. Toms Creek winds from the middle-bottom of the photo, eastward to the river. Large structures and small outbuildings stand both north and south of the creek. Tree-lined Little Egypt Road curves eastward down from the plateau on the left (north) of the creek to join Toms Creek Road; the very straight east section of Big Egypt Road is to the right (south) of the creek.