



MILLWORK

Winter 2018-2019

THE NEWSLETTER OF HANFORD MILLS MUSEUM

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 2
Ice Harvest Festival

May 25
Free Family Saturday

June 15
Free Family Saturday

July 4
Independence Day Celebration

July 20
Free Family Saturday

August 10
Free Family Saturday

September 7
Dan Rion Memorial Antique Engine Jamboree & Powerfest

October 5
Woodsmen's Festival

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

Note from the Executive Director

Winter is far from a time of hibernation at Hanford Mills. Each January the Museum's staff prepares for all of the variables (that we can imagine) that the first Saturday in February – the Ice Harvest Festival – will bring. Will we have a perfect winter day – clear, sunny and bright – that draws throngs of visitors out? Will the ice be thick enough? We are soliciting soup donations, preparing safety protocols, and mustering the 75+ volunteers who play a key role in making the event successful and safe (and without whom we would not be able to offer such a complex event).

In addition to these preparations, we are also visiting dozens of schools through our Educational Outreach Initiative, preparing for the May 2019 re-opening of the historic site, and planning and implementing several preservation and stewardship projects across the site – from new roofs to new ramps and many things in between! Come to the Ice Harvest Festival, watch the Museum's website, and follow us on social media to see all of the wonderful things we are accomplishing this winter. Many of these accomplishments are thanks to the support of our friends! Thank you!

Liz Callahan



Visitors and volunteers use ice tongs to move ice blocks into the ice house, where they will stay until July 4.

HMM Programs set to have ANOTHER Record Year

The first half of the 2018-2019 school year saw Hanford Mills further increase the number of students we reach under the Educational Outreach Initiative. Thanks to the efforts of teachers, administrators, CROP coordinators and museum staff, the education team anticipates that it is on track to provide outreach programming to more students than ever. The Museum plans to implement over 400 programs in classrooms and after-school programs in 23 schools across Delaware, Greene, Schoharie and Otsego Counties.

Thanks to the knowledge and experience of returning educators, Liz Brown and Sara Evenson, as well as the Mill's new educators, Chris DeCesare and Marcy Birch, HMM offers schools a wide variety of programming on topics ranging from mill history and simple machines to environmental sustainability and watershed health. Since the education team started to visit schools in October, we have received encouraging feedback from teachers and students alike. "At the end of a program, students have come up to us and asked 'can we do this for a little while longer,' or 'can you come back?'" said Luke Murphy, the Mill's new Education Coordinator. "It is a wonderfully fulfilling moment when a student says, 'Hanford Mills is the best!' We have a talented, dedicated and mission-driven team, and I have no doubt we are making a real difference!"

The Mill is once again honored to receive the support of the O'Connor Foundation, the Santora Trust, the Catskill Watershed Corporation, and the Community Foundation for South Central New York in support of our Educational Outreach Initiative. Combined with our continued involvement in the Creating Rural Opportunities Partnership (CROP), we expect to reach 5,000 students this school year. The education team looks forward to advancing the Museum's mission and continuing to build relationships between the Museum and communities across the region.

Join us for Upcoming Festivals and Free Family Saturdays

The Museum will celebrate its 30th anniversary **Ice Harvest Festival** this year on February 2. Join us for a traditional ice harvest, horse-drawn sleigh rides, snowman village, and hot soup buffet.

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 7, 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. 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- 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 5 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 May 25, June 15, July 20 and August 10. Kids 18 and under, and two adults per child, receive free admission to Free Family Saturdays. We will update our website as we create specific plans for each of these days.

Each of these events (except for Ice Harvest Festival) run from 10 am to 4 pm, with the Museum site open until 5 pm. Ice Harvest Festival runs from 10 am to 3 pm.

HMM Hosted 2018 SPOOM Conference



SPOOM participants collect apples to be sent through the cider mill. Burr Hubbell, back right, is the new HMM Board President and hosted our visit to the Hubbell Family Farm Mill.

Hanford Mills Museum was delighted to host the 2018 SPOOM Conference in October. The 85 attendees visited Hanford Mills as well as other mills and historic sites throughout the surrounding area. During the day prior to the conference, Miller Training participants spent the day exploring the Mill complex and learning about the Museum's steam plant, sawmill, steel attrition gristmill, and power transfer systems.

Bus tours on Thursday and Friday brought participants to mills and sites related to the area's industrial history. A highlight of the bus tours was the visit to the Hubbell Family Farm in Margaretville, where new HMM Board President Burr Hubbell hosted our visit, ran demonstrations of their 1870s sawmill and cider mill, and shared the entrepreneurial history of the Hubbell family, who have run a variety of businesses on their property for over six generations since 1848. The Delaware and Ulster Railroad's Rip Van Winkle Flyer picked the group up at the railroad siding next to the Hubbell Farm and treated the group to vistas of the rural landscape along the East Branch of the

Delaware River as it traveled to both Roxbury and Arkville, while Director Wes Coates talked about the history of the railroad. The group stopped at the Methodist Church in Roxbury to see the mechanical clock tower equipment in the church tower. Anthony Liberatore, historian of the Town of Middletown, talked about the history of the clock and the process of operating and maintaining it.

