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 and 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 especially acknowledge a few of the outstanding donations since 1981:

Richard T. Applebaugh, Oneonta
1000 lb. of hand-forged, blacksmith's forge, anvils and tongs.

Ted Bailey, East Meredith
Hanford Brothers' buzz saw.

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.

Kingston Gould, JR Washington D.C.
((Blouse worn by Hanford relative.))

Don Lane.

Richard T. Applebaugh, Oneonta
1000 lb. of hand-forged, blacksmith's forge, anvils and tongs.

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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 Ononta resident William Mickie. 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. Stan referred (sic) me to you for butter (sic) tub covers."

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. supplier's covers he said, "I cant (sic) say they were flims (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.

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.

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

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 preserving our past.

Upcoming Events

May 2 Teacher's Open House & Workshop
Arts instructors explore the museum's educational programs and resources.

May 9 Nitty Gritty Cub Day
A fun-filled day of special activities for the Osceola Council.

May 17 Volunteer Picnic
A "dibs 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.

July 4 Independence Day Celebration
Our longest running special event will feature traditional music by Rick Dowling and Dan Duggan, juggling and clowning by "FastCleaninggrounds", and the periodic musical program of the Schoharie Community Band. The East Meredith Presbyterian Women's Association and the Antique Popcorn Wagon will be serving refreshments. Horse drawn wagon rides, old time games and more.

10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Adults $5.00. Children $1.00 4-12.

July 12 Music in Historic Places
The Rushbury Chamber Players, with musical director David Stehman, 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.