

SPOOM

Mid-Atlantic Chapter

April 2012



Peirce Mill
Photo: Steve Spring

Mid-Atlantic SPOOM Chapter Semiannual Meeting

March 24, 2012

Summary of the Minutes

-- *Judy Grove*

Full Minutes are posted on the Chapter Website: www.spoommidatlantic.org

President Bob Lundegard opened the business meeting at 9:00 AM. He welcomed attendees, thanked Adam Sieminski, President, and members of the Friends of Peirce Mill for their hospitality, and expressed regrets on behalf of Harold Rapp, outgoing SPOOM president and Charles Yeske, host of the September 2012 SPOOM meeting in Bucks County PA.

Minutes of the August 2011 meeting at Colvin Run Mill VA were approved as distributed. The balance in the treasury is \$4,591.60. This amount reflects \$920 from 2012 memberships to date, including 30 individual (26 @ \$10 and 4 @ \$15), 9 sustaining memberships (\$25), and 6 organizational memberships (\$50), along with three additional donations totaling \$75. Nine memberships were paid using the online feature that was in place by early February. Intentional solicitation of additional organizational members will occur in the next few weeks.

SPOOM Mid-Atlantic Newsletter: Send articles to slangley06@comcast.net by the April 6 deadline for the next issue. Susan Langley, editor, welcomes long-term calendar items from participating mills. Pictures in jpeg format are preferred; include names of any individuals in the photos.

...cont'd P. 2

Mid-Atlantic SPOOM Meeting (cont'd)

Charles Yeske offered to print and mail hard copies at no charge to the chapter for those members who do not have computer access.

Mill Preservation Update: Ivan Lufriu (See P. 4, below)

Updates on the progress at Brightwell's Mill are posted on SPOOM Mid-Atlantic's Facebook Page.

2012 Mid-Atlantic Milling Day on June 9 and 10: Suggestions of activities, resources, and sample publicity materials for use by participating mills are posted on at www.spoommidatlantic.org. Additional suggestions or announcements of events may be sent to judygrove@verizon.net for posting.

Mid-Atlantic Chapter Report in *Old Mill News*: Vice President Robert McLaughlin sends a quarterly chapter report. Send information on events of general interest to him at Rlm101@verizon.net by the May 1 deadline. Pictures may be sent to Steve Spring at millfoto@aol.com.

Watershed Map Project: Bob Lundegard reported that hundreds of mills in the Potomac watershed and Fairfax County are entered into the mill database. Maps up to 44" x 30" are available for sale. View the online version at <http://107.22.218.139/nvccgis>. Friends of Colvin Run Mill currently retain oversight of the database, but plans are to move the program first to the SPOOM Mid-Atlantic website and eventually to the SPOOM website. York County PA is in the process of finalizing the agreement and paying funds to extend the program to York County mills in the Susquehanna watershed.

SPOOM-MA Web Page: Under the new server, membership management features and technical support and training have greatly improved. The photo gallery, sponsor page and online membership payment features are in use. Future plans include development of a page detailing mill preservation activities and the option to register and pay meeting fees online.

2013-14 Officer Nominations: Marlene Lufriu will chair a committee to provide a slate of officers to be presented at the August meeting.

Mid-Atlantic SPOOM Meeting (cont'd)

Upcoming Chapter Meetings:

August 17-18, 2012: Double Mills The meeting will be held in Mardela Springs (near Salisbury) MD. Pre-meeting picnic on Thursday evening and tour of local mills on Friday. Details and registration will be published in the chapter newsletter.

Potential Future Chapter Meeting Sites:

Caroline County Historical Society (Contact – Ivan Lufriu)

Lime Valley Mill MD (owner: Karen Peterson)

Walnut Valley Mill Lancaster PA (contacts: Dale and Allison Brian)

Kemps Mill Williamsport MD (owner: Richard Nye)

St Vincent Grist Mill Latrobe PA

Little Buffalo Grist Mill near Newport, Perry County PA

County Mills Lewisburg PA (contact: Tom Rich @Bucknell University)

Following the meeting, Steve Dryden, author of *Peirce Mill – 200 Years in the Nation's Capital* presented a talk on the Peirce family and their ties to the mill and Washington, DC. Anthony Linton, naturalist at Rock Creek Park, presented background on the old mills that once lined the banks of Rock Creek. A box lunch and tours of Peirce Mill and the Peirce Barn Visitors Center completed the day.



