At the Mid-Atlantic SPOOM Chapter Meeting on April 2, 2011, President Bob Lundegard presided over the business meeting at Cross Roads United Methodist Church in Southern York County PA which was hosted by Judy Grove of Wallace Cross Mill. The balance in the treasury is $4,531.52 which includes 2011 dues for 45 individual, 9 sustaining, and 7 organizational memberships. Current officers were elected to serve another two-year term. Remaining positions are appointed by the board.

Ivan Lufriu reported on his visits to mills on Maryland’s Eastern Shore: Wye Mills - restoration of the building and water wheel continue; Spocott Mill - windmill was restored in 1972; Linchester Mill - a project of Caroline County Historical Society; Rock Run Mill in the Susquehanna State Park - several buildings are open to the public; and the Jerusalem Mill located in Gunpowder Falls State Park.

The September 22-24, 2011 SPOOM Meeting at Colvin Run Mill will include a Thursday pre-meeting tour of Mount Vernon; Friday tours of Pierce Mill, C & O Canal, Fairfax County Park Authority, and evening banquet; and Saturday speakers’ sessions. Details and registration information will be available in the Old Mill News (OMN). Bob Lundegard displayed results to date for the virtual mapping of mills in the Potomac watershed which will be displayed at the 2011 SPOOM Meeting
SPOOM-MA Semi-Annual Meeting Meeting (cont’d)

Steve Spring asks members to submit mill survey information to him on places they visit to update the SPOOM mill lists. Survey forms and mill lists are available through OMN.

Suggestions of activities, resources, and sample publicity materials for use by mills participating in the August 28 Mid-Atlantic “National” Milling Day will be posted on the SPOOM Mid-Atlantic webpage.

Colvin Run Mill and the Friends of Colvin Run Mill will host the next chapter meeting on Saturday August 20, 2011. Friday will feature a pre-meeting tour to 4 to 6 area mills. Details and registration information will follow. The 2012 spring meeting will be hosted by the Friends of Peirce Mill in DC. The Caroline County Historical Society will be invited to host the fall 2012 meeting.

Full minutes are available at www.spoommidatlantic.org.

Following the chapter meeting, Ray Kinard and Terry Koller presented a program on their quest to locate, identify and document mills in York County and the surrounding counties. After lunch, participants visited Jay McGinnis’ Woolen Mills Farm to view his collection of operational windmills and auxiliary equipment.
From the Desk of the President

-- Robert Lundegard

When you receive this SPOOM-MA Newsletter, our Chapter meeting of April 2, 2011 will be over. We hope it is now a good memory for all. Hopefully some photos from Steve Spring and Bob Mc Laughlin can be found on other pages of the Newsletter.

At this moment, I continue to think about our Chapter, our websites, attracting more members from the SPOOM mid-Atlantic region, and in particular attracting more organizational members. I look with pride on the mill preservation program of Ivan Lufriu, our Chapter administration and communication capability established and managed by Judy Grove, our interesting and attractive Newsletter assembled and published by Susan Langley, and our exciting and informative Chapter meetings organized by our leading members. The question for me is how can we improve and assure the continuation of these excellent beginnings?

I am thinking about our next meeting to be hosted by the Friends of Colvin Run Mill (FOCRM). We have slowly evolved a meeting format that works well. A tour of local mills on Friday for a reasonable fee to cover costs, the formal Chapter meeting on Saturday with morning coffee, lunch, a business meeting followed by talks or a tour to round out the day. The $10.00 fee for the Saturday meeting has been accepted as reasonable. We plan to follow this model in August at Colvin Run. The Friday tour may run a circuit from Great Falls to Aldie Mill, followed by Burwell Morgan Mill, Locke’s Mill on the Shenandoah with Jon & Carole Joyce. After lunch we can stop at an operating feed mill near Purcellville. We could end the day visiting two mills converted to restaurants, one in Purcellville and one in Leesburg.

On Saturday after the business meeting, we plan to have a talk on the Watershed Map Project by Charlotte Cain of the Northern Virginia Community College (NVCC). NVCC has collaborated with FOCRM and has done all the technical work embedding the watershed map in GIS software and Google Earth.

