

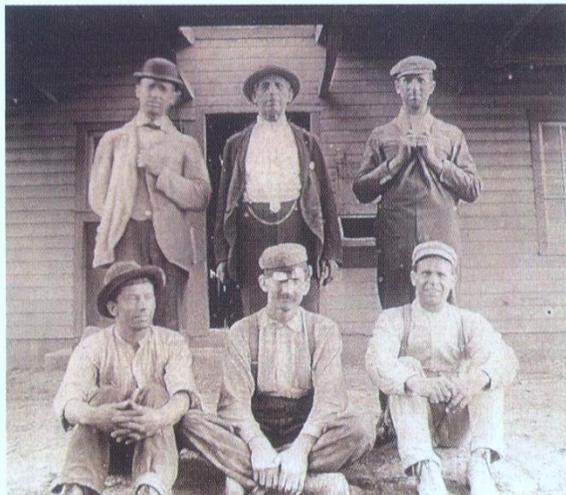
ELSON FAMILY HISTORY

Born in Brooke County, Virginia (now West Virginia) in 1797, Richard Elson immigrated right across the River to Steubenville, Jefferson County, Ohio in 1820, where he made a living building flatboats and floating them down to New Orleans by way of the Ohio River.

Upon arrival in New Orleans, he would sell Ohio goods, such as pork and flour before selling off the boat and walking back to Ohio. After seven such trips, each totaling 1,500 miles, Richard Elson had saved enough money to purchase land in the Sandy Valley.

In 1834, Richard Elson and John W. Smith platted out the Village of Magnolia which is located in the southeast corner of Stark County, Ohio. Elson established a grist mill and a saw mill (and later his homestead) near the site of the existing flouring mills.

Five generations of the Elson family owned and operated the mill. Augustus Richard Elson, whose name adorns the front of the mill today, took over operation of the mill from his father in 1857.



Above pictured (rear center) A.R. Elson, with his sons Richard (right) and Frank (left); three mill workers sit in the front row.

MILL OWNERSHIP TIMELINE

- Richard Elson – 1834
- Augustus R. Elson – 1857
- Richard Elson – 1904
- Mack Elson – 1949
- Augustus Elson – 1995
- Stark Parks – 2005

Elson Flouring Mills
261 North Main St.
Magnolia, OH 44643
330.866.3354

Business Hours Mon Tues Thurs Fri
8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

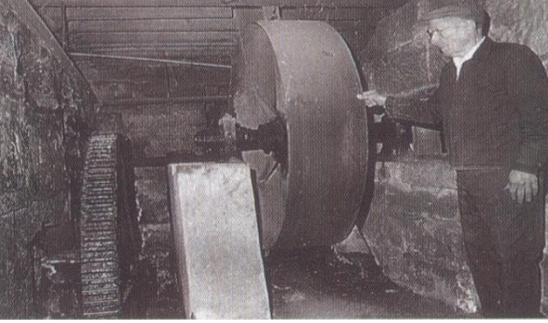
Saturday 8a.m. to Noon

Corn meal – Shelled Corn- Animal Feed
Bird Seed – Buckwheat – Whole Wheat
Locally Made Goods

The Mill is now owned and operated by the Stark Park County Park District and is now known/named the Magnolia Flouring Mills. Contact the park at www.StarkParks.com or 330.477.3552 or refer to the business number above to learn more about the history and tours of the mill.

Powering the Family Business

The Elson/Magnolia Mill experienced many changes in its long history. As technology advanced, the various members of the Elson family made certain that the mill advanced as well. Water powered the mill building for much of its lifetime. Richard Elson originally built a dam on the big Sandy Creek to supply water to the mill site, although later the Sandy and Beaver Canal would supply water for the mill. Over time a wooden overshot wheel would replace the original waterwheel and then followed by the use of a single, steel overshot water wheel. The double, steel overshot water wheels present at the mill were installed in 1900.



Above: Water power turned simple wheels and gears, like these shown with Mack Elson, operating a complex system of milling equipment.

Other power sources, such as steam engines and gasoline engines, were experimented with as well. In 1948, the mill converted to electrical power and is still run by electricity today.

Innovation Continued

From the time A.R. Elson took over the operation of the mill in 1857, he constantly upgraded the mill as technology improved. Steel rollers replaced the original French buhr stones, new machinery replaced the old, and changing modes of transportation impacted the mill's role in the community.

Below Pictured: Steel rollers replaced the original French buhr stones in the mill.



Submitted by Edward (Buddy) Merrin. He is working on his application to join The First Families of Jefferson County. If anyone shares a family connection, please contact Buddy at: bmerrin1@frontier.com or 330.495.5310

HISTORY OF THE PROPERTY

The Elson Flour Mill was acquired by Stark Parks in 2005. This five-story historic landmark was built in 1834 along the Sandy & Beaver Canal. Mill products and various agricultural products are sold at the location. Mill products are natural and produced from local farmers.

The 12,79-acre property in downtown Magnolia includes a segment of the Sandy & Beaver Canal behind the mill, the water rights for the canal, and Dam #6. The red wood structure is at the corner of Canal and Main Streets (Rt. 183) and will serve as a trailhead for the future Sandy & Beaver Canal Trail and the Pleasant Valley Trail, both of which were identified on Stark Parks' Countywide Trail & Greenway Plan.



Stark Parks
Stark County Park District
Motto Is:

Acquire, preserve, and develop natural areas for passive recreation, conservation, education, and nature appreciation.

(Learn more about Richard Elson, Revolutionary soldier – Newsletter titled “Know Your Roots” written by Mary Durland, Vol. 11, Issue 3, Mar 2010, “Mary Elizabeth Elson,” October, 2011, Volume XII, Issue 10 and Oct 2012, Vol XIII, Issue 10, “The Elson Family”)

Edward (Buddy) Merrin Ancestry

Buddy's Grandfather was:

- Joseph Grafton Elson – born 1903. Married Mary A. Milewsky.
- Edward B. Elson – Born 3 Apr 1878 in Island Creek, Jefferson County, OH and died in Richmond, OH 30 Mar 1928. Married Jessie Blanche Tarr, who was born 13 Nov 1882 in Mingo Jct, Wells Twp., Jefferson County, OH.
- Edward Elson born 15 May 1833 and died in Richmond 16 Jul 1916. He married Mary Ann Kirkman who was born 20 May 1839.
- Edward Elson, born 15 Aug 1792 in Wellsburg, Brooke County, VA who found in the Steubenville Land office records as purchasing land in Jefferson County on 15 Sept 1833. He died 11 Aug 1834 in Mapleton, Stark County, OH. He married Blanch Everett who was born in Maryland in 1789 and died 6 Mar 1874 in Steubenville.
- John Harris Elson was born 18 Feb 1771 in Brooke County, VA and died 15 Oct 1822 in Stark County, OH. He married Margaret Wiggins. She was born on 18th of Dec 1771 and died the 27th Sept 1848.
- Richard Elson – Revolutionary Patriot was born in Prince George, Maryland in 1738 and

died in Brooke County, VA. His will is found in the probate records at the county courthouse. He married Mary Turner.

- John William Elson was born in Prince George, Maryland in 1705 and died in 1750. He married Joanna Bardcutt who was born in 1708 and died in 1775 in Maryland.

Edward Elson 1792 – 1834

Buried in Steubenville Union Cemetery, Jefferson County, Ohio

(The interesting part about this tombstone is that the tombstone had to have been relocated from another cemetery because the Union Cemetery was established in 1854, 20 years after Edward died. So, at some point he was re-interred (or the tombstone) was moved from a cemetery to the family lot in Steubenville Union Cemetery.

