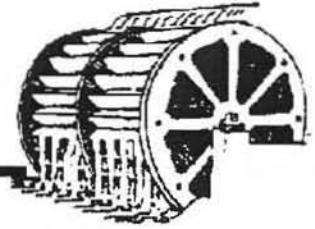


# MILLWORK



Jan.-Apr., 2007

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Vol. 20 - No. 1

## What's News?

This newsletter features an article exploring Elizabeth Hanford's spring cleaning rituals of roughly 125 years ago. As I prepared this contribution to Millwork, I couldn't help but think that in the last year the frenzy of "spring cleaning" has not subsided at Hanford Mills. Just as we careened into our busy season last spring, we were faced with the great challenge of "picking up the pieces" after the flood that ravaged the site in June. Flood recovery, reopening and re-establishing daily operations became as much of a priority as continuing to prepare for and offer our unique summer programs (like the Summer Apprentice Workshop) and our very special annual events.

Thanks to the dedication of the Museum's professional and seasonal staff and interns, and the great generosity of our volunteers and friends, we were able to accomplish flood recovery and move on to a very successful season! Volunteers logged over 500 hours helping with flood recovery efforts alone. The total number of volunteer time logged in 2006 exceeded 1,200 hours! This is almost the equivalent of adding a full time staff person to the Museum's roster.

We begin 2007 with great optimism. We were blessed with a last-minute bumper-crop of ice. Thanks to the responsiveness of our ice harvest volunteers, we successfully filled the ice house at a quickly coordinated Community Ice Harvest. It is our hope that volunteers and friends will continue their generous support into 2007 – assisting with the upcoming

**Clean-Up Day (April 28<sup>th</sup>)**, supporting events, and contributing to the Museum's operations, programs and special projects in whatever way you are able! Our great optimism is thanks to your support and commitment to the Museum. As always, we cannot say thank you enough!



Liz Callahan  
Exec. Director

## Donate While You Search

There is new way to raise money for Hanford Mills Museum just by searching the Internet with the website GoodSearch.com.

GoodSearch

Use GoodSearch.com like any other search engine — the site is powered by Yahoo — but each time you do, money is generated for the Museum.

Last year, search engines generated close to \$6 billion in revenue from advertisers. With GoodSearch part of this revenue will be directed to Hanford Mills Museum. Each time you search, the Museum will earn \$0.01. It doesn't sound like much but if 100 members search the Internet 2 times a day, we'll earn \$730 in a year!

We hope that you will use GoodSearch as your main search engine from now on, and please pass this message on to your friends and family. The more people who use this, the more money will go to Hanford Mills.



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# "We Commenced Cleaning House"

by Caroline de Marrais

Spring has finally decided to show its face around here, despite a few snowy setbacks. As the snow melts at Hanford Mills Museum, it reveals a muddle of fallen tree branches, potholes, and dried-up mud. As the grass turns green, the site will start to look a little better, but there still is a lot to clean up. You might have a similar view out your own window. It's time for Spring Cleaning outside and for the residents of East Meredith in the past, it was also time for Spring Cleaning inside.

Elizabeth Hanford, D.J. Hanford's aunt, kept diaries of her daily activities in the 1860s through 1902. Every year she wrote what work she did each day, leaving us a record of what Spring Cleaning was like in East Meredith.

It just so happens that the dates for 1883 match 2007's calendar, so it might be fun to see how Elizabeth's Spring Cleaning schedule corre-

sponds to our modern agendas. You will see the calendar below with all the cleaning work.

It took about a month to complete Spring Cleaning, but she didn't work at it straight through. Elizabeth never worked on Sunday. She also didn't do any Spring Cleaning work in the week of May 7<sup>th</sup> through the 12<sup>th</sup>. She had nearly finished cleaning the week before, so she relented a little and only did the Monday wash (quite a job in itself). Then before she could get to the cellar, two friends came down sick with the measles, and Elizabeth took time off to help nurse them. By the end of Spring Cleaning, Elizabeth noted that she cleaned the upstairs hall, upstairs bedrooms, their parlor, setting room, the pantry, the kitchen, another bedroom off the kitchen (hired man's room?), and the cellar (used for processing their milk and

butter).

Let's take a closer look at some of the cleaning jobs Elizabeth had to do in 1883.

First she "took up carpet" in the upstairs hall. Most likely what Elizabeth had was woven carpet (likely home-made) throughout the house.

It may have had straw padding under it or not, and it would have been tacked down. A whole year of tracked-in



Special tool for tacking down carpets

dirt would have been in those carpets. So the tacks were taken out, the carpets rolled up, and carried outside to beat. Carpet beating was a great job for kids (though they wouldn't have agreed). The goal was to hang the carpet over a line and beat it until no dust billowed out. It took quite a bit of time and arm strength to beat out a year's worth of dust. You'll notice that the upstairs hall carpet that was "taken up" on the 18<sup>th</sup> wasn't put back until the 20<sup>th</sup>. And imagine the job of stretching the carpet back out, getting it straight, and tacking it back in place either with a hammer and tacks or one of the specialty made tools for the task.

