Mill Sites Along Seneca Creek in Montgomery County, MD
Content by Frank Ierardi

Around 1997 upon retirement, Frank Ierardi volunteered to help build a hiking trail along Seneca Creek in Montgomery County, Maryland. In doing so, he kept stumbling upon old building ruins. With personal curiosity piqued, he began conducting research and learned that many of the sites were the remains of long-ago abandoned mills.

Seneca Creek drained about one third of the county and powered eighteen known mills, and two mills whose locations remain to be verified. The earliest mill, Seneca Ford (a.k.a. Tschiffely Mill) was in business as early as 1732. All but one of these mills have been destroyed, leaving a few building ruins but mostly just foundation ruins and mill races. The one remaining mill, Walker's Mill, is privately owned.

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President’s Message
By Dan Campbell, President

What an exciting year 2017 was for SPOOM-Mid-Atlantic! In the Spring, we had a spectacular semi-annual conference and mill tours, based in the Wilmington DE area; hosted by the comprehensive Newlin Grist Mill in the beautiful Brandywine Creek / River Valley of southeastern, PA. The mill tours included the iconic duPont gunpowder mills and shops, with lunch in their museum library. We had a visit to an unusual millstone quarry, where we saw half-quarried millstones still in place, and Cooch–Dayette mill, near the site of a Revolutionary War skirmish, preceding the British march on Philadelphia of 1777.

Then ... being the largest SPOOM regional chapter, we were asked to be the first chapter to hold our Mid-Atlantic Fall 2017 meeting and tours in conjunction with the SPOOM National Conference; an arrangement proposed by SPOOM, to take place in odd numbered years, for the foreseeable future.

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Grain Farm & Mill History Sought for Western Pa.

Chatham University is seeking some grain and mill-related information, photos, and oral history for a special project.

“Babka and Beyond” is an oral history project funded through Rivers of Steel and the Center for Regional Agriculture, Food and Transformation (C.R.A.F.T.). The purpose of the project is to document the stories of grain farmers, bakers, millers, and other producers in the Western Pennsylvania region. The oral histories will be stored within the Western Pennsylvania Foodways Archive at Chatham University as well as on the CRAFT website. They will be used for educational, promotional, and regional projects as well as Research.

If you are interested in participating in this project, either through a full oral history interview or by sharing photos and other historical materials, please contact CRAFT at craft@chatham.edu.
...President’s Message continued

By all accounts, the national conference in October of 2017 was a huge success with 120 attending from across the country, including a few from Canada. The tour schedule was a work of genius: over 2 tour days, with 3 buses, on counter-rotating paths, consecutively touring the same sites, in Lancaster and York counties, PA … and with all of us meeting for lunch on one of those days! On Saturday morning at the hotel, we had 6 programs professionally presented by volunteer members and outside experts, most more than once, while Charles Yeske ran a roundtable discussion. We then traveled to the nearby Agricultural and Industrial Museum in York City, Pa. for lunch, our annual meeting and self-guided tours of that exciting museum.

Great thanks to the team of our Mid-Atlantic board members who took on the gargantuan project of planning and carrying-out the national conference -- especially Judy Grove, Craig Sansonetti, our past president Bob McLaughlin, and Vice President Adam Sieminski (and their hard-working, tolerant wives - Jean, Diane, and Laurie). Many thanks also to the host mills, and their volunteers, for sharing their sites, with back-to-back tours during the national / mid-Atlantic conference. Special thanks to board member Susan Langley, our banquet speaker, who enticed us with her adventures in archaeology at ancient mills in Europe. Our other Board members are Ivan Lufriu, (he and Marlene ran a great bookstore at the national conference) and Megan Orient, who is becoming our media expert, whose work you are reading now.

Other good news! With Bob McLaughlin’s studious persistence, we have been successful in applying-for and receiving our official non-profit incorporation in Pennsylvania. This is a valuable step toward the future of the Mid-Atlantic chapter and perhaps for our closer association with the national organization.