Recent Mill Preservation Efforts

– Ivan Lufriu

1.) Williston Mill near Denton, Maryland.

The lake that provides water to the mill has become contaminated with toxic blue-green algae. Chemical treatment will be costly; and there is no guarantee as to its efficacy. Draining the pond may be the only alternative.

2.) Lonaconing Silk Mill, Allegheny County, Maryland.

Considered the last intact silk mill in the U.S. that has never been modernized. Located in Lonaconing, MD, the mill lies within the National Lonaconing Historic district, and was nominated to the National Trust for Historic Preservation's list of America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places. Closed and virtually untouched for more than 50 years, the mill faces demolition due to lack of finances available to maintain the building. Owner Herb Crawford is desperately looking for assistance in the preservation of this historic building. Susan Langley, of the Maryland Historical Trust, reports that this facility has been a concern for many years, through several private owners. Due to private ownership, the facility is not eligible for most grants, loans, and assistance. Owners have never agreed to an easement because they felt this would reduce the value of the property. The best thing that could happen is for the site to be taken over by a non-profit or local/state agency so that it would qualify for grants and assistance.

3.) Brightwell's Mill, Madison Heights, Amherst County, VA.

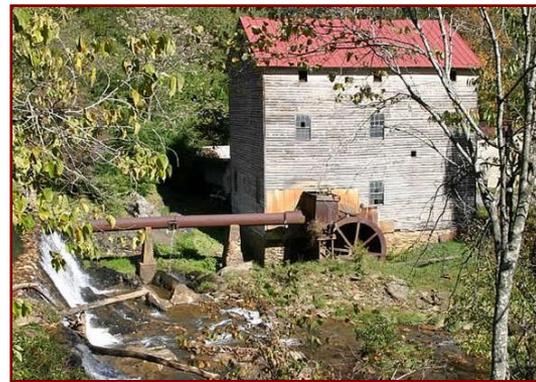
Family owned and operated since 1920. Looking for advice on preservation. Advice given: 1.) Investigate SPOOM grants. 2.) Consult with millwrights Derek Ogden or Ben Hassett, both living in Virginia. 3.) Enlist the assistance of local groups such as Historical Society, Chamber of Commerce, and local schools. 4.) Form a "Friends" group. Consider special events to bring attention to the mill. 5.) Get involved with SPOOM events through the national organization, or the Mid-Atlantic Chapter. 6.) Visit the websites. 7.) Find a building listed on the National Registry, and talk with knowledgeable people there. 8.) Find a competent contractor for any major work on the mill. 9.) Fully engage your relatives. 10.) Comply with local ordinances regarding water use, construction requirements, and fire safety. 11.) Make sure you have adequate liability coverage.

Recent Mill Preservation Efforts (cont'd)

4.) Custis Mill, Virginia. Have been put in contact with Ben Hassett.

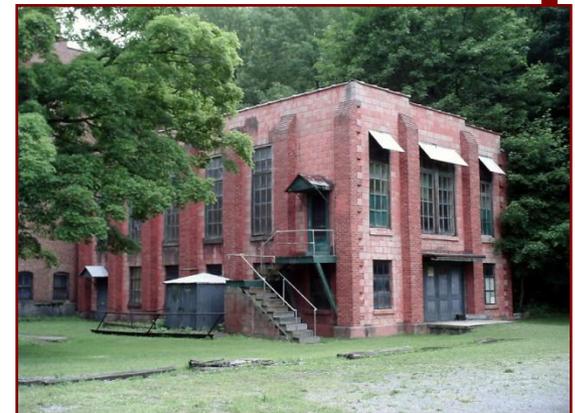
5.) Tate family mill, Greenville, Tenn. Asking in what ways SPOOM can assist in preservation. Advice similar to Brightwell's Mill. Also advised them to contact John Lovett, millwright who lives in Tenn.

