



SPOOM

Mid-Atlantic Chapter

January 2013



Shoaff's Mill

Mid-Atlantic SPOOM Chapter Semiannual Meeting and Mill Tour
SHOAFF'S MILL, Little Buffalo State Park, PA
April 4-6, 2013

--Bob McLaughlin

First SPOOM-MA meeting of 2013 will be hosted by Shoaff's Mill in Perry County, PA. The itinerary is as follows:

Thursday April 4

Meet at Days Inn Carlisle South around 7:30 pm
Go to dinner at a local restaurant

Friday April 5

Meet at Little Buffalo State Park at 9:30 am
Bus or Carpool to mills
Box lunch included; Dinner on your own

Saturday April 6

9:00 Registration, coffee and Danish at Little Buffalo State Park
9:30-10:30 Business meeting
10:30 -noon Speakers
12:00 - 1:00pm Lunch
1:00 - 3:00 Tour of Shoaff's Mill at Little Buffalo State Park

Waggoners Mill



Mid-Atlantic SPOOM Chapter Semiannual Meeting (cont'd)

Days Inn Carlisle South – Carlisle, PA
101 Alexander Spring Road, Carlisle, PA, 17015
1-866-539-8430

(GPS: 40.18661, -77.21426)

A group rate of ~\$68 a night has been set up at the hotel.

Reservations need to be made by March 14th.

Registration forms will be available on our website February 10.



Brownswell Mill



Delville Mill



Westover Mill

The View from the Headrace

-- Robert McLaughlin

As the incoming president I look forward to working with the chapter to continue the efforts of my predecessors to make the chapter even better. I believe that the first step in preserving old mills is knowing where they are or were, so I support continuing the efforts started by Bob Lundegard to map mill locations and develop an online application.

We also need to support our educational goals by holding seminars, workshops, or hosting a web application. Also, we need to look for ways to help member mills celebrate National Milling Day. This is a good way to get our organization more publicity.

We are looking for groups who are willing to host a meeting. If you know of any candidates let me know. It is never too early to start the planning process. Getting the publicity out may need lead times of months. I look forward to meeting all members at the next meeting and working with you to keep this chapter going and growing in our quest to preserve the old mills of the Mid-Atlantic region.



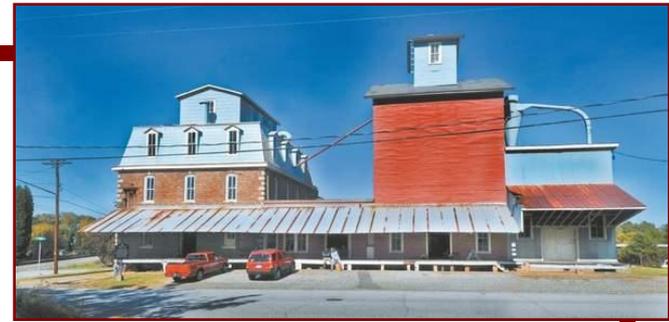
(l-r) Jon Joyce, VP; Bob McLaughlin, President
and Judy Grove, Secretary/Webmaster.



**Loss of Grimes Mill
Salisbury, Maryland
January 16-17, 2013**

-- from the report by Hugh Fisher Salisbury Post

(submitted by Mason Maddox)



Fire investigators must wait until the fire has been completely extinguished before they are able to assess the A five-alarm blaze which destroyed Salisbury's historic Grimes Mill late Wednesday evening.

Fire crews arrived on the Church Street scene to find flames already engulfing the wood-and-brick roller mill, owned by the Historic Salisbury Foundation. The first call for firefighters was dispatched at 9:44 p.m., according to Elaney Hasselmann, public information officer for the city of Salisbury.

Police officers who were first to arrive on the scene reported flames showing from through the windows. Within minutes, the fire had spread throughout the wood-frame structure, breaching the roof of the mill. Fire crews never went inside, Hasselmann said. The blaze was so intense that steam rose from rain-dampened ground as much as 60 feet away.

As parts of the building's roof collapsed, firefighters backed away from the structure and continued to pour water on it. At one point, Hasselmann said, six ladder trucks were spraying water down onto the burning mill.

Fire Marshal Terry Smith said it was unclear what had caused the blaze. He said no injuries had been reported.

Built in 1896, Grimes Mill operated until 1982, producing flour and feed products. After the foundation purchased it, the mill was used for years for fundraising events, but also stood in need of repair. More recently, volunteers from the foundation had cleaned the mill and were restoring the machinery within. It was opened to the public as part of the foundation's 2012 OctoberTour of historic properties.

As word spread of the fire, onlookers gathered in the blocks surrounding the mill, and members of the foundation made their way to the scene.

...cont'd P. 5

Loss of Grimes Mill (cont'd)

About a block from the mill, Doug Black, vice president of the Historic Salisbury Foundation, stood with his colleagues. Black said he and volunteers had been working at the mill until about 4:30 p.m. Wednesday. They were preparing for school tours that were expected to start in the coming months, Black said. "When we left, everything was turned off, everything was locked up," said Black, watching as ladder trucks slowly doused the flames.

