

Bucks County-Stover-Myers Mill

SPOOM

Mid-Atlantic Chapter

SUMMER NEWSLETTER



Next Meeting : August 15 Bucks County-Stover-Myers Mill, New Britain, PA -- Charles Yeske

Please join us for our next Chapter meeting in beautiful Pennsylvania. Enjoy a visit to one of the most unusual museums in America, as well as time to explore the host mill sit. I am already looking forward to sharing time and history with my fellow members.

The mill was built in 1800, with modifications in 1834 and again circa 1880. Still containing 3 pair of stones and much original milling machinery and equipment, it has been undergoing an endless restoration process. The most notable site feature is the "up and down" sawmill, also fairly intact. If the schedule for this year's work can be met, the hurst frame should be in the midst of being dismantled.

The tentative schedule is to meet for morning refreshments beginning at 8:30 and then to launch into the business meeting from 9-10, followed by a site history talk, a presentation by Earl Brown about The Worldwide Global Flour Trade, a roundtable discussion led by Judy Grove, box lunch and site exploration, and ending at the Mercer Museum in Doylestown (1/2 hour drive) in the afternoon. As some may know, the Mercer holds America's best collection of pre-industrial tools and artifacts, including many mill related.

The fee will \$15. No advanced payment is necessary. However, notification that you will be attending is required in order to plan for lunch and morning refreshments. The fee will cover lunch and admission to the Mercer Museum. Simply call me at 215-489-5133 or email me at cjyeske@co.bucks.pa.us to register your intent to attend or for other information you may need.

Use internet sites to find the site: 400 Dark Hollow Road, Pipersville, PA 18947 – or give me a call or email.

Accommodation (No frills):

- Courthouse Inn – 625 N. Main Street, Doylestown – 1-888-673-8683 (\$90for 2 beds, \$80 king)
- Colonial Village Motel – 1000 North Easton Road (Rte. 611), Doylestown -- 215-348-2645, \$50 2 beds

OLD MILL RUINS IN GREAT FALLS, Virginia

--Marjorie Lundegard

How many mills are named "Old Mills"? The name could be used in the description of all of the mills in Fairfax County. To learn the history of this "Old Mill" is very difficult. This mill ruin is located in a very hilly wooded area, near the Potomac River. In an 1836 report that was made by Haywood Cleveland McMullan a mill was reported to have been located at the intersection of the Jefferson Branch and Nichols Run. These two streams empty into the Potomac River, above the falls in the river.

Today, all that remains of this mill are some partial walls and foundation. The mill is located on private property at the intersection of the two streams. The property is currently owned by the Calvary Baptist Church that is located near the end of Springvale Road in Fairfax County, Virginia. Visitors are discouraged from visiting the site because pieces of the ruins are disappearing. Someone tried to haul away the grinding stone but in the process the stone broke into pieces, leaving only one large piece intact. How many other pieces of the mill have disappeared is anyone's guess.



One corner of the stone mill is still standing. There is evidence to locate the first floor level. The mill was probably about 20 feet by 26 feet in size. The height of the room was about 10 feet. The stone walls were two feet wide. There is no evidence of mortar being used between the stones. Due to the size of the mill and also the location of the mill, this was probably a custom mill. The stone mill had two millraces, one from each stream. Part of the dam is still intact. The lower level of the ruin has a small arch where the axle of the water wheel entered the mill.

J. M. Trammel received a land grant in this area in 1748. A map of 1827 labels the mill as "Still House Branch" which supports the rumor that this mill was once used as a distillery. Civil War maps of the area indicate a mill was at this location and was called "Old Mill". The Virginia Northern Neck Mill grant of June 17, 1748 was for 513 acres of land. In the boundary description there is a reference to a "mill run" and a "north fork of a mill run" which appears to refer to the two streams that fed the mill.

Further research is required to learn more about the mill ruins-- Who were the owners? What grains did the mill grind? When was the mill built and when did it cease operations? As you can see, there are many questions that remain to be answered.



