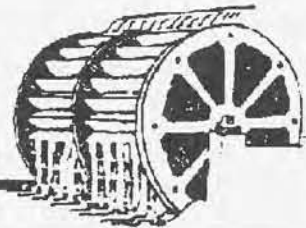


MILLWORK



Winter, 2004

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Vol. 18 - No. 2

Experience the Power of History at Work this Winter

Winter Ice Harvest - coming up
Saturday, February 5, 2005!



☞ *Charlie Stewart plans to bring this Model T with a conversion kit for snow travel to the Winter Ice Harvest again. Take a ride in a unique piece of automotive history.*



☞ *Each year a team of draft horses gives ride to visitors. In past years, Todd Rider's Belgians did the job. This year, Bill Wright will bring his Suffolks.*



Mark Kenyon's slow but trusty Holstein oxen move ice from the pond to the ice house.



Mike Milenski's mule, fitted with special ice horse shoes, pulls an original ice plow. Visitors cut where Sal has marked the lines.



**See
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Thank you, please come again

In the Spring/Summer 2004 *Millwork* we asked you to (re)visit Hanford Mills, and to encourage others to (re)visit the Museum, too. Thanks for the outstanding response!!! The Museum enjoyed a 20%+ increase in visitation in 2004, compared to 2003. We also welcomed the largest number of visitors to the site since 1997! At a time when many cultural attractions are experiencing decreased attendance, we are thrilled and proud to welcome a growing number of visitors each year. Please don't stop coming – in 2005 try visiting during a special event you have never attended, or tell the interpretive staff that you would like to diverge from the normal tour and learn something new.

What is new? Steam power in the Mill: if you visited during a special event in the fall you may have enjoyed the power of "live steam" at work. If not, come back for one the "live steam" weekends which will be scheduled throughout the season in 2005. In 2005 visitors will also be introduced to enhanced interpretive efforts, and the other ongoing preservation and restoration projects – the restoration of water turbines, the preservation of the waterwheel, and the stabilization of the feedmill. Each season our efforts to explore and interpret the power of history evolve.

The change and evolution we celebrate are a reflection of the Mill's dynamic past and future. Your commitment to

Hanford Mills Museum – through your membership, visits, volunteer time, and contributions – is essential as we continue to preserve and present the power of history at work! We also value your feedback – drop us a note or give us a call with your comments and constructive criticism. Each year we use your feedback to improve all aspects of our operations – in 2005 we will focus on enhancing interpretation, improving visitor services, and expanding auxiliary services (including our food concession). When you visit again, or send a friend our way, please know that we want all aspects of your visit to be enjoyable. 


Elizabeth Callahan

Museum Receives Grant Funding

It's a hard fact of life that museums have to continually look for sources of money to fund the work they do. We are grateful to members like you for supporting our work. Every individual donation to Hanford Mills Museum helps to convince larger donors we are worthy of their notice.

For 2005, we have received grants from: The New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA) gave \$18,100 and the Society for the Preservation of Old Mills gave \$1,500 for the restoration of our waterwheel. To maintain the wheel, it must be sandblasted and repainted periodically. With today's chemicals this is not easy.


NYSCA has also donated \$2,500 in a Technical Assistance Grant through the Upstate History Alliance. These funds will be used for interpretive planning. We have asked outside museum and education professionals to take a hard look at what we tell visitors about Hanford Mills and how do it.

The Robinson-Broadhurst Foundation of Stamford, NY gave \$12,000 and the Community Foundation of South Central NY gave \$10,000 for work on the stabilization and interpretation of the feedmill. We have already received help in redesigning the orientation exhibit in the feedmill, but do not yet have the funds

for making these changes.

The Dewar Foundation of Oneonta, NY gave \$5,000 for general operating support. Such funding is the hardest to find, but the kind most needed by museums.

Last of all, the Image Permanence Institute (IPI) of Rochester Institute of Technology has chosen us to field test their remote environmental analysis service for a year. This is important for Hanford Mills as we continue to plan for historic building maintenance and collections care.

Thanks to your support, we have been able to convince these organizations that we are worthy of their grant funds. 

