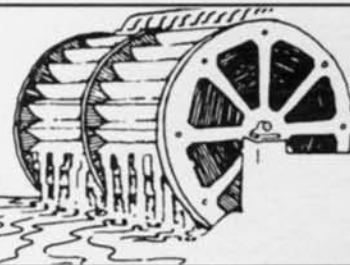


MILLWORK



Spring, 1994

Copyright 1994 Hanford Mills Museum

Vol. 8 - No. 1

What's New!

Is this your last MILLWORK?
We hope not! You should re-
ceived your renewal information
soon. Please call the museum if
you don't. We'd miss you!



Meet Jane Shepherd

Hanford Mills Museum would like to announce the appointment of Jane Shepherd as the new museum director. The museum's Board of Trustees chose Jane in December of 1993, and she began work on January 3rd of this year.

Jane is the former Director of Curatorial Services at the Georgia Agrirama in Tifton, Georgia. Don't worry that this winter's snow worried Jane one bit, though, she was born and raised in Michigan. Jane began work right away. She plans to update museum programs, is renovating the gift shop, and working to find needed funds for site repairs. When you visit the site, introduce yourself to Jane. She would love to meet all our members. And, if you feel like helping out as a volunteer, talk to her and you'll be doubly welcomed.

Acceptable Risk

This year, Hanford Mills Museum has received funding from the New York State Council on the Arts to work on a traveling exhibit about worker safety. Titled "Acceptable Risk," this project will explore (through oral histories, objects and historic documents) people's thoughts and experiences regarding danger in the workplaces of Delaware County, NY. If the project is successful, the staff at Hanford Mills Museum may plan to design a larger, more permanent exhibit. We hope to show "Acceptable Risk" at the Delaware County Fair and it will be available for display in other public areas.

Charlie Howell Remembered

A Society for the Preservation of Old Mills member informed us that Philipsburg Manor near Tarrytown, NY will be holding a memorial for the late Charles Howell on April 30, 1994. Charlie (master miller at Philipsburg Manor and Hanford Mills Museum Board Member and attrition mill operator) died last April. There will be a reception at 10:00 a.m. and the memorial will take place at 11:00 a.m. A few of Charlie's family members will be in attendance. A park bench on the Manor grounds will be dedicated in Charlie's name. Please call (914)631-8200 for more information.

Thank You Very Much

Hanford Mills Museum would like to thank the following people for generously donating documents, photographs and artifacts to the museum's collection in 1993:

Liz Callahan
Robert Chambers
Bruce Cole
Clark Fisher
Marvin Glass
Charles Haynes
Jean Kelso
Robert Kimbark
Richard Meyer
Senator Daniel P. & Mrs. Elizabeth B.
Moynihan
Nancy Nissen
Dan Rion
Donald Van Wickler
A large collection of East Meredith photographs and related papers were donated by Elma Mitchell, author of the three volume history of East Meredith. An extensive collection of mill related books, notes and photographs were donated by William Howell, James Kricker and Mr. & Mrs. A. Bradford McGuire in memory of Charles Howell and E. Barton McGuire.

Other items donated include historic advertising, bobsled & wagon parts, logging tools, old woodworking magazines & catalogs, ice tools, local records, agricultural tools and an Edison Amberola.

The museum is always looking for documents and artifacts related to Hanford Mills, East Meredith, or life and work in the past in this area. If you think you have something that the mill would like to have, please call, write or stop by. Ask for the curator, Caroline Meek.

We appreciate the gifts we have received in the past, and look forward to the generosity of future donors.

Time For the Garden - Again

Editor's Note: Did you catch last year's "Time For the Garden" article taken from a tape recording made during the Kitchen Garden program done at the museum in the summer of 1991? Old time East Meredith area residents told us about gardening in the past. Elsie Hayes, now 94, graduated from Syracuse University and traveled New York as a Lyceum lecturer and met Charlie Haynes, now 92, in East Meredith where they were married and lived in the area from the 1920s to the present. Charlie followed in his father's footsteps as blacksmith in East Meredith and later added an automobile garage business. Barbara MacClintock came to the area in the 1940s where she met and married Larry MacClintock in 1953. Larry's family farmed in the area since the early 1800s. Larry is now semi-retired from his contracting business, while Barbara is the bookkeeper for Hanford Mills Museum. Joe Wyble grew up on a New Jersey truck farm, but has lived in Delaware County for quite some time. He has brought his draft horses to the museum for special events. Caroline Meek, museum curator, moderated the program, which took place in the John Hanford farmhouse. Visitors were also included, and you will find their questions here. This article continues where last Spring's article left off:

Caroline - Did you dry any vegetables to preserve them?