6.) Roop's Mill, Westminster, MD A housing development is planned for the area surrounding Roops Mill. Having met all local requirements, the project will now require a review by the U.S. Army corps of Engineers and the Maryland Department of the Environment. The project is therefore subject to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, which requires federal agencies to take into consideration the effects of their undertakings on historic properties. The project is located within the Roop Rural Historic district, which has been determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places by the Maryland Historical Trust, and features a mill, dwellings, agricultural and industrial outbuildings, and a lime kiln. On behalf of the developer, known as RMV, R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc. were retained to seek comments from local organizations and adjacent property owners about ways the project can avoid, minimize, or mitigate adverse effects to the Roop Mill historic property. On behalf of SPOOM, I responded with my comments about the mill's historic value, and what the developer could do to minimize adverse effects to the historic buildings and site



Williston Mill
Photo: Lonaconing.allegheny.cc

▲ Brightwell's Mill
Photo: Mike MacCarter



▲ Lonaconing Silk Mill
Photo: Lonaconing.allegheny.cc

From the Desk of the President

-- Robert Lundegard

The March 24, 2012 Chapter meeting at Peirce Mill was well done and an enjoyable experience for all who were able to attend. There were excellent talks on the mills along the Rock Creek and on the history of the Peirce family. The tour of Peirce Mill gave a hands on experience even though the machinery was not operating. Mason Maddox, the visiting miller, was ill with the flu and could not attend to put the mill in operation. None the less, it was a fun day with good food and outstanding home baked cookies.

The Minutes of the meeting are posted on the Chapter web-site: www.spoommidatlantic.org. Highlights of the meeting were: Ivan Lufriu's report on SPOOM support and guidance to mill owners involved in restoring or preserving their mills, Judy Grove's report on the exciting and very useful growth in the capabilities of the web-site, and the appointment of Marlene Lufriu to chair and organize the Nominating Committee for the election of officers for the 2013-2014 term. The slate of nominees will appear in the next Newsletter and on the web-site.

I gave a report on the SPOOM Mid-Atlantic/Friends of Colvin Run Mill/NVCC Map Project. This was described in the last Newsletter and will be covered in an article in the next issue of *Old Mill News*. My report featured the York County PA arrangements with Northern Virginia Community College (NVCC) to insert the mill data from York County. Also, the coverage of the mapping system continues to expand. We hope other regions in the Mid-Atlantic region can find a way to participate.

The software for the on-line interactive mill mapping system is being developed by NVCC and will be demonstrated at the September 2012 SPOOM national meeting in Bucks County, PA. Ownership of the system is currently in the hands of the Friends of Colvin Run Mill. This is a starting point for ownership. Our plan is to install the interactive system on www.spoommidatlantic.org and make its maintenance available to all Organization members of the Chapter. This will be a test of the SPOOM system maintenance structure. Long term, we envision ownership and maintenance to pass to the SPOOM national organization.

We look forward to our next Chapter meeting in August at the Double Mills in MD.



Double Mills, Inc., will be hosting the August 17-18, 2012, meeting of SPOOM-MA!

--Stephanie Elliott

The Double Mills Grist Mill is located in Mardela Springs, Md., on the Barren Creek. The current structure dates from the 1870's with renovation, including an addition, completed in 1935. Our group has been working on its restoration since 2007, and we are currently in the second phase which will see the foundation and roof replaced. The mill building has been lifted off its foundation since August, 2008, while we have been raising necessary funds to have a new cement foundation poured, which includes the walls of the first level. The raceway, damaged in a 1979 storm, will be replaced in a future phase. We are glad to report that we are in the process of securing a date for the foundation work to begin, and plan to follow up with a new roof shortly thereafter. The mill has its original equipment and its turbine, which has been buried in mud for 32 years. It is thought all to be in restorable condition.



The 2-day event will be held August 17th and 18th. The event will kick off on Thursday evening, August 16th, with a pre-meeting “meet & greet” picnic dinner at the Adkins Historical Complex in Mardela Springs. Live music and a tour of the museum and historical buildings within the Complex are just some of the exciting things that will be offered that evening. Friday will be spent touring mills of the Eastern Shore, including Spocott Windmill, Wye Mill, Linchester Mill, Abbott’s Mill, and possibly Hearn & Rawlings Mill. Lunch will be picnic-style on the grounds of the Frank Langrall Roller Mills (Linchester), an area which played such an important role in the Underground Railroad. I can’t think of a better way to spend a summer afternoon than beneath the shade of the old BC&A Railroad Bridge on the very creek where Harriet Tubman smuggled fugitive slaves over 150 years ago!



