

SPOOM

Mid-Atlantic Chapter

Fall 2015



View From the Headrace

By Bob McLaughlin

I attended the SPOOM conference in California and proposed that we pay for the grant for The Mill at Anselma to clean out the drain to their spring house. The cost will be around \$600.

I participated in the SPOOM Board conference call on Feb. 14th. News of note: the Group Exemption Letter is moving slowly through the IRS. There have been 2 requests for additional information which SPOOM has provided.

We will need to elect officers in the Fall of 2016. So far Dan Campbell has agreed to Serve as President, Adam Sieminski has agreed to serve as Vice President and Judy has agreed to serve as Secretary/Treasurer.

We have begun planning for the joint SPOOM/Chapter meeting in 2017. The folks at Aberdeen Mill have agreed to serve as hosts. We held a Chapter meeting at their mill in August 2010. If you have any suggestions for places to visit within a reasonable distance from Aberdeen, PA send them to Judy or me.

August 2015 Meeting

Dan Campbell

The Mid-Atlantic Chapter Fall 2015 meeting and mill tours took place in the historically significant and mill-rich area at the mouth of the mighty Susquehanna River, where it enters the western shore of the upper Chesapeake Bay. Cecil County MD is located on the northern shore of the river, and Harford County, MD is on the southern shore. We based our three-day gathering in historic Havre de Grace, MD in Harford County, so named in 1785 at the suggestion of the Marquis de Lafayette, because it reminded him of Le Havre (de Grace) France. About 20 of our group, representing four states and Wash. DC, met on Thursday evening Aug. 20 at the Tidewater Grille, overlooking the stunning expanse at the confluence of these two great waterways. Looking north across the river we could see from Harford County to Cecil County, as a preview of our 8 hour journey of mills and National Register historic sites, scheduled for Friday, the next day.

Friday morning began with 40 members aboard a chartered bus, departing from our hotel to the nearby Susquehanna State Park, a property of the MD Dept. of Natural Resources (MDNR), which provides camping, hiking and other nature-loving experiences, and is also the site of *Rock Run Mill* and the historic *Carter-Archer* mansion. *Rock Run* is a well-maintained three-story grist mill with an intact dam and pond 1000 feet up a hill. An open race is then pipe-flumed to carry water to a 32 ft. diameter steel waterwheel which had recently been refurbished, and was operated for our pleasure and education. The wheel is a renovated Fitz waterwheel from 1906, with new buckets installed in 2006. Splitting into two groups, we were able to tour the two buildings efficiently in 1 ½ hours guided by the park staff and volunteer docents. Our thanks to Ranger Rob Bailey, his staff and the volunteers! The site also contains a portion of the Susquehanna & Tidewater Canal (including a Toll House), which once paralleled the river from Havre de Grace to Wrightsville PA (see later in this article).

August 2015 Meeting

Dan Campbell

Heading northwest, our next two visits were in historic Darlington, MD; at a hexagonal schoolhouse, the *Prospect School*, and the privately owned *Wilson's Mill* on Deer Creek. The polygonal design of the stone walled, wood shingle-roofed, one-room schoolhouse was naturally lighted, energy efficient, heated by a wood stove in the center, and focused the students attention on the teacher. Prospect was built circa 1850 and students were educated there until 1930. We were treated to a tour of the furnished interior by the owners Jane and Don Horton - the schoolhouse is literally in their backyard! At *Wilson's* we were greeted by owner Brenda Holloway (whose husband couldn't attend) and her brother Alan Walsh, each of who educated us regarding the mill and its history, including the inclusion of an electrical generating system in the mid-20th century. The race and headgate are operative upstream, and the mill's grey limestone walls and red-painted siding of the attic-story are well maintained.

Next, heading north and with a quick right to the east we crossed the Susquehanna River over the Conowingo Dam, also a huge source of electric generation, and proceeded into Cecil County, through the town of Port Deposit MD. There we made a brief stop at another *Rock Run Mill* (a popular name in the area). This 3 ½ story buff limestone merchant grist mill, built circa 1725 and operated by John Steel after 1831, is currently un-used and partially boarded-up; however it appears to be weather-protected except for the windows. It is under the watchful eye of Port Deposit Heritage and the Port Deposit Chamber of Commerce and is listed in their historic walking tour, published by them and kept at the Cecil County branch library on Main Street.

