

Donations

Hanford Mills Museum often receives donations of items that help to preserve, operate and interpret the mill site. Most of these gifts are artifacts added to the collection relating to the history of Hanford Mills, the community of East Meredith, and milling in general. Others are flat belts, tools, equipment, and materials used in the restoration, maintenance, and operation of the mill.

The staff at Hanford Mills would like to thank everyone who has generously donated needed items. We would like to specially acknowledge a few of the outstanding donations since 1981:

- Richard T. Applebaugh, Oneonta
1000 bd. ft. of hardwood, blacksmith's forge, anvil and tongs.
- Ted Bailey, East Meredith
Hanford Brothers' buzz saw.
- Pete Ballard, Fleischmanns
surface planer motor.
- Beachmont-Tabor Company, Montrose PA
scroll saw and tenoner.
- Mr. and Mrs. William Botting, CA
wedding dress worn by Hanford relative.
- John Elliott, Morris
oak windlass.
- The Farmer's Museum, Cooperstown
shingle mill, buzz saw and gas engines.
- Jack Gillette, East Meredith
drum sander.
- Kingdon Gould, JR. Washington, D.C.
Chase Sawmill and Trevor Shingle Saw.
- J. Ralph Hanford, NJ
D.J. Hanford's 1860's daybooks.
- Jim Kriker, Saugerties
C.B. Rogers 6 in. molder.
- Don Lane, Oneonta
gas engine.
- The MacClintocks, East Meredith
Hanford and Pizza memorabilia.
- Nationwide Belting Mfg. Co., OH
flat belting.
- Donald and Veronica Nelson, East Meredith
Joseph Pizza's belt lacing kit.
- Edward D. Payne, CT
Friend Model CX Motor-pump, Sta-rite Engine restoration and building materials.
- Emmert Studebaker, OH
Chase Shingle Mill.
- Clyde Teeple, East Meredith
E.G. Bernard 8 kw Dynamo.
- Mr. and Mrs. Vincent, Endicott
flat belts.

Thanks also to Bob Bishop and Dan Rion, whose donations of logs have once again filled the Hanford mill yard with freshly sawn lumber.

Groups Fill Spring

More schools are coming to Hanford Mills this spring than ever before. By April 6, 23 groups from four counties had registered more than 850 students for one of the museum's 3 on-site programs. These attendance figures are well ahead of last year's record setting school visitation.

The museum's in-school, "Who Did What Where?" program is in demand also. So far, teachers from Gilboa-Conesville, Walton, Milford, Otego, Oxford, Worcester, Schenevus, Oneonta and SUCO have borrowed, or will borrow, the kit. Two additional kits have been assembled to meet increased demand.

Nearly 200 Cub Scouts from the Otschodela Council will join the fun on May 9th during a day long "Nitty Gritty Cub Day". Scoutmasters and mill staff will lead activities that will be educational and entertaining for all involved.

The museum is always looking to involve new groups with our programs. If you are involved with a group interested in visiting the museum, let us know. Our programs can be tailored to suit your group's needs.

Museum Buys Building

On December 30, 1986, Hanford Mills acquired the East Meredith Post Office building which sits adjacent to the museum's administrative offices. This historic structure was built after 1900 when Walter Smith bought a 125 foot by 66 foot land parcel from Horace and Will Hanford.

Throughout its history, the building has been many things including a hardware store, general store, auction house, private residence and home to the East Meredith Post Office. At least ¼ of this building will continue to be leased to the U.S. Postal Service.

Plans are being developed to use the rest of the building to accommodate a variety of museum needs including maintenance, security, collections storage, and programming. Of particular note are the plans to establish a classroom and lecture hall that will enhance the museum's ability to offer a variety of year-round programs.



Board Adopts Plan

In December, 1986 the Hanford Mills Museum Board of Trustees adopted a new comprehensive Long Range Plan. This plan charts the course the museum will follow into the future. It includes an explicit statement of the museum's mission and a detailed outline of what needs to be done to improve the overall quality of Hanford Mills.

With the long range plan as a guide, museum staff and the Board of Trustees are better equipped to expand museum programs, improve collections care, and establish a sound financial foundation.

Many thanks to all on the board for a difficult job well done.

HMM Board of Trustees

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"New" Machines Set-Up and Running

Rob Shapiro was busy over the winter and there is quite a lot to show for his labor. Based on years of staff research, the mill's interior has been rearranged to more accurately reflect the way it was when the mill was owned and operated by the Hanfords. This year, several newly installed machines will be demonstrated regularly. These demonstrations, along with a new visitor traffic pattern, will highlight production techniques that were crucial to the success of the Hanfords' business, including:

