



SPOOM

Mid-Atlantic Chapter

The Society for the Preservation of Old Mills

*Spring 2022
Edition*

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UPCOMING EVENTS

- * TBD — Fall Chapter Meeting
- 2022—National SPOOM Conference:
Oct. 12-15, Battle Creek, MI
- * Oct. 1—Fall Newsletter
Article Deadline

SPOOM-MA Chapter

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BOARD MEMBERS:

Dan Campbell, *President*

Susan Langley, *Vice President*

Judy Grove, *Treasurer*

Craig Sansonetti, *Secretary*

Robert McLaughlin, *President Ex-Officio*

Susan Langley, *Newsletter Editor*

Steven Childers

Charles Yeske

President' Message

By Daniel T. Campbell

Greetings to the SPOOM Mid-Atlantic members and others who are reading this newsletter. Many thanks to Susan Langley, PhD for so ably writing the Spring meeting article and editing other contributions to this letter, from some of our member mills. We are grateful for the hospitality and expertise of Newlin Grist Mill Park, for hosting that gathering, at their well-maintained and smoothly-functioning facility, despite many challenges in recent years. Thanks especially to their director Tony Shahan, for masterminding and leading the Spring meeting, and to the staff and volunteers for their contributions of time and expertise. See the story below, for details of the interesting and significant work taking place at Newlin.

A unique treat of the meeting was the unveiling of the Mill Miniatures Collection, recently acquired by national SPOOM, which was displayed in the former commercial store building at Newlin Mill. That building serves as the archives storage location building for SPOOM. The SPOOM national organization keeps their growing collection of archives, in a climate-controlled environment within. To date, those archives have been predominantly 2-dimensional items, which is magazines, photos, papers, books and reports regarding mills across the country. This includes a complete set of the past issues of the Old Mill News (OMN), published quarterly by SPOOM, which are now being digitally scanned and indexed for easier retrieval of past articles and information.

The Miniature Mill Collection was recently purchased by SPOOM from the estate of the late Ben Lucas of North Carolina. Through some changes in ownership, Mr. Lucas

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Minutes from the Fall 2021 Meeting

By Craig Sansonetti

These are posted on the SPOOM Mid-Atlantic Website:

https://spoommidatlantic.org/uploads/editor/files/Meeting_Minutes_2/Minutes_10_2_2021WithAttachments.pdf

Spring 2022 Meeting at Newlin Grist Mill, Glen Mills, PA

By Susan Langley

As we return to a level of normalcy, the Mid-Atlantic Chapter Spring Meeting saw more than 25 participants assemble between May 19 and 21. Early arrivals enjoyed a meet'n'greet dinner at the newly opened 2SP Brew Pub in nearby Chadd's Ford.

Friday morning, we gathered at the log cabin on the Newlin Grist Mill campus where our host Tony Shahan greeted us at the Registration table. Registrants received a wonderful tote with a plaid throw and heavy-duty travel mug, as well as all our meeting documents. After a formal Welcome and Opening Remarks, we divided into two groups for an Archaeology Tour and a Restoration Tour of the Newlin Grist Mill buildings. Both groups were able to enjoy both tours.



**Tony Shahan,
Executive
Director of
Newlin Grist
Mill and our
Host for this
meeting,
manning the
Registration
table.**

(cont'd)

President's Message *cont'd*

and his family obtained the collection, made by Charles Derringer, a Harrisburg, PA resident. Made of wood, sheet metal, with carvings and castings, he produced these with hand tools, starting in the 1880's and ending in 1920, consuming some 35 years of his life. In fact, Charles was found dead in his basement workshop with the models, where he worked late into many nights. After trading hands in 1920 and 1935, the models were displayed at the Smithsonian Institution for 6 years.

The collection includes various mill equipment components including four roller mills, a receiving separator, a hammer mill, an auger packer, a separator-purifier, a bran duster, a reel-type mixer and a sifter. Thanks here to Charles Yeske, President of national SPOOM and a Board member of both SPOOM-MA and Newlin Mill, for negotiating the purchase and possession of the miniature collection, and for his article about this collection in the Winter 2022 issue of OMN.

During the 2 ½ day event, we were pleasantly surprised to learn of a mill site close the Newlin Mill (Ivy Mills - Glen Mills, PA) that has begun to serve as an event venue. The stone walls of Ivy Mills are in ruin, however the owner, a descendant of the original milling family from Devonshire England, has restored the pre-1830 miller's family house, and several other buildings remaining on the site. We visited the Mill site, still showing the course of the mill race, and remnants a nearby railroad. Our Friday night dinner was served in the restored small barn, opened especially for SPOOM-MA (see Susan's article to the left).

