



Stover-Myers Mill

--Robert McLaughlin

The 2012 National SPOOM Conference was held from Sept 27th to 30th in Bucks County, PA. This is in heavily populated southeastern PA just north of Philadelphia. Charles Yeske was our host and he is to be commended for finding so many operating mills in such an urban area.

Thursday the 27th was pre-conference activity. I attended the Archive activity at Newlin Mills. The archives are in good hands and continue to be improved upon. Tony Shahan and staff are to be commended for the job they have done to catalog and protect the SPOOM archives. Other tours included Castle Valley Mill, The Moravian Tile Works, and Pennsbury Manor.

Friday Sept 28th. The three buses loaded early for the first day of mill tours. The first stop was the Ralston Cider Mill. This is a gristmill that was converted to a cider mill to produce Peach Brandy and Apple Jack during prohibition. They ran the machinery but did not make any cider. The next stop was Coopers Mill where Ivins Smith was grinding corn. The third stop was Stover-Myers Mill which was not operating. Charles Yeske has been trying to get this mill operational for a while, but ran into some problems which have delayed the project. The last stop was the Stover Mill on the banks of the Delaware River. This mill does not operate but has some equipment on static display. We ended the day at Tohickon Park with a picnic at the Barn.

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SPOOM

Mid-Atlantic Chapter

October 2012

40 YEARS OF SPOOMING!
2012 ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND MILL TOUR
BUCKS COUNTY, PA
SEPTEMBER 27-30



SPOOM National Meeting (cont'd)

Saturday Sept 29th. We were on the buses early again for the second day of mill tours. The first stop was Bowmansville Mill. Mason Maddox was helping the folks there operate the mill for the group. There was a gristmill and a sawmill sharing the same head race and both were operating. The next stop was The Mill at Anselma which was operating also. The last stop was the Evans-Mumbower Mill. This mill was operating using a water recirculation system. This system was beautiful, very simple and well done. We ended the day with the banquet at the host hotel the Crowne Plaza.

Sunday Sept 30th. The annual "meet the board" meeting was held starting at 9 o'clock. This is a meeting where members can present ideas and make comments on the actions of the organization to the SPOOM board. The meeting adjourned at 10 o'clock and we all headed home. We are looking forward to next year's conference in Jasper, Indiana in June.



Anselma Mill



Evans-Mumbower Mill



Ralston Mill



Cooper Mill

From the Desk of the President

-- Robert Lundegard

Marlene Lufriu and her committee produced a slate of nominees for the 2013-2014 Officers that will carry our Chapter in a sparkling fashion into our future. The slate was approved at our August Chapter Meeting at the Double Mills in Mardela Springs MD. I am delighted to be succeeded by Bob McLaughlin who will be your new President.

I am looking forward to being an active member of the Chapter but not in an official way. Assisting Bob will be Jon Joyce as VP, Judy Grove as Secretary & Webmaster, and Jane Sewell as our experienced and trusted Treasurer.

Our Chapter has been in existence for eight years. It was founded by our first leader Chuck Ives and many associated with the Union Mills. I have been privileged to follow Chuck and serve for the last two terms. During the past four years we have progressed. A two day Chapter meeting format has evolved with tours, conversation, and a short business meeting. The critical program to help owners of historic mills make needed repairs has been vigorously led by Ivan Lufriu. The newsletter, where this note will appear, has evolved into a timely and interesting source of Chapter activity news and superb professional photos and historical notes, all under Susan Langley's guiding professional hand. Our most aggressive and startling success, unique to the Mid-Atlantic Chapter, has been the launching of www.spoommidatlantic.org; during the past two years, Judy Grove has taken charge as the first web-master. Judy has done a fantastic job, working hand in glove with the contractor, lining up Organizational members to pay the bills, expanding the content, and making the appearance more attractive, simple, and accessible. Thanks to all my colleagues and our members for making the Mid-Atlantic Chapter second to none.

I look forward to being a good member and a part of the Chapter's continuing leadership and success with SPOOM and in our Mid-Atlantic region. It has been my good fortune and a great pleasure to work with you these past four years. Good luck to you all.



