

The floods soon broke and the ice and soft snow was driven down the stream before successive waves that carried everything before them. Bad as the flood was it did not compare with that of the following year, which took place January 26th. This was the most destructive ever known to mill property and bridges on the Brandywine. Some of the structures were so badly ruined that they were never started up again. The total of loss along the creek summed hundreds of thousands of dollars. The du Ponts lost heavily, but they resumed. The Gilpin paper mills and the Jones flour mill went down. Lawrence & Riddle's cotton mill started up in buying out the Gilpin mill. Augustus Jessup purchased the Jones grist mill and started the paper mill. Since that time Jessup & Moore have become the owners of old Kirk & Young mill at Rockland. Joseph Bancroft & Son are still where they were in 1889, when they were flooded by water 30 feet deep.

On August 5th, 1843, there was a very heavy flood in the lower Brandywine but it did not extend many miles up the river. It was Saturday and heavy rain had poured down most of the day.

Late in the afternoon the flood came down and in one hour's time the stem-gate at the first dam, which stood nine feet above the level of the river was covered by the rushing water. The tide coming in about the same time caused the water to flow in on the mill floors of the various places along the lower Brandywine. A great deal of damage was done. Barrels of flour, mill doors and hogsheds strewed both banks of the river.

Since the Lammas flood, of August 5th, 1843, there have been some larger than the one of last week. That of 1884, which carried away the false work of the new Baltimore & Ohio railroad was a heavier flood.

