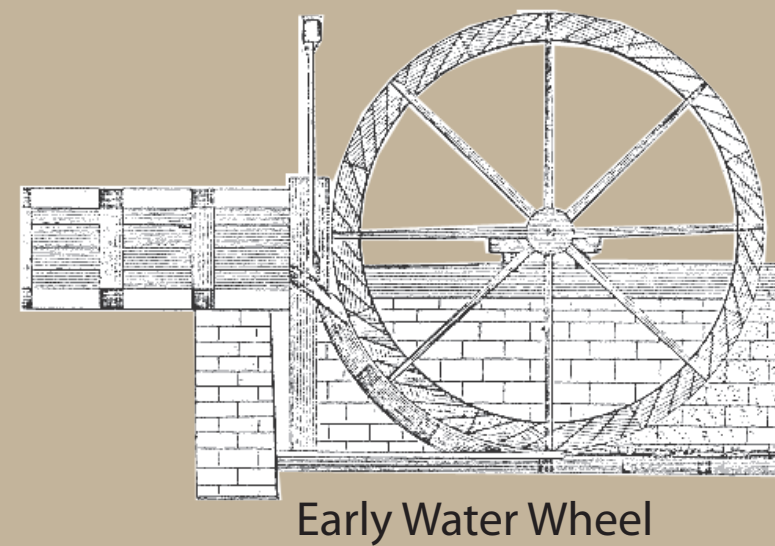


## Water Power



In the late 1800's, one of the largest concentrations of water-power-driven mills in the State of Maine was located on the Narraguagus River between the head of tide and still water. The water power sustained nine dams, each dam having with one to three different mills.



## Grist for the Mill

Early grist mills turned local grains into flour. Stories are told of the long and weary journeys taken by early settlers to reach these crude preparing plants. Many early mills were erected by syndicates of farmers who reckoned the shares by the days. Shareholders were obligated to run the mill for as many days as they owned shares.

## One Dam, Many Businesses

One of the largest concentrations of water-powered mills was located at the Forest Mill Dam. A grist mill, furniture factory, planing mill and machine shop were located on the east end of the dam. A foundry was located above and a paint shop, blacksmith and pants factory were located below. The west end featured two sawmills and an electric dynamo.

(Source: Excerpts from Mills of the Narraguagus by Phil Harriman (1977) available at the Cherryfield Narraguagus Historical Society.)



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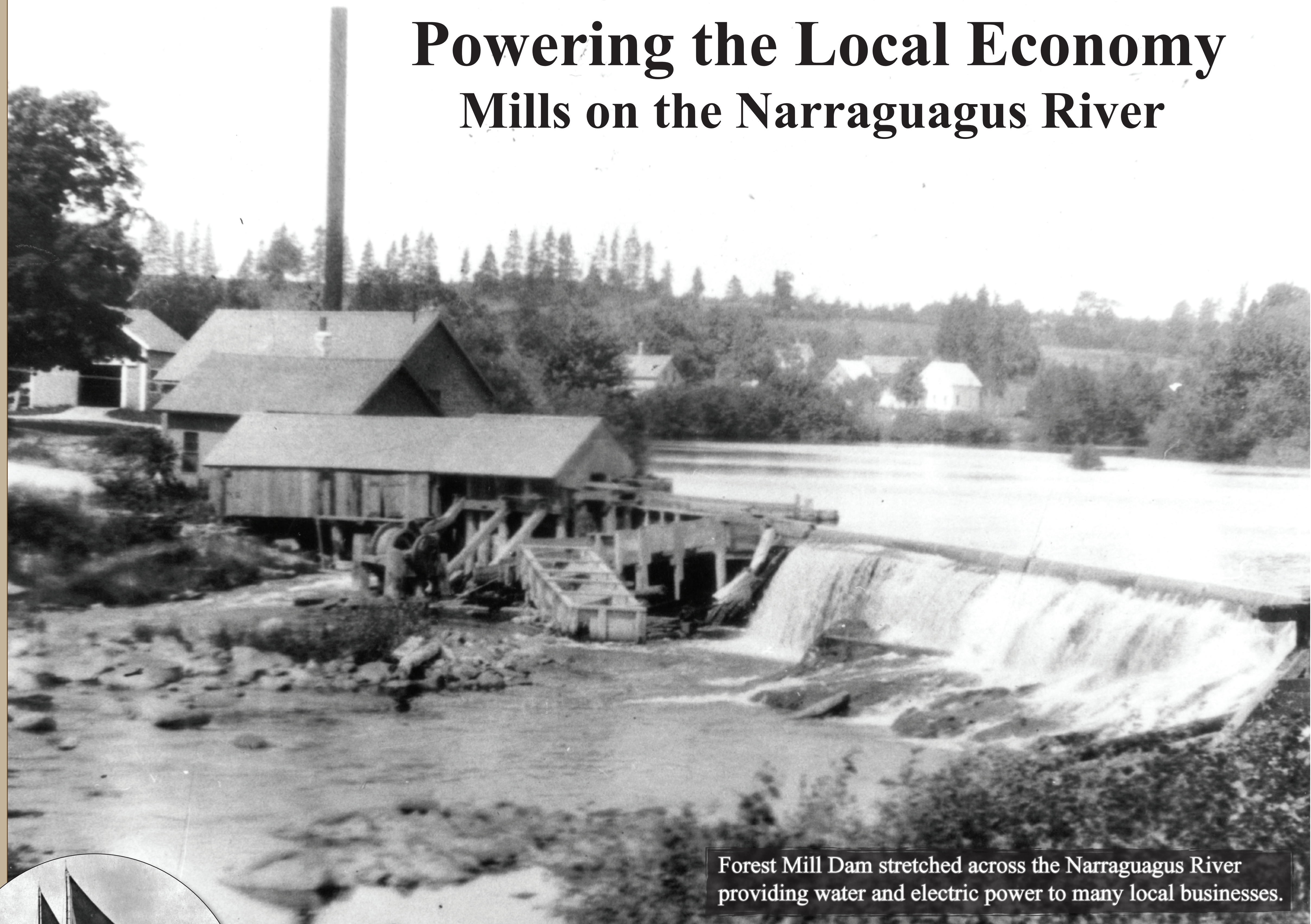
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The "Mopang", a two-masted schooner built in Cherryfield in 1884, was able to load lumber at local wharves and sail to east coast ports. (Photo courtesy of Frank Claes)

Panel Prepared by the Hancock County Planning Commission (2012)

# Powering the Local Economy Mills on the Narraguagus River



Forest Mill Dam stretched across the Narraguagus River providing water and electric power to many local businesses.



Loggers cut in the surrounding forests and floated trunks downstream to the sawmills. They preferred to work on snow covered ground when there were no mosquitoes or black flies.



Loggers spent long winter nights in rustic logging camps.