The future of our organization is based upon the participation of our membership and the growth of new members. Myself, having come to SPOOM-MA, after attending two SPOOM national conferences in Fairfax County, Virginia and Bucks County, Pennsylvania, I can attest to the value of being a member of both the national and chapter societies.

See the story in this issue, for the report of our Spring 2018 SPOOM-MA meeting and tours, which were based in Winchester, VA, in the northern Shenandoah Valley. That meeting was hosted by Burwell Morgan Mill, and we visited three operating grist mills - Locke’s Mill, Aldie Mill, and Burwell Morgan.

Also, enclosed are a few details of the upcoming Mid-Atlantic Fall 2018 Meeting in the Baltimore, Maryland area on September 6—8, as well as the SPOOM 2018 National Conference to be held in the Catskill Mountains of southern New York October 17—20.

Please invite interested people that you know to become SPOOMers and attend these upcoming events, supporting our efforts to visit, respect, and preserve old mills… 2018 will be another great year with your participation!

—Dan Campbell

Meeting Minutes & Finance Report

As suggested by one of our members, rather than re-print the entire meeting minutes and finance report in the newsletter, a website link is being provided to these documents. To find the documents online, go to: www.spoommidatlantic.org and select Chapter Activity from the main menu. Scroll down and click on Chapter Minutes & Finance Reports. A list of current and past documents will appear.

For e-newsletter subscribers, a direct hyperlink has been provided below to the latest approved meeting minutes and finance reports:

- Meeting Minutes OCT 2017
- 2017 Mid-Atlantic Chapter Finance Report
- Meeting Minutes MAR 2018

Membership & Dues

Membership in SPOOM Mid-Atlantic runs on the calendar year. Renew your membership by mail using the printable PDF form from our website, or pay by credit card online: spoommidatlantic.org/membership. If you have questions about your membership status or payment, contact judygrove@verizon.net before sending payment.

Individual Memberships are as low as $10 for current members of the national SPOOM organization; or $15 for non-SPOOM members. 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 semiannual newsletter, information on mills and seminars, tax deductible dues, and invitations to mill tours and semi-annual meetings.
NAMA Mill Update
By Bob McLaughlin

Progress continues on the Nittany Antique Machinery Association (NAMA) mill. The waterwheel is installed, however the gearing still needs to be implemented. We have completed the auxiliary drive system, which will allow the mill to be run from a tractor on the opposite side of the mill from the waterwheel. We actually ran it in late January with a tractor. From end of winter to early spring, we moved on to the millstones and furniture.

Pictured (right & below):
Exterior and interior of the mill from the viewing floor.

What Do You Collect?

Mill artifacts come in all shapes and sizes. Flour sacks, ledger books, barrel stencils, original correspondence, photographs, old maps, mill stones, miller desks, handmade scoops and tools are among just a few examples. Collections reflect our personal interests, and are a great way to encourage and engage new members of SPOOM. For future newsletter content, please consider sharing details about your collection, and a brief summary. Our newsletter editor would be glad to interview you and write the summary on your behalf, incorporating photographs you provide. Collector names may be kept anonymous for privacy reasons. If interested, send an email to: meganorient@gmail.com.
...Seneca Creek Mill Sites continued

The mills, which span a distance of approximately 4 miles upstream, are listed below by their earliest known names. A few known dates and facts are included below for quick reference. Pictures and more extensive details (including known owners’ and millers’ names, building and contents descriptions from deeds, types of power source and water wheels, etc.) may be found at: www.senecatrail.info/mills.htm.

Part I—Mills to Be Verified
1. Darby Mill (Oakland) Grist & Saw Mill—1865
2. Pleasant Hill Mill—

Part II—Mills of Known Locations
3. Seneca Ford Mill—1732-1931
   Grist, Saw. Only mill runs and dam remain.
   Grist, Saw. Foundation ruins and mill race.
5. Black Rock Mill—1815-1920s
   Grist, Saw. Restored stone walls & beams; no roof.
6. Hoyle’s Mill—????-1893
   Grist. Stone foundation and buried turbine.
7. Clopper Mill—ca. 1768-????
8. Long Draught Mill—pre-1850
   (aka Hutton’s Mill) Stone foundation and mill run.
9. Middle Brook Mills—ca. 1795
   (aka Good Will Mills, Faw’s Mill)
   Grist. No remains.

