

Record Numbers

1987 is proving to be a record year for visitation. This spring 1,268 school children visited from 25 different school districts, representing five counties. Total visitation for 1987 as of June 30, 1987 was 2,841 persons, over 1,000 more than during the same period in 1986.

Other groups to visit the museum this spring were the apprentices of the Oneonta carpenter's union, the Upper Catskill Fur Taker's Association, Hartwick College museum studies students, and the Singing Hills Senior Citizens.

The museum also co-sponsored a teacher's conference on May 2, with the Catskill Regional Teacher's Center. Nearly 20 teachers received firsthand experience with the museum's educational resources.

On May 9th the museum hosted a very successful "Nitty-Gritty Cub Day." Area Cub Scouts took part in such activities as grain harvesting, knot tying, rope making, tree planting, and old time games. More than 200 cubs and parents participated. The day was fun filled and smoothly run thanks to Bob and Merrie Pierce, John Staicer, and over 40 cub parent volunteers.

We look forward to continuing our record season. Remember, if you are a member, you are entitled to unlimited free visits to the museum.



MILLWORK is published quarterly by the Hanford Mills Museum and distributed free to museum members. For membership information call (607) 278-5744.

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This edition of **MILLWORK** has been compiled by Museum Intern, Mary S. Dixon.

Historical Collection Opens

August 1, 1987 marks the opening date of the Hanford Mills Historic Document Collection. This unique collection contains about 270 boxes of letters, receipts, day books, catalogs, advertising and magazines belonging to the Hanfords and the Pizzas, former owners of the mill in its working years.

The collection includes photographs, most notably those taken by Horace Hanford. There are four flat file units containing maps, blueprints and advertising. Other record groups in the collection include the O. D. Greene Lumber Co. Collection, the W. Ray Card Saw Mill and Garage Collection, the Coe Family Papers, and the Local and Regional Records Collection, covering Delaware and Otsego counties. Also available for research are the museum's photographic archives.

For more detailed information on the museum's holdings, there are inventory books and a user's guide available for public use at the museum. Appointments to use the collection for research purposes can be made Monday through Friday, 10 - 5 after August 1. Advance notice is required.

The organization of this document collection was made possible thanks, in part, to funding from the New York State Council on the Arts, The Institute of Museum Services, and private donations.

Copy Stand Purchased

This spring, through a grant from the Institute of Museum Services, the museum purchased a new Bogen copy stand. This important piece of photographic equipment enables museum staff to accurately reproduce most photographs. This copy stand will be used to preserve valuable historic photographs already in the museum's collection. It will also be used to copy photographs owned by private individuals.

If you have, or know of anyone who has, photographs that should be copied for the Hanford Mills Museum historic photograph collection, let us know. We are particularly interested in seeing any photographs that show the mill and East Meredith until 1973. Photographs showing historic woodworking, sawmilling and gristmilling are also of considerable interest.



Gifts, Donations, and Contributions

The Staff and Board of Trustees of the Hanford Mills Museum wish to thank all who continue to support the museum through donations of material and time, and for contributions to the collection. Recent donations and contributions include:

Historic Artifacts

William Hemsarth, 19th century foot-powered mortiser

Materials

Robert L. Bishop, 3,000 board feet, logs

Grants

A. Lindsay and Olive B. O'Connor Foundation
Derrymore Foundation

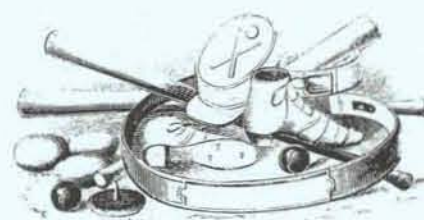
Upcoming Events

Aug. 16 Children's Fair

A very special day for children and parents. This year's fair will feature dancer Ira Bernstein accompanied by fiddler Eric House, juggling, mime, and clowning by Richard "Dickens" Cuyler, and many fun filled activities run throughout the day including:

- Scarecrow Making with Gayle Paynter
- Fingerpainting
- Flower arranging
- Grain harvesting
- Spinning & Weaving by Lisa Merian
- Old time games
- Massachusetts rules (1850's) baseball

Food by the East Meredith Presbyterian Women's Association. Mill tours and machinery demonstrations. Noon to 5 p.m. Adults \$2.50, Seniors \$2.00, Children \$1.50



Sept. 26 & 27 Antique Engine Jamboree

Our 6th annual Gas-Up will once again bring guest exhibitors from throughout the Northeast. Engines of all kinds will be on display - from the most unusual to the everyday workhorses that powered rural America in the days before electricity. Live bluegrass music Saturday by the Laing Brothers and contemporary country on Sunday by the Milton Deane Cooper Band. Chicken Barbecue both days by the East Meredith Volunteer Firemen. Mill tours and machinery demonstrations.

10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Adults \$2.50, Children \$1.00

Pass the Word

A pleasant afternoon at the mill was had by all at the volunteer "dish-to-pass" picnic supper May 17th. Volunteers had the opportunity to meet each other, exchange ideas, and sign up for special events. If you are interested in volunteering for a special event, there are still positions open. To find out about these and other exciting volunteer opportunities, call the museum today. We need your enthusiasm and support.

New Computer Program

The museum recently purchased a new computer software package, called "Benefactor." Designed specifically for membership, this program will help the museum to insure proper mailing to members. The program will also assist in keeping accurate records of donation, address changes, volunteer interests, and sending out reminders.

The Endowment Fund is still open for contributions and thanks to the generosity of the O'Connor Foundation, all contributions to this fund are evenly matched.

All donations and contributions to the museum are deeply appreciated.

Endowment Contributors

Philip Brown
Kathy Dailey
Delaware County Banker's Association
Mike and Peggy Halpin
Erik Hemmingsen
H. Patterson Mack MD
National Bank of Delaware County
Arthur E. Rasmussen
Mr. and Mrs. Minor Wine Thomas



Jugglers and clowns from "Just Foolin' Around" amuse the crowd at this year's July 4th celebration. Over 600 took part in festivities at the site.

Photo by Tim Weidner

Modernizing the Gristmill-1898

When D.J. Hanford added his three story gristmill in 1869 he clearly was planning for the future. But he may not have anticipated how important his new mill would be for business. By the end of the century grinding and supplying grain had become very important indeed and, by 1898, Horace Hanford decided to modernize the milling operation his father built.

In 1898, to keep pace with demand, the Hanfords renovated their gristmilling operation by installing a new 20 inch attrition mill made by the Sprout, Waldron and Company. This "modernization" had a rather mechanically troublesome beginning, though, as revealed by letters saved in the museum's historic document collection.

In August of 1898, the Hanfords received a letter from a friend and millwright, Mr. N.L. Greene of Edmeston. Mr. Greene was also a salesman for Sprout, Waldron and he asked the Hanfords to send a testimonial, "... as good a testimonial as you think the new mill worthy of. They are about to have some new circulars printed and they would like to have your evidence to the merits of the new mill... it would help me in your section more than any one..."

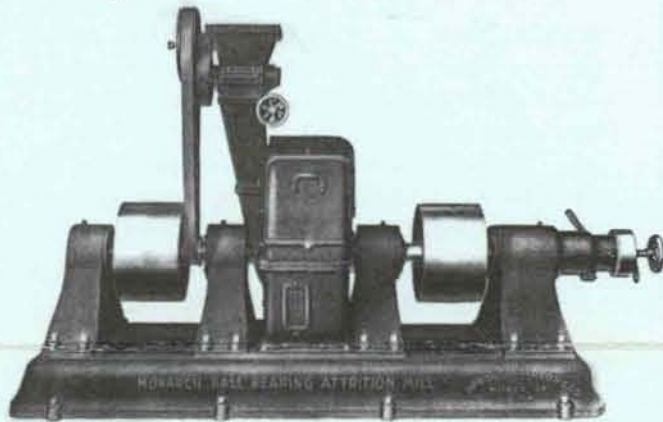
The Hanfords though were having problems with their new mill clogging. When they wrote to N.L. Greene telling him so, they received a surprised response.