We look forward to being at Peirce Mill in 2012.
Ray Kinard and Terry Koller provided a most informative and enjoyable tour of York County Mills the day before the April 2nd SPOOM Mid-Atlantic Chapter meeting. Our congenial and knowledgeable guides provided a wealth of information drawn from their 27-month (so far) expedition to locate, photograph and document mills which has taken them to York, Adams, Lancaster, Lebanon and Cumberland counties in Pennsylvania and Baltimore, Carroll, Hereford counties in Maryland. Highlights of the tour are included here.

The Red Lion Milling Company or ConAgra Flour Mill on route 24 south of Red Lion is still in operation. The original 1920 stone building is hidden from view behind later frame additions and large grain silos. Miller’s Mill (also Henry Tyson Mill) was built in Windsor Township on Kreutz Creek in 1790. The grist, flour and sawmill features 4-story frame and stone construction with a mansard roof, a 12-foot wooden, overshot water wheel and Midget rollers. White Lilly flour was produced. The building was made into apartments. The Daniel H Gehley Woolen Mill, a three-story frame building dating to 1780, made yarn, blanket and carpets. It is now vacant.

Mackley’s Mill (also Willow Grove Mill) was built on Kreutz Creek in Hellam Township in 1740 by Martin Schultz, who also built the two oldest homes in York County. The 3-story stone-with-frame building, which functioned as a grist and flour mill (Gold Dust brand) and distillery, was powered by two 14-foot wooden overshot waterwheels. The dam and pond are across the street. Pipes ran underground between the house and mill to the wheel in the back of the mill building. The wheels were removed in the 1940s and the mill closed in the 1960s. The building served as a tavern/restaurant and now is a banquet center. The adjacent 18th-century Mill House is open as the Stone Mill Inn with elegant guest rooms and luxurious accommodations.

The Stoney Brook Mill, located along route 462 east of York, was a modern 3-story brick feed mill that is now The Framers Gallery. The nearby white mill house was an antique dealer.
Milling Around York County (cont.)

Glades Mill (also Louck’s Codorus Powder Mill) on Deep Run in Hellam Township was a 2 ½ story stone building cut down to 1 ½ story that now serves as storage for the sewer plant. It dates to the 18th century.

Mundis Mills on Sherman Street north of York was built on the Codorus Creek in East Manchester Township by Christian Bixler in 1740. The 3 ½ story stone merchant mill with an 8-foot wooden wheel served as a grist, feed (White Lilly flour and Gold Band Feed), and saw mill. Rollers replaced stones in 1920; electricity was used for some machines starting in 1934. The mill burned in 1953, but was rebuilt and operated into the 1970s, producing flour, rolled oats, and rabbit feed. The mill is being restored by the current owners.

Samuel Myers Grist and Flour Mill dates to 1799. The present 3 ½ story brick building was erected on the Codorus Creek in East Manchester Township in 1841.

The York Flour Mill (also George Small or Codorus Mill), was originally built on the Codorus Creek in the 1730s. The current building dates to 1831, and was powered by two Leffel Turbines. During the Civil War, Jubal Early’s troops raided the mill. The Smalls paid a ransom to prevent destruction of the mill. The 4-story frame and brick building is still in operation, producing ConAgra Flour and animal feed. The silos hold 400,000 bushels of wheat and the mill loads 600,000 pounds of flour and 150,000 pounds of animal feed into 15 Bulkmatic trucks each day.

Bentzel’s Mill, a grist, saw, and flour mill, was built by George Ilgenfritz on the Little Conewago Creek in 1794. The present 3 ½ story stone mill was built with a 10 ½ foot overshot wheel. The plaque on the mill states it was built by David & Elizabeth Bensel in 1831. Once the mill closed, the building was used as a tavern and now is an investment firm. The ruins of a covered bridge built in 1859 and restored in 1964 are visible. The bridge was finally destroyed in Hurricane Agnes in 1972.
Milling Around York County (cont.)

Neiman’s Mill was built in 1738 by Martin Weigle on the Little Conewago Creek. The present 3-story stone and frame mill was built on the west side of the creek in 1770. The flour and feed mill boasted one #2 Success turbine. After the mill closed, the building was used as a tack shop, gift shop, and now is a tattoo parlor. The mill house is across the street on Log Cabin Road, named for the dozen log cabins lining both sides of the road.

