

Grist from the Mill



Colvin Run Mill Volunteer Newsletter

February 2008

Working with Children Workshop



The January training on Working with Children was a fun, informative morning. Mike Moran contributed his thoughts on the types of children (and adults) he encounters in a typical school group. I have included them to see how many you can identify.

Front Runner: Usually very bright, this child wants to answer every question. He/she understands quickly and may outpace and dominate the others.

Don't Call on Me: This child may know the answers, but doesn't want to be the center of attention. He/she usually sits or stands farther away from the docent and tries not to be noticed.

I'd Rather Be Somewhere Else: Just another boring field trip to this child, he/she is reluctant to show any enthusiasm, but, once impressed, can be your biggest fan. They are often the gravel kickers.

Silent Majority: These children wait for the front runners in the group to take the lead. They need a little encouragement to speak up.

Ooh! Ooh! Call on Me: Their enthusiasm is often not based on their knowledge, but, unlike the Don't Call on Me children, they love to contribute.

Wise Guy: This "cool dude" tries to impress with antics rather than knowledge. His contributions may take skill to integrate into the interpretation.

Been There, Done That: Having been on a mill tour before, this child wants to impress the docent and his/her classmates with his experience. Loves to be a helper.

Special Needs: This child may take a few minutes to recognize. The teacher is usually the best person to help you deal with any unusual behaviors.

Power Syndrome Teachers: This is her/his class and this teacher has no intention of delegating any authority to the docent. Working together can make the trip more relevant for the class.

March 15, 9am – 11am Volunteer Breakfast



Come with family and friends on Saturday, March 15 to enjoy a bountiful breakfast featuring maple syrup from Colvin Run's trees. Check the March newsletter for more information.



Feb 24 - Feb 26 in Ocean City, Md.

The Small Museum Association Conference *Circle the Wagons, Small Museums Coming Together to Solve Problems* will be

February 24 to February 26 at the Clarion Fontainbleau in Ocean City, Md. The conference cost of \$150 includes sessions on Monday and Tuesday, four meals, a wine-and-cheese reception on Sunday evening and one-year membership in the Small Museum Association. We hope you will join paid and volunteer staff for this annual fun and educational winter trek to the beach. For more details, see Ann Korzeniewski, a member of the Small Museum Association board of directors.

Friday March 28 9am-3:30pm
All Manner of Useful Goods: Household
Necessities and Craftsmanship in Early America

All Manner of Useful Goods is presented by the Fairfax County Park Authority and George Mason University Department of History at George Mason University in Fairfax, VA.



Presentations, a costumed interpretation, tabletop exhibits and demonstrations examine various trades, how they operated, economic factors impacting American craft, and how utilitarian goods made of redware and stoneware, base metals, cooperage, basketry and woodenware were produced and marketed. **Advance Registration with special rate of \$45 for RMD volunteers required by March 21, 2008.** Email: susan.clark@fairfaxcounty.gov or phone (703)631-1429 or FAX (703) 631-8319.



February Birthdays

Feb. 2 – Pat McGuire. Appropriate to his birthday, Pat’s truck bears the label Sleepy Groundhog. Blacksmith, carpenter, repairman, auction sale scout and Santa as well as a school bus driver for Fairfax County -- Pat is a true Renaissance Man.

Feb. 22 – Bob Lundegard. Bob takes an active role to spread interest in old mills. He is the new circulation manager for the Old Mill News, the quarterly publication of the Society for the Preservation of Old Mills (SPOOM) and is the vice president of the new Mid-Atlantic chapter of SPOOM. Bob and Marge are also active in The International Molinological Society (TIMS) America. The list of mills they have visited, both in the U.S. and in Europe is astounding.

Good Neighbor Award

If there were a Good Neighbor Award, Pam Engel, wife of Mike Pahner would be the first recipient.



Pam and Mike live across Colvin Run Road from the mill, and, for over 20 years, Pam has kept a watchful eye on the mill site. She takes pride in keeping the entrance trash free and attractive as her contribution to maintaining one of the “Crown Jewels” of Fairfax County history. Pam also enjoys hiking along the equestrian trail adjacent to the mill, part of the Cross County Trail.

Mike and Pam have an abiding interest in Early American history in general and George Washington in particular. They have many historical documents related to Washington, including numerous books and maps, Washington’s diaries, and an authenticated copy of his 'Last Will & Testament'. Pam takes pride in being a good steward of George Washington’s little mill site. The Colvin Run Mill staff appreciate having such a great neighbor.

Welcome

Bridget Sullivan (on the right) has graduated from the University of Mary Washington and taught for a year in France. Now she is busy looking for employment in her field of Art History. In the meantime, she will volunteer at Colvin Run Mill, finding out about the workings of a historic site and learning to give tours of the mill. Julie Bell, our teen volunteer, was happy to meet a kindred spirit.