"I don't think I was ever so much surprised as when I got your letter as I thought your mill worked to your satisfaction," he wrote in September of 1898. "You ground quite a quantity of the kind of mixed feed you mention when I was there and we all thought it done good and rapid work."

Mr. Greene forwarded the Hanford complaint to Sprout, Waldron and Company in Muncy, Pennsylvania. In their September 3, 1898 letter, the company asked the Hanfords, "... you say you can hardly get any corn, oats, or bran through the Mill... what seems to be the

trouble?" Then on September 12th, Sprout, Waldron wrote, "This is the first word of complaint we have in regard to this Mill and we want to know everything about it possible. If it clogs before it gets between the plates we can account for it, but we cannot account for it after it gets between the plates. That part seems to be a mystery."

Conceding defeat, Sprout, Waldron wrote back on September 17, "... we are at a loss to understand the trouble you are having with the Mill, and have decided to send you a new one just as soon as we can get the same ready for shipment..."



The Hanfords must have been satisfied for in November of 1912, they purchased a new 22 inch Monarch Ball Bearing Attrition Mill, "A Matchless Combination for Cleanliness & Efficiency," made also by Sprout, Waldron and Company. This slightly larger mill could process one to two tons per hour and, besides grain, could grind dried apples, blood, bark, berries, chemical salts, coffee, drugs, feathers, meat scrap, and shavings.

In December 1920, Sprout, Waldron inquired if the mill was still in operation. The same month, the Hanfords replied that "... the 22" Monarch Mill is still in operation and is giving good satisfaction."

Today visitors to the Hanford Mills Museum can tour the historic gristmilling operation where they will see the "modern" machinery the Hanfords installed in 1898 and the 22 inch attrition mill added in 1912.

Welcome to the Team

New members for 1987 include:

Student Marshall Miller	Joint Elizabeth & Edward Estelle Linda Kurz & Jim Belleau Mike & Peggy Halpin Mr. & Mrs. Tony Monahan Mr. & Mrs. Donald Nelson Mr. & Mrs. Herbert Oliver Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Rowe Patricia Tyson & John Nash Martha & Vanessa Van Burek Mr. & Mrs. Ken Winsor
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Is This Your Last MILLWORK?

If you are not a member of the museum, this may be your last issue of **MILLWORK**. Being a **Friend of the Hanford Mills** registers your concern for preserving this unique and valuable site. Your membership dues help to insure the continuation of programs that so many have enjoyed and come to expect. A strong membership also makes the museum more competitive in its pursuit of grants from national foundations and federal agencies.

There are many levels of membership available, and if you act now, you will continue to receive **MILLWORK** along with your other membership benefits including:

- Free admission, including special events
- 10% Museum Store discount
- Members Only special events
- Free Subscription to the Mountain Arts News

Don't drop out now! If your membership has lapsed, renew Today!

Join the Team

If you are not a member, or if your membership has lapsed, check the category of your choice and join the **Friends of Hanford Mills** today!

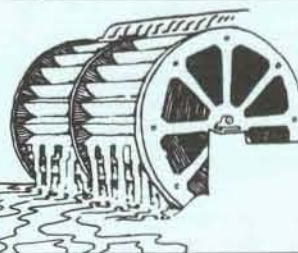
_____ Student	\$ 5
_____ Individual	\$ 10
_____ Joint (2 person)	\$ 15
_____ Family	\$ 20
_____ Contributing	\$ 50
_____ D.J. Hanford Society	\$100

Please make checks payable to Hanford Mills Museum and mail to: Hanford Mills Museum, P.O. Box 99, East Meredith, New York 13757.



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