The George Emig Mill on the Conewago Creek in Dover Township dates to 1775. The present flour and feed mill was built in 1825 with two 13-foot overshot wheels, four stones and two rollers. The 3 ½ story stone building was cut down to 2½ stories and currently serves as an apartment building.

George Emig Mill ▼

Bieseckers Mill was built in 1775 by John Stauffer; the present building dates to 1843. It is perched on the headwaters of the Conewago Creek near PA 234 west of York. The flour, feed, saw and distillery mill featured a 20-foot overshot wheel, four stones, and four rollers. The 4½ story brick mill closed in 2001. The plan is to convert it into 12 luxury apartments. Adjacent to the mill is the 1792 Germanic Georgian style limestone farmhouse built by John and Elizabeth Stouffer.

The Kunkle-Stitt Mill on route 30 near Thomasville is now the Thomasville Country Auction. The two-story brick building used electric or steam power. An adjacent building housed a retail feed and hardware store and a post office. Solar panels are currently being installed in the nearby field to power the property and sell excess back to the electric company.

The property at Seitzville Flour Mill (on route 616) housed grist, flour, cider, hemp and saw mills. Built in 1866 of brick with a later concrete addition, the mill was just ½ mile from the Larue Mill which operated into the 1980s when it was torn down. That is an exception the truism that another mill could be found every 2 to 2 1/2 miles.
The Glen Rock Mill Inn, our stop for lunch, was built as a sawmill in 1832. In the 1800s, the town literally grew up around the mill. The mill transitioned from a sawmill to a woolen mill to a flour mill and finally a feed mill in the mid-1900s. In the 1980s the mill was transformed into its present day structure, a full service restaurant seating over 150 and an inn with 12 guest rooms.

After lunch, likely locations of nine mills in what is now Spring Valley County Park were visited. The area was originally purchased by the York Water Company for a reservoir; as a result, most buildings within the park were torn down even though another site was eventually chosen for the reservoir. Rock walls remain at the Emmas Creek location of Rock Mill complex consisting of grist, saw and cider mills. Dam ruins can be seen at the Blymire and Valley Mill sites. Remains of the mill house, summer house and mill can be seen at the Laurel Mill and Hain Hominy Mill sites. A walking trail connecting the mill sites is under consideration by the park authorities.
The GFHS Will Celebrate 200 Years Of Colvin Run Community History on May 15, 2011
--Robert Lundegard

The Great Falls Historical Society has chosen the 200 year history of the Colvin Run Community as the theme of their Great Falls Day Celebration. The Colvin Run community began to form in August of 1811 with the opening of the new state-of-the-art commercial manufacturing facility that we now know as the Colvin Run Mill.

Fairfax County was a leading center of cultural and economic growth in early America. The historic sites in our Parks are significant exhibitors and teachers of this history and attract tens of thousands of students and visitors to their educational programs.

The story of the 1811 Colvin Run Mill is the story of early American high-tech manufacture and entrepreneurial investment as a vital part of the 19th century American Industrial Revolution. This is a story that fascinates every generation of school children that visits the mill.

The year 1811 is a significant year in our community history. In 1811, the northwest part of Fairfax County was a sparsely populated farming area. Most of the roughly 20,000 residents lived in the southeastern part of the county, in Colchester, Fairfax, and Alexandria. A small number of persons lived within a few miles of the Colvin Run. One person, William Sheppard, lived on the Alexandria-Leesburg road and recognized the value of a modern mill on the Colvin Run. Under an arrangement with George Washington’s estate, the owner of the land, Sheppard built the “Brick Mill”, as it was first known, as a speculative investment. Today, the restored mill is known as the Colvin Run Mill. In 1811, Sheppard sold the mill to Philip Carper who became our first miller.

Carper was in his late thirties, was a miller in Maryland, and an entrepreneur. Carper and his wife Catherine had three children and a few slaves. He paid $5,500 cash for the new, state-of-the-art mill and began to make his fortune in our community in northern Fairfax.

…cont’d P. 9
Are you sure he paid cash, that there were no notes of any kind? Why would Sheppard build a large commercial mill, on speculation, in the sparsely populated northern part of our county? Why would Carper invest his cash in this mill?