10. Walker’s Mill—1877-present (inoperable?)
    Grist. Restored building (wood siding), part of mill race remain. Privately owned.
11. Watkin’s Mill—1783-1908
    Grist, Saw. No remains.
12. Davis Mill—ca. 1783-early 1900s
    Grist. Foundation stone walls, mill race, cement overflow dam remain. Historical Marker.
    Grist. Attributed stone wall remains.
14. Goshen Mills—ca. 1774-1890
15. Waters Mill—1780s-1895
    Grist, Saw. Foundation ruins and millrace.
16. Wolfs Cow Mill—ca. 1780-????
    Grist, Saw. No remains other than mill run.
17. Pyles Mill—1799-1900s
    Grist, Saw. Traces of tail run remain.
18. Viers Saw Mill—ca. 1811
    Saw. Traces of mill run remain.

Seneca Creek mills in Montgomery County, MD, located north of the Potomac River, northwest of Washington, DC.
...Seneca Creek Mill Sites continued

19. Magruder Saw Mill—mid/late 1700s-early 1900s
   Saw. Traces of mill run, mill pond, tail run remain.
20. Midford Mill—Unknown (1879 Atlas)
Part III—Other Mills in Montgomery County
21. Seneca Stone Cutting Mill—ca. 1837-1901
   Stone cutting. Wall remnants.

A few resources of help to Frank during his research included the “Martenet and Dond’s Map of
Montgomery County, MD [1865]”—pictured below, as well as the “1879 Atlas of 15 miles around Washington
by G. M. Hawkins (Philadelphia). Additionally, information about all the mills in Montgomery County, Md. may be found in the book Montgomery County Mills: A Field Guide by Michael Dwyer.

“Seneca Grist & S.M.” pictured just above the confluence of Seneca Creek and Potomac River. Image from the Library of Congress Geography and Map Division, Washington, DC.
At the 2018 spring meeting, Friday’s tour began on a crisp March morning, just over the border in West Virginia. With a few inches of snow on the ground, the bus pulled off at Bunker Hill Mill, aka Giles-Bunker Roller Mill in Berkeley County. A brief historical summary can be read in the Historic American Engineering Records of the Library of Congress (HAER No. WV-29, see PDF online, p.15 diagram of tandem wheels) (see photos this page).

Built in 1738, and rebuilt circa 1890 after a fire, this 3.5 story stone structure featured an unusual tandem set of steel overshot counter-rotating water wheels, powered from one flume and water-box with two gates. It remained in operation until 1964. Inside, much of the milling equipment remains, though some not in their original operating positions. Highlights include the runner and grinding stone, a Midget Marvel, a Eureka Horizontal Wheat Scourer, a Eureka Perfected Milling Separator, and packing machines. Additionally, there is a steam engine for power, and an electrical generator remaining from the 20th century.

Today owned by Mrs. Giles, one of the last living descendants, the mill is no longer active and like many, has become a collecting point for artifacts not just from the mill, but other crafts of the past. Feed sacks, flour bags, scales, coveralls, a giant spool of twine, a tool workbench, and a large leatherworking table for...
repairing belts. Non-mill artifacts included a spinning wheel, weaving loom, organ, broom-making clamp, and sawmill blades to name a few.

Our next stop was the Aldie Mill in Loudoun County, Aldie, Virginia (pictured above). The park, maintained by the Northern Virginia Regional Parks Authority (NOVA for short), includes 4 historic structures: The main merchant mill, a store house, a granary, and a later country mill where farmers could bring their grains to be ground. Built between 1807 and 1809, the merchant mill was once the largest factory of its kind in Loudoun County. This mill is Virginia’s only known mill to have been powered by tandem metal waterwheels, which are still fully operational, powering corn grinding, exclusively.

