IN THIS ISSUE
• View from the Tailrace
• President’s Message
• September Meeting Summary
• 2016 SPOOM Conference Summary
• The NAMA Mill
• How to Date a Mill Timber
• Fall 2016 Meeting Minutes
• Spring Meeting Information
• Membership Form

UPCOMING EVENTS
* April 20-22—Spring Chapter Meeting
* Nov. 1—Spring Newsletter Article Deadline

SPOOM-MA Chapter
613 Green Valley Road
York, PA 17403
USA
717-741-4366
www.spoommidatlantic.org
info@spoommidatlantic.org

BOARD MEMBERS: (2016)
Bob McLaughlin, President
Dan Campbell, Vice President
Judy Grove, Secretary/Treasurer
Susan Langley
Ivan Lufriu
Marlene Lufriu
Robert Lundegard, President Ex-Officio
Bob McLaughlin, Newsletter Editor
Craig Sansonetti
Adam Sieminski
Charles Yeske

View From the Tailrace
By Bob McLaughlin (Outgoing President)

Thanks again for making my tenure as President of the Chapter enjoyable. And thanks to my fellow officers and Board members for their support. We have a lot of work to do in the coming months: incorporate as an organization, get tax exempt status from the IRS and of course plan for the 2017 SPOOM Chapter/National Joint Conference.

President’s Message
By Dan Campbell ( Incoming President)

As I step into the position of your President of the SPOOM Mid-Atlantic Chapter in 2017, I am humbled and honored to be following the terrific work of our past president Bob McLaughlin. Our new Vice President is Adam Sieminski of Washington, DC, and we are blessed with the continued invaluable guidance and knowledge of our Secretary Judy Grove and our other experienced directors/board members.

2017 will be an exciting year for SPOOM-MA, since for the first time, the national SPOOM organization has asked a local chapter to host a National Conference in conjunction with our own semi-annual meeting. This tandem conference will be held from October 11 to 14, 2017, based in York and Lancaster Counties of PA.
**President’s Message (cont.)**

By Dan Campbell

Our recent Fall MA meeting, held in and around Philadelphia, PA, was a success with 20 attendees at the meet & greet dinner, then about 40 people on the mill tour day and the Saturday morning mill tour and business meeting. The Spring meeting has been scheduled for April 20 to 22, 2017, based in the Wilmington DE area; Mill tours will take place between southeastern PA, northern DE and possibly into the MD peninsula at the headwaters of the Chesapeake Bay. What an opportunity to visit this well-watered “tri-state area” of our mid-Atlantic states! (more information in this issue).

With Bob McLaughlin’s careful guidance, your board of directors is making updates to our chapter bylaws including clarified terms and rotation of our board of directors. The draft will be ready for membership review and discussion around the time of the Spring meeting, and a vote for adoption then or thereafter.

The life-blood of our organization is participation by our membership, and our future is growth through adding new members. So please invite your interested friends and acquaintances who would enjoy attending these upcoming events. If you are not already a member of the national organization of SPOOM, then 2017 would be an ideal time to sign-up, receive their informative quarterly magazine and attend the October National Conference for education, fellowship, and fun with our other SPOOMers from around the country. I came to SPOOM-MA after attending two national conferences in Fairfax County, VA and Bucks County, PA; so I can attest to the value of being a member of the national and the chapter societies. I look forward to seeing all of you!

Dan Campbell

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**September 2016 Meeting**

By Bob McLaughlin

The Fall meeting of the Chapter was held in Plymouth Meeting, PA from Sept 8th to 10th. The host mill was Springfield Mill located in the Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania. We visited this Mill in 2006 as they were starting their restoration. The mill is now operational with an electric motor that is so well hidden it took me awhile to find it. They are to be congratulated for their efforts in restoring this mill.

Springfield Mill

We drove by Mather Mill. Due to structural problems we could not get inside and due to road construction we could not even pull over to stop and take pictures. This is a beautiful mill owned by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission who can’t seem to figure out what to do with it.