The short answer is to make money in a rapidly growing manufacturing and export industry. In 1811, the export of flour to Europe and the Caribbean was among the three leading export businesses of cotton, tobacco, and flour. The industrial growth of the new nation was to be financed in large part through these three export industries. In the Mid-Atlantic States, flour was number one. Virginia manufactured 25% of the nation’s production of flour.

A majority of the flour was produced in country mills like the Colvin Run Mill. These mills had three stone-pairs, on average, (According to an article about mills by D. Robison most mills had two or three sets seldom more) and a daily capacity of about 50 barrels. Philip Carper bought, owned, and operated such a mill. Carper was able to invest in substantial land, including the land surrounding the intersection of Seneca Road and Leesburg Pike. In this neighborhood his son built Holly Knolls (Bloomfield) and operated a general store. By 1850, Philip Carper had sold the Brick Mill and moved to the Loudoun county estate of his daughter and son-in-law. He left substantial wealth to his children.

Carper sold the mill to the second owner, John Powell. Powell suffered through and after the Civil War. In 1883, the new owners were Addison and Emma Millard. Under the Millard family the mill was modernized and prospered for 50 years.

Over the years, the Colvin Run village grew around the mill. By 1906, Colvin Run had a population of 100. Businesses included: blacksmith, coach maker, educators, two physicians, mortician, post office, several general stores, the flour mill and a saw mill. There were numerous farmers, dairymen and day workers. Colvin Run had its own constable and magistrate. The community had a school, several churches, and cemeteries which served the many farms that dominated the landscape. By 1943, the Alexandria-Leesburg Turnpike...
The GFHS Will Celebrate 200 Years Of Colvin Run Community History on May 15, 2011 (cont’d)

was straightened and re-located to the south side of the Colvin Run Mill. Farms were divided by eminent domain. The water supply to the Colvin Run Mill was severed. This newly re-aligned turnpike now by-passed the Colvin Run village.

The school remains and is now the home of the Colvin Run Citizens Association and a focal point of our celebration. A community doctor, Dr. Leigh, lived and practiced in the home where Dante’s Restaurant now resides. After 1940, the community grew more rapidly as did Fairfax County, and now has over 75 businesses.

We have much to remember and to celebrate on this May 15, 2011 Sunday afternoon. Come and enjoy.
Roblin’s Mill, Revisited

-- Bob Lundegard & Susan Langley

Bob Lundegard pointed out a connection between Colvin Run Mill and Roblin’s Mill in Black Creek Pioneer Village near Toronto, Ontario (referenced in the Jan. 2011 newsletter). Millwright Clifford Currie, who restored Roblin’s Mill, was also called upon to restore Colvin Run Mill between 1968-1972. The two images below (left and center) are Currie’s from Roblin’s Mill (right). Currie’s role with respect to Colvin Run was to assess the mill’s structure and develop a vision for its restoration. The vision had two major restoration components: the building structure and the technical nature of the internal machinery, which resulted in what may be visited today.
TIDE MILL INSTITUTE
Committed to sustainable industrial Heritage
News Update, April 2011

The TIDE MILL INSTITUTE has been busy over the past six months. Through our website we have received a number of queries about different mill issues, several not even tide mill related. TMI has become a link for information between interested parties, coordinating communication and information, a role that fits both our mission and usefulness to others. In the future we look forward to continuing to support anyone seeking to find out more about tide mills.

Sixth Annual Tide Mill Conference: “Heritage and Sustainability”

The Tide Mill Institute hosted its 6th Annual Tide Mill Conference at the Old Schwamb Mill in Arlington, Massachusetts on Saturday, November 13, 2010. Although it is not a tide mill, its operations are similar to those of a tide mill in all respects except for the source of the water to fill the mill pond. A tour and working demonstration of the 19th-century wood-working mill followed the formal portion of the conference. We are very grateful the hospitality of the mill volunteers, and we hope you will visit the mill for a demonstration.

Check out the mill at http://www.oldschwambmill.org/

After a welcome message from Earl Taylor and an introduction by Bud Warren to the topic of the day, presentations included:

Clark Harmon: The Westernkraag, Tide Mill, Thomaston, Maine.
Susan Longley: Tide Mills of the Chesapeake.
Richard Duff: Basque Country Tide Mills: Recent Explorations.
Open Forum: Discussion of Gerlov’s helical turbine.