If you are not a member of national SPOOM, this is good time to join our similar, but larger organization. The excellent Old Mill News is worth the cost of membership, and you will receive a discount to the national conferences.

(cont'd)

Spring Meeting *cont'd*

The mill was established in 1704, by Nathaniel and Mary Newlin, and operated commercially until 1941. Direct descendant E. Mortimer Newlin and his wife Elizabeth purchased the mill in 1956 and created the Nicholas Newlin Foundation, which continues to manage the property and its 160 acres of land. A silver lining to the devastating floods of 2020, was the discovery, during repairs, of the earliest structural levels and the configuration of the water wheel pit.

Everyone reassembled at the log cabin for box lunches and a chance to catch up with old and new friends. The afternoon was given over to self-guided tours of a variety of exhibits and opportunities. These included: an additional opportunity to visit archaeologist Keith Doms in the wheel pit, watch and chat with the millwrights working on the new water wheel, joining Program Manager Laura Adie at the earthen bake oven as she produced tasty bread, and viewing exhibits about the Mills of Delaware County and the newly acquired collection of miniature mill machinery, as well as the SPOOM Archives.



Laura Adie preparing to put a loaf in the oven.

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President's Message *cont'd*

After a 2-year COVID hiatus, the 2022 SPOOM national conference will be held in the southern Michigan / northern Indiana / Illinois / Ohio regions, based from a hotel in Battle Creek Michigan, from October 13 to 15. There is an optional meeting of the Great Lakes Chapter of SPOOM, on that Saturday. Join, come and experience the working grist and sawmills, including the DeZwaan windmill, which was dismantled in Holland and reconstructed in Holland Michigan, near the lake.

The cycle of elections for SPOOM-MA Board and Officers begins each year after the Spring meeting, by seeking persons to serve 2-year terms. During the summer season, nominations are open to the membership and current Board members, including self-nominations. I am encouraged to see the revitalization of the SPOOM-MA, in the post-pandemic safer atmosphere with Board members willing to continue their positions, as I will stand for reelection as President. If you are an interested and active member, or wish to be more so, please consider running for a Board position.

I encourage our membership to support our member mills, by attending their events this summer and fall. Several have had recent repairs, restorations, equipment purchases and upgrades to improve their longevity, the interpretation of their mill operations, and to preserve their histories. Opportunities are listed in this newsletter, on the SPOOM-MA website, and at the mills' websites. The state of our finances continues to be good, and we will contribute \$1,000 to the national SPOOM grant program this year as we did in 2021 (see my previous message in the Fall issue 2021).

Our Board members are seeking a location and host, for the SPOOM-MA Fall meeting, by contacting member mills in the Mid-Atlantic region. See the meeting minutes for those

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Spring Meeting cont'd

In the evening we gathered at nearby Ivy Mills. In the same family since 1729, the mill produced the paper used in early currency. The homestead forms the Ivy Mills Historic District on the National Register of Historic Places and consists of the ruins of the mill, the clerk's house, the mansion, an ice house, root cellar, slave quarters recently recognized by descendants of the former occupants, and a repurposed barn used for special events. After a tour of the grounds and structures, we enjoyed a reception followed by a delicious barbecue dinner served in the barn.



Facade of the Ivy Mills paper mill with the Clerk's House in the background.

On Saturday morning, Tony Shahan led a walking tour of the Newlin Mill water system to explain how the flood damage had been addressed and repairs effected. This was prelude to the round table discussion: Protecting Our Mills and Their Power Systems, led by Tony and Charles Yeske. This provided an opportunity where everyone could raise concerns and problems faced at various mills and share information and solutions.



Meeting in the log cabin.

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President's Message cont'd

possibilities. We will keep you informed of those arrangements as they develop. Judy Grove has made many updates to the website recently, so please avail yourself of information their, including all past meeting announcements and minutes.

I was pleased to see the good attendance at the recent Spring meeting – over 25 people plus Newlin staff! I am thankful to our Board members for their continued work for the chapter, especially for treasurer / web master Judy Grove and vice president / newsletter editor Susan Langley for their tireless contributions. We look forward to events and activities for the purposes of preserving old mills and providing education and fellowship for our members. I hope to see you on the next mill tour!