Steam Restoration

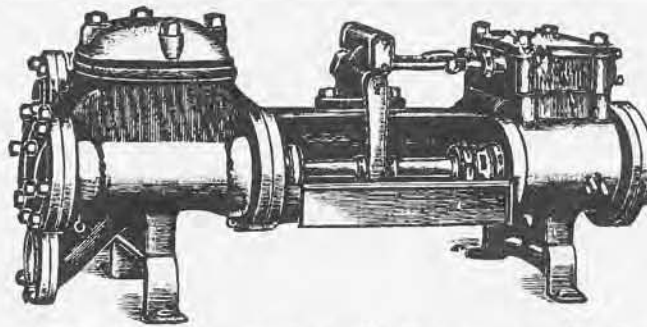
By Jim Mackessy

Every once in a while an opportunity comes along to step into the shoes of our "alter egos" and actually work on the equipment that our grandfathers and their fathers worked with every day. Such was the case when Joe Michaels approached the "Steam Team" at the Camillus Canal Museum with a request to rebuild some of Hanford Mills' steam equipment. Knowing our own workload, we were a bit worried about getting into even more, but the worthiness of the project made it impossible to say no.

The first item needing our attention was a small steam powered water pump, known as a "Duplex" pump, as it has two steam cylinders side by side at one end, with a side by side water pump at the other. The pistons of one steam cylinder and one water cylinder are connected by a common piston rod on each side. On the midpoint of each rod is a yoke that operates a lever, which in turn operates the valve on the other side's steam cylinder. Thus the two sides take turns, pumping first forward on one side, then on the other, then back on the first side, then back on the other. These pumps were used for all types of fluids, water, oil, foodstuffs, just about anything that could be pumped. This particular pump is a part of the boiler feed water system at Hanford Mills, being used to pump

water into the boiler to make up for what is used as steam.

The adjustment of the valves can be temperamental, but when everything is right, it is relatively trouble free. The problems we found with the pump resulted from years of use without renewing critical parts. For example, the packings for water side pistons had been changed many times, but it was obvi-



This illustration of the mill's Worthington Duplex steam pump comes from a 1905 book, Pumps and Hydraulics by William Rogers.

ous that there were also many times when the mechanic tried to get by with just tightening the piston on the packings. If this is done when the packings are already fully compressed, as was the case, the bronze piston casting can be forced past its fit against a shoulder on the piston rod. This in turn reduces the dimension between the two pistons, and pretty soon the piston is striking the cylinder head, and more damage occurs. Both rods needed replacing in this pump. They were originally brass and were badly worn. The fact that they would be in intermittent use and would need to be durable and trouble free

led us to choose a modern material, stainless steel, as a replacement. It took a careful study of the old pieces and their mating parts to determine the proper dimensions. This was made more complicated by the fact that the water side pistons were also very worn where they mated to the rods. By boring out the centers of the pistons and pressing in new bronze bush-

ings we made, we were able to restore the worn material and cut a new tapered bore in each piston. Without disturbing the taper attachment setting on the lathe, the piston rods were set up and turned to the exact same angle as the pistons, insuring a good fit.

While I was working on these parts, Steve Knoblock was busy with the bulk of the work consisting of the mechanical and cosmetic restoration of the rest of the pump. A packing gland and its mating packing nut had been brazed at some point in the past to fix a crack that was leaking. The amount of brazing left on the threads prevented the nut from seating properly, so Steve worked this area by hand with files until he had a fit matching the unrepaired side. Everything was cleaned and painted. New gaskets were made. The valves on both the water and steam ends were checked, and were in good shape. The