THE TIDE MILL AT POPLAR GROVE REVISITED

Poplar Grove, Mathews County, Virginia

--Robert Lundegard

In February of 2009, Ivan Lufriu and I became aware of the Tide Mill at Poplar Grove through E-mails from Jon Sass and Peter Preston. Jon is the author of the January 1982 article in the *Old Mill News* that describes the history and the configuration of the Poplar Grove Mill. This article brought this historic mill, for the first time, to the attention of SPOOM members. Peter Preston is a long term neighbor of the Polar Grove plantation and manor house. Peter has taken a great interest in the mill and is an informal caretaker for the owner, Bernadine Teague, of Newport News, Virginia.

In support of Ivan's outreach program to Mid-Atlantic mill owners, who are seeking guidance for their preservation efforts, Marge Lundegard and I visited the Polar Grove Mill on July 16, 2009. Our visit was arranged by the owner and guided by Peter Preston. This visit was in coordination with Ivan and was to begin a process of providing Chapter support to the owner who is interested in preserving the mill and making the many needed repairs. Since the 1982 article by Jon Sass, the mill has suffered from the elements and more than one hurricane. The water wheel, shown clearly in the photo below from Jon Sass, has been destroyed and the interior machinery is a shambles. The building, after over 200 years, sits up straight, has a secure roof, and is nearly weather-tight. The interior is cluttered with materials in disarray and temporary storage. Work needs to be done.

Peter Preston and Bernadine Teague welcome SPOOM-MA help. An approach was discussed that would involve discussions by the SPOOM-MA Chapter Board followed by a letter to the owner providing an assessment of needs and recommendations for a program of repair and restoration.

In closing it was of interest to me, and may be to our readers, that a previous owner of Poplar Grove was John Lennon. After his tragic death, the property was gifted to a children's charity. Bernadine Teague acquired the property from this charity. The owner has applied for a Conservation Easement from the Virginia Department of Historic Resources. The Easement will protect the historic nature of the property over future years. The property is listed on both the National and Virginia Registers of historic properties.

The Conservation Easement will require that the mill and property be opened to the public for one day each year. Mr. Preston encouraged our Chapter to hold a Chapter meeting at Poplar Grove as a part of this one day opening to the public. Such a joint event could generate substantial favorable publicity for historic preservation.



Mid-Atlantic Chapter Report

-- Robert McLaughlin, Vice President

The spring meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Chapter of SPOOM was held at Union Mills, MD on March 27 and 28, 2009. Friday March 27 was an all day seminar on working with mill stones led by Ivan Lufriu of Union Mills assisted by Mason Maddox of Colvin Run Mill. Pastries and coffee were available from 8 to 9 and a wonderful lunch of soup and sandwiches was included. Topics from lifting the stones, to setting them to begin grinding were covered. Others carpooled to several local historical sites including several mills. That evening some of the group gathered at a local restaurant for dinner and conversation.

Saturday registration began at 8 am with pastries, fruit and beverages. The business meeting began at 9 am. The new and returning Chapter officers and Board members were introduced.

We continued the discussion of our "One for One" Membership Drive, Chapter help to mill owners, and our plans for the August 2009 Chapter meeting in Bucks County, PA. The business meeting closed at 10:30 am and was followed by a roundtable discussion led by Judy Grove on the proposed approach to developing the 2011 bi-centennial celebration of Mid-Atlantic milling. After lunch of Brunswick stew and other delicacies, Chris Gillis gave a talk on wind power. Chris's book *Windpower* was reviewed in the Fall 2008 issue of *Old Mill News*.



Ivan Lufriu leads the pre-meeting seminar on preparing the mill for the first grind



Other news from the Mid Atlantic Region.

The Peirce Mill, Washington, DC (MD-999-001) continues with restoration of the wooden milling machinery. Fund raising continues for the water pumping system required to run the mill. The design is complete and the installation is ready to proceed as soon as funding is in place. They hope to be fully operational in 2011. Get the latest news at their website: <http://www.peircemill-friends.org/>.

Get further chapter information and the latest news on the Mid-Atlantic Chapter webpage at: <http://www.unionmills.org/spoommidatlantic/index.html>.

