

MILLWORK

Spring 2018

THE NEWSLETTER OF HANFORD MILLS MUSEUM

UPCOMING EVENTS

July 4
Independence Day Celebration

July 28
Free Family Saturday

September 1
Free Family Saturday

September 8
Dan Rion Memorial Antique Engine Jamboree & Powerfest

October 13
Woodsmen's Festival

October 17-20
Society for the Preservation of Old Mills Conference

For more information please visit
www.hanfordmills.org
Or call 607.278.5744

**EXPLORE
THE
POWER
OF THE
PAST**

Note from the Executive Director

The Old Mill at East Meredith, now Hanford Mills Museum, was incorporated in 1973. In the past 45 years the Museum has achieved many preservation and interpretation milestones, including the recent expansion of the Museum's educational outreach activities. During 2018 we will celebrate the Museum's accomplishments in a variety of ways, including: a new exhibit in the Feed Mill, a celebratory pig roast in September, and an effort to add \$45,000 to the Museum's Endowed Trust through a 1-to-1 matching challenge from the O'Connor Foundation. Help us to celebrate the efforts of the past 45 years! Come see the exhibit, attend the pig roast (details available soon), and support the Endowed Trust Matching Challenge —your donation will double and grow into the future!

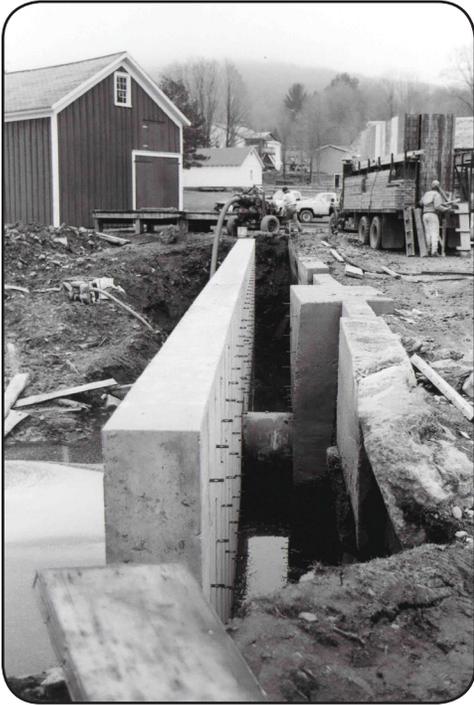
In June we bid a fond farewell to Interpretation Coordinator Brendan Pronteau. He moved to Texas to take a position at the George Ranch Historic Park near Houston. During his three years at Hanford Mills, Brendan was an important member of our team. He expanded the Museum's educational outreach efforts, he advanced the Mill's interpretation, and he formalized the documentation of many Mill processes. Like any good Eagle Scout, he left Hanford Mills Museum better than he found it. Although we are sad to see him go, the position he has accepted will give him new opportunities to grow and advance in the museum field. Brendan will be missed, and we wish him the best personally and professionally.

Liz Callahan



The Hanfords received the original horizontal return tube steam boiler in 1895.

45th Anniversary Exhibition: "Today's Schedule Did Not Go According to Plan"



In 1993 a construction crew poured a new concrete dam wall about two feet in front of the old dam.

On July 1, we open the new exhibit "Today's Schedule Did Not Go According to Plan." While mills used to be a mainstay in every village and town, the vast majority have fallen into disrepair, been torn down, or converted to another use. Hanford Mills, thanks to the foresight and efforts of many, not only still stands, but operates much as it did a century ago. Our 45th anniversary exhibit recounts the restoration, preservation and maintenance work necessary for keeping this historic water-powered and steam-powered mill in working order.

The same qualities that made this site ideal for a mill—a low area in the landscape close to Kortright Creek—also put the Museum's buildings, machines, and objects at greater risk from flooding and dampness. The water system that moves water into and out of the Mill also slowly wears on the elements of the system. These challenges are worth tackling to preserve the unique opportunity that HMM has to interpret the site and demonstrate the power generation systems and machines that have run during the 125 years the Mill was in business.

The Museum has worked to restore the water system that collects and distributes water, the water and steam power generation systems, and the infrastructure that transfers that power to a variety of machines. These systems often require ingenuity to improve the safety and maintain the effectiveness of the systems while preserving the historic appearance and integrity of the Mill site. This work sometimes includes finding modern replacements for historic materials and designing new system solutions.