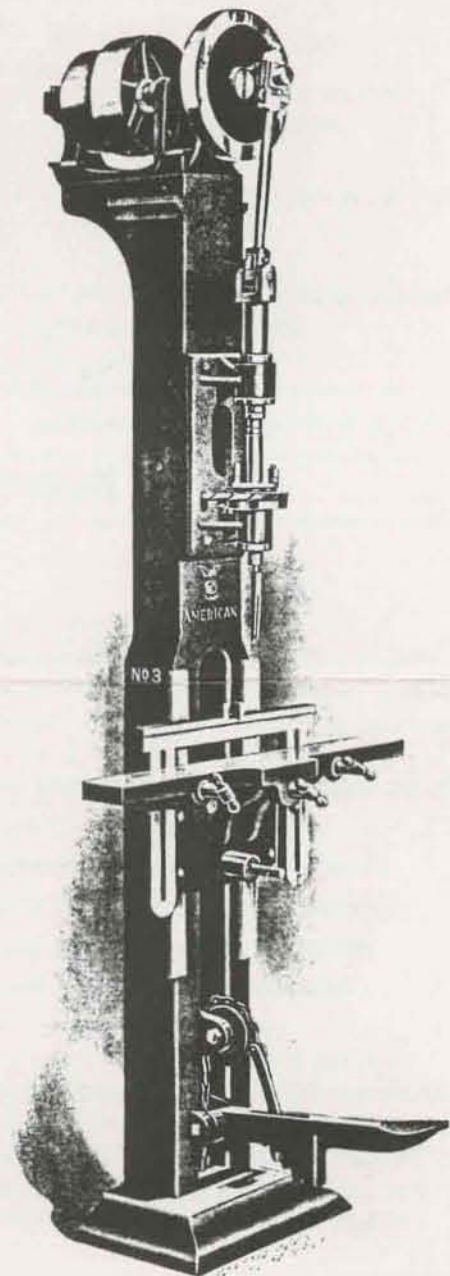
The 1870 "heading" machine bought by D.J. Hanford in 1872. This machine was used for nearly 40 years to turn butter tub covers and bottoms for wholesale distribution.

The H.B. Smith vibrating mortiser that replicates the machine operated by the Hanfords as early as 1895. Using an impressive mechanical advantage, this machine repeatedly plunges its steel chisel into a piece of wood to cut precise mortises with square corners.

The millwright's shop in the basement that features the self-feeding metal lathe used by Horace Hanford after 1898. This beautifully ornate machine, cast at O. Badger's Furnace and Machine Shop, will be used again to help maintain the mill and its machines.

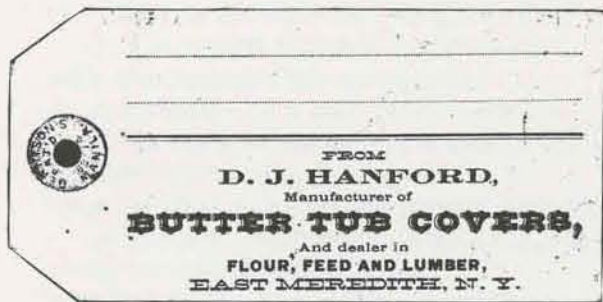
The step saw which has been installed in its original spot in the woodwork shop. This machine will continue to be used to crosscut lumber to standard lengths.

These additions make the museum more exciting and informative than ever. We invite you to look for our "new" machines the next time you visit.



This edition of MILLWORK has been compiled by Museum Intern, Mary S. Dixon and Education Assistant John Stacier.

Butter Tub Covers



In 1875, Delaware County ranked second in butter production in New York state, having produced over six million pounds of butter in 1875 alone. This helps to explain D.J. Hanford's 1872 purchase of a heading machine, used primarily to produce butter tub covers.

This particular model had improvements patented on May 31, 1870 by Oneonta resident William Mickle. These improvements were "for cutting barrel-heads of different sizes, by first rounding them and afterward forming the opposite bevels on their edges."

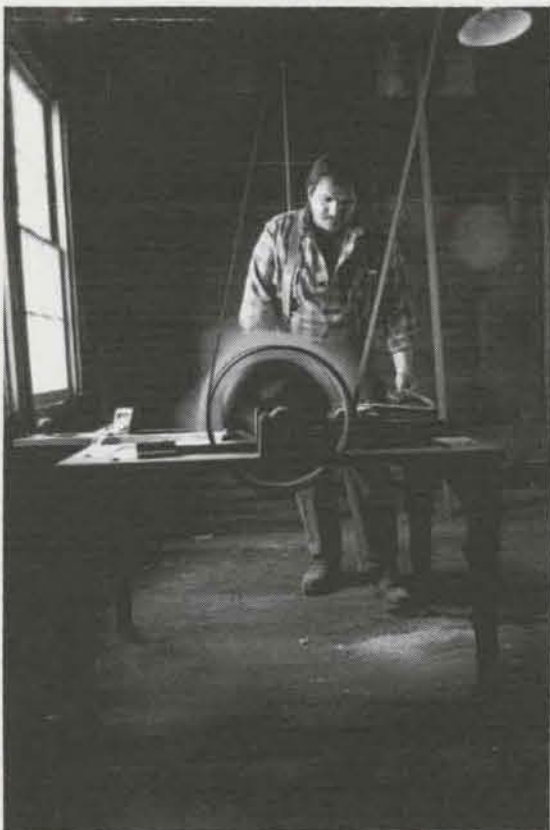
Hanford's new heading machine increased business as word spread of the quality of his butter tub covers. An article in the *Delaware Dairyman* on December 28, 1888 described D.J.'s mill as complete "with the latest improved machinery" and "a machine for cutting tub covers with a capacity of 3,500 covers per day. Mr. Hanford does an extensive business in tub covers."