Mather Mill
The next stop was the Evans-Mumbower Mill. This mill operates on water power by a recycling water system. Their webpage is at www.wvwa.org/evansmill/

Next we stopped at the Peter Wentz Farmstead. There was a presentation on the mills along Zacharias Creek and we had lunch.

Our last stop was at Castle Valley Mill. This is a family owned mill trying to make a profitable business out of it. They have products for sale. Check out their website at www.castlevalleymill.com/

The SPOOM Conference was held in the Dayton, OH area on Oct. 20 through 23.

The Rock Mill did not quite make it into operation for the conference but it was close. It was a very nice mill in a beautiful setting.
We could not get inside Clifton Mill, but had a nice summary of the history of the mill by the owner. They also had a nice gift shop.

The stop at the Staley Mill and Rye Whiskey Distillery was a real treat for me as the gristmill was as original as one can get. We also got to look at an up and down sawmill with most of the machinery intact.

We then talked about a building where one side opened up to show the equipment to spectators standing outside. That plan was also rejected. Since the site was on a hill we thought that a split level building would allow the spectators to see both levels of the mill without having to go up or down stairs. That plan was accepted and we began the design process. We decided on a 16 by 30 foot plan and in January 2015 we started on the timber framing and worked through the winter. By August the foundation was completed. In October we were ready to start the building construction. The building construction was completed by June 2016 and work moved to the machinery. As of February 2017 the hearst frame is completed and the bedstone set. Work is now concentrated on getting the runner stone finished and installed.

When I retired in 2007 I proposed building a gristmill for the Nittany Antique Machinery Association. They accepted the offer and in 2008 they acquired a set of 44” millstones. I then began the building design. Originally we were thinking of putting the mill on a trailer so it could be moved around but that proved impractical.
In the absence of primary source historical records such as maps, deeds, land surveys etc., architectural historians and preservationists often use physical evidence in a building’s construction materials to determine its date of construction. In the case of a timber-framed mill, the timbers themselves provide clues. Since the technology of producing lumber from trees has evolved over the centuries, it is possible to narrow the time period of timber production based on evidence found on the surfaces of the lumber.

The earliest method of producing dimensional lumber, generally from the 1600’s up until the mid-1700’s, was hand-hewing. This involved chopping off the bark and sides of a log with an ax to create a roughly planar surface, then smoothing further with an adz or draw-knife. This was done on two sides to create log joists, or on all four sides to make a rectangular timber.

Hand-hewing remained in practice well into the later period of sawing methods because it allowed for longer timber lengths. A long, straight tree trunk could be worked by hand into a timber beam, 30 feet long or more. Most sawing methods limited the timber lengths that could be produced to the length of a mechanized sawmill shed itself. The visible evidence on hand-hewn beams is the chop marks of the ax, and the slice-marks of the draw-knife, on its surfaces. (1600’s to 1750 and later)

The earliest method of timber sawing was “pit sawing,” which was used from circa the mid-1700’s to 1800 or later. A long trench or “pit” was dug in the ground, deeper than a man’s height, and saw horses were placed spanning across it, where the log was clamped on them. One man walked in the pit, with another man above, and they used a double handled saw to push and pull the saw through the log to produce a timber. Imagine what a nasty job it was to be the “pit-man”. I hope that they traded places often! The physical evidence on pit-sawn lumber is the random angled saw-marks with no uniformity, on the surfaces of the sides. (Circa 1750 to 1800 and later)
From the late 1700’s to circa 1850, most mechanically-sawn construction lumber was produced by a water-driven straight saw blade, mounted vertically in the center of a wooden rectangular frame similar to a window sash. A gear with cogs moved the log forward on rails on the floor, in equal steps, while the sash saw slid up and down in the same coordinated steps, cutting on both the up and down strokes. The resulting saw marks, which date this method, are vertical lines on the faces of the timbers, equal distances apart (usually about ¼” apart). These are typically called “water-sawn” or “sash-sawn” timbers and joists. (Circa 1780 to mid-1800’s)