Dan Campbell

Daniel T. Campbell

President, Mid-Atlantic SPOOM



See the DeZwaan Windmill, Michigan, at the national SPOOM Meeting

Tide Mill Institute

For updates on tidal power, historic tide mills, virtual tours and lectures, please check out:

<https://mailchi.mp/75f3b1425267/email-url-13657829?e=d1a717cd69>



Spring Meeting *cont'd*

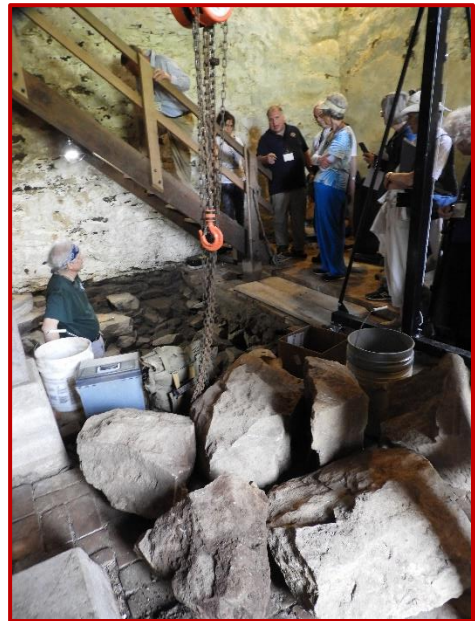
After a buffet lunch, the business meeting convened, chaired by SPOOM Mid-Atlantic Chapter President, Dan Campbell. Judy Grove, our Treasurer and Webmaster, reported that while membership is a little lower than at the same point last year, new members do continue to join. She also noted that SPOOM national now has a Facebook page, and reminded everyone of the Chapter Activity page on our website with back issues of the newsletter, previous meetings, and the By-Laws and Meeting Minutes. An important issue that has been under discussion for some time involved changes to the By-Laws to permit Incorporation with appropriate phrasing to ensure Officers have Liability coverage. The proposed changes were approved at this meeting.

Dan announced that the Board positions up for election in the Fall are: President, Vice President, and two (2) Board positions that would run through 2024. Nominations, including oneself, should be directed to Dan Campbell (campbelldt@verizon.net). Nominations from the Floor at the Fall meeting are also permitted.

Additional discussion resulted in four mills being proposed as the sites of upcoming meetings, depending on their availability and willingness to host. Also, Susan Langley observed that the Mid-Atlantic Chapter will celebrate its 20th anniversary in 2025.



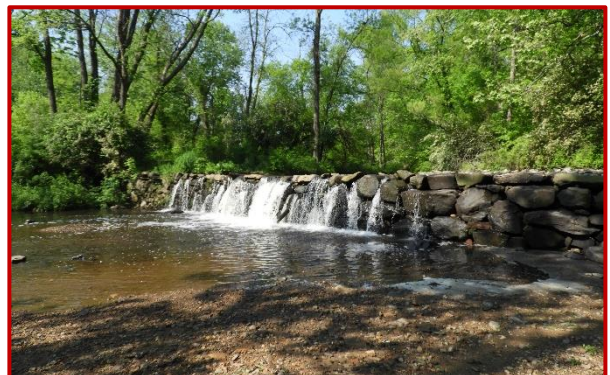
Newlin Grist Mill
(All photos in this article: Susan Langley)



Archaeological Investigations under the floor & in the wheel pit.



Members standing on the earthen dam with the stone dam in the background (and below) during the tour of the water system.



OLD WYE MILL

WYE MILLS, MARYLAND



STONE
GROUND
WHEAT, CORN,
CORN GRITS,
BARLEY, RYE,
BUCKWHEAT
AND NOW
EINKORN!

340 YEARS AND STILL GOING STRONG!

At one time there were over 900 mills in Colonial America. Today there are less than two dozen still operating by water power. The Old Wye Mill, in Wye Mills, on Maryland's Eastern Shore, is celebrating 340 years of continuous operation as the oldest water-powered mill in the United States, and one of the oldest commercial businesses in continuous operation in Maryland. Founded in 1682, the Mill followed the 1665 establishment of a significant land grant of 1,350 acres from Lord Baltimore to Thomas Williams called Wilton and Wilton Annex. Over the years the Mill has been owned by some of the most famous families in Maryland, including Edward Lloyd III and Edward Lloyd IV, Richard Bennett and Colonel William Hemsley. The Old Wye Mill was one of the mills that provided significant quantities of flour and grain to Washington's troops during the American Revolution.



In 1790, the Old Wye Mill was also one of the first mills to be fully mechanized by the installation of the system created by the great inventor Oliver Evans. His design of belts and gears enabled a miller to handle the milling process by himself, where previously it had required numerous laborers to do the same work. Today the Old Wye Mill grinds several varieties of grain into flour, which are available to visitors along with locally sourced, honey, maple syrup, pottery and Wye Mills memorabilia. The Mill is open in 2022 from April 30th until October 29th. Visitors can tour the Mill from 10:00 until 3:00 Wednesday through Saturday and 1:00 to 3:00 on Sunday. Flour milling is on the first and third Saturdays of each month. Check out our website for upcoming events in 2022 at www.oldwymill.org

Flume Restoration at Union Mills

- John Boag and Sam Riley

The Shriver Gristmill at the Union Mills Homestead is now operating with a newly-restored flume thanks to a major project that concluded earlier this year. The flume's restoration project is a major highlight for this year's celebration of the historic site's 225th anniversary.