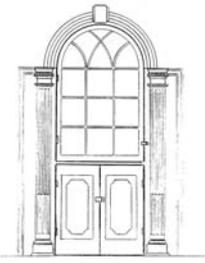
From the Millers Corner

Mason has five taps in the maple trees with mixed results. The days changed almost overnight from too warm to too cold. As soon as the nights are freezing and the days are above 40 degrees, the sap will pour out and Mason will be running from bucket to bucket collecting the sweet reward



Arti-Facts from Dawn

Survey Results



Museum exhibitors always need to keep in the mind the interests of those people who will be viewing an exhibit. So, two months ago I began a visitor survey to find out what our visitor who toured the Miller's

House would like to see in future exhibits. The survey asked visitors what they would like to learn about and offered four choices to choose from: Millard family life, everyday life in the early 1900s, home furnishings in the early 1900s and other – with space to fill in other ideas.

At the beginning of January, I had received 30 responses with these results:

41% want information about everyday life in the early 1900s -- a very broad topic with lots of possibilities.
29% want information about Millard family life
15% want to see home furnishings in the early 1900s
15% added their own ideas and a few questions.

Several people were interested in sewing and cooking, several said they would like to see more about milling, e.g., the everyday schedule of work at the mill, and milling through the years, and around the world. Someone asked about farm animals at the site and another wanted to know about money in the early 1900s.

Thank you for your help with this survey. I will continue it for another few months. Also, if you hear comments from visitors about present exhibits or exhibits they would like to see, please let me know.

Milling Around Michigan & Pennsylvania

by Mike Moran



Loranger Gristmill: This 1832 mill is in the Henry Ford Greenfield Village, Dearborn, Michigan. It was built by a French-Canadian settler, Edward Loranger,

who operated it until he was 91 years old. The original mill was powered by a 12 horsepower water wheel, which could grind 100 bushels of corn or wheat a day.

During the 2002-2003 restoration, the mill was moved to its present location. Using the Oliver Evans system, one person operates the mill for demonstration and to produce feed for local farm animals. The mill automatically grinds, sifts, and bags grain, carrying it through a system of chutes and conveyers. During my visit on September 20, the mill was unattended, so I gave a tour for my family. Then a group of 7 visitors asked me to give them a quick tour.

McConnell Mill: This mill is in McConnell's Mill State Park, Portersville, Pennsylvania. Daniel Kennedy built the original grist mill in 1852. The building stood four-and-one-half stories and was powered by a large water wheel. The dam was constructed of logs and large boulders. In 1867, a fire destroyed the mill, and it was



restored two years later. In 1875, water turbines replaced the water wheel and roller mills replaced the mill stones, making it one of the first roller mills in

the country. The mill closed in 1928. In 1963, it was reconstructed, and the water dam was replaced. All of the machinery in the mill is said to date to 1887, and is generally well preserved. One of the turbines has been replaced and a bank of elevators rehabilitated. One mill stone has been restored and produces cornmeal. There are plans to have the mill operational again in 2008. Larry Stefanosky, a long time docent, gave me an in-depth tour of every floor and dark corner of the mill. We were accompanied by a park ranger who was keenly interested to hear our discussion, including what we do at Colvin Run Mill with simple machines. The McConnell Mill has very informative plaques around the structure which allows visitors to be self-guided throughout the first two floors of the building.

Saint Vincent Gristmill: I also had an extensive personal tour of this interesting mill which was completed in 1854. (Marge Lundegard has already reported on this unique construction which was built almost completely out of wood.)

On the Road with Bob and Marge Cox Mill at Middleboro, Indiana

Middleboro, in Wayne County about six miles north of Richmond, Indiana, was settled by Quakers in the early 1800s. Jeremiah Cox, Sr. was one of the founders of the city of Richmond.

Around 1811, Jeremiah Cox, Jr. built one of the first businesses in Wayne County — a gristmill in a log building. The mill had two runs of stones and served the early settlers who had previously taken their grain into Richmond to be ground. Farmers would travel great distances by horseback to bring their grain and return with a few bags of flour. The mill could not operate during dry seasons or when the weather was freezing. When the water level was favorable, the miller could grind about two bushel of corn per hour. After the grain was ground, the miller carried the sacks of flour meal to the second level of the mill where the flour was sifted.



In 1827, Cox built a stone mill that he operated until 1860. It was the first mill in Wayne County to use a flour elevator. This

building still stands on the Middle Fork River, just behind the brick mill building. A sawmill was also on this site.

Robert Cox, son of Jeremiah Cox, Jr., learned the trade of a millwright from Nathan Hollingsworth of Richmond. In 1834, at the age of twenty, he built a frame mill one-fourth of a mile east of the present brick mill building and operated it for over twenty years. In 1860, he built the brick mill and outfitted it with the best milling machinery. After Robert Cox died, his son Joseph operated the mill. He installed roller milling machinery using water power and a gasoline engine. Later, a company composed of Joseph Cox, Harvey Cook, and Lynn Boyd owned the mill, and Alistus Little was the miller.



Today, the brick mill has been converted into a private residence. Members of the fifth generation of the Cox family reside in this beautiful brick structure

with a good metal roof. There is evidence of the headrace and the tailrace and the remains of the early dam can be seen from the bridge over the river. The stone mill still stands and is used for storage. This area still has many family farms owned by the same family for several generations.

The mission of Colvin Run Mill Historic Site is to maintain and interpret the historic buildings and collections at the site 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.

A publication of Fairfax County, Virginia and Colvin Run Mill Historic Site www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/crm

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