Double Mills, Inc., will be hosting the August 17-18, 2012, meeting of SPOOM-MA! (cont'd)

Saturday morning we will have the SPOOM Mid-Atlantic business meeting, followed by a presentation on Milling. After lunch the group will tour the host mill – Double Mills Grist mill – and see what progress has been made toward its restoration. Attendees will then be treated to the Milling Exhibit at the Westside Historical Museum, and the Adkins Complex & Historical Museum will also be open for touring for all those who are unable to attend the Thursday evening Meet & Greet or were unable to see all the buildings at that time. Stay tuned to the SPOOM-MA website (<http://www.spoommidatlantic.org>) for more details as the time draws closer.



Abbott's Mill
Photo: Beverly Pfingsten



Spocott Windmill
Photo: F. Robby



Linchester Mill
Photo: camasek.com



Wye Grist Mill
Photo: Talbotcounty.blogspot.com

∞ Save the Date ∞
40 YEARS OF SPOOMING!
2012 ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND MILL TOUR
BUCKS COUNTY, PA
SEPTEMBER 27-30

--Charles Yeske

Greetings!

The Stover-Myers Mill and the Bucks County Department of Parks and Recreation invite all SPOOM'ers and other friends of milling to join in celebrating the Society for the Preservation of Old Mills 40th Anniversary by attending the 2012 SPOOM Annual Conference, based in Bucks County, PA.

The conference planners have arranged a full program to ensure a memorable experience. Pre-tour events, a two day mill tour, picnic, banquet, bookstore, vendors, photo contest and 40th anniversary activities will be provided as will be the opportunity to catch up and relax with old friends. For those who can come early, or leave later, Bucks County and its environs offer visitors an incredible number of historic sites, unique shopping venues, antiques and art, great restaurants, and miles and miles of serene country drives on country roads and along waterways.

*Eight exceptional mills will highlight the tour schedule.
All but Stover Mill will be in operation.*

- The Mill at Anselma, Chester Springs, PA - 1747
- Bowmansville Mill and Sawmill, Bowmansville, PA - 1850
- Evans-Mumbauer Mill, North Wales, PA - 1800
- Cooper Mill, Chester, NJ - 1826
- Ralston Cider Mill, Mendham, NJ - 1848
- Stover Mill, Erwinna, PA - 1832
- Stover-Myers Mill, Pipersville, PA – 1800

Stover-Myers Mill



...cont'd P. 10

40 YEARS OF SPOOMING! 2012 ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND MILL TOUR (cont'd)

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Early arrivals, Wednesday, September 26: Check-in, Conference & Hospitality Rooms Open

Thursday, September 27: Check-in, Conference Room Open, Pre-Tour Events

Friday, September 28: Check-in, Mill Tours, Picnic Supper

Saturday, September 29: Mill Tours, Banquet & Business Meeting

Sunday, September 30: Meet the Board

**So, save the date, then come on and help blow out the 40 candles on SPOOM's birthday cake that we'll have!
*Send in your registration soon, and circle the dates on your calendars.
Looking forward to seeing you all again!***

For more information contact Charles Yeske, Conference Coordinator, cjyeske@co.bucks.pa.us; 267-337-0955.

PRE-TOUR EVENTS – THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER, 27, 2012

A DAY AT PENNSBURY MANOR – William Penn's reconstructed 17th century home.

- Beer Brewing – a hands-on demonstration of how beer was made with locally grown grains in the late 17th century.**
- Open Hearth Baking – bake 17th century flat breads on an open hearth using flour products from your mills.**
- Oxen Plowing – watch Bill & Red, the oxen, plow a field and then help “broadcast” seed for a winter crop of grain.**
- 17th Century Mills & Milling – presented by Steven Gimber, Assistant Professor of History, West Chester University.**

****Tour of the Manor, lunch and transportation included. Limited to 30 participants.**

40 YEARS OF SPOOMING!

2012 ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND MILL TOUR (cont'd)

A DAY AT NEWLIN MILL – Archival Workshop & Tour

This workshop will teach you how to care for, organize and use your mill's (and your own!) collection of documents, photographs, books, journals, letters and other correspondence. It will help you in developing a collection policy, accessioning records, arranging and describing your collection, and getting the materials and supplies needed. A special treat offered will be the opportunity to familiarize yourself with the vast SPOOM collection of artifacts, publications, photographs and the like now housed at Newlin Mill as the official repository of SPOOM's archives. See what your fellow SPOOMERS have donated over the years, and take advantage of this chance to engage in some research for your immediate or future needs. Included in the day's activity is plenty of time to experience this operating 1700's mill and to explore the 500 acre park and historic grounds.

