



Union Mills

# SPOOM

## Mid-Atlantic Chapter

### Notes & News



#### Union Mills Spring Meeting Highlights Carroll County, MD. --Judy Grove

The meeting was held at Union Mills in Westminster MD on Saturday, March 28, 2009. Chuck Ives, Ivan Lufriu, Marlene Lufriu, Nick Yannarell, and Charles Yeske were elected as board members. The treasurer, Jane Sewell, reported a balance of \$2,339.

Ivan Lufriu reported on the SPOOM Board Meeting held via teleconference on February 8, 2009. The 2009 conference will be held in Albany OR September 23-27 and hosted by Oregon Parks. Upcoming meeting sites are Yates Mill in Raleigh, NC (2010), Colvin Run Mill VA in 2011, and Bales Mill in Napa Valley CA in 2012. *Old Mill News* is looking for more technical articles to supplement historical features. Newlin Mills in eastern PA is being considered for housing the SPOOM archives. All members are encouraged to use OMN issues and membership forms to support the SPOOM *Every Member Gets a Member* membership growth initiative. Chapter mills are encouraged to publicize events on the SPOOM MA website and newsletter. Mason Maddox [mason.maddox@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:mason.maddox@fairfaxcounty.gov) will also circulate news to SPOOM and TIMS-A via E-mail.

Ivan Lufriu reported progress on ongoing mill preservation activities at Sickman's Mill in Conestoga, Pa; Tide Mill at Poplar Grove in Matthews County VA, and Thomas Family Mill in Charlottesville VA. He received a recent request from Folcks Mill, a 19th century grist mill that was damaged in a civil war battle. The mill is located just east of Cumberland MD.

(cont'd...)

## **Union Mills Spring Meeting Highlights Carroll County, MD. (cont'd...)**

**Charles Yeske will host the August 15 Chapter Meeting at Stover-Myers Mill in Pipersville of Bucks County PA. The one-day meeting will include a business meeting, a talk by Earl Brown on the Worldwide Flour Trade, box lunch, site exploration and the Mercer Museum in Doylestown. The Mercer holds American's best collection of pre-industrial tools and artifacts, including many mill-related items.**

**Following the business meeting a Roundtable Discussion on the upcoming 2011 Flour Milling project was held. The goal of this project is to assemble and distribute educational materials on the origin and expansion of flour milling in the Mid-Atlantic region from 1760 to 1860, the time frame within which most regional grist mills were built.**



**Activities will culminate with the national SPOOM conference to be held at Colvin Run VA in September of 2011, corresponding with the bicentennial of their mill. Bob Lundegard will coordinate the compilation of research, contacting Earl Brown (Susquehanna Valley), Brooke Hunter (Baltimore), John McGrain (Philadelphia), and others for case studies in their areas of expertise. This information will form the basis for the educational materials (a DVD and display) and workshops that will be prepared for 2011. Discussion on funding, publicity, and task assignments will continue at the next chapter meeting.**

## A Message from the President

-- Robert Lundegard

I look forward to serving as the Chapter President for the next two years. I value your encouragement and willingness to contribute to achieving the Chapter goals. Your dedication, capabilities, and spirit of cooperation are essential and I thank you for your support.

Our chosen goals are few and simple: 1. to increase SPOOM membership, 2. to provide guidance on mill preservation to mill owners in need, 3. to assemble a base of information on the mills and the history of milling in the Mid-Atlantic region, and to disseminate this information to the public. Pursuing these goals is complex, can take many paths, and will be seen in different ways by our many members.

Ivan Lufriu is the Board member who responds to requests from mill owners in need of help. Currently he is in contact with the friends and owners of a unique historic tide mill in Virginia and a stone mill ruins at a Civil War battlefield in western Maryland. Recently he visited and provided guidance to the new owner of a 20<sup>th</sup> century water powered electrical generating mill near Charlottesville, Virginia.