Another job Elizabeth mentions is washing "bed-

*Continued on page 3*

Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
			APRIL 18 Took up carpet up stairs / cleaned clothes room	19 Washed Bedcloths	20 Put carpet upstairs	21 Cleaned our chamber
22	23	24	25	26	27 Cleaned parlor & took up setting room carpet	28 Cleaned my room
29	30 Finished cleaning hall upstairs	MAY 1 Cleaned & papered sitting room	2 Cleaned pantry & whitewashed kitchen	3 Cleaned bedroom off kitchen & finished kitchen	4 Put down sitting room & kitchen carpets	5 Nearly finished except cellar
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17 Cleaned out back cellar	18 Painted kitchen chairs	19

Elizabeth Hanford's 1883 Spring Cleaning Schedule

*Cleaning - con't from page 2*  
 clothes." In other diaries she specifies flannel blankets, but she most likely also emptied and washed the bedticking or mattresses. Elizabeth would have wanted a nice warm, sunny day for this job, so everything would dry well for storage or bed use - she noted a south wind that day. Lifting wet bedding and wringing them out was another job that was hard on the arms. Hopefully, Elizabeth had a wringer that could handle large, thick textiles - they wouldn't be easy to wring by hand.

Elizabeth also mentions that she "papered our sitting room" and "white washed [the] kitchen." Almost every year, Elizabeth picked one

*Continued on page 4*

**OTHER EVENTS:  
 Volunteer Clean-Up Day - Sat., April 28, 2007, 10 am to 3 pm**

See ad → → →  
 Come out and help get the Museum ready for another fun-filled year. We have inside and outside clean-up jobs to suit what you want to do, and we'll feed you lunch, too! Call 800-295-4992 or email hanford2@hanfordmills.org and let us know you are coming.



**VOLUNTEER CLEAN-UP DAY**

SATURDAY, APRIL 28  
 10 AM ~ 3 PM

Hanford Mills Museum is looking for a few willing hands to help get the site ready for opening day.

~ Indoor or Outdoor Jobs Available  
 ~ Lunch provided

**Summer Apprentice Workshop(S.A.W.) - July 16-19**  
 See enclosed brochure to learn about our children's daycamp.

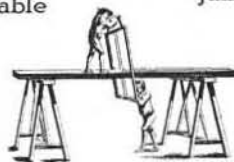
Clip out the section below and put it up to remind you of our upcoming events.



**Hanford Mills Museum's 2007 Special Events**

**"Saw It" at Hanford Mills Museum ~ Sunday, May 27 ~**

Explore over 200 years of sawing & lumber history - human-powered pit sawing, a water-powered circular sawmill, and a modern gasoline-powered portable band saw will be in operation. Watch demonstrations, enjoy traditional lumbering songs, and try a variety



of family activities.

**Independence Day Celebration ~**

**Wednesday, July 4 ~**  
 Old-fashioned family fun!



Sample old fashioned ice cream, enjoy music by Hilton Kelly and the Side-kicks, visit with President Teddy Roosevelt, kids' catch & release fishing derby, and traditional games and contests, including frog jumping and tug of war.



**Antique Engine Jam-boree ~ Sat & Sun, September 8 & 9 ~**

Don't miss this chance to see old time engines of all shapes & sizes at work, and to celebrate antique gas & steam power at Hanford Mills. View scores of antique engines throughout the site - dozens will be running and "doing" things!

**Quilt & Textile Show ~ September 20 ~ October 8 ~**  
 Enjoy a delightful exhibit of historic and modern quilts and historic textiles in the John Hanford House.

**Miller's Harvest Festival ~ Sunday, October 7 ~** See the Mill's gristmill and other feed processing machinery at work. Celebrate ingenuity and industriousness, and explore the skill of farmers at work. The Museum will also be running its steam engine. Sample food cooked in the historic John Hanford Farmhouse, and try traditional crafts and activities.



For more information ~ [www.hanfordmills.org](http://www.hanfordmills.org) or call (607) 278-5744 or 1-800-295-4992

Remember we are open 10 am to 5 pm, Tues. ~ Sun., May 15 to October 15, 2007

And Mondays on Memorial Day, Labor Day and Columbus Day





*Cleaning - con't. from page 3*  
 room to re-wallpaper and she always whitewashed the kitchen. In this era of heating and cooking with wood or coal-burning stoves, no matter how careful you were the house was always sooty after winter. Wallpapered walls might hide the build up of soot for a few years, but the kitchen required yearly attention. Elizabeth had the wood surfaces in her kitchen whitewashed (likely the ceiling and possibly half-wainscoted walls) and plaster walls were wallpapered (she changed that every other year). Whitewash is basically a paint made with lime, chalk, and other various ingredients added to make it white. Elizabeth often put this job off till the end of Spring Cleaning.

Finally, after about three

or four weeks, as an April 30, 1897 article in the *Delaware County Dairyman* Newspaper noted: "House cleaning is about finished, and the male inhabitants are now beginning to lose that haunted 'weary Willie' look that has been sticking to them for a few weeks." Elizabeth occasionally mentioned that her husband and son (Charlie) helped, but most of the work fell to Elizabeth, her daughter-in-law (Carrie), and the granddaughters. Charlie and his family lived with his parents. It is likely that Carrie and the granddaughters were responsible for cleaning their own bedrooms since Elizabeth does not mention them.

Today you may not have the extended family to help with the cleaning, but at least you have your vacuum cleaner

and washing machine, and most likely you don't have much of a soot problem.

Hanford Mills Museum's **Volunteer Clean-Up day** is coming up on **Saturday, April 28<sup>th</sup>**. We hope that you'll come to help us with our Museum Spring Cleaning since "many hands make light work." We'll be working on the grounds and in the buildings from 10 am to 3 pm. Give us a call 800-295-4992 or email ([hanford2@hanfordmills.org](mailto:hanford2@hanfordmills.org)) and let us know you're coming and we'll be sure to have a great lunch ready for you at noon. Come and help us lo~~se~~ our "weary Willie" look!



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### Hanford Mills Museum

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