

Virginia Millard McGavin, 1913—2009



Virginia Millard McGavin, died on December 28, 2009, aged 96. You may

recognize the photo of Virginia Millard above, taken in 1917 — it is displayed on the piano in the miller’s house parlor.

Virginia was the last surviving child of Sam and Olive Dyer Millard’s six children. Sam and Olive’s family home stood on the hill where today the Colvin Run Apiary beehives are located.

After graduating from Herndon High School,

Virginia earned a B.S. degree from Lynchburg College in 1934. Sam and Olive Millard believed strongly in the value of higher education for girls as well as boys.

For 22 years, Virginia worked for the Fairfax County Public Schools, managing cafeterias at several local elementary schools. She loved planning and preparing tasty, nutritious and visually appealing meals, saying “Make a colorful plate, because you eat with your eyes.”

Like the rest of the Millards, Virginia was very family-centered. When her mother, Olive, fell ill, she

and her sisters cared for her until she died. As her older sisters’ health declined, Virginia cared for them as well.

Her funeral service was held January 6, in the barn at Colvin Run Mill Historic site. She is buried with other members of the Millard family at Brown’s Chapel Cemetery on Hunter Mill Road, on land purchased for the church in 1887 by Addison Millard and several other neighbors.

Virginia McGavin is survived by her son Ted, of California, daughter Virginia Rita, of Vienna, VA, and their families.

12, 11, 10, 9 . . . Countdown to 2011

What’s the big deal about 2011? It will be the **200th anniversary** of Colvin Run Mill, that’s what!

On August 11, 1811, Philip Carper bought “the mill, mill house, dam, race and etc.” from William Sheppard. It was a rather convoluted real

estate deal for a 90-acre parcel near Difficult Run that also involved George Washington’s heirs.

We now have 12 short months to come up with ways to celebrate our bicentennial.

There is a box in the lunch room for collecting

ideas — help fill it up!

FCCA graphic artist Joanne Kearney will design a logo to promote the festivities, but first she suggests we come up with a slogan — so put on your thinking caps and let’s start making some plans.

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by Marjorie Lundegard

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

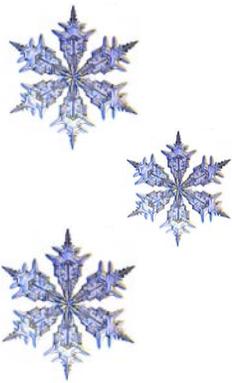
- 2 Mike Moran**
- 4 Rich Thorpe**



Thank You!

During December, volunteers gave **704 hours of service** to make Colvin Run Mill Historic Site a fun and festive holiday destination for nearly 800 visitors of all ages.



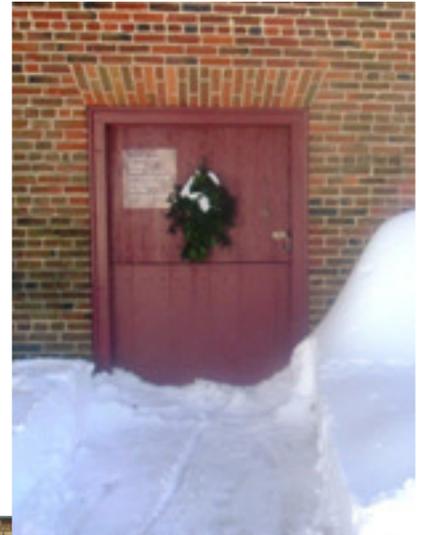


The BIG Snow of 2009

The biggest December snow storm in 70 years turned the park into a winter wonderland last month.

About 20 inches of snow graced the landscape and dangerously dangling icicles decorated the General Store's eaves.

photos by Dawn Kehrer





FOLCK'S MILL RUIN IN WESTERN MARYLAND

by Marjorie Lundegard

Folck's Mill ruin is located near Cumberland, Maryland, on Evitt's Creek, on the north side of US Route 40. Other names for this mill are Pleasant Mill and Wolfe's Mill.

The original owner of the property was Thomas Beall, and in 1819 the mill property was deeded to his heirs. Jacob Hoblitzell and his wife, Amy Beall, purchased the mill from the estate. A large brick grist mill was built using hand fired bricks. Besides supplying power to the grinding equipment, the waterwheel also powered a saw mill.

In 1820, Jacob Hoblitzell built a tollgate house and tavern for the many travelers along this route who needed a place to rest. Hoblitzell also collected a toll on the covered bridge across Evitt's Creek.

In 1830, after the death of Jacob Hoblitzell, John Folck, Sr., purchased the mill. He owned many other business enterprises such as Bowling Green Mill, Old Six Mile Tavern, a warehouse in Cumberland and a farm at Bean's Cove. Around 1840, John Folck, Jr., purchased the mill from his father's estate.

During the Civil War the mill suffered severe damage. A cannon ball hit the mill destroying a section of the brick wall. Near the turn of the 20th century, the Wolfe family purchased the mill, but only operated it for a short period of time.



All that remains of this once thriving mill is the stone foundation with windows and doors in it. The mill was about 25 feet by 30 thirty feet in size. Today, there is evidence of the millrace. This ruin is relatively difficult to find although you can see it from Interstate 68.

We traveled west on Interstate 68, got off at exit 46, and continued into the little town of Wolfe's Mill where we stopped at a garage to get information about the location of the mill. A very friendly man greeted us who actually thought the mill could be seen from his parking lot. However, this was not possible.

Since the mill is located on land owned by the Maryland Department of Roads, our new friend called one of his friends at the Department of Roads to give him directions to the ruins. After talking to his friend for about two minutes, he said, "Wait a minute. I'll get the keys to my car and take you to the mill ruin." So off we went.

We followed our friend who had a running conversation with the Department of Roads. We ended up on MD Route 220, approaching the entrance to I-68. The mill ruins are on the right side of the approach to I-68 from Route 220. The Department of Roads keeps the grass mowed around the mill.

We parked our car and climbed over the barrier fence. This 19th century grist mill was the site of the Civil War Battle known as "The Battle of Folck's Mill." A Civil War group is interested in the possible renovation of the mill, and Ivan Lufriu, of the SPOOM Mid-Atlantic chapter, is giving guidance to the group in the possible restoration of the old mill.



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SEE YOU AT THE BEACH!
FEBRUARY 21-23



COLVIN RUN MILL HISTORIC SITE

10017 Colvin Run Road
Great Falls, VA 22066

Phone: 703-759-2771

Fax: 703-759-7490

FOR REASONABLE ADA
ACCOMMODATIONS, CALL
703-324-8727



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AND
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www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/crm



Mike Toms, CRM Volunteer



The mission of Colvin Run Mill Historic Site is to maintain and interpret its historic buildings and collections for the enrichment of Fairfax County residents and visitors as they relate to the themes of technology and community in 19th century rural northern Virginia.

Manager: Mike Henry

Assistant Manager/Newsletter Editor: Ann Korzeniewski

Miller: Mason Maddox

Historic Collections Coordinator & Volunteer Scheduling: Dawn Kehrer

General Store Operations & Programs: Terry Tomasulo

Miller's Assistant: Kim Whitacre

Jill of All Trades: Pam Gennari