We continue to support the SPOOM "Every Member Recruits a Member" program. Notices of this program are placed in *Old Mill News*. Chapter members are encouraged to keep this goal in mind as they talk to friends and neighbors; back issues of *Old Mill News* are provided to introduce an outsider to SPOOM. Attracting new members is critically tied to the breadth of public visibility and appreciation of the history of mills and milling in early America.

To help advance the public's appreciation of this history in the Mid-Atlantic region our Chapter, under Judy Grove's leadership has initiated a program oriented to supporting the program for the 2011 SPOOM national meeting at Colvin Run Mill. In 2011, Colvin Run Mill will celebrate its bi-centennial. Using this meeting as a target, Judy has laid out an exciting program of assembling and disseminating historical information on milling in the Mid-Atlantic region during the period 1760-1860. The region during this period was America's leading manufacture and exporter of flour. This industrial achievement was based on the ideas of Oliver Evans, abundant waterpower, innovations in shipping and quality control, and the machinery technologies of the day. The export of flour was the leading trade product in the region during this period. This is a fascinating story that needs to be told to every generation of Americans.

Again, I look forward to serving our Chapter during the next two years and seeing you all in Bucks County in August.

**Save the Dates!!**  
**Tour Windmills and Windmill-powered Grain Mill at Woolen Mill**  
**Saturday, May 23 with the Friends of Wallace Cross Mill.**

Option 1: Meet at Cross Roads UMC 68819 Church Rd, Cross Roads at 8:30 am to tour local mills and mill sites in the Muddy Creek Forks area, led by Todd Eyster. Bring a bag lunch to eat enroute. The final stop will be the operating windmills, windmill-powered grain mill and other related machinery on the Jay McGinnis farm.

Option 2: To tour Woolen Mill only, meet at the Jay McGinnis farm, 290 Woolen Mill Road, New Park, PA 17352 at 11:30. The tour will conclude about 3:00.

\*\*Contact [JudyGrove@Verizon.net](mailto:JudyGrove@Verizon.net) or 717-741-4366 by Sunday, May 17 to reserve van transportation for option 1 and a spot on the tour for either option 1 or 2.



**Art at the Mill Event -- Wallace Cross Mill**

Wallace Cross Mill is a restored, water-powered custom grist mill located at 15759 Cross Mill Rd, Felton, PA 17322 in southern York County. The mill, which is part of York County Parks, is open Sundays from June through August for guided tours. This year, the first Open House from 1:30 to 4:30 on Sunday, June 7 will feature Art at the Mill. The picturesque, streamside setting and intriguing architecture and machinery both inside and outside the mill offer many suitable subjects to capture the eye and heart of an artist. Visitors will have the opportunity to observe artists in action and to ask questions as they tour the mill and its equipment. At this point, ten local artists working in water color, acrylics and oils have committed to participating in the inaugural event. These include Justine Landis, Ellen Ehlenbeck, Sara Tateosian, Becky Manifold and Frank Shaffer. Many of them will have samples of their work available for display and sale. A follow-up art exhibit is planned at a location to be announced as soon as that information is available.



## Save the Date!!

### Miller Training at Bollinger Mill in Missouri.

This is a two day training class at Bollinger Mills, Burfordville Missouri, May 15th and 16th. This will be in lieu of the regularly scheduled session held in conjunction with the 2009 SPOOM conference.