Con't. on page 4

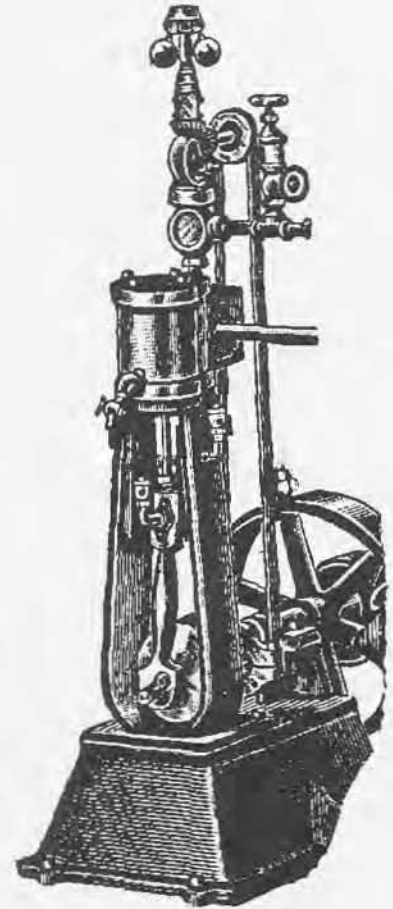
Steam - con't. from page 3
valve rods, however, were badly pitted, as they were mild steel. Here again stainless steel proved to be a superior material. The rods will not pit again, and will not need replacing until they are completely worn out, many years from now.

Bob Schaefer made some wrenches for tightening the packing nuts from strap iron; these are lightly made on purpose so as to prevent excess force from being used. Steve did the final assembly, checking fits, clearances and adjustments, and he put the air line to it to test it. The water pump took right off, and has been tested in steam service with good results at Hanford Mills.

We were also asked to work on the Orr & Sembower vertical steam engine in the basement of the mill. An evaluation was done, and the engine appeared to need only a small amount of work. A new shaft was made for the governor, the valve rod

knuckle was re-bored and a new pin was made, and the main bearings were reshimmed to take out some play. New gaskets were made, and things seemed to be ready, but we found out that a lot of small problems can hide until the steam is turned on. The packings leaked, and there were still bearing knocks going on. Now that the Museum has closed for the season, parts of the engine are back in our shop as we try to address the problems we missed the first time around. Fortunately, Joe Michaels was on hand when Hanford Mills ran the engine. He was able to get things "tuned up" into reasonably good running shape for the Antique Engine Jamboree. By spring the engine will be back together in much better (and quieter running) condition.

We all had fun working on the restoration of these two pieces, and are looking forward to more collaboration between our groups in the future.



This vertical steam engine is similar to the Orr & Sembower engine in the basement of Hanford Mills Museum.

Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!

Hanford Mills Museum would like to thank the following people for donating objects to our 1920s farmhouse kitchen: Barbara DiCocco, Kathleen Howarth, Heather Stevenson, Jay Hager, Cindy Kinsey, Louise Storey, Ken Kellerhouse, Ann Ives, Caroline de Marrais, Linda Soden, Jerry Pellegrino, Dawn Raudibaugh, Kay Glass, Marvin Glass, Phyllis and Donald Lane.

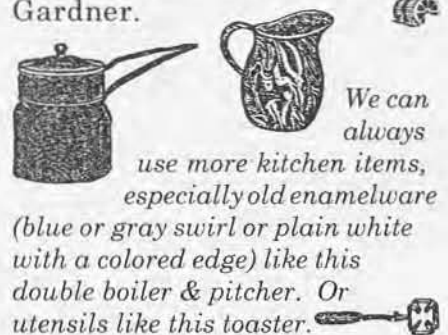
The objects make a tremendous difference in the appearance and interpretation of the

Hanford House. Caroline de Marrais, Curator and Assistant Director, is now able to use authentic cooking implements for our cooking workshops and demonstrations. Also, these objects will add to the children's experience during our Summer Apprentice Workshop while participating in hands-on kitchen activities. The search is not over. We are still accepting 1900 - 1920 kitchen and household objects, if you have any hidden away in your pantries or attics and are

looking for a good home, please let us know. Thank you.

We would also like to thank everyone who has made contributions in memory of Bernard Reed and Charles Gardner.

We can always use more kitchen items, especially old enamelware (blue or gray swirl or plain white with a colored edge) like this double boiler & pitcher. Or utensils like this toaster.



The Politicians: "You Have Always With You These Days"

by Caroline de Marrais

Elections have always been an important part of American life. This year we voted for the President of the United States. With Election Day over and done, you've probably had enough of it for now. So we won't talk about this year's election, instead we'll talk about past elections that the Hanfords experienced.