****Lunch and transportation included. Limited to 30 participants.**

COVERED BRIDGES (AND SOME MILLS) OF BUCKS COUNTY

Enjoy a leisurely day investigating most (and maybe all) of Bucks County's 12 historic covered bridges and viewing some nearby mills. Examples of early timber framing and truss engineering similar to that used in mill construction will be viewed inside, around and underneath these structures built between 1832 and 1882. Located in picturesque settings, some are adjacent to or near mills that you can photograph exteriorly and add to your personal mill lists.

****Lunch and transportation included. Limited to 30 participants.**

MUSEUMS OF DOYLESTOWN & CASTLE VALLEY MILL

•**MERCER MUSEUM** - 50,000 pre-industrial "tools that built the nation" collected by Henry Mercer are exhibited in his concrete multi-storied museum built in 1912-1916. A complete "Norse Mill" and many other mill-related items, including a sash ("up and down") sawmill, can be viewed. A National Historic Landmark.

•**FONTHILL CASTLE** - Mercer's 28-room home built of hand-mixed reinforced concrete in 1908-1910 contains tiles and other artifacts collected by him during his years as an archeologist. The interior architecture is as unique as the exterior. A National Historic Landmark.

...cont'd P. 12

40 YEARS OF SPOOMING!

2012 ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND MILL TOUR (cont'd)

•**MORAVIAN POTTERY & TILE WORKS** - Built by Mercer in 1911-1912 entirely of hand-mixed reinforced concrete, the site was his factory for producing Arts and Crafts Era handmade decorative tiles and mosaics. It is now a working history museum still producing his tile designs. A National Historic Landmark.

•**CASTLE VALLEY MILL** - This circa 1800 gristmill is commercially producing a variety of stone-ground products utilizing restored and adapted milling equipment, within Mark and Frances Fisher's goal to totally restore the mill once owned by Mark's grandfather. Lots of interesting equipment!

****Transportation included. Lunch on your own in Doylestown. Limited to 30 participants.**

HOTEL INFORMATION

Crowne Plaza, 4700 Street Road, Treose, PA 19053 Phone: 215-364-2000

The room rate is \$109.00 per night (plus taxes), with a limited block of rooms reserved at that discount for Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday night. Check-in time is 3 p.m. and check-out time is 12 p.m. For more hotel information, visit: crowneplaza.com and follow links to the Treose location. (Be forewarned - the hotel is a silver dollar's throw from PARX Casino!). If you have difficulties in making reservations, or need alternate lodging, please contact the Conference Coordinator.

HOSPITALITY ROOM

Back by popular demand will be a Hospitality Room—a place to hang out, relax, shoot the bull, renew acquaintances, and enjoy some light refreshments (please bring some to contribute!). In addition to scheduled times to be open, the room can be made available at other times on request.

CONFERENCE GENERAL ROOM

Whether checking-in for the conference, vending products or services, displaying information on your mill, viewing entries in the photo contest, or buying great publications at SPOOM's bookstore, this is the room to find. Vendors and exhibitors who wish to reserve table space, at \$35 per table, should contact the Conference Coordinator by August 15. Mill brochures can be set out at no cost. The room will be open, tentatively, from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Wednesday and from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Thursday.

40 YEARS OF SPOOMING!
2012 ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND MILL TOUR
(cont'd)

2012 Photo Contest

Photo contest rules are as follows:

- Open to SPOOM Members only.
- Amateur photographers only.
- Black & White and Color photos will be judged together.
- Photos must be matted – no glass or frames.
- Entries must be received prior to three weeks of the Conference.
- Limit two (2) entries per person.
- No member may win more than one prize.

Photographs: Must be a minimum of 8" by 10", may be black and white or color. Must indicate where it was taken on the label and must have been taken within the last two years. May not be re-entered from previous contest.