On to our lunch destination, we were hosted by Sandra Lemer at Ayrshire Farms in Upperville, Virginia (pictured at right, and below). We began by removing our shoes for a private tour of Sandra’s lovely restored historic home and intriguing cat-themed collections. Soon thereafter, we dined “al fresco” in the nearby stable, soaking up the warm sunlight while consuming sandwiches made with meats procured from the farm-raised animals. By bus, we briefly toured some of the acreage and were provided a glimpse into the sustainable, organic, and heirloom farming practices.

The day closed with a visit to Locke’s Mill in Berryville, Virginia. This unassuming little red mill has roots dating back to 1751, and is the only known certified organic stone mill known to operate on the east coast. Special thanks to John and Carol Joyce who restored the mill over 20 years, assistant Henry Lewis, and owner Sandra Lemer for hosting SPOOL.

Saturday’s activities began with attendees checking out of our Winchester, Virginia hotel, followed by a short drive to Millwood for our tour and meeting at Burwell-Morgan Mill (pronounced Bur-ell). The mill has always been the center of this quaint, scenic village, and is now a

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Podcasts and Mill Preservation: Pairing Today’s Technology with Stories from the Past
By Beth DeFrancis Sun

If you’re a fan of NPR: National Public Radio, you may have heard the May 21st story behind Bob’s Red Mill — a whole grains start-up enterprise that has grown into a $100 million business. Back in the 1960s, Bob Moore read a book about an old grain mill and was inspired to one day start his own. While enrolled in Theology school in Portland, Bob noticed a “for sale” sign on what appeared to be the perfect mill, almost as though it was preordained. Now nearly in his 90s, Bob still goes down to his mill almost daily.

Bob’s Red Mill is just one of the many mill-related stories that have graced the airwaves since the advent of “podcasts” (the digital audio files on the internet that you can download to your computer or mobile device). In 2017 alone, the number of podcast listeners has increased 11%, with 67 million Americans now reporting that they listen to podcasts at least once monthly.

In addition to NPR’s history segments, there are an increasing number of highly-rated and award-winning podcast series that will likely appeal to the history enthusiasts among us. For example, Sidedoor: A Podcast for the Historian (produced by the Smithsonian Institution) has been ranked in the top 50 podcasts by The Atlantic, and Dig: A History Podcast was nominated for a Leadership in History Award by the American Association for State and Local History. And while each of these series covers topics far and wide (like the history of underwear and American home brewing), there are stories that will resonate with the mill preservationists among us.

PreserveCast – the new podcast series launched by Preservation Maryland – includes dozens of interviews that will likely be of interest to SPOOM MidAtlantic members, and for obvious reasons. The focus is on the use of technology in historic preservation, and the interviews are eclectic and far reaching. For example, Episode 3 in the series is an interview with Underwater Archaeologist and SPOOM-MA Board Member, Dr. Susan Langley; and episode 54 is an interview with Baltimore historian Nathan Dennies, who will be conducting the tour of the Jones Falls region during the upcoming fall SPOOM-MA tour to take place on September 7th. Listen to Repurposing Historic Mills: The Jones Falls Tell All, or other Preservation Maryland podcasts by visiting: www.preservecast.org/episodes/. Or subscribe to any of the Podcast series mentioned here via Apple Podcasts, Google Play, or Stitcher. Happy listening.

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Mill Enthusiasts on Facebook
By Megan Orient

SPOOM Mid-Atlantic has a Facebook presence — a “Closed Group” of 80 members, used to communicate about mills, promote events, share photos, post mill equipment and building sales, and rally support for sites in need of preservation.

The national SPOOM organization does not appear to have a public page, but does currently have an event page for the 2018 conference, posted by the event host: Hanford Hills Museum.

Our fellow mill-lovers to the north have a public Facebook group of 182 members: Canadian Chapter - Old Mill Society SPOOM.