(l-r) Jon Joyce, Bob McLaughlin and Judy Grove.





**Minutes of the
Mid-Atlantic Chapter Society for the
Preservation of Old Mills Semiannual Meeting
August 18, 2012
Double Mills Community Hall
Mardela Springs MD**

--Judith Grove, Secretary

President Bob Lundegard opened the business meeting at 9:00 AM. He welcomed attendees and introduced Stephanie Elliott, Lisa and Kevin Coleman, Sylvia Bradley and Lester Twilley from the Double Mills Friends Group, our host for the event. He thanked them for helping the chapter fulfill its most important activity: bringing together interesting people and places related to mills and milling.

As outgoing president, Bob highlighted these chapter successes during his four years of tenure: timely, attractive, and informative chapter newsletters, website, and photo gallery (managed by Susan Langley, Judy Grove, and Steve Spring) that set high standards in the milling community, well-managed funds (Jane Sewell), and articles on chapter activities in *Old Mill News* (Robert McLaughlin).

Minutes of the March 2011 meeting at Peirce Mill Washington DC were approved as distributed. The balance in the treasury as of August 15 is \$5,474.45. Currently there are 76 memberships paid for 2012, including 58 individual (47 @ \$10 and 11 @ \$15), 10 sustaining memberships (\$25), and 8 organizational memberships (\$50). (Six additional memberships were received during this conference, but are not included here.)

SPOOM Mid-Atlantic Newsletter: Send articles to Susan Langley at slangley06@comcast.net by the October 5 deadline for the next issue. Pictures in jpeg format with captions are preferred; include names of any individuals in the photos.

Mill Preservation Update: Ivan Lufriu reported no additional progress on local projects, but he is working on grant selection for the national SPOOM organization. Judy reported that she has been contacted by several groups and individuals (both in and beyond the chapter boundaries) requesting assistance with information or preservation projects. Ivan and other board members have responded to these requests.

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

Mid-Atlantic Milling Day: The chapter voted to set Friday and Saturday, June 15 and 16 as 2013 Mid-Atlantic Milling Days. Judy will prepare a template for groups to submit information for easy posting to the website. These suggestions arose from discussion about 2012 events: (1) plan on two successive days, (2) customize the format to suit each particular mill site and (3) partner with other local mills for joint publicity. An article detailing the cooperative effort of four southern York County mills to apply these suggestions, along with additional promotional resources, will be posted at www.spoommidatlantic.org to assist other groups with 2013 plans.

Mid-Atlantic Chapter Report in *Old Mill News*: Send information on events of general interest to Robert McLaughlin at Rlm101@verizon.net by October 25. Pictures may be sent to Steve Spring at millfoto@aol.com.

SPOOM-MA Web Page: Several attendees made use of the new option to register and pay meeting fees online. A glitch with the online membership feature has been resolved. Judy received the offer of a free membership to a website marketing/training site which she will use to enhance the effectiveness of our website. A volunteer to serve as the archivist who would screen and post documents related to mills and milling is being sought. Contact judygrove@verizon.net if interested.

Election of Officers: The following persons were elected for 2013-2014 – Robert McLaughlin, president; Jon Joyce, vice president; Jane Sewell, treasurer; and Judy Grove, secretary.

General Discussion Items: Adding New Jersey to the Mid-Atlantic Chapter was discussed, but no action taken. The Thursday night pre-meeting gathering and dinner and the Friday mill tour were well-received and provided excellent opportunities for networking. The Double Mills hosts are to be commended for their exceptional hospitality.



