

GRIST FROM THE MILL

VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER

COLVIN RUN MILL
HISTORIC SITE

May 2010

May Day! May Day!

Each year, archives, libraries, museums, and arts and historic preservation organizations set aside May 1 to participate in May Day, an initiative to protect cultural heritage from disasters.

Do you know what to do in case of an emergency at Colvin Run Mill? Do you know that our site has an Emergency Response Plan? Do you where to find a copy of it?

We have three copies of the Emergency Response Plan — one each in the mill (basement electric

room), store (under the sales counter, and miller's house (2nd floor, in Mike Henry's office). The plan covers actions that paid and volunteer staff should take to ensure the safety of people and property during fire, severe weather and other emergencies and is updated annually.

In an emergency, volunteer staff should alert a member of the paid staff that there is a problem. What if historic structures or artifacts are threatened? The first thing to remember is that



people are more important than structures or objects. However, Section 10 of the Emergency Response Plan is an Emergency Action Plan for our site's historic artifacts that covers *mitigation, response* and *recovery*.

Mitigation measures are already in place at Colvin Run Mill to eliminate or reduce hazards to the historic artifacts prior to emergencies. *Continued on page 2*

Welcome, Bruce Gilbert

Bruce Gilbert is the latest addition to the volunteer staff. After visiting Burwell-Morgan Mill he found Colvin Run Mill on the internet ... and the rest is history.

A native of Pitman, PA, Bruce has lived in the Washington area for 38 years. After four years in

the Air Force, he moved here in 1972 to work for the Navy Department where he was an accountant.

Besides being interested in historical things, he also enjoys gardening and loves to travel around the USA.

At Colvin Run Mill, Bruce has discovered a



new interest — working with our 3rd grade field trip visitors.

We welcome Bruce to the weekday docent corps.

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WEEKENDS IN MAY:

McLean Art Society

Show & Sale
Saturday, May 1
Sunday, May 2
11am—4pm

Blacksmith Demo

Sunday, May 2, 11am-3pm

Mill Run Dulcimer Band Concert

Sunday, May 16, 2—4pm
FREE, donations accepted



Grinding Grains

Sunday, May 16
noon—3pm
conditions permitting
\$6 adults/\$5 students/
\$4 children and seniors



May Birthdays

5 Bridget Sullivan

26 Jennifer Kalletta

May Day! May Day!

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Response measures are taken when emergency conditions are imminent (like a threatening weather forecast), and during an emergency to prevent or reduce damage or stabilize the situation.

Recovery measures are taken after the emergency is over and the damage to structures and artifacts has been evaluated. The immediate priority is protection from further damage.

You may already have helped with the response phase of an imminent emergency — moving artifacts to higher shelves, covering items with plastic sheeting or even digging a drainage trench outside the mill's back door.



Ken Asher helped respond to imminent flooding by securing plastic outside the mill's basement door.



Plastic sheeting protected artifacts in the General Store during a roof leak.

WHAT TO GRAB IF TIME & SAFETY PERMIT

These are treasured items because they once were owned by the Millards and Cockrills

FROM THE MILLERS HOUSE

Parlor exhibit cases:

- Milk pitcher
- Apron
- Millard family Bible

Mill room:

- Ledger from miller's desk
- Miller's desk itself

FROM THE GENERAL STORE

- Mark Cockrill box (on top of the thread cabinet)

SAVE THE DATE!

2010 Colvin Run Mill Volunteer Awards & Recognition Brunch

SATURDAY, JUNE 19
9:30 - 11AM

Enjoy a casual brunch, socialize with fellow volunteers, applaud the 2010 award winners and hear about some of the upcoming 200th anniversary plans.



Millard Genealogy

by *Muriel Levin*

Colvin Run Mill's Millard family has a fascinating genealogy. A compilation done in the 1970s by Edward Church Smith of Lakewood, Connecticut, and Philip Mack Smith of Washington, DC, who combed through dozens of census records plus much other material, have the Millards settling in Massachusetts before 1650.

The Smiths noted that their research was hindered by a couple of factors. One was that Millard was a common name and there were the usual numerous spellings including Miller, Milward, Milner, le Meleward and le Mulward. The other was that they found two John Millards and two Thomas Millards and information in official records often mixed up these gentlemen.

Forty years later, I have consulted additional on-line sources for this article: www.newenglandgenealogy.pcplayground.com, which lists around 300 Millards in the 1600s and 1700s, and the genealogy database of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (LDS) www.familysearch.org.

A website about the Massachusetts Bay Colony, www.Colonialancestors.com, lists 11 Millards, including one Thomas (born c.1600 and died c.1650) and one John Millard (birth and death dates not given). Thus it seems likely that the earliest Millards were among the Massachusetts Bay Colonists who came just after the Pilgrims. They were mostly Puritans by religion, were wealthy and well-educated and looked upon their

resettlement as a good business venture. Surprisingly, the Charter for the Massachusetts Bay Colony gave the settlers the freedom to be self-governed, and in 1636 the trading company became a representative democracy. (In the 1690s King James II recognized the error of this unheard of liberty and revoked the charter. But this was too late, the seeds of liberty had already taken root.) The original Massachusetts Bay Charter included all land three miles north of the Merrimac River to three miles south of the Charles River and west to the Pacific Ocean. The British king really did not know what he was starting! By 1636 the colonists had begun to settle inland in "Pioneer Valley" along the Connecticut River where they found the best agricultural land.