A quick Facebook search for “grist mills” yielded the a few other mill groups:

- Old Houses Barns Churches And Grist Mills Abandoned And Occupied (137K members) - a photo-sharing page
- Covered Bridges and Grist Mills (2.2K members) - a photo-sharing page
- Antique Feed, Grain and Grist Mills Fodder Choppers Corn Shellers (574 members) - a buy-sell-trade page

A similar search for “old mills” also yielded a second “Buy and Sell Group” called:

- Old Barns, Mills & Log Homes for sale. Nationwide. 2.9K members

Except for our group, all of the above are public groups or events. Note that SPOOM-Mid-Atlantic didn’t even show up in these search results. When utilizing a closed group on Facebook as SPOOM-MA does, the group name, description, and members’ names can all be seen by the public. However, none of the posts nor information shared is visible to non-members. And only friends of members, or individuals invited via email by members, can join the group.

To capitalize on the social media opportunities for “viral marketing” to help grow our membership and further our mission, we may want to consider either changing our Facebook group to a public group (content posted by members, but visible to the public) or creating a public page (with a custom URL, to gather interested public followers, etc.). Presuming there is no sensitive information shared (i.e. protected archaeological sites), there may be no reason to keep our Facebook group in a “Closed” status.

We are the largest SPOOM chapter. Perhaps we can become the largest mill group on social media as well!
New Website SPOOM-MA

Our chapter’s website has undergone major renovations in the last year. With the guidance of our long-time web company FACE Websites, and countless hours from board member Judy Grove, spoommidatlantic.org has received a complete makeover.

To give you an idea of the changes, pictured at right are a few screenshots of the home page. The new “façade” is much more modern, image-rich, vibrant and engaging for visitors. Additionally, the site now incorporates a responsive web design, so the size of images and fonts will automatically adjust to the desktop or mobile device screen size from which it is being viewed. Check it out from your smart phone, in addition to your usual desktop computer!

The Mills Archive in the UK:
An online accessible archives

While referencing various online mill resources in this newsletter edition, one would be remiss to omit this site. The Mills Archive was established in 2002 as a permanent repository for historical and contemporary material on both traditional and modern mills and milling. Its collection has over 2 million documents and images.

Based in the UK, the mission of The Mills Archive is to “preserve and protect records of milling heritage, to make them freely available to the public.” Moreover, the organization’s mission is “to become the national centre of excellence for learning, understanding, recording and researching the history of mills, milling and the uses of traditional power sources.”

The website — millsarchive.org — touts no less than 11,500 mills (12 from the United States) featured in 70,500 images with references to 65,000 people! Try searching their archives online, or visit their social media site at facebook.com/MillsArchive.
The Society for the Preservation of Old Mills, in cooperation with the Mid-Atlantic Chapter, held its Annual Conference from October 10-14, 2017, exploring mills along Lower Susquehanna Valley of PA. This was the first national conference to be hosted through a regional chapter on behalf of the entire organization.

Throughout American history, Pennsylvania has been advantaged by the location of the mighty Susquehanna River, the longest river on the east coast of the United States. Its main flow lies in the near-center of the Commonwealth, with branches spreading east and west in the northern portion of the state. The Susquehanna River watershed is a major contributor to the Chesapeake Bay, and has been very important to the culture and commerce of the mid-Atlantic.

There is a rich history of milling activity in the region, and the SPOOM-MA conference committee prepared site visits to showcase many outstanding grist mills and saw mill. The conference led off with Miller-training sessions and concluded with a morning of educational seminars to provide knowledge and promote fellowship among our members and friends.

Welcome. On Tuesday, October 10, registration opened in the hospitality suite, including the annual Book Fair featuring milling literature and other treasures, organized by Marlene and Ivan Lufriu. Our host hotel, the Wyndham Garden York, was conveniently located and provided a great venue for meeting up with old friends and welcoming new attendees. 120 people registered for the 3-day event.