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

Potential Sites for Spring Chapter Meeting:

- Shoaff's Grist Mill in Little Buffalo State Park – Newport PA (Ben Ramey)
- Burwell Morgan Grist Mill – Millwood VA (Bruce Gilbert)
- Burnt Cabin Grist Mill – Burnt Cabins PA (Greg and Dawn Harnish)

Considerations for Future Chapter Meeting Sites:

- Lime Valley Mill – Lancaster PA (Dale and Allison Brian) spring not fall
- Kemps Mill – Williamsport MD (owner: Richard Nye)
- St Vincent Grist Mill – Latrobe PA
- Union County Mills – Lewisburg PA (Tom Rich @Bucknell University) when mill book is done



▲ Shoaff's Grist Mill



▶ Burnt Cabin Grist Mill

◀ Burwell Morgan Grist Mill



Pungo Creek Mills

-- Susan Langley

Those of us attending the summer meeting at Double Mills had the pleasure of meeting Bill Savage. At a time when mills are either highly industrialized commercial endeavors or operated as historical sites, Bill and his wife Laurel are producing award winning cornmeal from the heirloom corn known as Bloody Butcher on their Painter, Virginia farm.

They've devoted 8-10 acres to growing this variety of what is commonly called Indian corn or calico corn for its colorful kernels. Bloody Butcher has been known in Virginia since 1845 and is a dent type of corn, meaning that it is not intended to be eaten fresh but is grown to be ground into meal. Dent corn is named for the small indentation on the top of each kernel. It grows 10-12 feet tall with 2-6 ears per stalk. It has less moisture than sweet corn but is softer than flint corn, the oldest varieties of Indian or calico corns with even less moisture. Popcorn is an extreme form of flint corn.

The Savages brought in their first crop in 2009 from corn purchased from a neighbor who said his grandfather had grown bloody butcher in 1870. Milling equipment was acquired from a Northampton mill that had last operated in the 1960s and much of it dates to the mid-20th century. Bill has been creative in keeping it functioning and adding his own proprietary twists to make it as efficient as possible. Even so, it is definitely an artisanal process still involving a great deal of hand labor by both Bill and Laurel to produce 150 lbs. of cornmeal per hour on the 1935 set of stones; a season may see production of 2-3,000 100-pound bags.

In 2010, Pungo Creek Mills cornmeal won the award for Best New Food at the Virginia Food and Beverage Expo in Richmond. It is available in one and two-pound bags directly from the Savages, online, and through select outlets. The latter may soon include Whole Foods stores in Richmond and Charlottesville, Virginia.

Perhaps it's not so surprising that Bill has pioneered the first mill in the area since 1940 because his great-grandfather, Will Savage, once operated a small mill on the family farm half a mile from the present Pungo Creek Mills. Historical interest continues with Bill's participation in Civil War reenactments, and he comments that salt pork and Indian corn sustained the southern troops for the last year of the war.

For more information and recipes see Lorraine Eaton's article in *The Virginian-Pilot* (April 14, 2010) online at: <http://hamptonroads.com/2010/04/taste-history-cornmeal-made-bloody-butcher-corn>



Custis Mill in King William County

--Marge Lundegard, Colvin Run Mill

The Custis Mill Ruins are located on the Custis Millpond on Virginia SR 625 in King William County. In 1774 George Washington acquired 1780 acres of land of the Claiborne plantation called Romancoke. This purchase included a deed for a mill and 100 acres of land. The mill was built prior to 1742. The mill may have been standing as early as 1702. Washington bought this land for John Parke Custis Hence the name of the mill, the Custis Mill. Martha Washington was from the Custis family.



In 1778 John Parke Custis came of age and resided at his ancestral home called Eltham. He died in 1781. George Washington appointed Bartholomew Dandridge to be the guardian of the estate. In 1795 to 1796 George started transferring the estate to George Washington Parke Custis. The mill was included in the transfer. Mr. Custis died in 1857. He bequeathed his King William County land to his grandson, Robert E. Lee, Jr.

In the 1860's the mill became known as the Lee Mill. The grandson retained much of the property until 1914. In 1904 the millpond and mill was purchased by the Custis Fishing and Hunting Club. Forty members fish and hunt at the site.

The mill was a one story frame structure. The mill had one run of stones and an interior water wheel. Today the sluice gate is intact. The original thirty foot wide earthen dam is in place and was used as a road bed.