The method of circular sawing began post-1850, initially water driven and later steam-engine driven. In this method, a circular blade of about 3-feet diameter was rotated by the power source to cut through a log as it moved steadily along rails. The physical evidence of this method is concentric circular lines on the timber faces. (1850 to 1900 and later)

So, the manufacturing date of dimensional lumber, and therefore roughly the date of a building, can be narrowed down to one of these approximately 50-year periods of sawing methods, based on the observation of saw-marks. However, due to the slow change in the technology in some regions, there could be an overlap in the sawing methods of lumber for up to a quarter of a century (25 years). It is often possible to see dimensional lumber from two or more of these periods of cutting methods in the same structure, also due to the recycling of earlier timbers from former structures. Thriftiness was a common practice of early Americans!

Simplified drawings of the hand-hewing, pit-sawing and sash sawing techniques, by Eric Sloan (1905-1985)

By Daniel T. Campbell, AIA, Preservation Architect, Chester County, PA  www.danielcampbellarcht.com
September 2016 Meeting Minutes
By Judy Grove

Mid-Atlantic Chapter September 10, 2016
Society for the Preservation of Old Mills
Semiannual Meeting
Location: Springfield Mills, Morris Arboretum, PA

President Bob McLaughlin opened the business meeting at 11:00 am, thanking hosts Bill and Linda Koons and Bob Gutowski for an excellent event. Charles Yeske, SPOOM President, sent regrets that he could not attend due to a big event at his site.

Minutes of the April 2016 meeting at St Vincent Grist Mill in Latrobe PA were approved as distributed with minor typo corrections. The balance in the treasury is $11,797.48. See Attachment B for a detailed report. The report will be placed on file for audit.

Membership: As of August 31, paid 2016 memberships include 46 chapter/SPOOM ($10), 6 non-SPOOM members ($15), 21 sustaining memberships ($25), and 14 organizational memberships ($50) for a membership total of 87.

Website: There are 300 subscribers to the www.spoommidatlantic.org website. Formatting changes were made by Face Websites for better style consistency between pages. The blog is active with the latest posting an article by Dan Campbell on dating wood in old buildings.

Project Report: Dan Campbell presented the report. See attachment C for details.

Old Business

SPOOM Chapter Group Exemption Status: The reason that the IRS refused the SPOOM request to add chapters under their 501(c)(3) tax exempt status was due to insufficient oversight of required IRS reports by the chapters. A motion to pursue 501(c)(3) status as a chapter and pay necessary fees was made by Linda Koons, seconded by Steve Childers, and approved. A motion to incorporate prior to pursuing tax exempt status was made by Adam Simienski, seconded by Todd Eyster, and approved.

2017 SPOOM Conference: Current plans are to hold the meeting the end of September or early October from Wednesday through Saturday. The SPOOM board will meet on Wednesday. Thursday and Friday will each have one day tours of York (Eden, Muddy Creek Forks, Wallace Cross Mills and New Park Wind Engines) and Lancaster County mills (Bowmansville, Mascot Roller, Aberdeen and a few others). Saturday will feature workshop speakers with some approved for the miller’s training program and the SPOOM Mid-Atlantic Business Meeting. These would be held at the host hotel.

Mill Mapping Project: Bob McLaughlin presented a map of Montgomery County Mills to our hosts.

Nittany Antique Machinery Association (NAMA) in Centre Hall: Work on the hurst frame is in progress. The hope is to have the mill operating in 2017 for the June and September shows.

Chapter Donation for SPOOM Grant: No word yet on completion of the Mill at Anselma project for which the chapter will pay the grant amount of $575. Bob will check on this at the national meeting.
September 2016 Meeting Minutes
(cont.)

SPOOM Mill List and Mills Open to the Public: Steve Spring requested cooperation in compiling the list of mills open to the public for the SPOOM website. To include your mill, send the name (and web URL if possible) of the mill and your contact information to Steve at SPOOMMILLLISTS@aol.com. Also, if you know of a mill that is not already on the SPOOM Mill List, complete the Mill Survey Form which is available at www.spoom.org.

Mid-Atlantic Chapter Meetings Report: The chapter vice president prepares a report with pictures that is included in Old Mill News following each of our meetings.

