



SPOOM
Mid-Atlantic Chapter
Notes & News
November 2007



**Colvin Run Mill, Virginia, announces its
Holiday Schedule of Events**

December 1, 2, & 3

Holiday Shopping at the General Store

Shopping for Children and Free Wrapping by Volunteers

December 8, 3-6 pm

Country Christmas Celebration

Visit Santa & Sing Carols around the Campfire

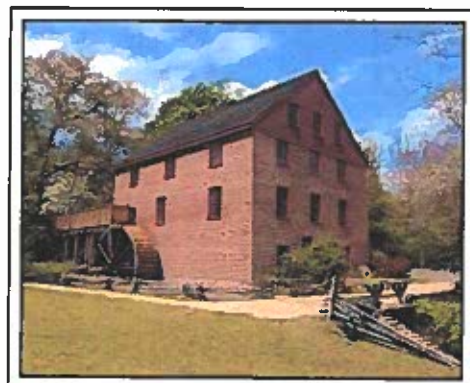
December 15 & 16

Model Train Display

It is free and fantastic!

Call 703-759-2771 for more information.

**Visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/history.htm> for
directions**



STANTON MILL AT GRANTSVILLE, MARYLAND

Marge Lundegard

On October 22, 2007, we visited the Stanton Mill to check out the site for the SPOOM 2008 meeting. When we arrived, the mill was open and operating, grinding buckwheat to make the very tasty pancake mix that we received at the SPOOM meeting at the Hanford Mill in New York. The miller, John Childers, gave described the interesting history of the mill and provided an overview of some of the events for the up-coming 2008 SPOOM meeting.

The original mill was built in 1797 by Jesse Thomlinson. The Youghiogeny River, now called the Casselman River, furnished water power to the mill. There is a historic bridge over the river. The bridge is a fifty foot long single arch stone bridge that was completed in 1813 and is said to be the longest single arch stone bridge in the United States. The current mill is a three storied frame structure that produces stone ground products that are sold in the mill. The mill used water from the river to power the machinery inside the mill from 1811 to 1944. During this period, the mill had used a water wheel, a turbine, steam power and is currently using electrical power to operate the machinery inside the mill.

In the 1860's the Stanton family bought the mill and three hundred and fifty acres of land. Five generations of Stanton's have owned and operated the mill.

In 1976, during the construction of I-68, a large viaduct was built under the old road to provide water to the mill. This saved the head race so the mill does have the option of using water to power the machinery inside the mill. There is a red metal water wheel attached to the end of the mill but due to the uncertainty of the water supply electrical power is used today. The mill produces a wide variety of products that can also be purchased at the restaurant in the Penn Alps complex.

So, make plans to attend the next SPOOM annual meeting which is again in the region of the Mid-Atlantic Chapter. There will be interesting talks and mills to visit. The Stanton mill has a Midget Marvel that may be operating during the SPOOM meeting. John Childers is an experienced miller and has done a marvelous job in restoring this mill to an operating condition. Make your reservations soon at the local Casselman Motor Inn as space is limited there. The near by Comfort Inn is the alternative. The nearby historic Casselman Inn, built in 1824, has only a few B&B type rooms. These rooms are quite attractive and all have a private bath. This is a lovely historic area. The convention is making final arrangements for trips and events to attend. This will be an interesting meeting and is located almost in our back yard. Plan to attend.



Two Continents—One Technology: Tide Mills on Both Sides of the Atlantic – Earl Taylor

Summary of The Third Annual Historic Tide Mill Conference of the Tide Mill Institute, Saturday, November 3, 2007 at the Dorchester Historical Society, Dorchester, Massachusetts. Speakers included David Plunkett who has been studying tide mills since his involvement from an early stage in the restoration at Eling Tide Mill near Southampton. He spoke on two topics: Searching for the Origins of the Tidal Mill and The Tide Mills of Anglesey, Wales. In the first session he informed the audience that there is evidence from ancient times of the use of tidal power, and in his second presentation he enumerated a huge number of sites on the Island of Anglesey. Claudia Silveira of Portugal spoke about The Tide Mills of the Sado Estuary. The Atlantic coast of Portugal experienced the construction of many tidal mills from at least as early as the thirteenth century. Ms. Silveira presented the Sado Estuary with the nearby city of Setubal as one of the areas of intense tidal mill activity, establishing a chronology and possible connection with salt production areas. Bill Drew of New Castle, New Hampshire, spoke about the Tide Mill in My Front Yard: the 1650 Walton Mill and his search for information about milling in New England. Bob Goodwin presented Excitement on Sedgunkedunk: A Newly-Found Tide Mill in Brewer, Maine. Shorter presentations included a mention of Boat Mills and an update on the Souther Tide Mill in Quincy, Massachusetts. General discussion about the future of tide mills and the direction of the Tide Mill Institute completed the agenda before the group departed to view the Slade Spice Mill building in Revere, Massachusetts.

The general discussion included suggestions for more tours of mills and mill sites. The study of power generation from the tides possibly using Pleasure Bay in South Boston for the installation of a model establish relations with governmental departments and supportive politicians make it easier to find the existing history of tide mills and their sites. Increased surveying of sites. When the discussion turned to the Tide Mill Institute, the following more specific suggestions emerged: The need to involve school children should inspire us to form a sub-committee to explore educational activities. The audience was definitely in favor of holding future annual conferences. There was a request for the Institute to develop a history of tide mills, but this suggestion was tempered with a reference to the earlier discussion about pulling together the existing history of tide mills. We need to use diplomatic resources to bring the exhibition Tide Mills of Western Europe to the United States. We should establish alliances with other groups interested in mills such as SPOOM, TIMS, and the SIA in the hopes of reaching a wider audience and sponsoring cooperative projects. We should build links to those in other disciplines: engineers, archaeologists, social scientists, commercial historians, environmentalists, etc.