Matting: All photographs submitted for judging must be matted.

Entry forms: A label for each photograph submitted must be attached to the **BACK** of the photograph. The label should include: Photographer's Name, Title of Photography, Date and location taken. No identification should be placed on the front of the photo.

Liability: The utmost care will be taken of all work submitted. However, SPOOM and the conference host are not responsible for loss or damage and assume no liability for works not collected before the specified dates. All work is entered at the owner's risk. Entries will be returned following the competition only if accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Prizes for each category are:

1st - \$50

2nd - \$25

3rd - \$10

The conference host will select judges and winners will be announced at the banquet. The decision of the judge(s) is final.

Winning entries will become the property of SPOOM, which reserves the right to print photographs in the *Old Mill news*.

Send entries to:

SPOOM Photo Contest
c/o Steve Spring
120 Harvest Lane
Sterling, VA 20164

SPOOM 2012 CONFERENCE REGISTRATION (one form per person, please)

Name _____ Mill/Organization _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Cell Phone _____ Email _____

General Registration Fee

\$195 to Aug. 15, \$225 afterwards _____

- No refunds after Sept. 1
- 2 day mill tour/lunches
- Breakfasts, picnic supper, banquet dinner
- Conference & hospitality rooms

Banquet Only (Saturday evening) _____ \$50 _____

Total _____

Payment - can be combined for more than one registrant, but separate forms needed for each attendee.

By check made payable to: Bucks County Parks Department Check # _____

By credit: VISA, MC, American Express (circle one) _____

Card # _____ Exp. date _____ Security code _____
(You may call in your credit card security code, if desired.)

Pre-Tour Events (Thursday, September 27)

*Send no payment now – pay at check-in registration since your fee will be determined by the event assigned on date registration received.

Indicate your preferences, 1 thru 4. These are optional events.

Day at Pennsbury Manor - \$70 _____

Day at Newlin Mill - \$50 _____

Covered Bridges - \$60 _____

Museums/Castle Valley - \$55 _____

Mill Tour Bus Schedules

Friday, September 28 and Saturday, September 29: **WARNING!** Some buses depart early (7:30 a.m.), so if you are not an early riser, you had best get your reservation in pronto, since seating assignments will be made based on date registration received.

Liability Release

The undersigned hereby releases the County of Bucks, its Board of Commissioners, the Parks and Recreation Department and its employees, agents and volunteers from any and all liability of whatever nature and kind arising from participation in activities of this sponsored event – SPOOM 2012 Annual Meeting and Conference.

Signature _____ Date _____

Mail to: Charles Yeske, Conference Coordinator,
152 E. Swamp Road, Bucks County Parks Dept., Doylestown, PA 18901
215-348-6627(o), 267-337-0955 (c) cjyeske@co.bucks.pa.us

Kemp's Mill Restoration

-- Richard Nye

Kemps Mill is located about two miles from the intersection of I-81 and I-70, at 11244 Kemp's Mill Road, Williamsport, MD. 21795. The mill has about 12,500 square feet of space on three floors, and rests on 38-1/2 acres (35 of those acres are under water, by the way). The Conococheague flows south from Pennsylvania, and joins the Potomac at the Cushwa Basin of the C&O Canal three to four miles downstream (2 miles by road) of the mill.

Kemps Mill dam is the oldest in Washington County. The dam and mill were built c.1746 by a Joseph Wolganmut (many different spellings), who, I'm told, purchased the property from Johnathan Hager (Hagerstown's namesake) in 1737 while both were sailing from Europe. He supposedly purchased it from Johnathan Hager while on the boat over from Europe. The grist mill operated until 1937 when flooding damaged equipment on the second floor. It operated as a rock n roll beer joint and bar; then hard rock until mid 1980's when it went out of business. In 1972 (Hurricane Agnes) flooding caused the rear stone wall to collapse and all the band's instruments to become waterborne. The wall was replaced with reinforced concrete block, and thus the mill remained structurally sound. The turbine and most milling equipment is long gone, unfortunately, but some items remain like main metal shaft between first and third floors, large metal wheel on third floor, elevator belts, a single and double auger, etc.

