



Grist From the Mill

February 2011

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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 & community in 19th century rural northern Virginia.

The Miller's Document Box

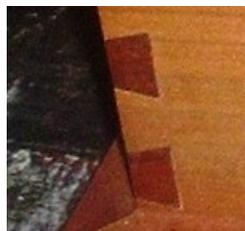
by Dawn Kehrer

Last fall, volunteer **Rich Thorpe** built the number one item on my wish list for the miller's office – a document box. Daily business operations at a 19th century mill suggest that the miller would need such a box in which to securely keep his money and important papers. With a portable document box, the miller could pick it up and carry it home at the end of the day – like a beautifully crafted briefcase.

I searched websites and antique stores for a long time before I

found a box that met our specifications. I discovered the perfect box on-line, at an antique wood box website, but its price tag was beyond our budget and practicality.

Luckily, the website gave the dimensions for the box and lots of color photos that showed how it was constructed. Rich agreed to copy that box and even learned how to make dovetail joints just for this project.



Our box is made from cherry and has a period-looking lock and key similar to the original to keep the miller's documents and money safe.

The Hepplewhite brass pull on the lid is a duplicate of the original, useful for carrying the box to and fro.



Inside the box, I have placed handmade paper similar to what the 19th century miller may have used.



NIGHT AT THE SMALL MUSEUM:
BRINGING MUSEUMS TO LIFE
SMALL MUSEUM ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE
SUNDAY FEBRUARY 20 - TUESDAY FEBRUARY 22, 2011

Small Museum Association
2011 Winter Conference

February 20-22
Ocean City, MD

www.smallmuseum.org

Maple Syrup Boil-downs

Mark your calendars for the boil-down programs this month:

Sundays, February 13 & 27
Noon-2pm, \$2 / person

Bundle up and come on out to watch as gallons of sap are boiled down into ounces of golden syrup over an open fire.

Sample delicious maple syrup on freshly baked cornbread made from cornmeal ground at the mill.



Program will be repeated
Sunday, March 6, noon-2pm.



NEW! Bicentennial Patch

A new sew-on patch featuring the mill's bicentennial logo is now available in the Colvin Run General Store for \$3.

President Lincoln's Cottage At the Soldiers' Home

Presidents' Day is February 21, 2011

Looking for a "new" place to explore presidential history?

After a seven-year \$15 million restoration by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Lincoln's Cottage opened in February 2008 on the grounds of the Armed Forces Retirement Home (AFRH) in northwest DC.

The present-day AFRH was established as the Soldiers' Home in 1851 on the estate of Washington banker, George Riggs. Riggs' former 'cottage' home became the 19th century equivalent of today's Camp David for US presidents seeking relief from the rigors of city life.

During his years in office, Abraham Lincoln and his family spent each June to November in residence on the

picturesque hilltop a few miles from downtown, and the president commuted daily to and from the White House.

For more information about Lincoln's life at the Cottage go to: www.lincolncottage.org.





Fairfax County Park Authority

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