Currently the road bridge bypasses the dam. The mill operated until the 1950's. About fifteen years ago two trees fell onto the mill which damaged the mill structure causing the mill to collapse into the stream. The original mill key, twelve inches in length, was forged by a blacksmith. The key weighed about a pound.





| William County (cont'd)

When the farmers brought their grain to the mill they would tie their horses to an old tree that is still standing today. It is said that the miller, before grinding, would shake the stones to get rid of any mice who were having a free meal from the grain left between the stones.

The damaged mill contains the milling equipment. The Club has future plans to retrieve the mill and restore this historic mill, thus preserving the history of the mill and the ownership by our first President.



Hickory King Corn

--Susan Langley

When looking into the Bloody Butcher corn grown by the Savages (P. 7), another heirloom variety also grown in Virginia in the mid-19th century was frequently mentioned. Hickory King was grown mostly at the foot of the Appalachians but also grows to great heights. It is best known for large ears with kernels that are frequently the size of dimes. These are best known to most of us as the “Corn Nuts” generally sold roasted, salted and prepackaged with bagged nuts and seeds for snacking.



Colonial Mill Coming Back to Life

-- Ray Reed (Courtesy of *The News & Advance*)

BROOKNEAL - The past with some new parts, is being restored in Hat Creek, Campbell County's oldest community.

Harper's Mill, which supplied flour and corn meal to settlers in the colonial era and survived at least two floods to keep operating in the 20th century, is coming back to life.



▲ Harper's Mill
Credit: Sam O'Keefe

A wooden water wheel and its components are being installed by current owners Pat and Steve Elder, with the services of Lynchburg millwright Ben Hassett. Hassett's company built the wooden wheel and designed its metal hub, shaft and gears. "He's going to hook it up so it will operate," Pat Elder said. The Elders are hoping the rather small mill will attract visitors, if only a few of them. "Hat Creek doesn't have a lot going for it," because it's a rural area of former tobacco farms about five miles north of Brookneal, Pat Elder said.

The Elders have launched a bed-and-breakfast venture at their home, naming it for Harper's Mill. The mill restoration, however, is intended to complement the community's other features instead of their low-key B&B business, Pat Elder said. The Elders are hoping the mill can be a field-trip destination for schoolchildren studying history, and also that it also will attract visitors among the clientele of the nearby Sans Soucy Vineyard and the Hat Creek Golf Course. Red Hill plantation, Patrick Henry's last home, also is nearby.

The Elders plan to make animal feed in the mill, grinding corn with millstones that survive from the mill's active years a century ago. The resulting meal "won't be for human consumption," Pat Elder said. "That requires too many health inspectors." However, "chickens have come back," she said, and many people now have a couple of dozen hens in their back yards. They'll be consumers for the mill's products, Elder hopes.

The Hat Creek area traces its origins to 1737, when pioneer settler John Irvine "took up" about 400 acres surrounding Entry Creek and Little Falling River by clearing and working the land - a practice approved by the British Crown. His son, Abraham Irvine, built the first grist mill on the river in 1761. Floods wiped out the mill on the river, but it was replaced by one on the smaller Entry Creek, where the current mill, circa 1900, stands. According to historic information provided by Elder and other sources, Abraham Irvine died while serving as a soldier in the Revolutionary War.

Research Source

-- Judith Grove & Steve Spring

Looking for more information about mills and mill sites? The Society for the Preservation of Old Mills (SPOOM) provides mill lists as advertised in the back of its publication *Old Mill News*. Presently the lists are available via CD (preferred) or Printed (more expensive because of the printing costs). The electronic form is in Adobe PDF format (which is available from Adobe as a free download if your computer does not already have it). The Mill Lists are available by Regions. For example, the Mid-Atlantic Region consists of New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, West Virginia, and North and South Carolina. Pennsylvania and Virginia are Regions of their own due to the sheer volume of mills. Lists may be purchased through the *Old Mill News* or by printing the attachment on the Mid-Atlantic Mills of our www.spoommidatlantic.org website. Here is a sample entry from a Wayne County mill.



▲ Joel Hill Saw Mill

JOEL HILL SAW MILL, PA-064-001, RILEYVILLE, PA, Updated: 05/01

Built - 1873, Type - Sawmill, Powered by - Turbine, Condition - Non Operational. Currently – Museum.