Barb - Dried corn ... that was something I learned ... after I was married. Where you take mature corn (it has to be quite mature), husk it and cook it for five to ten minutes, cut it off the cob and put it on ... trays of some kind and then dry it in the oven. You just have to keep turning it every so often. A really low oven, like 225, ... and then as it dries you lower the temperature down to about 200 and leave the oven door open.



Corn.

And after awhile, it gets so you can just shake it around Once started in the morning, it usually takes all day and by the next morning it's really dry. You can put it in a jar and you can store it on the shelf for years. ...

Elsie - And it's really quite good.

Barb - It's very good. You can cook it up as a side dish ... with milk and butter, or its very good in soup. When you throw your bone in, just throw a couple of handfuls of dried corn in. Has a nutty taste. I'm sure there are a lot of different ways if you knew how to use it ...

Visitor - Did they dry any other vegetables?

Joe - Apples, they used to dry. Cut them and put them on a string.

Elsie - Oh, I think one time we dried some apples. That was when I lived with Anna Wightman down here. I never did do good corn. I always canned it. We canned everything in my growing up days.

Charlie - When Elsie mentions Anna Wightman, she lived on one side of the hotel, and we lived in the other when Martha Mitchell stopped running the hotel.

Larry - Elsie was talking about the dried apples and I'll tell you a story my grandfather always told about dried apples. He said ... they used to kid about taking the dried apples to school. He said they'd have a few slices for breakfast and they'd drink some water in the middle of the morning and you'd have a few more slices at dinner time and a couple more at supper time and you'd drink some more water and that was how he made it through the day.

Charlie - They used to make pies from dried apples.

Larry - They'd get swelled up. That was kind of a joke. Have dried apples three times a day and that's all you had to have.

Visitor - How fat are these

slices of apple that you're drying?

Joe - Oh, they're kind of about quarter of an inch thick.

Barb - Like you would make for an apple pie or something.

Visitor - Do you use for repellants also any of the leaves of certain plants or herbs, like wormwood?

Caroline - There was a list from 1888 that someone made in the Hanford cash account book that listed a whole bunch of different vegetables and one of them happened to be wormwood. So, I don't know, maybe someone in the area was considering trying that out.



WORMWOOD

Elsie - My grandmother used to dry some stuff up in the attic for medicinal purposes. And wormwood was one of them. It was a plant. Very bitter. And I remember her drying that along with - oh, loads of others - digitalis and catnip and peppermint. She had them all strung up there on the rafters in the back attic. And wormwood, that's the only time I ever heard of wormwood.

Con't on page 7

"We Always Parted Friends" - Richard M. Stinson at Work

By Caroline Meek

Many of the men employed by the Hanfords came to the mill looking for a part-time job. They worked during slack times on the farm, in the summer between school sessions, or to earn a little money before they moved on to other jobs. Many of them had good memories of the work they did and the fun they had at the mill. One such man was Richard M. Stinson.

Richard, or Dick as he was known, was born on January 25, 1852 in the Town of Kortright, just east of East Meredith. His father was David B. Stinson, Irishman and farmer, and his mother was Grace Barbara McLaughry, born somewhere in Delaware County, NY. Dick was their first child. A year later, a brother, Robert James, was born. After the family moved to the Town of Meredith (where East Meredith is located), their last children, twins John Rippey and Mary Elizabeth, were born in 1860.

In 1869, the Stinson family moved to Winfield, Henry County, Iowa. Dick and his brother Robert, 17 and 16 respectively, remained behind. Robert, as a hired man, lived with the Isaac Brownell family in East Meredith. To this date, there is no information on where Dick lived. His obituary suggests that he may have been employed in the lumber business with Frank Bain and J.U. Osborn.