Years of daybook entries and correspondence filled with thousands of butter tub cover orders attest to this. Despite D.J.'s prices, higher than any local cover producer, customers increased their orders. Satisfied customers brought more business, as in the case of L. Terrell of Warnerville, who wrote to D.J. in 1892 that "Mr. Stam refered (sic) me to you for buter (sic) tub covers." Of his previous

supplier's covers he said, "I cant (sic) say they was firs (sic) class. I put out nice tubs and must have nice covers"

In 1894, Jno. Callahan wrote, "We had some of your covers last fall and they was good covers, no bettter. Abr. Carrington wanted to furnish me with covers but he dont (sic) get there like you do."

This March, Rob Shapiro and John Staicer once again installed and began operating D.J.'s first tub cover turner. They will continue the tradition of making fine butter tub covers as part of the mill's historical interpretation.



Mill Foreman Rob Shapiro turns a perfectly round tub cover on the museum's newly restored "heading" turner.

Photo by Keith Bott

What is YOUR Membership Status?

Are you currently a member of the Friends of Hanford Mills Museum? If not, now is the time to think about joining the team, renewing a lapsed membership, or upgrading your membership category.

Don't hesitate! You do not want to lose your member's benefits:

- Free Admission to Museum
- 10% Museum Store Discount
- Free MILLWORK Subscription
- Members Only Special Events

And More...

If you have any questions about membership, or if you are unsure of your membership status, please call the museum. Join today and become a member of a very special community, people actively perserving our past.

Upcoming Events

May 2 Teacher's Open House & Workshop

Area teachers explore the museum's educational programs and resources.

May 9 Nitty Gritty Cub Day

A fun-filled day of special activities for the Otschodela Council.

May 17 Volunteer Picnic

A "dish to pass" picnic supper for volunteers and their families. 4 p.m.

June 7 Member's Open House

Behind the scenes tour of museum facilities for members.

June 20 Fly Fishing Clinic

Our 5th clinic co-sponsored with Trout Unlimited. Instructors from Trout Unlimited will teach basic casting techniques and present slide shows on other aspects of this popular pastime. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Adults \$3.50

Mill Selects Director

Keith Bott has accepted the position of Director of Hanford Mills Museum. Keith began his association with Hanford Mills in June, 1981 when he served for nearly six months as a volunteer. In March, 1982 he joined the staff as the museum's first Collections Manager. He has been the museum's Interim Director since last September.

Keith received a B.A. in anthropology from Drew University, Madison, NJ in 1976 and a M.Sc. in anthropology from the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA in 1982. His course work at Penn included folklore, ethno-history, and archaeology with a concentration in cultural resource management.

Before coming to Hanford Mills, Keith worked for cultural resource management consultants in New Jersey and Washington, D.C. and for the Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission in Williamsburg, VA.

Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteers are a necessary component of the Hanford Mills Museum. Much of the museum's development would not have been possible without our unpaid staff. Being a volunteer gets you acquainted with our unique site and its exciting past. In the coming season, we need volunteers for the following projects and activities.

- Machinery restoration
- Machinery research
- Photographic collection
- Building and grounds maintenance
- Object catalog and inventory
- Interpretation
- Museum store
- Historical document inventory

If you have other special skills or interests to offer, don't hesitate to call the museum. Don't miss this opportunity to become a volunteer and join the team.



July 4 Independence Day Celebration

Our longest running special event will feature traditional music by Rick Bunting and Dan Duggan, juggling and clowning by "Just Clowning Around", and the patriotic musical program of the Schoharie Community Band. The East Meredith Presbyterian Women's Association and the Antique Popcorn Wagon will be selling refreshments. Horse drawn wagon rides, old time games and more. 10a.m. - 5 p.m. Adults \$2.50, Children \$1.00 (6-12).

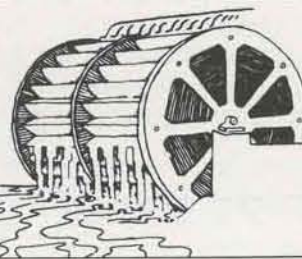
July 12 Music In Historic Places

The Roxbury Chamber Players, with musical director David Niethamer, will once again perform under the willow tree alongside the mill pond. 12 noon - 3 p.m. Adults \$5.00, Seniors \$4.00, Children \$1.00.

Please note revised date for this afternoon concert.

HANFORD
MILLS
MUSEUM

MILLWORK



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