Miller Training at Bowmansville Mill. On Wednesday morning October 11, class members rose early for an intensive day of lectures and demonstrations at the Bowmansville Mill. Mason Maddox organized a concentrated day of learning for the attendees that included presentations on Roller Mills by Craig Sansonetti and on Elevators and Screw Conveyors by John Lovett. A wealth of information was made available that included hands-on explanations and helpful reference papers.

Mill Tours. Thursday and Friday, October 12-13 were the primary tour days in Lancaster and York counties, PA respectively. With 120 people attending, the ingenious tour schedule utilized 3 buses on counter-rotating paths, concurrently touring the same handful of sites in order to distribute the attendees to the mills in smaller groups. We all met together for lunch at a museum village on one day!

LANCASTER MILLS

Bowmansville Mill, Narvon, PA – aka Von Neida’s Mill, is located on Muddy Creek is in the heart of PA Amish country. The location dates back to 1740 when a settler’s mill was constructed on the site. The existing building was built in 1850 following a fire. The mill has a mile-long millrace, is fully operational and is both a grist mill and a rolling mill, with a circa 1860s saw mill attached. Commercial operations ended in the 1950s and the mill was restored in the 1970s under the ownership of Stewart Kean. In the early 2000s, it was bequeathed to Kean’s close friend Katherine Kilkuskie who, in turn, passed it along to the Lancaster County Historic Preservation Trust. The Trust sold it with a preservation easement to Nancy Bell and Ron Funk the current owners, and SPOOM members. The mill has been listed on the National Register of Historic
Places since 1989 and is operated for demonstration under terms of the trust. An excellent historical video about Bowmansville Mill is available at vimeo.com/141111091.

During our visit, we snacked on Amish specialties, such as whoopee pies. Leaving Bowmansville, we were treated to samples of roasted corn meal; in the Amish area, almost all corn for meal is roasted prior to grinding, both as a preferred taste and a cleansing method; which also fills the mill with a toasty smell.

Aberdeen Mills, Elizabethtown, PA – aka Redsecker's Mill, was built c. 1774 by Uriah & Barbara Sharer on 300 acres of land granted by Wm. Penn, constructed of red sandstone and frame. During the Revolution, it ground wheat for the army of independence. Three generations of the Sharer family ran the mill until the mid-1800’s when the Redseckers bought the mill. As recently as 1994, it was being used for a woodworking shop and business.

The historic grist mill and farm was recently purchased by Katcha and Merritt Neale, who are cleaning, restoring, and setting up antique displays and a business inside the mill, including mill-related equipment, and other agricultural artifacts, while operating an animal farm producing Alpaca and Jacob sheep roving and yarn, seasonal eggs, lamb, chicken and pork. See some great animal videos on facebook.com/AberdeenMills, or visit AberdeenMills.com for details.

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Landis Valley Village and Farm Museum, Lancaster, PA – is a 100-acre living history museum village and farm that collects, preserves, and interprets the history and material culture of the Pennsylvania German rural community from 1740 to 1940. The museum features many historic buildings brought to the village from around Lancaster County, and widely varied collections of artifacts. Our visit to Landis Valley included guided tours of the museum building and our 120-person lunch in a reconstructed post and beam barn. LandisValleyMuseum.org

Mascot Roller Mill, Ronks, PA – was built in the mid-1730s and raised to its present height in the mid-1800s. The mill is an operational roller process mill run by turbines with water from a nearby millpond. The mill site also includes the preserved 1855 miller’s house furnished with early 1900s period antiques and décor. Starting in 1865, the mill was owned by three generations of the Ressler family and is now preserved by the Ressler Mill Foundation. ResslerMill.com

On departure, we were each given a copy of the Historic American Building Survey (HABS) drawings of Mascot-Ressler Mill, surveyed and drawn by SPOOM member John R. Bowie, FAIA (now retired).

