



Grist From the Mill

March 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.

19th Century Industrial Espionage — Read All About It!



by Nick Yannarell

Between 1827 and 1829, two German engineering students, Carl Friedrich Ganzel and Friedrich Wulff, were sent to America by the Prussian Minister for Trade and Industry, Christian Peter Wilhelm Beuth, to visit gristmills, poke around, learn and secretly document everything they could about America's new milling technology, designed and patented by Oliver Evans.

The Quest for American Milling Secrets, the long-awaited English translation of Ganzel and Wulff's 1832 report of their journey to the United States, has just been released by The International Molinological Society (TIMS).

This account of the Germans' early attempt at industrial espionage is particularly interesting to mill enthusiasts because of its in-depth study of the state of American grist-milling in the early

19th century. The 250-page book, extensively illustrated with drawings from the original report, reflects the authors' impression of America's success in producing and marketing flour products, both domestically and internationally.

The Friends of Colvin Run Mill acquired the book for the site's library, thanks to their membership in TIMS. You are welcome – and encouraged – to read the book, but please don't remove it from the site.



ANCHORING OUR COMMUNITIES
Museums Olde & New

The Virginia Association of Museums 2011 conference will be March 12-15 at the Portsmouth Renaissance Hotel, Portsmouth, VA. For more information go to www.vamuseums.org.

Welcome Rachel Bowen!

Rachel Bowen has joined the mill staff for the spring school program season — get to know her quick, she's only here until June!

Rachel comes from a Foreign service family and spent her elementary school years in Brazil and France. Her family returned to the US in time for Rachel to attend Thomas Jefferson High School in Fairfax County and Davidson College in North Carolina, where she majored in religion.

After college, she joined the Peace Corps and spent one year in Mozambique teaching English.

Most recently, she has been teaching science and natural history, outdoors at various residential camp settings, for kids from kindergarten through high school.

Rachel is happy to have a limited term job here, because she plans to attend graduate school in archaeology in the fall and hopes to go to field school over the summer.



Her hobbies include running, knitting, crocheting and she likes to bake. She also dotes on four “adorable” nieces ages 1 through 5.

Her parents John and Mary Bowen live in Falls Church and are friends with Colvin Run General Store's volunteer storekeeper **Genie Davis** and her family.

Cock & Bowl, Occoquan, VA



Now serving
“creamy local”
Colvin Run
Mill grits!

We don't usually include restaurant reviews in the volunteer news, but here is a place worth checking out.

The **Cock & Bowl** at 302 Poplar Alley in Occoquan (*motto: Belgian beer, good food*) is a European style bistro serving an array of beers and fresh, local food.

One of the local foods on the menu is **grits** ground right here at Colvin Run Mill.

Our grits accompany Boeuf Entrecôte Chimay (beer braised beef short ribs) and are also used for that perennial brunch favorite, shrimp & grits.

For more info and to see the menu go to:
cockandbowl.com

SAVE THE DATE!

200TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION



*Sunday,
April 10,
noon—3pm*

Celebrate 200 years of Fairfax County history down by the old mill stream where water has powered the millstones since 1811.



Admission to this family-friendly celebration will be FREE.



Fairfax County Park Authority

COLVIN RUN MILL HISTORIC SITE

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