Our next stop was for lunch, which befittingly took us to a tavern and our most nationally-significant historic site visit of the day. *Rodgers Tavern* on the southern border of Perryville MD is located on the important Baltimore to Philadelphia Post Road (now Broad Street) and alongside

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Dan Campbell

the Lower Susquehanna Ferry. It lodged numerous important travelers during the 18th century including George and Martha Washington, Lafayette, Rochambeau, Jefferson and Madison among them. Washington's diary records more than 30 visits to "Mr. Rodgers' Tavern" between 1775 and 1798. It is another fine cut-limestone building with an impressive raised porch facing the road and situated over large basement storage rooms with brick floors. It operated as a tavern until 1884, when it was purchased by the Pennsylvania Railroad, and was converted to a double house (the northeast corridor Amtrak line is currently across the street on an embankment). It was carefully restored by the Friends of Rodgers' Tavern and Preservation Maryland, and is now owned by the Town of Perryville. We had our catered lunch under a gazebo and on benches overlooking the mouth of the Susquehanna with expansive views of Havre de Grace to the south.

Just across the street after passing under the railroad, our next visit took us to the Dept. of Veterans' Affairs medical facility known as Perry Point, which contains the *Perry Point Mansion* in Georgian style and *Stump's Mill* built of rough fieldstone circa 1750, which is perched on the bank close to the river and bay. When operating, the mill had a small wide overshot wheel fed by two or three confluent springs, after which the water was expelled into the bay. The Stump family was the second owners of what was then a farm, from which a part was sold in 1848 for the railroad right-of-way, and then more was lent to the Union Army in the 1860's for the training of mules. The remaining farm was sold to the U.S. Army during WWI for the purpose of making explosives, and after the Armistice, it was used as a medical center and psychiatric hospital for returning veterans, the function which it serves today. The mill (no longer working) and the mansion are currently under renovation by the U.S government to serve as museum locations displaying the varied history of Perry Point. Like true SPOOMers, we had to sneak our peeks at the mill across the construction barriers, until the contractors politely ended our visit.

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Dan Campbell

After a short trip north through Perryville, we visited the site of *Principio Furnace*. An iron producer since the 1720's, it produced pig iron for sale in England during the Colonial period, and after the war made cannons for the early American navy until the operation was destroyed by a British raid during the War of 1812. Using water-power from the Principio Creek, a still much larger furnace and forge operation produced iron and steel products, through much of the 19th-century and until 1925. Across the road from the ruins of the iron operations is a mansion from the family of the owners of the 20th-century forge, where we were given a tour and video presentation by Sarah Colenda, a descendant who told her of recollections of growing up in the house, where the industry had been directly across the road.

Returning to Havre de Grace in late afternoon, we visited the *Susquehanna Lockhouse Museum* and Lock #1 of the Susquehanna & Tidewater Canal (remember that reference way above in this story)? The lock keeper's house is a beautifully restored and maintained mid-19th century brick building in a picturesque location, completely filled with displays regarding the canal operation (with a working scale-model of the canal lock), and other historic artifacts from the period of the canal operation (circa 1840 to 1860) and relating to the history of the Havre de Grace area. Outside, the lock, built of huge granite stonework is in great condition with a replica wooden, manually-operated swing-bridge which the operator used, to reach the opposite side of the lock, to operate each of the two lock doors. Our final stop of the day was nearby at *Concord Point Lighthouse*, which has marked the mouth of the Susquehanna, when navigating from the Chesapeake Bay, since built in 1827. The lighthouse and the *Light Keeper's House* are operated as house museums, and yes, you can climb the spiral stone circular stair, up the center of the lighthouse and see the Fresnel lens which magnified the oil-lamp light, projecting out onto the two bodies of water. Local archeologist, historian and ex-Marine Bill McIntyre, educated us and entertained us about local history and lore of the bay and the small city of Havre de Grace.