VAN WYCK-LEFFERTS MILL VISIT

Last fall Bob Goodwin and Bud Warren visited this 1790’s tide mill in Huntington New York and shared pictures they took were shared at the November conference. They met with a long-term owner associated with the Huntington Historical Society and with representatives of the Nature Conservancy, who has owned the property for years and was seeking to arrange for removal of the mill building. A local home-owner’s association had been negotiating with the Nature Conservancy to preserve the building and restore the deteriorating dam that was part of the site. We presented information stressing the importance of this mill as representative of the industrial heritage of the region and offered a few suggestions. Ultimately the parties worked out a memorandum of understanding and thanked TMI for its involvement.

MILLSTONE QUERIES FROM HEREFORD AND THERE:

AN EARLY NEW AMSTERDAM MILLSTONE

Millstones from a 1640’s New Amsterdam tide mill received help from TIDE MILL INSTITUTE when a representative from the Groene Atlas Historical Society in Queens, NY asked us to submit a statement supporting their preservation in an effort to keep the stones from being installed in a rowdy traffic island.

FRESH-WATER MILLSTONES IN VIRGINIA & TENNESSEE

Because someone somewhere had seen TMI’s website, we received a query about a millstone in Tennessee; it was obviously not from a tide mill. We forwarded the query and its photo to the US millstone expert Ted Hazen and to David Frankel in the UK. They responded with a wealth of information about the stone’s provenance, material, etc., which was shared all around. Shortly thereafter we received a query and photo from someone in southeastern Virginia about a millstone in his great-grandfather’s property. Someone at an internet mill photo site was aware of TMI and recommended he contact us. Once again Ted and David came through with great information, and David obtained even more details from Jon Saxx in the UK who has authored a book about millstones and millstone patterns. These exchanges and sharing of information are just two examples of TIDE MILL INSTITUTE at work, and we will try to make the information we’ve gathered available on our website.

DEER ISLE MAINE SUPPORT

Related to these developments is discussion about a possible archaeological dig at an 1830’s tidal grist mill on Deer Isle, Maine, where the original tub wheel may still lie in situ in the mud. We studied this mill a few years ago and have been talking to the Deer Isle Stonington Historical Society about co-sponsoring a dig there. Apparently, few tide mills have been professionally “archaeologized” – a few on mainland Europe, and one each in England, Ireland and South America. Another one in Maine, whose principals have sought TMI’s assistance, will be worked on this summer and will announce their effort a later time.

PHOTO GALLERY

Millstones from a 1640’s Queen NY tide mill.

A round tub wheel stone from Tennessee.
We have the pleasure to announce that the touring exhibition “Tide Mills of Western Europe,” supported by the European Commission through its Culture 2000 Programme, is now visiting São Miguel (Azores – Portugal) until 31 May 2011.

The exhibition is still available for those institutions that might be interested between 6 June and 15 August 2011 or after 15 February 2012.

More information is available at the website www.moinhosdemare-europa.org.

This site is at your disposal to spread information about other activities related with tide mills.

Corroios Tide Mill.
Portugal
Bruceton Mills Buckwheat Pancakes
--Marjorie Lundegard

The best buy in the town of Bruceton are the buckwheat pancakes at the local restaurant. After enjoying a big stack of the pancakes one can enjoy exploring the historic town. The Bruceton Mill was located in this town on the Big Sandy River.

Samuel Morton, in 1791, built a gristmill of very primitive nature on this river. This mill was known as the Morton Mill, the Milford Mill, and in 1848 it was called the Bruceton Mill. This name was given by John Hoffman in honor of his stepfather, George Bruce. By 1830 the village contained a gristmill, a tannery, and several houses. The name Milford came about because there was a mill and a ford crossing the Big Sandy Creek.

In 1847 John Hoffman came to Milford and acquired the Morton property. He built a mill in 1847-48. The first gristmill burned and was followed by three others, each better than the prior one. The last gristmill burned in December 12, 1950.

The stone dam across the Big Sandy Creek was built by O. J. Steward in 1879.

In August of 1888 rains caused the Big Sandy River to rise. By evening there was five feet of water in the streets. The water covered the floor of the bridge with one foot of water. The bridge was never known to be covered with water before. In fact, the bridge was expected to be destroyed but somehow the bridge survived the big rain storm.