Through photographs and objects, the exhibit illustrates the determination, expertise, detective work, stewardship, and collaboration that keeps Hanford Mills running today. Please come view the exhibit soon and let us know what you think.

HMM Education Programs Have a Record Year

This school year, the Museum's education staff, led by Brendan Pronteau and Kajsa Harley, have visited 23 different schools and implemented over 270 programs. These programs, combined with the museum's strong field trip attendance, have left few days open on the museum's calendar throughout the school year and have our educators visiting almost every school in Delaware and Otsego County. "It's a great problem to have, being so busy," remarks HMM's Interpretation Coordinator, Brendan Pronteau. "We have staff members sometimes visiting two schools in a day, and occasionally eight or nine schools over the course of the week."

These programs have covered a wide range of topics, including watershed health, simple machines, rhythm and music, engineering, geology, pollution, renewable resources, mill history, team building, environmental science, and more. "The wide range of programs is really a credit

to the training and knowledge of our education staff, specifically Liz Brown and Ginette Day, who developed many of the programs that we worked with this year," says Pronteau.

Thanks to our increased in-classroom presence, we have had over 3,300 student interactions this past school year. While those numbers are good, and a huge increase from last year's 1,500 student interactions, HMM is aiming even higher in 2018-2019. Thanks to generous grants from the O'Connor Foundation, the Santora Trust, the Catskill Watershed Corporation, and the Community Foundation for South Central New York, combined with our continued involvement in the Creating Rural Opportunities Partnership (CROP), the Museum is planning 400 in-classroom programs for the 2018-2019 school year, hoping for a total of over 5,500 student interactions. While this is a huge initiative, the education staff is excited to continue working with the students in these schools and to continue building relationship with these schools and communities.

Join us for Upcoming Festivals and Free Family Saturdays

On July 4, the **Independence Day Celebration** offers old-fashioned family fun, with a kids' fishing derby on the Mill pond, frog-jumping contests (bring your own frog), steam- and water-power demonstrations in the Mill, music, and local vendors. You can sample ice cream made on a steam-powered churn, chilled with ice cut during February's Ice Harvest Festival.

On September 8, we will hold the **Dan Rion Memorial Antique Engine Jamboree & Powerfest**. Come see a variety of working steam and gas engines, tractors, outboard motors, antique cars, motorcycles, and trucks. Perennial favorites include hit and miss engines, farm machines, a 1926 Ahrens Fox Pumper Firetruck, and the 1957 Nash Metropolitan Hook and Ladder Fire Truck Ride from the Catskill Game Farm. Chat with collectors and find out about the hours of tinkering, detective work, and mechanical know-how necessary to keep these machines running. The day also includes steam-power and water-power demonstrations in the Mill, bluegrass music, renewable energy exhibits, great food, and children's activities.

The **Woodsmen's Festival** on Saturday, October 13 celebrates the many ways people use and work with wood. The Woodsmen's Club from the SUNY College of Agriculture and Technology at Cobleskill returns to demonstrate cross-cut sawing, overhand and underhand chop, ax throwing and other lumberjack skills. The speed and precision of these talented college students is amazing to watch. The day of fall fun features woodworking demonstrations, exhibits by forest and woodworking organizations, demonstrations in the water-powered Mill, food, music, kids' activities, local vendors, and horse-drawn wagon rides.

Explore the Museum at **Free Family Saturdays** on July 28 and September 1. Visitors can explore how things work at the Mill on July 28. The Museum's September 1 "field trip for families" will feature horse shoeing demonstrations by a farrier. Kids 18 and under, and two adults per child, receive free admission to Free Family Saturdays.

Each of these events run from 10 am to 4 pm, with the Museum site open until 5 pm.

Hanford Mills will host the **annual conference of the Society for the Preservation of Old Mills (SPOOM)** on October 17-20. Participants will get an in-depth tour of Hanford Mills, and explore the industrial history of Delaware and Otsego Counties. We are delighted to be able to showcase the Museum and our region with others dedicated to the preservation of mills as an essential part of the American landscape. More information is available on the HMM website.

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ADDRESS IN THE WINTER? PLEASE
LET US KNOW SO THAT WE CAN STAY
CONNECTED THROUGHOUT THE YEAR!**

The mission of Hanford Mills Museum is to inspire audiences of all ages to explore connections among energy, technology, natural resources and entrepreneurship in rural communities with a focus on sustainable choices.



**Council on
the Arts**

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