Save the Dates!!
Early American Industries Association Regional Meeting
Saturday, August 22

On 22 August, the Early American Industries Association (EAIA) will hold a regional meeting at the Frontier Culture Museum in Staunton, VA. The Museum is an outdoor, living history museum in Virginia's beautiful Shenandoah Valley. It incorporates farm building from Northern Ireland, England, Germany, and Virginia and is designed to increase public knowledge of the origin and culture of the early immigrants who settled in the Valley.

The meeting is OPEN TO ALL and one does not have to be an EAIA member to attend. It will begin at 7:30AM with tailgate tool sales, coffee and donuts. There will then be presentations or demonstrations on Historic Masonry by John Friedrichs, early iron industry in Virginia and the Shenandoah Valley by Chris Furr, hand woodworking and treadle lathes by George Lott, and Valley food and food ways by Karen Becker. Box lunches from Rowe's Family Restaurant is included in the registration.

In the afternoon one may visit the rest of the museum and museum staff will be available for special tours. In addition, Bob and Beck Roger, Staunton residents and EAIA members, invite you to tour their Tool and Teapot Musuem at their home. Details will be available at the meeting or contact the Roger's at toolman@edoppler.com
<<http://webmailb.netzero.net/webmail/new/8?folder=Inbox&msgNum=00002Hk0:001AA^00000031HM&block=1&msgNature=all&msgStatus=all&count=1244526930&content=central>> or (540)-885-0513.

Meeting details and registration (pre registration is requested):

<http://www.eaiainfo.org/Frontier%20Culture%20Museum%20Rgional%20Meeting.pdf>

The Early American Industries Association: www.eaiainfo.org <<file://www.eaiainfo.org>>

The Frontier Culture Museum: www.frontiermuseum.org <<file://www.frontiermuseum.org>>

Or contact me for further information. See you there!

Tom Graham

27 Main St.

PO Box 211

Round Hill, VA 20142 (540) 338-7738

tmajgraham@erols.com

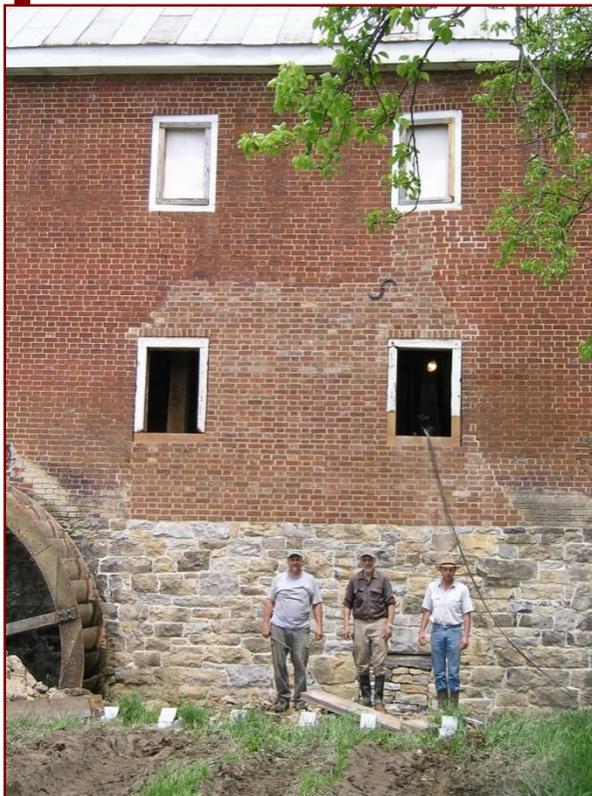
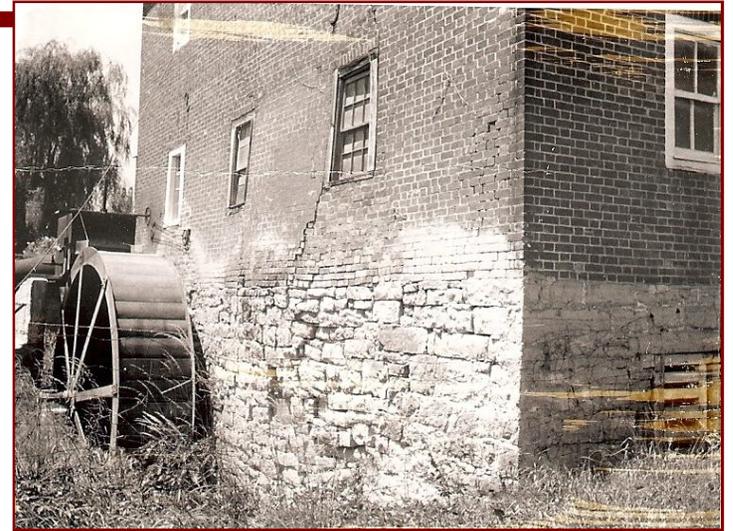
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UPDATE: Crumbling Wall Rebuilt