James A. Garfield, 1880

We have three sources that mention Election Day in East Meredith. First we have Elizabeth Hanford's diaries. Elizabeth was D.J. Hanford's aunt. She and her husband, shared a home with her son and his family in the center of East Meredith. Hanford Mills Museum has most of her diaries covering a period between 1863 and 1902. Another source is the business diary Merritt Barnes kept for the mill. Merritt was D.J. Hanford's grandson and Mill's bookkeeper. His diary covers the years 1910 to 1914, with some added notations by Horace Hanford, his uncle. We also have the East Meredith column of the *Delaware County Dairyman* newspaper, most likely written by Richard Stinson.



Benjamin Harrison, 1888

Even though Elizabeth Hanford could not vote, she almost always noted in her diary when Election Day was.

She also recorded who in her family went to vote. If a friend visited on their way to or from the polls, she noted that they voted, too. Sometimes, though, neither Levi nor Charlie voted. This seemed to happen in off years, for example when there was no vote for a president or governor. According to Elizabeth's diaries, weather did not deter voting.

Occasionally, Elizabeth did not mention Election Day. At times it appears that she had no reason for missing it, but sometimes other things were going on in her life. She missed the 1894 election for governor because her daughter-in-law, Carrie Hanford, had just given birth to a child who died three days before the election. Carrie was still very sick. Elizabeth did not mention the 1896 election when William McKinley beat William Jennings Bryan for the presidency; she was concentrating on the Ladies Aid Society elections instead.

Merritt Barnes also noted Election Day each year. When we read what went on in the mill on those days,

business was quiet. Perhaps people were more interested in the vote than in doing business. In 1911, Merritt even noted that the mill was closed on Election Day - a Tuesday! It wasn't an election year for governor or president, but perhaps there was some hotly contested local seat that the Hanfords wished to concentrate on, leaving them no time to work that day. Merritt did mention that Democratic assemblyman Wheeler was elected, and that there was "no license with" him elected. What does that mean exactly?



Grover Cleveland, 1884

Both Elizabeth and Merritt knew the next day who had won the elections. In 1900, Elizabeth knew the *day* of the election, that President McKinley had been reelected. In 1910, Merritt went so far as to report election returns in the Mill diary. He wrote "Election returns show a general Democratic landslide. John A. Dix elected governor with about 63,000 plurality over Henry Stimson rep."

Neither Elizabeth nor Merritt mentioned political campaigning, but in the *Delaware County Dairyman* newspaper, the correspondent for East Meredith tells us a little bit about it - with tongue in cheek. At the end of October in 1895 he wrote: "The politi-

Con't. on page 6

Politicians - con't from page 5
 cians you have always with
 you these days; he
 weareth a broad smile
 and shaketh the
 hand of every body.
 Yea verily." A year
 later, during the
 presidential election
 between William
 McKinley and William
 Jennings Bryan,
 he tells about
 meetings from
 both sides:

*Clinton B. Fisk,
 Prohibition
 Party, 1888*



The 'G.O.P.'
 had a well filled hall
 Wednesday week to listen to
 the Hon. A.L. Kellogg of
 Oneonta discuss the political
 issues of the day. Prof.
 Roberts introduced the
 speaker in a neat little
 speech which indicated that
 'our own Prof.' is at home on
 the political stump. Those
 who were present speak very
 highly of Mr. Kellogg's
 arguments, and from what
 we have since heard, it was
 convincing.

October 16, 1896

The demo pops got in the
 last blow here Monday
 evening. Mr. Townsend, of
 Otsego county, addressed a
 large and especially enthusi-
 astic audience. Those in
 accord with the speaker's
 views would probably call his
 address a masterly effort.
 Those of us whom he
 touched up in the tender
 places took it good naturedly
 and applauded as vigorously
 as the longest whisker in the
 hall. Mr. Townsend plainly
 informed the honest money
 democrats that they need
 never expect to again 'holler
 down our rain bar'l.'

November 6, 1896

Not having studied the Elec-
 tion of 1896 in any sort of
 depth, it is difficult to say

what he was referring to
 when talking about the Demo-
 crats. It would seem though,
 that the East Meredith
 correspondent was a
 Republican.

In reading the diary
 Merritt kept, it is
 difficult to say which
 party he supported.