#### Topics

Roller Mills  
Products, Fed standards  
Sanitation

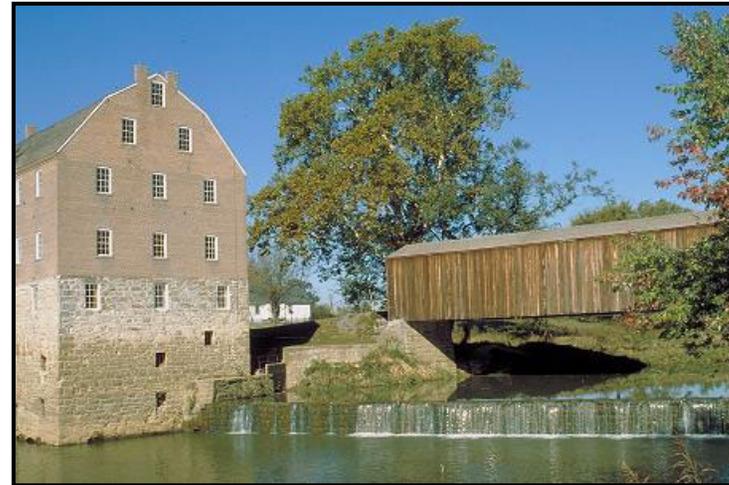
#### Instructor

Phil Robertson  
John Lovett  
Mason Maddox

#### Tentative Schedule

Friday, 10:00	Roller Mills
Saturday 9:00 to 10:30	Products
Saturday 10:30 to 12:00	Sanitation

Conclusion noon on Saturday.



#### Transportation

For people flying in, Saint Louis is the best destination. Cars can be rented at the airport with a two hour drive to Cape Girardeau.

There are flights from St. Louis to Cape Girardeau. Great Lakes Airline 800-554-5111 , Cost \$140 round trip. 30 day advance purchase

#### Hotel

A group of 15 rooms have been reserved at the Drury Lodge in Cape Girardeau, MO for the nights of May 14th and the 15th. Double room rate \$74 plus tax. This is a group rate. Attendees must make their own reservations Phone 1-800-325-0720 specify Drury Lodge, Cape Girardeau and reference SPOOM or reserve online at [www.druryhotels.com](http://www.druryhotels.com) and click" Book It Fast" and use the group number 2062065.

Cutoff date for registration is April 22, 2009. Rooms will be released after that date. (Sorry, we're past this. SL)

## **Miller Training at Bollinger Mill in Missouri (cont'd...)**

Lunch will be provided by SPOOM on Friday, all other meals are the responsibility of the attendees. The Drury Lodge may provides a breakfast with the room.

Course fee \$ 60 Make checks out to SPOOM.

Registration and checks can be mailed to:

Spoom-Miller's Training  
C/o Bollinger Mill SHS  
113 Bollinger Mill rd.  
Burfordville, MO 63739

Bollinger Mill phone 573-243-4591

For people who might wish to bring their RV, there is a camping site nearby.

Little Old Opre RV Park  
Terry and Janet Hopkins  
573-243-4555

**\*\*As we have done in the past , we will give preference to prior attendees in the Miller Training Program.  
Class size will be limited to 20 people.\*\***

Bollinger Mills is approximately 20 minutes away from Cape Girardeau. Transportation between the site and hotel is still being discussed.

For some, this maybe the concluding session and I would plan on mailing certificates shortly thereafter.

Thanks to Lesle McDaniel Park/Site Specialist at Bollinger Mill for agreeing to host the training session and gathering the information.

**Questions? Please contact Harold Rapp, 732-946-4896.**

## Save the Date!! – May 15-17 Northeast Chapter Spring Meeting

The spring meeting of the Northeast Chapter of the Society for the Preservation of Old Mills will take place on the weekend of May 15-17 at the Tidewater Motel in Vinalhaven, Maine. This splendid facility is built right on the site of an historical tide mill. Those of us who attended the recent meeting of the Tidemill Institute met the owner, Phil Crossman there. We will get a first-class tour.

Have a look at the Motel's web page ([www.tidewatermotel.com](http://www.tidewatermotel.com) <<http://www.tidewatermotel.com>> ). I think you'll agree it's a spectacular site. We've reserved a block of rooms (at a group rate of \$100 per night) for Friday and Saturday May 15 and 16. I'll need to know around April 1 how many will come (and I would appreciate some response now - "yes" or "maybe"). In addition, there will be a reception/supper on Friday evening and a lobster dinner on Saturday (cost TBA).

