

Local Historic Mills Host Open House Weekend

The mills of & Southern York County PA will be celebrating the heritage of milling the weekend of June 8 & 9 by hosting their area-wide free open house. This is part of a broader celebration sponsored by the Mid-Atlantic Chapter of the Society for the Preservation of Old Mills (SPOOM). Participating in the event will be Wallace-Cross Mill, Muddy Creek Forks Roller Mills and Woolen Mill Wind Engine. Each mill has something unique and different to offer regarding the contributions made by mills to our country and region.

According to the event coordinator, Todd Eyster, the ample water sources in this region have been used since before the beginning of this country to supply the power needed to drive the machinery used to process grain into flour. The water flow from our local streams was also used to power many of our other early industries. York County alone has more than 270 documented mill sites. Several local towns in this area also used water power to provide their first source of electrical generation for their community. Wind was also used to provide power needed to grind grain, pump water, and other farm uses.

The following mills look forward to your visit the weekend of June 8 and 9.

Muddy Creek Forks Roller Mills occupies a mill site that has been active since the 1750s. The current mill, which was built in 1847 and enlarged for roller mill equipment in 1890, is preserved as part of the Ma & Pa Railroad Heritage Village.

In contrast to Wallace-Cross Mill, the mill at Muddy Creek Forks was a merchant mill grinding flour for sale under its own Harvest Queen brand name. A hundred years ago it had a dedicated railroad siding and shipped white flour to commercial bakeries by the boxcar load and stone ground buckwheat flour to general stores by express on passenger trains of the Maryland & Pennsylvania Railroad.



The mill and grain elevator will be **open from 11 AM to 5 PM on Saturday, June 8, and from 1 to 5 PM on Sunday, June 9**. Displays will include the intact equipment used to grind, sift, and bag buckwheat flour, a stand of roller mills dating to the 1890s, a sieve bolter, middlings purifier, bran duster, and flour dresser. Knowledgeable docents will be on hand to give tours of the mill, explain the milling process, discuss the job of the miller, demonstrate how roller mills revolutionized production of white flour, and explore the relationship between the mill and the railroad. The A. M. Grove Store will also be open and motor car trains will be running excursion rides through the Muddy Creek Valley.

There is something at Muddy Creek Forks to interest every member of the family. For more information visit the website of the Maryland & Pennsylvania Railroad Preservation Society at www.MaAndPaRailroad.com. The mill is **located at the village of Muddy Creek Forks, 5 miles south of Brogue on Muddy Creek Forks Road.**

New Park Wind Engine features two very rare open-gearred Aermotor power mills. Both of these wind engines differ from the more common water pumping windmills in that they transmit power to equipment with a rotary power shaft. The 12 ft. diameter windmill producing 2 horsepower is an example typical of power mills used on more prosperous farms at the turn of the 20th century. A larger 16 ft Aermotor enclosed by an octagonal, 3 story mill building is an extremely rare model built in 1888. These large wind engines producing 5 horsepower were built for milling and farm work requiring more power. The inside workings driven by the 16 ft windmill are comprised of antique milling and grain handling equipment with belt driven ceiling fans built by Woolen Mill Fan Company.



This location also features a horizontal wind turbine designed to replicate earlier styles of wind turbines. Information has been found on original wind power mills similar to this design but no original wind turbines are known to exist. This 12 ft. high x 8 ft diameter wheel is enclosed in a timber frame structure with an 1895 dynamo attached to provide electrical generation. While these mills are not from the local area they are built on historical premises. Jay and friends would like to invite you to visit these windmills **located at 290 Woolen Mill Rd near New Park PA**. The mills will be **open for tours 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM Saturday June 8, and from 1 to 4 PM Sunday June 9**.

Wallace-Cross Mill is a rare example of a small, rural, water-powered grain mill with an overshot water wheel. The mill, tucked away in its unspoiled little valley, has changed little since its construction in 1826. The mill continued to provide service by grinding grain for the local community until closing in 1979. The restoration focus is the 1950 era with operating water wheel and milling equipment. This museum includes three floors of interpretive displays and historic artifacts. Tour guides will be available both days to explain the mill history, operate the water-powered equipment, and answer questions. Bring a camera to capture the scenic area and beautifully restored building and equipment. Pack a lunch and plan to enjoy a picnic beside the idyllic stream. This beautifully restored, small local mill will be **open 1:30 to 4:30 PM Saturday June 8, and 1:30 to 4:30 PM Sunday June 9**. Located at **15759 Cross Mill Road, York County, PA** more information can found at www.yorkcountypa.gov/parks-recreation/the-parks/wallace-cross-mill-historic-site.



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