

Crawford, of Wauwatosa), at another by Capt. Hubbell, and at another by Capt. Lane, performed the business of running up and down the river, taking passengers and freight to and fro, to the steamers and vessels in the bay. She drew about two feet of water, and accordingly could always get over the bar at the mouth of the river. This serviceable craft went out of use in 1844 or 1845. But the engine, if I mistake not, has kept on its puffing ever since, just as when it ran up and down the river, and drives the machinery that has planed the floors of more than half of the houses of this entire city, at the establishment of J. B. Smith & Co., in the Fourth Ward.

Water Power; Mills

The Water Power, terminating in the Second Ward, and upon which so much machinery is now located and propelled, is an outgrowth of the Rock River Canal Company.

Byron Kilbourn, Esq., was the originator of this Company, and secured so much of its construction as has produced this valuable improvement to the City.

Capt. John Anderson built the dam for the Rock River Canal Company, in the year 1842. It is made of untrimmed trees entirely, with their tops placed up stream and loaded with gravel. A very simple structure, but of the most enduring and substantial character. Mr. William W. Brown, at that time an enterprising merchant, bore an important part as a contractor, in the construction of the canal, from the dam down to its present terminus in the Second Ward. The water was let in and it was made ready for use in December, 1842. Mr. Samuel Brown, now of the Sixth Ward, and Benjamin Moffat built a saw-mill near or upon the site of the present Phoenix Mills, in the year 1843. This mill subsequently became the property of the Messrs. Comstock and Mr. Reuben Chase. They greatly enlarged the establishment, adding a variety of machinery to it, and had just about got it running, when it took fire and burned to the ground, in the summer of 1846.