Whatever Dick was doing, by the 1890s he appears in East Meredith in the local paper, the Delaware Dairyman. Late in 1892, when people were thinking about traveling to the Columbian Exposition the next

year in Chicago, the newspaper recorded Dick's unique idea: "Every and Stinson were intending to travel next summer with a performing bear, hoping by that means to reach Chicago and the World's Fair. But the failure of the hunter that they sent out to the Adirondacks to procure a bear for them will necessitate their taking some other method to reach the Columbian Exposition. Will the Hancock Herald kindly furnish them with realistic data in regard wages paid, weight of axes used, etc., for the Hancock wood acid manufactures, also please state how long a man has to train before he is physically able to command that \$2 per day." September 30, 1892.

In 1891 and 1897, Dick appears in the Hanford employee timebooks, working first 6 months, then 1 month. Unfortunately, the Hanfords rarely kept records that recorded what their workers did.

We do have an idea of what Dick Stinson was doing with the rest of his time. By 1895, Dick landed a job as East Meredith's reporter and subscription seller for the Delaware Dairyman newspaper. Many of the humorous quotes used in these Millwork newsletters come from Dick. He always referred to himself in the third person when he wrote for the paper, but evidence and tradition name Dick as the author. In the May 24, 1895 paper, he reported "R.M. Stinson, the DAIRYMAN agent, was in town one day last week. R.M. is busy these days getting ready for the summer campaign in the interest of the DAIRYMAN. ... Now look out for him. When he

starts out you will either have to subscribe for the DAIRYMAN or hide in the cellar."

Of all Dick's articles for the paper, perhaps his most ironic was made in the December 13, 1895 edition, when he wrote, "The matrimonial cyclone that is sweep-over[sic] the country is making sad havoc in the ranks of the confirmed old bachelors of this place. A few years ago there was a fine lot of us. But now we can only call to mind three, to wit: Haxton, Shellman and Stinson. The Statute of limitations and his excessive modesty protects the last named." The "matrimonial cyclone" finally hit Dick on December 27, 1898 at the age of 46, when he married Rose McKee of Kortright. After their marriage, the couple moved West to join Dick's parents in Winfield, Iowa. He wrote to the newspaper back home on January 24, 1899 that he had left New York with "one of Kortright's best dressmakers." They had two children, and according to his obituary, Dick became a painter, though it was not stated whether they meant of houses or art.

Years later, Dick wrote his final piece for the Delaware Dairyman, as he reminisced about his years in East Meredith. In July of 1922, the paper printed his memories of D.J. Hanford and work at the mill: "I worked for him [D.J.] and was intimately acquainted with him. I never asked him for a job that I did not get it, and it was just as easy for him to fire me when some of my habits did not seem to be in the best interests of my employer. But

Con't. on page 7

New Beginnings

By Jane Shepherd



This March, 1914 photograph, taken by Horace Hanford, gives an idea of what the millyard looked like in March, 1994.

I arrived at Hanford mills Museum on a cold and blustery January day just hours before a well loaded snow storm enclosed the site with a crystalline blanket of wonderful white snow (I had been living in the South for nearly seven years.). Only in the last week have I had the pleasure of discovering the true perimeter of the Mill Pond, of actually seeing the routing of roads and paths across the grounds, and realizing the true elevation of the ground - where I thought there were large mounds I now discover it was only months and months of accumulated snow.

Kortright Creek is loud and foamy these days and I am told that it can get so high and rowdy that you can hear the boulders roll along it's bottom. The barricades that were on the frozen millpond fell first into slushy ice and now float on the melted pond, a last memory of the Winter Ice Harvest. The Mill itself is not so frighteningly cold now, and the machinery sits awaiting the craftsmen's hands. Soon the heart of the Mill, the Fitz water wheel will awaken from its ice encrusted

winter and bring to life the shafts, pulleys, and belts that act as its veins, arteries, nerves carrying life and power to the entire Mill.