Returning the Millards, for generations the numerous Millard families lived in Massachusetts or East Haddam or Cornwall, Connecticut. Many of Addison Millard's direct ancestors lived in Egremont, MA. Not surprisingly, many had large families, but only one ancestor outdid Addison with 21 children. Joshua, from whom Addison was directly descended, had 14 children.

Joshua's brother, along with a few other relatives, fought in the Revolutionary War. One man served for three days; another for nine months; another for three years; and one was at Valley Forge with General Washington. Young Londen Millard followed his brother by also enlisting in the army at age 14 – but it was noted that he was large for his age.

Millard Fillmore, the 13th US President and son of Phoebe Millard Fillmore, was descended from John Millard (1645-1673) of Rehoboth, Massachusetts.

CRM WEBSITE UPDATES

FCPA web guy **Jeff Snoddy** has added some new features to the Colvin Run Mill website.

If you haven't looked lately, use this link to check it out:

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/crm/

On the **home page** you can:

- Click on a slideshow of beautiful photos;
- download the walking tour brochure pdf ;
- listen to a podcast with sounds of the mill operating.

At **tours**, you will find the orientation video.

At **teachers**, see the *Masters of Colvin Run Mill* field trip video.

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Millard Genealogy, continued from page 3

Generation 1 - Thomas
What we know for certain starts a couple of generations later than the original Millard colonists. The LDS database identifies **Thomas Millard**, who was born June 23, 1678, in Reading, MA, and died in 1728 in East Haddam, MA. In 1703 he married **Rebecca**, who was born in 1678 in East Haddam, and together they had at least two children, Rebekah (born before 1706 in East Haddam) and John, who was born around 1713.

Generation 2 – John
John was born around 1713 in East Haddam, CT, married **Mehitable** (born in East Haddam on September 4, 1711) on March 18, 1735, and died April 2, 1803 in Egremont, MA. Together they had four children: John, Jr., Matthew, Joshua, and Benajah.

Generation 3 - Joshua
The third son of John and Mehitable was **Joshua**, who was baptized on January 12, 1744. He married **Lydia** in Cornwall, CT, and moved to Sharon, CT, around 1767 where they settled on a farm. Thirty years later the fam-

ily moved to Egremont, MA, where Joshua died in 1830. Joshua and Lydia had 14 children.

Generation 4 - Peter
The sixth child of Joshua and Lydia was **Peter**, who was born in Sharon, CT, on May 3, 1774, and died on January 27, 1863, in Egremont, MA. He had three children by his first wife, **Mary**.

Generation 5 - Samuel
The second child of Peter and Mary was **Samuel**, who was born in December 31, 1799, in Alford, MA, and died August 28, 1878, in Egremont, MA. Samuel married **Elizabeth Stoddard** on April 10, 1823. They lived in Egremont and had six children.

Generation 6 - Addison
So now we get to **Addison Bidwell**, the fifth child of Samuel and Elizabeth.

Addison was born March 3, 1843, in Alford, MA, married **Emma Catherine Padgett** in 1864 in Frederick, MD, and

moved his family to Colvin Run, VA, in 1883. They had 20 children, some born in Maryland and some born in Virginia. Addison died April 5, 1898, at Colvin Run, VA.

Emma was born in Frederick, MD, on April 23, 1849, and died in Washington, DC, on April 23, 1919. Fourteen of their children lived to adulthood and all married. There were 47 grandchildren, with Laura and John Cockrill having the largest family of seven children and Venie and Viola having none.

Four of the sons were millers. Twins Everett Edward and Edward Everett each had their own mill. Alfred (known as "Bub") and Samuel who worked in, and after Addison's and Emma's deaths, ran Millard's Mill (now our Colvin Run Mill). Later, Samuel bought out the rest of his siblings' interest in the mill.

Generation 7 – Samuel
The last of the Millard family to own the mill was **Samuel**, the seventh child of Addison and Emma. Samuel was born on July 21, 1873, in Buckeystown, MD, and died on February 10, 1951, in Fairfax, VA. He married **Olive Dyer** of Fairfax, VA, around 1900 and they had six children. Their last surviving child, Virginia, died December 28, 2009, aged 96. Her funeral was held at in the barn at Colvin Run Mill on January 13, 2010.





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



A PUBLICATION OF
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AND
COLVIN RUN MILL HISTORIC SITE



www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/crm



Photo by Ann Korzeniewski



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 & Volunteer Scheduling: Dawn Kehrer

General Store Operations & Programs: Terry Tomasulo

Miller's Assistant: Kim Whitacre

Jill of All Trades: Pam Gennari