I purchased the mill December 10, 1997, following flooding four feet high in the main floor of the bar and dance hall back in January, 1997; water and electricity were disconnected at that time. By April 1998, electric and water were restored and I've been rehabilitating the place ever since. It has been my home now for over 14 years, and I occasionally use it for friends, guests and family receptions, etc. Should members like to visit the mill, or if the chapter needs to meet in the area at some future date, I'd be glad to welcome you.dick nye, proprietor.



Milton's MILL

-- Marjorie Lundegard

When European arrived in Virginia, the Northern Neck was one of the first areas to be settled. The first settlers at Jamestown were aware of the great rivers entering the Chesapeake Bay from the Piedmont. The most northern river for a Virginian was the Potomac River, to the south were the Rappahannock River, the York River, and the James River. These four rivers were defined by three fingers, or necks, of land running from the west to the Chesapeake Bay. It was natural to name these necks of land as the Northern Neck, the Middle Neck and the Lower Neck. Tobacco was the principle cash crop. Since food was needed, European grains were grown and grist mills were needed.



Milton's Mill is located near the Richmond-Westmoreland County line. It is located on SR 619 near a remote village called Pignet. To get to the mill, from the town of Warsaw take highway 360 east to where it intersects SR 619. Turn left onto SR 619 and go about four miles to the mill which is located on the left hand side of the road.

This mill is also known as Purcell's Mill. Mr. Purcell was the last person to operate the mill. The mill ceased operating in the 1990's. The mill is a two storied frame structure with clap board siding. The mill has a tin gable roof that is in good condition. The mill had two runs of stones and was last powered by a turbine. The milling equipment is intact. All of the windows have been covered with boards. Since the mill is very much isolated, the boarded windows and doors help to prevent vandalism.

The mill building is in fair condition. Some trees have fallen onto the mill. The building needs some repairs. The turbine has been pulled and rests outside the mill. The original mill had an overshot water wheel. The dam appears to be intact. There is evidence of the millrace. The Hurst frame is in good condition. The mill is located on Marshy Swamp Creek.

One run of stones came from Europe and the second run of stones was purchased from the Stratford Mill. In

...cont'd P.17

Milton's MILL (cont'd)

fact, when the Stratford Mill was being restored, the Stratford Foundation tried to re-purchase the stones at Purcell's Mill. However, since the Purcell Mill was still using the stones, the Foundation was not able to retrieve them.

The original mill was built in the late 1700's by Robert E. Lee's grandfather. The mill was later rebuilt around 1784. In 1948 the mill was owned by a Mr. William E. Mc Kenny and a Mr. Charles Hogan. Later, in 1971, Mr. John Purcell operated the mill, producing cornmeal and wheat flour. This was a custom mill. After the mill ceased operating in the 1990's a Mrs. Millie Brooks bought the mill. She is the owner today.



A Word From Our Secretary

-- *Judy Grove*

Chapter Member Contact Information: For now, a few days prior to the event names of attendees will be sent by Email to those who pre-registered. Contact information for individual members may be requested from the secretary when needed. Information related to milling topics or events may be submitted to the secretary for distribution via Email alerts upon approval by the board.



Heishman's Mill, PA.
Photo: Pat Cook



COLVIN RUN COMMUNITY IN THE 1800'S

-- Marjorie Lundegard

Compiled from Colvin Run Mill Files

In the period 1742-1800 the Colvin Run Community was formless and nameless. During this period the black population increased faster than the white population. By 1806 it was very difficult for the free blacks to work in northern Virginia. The number of slaves and free blacks living in the area decreased in number by half. In the early 19th century community was a merchant mill. By 1870 the community was known as the Colvin Run community. At this time the community had churches and schools.



For over 100 years the mill was an important part of the community. The community was a center of information that dispensed both local and world news and also news about the economy. The farmers and tradesmen added to the mill's economy. The mill provided jobs for assistants, coopers, carpenters, bricklayers, and blacksmiths. As wheat became the major crop, replacing tobacco, the number of custom and merchant mills increased. The mills played a centralizing and economic roll in the community.

Many people living in this area were farmers. A typical farmer would plant Indian corn, wheat, oats, some rye and a few bushels of Irish potatoes. Usually horses, or oxen, were used to plow and harrow the fields. Every farmer had two to three cows.

