

# Owen Cochran Mill

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The first Cochran Mill was located on Little Bear Creek. There are two tales as to who build the Owen Cochran Mill. Some records show that Cheadle Cochran owned a merchant mill. He possibly could have built or bought this mill and passed it on to his son, Owen. On a Civil War map of 1864, it shows a Phillips Mill located near or on the same site as the Cochran Mill. Other records show that the mill was built by Berry Wynn Cochran and a Mr. Aderhold for Berry's brother, Owen sometime after the Civil War.

Berry Wynn Cochran and Owen Henry Cochran were sons of Chester Cheadle Cochran, a prominent politician in the Georgia Senate. Berry and Owen served in the Confederate Army during the Civil War. After the way, both returned home and entered the milling business.

Cochran Mill was in operation from the late 1860's to the early 1960's. It was used over one hundred years as a grist mill. Owen in his will of 1900 leaves his mill farm of 700 acres and his one half interest in Henry Mill Farm to his three sons. The mystery still remains of who actually started the first mill on this site.





Owen Cochran Mill Picture by Jennie Cook Bentley



The mill site today.



Pictures taken from the ruins of the old mill dam.







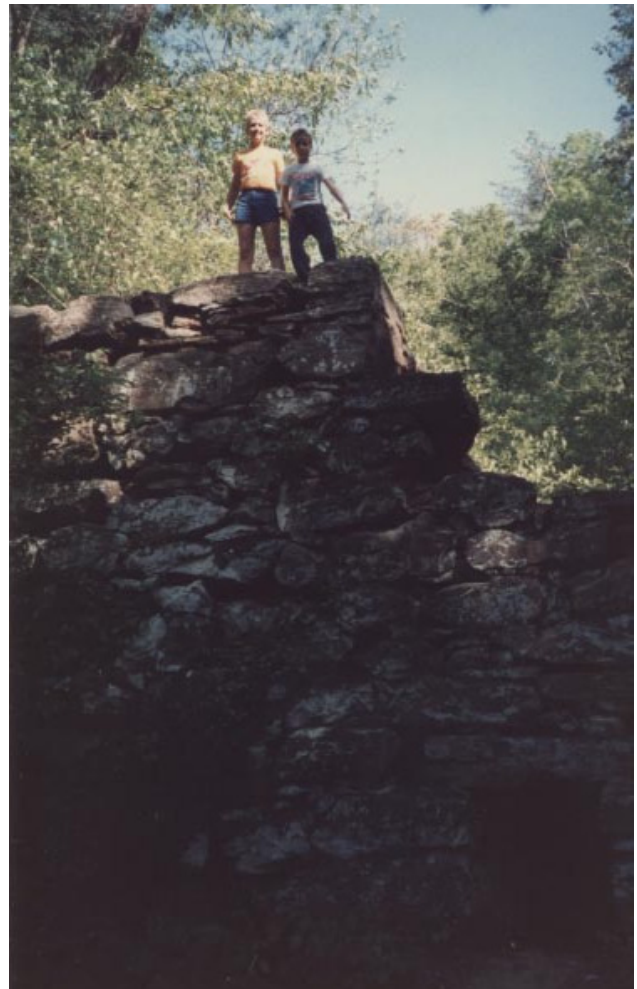
Ruins of the old dam. Note square opening for the old flume.



Note the pipe coming from behind the dam that carried water to power the mill in later years of use.



Lila and Howie Hargis.





This is my great-grand-father, Walter Hattaway with his nephew Walter Odom and his son, Walter Jr.