--Ken Weaver

The three story stone and brick wall of the Breneman-Turner Mill has been deteriorating for several decades. It appears that water splashing from the wheel had eroded the mortar over the mill's 200 years existence. The picture to the right was taken in 1965.

This Mill, with 3 sets of French Burr Stones, had been in operation until 1988. J Howard Turner operated it from 1933 until 1988, the year of his death. In the latter years he did custom grinding for neighbors and demonstrations for school groups.



In 2003, his children who inherited the Mill, gave it to the Valley Brethern-Mennonite Heritage Center (VBMHC) to preserve it for historic and educational purposes as their father desired.

The VBMHC had the wall braced since it was ready to fall. At that point, the wall had bulged out 17 inches from plumb. See picture of the braced wall.

After 4 years of fund raising the wall was rebuilt. The stone section is 30" thick. The first floor wall is 5 bricks thick and the second floor 3 bricks thick.

This Mill is listed on the Virginia and National Historic Landmark registries. It is the only fully equipped mill remaining in Rockingham County which survived the Civil War burning of the Valley by the northern army.

Our goal is to have the Mill operational for tourists during the major Virginia Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War 2011-15

☮ Reminders ☮

Offer Tours??

Interested in having your mill placed on the 'Mills open to public' list? Send a short description of your mill and directions to it, to: Steve Spring, 120 Harvest Lane, Sterling, VA 20164. Millfoto@aol.com.

Upcoming Events??

Please let me know if there are events planned at your mill; craft sales, pancake breakfasts, milling demonstrations/flour sales etc. Please provide all the usual information about dates, place, time and costs, but also contact information, webs sites, whether you offer products for sale online etc.. Photos welcome.

Please send this information to Susan Langley at slangley@mdp.state.md.us, by September 21, 2009.

History Link:

For more information about Fairfax County History Programs check out:
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/staycation/realhistory.htm



\$\$ DUES \$\$

Dues are now due on a calendar year basis.
Renew or join at any meeting or by using the form on the next page.

Veirs Mill,
Montgomery Co., MD



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: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State/Zip Code _____

Telephone Number _____

E-mail Address _____

(newsletters are emailed or posted on the web site ,when possible ,to save postage)

New Subscription Renewal

Please Check One:

Individual, Member of SPOOM - \$10.00

Individual, Not Member of SPOOM - \$15.00

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

The International Molinological Society America

1555 Locke's Mill Road, Berryville, Virginia 22611

June 19, 2009

Dear Mill Owner/Operator:

As you may already know, over the past few years, TIMS America (The International Molinological Society America) has been conducting mill-related workshops at a number of mills in the mid-Atlantic area of the U.S. These workshops, which have been attended by people associated with a variety of mills from all parts of the country, have covered a broad range of subjects from millstone dressing to gear-cog fabrication. Many of them have been conducted jointly with The Society for the Preservation of Old Mills (SPOOM) as part of their Miller Training Program.