On Friday, the bus tour went north to the Fly Creek Cider Mill and Orchard, where owner Bill Michaels addressed the group before we explored the site. The Cider Mill today runs as a major retail center and uses a water turbine to power its seasonal cider production. The next stop was The Farmers' Museum, where buildings have been collected from rural communities from around New York State. The group visited with interpreters demonstrating commercial and domestic activities like printmaking, blacksmithing and farming. The last stop of the day was Hanford Mills, where the group was offered demonstrations throughout the mill complex and had the opportunity to explore the site's other historic buildings.

The banquet on Friday evening took place at the Morris Conference Center on the SUNY Oneonta campus. Entertainment provided by Katie Boardman and Jeane Bennett-O'Dea shared folk songs related to mills and logging. David Smith provided an introduction to the new SPOOM website and its upgraded capabilities. SPOOM recognized Ivan and Marlene Lufriu's long-standing dedication and active membership promoting and advancing SPOOM's mission, especially in regard to their years of managing SPOOM's bookstore. The conference wrapped up on Saturday morning with presentations and roundtable discussions at the Morris Conference Center focused on heritage tourism, historic preservation and the National Register of Historic Places, interpreting the stories of mills and historic sites, and the history of local mills near Hanford Mills.

Thank you to everyone who attended the 2018 conference! We were happy to meet and reconnect with so many of you.



All of the SPOOM participants gathered in front of the Mill complex at host site Hanford Mills Museum during the Friday bus tour.

Collections Projects at Hanford Mills

**This article was written by Karl Wietzel, Collections Assistant*

We like our dirty jobs at Hanford Mills. Indeed, a little sawdust in our boots or oil under our fingernails is part of what makes this sort of history so much fun. Over the past few years we have added another sort of dirty job to our repertoire. With careful hands, in old barns and around tight corners, our staff has been photographing and documenting objects, from screws to dresses to gasoline engines and everything in between. The goal is to better understand the Hanford Mills Museum collection, what's in it, how it came to be, and how it can be better appreciated in the years to come.

I am currently researching and organizing over 1,500 objects donated by the O.D. Greene Lumber mill in 1982. In addition to numerous tools, parts, and records, the collection features more than a dozen woodworking machines. For Keith Bott, our mill manager in 1982, their quality and usefulness for interpretation must have been clear. Sitting where these jobs were done at Hanford Mills historically, our thickness planer and molder are both from O.D. Greene.

Thickness planers like the 1908 Berlin Single Surfacers seen in the mill are considered second only to the saw in order of importance for a miller. This is no less the case at Hanford Mills, as this machine is responsible for sizing all of our boards to the correct thickness and making them smooth to the touch. The mill's roof was raised by D.J. Hanford in 1880 to accommodate planer shavings, a useful by-product used in dairy barns. After sawing and planing, subsequent stages of wood processing send a board to a variety of different tools. One of the most common is a four-sided planer or molding machine. The 1904 Hermance Machine Company molder from O.D. Greene is one such example. Recently, our Mill Operations Manager Rob Dianich made tongue and groove flooring with the Hermance, but four-sided planers are more commonly associated with decorative architectural moldings. O.D. Greene donated several hundred knives for cutting unique patterns that are prominently displayed in the mill today, and a similar display can be seen at Wightman's Specialty Woods, who still create custom trim for local residents. Both machines are testaments to turn-of-the-century American manufacturing, what is sometimes called "Yankee ingenuity," due to their durability. From a functional perspective, the thickness planer is relatively easy to operate if the machine is maintained properly, while the molding machine can take hours to set up properly and is generally considered one of the more unsafe machines in wood processing. Fingers, beware.

Many other O.D. Greene machine parts and associated tools have been used here over the past few decades. Indeed, understanding the history of the collection since its arrival to the Mill – what has been documented, used, and what has not - is the most challenging aspect of this project within a project. The reward is a greater appreciation for the machines we demonstrate, the people who got them here, and the dirty jobs we celebrate.



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HANFORD MILLS MUSEUM

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**THE REGION'S COOLEST
TRADITION CONTINUES!**

Ice Harvest Festival
Saturday, February 2, 2019
10 am - 3 pm

Harvest ice from the Mill pond using
historic tools, enjoy a hot soup buffet, take a
horse-drawn sleigh ride, and more!

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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Mills Museum