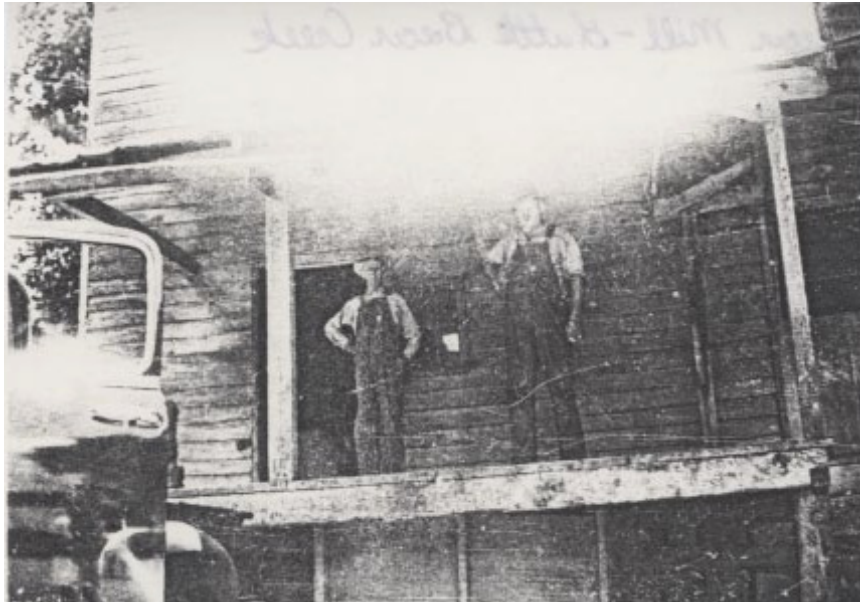
The photo of Walter Hattaway, above, was made in the early 1950's. This picture was made from the same spot today.





Note the pipe coming into the left hand side of the mill.

This is Mr. Bill Cook with his grandchildren on the porch of the mill. He was the next to the last miller at the mill.



This is Mr. Cook and an unidentified man standing on the porch of the mill.

To the right of the porch was the entrance to the mill basement. This is where dangerous machinery was located. A young girl by the name of Parrot got her dress caught in the machinery and was killed.



The water wheel was located between these two rocks.





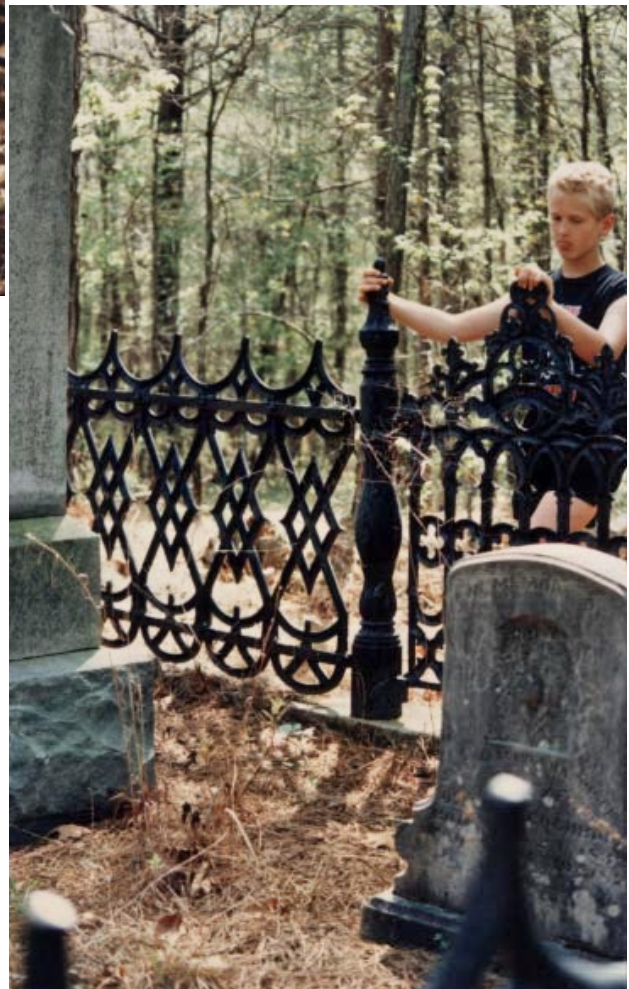


These are the shoals at Owen Cochran Mill.





This is Owen Henry Cochran's grave. He is buried in Liberty Hill Cemetery. He was born Feb. 12, 1831 and died Dec. 5, 1909. His epitaph reads, "Tho' lost to sight to memory dear."



This grave belongs to Owen's wife, Jane Margaret Harrison. She was born Aug. 24, 1832 and died April 30, 1875.