We would now like to expand the scope of these workshops both technically and geographically. It has been the experience of the attendees at our previous workshops that the collective exploration of solutions to commonly experienced mill problems are best resolved in workshops of this type, guided by recognized experts. If you have been, or are currently concerned with some aspect of mill maintenance or operation, and would like to pursue solutions to some of the problems you are experiencing, we would like to hear from you.

TIMS America, with your cooperation, is prepared to organize and conduct a workshop on a mutually agreed to subject and time at your mill. The cost of organizing and conducting these workshops is generally covered by fees paid by the attendees, so you would not incur unreasonable expenses beyond those you normally have in the day-to-day operation of your mill.

I'm available at your convenience to discuss all aspects of this proposal. Call me at 540-955-4489, or e-mail me at jonpjoyce@msn.com, and I'll answer any questions you might have.

Sincerely yours,

Jon Joyce

Jon Joyce
President
TIMS America

**TIMS America
Summer Workshop
& Mill Tour**

August 14 & 15, 2009
Lanterman's Mill
Canfield Road Youngstown,
Ohio 44502
Phone 330-740-7115

Taught by Master Miller Ivins Smith, of Cooper Gristmill. Ivins has been operating and studying gristmills for over 35 years. Learn 19th century Power transmission by flat belt, gear and rope pulley power systems. Lecture and hands on workshop on gear and bearing repair, lubrication and schedule maintenance. Students will dress, sharpen, and hang Lanterman's Mill millstones. These workshops will benefit millers, mill owners, operators or stewards and is limited to 30 participants

Friday:

09:00 - registration.
10:00 - 19th century Power transmission –
11:30 - Lunch
12:30 - hands on workshop replacing Lanterman's
Mill gear teeth
6:00 - Buffet dinner

Saturday:

10:00 - Millstone dressing
11:30 - Lunch
12:30 - Mill tours

The registration fee is:

Friday \$25 per person
Saturday \$30 per person
Both Days \$50 per person

**Fees include all meals, mill tour transportation, and entrance.
TIMS America is a 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Organization.
Donations are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law.**

TIMS America Summer Workshop & Mill Tour 2009
Friday & Saturday, August 14 and 15, 2009
Lanterman's Mill, Youngstown, Ohio

Registration Form

(Please copy it for other registrants)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone #: _____ Email Address: _____

Mill Affiliation: _____

Please indicate below which day or days you'd like to attend.

_____ \$25.00 Friday, Power Transmission and gear teeth replacement.

_____ \$30.00 Saturday, Millstone dressing and mill tour

_____ \$50.00 Both Days

_____ \$ 7.50 First time TIMS America membership dues (2009)

_____ Total Amount enclosed.

Mail this registration form and a check payable to TIMS America to:

Elizabeth Harp, TIMS America Treasurer, 889 Ebenezer Rd., Bluemont, VA 20135.

All Proceeds benefit TIMS America, a non-profit organization, supporting historical milling technology.
See the Mill Monitor, Fall 2008, for our organization's cancellation policy.

Release of Liability: I hereby release TIMS America and its Board of Directors, and the owners, agents, employees and volunteers of the mill sites to be visited from any and all liability of whatever nature arising from my participation in this event.

Signed _____ Date _____

TIMS America Summer Workshops and Mill Tours 2009

Friday & Saturday, August 14th and 15th Lanternman's Mill, Youngstown, Ohio

Additional Information

Hotels:

Country Inns & Suites, Youngstown, Ohio (330) 544-0300.
Rooms are \$109.00 discounted to \$79.00 plus tax. Breakfast,
20 rooms have been reserved under TIMS America.

Hampton Inn Suites, Canfield, Ohio (330) 702-1900
Single is \$115 plus tax or double \$125 plus tax.
Full Breakfast is included.

Restaurant:

Friday Buffet Dinner Quaker Steak and Lube, 5800 Interstate Blvd.
Youngstown, Ohio 44514
-Roasted Chicken - 3 kinds of wings - Fresh Veg. - Salad
- Cash Bar -

Information

Ted Lyda, 330-540-2831-cell. The Mill Managers will have all
information and happy to field phone calls.
Lanternman's Mill-----330-740-7115