New Business

2017 Chapter Election: A motion by Susan Langley, seconded by Steve Childers to approve Dan Campbell as president, Adam Sieminski as vice president and Judy Grove as secretary-treasurer. These officers carried. Outgoing President Bob McLaughlin’s four years of exceptional leadership are duly noted and appreciated.

Future SPOOM Mid-Atlantic Meetings: At present, a site for the Spring 2017 has not been confirmed. The following sites were mentioned as possibilities.
- Shank’s Mill (Waynesboro PA) with Union Mills (Westminster MD) – Adrian Shank, Ivan and Marlene Lufriu
- Newlin (Glen Mills PA), Abbott’s Mill (Milford De) and Hagley Mills (Wilmington DE) – Steve Childers, Karen Peterson
- Double Mills (Mardela Springs MD) – Stephanie Elliot, Sylvia Bradley
- Staunton VA (McCormick’s Mill, Wade’s Mill, Mill Street Grille
- Whitehall Historical Preservation Society – Helfrich Springs Grist Mill - Jeff Donat, Robert Miller

SPOOM Bookstore: Ivan Lufriu reported that Jones Falls Mills-Powering Industry in Baltimore by John McGrain is a new addition to the bookstore.

Milling Equipment Available/Requested: Craig Sansonetti brought an inventory of items available from a roller mill in Benton PA. This will be sent to our website subscribers who may be interested in acquiring some of these items. Steve Childers is seeking a turbine for Abbott’s Mill; it doesn’t need to be in good shape as it will be dismantled for a display.

The meeting adjourned at noon on a motion by Linda Koons, seconded by Dan Campbell, and passed by those present.

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

Recurring Announcements

SPOOM Mid-Atlantic News: Submit items of interest for our twice yearly newsletters to Editor Megan Orient at meganorient@gmail.com. Time sensitive information may be submitted at least two weeks ahead of the event to Judy in paragraph form for posting on the SPOOM Mid-Atlantic website or for distribution via Email alerts to our subscribers.

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 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 pre-registered. Contact information for individuals may be requested from the secretary when needed.
# 2016 Finance Report

*By Judy Grove*

## 2016 SPOOM MIDATLANTIC CHAPTER FINANCE REPORT

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Spring Chapter Meeting Information

By Steve Childers

SPOOM (Society for the Preservation of Old Mills) Mid-Atlantic Chapter Spring Meeting
April 20-22, 2017 Newlin Grist Mill, PA

Host Hotel: INN at Wilmington, 320 Rocky Run Parkway, Wilmington, DE 19807

The INN is right next to the southbound lane of Route 202. Discounted rate of $109 a night includes full breakfast bar. 10 rooms are reserved until 3/20/17. (Select two double beds or one a king-sized bed and a sofa bed. Mention rate code 3191 to receive the discounted rate when you call 855-532-2216 or use the link: https://reservations.travelclick.com/15279?groupID=1755069

Thursday, April 20, 2017 - Evening Meet and Greet Dinner: 6 pm

Famous Dave’s Bar-B-Que across the street from the INN (www.famousdaves.com/togo/Wilmington)

Friday, April 21 Bus Tour of Mills in New Castle County, Delaware

8:45 am Depart from the INN in tour bus (Parking is available across the street from the INN for those who are staying elsewhere and need to park their car.) Joining us for the mill tour will be Tony Shahan, director of Newlin Grist Mill. Tony has a master’s degree in history and a certificate in museum studies from the University of Delaware. Previously Tony was director of Greenbank Mill in Delaware.

Hagley Museum (http://www.hagley.org/plan-your-visit/what-to-see/exhibits/visitor-center-first-floor) Hagley Museum and Library is where the du Pont story begins. Located along 235-acres on the banks of the Brandywine River, Hagley is the site of the gunpowder works founded by E. I. du Pont in 1802. It provides a glimpse at early American industry and includes restored mills, a workers’ community, and the ancestral home and gardens of the du Pont family.