There are snowdrops in bloom on the banks of the headrace and birds are singing the return of warmer weather. There is a certain lift in the spirits of the staff, a bounce in their walk, a grin on their faces - a heralding of spring in their countenances. A new season is afoot at Hanford Mills Museum and I look forward to it with enthusiasm and desire. There are some new and interesting people and ideas encircling the 1994 season which begins May 1 with the Arbor Day Celebration.

This season includes six major events: Arbor Day Celebration, Independence Day Celebration, Gathering of Artisans, Antique Engine Jamboree, Draft Horse Day, and Sawyer's Holiday. There will also be a Spring Planting day early in the year which will feature the draft horses and horse drawn farm equipment. This spring, Hanford Mills Museum will be co-hosting a

Youth and Hobby Day with the Delaware County Council on Alcoholism & Other Drug Addiction, Inc. On that day nearly 500 high school students from across Delaware County will visit the site and learn of hobbies and career opportunities available to them. They will also get an opportunity to tour the Mill and enjoy a day in the country.

The Museum Store has been completely reorganized over the winter months in preparation for the 1994 season. Fresh paint and varnish have been applied to the walls and floor, giving it a delightfully new look. A wonderful new line of gift items, souvenirs and books will be available to all visitors. New signs will be in place to give clear and concise directions to visitors. This summer, Hanford Mills is taking another serious look at providing concessions at all special events and to daily guests.

New plans and goals are being set by the Board and Staff to carry Hanford Mills Museum to further successes. Membership, Endowment, Attendance, Development, Preservation, Collections and more are categories being attended to in the new long range plans. Hanford Mills Museum will surely continue on its journey of accomplishments and successes. Each Member and visitor of the site is encouraged to participate as best they can, either by coming often and bringing friends, volunteering as part of the new Volunteer Corp, giving to the Endowment Fund, or lending a helping hand when it is needed.

Myself, the Staff and the Board of Hanford Mills Museum would like to thank you for your support this year, in the past and in the future. Sincerely,
Jane Shepherd.

"...These Things Indicate That Summer is at Hand."

By Caroline Meek

The groundhog this year predicted six more weeks of winter, and with all the snow, he wasn't far off. Groundhog day always brings thoughts of spring, even in East Meredith a hundred years ago. Elizabeth Hanford wrote in her diary on the day before February 2, 1881: "think the old Bear will see his Shaddow & go Back six weeks." She called him the "old Bear" not because it was another name for the groundhog, but because in earlier European traditions it was either a bear or a badger. Other people tried to forecast the weather, too, though they weren't often taken seriously as the May 31, 1895 Delaware Dairyman newspaper shows: "The weather prophet, that oldest inhabitant, speaking in regard to the severe frosts this spring said: 'I was well aware of it last fall. What did I tell you the forepart of the winter? There are certain signs that I have observed for a great many years and they never fail.' We do not know what he said last fall and those never failing signs are a mystery, but we do know it froze, and we bow

before superior wisdom and wonder how one small head could contain all he knew."

Whatever the predictions, spring weather was a mixed bag. In 1857, the countryside was buried under six feet of snow in April, but on March 31, 1886, Elizabeth wrote: "Warm & Showery like April ... the peeping Frogs out tonight." Two years later they had the infamous March blizzard of '88. In May 1892, East Meredith experienced one of its largest floods, overrunning stream banks and destroying buildings. No matter what kind of weather there was, it all seemed to come down to mud: "Well, Lent is most gone, the robbins are here, and that snow bank on the hill lingers yet, and in the valley mud, mud. We are sick of it, but can't help it." Delaware Dairyman, April 12, 1895.

Weather was the important, if not unpredictable, factor governing springtime activities. Warm days and cold nights started the sap running in maple trees and initiated one of the first big work rushes of the season. The middle of March

was usually the beginning of sap season, but if the weather wasn't right, the sap didn't run. Elizabeth Hanford wrote on March 31, 1883: "No sap weather yet." When the weather cooperated, the work was long and hard: "Our folks had lots of sap George commenced to boil about three in Morning" April 14, 1884. Sap time was usually over by the end of April. Elizabeth noted a banner year in 1879: "We made the same as six & 80 hundred [680] lbs. of Shugar this year."