YORK COUNTY MILLS

Eden Mill & Nature Center, Pylesville, MD – is found just below the Mason-Dixon line in Maryland. Eden has the distinction of having the intact dam and three generations of milling equipment still in place. The original mill on this location was built in the early 1800s to harness the power provided by Deer Creek. In 1917 The Fawn Grove Light and Power Company bought the mill and converted it into a power plant. The power plant continued to provide electricity to the Fawn Grove and New Park area until 1927. The generators which provided this electricity still remain in the mill. After the power plant was no longer in use, the mill was returned to its original purpose of grinding food products and animal feed. EdenMill.org

Muddy Creek Forks Roller Mill, Airville, PA – is preserved as part of the Maryland & Pennsylvania Railroad Heritage Village, a National Register Historic District which also includes a general store, a grain elevator, and 3.5 miles of operating railroad. The mill occupies a site which has been active since the 1750s. The current mill was built in 1847 and enlarged for installation of roller milling equipment in 1890. A hundred years ago it had a dedicated railroad siding and shipped its Harvest Queen flour to commercial bakeries by the boxcar load. Stone ground buckwheat flour was
also produced and shipped to general stores by express on passenger trains of the “MA & PA”, a short-line railroad. Attending SPOOM Members were treated to a 4-mile round-trip on railroad worker cars, through the PA countryside along Muddy Creek, and a speech about the former rail business, its maintenance and restoration. MaAndPaRailroad.com

New Park Wind Engine, New Park, PA - features two rare, open-geared Aeromotor mills which transmit wind power to equipment with a rotary power shaft. The 16’ model drives antique milling and grain-handling equipment. The mill is enclosed by an octagonal, 3-story mill building based on a water-pumping windmill in Fairfield, CT called, “the Bronson.” A horizontal wind turbine with a 12’ high x 8’ diameter wheel is enclosed in a timber frame structure with an 1895 dynamo attached to provide electrical generation. We were hosted by owner Jay McGinnis, assisted by SPOOM member Todd Eyster. Inside the owner’s residence are belt-driven ceiling fans built on site by the Woolen Mill Fan Company. ArchitecturalFans.com

Wallace Cross Mill, Cross Roads, PA – is a small, rural, water- powered grain mill with a Fitz overshot water wheel. The mill, tucked away in its unspoiled little valley, has changed little since its construction in 1826. It continued to grind grain for the community until closing in 1979. It was restored in the 1950s with operating water wheel and milling equipment. This mill museum includes three floors of interpretive displays and historic artifacts. We were hosted by Judy Grove and her volunteers, including local school children who greeted SPOOM with a song, fresh-baked bread, and more. YorkCountyPa.gov/Parks-Recreation (search for Wallace Cross Mill)

Conference Banquet. After two days of touring with boxed lunches, attendees were delighted to have the opportunity for a congenial and relaxing dinner at the Wyndham Hotel on Friday evening. After brief remarks by SPOOM President, Charles Yeske, the lectern was turned over to Susan Langley, PhD, our Keynote Speaker. Susan is a charter member of the SPOOM Mid-Atlantic Chapter and lectures internationally on a broad range of subjects including maritime archaeology, piracy, bees and beekeeping, and textiles. Her “day-job” for nearly 25 years is Maryland’s State Underwater Archaeologist, directing the Maryland Maritime Archaeology Program. Dr. Langley is an adjunct professor at several colleges and universities and also taught maritime archaeology in Thailand for several years for UNESCO. She is an active scuba instructor, judges Maryland’s History Day competition and leads expeditions and lectures for Zegrahm Expeditions, as well as serving as the

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beekeeper for the MD Governor's residence. Susan’s presentation, titled “Beneath the Olde Mill Stream,” offered a maritime archaeologist's perspective on some unusual mills in Europe, and kept our group riveted about her findings.

