



# SPOOM

## Mid-Atlantic Chapter

*Society for the Preservation of Old Mills*

*Semiannual  
Newsletter*

*FALL 2014*

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### UPCOMING EVENTS

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- \* May 1—Spring Newsletter Deadline
- \* Nov. 5-8—National SPOOM Conference 2015 in CA

### SPOOM-MA Chapter

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### BOARD MEMBERS:

Bob McLaughlin (PA), *President*  
Dan Campbell, *Vice President*  
Judy Grove, *Secretary/Treasurer*

Susan Langley  
Ivan Lufriu  
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Robert Lundegard, *President Emeritus*

Megan Orient, *Newsletter Editor*  
Craig Sansonetti  
Adam Sieminski  
Charles Yeske

## Notes from the 2014 National SPOOM Conference

*Submitted by Robert McLaughlin*

**D**iane and I attended the SPOOM conference in Rochester, MI from Oct. 23 through Oct. 25. The conference was headquartered at the Rochester Hills Museum at **Van Hoosen Farm** (pictured below). This is an old dairy farm that houses exhibits on the history of the area.

**Oct. 22:** There was a reception in the evening at the Van Hoosen Farm. They are in the process of restoring the calf barn to a reception/meeting area. The Dodworth Saxhorn Band (pictured on next page) entertained us with mid-19th century music played on authentic instruments. *...continued p.2*



### View From the Headrace: *President's Message*

*By Robert McLaughlin, President*

**I** presented our chapter's proposal to the SPOOM Board at the conference in Michigan. We proposed that SPOOM complete a group exemption letter naming the chapters as affiliates for the purpose of 501(c)(3) status. In return, chapters will submit annual reports on membership, leadership, and finances. Participating chapters will cover the cost of this process.

As a result, the SPOOM Board convened a committee to study the proposal, report to the board in the February teleconference, and make a recommendation to the membership.

*...continued on page 3*

### New Clues to Lost Mill Sites: *Flood Control Maps*

*By Megan Orient*

**I**n researching mills that have disappeared from the landscape in Westmoreland County, Pa., the archivist at Derry Area Historical Society directed me to a resource that may assist others in historic mill research. Surveys and maps by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) circa 1930s Flood Control Program captured the locations of many structures near and within flood plains, and those that would be impacted by future flood control measures. Drawn at a time when American farming, and thus milling, were just beginning to decline, they have the potential to reveal extensive details about mills lost in the...

*...continued on page 4*

## 2014 National SPOOM Conference Notes continued...



*Dodworth Saxhorn Band entertains the group at the Thursday evening reception.*

Oct. 23: We took the canal tour option. This was a bus ride along the course of the Clinton-Kalamazoo Canal. The canal was planned to cross the state connecting Lake Michigan and Lake St. Clair. Construction began in 1838 but ran out of money in 1843 having only reached Rochester. It was not used much if at all.



Oct. 24: **Clifton Mills** (pictured above) is privately owned but was opened and operational for us. In records at the mill, Joanne Smith discovered two letters from 1942 by Professor Dedrick, head of Penn State's School of Milling Engineering in the early 1900's and author of *Practical Milling*.



**Wolcott Mill** (top photo): A museum mill with a lot of the remaining equipment on display, and a very nice hands-on exhibit of the milling process (above).

Oct. 25: **Ortonville Mill** (pictured below) is a museum mill in town with no water. They had a nice model of the mill on display.





**Linden Mills** (top photo) is a museum mill next to a beautiful lake, but the mill does not use water power. There was a waterwheel across the river that turned slowly but didn't power anything (above).

**Westwind Milling Company** (below): This mill was a commercial mill that uses a Meadows mill to custom grind flours for customers. It was on a beautiful lake, but cannot use the water to power the mill even though the race is intact.



## President's message continued...

I am on that committee and will keep you advised of the progress.

We also discussed the option of Chapter Presidents becoming voting members of the SPOOM Board. That will require a change to the by-laws which will need to be voted on by the SPOOM membership. Another committee was formed to come up with the new language for the by-laws for review in the February teleconference.

Next year's SPOOM conference will be in California in early November. There are some very unusual mills (and other things) to visit, so I encourage you to start planning early. It will be a four-day event in order to get everything in.

It is time to start looking for hosts for future chapter meetings. If anyone is interested, contact Judy or me. I will also be contacting mills that I think would be good places to visit in the coming months. Suggestions would be appreciated.