Please reply to Tom Glick [tglick@bu.edu](mailto:tglick@bu.edu)



From the Tidewater web site;  
Lower left : Millstream Cottage



**Save the Date!!**  
**SPOOM –MA Semi-Annual Meeting – August 15**  
**Stover-Myers Mill - Bucks County**

As I begin to plan the one-day meeting, which will include time for business, an informative talk, and a visit to one of the most unusual museums in America, as well as time to explore the host mill site, I am already looking forward to sharing time and history with my fellow members.

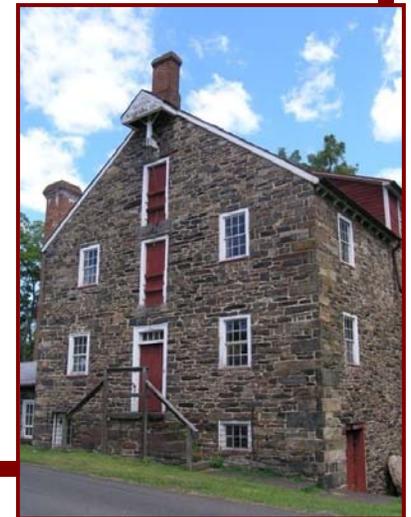
The mill was built in 1800, with modifications in 1834 and again circa 1880. Still containing 3 pair of stones and much original milling machinery and equipment, it has been undergoing an endless restoration process. The most notable site feature is the “up and down” sawmill, also fairly intact. If the 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 a business meeting around 9, followed by a site history talk, a presentation by Earl Brown (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 be modest, I promise. Use internet sites to find the site:  
400 Dark Hollow Road, Pipersville, PA 18947 – or give me a call or email.

The possibility of a Friday tour of local mills in Bucks County is under consideration.

Charles Yeske – [cjyeske@co.bucks.pa.us](mailto:cjyeske@co.bucks.pa.us) – 215-489-5133



## MILL SITES IN FREDERICKSBURG, VIRGINIA

--Marjorie Lundegard

There were three major milling cities in Virginia before the Civil War: Richmond, Alexandria, and Fredericksburg. Each city is on or near the fall line of a major river, had several mills and warehouses, access to sources of grain to the west, access to the ocean and markets in the Caribbean, South America, and Europe, and facilities to provide the required inspections for export and the capital needed for the buying and selling of grain and flour.

Fredericksburg was a beautiful historic city, located at the falls of the Rappahannock River. The city was created in 1728 and became an active river port. The original town was laid out on fifty acres. The town was named for the Crown Prince Frederick, son of George II. The river port town gradually grew. In 1730 hundreds and hundreds of hogsheads of tobacco leaf passed through the town. In 1732 a courthouse was built along Princess Anne Street.

The river served as a vital artery for domestic and foreign trade. By 1750, wheat and flour had replaced tobacco as the major export commodity. The early settlers used the river's flow to power mills. Around 1720 Francis Thornton built a gristmill on the Rappahannock River. In 1793 the mill site was advertised. In 1796 it was said that "the river tumbles over a ridge of granite. The greatest, or most sudden fall, is between the Thornton mill and the Tide Water." The dam extended all the way across the river. The site is a short distance upstream from the present Falmouth Bridge.

Prior to the Civil War most of the city mills were owned and operated by local investors. Construction of the Falmouth Canal began in 1790. In 1822 James Vass blasted through the rocks to increase the water flow. The canal powered four merchant mills.

Around the 1790's John Richards built a mill near the canal dam. The mill was known as the Richard's Old Mill and also the Contest Mill. The son of John Richards, William, built a mill around 1793. The mill used water from a millpond at the lower end of the canal. The mill burned in 1808 and was rebuilt by James Vass in 1812. The mill was also called the Thistle mill and the Eagle Mill. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Falmouth Mill was built in 1801. In 1830 the mill was enlarged by William Brooke, Jr.