Except for the wheat and corn, the farmer consumed all of the produce grown. The farmers exchanged small quantities of butter, honey, wool, and animal hides for services of the craftsmen.

In 1850 the only tradesmen living near the mill were two blacksmiths—Samuel Scott and Julius Wright. In 1870 Thomas Williams, age 56, was the only blacksmith living near the mill and the only cooper was William Allison. There were several tradesmen, two carpenters, two apprentice carpenters, and two wagon makers who lived nearby. The carpenters were in demand for the rebuilding of barns and houses that were destroyed by the war. The census of 1860 indicated that there were 18 farmers, 1 wheelwright, 1 carpenter, 1 doctor, 1 bricklayer, 1 miller, 1 seamstress and 1 mechanic living nearby.

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COLVIN RUN COMMUNITY IN THE 1800'S (cont'd)

By 1870 Colvin Run Mill only operated three months out of the year. Only corn was grown at the mill. The economy of the community was slow to recover from the war. By 1883 the mill was open for business and the economy of the community was thriving. By 1887 the village population had grown to 200. The village had a post office and John Henry Johnson, a prosperous local farmer, was the first postmaster. The village had three blacksmiths, a wheelwright, and several carpenters. Since there was a shortage of specialized workers, local farmers would work during their off-season work schedule. A common job for many farmers was shoe making. A country store was constructed near the mill. This store later burned but was rebuilt.

In the 1889's William Moxley and James I. Mateer had established a general store in the community. A butcher shop was located near the mill. The community now had a physician, a magistrate and a constable. Sigel Brown and Philip Wheeler operated a small mill on Difficult Run near Hunters Mill Road.

Farmers in this area flourished except for the 1890's. However, as the farmers grew more prosperous their houses became larger and included more detail. A few stone and brick houses appeared in the early 1800's. The miller's house was probably the fanciest house in the area. However, the Civil War set housing back years. There were six skirmishes around Dranesville.

During the late 19th century Colvin Run Mill was modified and modernized. The grinding process used a new machine called a "roller mill" that was more efficient than the revolving stone. The mill at this time supplied flour to stores in Washington D C. and Richmond, Ohio, New York and Kentucky.

As transportation systems improved, the rural isolation of Colvin Run was gradually broken down. Family farms were being replaced by large commercial farms.

There were fewer jobs for blacksmiths and wheelwrights due to progress in the mechanization of these crafts. In 1908 the post office was closed due to a decreased population in the community. The mill closed in 1938 and was dormant until the County acquired the mill property in 1965.



Check out mill preservation activities in the Mid-Atlantic area by going to: www.spoommidatlantic.org and clicking on "More Information/Newsletters."



Newsletter

Articles, photographs, and upcoming events are due to Susan by July 6th, 2012 for the next newsletter. Don't forget photo credits/captions. Please use Word documents and jpgs 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: slangle06@comcast.net.



\$\$ MEMBERSHIP DUES \$\$

SPOOM Mid-Atlantic Memberships run on the calendar year. If you have not already paid your dues for the current year, please use the attached form to do so. Additional forms may be downloaded from our website. (Coming soon: Use a credit card to renew through our www.spoommidatlantic.org website.) Payments for each year may be sent beginning January 1. Individual memberships are \$10 with current SPOOM membership or \$15 without. Sustaining Memberships of \$25 provide additional funds for the support of mill restoration efforts within the chapter.

Organizational memberships are available for \$50 and provide sponsor listing on our website. Each membership provides the quarterly newsletter, information on mills and seminars, tax deductible dues, and invitation 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. Also check out our website for more pictures and information.

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

Name: _____ Milling Connection: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

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Telephone Number _____

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(newsletters are emailed or posted in web site when possible to save postage)

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Please Check One:

Individual, Member of SPOOM - \$10.00

Individual, Not Member of SPOOM - \$15.00

Sustaining Membership - \$25.00

Please indicate level of membership and mail this form with your check or money order to **Membership Manager, 613 Green Valley Road, York PA 17403. Please make your checks out to Mid-Atlantic Chapter.** Online membership payment is available through the membership page of our website www.spoommidatlantic.org as well. The Mid-Atlantic Chapter is a member in good standing of the Society for the Preservation of Old Mills and serves MD, DE, PA, VA, and DC.