Location: (ADC 14 C4) (X 4) North of RILEYVILLE. From Honesdale, take RTF 191 for 15 miles to Creek Road (Duck Harbor Fish Commission access signs). Turn left (west) onto Creek Road, go 1/2 mile, turn right (north) onto Duck Harbor Road and follow the paved road to the mill.

Comments: Has recently been acquired by the Equinunk Historical Society and it has been restored and refurbished. Built shortly after the end of the Civil War. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, 1974. Demonstration timber sawing is done. No admission charge, but donations are accepted. For more information, contact the Equinunk Historical Society, PO Box 41, Equinunk PA 18417, or phone 570-224-6722.



8th Annual Tide Mill Conference, Bath, Maine

-- Bud Warren

The Tide Mill Institute will hold its annual meeting on Saturday, November 10, 2012 at the Winter Street Center, 880 Washington Street, Bath. This year's theme is: *The Power of the Tides, 1194-2012*. There will be a tour of regional mills on Friday, November 9 from noon-3:30pm.

The keynote speaker will be Simon Davis from MOLA, the Museum of London Archaeology. He was involved in the archaeological discovery of a Thames River Anglo Saxon-era tide mill in 2009. Because more exploration of that site will happen later this summer, he will be able to offer the latest findings. For details on the discovery, see the November 2009 issue of *Current Archaeology*, Issue 236.

John Goff will present the history of Winnegance, perhaps the greatest concentration of tidal sawmills in the world, where eight separate sawmills sat on one dam. John Morse, sixth generation sawyer at his family's Winnegance area tide mill site, will share their story. The day's program will end with low-tide field trips to these sites and to the 1716-1928 Potter/Spinney mill site in nearby Arrowsic.

Fred Gralenski will describe his search for details of a 19th century tide mill on Pennamaquan River in Pembroke, and Todd Grisett will tell about a tidal power project being proposed for the same waters today.

Conference \$20, refreshments and lunch included. Please register early! Contact Earl Taylor at TMI Ermwwt@aol.com 617-293-3052 or 123 Ashmont St., Dorchester, MA 02124. See also:

<http://www.tidemillinstitute.org>.



Winnegance 1890s
Credit: TIMS website

Arrowsic-Spinney/Potter Mill, 2010
Credit: TIMS website



Tide Mills of Western Europe

-- Cláudia Silveira

The exhibition "Tide Mills of Western Europe" is aimed at helping to increase public awareness of these heritage buildings common to the European Atlantic Coast and the ways in which their potential has been developed. Organised as part of a project supported by the European Commission under the Culture 2000 Program and coordinated by the Ecomuseu Municipal do Seixal (Portugal), the exhibition is the result of the collective work of more than 20 institutions and researchers dedicated to projects related to the research, preservation, restoration and promotion of tide mills on European territory. This exhibition is in circulation around Europe since October 2005 when it was first presented at the Prat Tide Mill (La Vicomté-sur-Rance, Côtes d'Armor, France) and has received since then almost 100 000 visitors.

This summer, "Tide Mills of Western Europe" returns for new presentations in England including Ashlett Tide Mill, Hampshire (from September 10 onward).

The exhibition is still available for those institutions that might be interested in presenting it. More information is available at the website <http://www.cm-seixal.pt/moinhosdemare/>.

☞ Save the Date ☛

Prater's Mill

To learn more about the history of both the mill and its Festival, visit the website: <http://pratersmill.org/>. The Festival assists with fundraising for needed repairs.



▲ Ashlett Tide Mill

Prater's Mill
Established 1955

COUNTRY FAIR
AN ALL VOLUNTEER
NOT-FOR-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

Saturday 9AM-6PM
Sunday 9AM-5PM

October 13th & 14th

Admission \$7.⁰⁰
Children under 12 Free
Free Parking

A Southern Festival of Quality Artists, Craftsmen, Music and Food.

NATIONALGEOGRAPHIC.COM

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 to Susan by January 5th, 2012 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. Email to: slangle06@comcast.net.



\$\$ 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.