**(cont'd...)**

## **MILL SITES IN FREDERICKSBURG, VIRGINIA (cont'd...)**

In 1805 Robert Dunbar and John F. Slaughter built the 4<sup>th</sup> mill that was known as Slaughter's Mill. This mill was located south of the Falmouth Bridge. The mill could produce 150 barrels of flour and 400 bushels of meal per day. The mill used buhrstones but later converted to roller milling machinery in the 1880's. In 1858 the mill was destroyed by a fire but was rebuilt. The mill produced ten grades of flour.

In 1912 the mill ceased operating and the Rappahannock Electric Light and Power Company acquired the property and used the mill to house generating equipment. This plant provided electricity for the city street lights, homes, businesses, industry and public buildings.

In 1910 the Fredericksburg Water Power Company completed a reinforced concrete dam called the Embrey Dam and was located downstream from the original crib dam that was built around 1855. The crib dam was 570 feet long and 18 feet high. The crib dam was constructed using stone and timbers. When the Embrey Dam was built the resulting reservoir submerged the crib dam. During the 20<sup>th</sup> century the Embrey Dam became obsolete and was removed during the period 2004-2005.

The Knox Mill was a grist mill on the lower raceway and in 1867 the mill was converted to a sumac and bone mill. Sumac was used in the tanning of leather. The mill was profitable because sumac grew in abundance in this area. The mill burned in the late 1860's and was never rebuilt.

The Hollingsworth Mill was located on the lower raceway near the Knox Mill. In 1807 high water damaged the millrace to the mill.

The Germania Mill was located on the upper raceway, near the Bridgewater Mill. The mill was owned and operated by J. H. Myer and F. Brulle. The mill burned in 1876 but was rebuilt. The new building was a four storied brick building with a metal roof. The mill had 8 runs of stones that were powered by three turbines. Roller milling machinery was installed in the late 1880's.

A water powered paper mill was operating in 1860 at the site where the current City Water Purification Plant is located. The mill was powered by two water wheels. In 1861 the mill was producing 2000 pounds of paper per day

**(cont'd...)**

## **MILL SITES IN FREDERICKSBURG, VIRGINIA (cont'd...)**

and employed twenty people. During the Battle of Fredericksburg, Union troops occupied the building so much of the milling machinery and the building were destroyed. In 1877 the mill was completely destroyed by a fire accidentally set by an employee.

The Excelsior Mills were located on the east side of the railroad bridge and were built in 1861 by John L. Mayre. The mill consisted of two buildings—a wooden warehouse and a brick mill. The mill used an overshot water wheel to power the mill. In 1884 the mill had 5 runs of buhrstones. The mill produced 60 barrels of flour and 50 bushels of meal each day. By 1891 the mill was using 8 sets of roller machines and one run of stones. In 1909 the Fredericksburg Water Power Company bought the building. The company closed the flow of water to the mill so that there was more water in the canal to the electric generating plant. By 1919 the mill was not listed on any of the maps.

The first water powered woolen mill was in 1850. This was a four storied brick mill that could produce 100,000 yards of fabric each year. A fire destroyed the mill in 1876. The mill was rebuilt. In 1907 there were 456 looms and 5 sets of carding machines. In 1909 wool and flannel pants were being produced at the mill. Another fire in 1910 destroyed the mill but left the pants section of the mill intact. This section produced pants for several years. The woolen fabric section of the mill was never rebuilt.

In 1880 a silk factory was built by C. W. Wilder and George F. Wheeler. This was a single story brick building. Five months after the mill opened there were 30 employees and by 1897 the mill employed 160 people. A fire destroyed the mill in 1934. The mill was never rebuilt.

Fredericksburg also had a water powered wood working plant that was adjacent to the Bridgewater Mill. The two and a half storied frame structure was built in 1896. The machinery was powered by a 150 foot belt that was connected to the Bridgewater water wheel. The first floor was used to plane and saw the wood. On the 2<sup>nd</sup> level, planing also occurred. The storage area was on the third level. The mill produced milled lumber and house trim. By 1904, both the Bridgewater Mill and the Wood Working Plant were shut down. Neither ever operated again.