Even before the sap started running, the first cows freshened or started to give milk. Today, improved feeds and breeds allow dairies to milk their herd year round, but not in Elizabeth's time. Her diaries show that she made almost 2000 pounds of butter during the spring, summer and fall, and earned upwards to \$500 selling it. When you consider that local mill workers earned about \$1 a day, it is obvious how important butter could be. Elizabeth often noted when they began to milk the first cow each year - February 28, 1879; March 2, 1881; and February 14, 1883. Cows were usually kept indoors until about May when: "Grass starts nicely Met turned out his Young cattle to Pasture" April 27, 1881. Merritt Barnes, in the mill's diary, kept track of when his Uncle John Hanford turned cows out - May 2, 1910; May 8, 1911, and May 7, 1912. Just like robins and peeping frogs, it was a sign of spring.

Once the sap run was over and most of the cows were being milked, that *usually* meant warm weather was here to stay, and East Meredith men turned to planting - both in the field and garden. The April 30, 1897 Delaware Dairyman



On May 3, 1892, East Meredith experienced one of its largest floods, and the local paper told how Mack Tobey's yard was destroyed. From this photograph it looks like the paper was right. People standing l. to r.: Mrs. Tobey, Stella Tobey, J.I. Roberts, W.S. Flower, Orville Briggs, Alex Palmer and M.J. Tobey.

Con't. on page 6

Spring - con't. from page 5 shows how they felt about the work: "Now comes the season that tires men's souls, i.e. backs - making garden." As always, weather made a difference: "Levi went to make garden in the morning the ground was frozen in chunks. So he quit till afternoon" Elizabeth wrote on May 17, 1882. Planting was usually done by the end of May or sometimes June, if the weather was bad.

To help with all the extra work, many local young men found jobs in the spring. Since Levi's family was small, he always hired someone to help with his farm work. Elizabeth noted in her diaries that Terney started work on March 16, 1863; Sparks started on March 10, 1879; and George Hanford started on March 14, 1881. The mill, too, was hiring. Elizabeth's son, Charlie, was "hired to Josiah for the summer for 18 dollars a month" on February 6, 1880. The local newspaper noted that "George Gunn continues to handle the levers that control the saws in Hanford Bros.' mill" on April 12, 1895. The mill timebooks show that the Hanfords frequently added new employees around March or April. Even when there were no new people, employee work hours rose.

The mill was busy because local farmers cut logs from their woodlots through the winter. Perhaps the very first sign of

spring along with the ground-hog was the growing pile of logs in front of the mill. Elizabeth noted on February 5, 1881: "Our folks drawing logs to the Mill," and Merritt Barnes wrote exactly 32 years later that "Logs began to come in." Even with the addition of a powerful steam engine in 1895, water levels were important to the mill operation. Spring was a busy sawing season, as was Fall, because of the rising water in Kortright Creek. Merritt wrote on March 26, 1914: "Snow melting rapidly. Brooks high Started saw mill by water power first this spring."

While the men were busy working outdoors, women turned to house cleaning. Today's spring cleaning is only a pale copy of the 1800s version. Elizabeth Hanford's 1883 diary speaks for itself: April 18 - "We commenced cleaning house took up carpet up Stairs", April 19 - "we washed Bedcloths", April 20 - "We put Carrie's carpet up Stairs", April 21 - "got our Chamber cleaned.", April 27 - "we cleaned the Parlor & took up setting room carpet.", April 28 - "I cleaned my room", April 30 - "finished cleaning hall up Stairs", May 1 - "We cleaned & Papered our sitting room.", May 2 - "We cleaned Pantry & white washed kitchen", May 3 - "We cleaned the bedroom off the kitchen & finished the kitchen", May 4 - "put down Carpet in

sitting room & in the kitchen", May 5 - "We nearly finished cleaning house except Cellar.", and May 17 - "I cleaned out the back cellar." A month of intensive cleaning! The kitchen was whitewashed every year be-

cause wood burning cookstoves produced so much soot and smoke. Sometimes the men helped with the work, as Elizabeth noted on May 31, 1880: "cleaned our large cellar Levi & Howard helped. took up the Floors &c." By May the Delaware Dairyman was proclaiming: "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." April 30, 1897.