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Dan Campbell

On Saturday Aug. 22, we visited Jerusalem Mill Village in Harford County where the village contains a mill (inoperative), a functioning blacksmith shop, a general store, miller house, cook house, tenant houses and barn. It is another site of the MD DCNR, but is operated by dedicated enactor volunteers from the Friends of Jerusalem Mill. We held our semi-annual business meeting outdoors in a grove under their tent, and then toured the village taking in their demonstrations, learning their history, sampling their foods and shopping in the general store. We wrapped up Saturday with third of the group visiting Eden Mill to the north, about halfway to the PA border. Eden is a wood-framed grist mill on a stone foundation, built in 1798 which ground flour until 1917. At that time an investor group installed electrical generating equipment which operated until 1929 and is still intact at the rear of the mill. It ground again until 1964, then was acquired by Harford County with 57 acres and became a park and nature center in 1991, with historical displays in the mill and plant-life, wildlife and agricultural displays and educational programs in an attached new building. At Eden, we were hosted by Roland Beckman who shared his great knowledge of the mill and its history. Overall, our Fall 2015 meeting was a delightful and educational 2 ½ day event for 40 members of SPOOM Mid-Atlantic!

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Dan Campbell



Rock Run Mill, Susquehanna State Park
Photo credit: Bob McLaughlin

Hexagonal Schoolhouse
Photo credit: Bob McLaughlin



Wilson's Mill
Photo credit: Bob McLaughlin

August 2015 Meeting

Dan Campbell



Rock Run Mill (east)
Photo credit: Dan Campbell



A stop at Eden Mill was made by those heading home.
Photo credit: Diane McLaughlin



Jerusalem Mill
Photo credit: Dan Campbell

Spring 2016 Meeting

Bob McLaughlin

Plans are underway for the Spring meeting to be held on April 14 and 16 in Latrobe, PA at Saint Vincent's Mill at Saint Vincent College. We had a chapter meeting there awhile back.

Tentative Plans:

SPOOM: The Society for the Preservation of Old Mills

April 14-16, 2016 | Saint Vincent College

Prepared by Stacey Magda, Group Sales Manager smagda@laurelhighlands.org 724-238-5661 x 111

Central Meeting Place:

Spring Hill Suites by Marriott Pittsburgh/Latrobe

115 Arnold Palmer Drive Latrobe, PA 15650 Phone: 724-879-0059

Thursday, April 14, 2016 – Evening Greet and Meet Dinner

DiSalvo's Station Restaurant, 325 McKinley Avenue Latrobe, PA 15650 <http://disalvosrestaurant.com/>

Contact: Mike Fossati vipevents@disalvosrestaurant.com (724) 539-0500

Cost per person: approx. \$20

Friday, April 15, 2016 – Milling around the Laurel Highlands

Price per person: approx. \$50 per person

Mapping and logistics: <https://goo.gl/maps/KC9wWusJaP12>

8:30a.m. – Depart from SpringHill Suites on tour bus

Spring 2016 Meeting (cont.)

Bob McLaughlin

8:50a.m. – Compass Inn Museum (tour this historic stagecoach stop along the Lincoln Highway)

<http://www.compassinn.com/>

Details: \$9 admission per adult / 1 hour tour

Contact: Theresa Gay Rohall lvhistory@compassinn.com 724-238-4983

10:00a.m. – Depart Compass Inn Museum

10:05a.m – Stop in the Pie Shoppe for a sweet treat at this must stop bakery!

<http://theoriginalpieshoppe.com/>

Details: shopping on own and a complimentary sweet treat for each guest / 30 minute stop

Contact: Kelly Columbus kcolumbus@pieshoppe.com 724-238-6621

10:40a.m. – Depart Pie Shoppe

11:00a.m. – Mountain Playhouse and Green Gables - <http://greengablespa.com/about-us/history/>

stop in this beautifully transformed 200 year old gristmill, home to PA's oldest professional summer stock theater.

Details: FREE / 1 ½ hour tour and tasting

Contact: Karen Ridilla karen@mountainplayhouse.org 814-629-9201 ext. 105

12:40p.m. – Depart Mountain Playhouse

12:55p.m. – Arrive at Somerset Historical Center <http://www.somersethistoricalcenter.org/>

Details: \$6 admission / 1 ½ hour tour

Contact: Mark Ware c-mware@pa.gov 814-445-6077

2:30p.m. – Depart Somerset Historical Center

Spring 2016 Meeting (cont.)