### Give the Gift of Membership!

**N**eed some ideas on what to get someone for a birthday or holiday gift? Consider giving the gift of membership to SPOOM Mid-Atlantic, or the national SPOOM organization.

If they are already a member, consider purchasing their registration or travel to the next quarterly meeting or national conference.



## New Clue to Lost Mill Sites continued...

early to mid-twentieth century. There may be other USACE records of interest to mill historians, given the relationship between mills and water, and the long-term involvement of USACE in monitoring our nation's waterways.

Since 1775, a Corps of Engineers (henceforth USACE) has been involved in our nation's defense as well as its infrastructure, from coastal fortification to river navigation. Almost since inception, USACE has also had to tread water in the debate between a centralized federal program and an independent state-level system of waterway management. In 1824, the Supreme Court first ruled in favor of a national approach (*Gibbons v. Ogden*). Subsequently, Congress passed the General Survey Act and the president thus authorized USACE to survey routes for roads and canals "of national importance, in a commercial or military point of view, or necessary for the transportation of public mail."

Throughout the next century, the geographical areas of USACE expanded from the colonial coastal settlements to the arid western frontier. Water-related responsibilities diversified to include entire watersheds, swamplands, canals, levees, dams, reservoirs, floodwalls, irrigation, erosion, recreation, pollution, conservation, hydropower, and flood control – to name a few. As development swelled along waterways, the rising concern for floods grew beyond navigation to the looming impact on adjacent agricultural, residential, and commercial lands.

Though the grand-scale flooding of the Mississippi River typically garnered the most attention over the years, major floods of Johnstown (1889), Pittsburgh (1907), the Ohio River (1913), the Mississippi River (1927), and New England (1927) were just a few of those significant enough to warrant legislative action.

Just prior to the two major floods of 1927, Congress was presented House Document 308, which included the Corps' proposal to **survey 180 rivers and related tributaries** primarily for the potential of hydroelectric power, as well as related projects such as flood control. The January 1927 Rivers and Harbors Act authorized USACE to proceed with the "308 Reports", their most comprehensive surveys to date.

Surveys were already underway when the disastrous 1927 Mississippi River flood occurred (impacting a record 26,000 square miles, 7 states, and 700,000 people), followed by record flooding in New England. Early radio broadcasts and news films of these flood-damaged areas reinforced the issue of

flood control as a top priority for elected officials. The debate became more about who should manage the national plan and who should pay for it.

The real turning point for flood control, and a permanent course change for the USACE, came during the New Deal Era in the Flood Control Act of 1936. On the heels again of record flooding in 1935-1936, and coupled with a need for public work during the Great Depression, the act passed addressing both methods and manpower. Two years later, the Flood Control Act of 1938 authorized the federal government to pay all land, damage, construction, and maintenance costs for flood control reservoirs and channel improvements.

If researching a lost mill site within an historic flood-prone area, these early 20th century surveys and maps may reveal valuable information to you.

One of the projects authorized by the Flood Control Acts of 1936 and 1938 was Loyalhanna Lake, which was completed in 1951. It provides immediate flood protection for the lower Loyalhanna Creek—the site of my great-grandfather's mill (the Hepler - McNaughton Flour & Feed Mill) in the town of New Alexandria. On a larger scale, this reservoir is one of 16 developed within the USACE Pittsburgh District, an area protecting the greater Ohio River drainage basin covering approximately 26,000 square miles in five states (PA, WV, OH, NY, MD).

A picture exists of my family's mill partially submerged during the flood of 1936. Knowing my family had left that mill around 1942 before it disappeared from the landscape, and having been told that the property was taken for the construction of the Loyalhanna Dam, I was hoping the USACE archives would reveal some details about the site.

To request map records, I submitted to the USACE Pittsburgh District Office a **FOIA** (Freedom of Information Act) **form**. To my surprise, three detailed Flood Control Program maps were sent to me by email. Two were adjacent 1938 map sheets titled "Loyalhanna Creek Reservoir", containing details akin to those of old fire insurance maps:

- Building footprints
- Building materials
- Number of stories
- Building use
- Locations of outbuildings
- Property owners' names

Other map details included the elevation lines, land use (i.e. cultivated vs. wooded), roads, railroads, utilities, and the 1936 high water mark. These maps...

...continued on page 5

not only covered the buildings within the 1936 flooded area, but extended up the hill to include the entire town of New Alexandria and the mill owners' family home.

The third map was titled "Land to be Acquired by the United States", and hand-stamped "Final Plat, Aug 18, 1941". It showed a more accurate outline of the mill building and its many additions, three outbuildings not visible on the previous map, and an adjacent macadam road not seen in other research.