**Educational Seminars.** As part of SPOOM’s education mission, a series of lectures were organized on Saturday morning at the hotel to give attendees the opportunity to learn about milling topics from nationally-recognized experts. Talks included: Historic Interpretation for Your Mill -- Sarah Bent; Building Assessment & Planning -- Dan Campbell; A Journey Back to Its Roots -- John Lovett; The Oliver Evans System at Colvin Run -- Mason Maddox; Early Mill Dams -- Dorothy Merritts, PhD & Robert Walter, PhD; Falls Mills: An Introduction to Roller Milling -- Craig Sansonetti; Roundtable Discussion on Milling -- Charles Yeske

**Final Museum & Board Meeting.** After the seminars, we made our way to the Agricultural and Industrial Museum (AIM) in York, PA. Celebrating the farming and industrial history of York County, this museum displays a full size operating grist mill, has exhibits on the enormous turbines produced by S. Morgan Smith for major hydroelectric dams, features early automobiles manufactured in York, includes a massive 72-ton ammonia compressor used in the ice business, and many more exhibits. Lunch was served at the Museum and was followed by the semi-annual meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Chapter. Find details at: [YorkHistoryCenter.org/york-pa-museums](http://YorkHistoryCenter.org/york-pa-museums)

We express our great thanks to the conference team from our SPOOM-Mid-Atlantic board members, and many thanks also to the host mills, and their volunteers, for sharing their sites for the regional and national combined conference.

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**Banquet at the Wyndham Hotel, attended by approximately 100 SPOOM Members and guests.**

Dr. Susan Langley speaks about underwater archaeology, tide mills, and other unique findings.
thriving historic site, operated by the Clarke County Historical Association (CCHA) and the non-profit Friends of the Mill.

This mill is a busy place, where water is fed from a race taken from the Spout Run, thru a stone-lined flume, into a wooden wheel inside of the stone first floor, of the three-story timber-framed building. At the interior is a raised hurst frame, built for several stones, which now has one operating stone set and one static set, for display.

We were greeted by the Director of CCHA, Nathan Stalvey, in their second-floor meeting room; Our host Roger Steyaert, Mill Manager, and his crew of volunteers and millers, Rachel Rogers-Rodgers, Don Wallace and Joe Guenther, recalled the history of Burwell-Morgan and gave us a tour, including demonstration grinding. The ground-floor contains many static agricultural and mill artifacts including a large hopper-boy from the Oliver Evans design. The mill was built circa 1785 by Gen. Daniel Morgan and Lt. Col. Nathaniel Burwell, who both served in the American Revolution, and Seven Years (French & Indian) War. The building is listed on the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places (since 1969).

Aside from grinding, the mill is the home of other activities, including historical reenactments and the twice-annual “Art at the Mill”, a show and sale, supporting local artistic talent, in the spring and fall. This year they will be producing Indian Corn, Yellow Corn, Red Corn, Blue Corn, White Corn, Buckwheat, Hard Wheat, Soft Wheat, 9-grain, Rye, and pancake mix. We were treated to bags of corn meal and pancake mix, and purchased other grinds, prints, cards, and objects, from their volunteer-run store.

We are proud to have Burwell-Morgan as an active member of SPOOM and SPOOM Mid-Atlantic, and we were thankful and honored to have our semi-annual business meeting in the third-floor room, warmed by the corner fireplace, on this chilly late-March weekend. We encourage readers to visit Burwell-Morgan online and participate in their art and heritage events this fall.

NEXT DEADLINE!

Our next newsletter deadline is Wednesday, October 31, two weeks after the national conference. Submit your article ideas and requests in advance by Sept. 15. Then send in your stories and photos no later than October 31 via email to our editor: meganorient@gmail.com.
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 ____________________ Email ___________________________________________________________

Milling Connection / Interest ______________________________________________________________________

Please Check One:

☐ Individual, Not a Member of SPOOM (natl.) $15.00 ☐ New Membership

☐ Individual, Current Member of SPOOM (natl.) $10.00 ☐ Renewal

☐ Sustaining Membership $25.00

☐ Organization Membership $50.00

Mail this form with payment to: SPOOM-MA Membership Manager, 613 Green Valley Road, York, PA 17403. Make checks payable to “SPOOM Mid-Atlantic Chapter”. Renew your membership by using the printable PDF form on our website, or pay by credit card online: spoommidatlantic.org/membership. 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.