**(cont'd...)**

## MILL SITES IN FREDERICKSBURG, VIRGINIA (cont'd...)

The upper raceway ran along the western side of Caroline Street, opposite the present day Old Mill Park. The raceway continued under the Princess Anne Street to the milling areas. Each mill had its own head race.

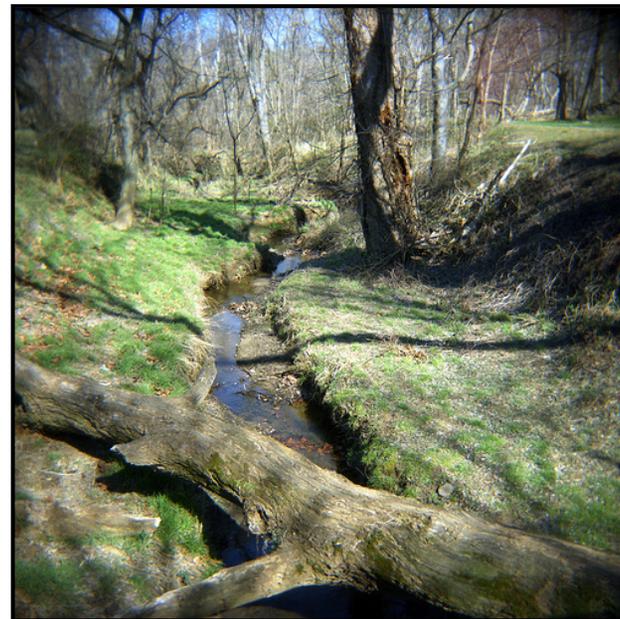
The lower level mills were located on the raceway that ran along the eastern side of Caroline Street, from just below Lauck's Island through the present day Old Mill Park.

The third part of the canal system was called the canal ditch" and branched off near the paper mill. The raceway ran around the west side of the city, present day Kenmore Avenue, and ended at Excelsior Mills on the east side of the railroad bridge. Only the paper mill and the Excelsior Mill used this raceway.



Jericho Mills, Virginia during the Civil War  
(Couldn't find those Marge mentions –SL)

Old Mill Park, Fredericksburg, Virginia



## ☧ 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](mailto: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, web sites, whether you offer products for sale online etc.. Photos welcome.

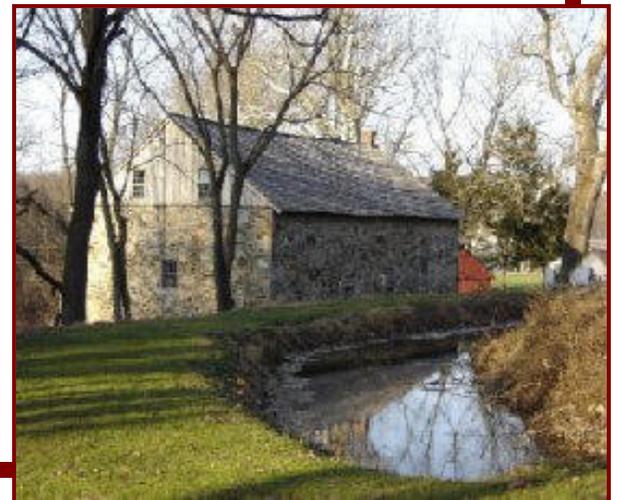
Please send this information to Susan Langley at [slangley@mdp.state.md.us](mailto:slangley@mdp.state.md.us), by July 24, 2009.



### **\$\$ DUES \$\$**

Dues are now due on a calendar year basis, January through December, so it's a pretty safe bet that everyone needs to renew. This may be done at the March meeting or by using the form below.

The Mill at Anselma,  
Chester Springs, PA



## 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