Bob McLaughlin

3:00p.m.- Arrive at the Rockwood Mill Shoppes and Opera House for an overview of this beautifully restored historic mill, shopping on own, and entertainment! <http://www.rockwoodmillshoppes.com/home>

Details: \$price to be determined / 2 hour tour

Contact: Judy Pletcher rockwoodmill@verizon.net (814) 926-4546

5:00p.m. – Depart Rockwood Mill Shoppes and Opera House

6:00p.m. – Arrive back at Saint Vincent College

Minutes of August 2015 Meeting

Judy Grove

Mid-Atlantic Chapter August 22, 2015

Society for the Preservation of Old Mills Semiannual Meeting

Location: Jerusalem Mill Village

Kingsville MD

Attendees: See Attachment A

President Bob McLaughlin opened the business meeting at 10:00 am. Dan Campbell was thanked for coordinating arrangements for the meeting and Friday's tour of Havre de Grace and surrounding sites.

Minutes of the April 2015 meeting in Lewisburg PA featuring Union County Mills were approved as distributed.

The balance in the treasury is \$9,451.46. See Attachment B for a detailed report.

As of August 15, 2015 memberships include 48 chapter/SPOOM (\$10), 9 non-SPOOM members (\$15), 17 sustaining memberships (\$25), and 16 organizational memberships (\$50) for a membership total of 90. There are 300 subscribers to the www.spoommidatlantic.org website. Beth de Francis Sun will contact Face Websites about adding a blog to our site and Jean Sansonetti will also contact them regarding training to assume management of the photo gallery since Steve Spring has moved out of the area.

Project Report: Ivan Lufriu

☐ **May 27.** An inquiry from Steven Formel for a belt pulley. Recommended Meadows Mill Company in North Carolina or Jim Kricker in New York.

☐ **May 22.** The Historic Bridge Hotel and Conference Center in Virginia is seeking a qualified individual for a paid internship position to bring an old mill and inn back to life. The candidate will be responsible to inventory and log property of both the mill and inn as well as help oversee as well as help oversee the renovation of the mill.

☐ **May 30.** Mr. Ron Houghton is the owner of Rockledge Mansion, built in 1758, which overlooks the mill town of Occoquan, VA. His concern is that developers might construct an edifice between the mansion and the mill site, and he is interested in any suggestions as to preserving the historical complex of the historical site. Responses were from Susan Langley and Ivan Lufriu.

Minutes of August 2015 Meeting (cont.)

Judy Grove

- ☐ **June 5.** A mill to be demolished in Chesapeake VA contains mill equipment and building parts. Many photos available. Response from Craig Sansonetti.
- ☐ **June 16.** Request from Ron Morton who will be restoring a mill in Loudon County, Tennessee. Seeking information on insuring the structure, and any assistance on restoration Responses from Dan Campbell and Ivan Lufriu.
- ☐ **July 2.** An ongoing battle in Kennebunkport, Maine regarding the restoration of a tide mill. After much debate, the Planning Board has still not issued a decision. Bud Warren of the Tide Mill Institute has been in the forefront with the proponents – with evidence from some of us in SPOOM.
- ☐ **July 26.** From Ryan and Jackie Martin, who are endeavoring to restore a mill and surrounding property. They are attempting to raise funds through a “Kickstart” program. The SPOOM consensus was to not get involved with private enterprises.
- ☐ **Nittany Antique Machinery in Centre Hall:** Robert McLaughlin reported that the mill foundation has been laid and timbers cut following an 8-year process. Construction will hopefully be completed in 2016.

Old Business

SPOOM Chapter Group Exemption Status: Bob McLaughlin reported that all chapters have secured an EIN number and SPOOM is awaiting a response on the 501(c)(3) tax exempt status for chapters.

Minutes of August 2015 Meeting (cont.)

Judy Grove

Mill Mapping Project: Currently there are over 4000 mills listed, but help is needed to input Virginia sites.

Website Policy: Following discussion, these guidelines were established by group consensus and will be posted on website pages as appropriate.

☐ Members receive one free posting per year; nonmember individuals pay \$25 and nonmember organizations pay \$50.

☐ Ad postings are free if items are to be given away at no cost.

☐ Decisions regarding questionable postings are to be made by Judy with board input as needed.

☐ Ads will be posted for 60 days.

☐ Email alerts will be sent to inform website subscribers of new ad postings.

☐ Judy will pursue the process of automating the ad postings through Face Websites.

☐ Members without email access will be contacted about receiving ad notifications.

Chapter Donation to SPOOM: On a motion by Craig Sansonetti and second by Steve Childers, the chapter gift of \$2000 to SPOOM to cover expenses (such as archives, 501(c)(3) status, etc.) was authorized once the chapter exemption process is completed. for the benefit of the chapters will be deferred till the August meeting.