Today, all that remains of the mill is part of the mill foundation and the dam. The dam was a recreational area where skating was enjoyed in the winter months and fishing in the summer months. Today one can enjoy a pleasant picnic along the banks of the river and speculate about the activities that once occurred at this site.

...cont’d P.15
Since Bruceton is a bit far to drive for a buckwheat pancake breakfast we have included the recipe that is used by the restaurant in Bruceton. They very happily shared their recipe with us. So buy your self some buckwheat flour and enjoy a big stack of the cakes.

Raised Buckwheat Cakes
1 Cake Yeast
1 quart warm water
1 teaspoon salt

Dissolve the yeast in the water; add buckwheat flour to thicken to a stiff batter, let stand overnight in warm location. In the morning remove one cup of batter as a starter for the next time, mix one teaspoon sugar and one teaspoon of soda in a small amount of warm water and add to remaining batter. Thin batter with warm water to desired consistency. Bake on griddle and enjoy. Keep starter in a cool place until next time.
The southwest coast of Sicily was settled by the Phoenicians more than 2500 years ago. They came for many reasons including its advantageous position at a major crossroads in their vast trading network. However, there were two other key reasons; it was on the route of bluefin tuna which pass by on the way to their breeding grounds in the eastern Mediterranean and for sea salt, both of which they harvested extensively. The area continued to play this significant role for the Greeks, Carthaginians and Romans down to modern times, especially between the present towns of Marsala and Trapani. Salt was so valuable that portions of wages were paid in salt, hence “salary,” especially to “soldiers,” and Romans used it to flavor greens, “salads.” The first main road in Rome was the Via Salaria; the road to the port where salt was delivered.

The salt flats still function and Trapani salt is much sought after. The present day wind mills are mostly 3-400 years old and were built by the Spanish after a Turkish design (everybody ruled Sicily at some point). They are used to pump water into and out of the various evaporating pans and also to grind the resulting chunks of salt into granulated form, or at least pieces small enough for table salt grinders.

Like the Phoenicians, salt is still used to preserve tuna, and with its reduced numbers, grey mullet, but less often the fish which bring better prices fresh. A delicacy in the past and today, for which the salt is used, is the roe of the tuna and mullet, called bottarga. It’s sliced thinly and crumbled into pasta, or made into a paste and used in cooking if salted (called sharp) or spread on bread if unsalted (called mild).
Save the Date

Upcoming Chapter Meetings:

August 20, 2011: Colvin Run Mill and the Friends of Colvin Run Mill
10017 Colvin Run Road
Great Falls, Virginia 22066
The meeting will be held Saturday. Friday will be a tour to 4 to 6 area mills. Details and registration will be published in the chapter newsletter.

August 2012: Caroline County Historical Society (Tentative)

Articles, photographs, and upcoming events are due to Susan by August 22th for the next newsletter. Don’t forget photo credits/captions. Please use Word documents and jggs whenever possible as pdf’s are v. difficult to use. Also, please remember to let everyone know about Spring Flings, Craft Sales, Pancake Breakfasts and all the fun and fundraising activities out there, as well as all the news and events related to your mills or mills in your neighborhood. Email to: slangley06@comcast.net.

It’s Time to Renew!
SPOOM Mid-Atlantic Memberships run on the calendar year, so 2011 Membership Fees are now due. Use the renewal form sent to you via Email or snail mail or the membership form at the end of the newsletter to continue your membership. Individual memberships are $10 with current SPOOM membership or $15 without. Sustaining Membership is a new category for 2011. The $25 fee provides additional funds for the support of mill restoration efforts within the chapter. As always, each membership provides the quarterly newsletter, information on mills and seminars, tax deductible dues, and invitations to mill tours and semi-annual meetings. Please submit your payment promptly so you can continue to enjoy your membership benefits. Encourage like-minded friends to consider joining as well.
MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION FORM
Please enroll me as a member of the Mid-Atlantic Chapter of the Society for the Preservation Of Old Mills

Please Print
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Please indicate level of membership and mail this form with your check or money order to Membership Manager, 3311 Littlestown Pike, Westminster, MD 21158. Please make your checks out to Mid-Atlantic Chapter. The Mid-Atlantic Chapter is a member in good standing of the Society for the Preservation of Old Mills and serves, Maryland, Delaware, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and the District of Columbia.