

Local Historic Mills Host Open House Weekend

The mills of & Southern York County PA & Northern Harford County Md will be celebrating the heritage of milling the weekend of June 10 & 11 by hosting their fifth area-wide open house. This is part of a broader celebration sponsored by the Mid-Atlantic Chapter of the Society for the Preservation of Old Mills (SPOOM). Participating in the event will be Eden Mill, Muddy Creek Forks Roller Mills, Woolen Mill Wind Engine and Wallace-Cross Mill. Each mill has something unique and different to offer regarding the contributions made by mills to our country and region.

According to the event coordinator, Todd Eyster, the ample water sources in this region have been used since before the beginning of this country to supply the power needed to drive the machinery used to process grain into flour. The water flow from our local streams was also used to power many of our other early industries. York County alone has more than 270 documented mill sites. Several local towns in this area also used water power to provide their first source of electrical generation for their community. Wind was also used to provide power needed to grind grain, pump water and other farm uses.

The following mills look forward to your visit the weekend of June 10 and 11.

New Park Wind Engine features two very rare open-g geared Aermotor power mills. Both of these wind engines differ from the more common water pumping windmills in that they transmit power to equipment with a rotary power shaft instead of up and down eccentric motion. The 12 ft. diameter windmill producing 2 horsepower is an example typical of power mills used on more prosperous farms at the turn of the 20th century. This windmill would be used on farms to grind feed, cut fire wood, shell corn and other light chores.

A larger 16 ft Aermotor enclosed by an octagonal, 3 story mill building is an extremely rare model built in 1888. These large wind engines were built for milling and farm work requiring more power. This wind engine is rated at 5 horse power in a 15 mph wind. The building housing the milling equipment and surrounding the mill tower was inspired by an octagon water pumping windmill in Fairfield Ct called the "Bronson" windmill. The inside workings driven by the windmill are comprised of antique milling and grain handling equipment with belt driven ceiling fans built by Woolen Mill Fan Company. While these mills are not part of local history they are built on historic premises.

Jay and friends would like to invite you to visit these windmills **located at 290 Woolen Mill Rd near New Park PA**. The mills will be **open for tours 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM Saturday June 10, and from 1 to 4 PM Sunday June 11**.

Wallace-Cross Mill is a rare example of a small, rural water- powered grain mill with an overshot water wheel. The mill, tucked away in its unspoiled little valley has changed little since its construction in 1826. The mill continued to provide service by grinding grain for the local community until closing in 1979. The restoration focus is the 1950 era; with operating water wheel and milling equipment. This museum includes three floors of interpretive displays and historic artifacts. Tour guides will be available both days to explain the mill history, operate the water-powered equipment, and answer questions. Bring a camera to capture the scenic area and beautifully

restored building and equipment. Pack a lunch and plan to enjoy a picnic beside the idyllic stream. This beautifully restored, small local mill will be **open 11:00AM to 3:00PM Saturday June 10, and 1:30 to 4:30PM Sunday June 11.** Located at **15759 Cross Mill Road, York County, PA** more information can found at www.yorkcountypa.gov/parks-recreation/the-parks/wallace-cross-mill-historic-site.

Eden Mill has the distinction of having the intact dam and 3 generations of milling equipment still in place. The original mill on this location was built in the early 1800's to harness the power provided by Deer Creek. In 1917 a corporation known as The Fawn Grove Light and Power Company bought the mill and converted it into a power plant. The power plant continued to provide electricity to the Fawn Grove and New Park area until 1927. The generators used to provide this electricity still remain in the mill. After the power plant was no longer in use the mill was returned to its original purpose of grinding food products and animal feed. The Eden Mill Nature Center and Park **located at 1617 Eden Mill Road** will be **open to the public 12:00 AM to 4:00 PM Saturday June 10 and Sunday June 11.** Additional information can be found at www.edenmillmuseum.org.

Muddy Creek Forks Roller Mills occupies a mill site that has been active since the 1750s. The current mill, which was built in 1847 and enlarged for roller mill equipment in 1890, is preserved as part of the Ma & Pa Railroad Heritage Village.

In contrast to Wallace-Cross Mill, the mill at Muddy Creek Forks was a merchant mill grinding flour for sale under its own Harvest Queen brand name. A hundred years ago it had a dedicated railroad siding and shipped white flour to commercial bakeries by the boxcar load and stone ground buckwheat flour to general stores by express on passenger trains of the Maryland & Pennsylvania Railroad.

The mill and grain elevator will be **open from 10 AM to 5 PM on Saturday, June 10, and from 1 to 5 PM on Sunday, June 11.** Displays will include the intact equipment used to grind, sift, and bag buckwheat flour, a stand of roller mills dating to the 1890s, a sieve bolter, middlings purifier, bran duster, and flour dresser. Knowledgeable docents will be on hand to give tours of the mill, explain the milling process, discuss the job of the miller, demonstrate how roller mills revolutionized production of white flour, and explore the relationship between the mill and the railroad. The A. M. Grove Store will also be open and motor car trains will be running excursion rides through the Muddy Creek Valley.

There is something at Muddy Creek Forks to interest every member of the family. For more information visit the website of the Maryland & Pennsylvania Railroad Preservation Society at www.MaAndPaRailroad.com. The mill is **located at the village of Muddy Creek Forks, 5 miles south of Brogue on Muddy Creek Forks Road.**

Submitted by Todd W Eyster
60 Church St
Stewartstown PA 17363
Cell 717 683 4712