Union Mills was founded in 1797 as an industrial enterprise by two brothers, Andrew and David Shriver, Jr., centered on a large brick gristmill. The mill was built with the latest in the milling technology of the era, using machinery designed by Oliver Evans. The brothers' joint venture focused on the production of flour that was shipped out of the Port of Baltimore into a growing flour market at the turn of the nineteenth century. Updated over time, the Shriver Gristmill remained in operation until the 1940s.

Millwright Ben Hassett, based out of Harrods Creek, Kentucky, performed the restoration work on the flume. Hassett was well suited for the job, as he was trained by Derek Ogden, the millwright who performed the original restoration of the mill back in 1983.

Hassett's work onsite kicked off when he arrived in January. He started by dismantling the previous flume, which had rotted and was leaking badly. Hassett then replaced the flume as well as the bridge over the head race. Work on the flume extended from the control gates (at the bridge) to the forebay gate at the waterwheel. Hassett also replaced the apron for the waterwheel, the curved structure that hugs the wheel and helps keep water in the wheel buckets.

Hassett's work on the flume finished up in March 2022. Hassett also spent weeks last year at his shop in Kentucky designing and assembling portions of the flume's structural components. The quality of materials, (all #1 white oak) and level of craftsmanship are excellent. With proper maintenance and care, the new flume should have many years of serviceable working life.



The flume at Union Mills prior to replacement.



The newly-restored flume at the Union Mills Homestead historic site in Carroll County, Maryland, shortly after the project was completed in March 2022. The restoration project was performed by B.E. Hassett-Millwrights, Inc., Harrods Creek, KY. (Union Mills Homestead Foundation photo)

The Union Mills Homestead historic site is owned by Carroll County, Maryland and operated by the nonprofit Union Mills Homestead Foundation, Inc. under a long-term lease. Over half of the funding for the flume restoration project was provided by the Maryland Historical Trust through a Capital Grant to the Foundation; the County provided the remaining funds as well as excellent project management.

After about four weeks of allowing water to swell the flume boards, it's virtually watertight and is now back in action for the summer season. Be sure to stop by to check it out!

About the Authors: John Boag is the miller at the Union Mills Homestead. Sam Riley is the President of the Union Mills Homestead Foundation, Inc. The Foundation's website with more information about the site is unionmills.org.

Snyder's Mill (Brodbecks), Glenville, PA is For Sale

The grist and feed mill dates to 1825 and was constructed by George Bear. It has remained in the family to date.

If you are interested in acquiring this heritage structure or for additional information, please contact Lisa Snyder at 717-235-1213 or 717-235-0573.

Photo: Robert Kinsey (2005)
<https://millpictures.com/mills.php?millid=897>



Grist From Abbott's Mill

Steve Childers has been involved with Abbotts Mill for over 20 years and he leads tours of the old mill on the third Saturday of every month from March thru November. Steve is a member of SPOOM, and serves on the board of the Mid-Atlantic chapter. He writes a blog called Grist from Abbotts Mill and May 27 entry (<https://www.gristfromabbottsmill.net/post/smyrna-area-mills>) features Smyrna Area Mills, Delaware. Follow Steve to stay abreast of his latest topics.



Upcoming Events & Activities

An Association of Mills from the Netherlands is running an ongoing series of symposia under the title of *The Craft of the Miller*. These English language meetings cover diverse topics and participation and discussion are encouraged. Recordings of Previous Events are available through this link:

<https://network.molens.nl/previous-events/>

It is also possible to sign up to be notified of upcoming events at this link.



July 23, 2022: **Hellertown Historical Society** is holding *Passport to History*; a history-themed events at the Grist Mill. They will be joining other local historical and cultural sites by offering tours and other activities. If you'd like to help plan the activities or help out the day of the event, let us know!

<https://www.hellertownhistoricalsociety.org/events.html>



July 16-17, 2022: **Union Mills** is hosting a Civil War Encampment. 410-848-2288.

August 6, 2022: **Union Mills** is holding an Old-Fashioned Corn Roast from 11am-5pm. 410-848-2288.



September 24, 2022: **Union Mills** is hosting the Maryland Microbrewery Festival from 11am-6pm. 410-848-2288.

Oct. 12-15, 2022: **SPOOM National Conference**
Join us as we celebrate SPOOM's 50th Anniversary!
https://www.spoom.org/content.aspx?page_id=22&club_id=664666&module_id=500678



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)

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.

Attach
postage
here

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