Chapter Insurance: The vote to renew our insurance policy from year to year passed following a motion by Jean Sansonetti and second by Terry Koller.

2016 Chapter Meetings: St Vincent's Gristmill will host the Spring Meeting and Springfield Mills (Bill and Linda Koons) at Morris Arboretum in Philadelphia PA will host the Fall Meeting.

Minutes of August 2015 Meeting (cont.)

Judy Grove

New Business

Requests for Fundraising Projects: On a motion by Linda Koons and second by Sharon Lynch, the SPOOM Mid-Atlantic Board was authorized to determine whether to promote fundraising projects received by our group.

Project Grants: Bob McLaughlin will contact SPOOM Board at the November meeting about possible ways chapter funds can best be used to help fund grants for Mid-Atlantic sites, a mill-finder's app or other ideas that would achieve the goals of SPOOM. Their Founder's Fund is one possibility.

SPOOM Photo Contest: The Mill Photo Contest/Exhibition for the SPOOM Conference in California this fall is going digital. Details are available in the 2015 SPOOM Conference Brochure which is available at www.spoom.org website. Send digital entries from the Mid-Atlantic Region to Steve Spring at millfoto@aol.com

The meeting adjourned at 11:05.

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

NOTE: See Attachment D for recurring announcements.

Year end Treasurer's Report

Judy Grove

2015 SPOOM MIDATLANTIC CHAPTER FINANCE REPORT		
Description	YTD	Budget
Beginning Balance	\$ 7,974.01	\$ 6,000.00
INCOME		
4000 Memberships	\$ 1,852.00	\$ 2,000.00
4010 Cash/Check Payments	\$ 1,375.00	
4020 Online Payments	\$ 400.00	
4030 Additional Donations	\$ 77.00	
4100 Meeting Registrations	\$ 4,290.00	\$ 2,000.00
4110 Spring Meeting 2015	\$ 2,160.00	\$ 1,000.00
4111 Cash/Check Payments	\$ 1,440.00	
4112 Online Payments	\$ 720.00	
4120 Fall Meeting 2015	\$ 2,130.00	\$ 1,000.00
4121 Cash/Check Payments	\$ 1,038.00	
4122 Online Payments	\$ 1,092.00	
4200 Miscellaneous	\$ 174.00	\$ 100.00
4210 Ad Sales	\$ 174.00	
4220	\$ -	
Total Receipts	\$ 6,316.00	\$ 4,100.00
Total Receipts and Balance	\$ 14,290.01	\$ 10,100.00
EXPENSES		
5000 Meeting Expenses	\$ 3,452.89	\$ 2,000.00
5010 Spring Meeting 2015	\$ 1,706.90	\$ 1,000.00
5020 Fall Meeting 2015	\$ 1,745.99	\$ 1,000.00
5100 FACE Websites	\$ 509.40	\$ 550.00
5110 First Quarter	\$ 127.35	
5120 Second Quarter	\$ 127.35	
5130 Third Quarter	\$ 127.35	
5140 Fourth Quarter	\$ 127.35	
5200 SPOOM Services	\$ -	\$ 2,500.00
5300 Mill Project Support	\$ -	\$ 500.00
5400 Office Supplies	\$ 29.40	\$ 50.00
5500 Credit Card Fees	\$ 116.30	\$ 50.00
5510 Insurance	\$ 253.00	
5520 Miscellaneous	\$ -	\$ 50.00
Total Expenses	\$ 4,360.99	\$ 5,700.00
Ending Balance	\$ 9,929.02	\$ 4,400.00

\$\$ 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 or pay online from the Membership page on our website, www.spoommidatlantic.org. Additional forms may be downloaded from our 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 invitations to mill tours and semi-annual meetings. Please submit your payment promptly so you can continue to enjoy your membership benefits. Encourage like-minded friends to consider joining as well. Also check out our website for more pictures and information.



Newsletter

Articles, photographs, and upcoming events are due to the newsletter editor by June 1st, 2016 for the next newsletter. Don't forget photo credits/captions. Please use Word documents and jpgs whenever possible as pdf's are very difficult to use. Also, please remember to let everyone know about Fall Fairs and Christmas Festivities, 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: rlm101@verizon.net.



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: _____ State/Zip Code _____

Telephone Number _____ E-mail Address _____

(newsletters are emailed or posted in 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

Sustaining Membership - \$25.00

Organization Membership - \$50.00

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.