

Brown's Lock and Mill

Brown's Lock and Mill once did a flourishing business at Greencastle. The Locks and dam were built about 1845 by James Ford and Thomas Stephens Sr. The mill was built much later, but before 1860, by William Brown. Mr. Charles Davenport, who knew the area well, wrote "for a long time it was the only mill north and west of the Louisville and Nashville Railroad and many people from Butler and Edmonson Counties came there to do their milling making Greencastle a bustling little community". John Wetzel was the lock keeper for many years.

The picture of the old mill was in the possession of the late Mrs. Edna Manar and was made in 1907 from the deck of the boat "Chaperon". It shows the type cribbing used in the locks of that day.

There were a number of mills in the county. One of the earliest records we found is in the minutes of the General Assembly of 20th of March 1815 where Jacob Reese was Authorized to erect a dam on Big Barren River for the purpose of building a grist mill, saw mill and other water works. This mill was several miles up river from the present Beech Bend.