Asked whether a trespasser might have started the fire, Black said there had been problems with vagrants in Grimes Mill in the past, "but not for months now, maybe as long as a year." "We just hope no one was hurt," Black said.

Although flour dust can be very flammable when airborne, Black said there was not enough flour residue left inside after 30 years to start a fire. Black said, "We always told the fire department, if ever there is a blaze, don't go in. It's kindling." Nearby, foundation treasurer Ed Clement looked on, sorrowful. "A lot of history lost," Clement said. "There was still original, working machinery in there." Brian Davis, executive director, said he had a meeting planned with the Charlotte Film Commission next week to see about filming at Grimes Mill.

Aside from the historic mill itself, parts of the building were used to store items used at foundation fundraisers. Black said the original benches from the Salisbury Depot were also inside. "I'm heartsick," said Mary James, member of the foundation's board of trustees. She and her family watched from about three blocks away, along with some 30 others who parked and walked to the hill overlooking Grimes Mill. James said her son, Robyn, saw the flames through a window of their home in the 700 block of South Fulton Street. "The sky was completely lit up," he said. Although there was no clear sign of how the fire started, "It's hard to believe that this is not vandalism," Mary James said.

Jim Carli, site manager for Grimes Mill with the Historic Salisbury Foundation, arrived about 45 minutes after the first call went out. He said there had been hopes of getting enough of the original roller mill machinery running again to do historic demonstrations, he said. "Getting this thing turning again was on my bucket list," Carli said.

Loss of Grimes Mill (cont'd)

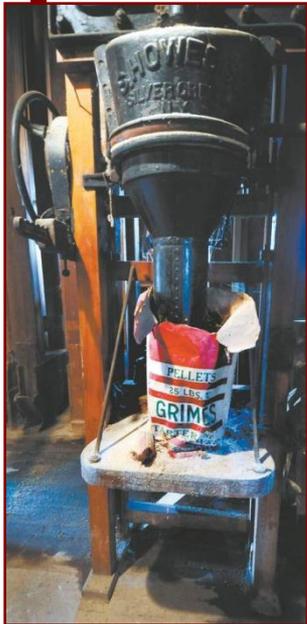
Smith said the State Bureau of Investigation's fire investigation unit had already been notified Wednesday night, as is standard when “a large loss” occurs.

Hasselmann confirmed this, saying that the investigation would likely get underway today. Fire crews remained on the scene overnight to battle any flare-ups. Hasselmann said that nearby buildings, including city-owned properties, were never in danger. Hasselmann said that firefighters from Salisbury, South Salisbury, Spencer, Rockwell, Granite Quarry, Locke, Cleveland and Kannapolis departments were among those who responded to the five-alarm blaze. Law enforcement personnel and the Rowan County Rescue Squad were also on the scene.

For the original article, related articles and updates:

<http://www.salisburypost.com/article/20130116/SP01/130119728/flames-destroy-grimes-mill>

All images are from the *Salisbury Post* article/website. Fire images are by Hugh Fisher and Andy Morrissey for the *Salisbury Post*.



Rocky Ford Mill Equipment Available

The owners of Rocky Ford Mill near Dolphin VA would like to see the milling equipment go to a good home. Unfortunately, the building is severely deteriorated, requiring the services of a salvage firm to safely dismantle the building and remove the contents. Ben Hassett of [B. E. Hassett Millwrights](http://www.b.e.hassettmillwrights.com) completed an inventory and took pictures of the available equipment.

Contact Ben at 804-363-1606 or hassettbe@verizon.net if you have questions about any of the listed items. Contact Greg Nixon at 434-949-0080 or RockyFordFarm@gmail.com if you are interested in securing any of the contents.

Photographs and an inventory of contents are available on our website www.spoommidatlantic.org by selecting the mill equipment available tab under special events on the left toolbar.



 **WANTED:** 
Newsletter Editor

--Susan Langley

After 10 Years, I think the newsletter ought to have some new blood. My “real life” work load has been increasing so I would like to pass along the newsletter editorship. Although the By-laws require only two newsletters per year, we have found that four work better; one prior to each SPOOM-MA meeting and one after each. This results in an approximate schedule of January, April, July and October.

Although I am happy to share any advice or suggestions, interested parties should contact the President, Bob McLaughlin at: rlm101@verizon.net.

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

Steve Spring, our very talented chapter photographer, has added lots more photos to the Photo Gallery at our website. Take some time now to enjoy the pictures as a reminder of places you have enjoyed in the past or new locations to visit at your next opportunity.



Newsletter

Articles, photographs, and upcoming events are due by April 5th, 2013 for the next newsletter. Don't forget photo credits/captions. Please use Word documents and jpgs whenever possible as pdf's are v. difficult to use. Also, please remember to let everyone know about 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.



\$\$ 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.

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

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.