Though I have only made one request for maps for this specific period of time, I wonder what other details may be revealed through the "308 surveys" leading up to the publication of these maps, or potential water records from the decades prior – as a mill was present on that land as early as 1857. Though I don't know the exact date the mill was taken down, a deed indicates that the property was acquired by the United States of America on June 4, 1942, now under the care of the USACE.

To request map resources from your USACE district office, visit the USACE Headquarters website to determine your regional and local district offices: [usace.army.mil/Locations.aspx](http://usace.army.mil/Locations.aspx). On the footer of every webpage is a link to FOIA, where you can learn how to submit a short form for your requests. A small fee may be required for reproduction of records. You may also want to contact a USACE Headquarters Librarian: [usace.army.mil/Library.aspx](http://usace.army.mil/Library.aspx)

*\*For details, read the following books/articles online:*

## REFERENCES

- Arnold, Joseph L. "The Evolution of the 1936 Flood Control Act." Office of History, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Belvoir, Virginia, 1988. [www.publications.usace.army.mil/Portals/76/Publications/EngineerPamphlets/EP\\_870-1-29.pdf](http://www.publications.usace.army.mil/Portals/76/Publications/EngineerPamphlets/EP_870-1-29.pdf)
- Billington, David P., Donald C. Jackson, and Martin V. Melosi. *The History of Large Federal Dams: Planning, Design, and Construction*. U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation, Denver, Colorado, 2005. [www.cr.nps.gov/history/online\\_books/dams/federal\\_dams.pdf](http://www.cr.nps.gov/history/online_books/dams/federal_dams.pdf)
- Ferdman, Roberto A. "The Decline of the Small American Family Farm in One Chart." September 16, 2014. [www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/wonkblog/wp/2014/09/16/the-decline-of-the-small-american-family-farm-in-one-chart/](http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/wonkblog/wp/2014/09/16/the-decline-of-the-small-american-family-farm-in-one-chart/)
- Smith, Ronald M. "The Politics of Pittsburgh Flood Control, 1936-1960." *Pennsylvania History*, Vol. 44, No. 1, January 1977. <https://journals.psu.edu/phj/article/view/23953/23722>

## WEBSITES

- Growing a Nation: The Story of American Agriculture. Historical Timeline. [www.agclassroom.org/gan/timeline/index.htm](http://www.agclassroom.org/gan/timeline/index.htm)
- Locations [Divisions and Districts Map]. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. [www.usace.army.mil/Locations.aspx](http://www.usace.army.mil/Locations.aspx)
- Loyalhanna Lake. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. [www.lrp.usace.army.mil/Missions/Recreation/Lakes/LoyalhannaLake.aspx](http://www.lrp.usace.army.mil/Missions/Recreation/Lakes/LoyalhannaLake.aspx)
- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers: The Beginnings to 1815. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. [www.usace.army.mil/About/History/BriefHistoryoftheCorps/Beginnings.aspx](http://www.usace.army.mil/About/History/BriefHistoryoftheCorps/Beginnings.aspx)
- Water Management. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. (MAP) [www.lrp.usace.army.mil/Missions/WaterManagement.aspx](http://www.lrp.usace.army.mil/Missions/WaterManagement.aspx)

## **SAVE THE DATES!**

### **April 16-18, 2015: Spring Meeting—SPOOM-MA**

**T**he Spring 2015 meeting of the SPOOM Mid-Atlantic Chapter will be held on April 16-18 at the Grove Mill in Lewisburg, Union County, PA. Tentative schedule:

- Thurs. Apr. 16 - Meet & Greet Dinner
- Fri. Apr. 17 - Tour Local Mills (8:30AM - 4:30PM)
- Sat. Apr. 18 - Annual Meeting (9:00AM-2:30PM)

There is no fee for attending the Saturday meeting without lunch. Register: [spoommidatlantic.org](http://spoommidatlantic.org). Questions: Contact Judy Grove, SPOOM-MA Secretary/Treasurer at (717) 741-4366 or [JudyGrove@Verizon.net](mailto:JudyGrove@Verizon.net).

### **November 5-8, 2015: Annual National SPOOM Conference**

**T**he 2015 annual national SPOOM Conference will be held November 5-8 in Santa Rosa, California! Details will be released sometime in the late spring. If you haven't been to the west, this is your excuse to travel, so mark your calendars now.