Spring was a busy season of the year, but there was some time to have fun. The Delaware Dairyman carried this comment on April 22, 1892: "Our fishermen are all hooked up for May 1st. Fish stories are already beginning to circulate." Another newspaper story tells how "The doctor ... was looking after the speckled beauties. Thirty fine ones was the result of one day's work." May 31, 1895.

Besides the fish, another sign of spring became popular after 1900. Merritt Barnes wrote on May 4, 1912: "HDH took Auto Out for first." In an age when enclosed cars, snow tires and heaters were uncommon, many automobiles spent the winter under cover. Merritt recorded Horace Hanford's first automobile ride annually - April 29, 1911; April 18, 1913; and May 1, 1914.

Each year, spring brought renewed activity to East Meredith and its mill. Even with all the work it brought, people enjoyed the change in weather, slow as it was. As the Delaware Dairyman said on May 15, 1891: "East Meredith is prospering. Farmers are busy, merchants contented, and everybody making garden, that is almost everybody. A few people may still be found in the back yard thumping the family carpet. To the observing spectator these things indicate that summer is at hand."



A load of logs ready for Hanford Mills.

Stinson, con't. from page 3

we always parted friends, and the next time I needed work he was willing to take me on again. Of all the agreeable friendships of the long-ago past, the memory of none are to this day of a more satisfactory nature. Just before leaving for the west 28 [24] years ago I went up to his house where he was suffer-

Gardens - con't. from page 2

[NOTE: Wormwood has been used since Egyptian times. It can be used as an insect repellent, to expel intestinal worms (hence the name), and for indigestion and gastric pains. Wormwood is an ingredient in the illegal alcoholic drink absinthe, which damages the nervous system and causes attacks similar to epileptic seizures. Wormwood is **highly toxic**, and is not recommended for use without a physician's guidance.]

Caroline - How did you store other vegetables?

Elsie - The cellar. It was just dug into a bank, and people put vegetables in there. I can remember my grandfather had one that all I remember him putting in was cabbage. In the spring, the cabbage would be so beautiful that he took out of there. I don't remember, there might have been other things, but I don't remember 'cause I ... wasn't very interested.



Joe - Sid Oxberry has one. He had potatoes in the root cellar, the potatoes were five years old and they come out and they looked better than any potatoes in the Grand Union [supermarket]. For five years he had them stored! Can you believe it? And they never spotted or nothing!

ing with an incurable disease, creeping paralysis [a stroke?]. I had a long visit wherein we went over old times, laughed at old jokes, revived old memories, and in bidding him good bye we both realized the fact that we probably would never meet again." D.J. died just after Dick left for Iowa in 1899, while Dick died on July 19, 1923 at the

Elsie - As I remember, it was kind of boarded up and then doors in front, like a cellar door.

Caroline - Are the plants today like what you had years ago?

Joe - I got a Pound Sweet Apple Tree standing in my yard and I looked in every catalog there was in the country trying to buy another Pound Sweet Apple Tree. You think you can find one? You can't buy one of them trees. They've crossed them up this way and that way.

Larry - The best tomatoes are the ones that ... have climated themselves. I've got six, no eight, I've got two more that came up, and they'll be my best tomatoes.

Barb - We don't know what they are, though.

Joe - If you get something new today and that's hybrid and you try to raise the seeds over, you get plum tomatoes.

[NOTE: In the past, gardeners often saved seed from year to year, and replanted them. Today, if you try to plant seeds from a hybrid (a plant grown from seeds of genetic crosses of different plants), it will not reproduce the same the next year. It often reverts to one of the parent plants. Many tomato hybrids (probably not all, as Joe suggests) are based on a plum tomato crossed with another type of tomato.]

Visitor - What is "climated"?

Joe - It's growed here in this area. It's adjusted to it.

age of 71.

Richard Stinson gave us great stories of life in East Meredith. Without his humor-laced reports of village activities, East Meredith would have appeared to be a pretty dull place. Thank you, Dick Stinson, for your memories of East Meredith and the mill.

Larry - Like maybe it was designed for a ninety day growing season. We've got a shorter growing season, and you'll get to where you have seed that sprout quicker, grow faster, and mature quicker. Just by using it and reusing it.