Tour from 9:30 – 11:30 Sandwich Luncheon in the library 11:30-12:00 while we enjoy the Patent Model Display. (http://www.hagley.org/plan-your-visit/what-to-see/exhibits/patent-models-display)

12:00 Board the bus and travel to the White Clay Creek State Park for a short hike with guide Tony Shahan to an old quarry that contains several very old in situ millstones. (1 ½ hours)

2:00 Board the bus for the short trip to Cooch-Dayett Mills. There we will get a private tour led by Tony Shahan and David Pragoff from the Delaware Nature Society. The mill building at Cooch-Dayett Mills was originally constructed in the 1830s by William Cooch, Jr. however there is evidence of mill activity on the site as early as the 1720s. The race just north of Cooch’s Bridge draws water from the Christina River. The four story building is an Oliver Evans mill. Cooch-Dayett Mills survived two fires and was rebuilt, updated and retrofitted over the years enabling the facility to remain in operation into the 1980s. http://millpictures.com/mills.php?millid=1296 Also onsite is the Cooches Bridge Battlefield, site of the only Revolutionary War battle in Delaware (2 1/2 hours).

From here we will return by bus to the INN at Wilmington. There may be one more stop, but that hasn’t been finalized at this time.

Friday Tour Cost of $68 includes coach bus, driver gratuity, tour fees, and lunch.

Friday Dinner choices include T.G.I.Friday’s, Olive Garden, Lone Star Steak House, Red Lobster and Famous Dave’s Bar B-Que which are all across the street from the INN.

Saturday, April 22 check out of the INN at Wilmington. Drive north up Rt 202 about 4.5 miles to Painters Crossing, turn right onto Rt 1 toward Concordville. Newlin Mill is 2.3 miles on the right.

Newlin Grist Mill (http://www.newlingristmill.org) 9:30 am--Newlin Mill Tour.

Newlin Mill Complex, a water powered gristmill on the west branch of Chester Creek near Concordville, PA was built in 1704 by Nathaniel and Mary Newlin and operated commercially until 1941. In 1958 the mill property was bought by E. Mortimer Newlin, restored and given to the Nicholas Newlin Foundation to use as a historical park. Water power is still used to grind corn meal which is sold on site. The park includes five historical buildings, which were added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1983, and 150 acres of natural woodland.

11:30 am--Relocate to Log Cabin for SPOOM Mid-Atlantic Business meeting and a box lunch. Meeting begins at 11:45 pm. All Picnic Boxes are served with Single Serving Condiments, Fresh Fruit, Potato Chips, Pasta Salad, Kosher Dill Spear, Bottled Water and Chocolate Chip Cookie. Please specify which sandwich you prefer with your lunch:

“Whole In One” Roast Turkey Breast Sandwich with Swiss Cheese on a Country Kaiser Roll

“Down Homer” Chicken Salad Sandwich on a Country Kaiser Roll

“What’s Your Beef” Roasted Sliced Sirloin of Beef with Provolone Cheese on a Country Kaiser Roll

“Surf’s Up” Tuna Salad Sandwich on a Country Kaiser Roll

Saturday Tour Cost of $14 includes meeting, tour fees, and lunch.
Spring Meeting Information
By Steve Childers

Registration Deadline for Bus Tour is Friday, April 7th

Name(s): _______________________________________________________________________
Address: _______________________________________________________________________
City: ___________________________ State: _______________ Zip: _______
Phone: ___________________________ E-Mail: ___________________________

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<tr>
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#_____ “Whole In One” Turkey
#_____ “Down Homer” Chicken Salad
#_____ “What’s Your Beef” Beef
#_____ “Surf’s Up” Tuna Salad

Check # ___________ Date ___________ Total Amount Included
$___________

Mail completed registration form and check payable to SPOOM Mid-Atlantic to:
Event Registrar, 613 Green Valley Road, York, PA 17403
* * * * OR * * * *

Register and pay online (after February 1st) using the Online Ticket Sales tab at www.spoommidatlantic.org

Newlin Mill
Photo by Bob McLaughlin
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)

Please check one:

Subscription  [ ] New  [ ] 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.