## Minutes of October 2014 Meeting

By Judy Grove, Secretary

### Mid-Atlantic Chapter Society for the Preservation of Old Mills October 4, 2014 Semiannual Meeting

Location: Breneman Turner Mill  
5001 Turner's Mill Lane  
Harrisonburg VA 22802

Attendees: *See next page.*

President Bob McLaughlin opened the business meeting at 9:30 AM and introduced our host, Ken Weaver, of the Breneman-Turner Mill Preservation Committee. The meeting was held at Greenmount Church of the Brethren, located a mile from the mill.

Minutes of the April 2014 meeting hosted by Colvin Run Mill in Great Falls, VA were approved as distributed. The balance in the treasury is \$8,748.51. Bills totaling about \$900 from this meeting have not yet been paid. See Attachment B for a detailed report.

As of October 3, 2014 memberships include 50 chapter/SPOOM (\$10), 2 non-SPOOM members (\$15), 26 sustaining memberships (\$25), and 14 organizational memberships (\$50) paid in 2014. This gives a total of 92 members in good standing.

As directed from the April meeting, a chapter EIN was obtained for banking purposes and the Mid-Atlantic Chapter of SPOOM Account opened at PNC Bank under this EIN. Bank Account signers are Judy Grove and Robert McLaughlin

#### **Project Report:** Ivan Lufriu

- *September 11*—Bud Warren announced the Tide Mill Institute Annual Conference to be held in York, Maine November 14 and 15.
- *August 29*—SPOOM President Dave Haines's wife Janet passed. He will curtail activities and not attend the national meeting.
- *August 28*—Bud Warren announced a restored tide mill for sale by Robert Brooker of Boston.
- *August 8*—Jack McClees 443-994-6025 has a Eureka Separator and other mill equipment for sale.
- *August 4*—Judd Bankert approached the chapter about an auction of mill machinery from the former mill he is turning into a vacation home. The chapter offered to advertise the auction.

- *July 16*—Request from Adam Kerrick for information on mills of the "New Republic" era and more specifically Stoddards Mill, built in 1815.
- *July 7*—Jason Beale of Abbotts Mill in Milford, Delaware is renewing his SPOOM membership. This is a mill we should visit.
- *June 15*—Bob Springfield was looking for mill listings in the Southwest; he was directed to Steve Spring for the SPOOM Mill List.
- *June 6*—The Perkins Project aims to restore a tide-grist mill in Kennebunkport; neighbors are objecting due to noise, school buses and weddings that would arise on the site.

**Election of 2015 SPOOM Mid-Atlantic Board Members:** On a motion by Linda Koons, seconded by Craig Sansonetti, the following officers were elected: President Robert McLaughlin, Vice President Dan Campbell, and Secretary/Treasurer Judy Grove and the appointed list of directors was approved: Susan Langley, Robert Lundegard - President Ex-Officio, Ivan Lufriu, Marlene Lufriu, Megan Orient - Newsletter Editor, Craig Sansonetti, Adam Sieminski, and Charles Yeske.

**SPOOM and Chapter Status:** Following much discussion, two motions were passed for Bob McLaughlin to present to the national SPOOM Board.

- *We move that SPOOM complete a group exemption letter naming the chapters as affiliates for the purpose of 501(c)(3) status. In return, chapters submit annual reports on membership, leadership, and finances. Participating chapters cover the cost of this process. Motion made by Bill Koons and seconded by Jean Sansonetti.*
- *We authorize Robert McLaughlin to act on behalf of the chapter to agree to bear up to the lesser of 50% or \$2,000 of the cost. Motion made by Terry Koller and seconded by Bill Koons.*

**Mill Mapping Project:** Bob McLaughlin is working with a free, experimental online database called Google Fusion Tables.

**Other Business:** The group agreed to purchase a \$250 brick to support the Edinburg Heritage Foundation's work on Edinburg Mill which we visited Friday. The message reads: *Mid-Atlantic SPOOM visit - October 3, 2014.* The secretary was authorized to send condolences to David Haines on behalf of the chapter.