Barb - It was your great grandfather wouldn't eat tomatoes, would he?



Tomatoes

Larry - That was nothing unusual, back in 1800, I guess. There wasn't much tomatoes used, not in this country. There was in Europe.

[NOTE: From the mid 1500s (when tomatoes were first introduced into Europe) to the early 1800s, tomatoes were thought to be poisonous. This was not surprising considering that the tomato is part of the family of plants which also includes the Deadly Nightshade. Early American colonists thought tomatoes were an abomination, and one Massachusetts minister was actually fired by his congregation for growing them. The first recorded American use of tomatoes in cooking comes from Thomas Jefferson in 1781. Jefferson was ahead of his time, and it took longer for the average person to accept tomatoes on the dinner table.]

Danger Signs For Automobilists

*Editor's Note: There are many things about automobiles that we take for granted today. Unlike Horace Hanford, we can drive our cars all year now. Roads are plowed in the winter and city streets are well lit at night. When you drive on a new road, there are signs to tell you where you are and what dangers there are up ahead. This wasn't always the case, as you will see in this **Scientific American** article from January 13, 1906.*

More than three hundred accidents to motor-car tourists have been reported in the United States and Canada during 1905, many of them resulting fatally[sic]. It cannot be said that these accidents were wholly due to rapid speed or reckless driving, for some of the most serious ones happened to automobilists who are known to be prudent and careful in the management of their vehicles. Most of them could have been avoided by a better knowledge of the danger points, or by some warning by which the tourist could have been advised of the proximate peril. The truth is that in many parts of the country, and especially in those sections which are most picturesque and attractive to the tourist, the highways are too narrow and winding and often skirted by deep unguarded ditches and dangerous gullies, and crossed by railroad tracks at points

where the tourist would have little reason to anticipate them.

To lessen these perils as much as possible, the American Motor League



has called upon its consuls, members, and proprietors of official stations, in all the important States where touring is most popular, to take up the work of erecting danger signs and guide boards, by which the tourist may be forewarned and his course directed to

the avoidance of these pitfalls. Many of these danger signs have already been put up, and the Pittsburg Board of Consuls of the American Motor

League has been particularly active in western Pennsylvania in putting this work in evidence. The league sends out stencils, from which these signs can be easily made by a man of ordinary skill, and in some cases the completed signs are sent out ready to be put up.

Blanks are being sent to automobilists in several States, with letters requesting information as to points where these signs should be erected, and a contract has been made with a firm in central New York for a large number of signs, which will be put up in place within the next few months. It is believed that before the end of 1906 more than three thousand of these signs will be placed in different parts of the United States.

Board of Trustees

President: John Willis
 Vice Pres.: John I. Smith, Jr.
 Gretchin Sorin
 Treasurer: Michael F. Getman
 Secretary: Grace Kent

Betty Bergleitner Charles Haynes
 Robert L. Bishop Charlotte Hill
 Johnathan Collett Howard J. Nichols
 Jane des Grange Wilbur Oles, Jr.
 Ed Dorr James M. Van Buren
 John Hamilton Craig Van Cott
 Barbara Wilder

Trustee Emeritus: Dr. Frank Cyr

Museum Staff

Director: Jane Shepherd
 Curator & Editor: Caroline Meek
 Museum Educator: Roger Ree
 Mill Foreman: Dawn Raudibaugh
 Assistant to the Director: David Godwin
 Bookkeeper: Barbara MacClintock
 Maintenance: Don Sulas
 Interpreters:

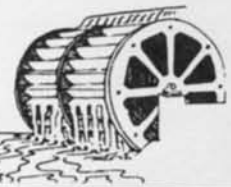
Shiloh Benton Bill Brindle
 Sheilah Hamilton Rich Makepeace

Museum Store:

Nancy Baldwin Judy Wood

MILLWORK is published by Hanford Mills Museum and distributed free to members.

MILLWORK



Hanford Mills Museum

Non-Profit Organization
 U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
 Permit No. 2
 East Meredith, NY 13757

East Meredith, NY 13757

Telephone: (607) 278-5744