

# The Run of the Mill from SPOOM Mid-Atlantic

Mill Gleanings from SPOOM MA Board & Chapter Members

~ Published semi-regularly as stories and a publisher are available ~

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## Welcome to our Mini-Newsletter!

The unique challenges presented by the Coronavirus Pandemic derailed plans for the 2020 spring and fall chapter milling tours and meetings and, most likely, the spring 2021 meeting as well. Life goes on and individuals and organizations involved in mills and milling find ways to adapt. Still, the opportunities to connect with our milling friends are missed. **The Run of the Mill** will attempt to bridge the gap by sharing information to update our readers on what is happening to some of the mills and mill lovers in our region. Special thanks to Steve Childers for providing stories for this first issue of **Run of the Mill**.

Readers are invited to submit news of milling interest for future editions. The Board is looking for an editor so that we can resume publishing our regular spring and fall online newsletter. If interested, reply to this email with your contact information and credentials.

## State Archive Collections

When researching information about old mills, especially mills that may no longer exist, one excellent resource is the various state archives. Many state archives (perhaps all) have excellent records of old mills, including old pictures. Delaware, for one, has an entire collection of photographs of mills which can be accessed at - <https://archives.delaware.gov/2011/08/04/delaware-mills/>

While I haven't used it as much, Maryland also has an excellent mill file that includes a thorough description, maps and old photographs -

<https://www.maryland.gov/pages/search.aspx?name=Planning&site=8ntotag0xsg&q=Mills&x=0&y=0>

The file for just one of Maryland's eastern shore counties, Caroline, is an example of what is available on-line with just an evening's digging -

<https://msa.maryland.gov/megafile/msa/speccol/sc4300/sc4300/000005/000000/000024/restricted/caroline.pdf>



*Enterprise Milling Company in Seaford, Delaware  
from the Delaware State Archives Collection*

## Abbotts Mill, Sussex County, Delaware



*Figure 1 On the dam side of the mill, battens have been replaced where necessary, a door is being replaced, and painting is underway.*

Abbotts Mill, near Milford, Delaware, is getting a complete exterior makeover this winter. The Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs (owner of the historic buildings) has hired BRS Consulting, Inc. of Harrington to do the much needed renovations. Repairs are being made as necessary to the foundation, siding and windows of the mill, the barn and the storage building and everything is getting a fresh coat of paint! Depending on the weather, all work should be complete by mid-March, just in time for the first "Running of the Mill" public tour of the year on March 20th. Three hourly tours will begin at 1:00 P.M. but are limited to four people and masks must be worn. Reservations can be made by calling Abbotts Mill Nature Center at 302-422-0847



## In Memory of



*Randy Huff's CAD Drawing of gearing at Wallace Cross Mill in southern York County, PA*

Randall L. Huff, of Fogelsville, passed away suddenly Saturday, May 2, 2020 at age 60. Randy was a true craftsman and took pride in everything he did. He

was an avid woodworker and built Log, Post and Beam, and Timber Frame Homes. More recently he applied his love of Turbo CAD modeling and printing to old mills. The morning of May 2 he submitted his sponsor membership to SPOOM Mid-Atlantic via PayPal. A memorial gift was sent in appreciation of his support for milling.