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**Attendees:**

- Nate Bond ~ Fredericksburg, VA
- Ricky Brightwell ~ Madison Heights, VA
- Dave Bronson ~ Benton, PA
- Linda Bronson ~ Benton, PA
- Daniel Campbell ~ West Chester, PA
- E J "Jason" Dryer ~ McLean, VA
- Bruce Gilbert ~ Springfield, VA
- Zach Grandle ~ Timberville, VA
- Judy Grove ~ York, PA
- Enid Knauth ~ McLean, VA
- Terry Koller ~ Dover, PA
- Bill Koons ~ Philadelphia, PA
- Linda Koons ~ Philadelphia, PA
- Ivan Lufriu ~ Littlestown, PA
- Marlene Lufriu ~ Littlestown, PA
- Robert McLaughlin ~ Howard, PA
- Richard Nye ~ Williamsport, MD
- Budne Reinke ~ Silver Spring, MD
- Diane Reinke ~ Silver Spring, MD
- Craig Sansonetti ~ Airville, PA
- Jean Sansonetti ~ Airville, PA
- Ken Weaver ~ Harrisonburg, VA
- Diana Wright ~ McLean, VA

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 10:55 on a motion by Jean Sansonetti, seconded by Richard Nye.

Respectfully submitted,  
 Judith Grove, Secretary  
 717-741-4366  
 JudyGrove@Verizon.net  
 September 30, 2014

**Upcoming Chapter Meetings:**

April 16-18, 2015 ~ Union County, PA Mills including: Johnson’s Mill, Penn Creek Pottery/Sampsel’s Mill, Buggy Museum & Elias Church, Fort Titzell & Titzells’ Mill Site, and H&C Grove’s Feed Mill. Tom Rich and Bill and Sharon Lynch will coordinate the event.

**Other Announcements**

SPOOM Mid-Atlantic Newsletter: Submit articles to Megan Orient at [meganorient@gmail.com](mailto:meganorient@gmail.com).

**Mid-Atlantic Chapter Report in Old Mill News:** Vice President Dan Campbell sends a quarterly chapter report. Send information on events of general interest to [campbelldt@verizon.net](mailto:campbelldt@verizon.net) by the first of February, May, August and November deadlines.

**Chapter Member Contact Information:** A few days

prior to the event, names of attendees will be sent by email to those who have pre-registered. Contact information for individuals 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.

**TREASURER’S REPORT As of September 30, 2014**

Beginning Balance:	\$ 6,178.31
<b>INCOME:</b>	
Memberships:	\$ 1,819.50
Meeting Registrations (Sp/Fall):	\$ 2,160.25
MISC: (Ad Sale)	\$ 25.00
<b>EXPENSES:</b>	
Meeting Expenses:	\$ 907.38
Website (Q1-Q4):	\$ 515.65
Office Supplies:	\$ 18.40
Milling Support:	\$ 250.00
MISC:	\$ 120.47
Ending Balance:	\$ 8,371.16

**Membership & 2015 Dues**

**S**POOM Mid-Atlantic Memberships run on the calendar year. Renew your 2015 membership by mail using the attached form, or pay by credit card through our website:

[spoommidatlantic.org](http://spoommidatlantic.org).  
 Payments may be sent beginning January 1st. Individual memberships are \$10—if you are a current member of the national SPOOM organization, or \$15 if you are not a SPOOM member. 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 level includes the quarterly newsletter, information on mills and seminars, tax deductible dues, and invitations to mill tours and semi-annual meetings.

<p><b>Where are our SPOOM Mid-Atlantic members?</b></p> <p>CO - 1  <b>DC* - 1</b>  <b>DE* - 2</b>  <b>MD* - 10</b>          NC - 1          NJ - 3          NM - 1          NY - 1  <b>PA* - 41</b>  <b>VA* - 28</b></p> <hr/> <p>Total = 89</p> <p><small>*Mid-Atlantic Chapter States</small></p> <p><b>Membership Types:</b>          Individual - 52          Sustaining - 24          Organizational - 13</p>
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## MEMBERSHIP FORM—SPOOM Mid-Atlantic

Please enroll me as a member of the Mid-Atlantic Chapter of the Society for the Preservation Of Old Mills

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_  
(newsletters are emailed or posted on web site when possible to save postage)

Milling Connection / Interest \_\_\_\_\_

### Membership Type

- Individual, Not a Member of SPOOM (natl.) \$15.00
- Individual, Current Member of SPOOM (natl.) \$10.00
- Sustaining Membership \$25.00
- Organization Membership \$50.00

### Please Check One:

- New Membership
- Renewal

Mail this form with your check or money order to: SPOOM MA Membership Manager, 613 Green Valley Road, York, PA 17403. Please make your checks out to "SPOOM Mid-Atlantic Chapter". Online membership application is available through the membership page of our website [www.spoommidatlantic.org](http://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.



### SPOOM Mid-Atlantic Chapter

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[www.spoommidatlantic.org](http://www.spoommidatlantic.org)

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