In two of the
 years he men-
 tions Democratic
 landslides, in
 another year he says
 it's "mostly Republican,"
 and in the last year he just
 notes it is Election Day. On
 the other hand, in 1885,
 Elizabeth states clearly which
 parties her husband and her
 son supported. Charlie, her
 son, was a Republi-
 can. Levi, her
 husband, voted
 Prohibition.
 The Prohibition
 Party still exists
 today, calling
 them-

selves
 "the
 oldest third party." The
 Prohibition Party was
 founded in 1869 to "enhance
 the freedom and dignity of the
 individual and to protect the
 welfare of the family." Political
 cartoonist Thomas Nast,
 who used the elephant for
 Republicans and the donkey
 for the Democrats, used the
 camel for the Prohibitionists.
 Nast chose the camel because
 "like Prohibitionists gener-
 ally, camels don't drink very
 often, and, when they do
 drink, they drink only water."
 Both Levi and Charlie and
 their wives were involved
 with a temperance lodge in
 East Meredith, but it appears
 Levi took his interest a step

*McKinley &
 Roosevelt, 1900*



further by supporting the
 Prohibition Party.

Even though Elizabeth
 Hanford was not allowed to
 vote, she did take an interest
 in elections, especially presi-
 dential elections. Her family
 also went the extra step. In
 1884, her son Charlie was an
 Election Inspector. Democrat
 Grover Cleveland was run-
 ning against Republican
 James Blaine. The evening of
 the election, Charlie had to
 take East Meredith's election
 returns to Delhi, the county
 seat. He returned the next
 day. Assuming Charlie voted
 Republican, his candidate did
 not win.

East Meredith residents
 took their Election Day seri-
 ously (well, the newspa-
 per didn't mind poking
 a little fun at it). They
 may not have voted
 every year, but they
 certainly made an
 effort to get out the
 vote during major
 Federal elections. While
 Hanford Mills Museum
 cannot support one party or
 the other, we still support the
 East Meredith Election Day
 tradition. Hanford Mills
 Museum's Post Office building
 is the modern polling place
 for East Meredith residents.
 The tradition continues.

*A footnote: Socialists Eugene
 Debs and Benjamin Hanford ran
 for president
 & vice-
 president in
 1904 &
 1908.*

*Benjamin
 also ran for
 governor of
 New York three
 times. We do not know how or if
 he is related to the Hanfords of
 East Meredith.*



Elizabeth Hanford on the Presidents

Besides Election Day, Elizabeth Hanford mentions three presidents in her diaries.

On Friday, July 1, 1881 she wrote "President Garfield Shot yet not killed but in a Critical Condition" (The punctuation, or lack of it, and capitalization is Elizabeth's).

Elizabeth must have written this after the fact, because President Garfield was actually shot on July 2 in Washington, D.C. At the end of July, Elizabeth wrote "Our president still living". Then Elizabeth wrote on Tuesday, September 20, 1881 "Our Presedent Garfield died last night about ten o'clock".

President Garfield lived 80 days. The shooter, Leon F. Guiteau, was a resentful attorney who had sought a consular post and not received it. Garfield was hit with two bullets. One was a superficial arm wound, but the other entered his back, hit a rib, and ended up near his spine. Despite many attempts this second bullet was not found until an autopsy was completed. It is very likely Garfield's doctors contributed to his death – turning a 3.5 inch long wound (with a bullet left in a relatively harmless location) into a 20 inch long infected wound.

The next time Elizabeth mentioned a president was on

Tuesday, August 4, 1885 when she wrote "Charlie [her son] and John Thompson gone to Albany to view the remains of general grant [sic] to be buiried in New York". They went to Albany twice, taking George Dudley with them the second time. Elizabeth was referring to former President General Ulysses S. Grant. General



James A. Garfield

Grant had served two terms as president, first winning an election in 1868. After leaving the presidency, Grant moved to New York and started a Wall Street investment firm with partner, Ferdinand Ward. Grant did not know Ward was stealing investors' money, and the firm and Grant went bankrupt in 1884. To support his family, General Grant began to write his wartime memoirs and at the same time he was diagnosed with throat cancer. Grant died two months after his book was published.

Charlie Hanford and

John Thompson were only a small part of the crowds who mourned General Grant's death. Thousands went to view the remains while they were in Albany before they were removed to New York City. There, the funeral on August 8th included a funeral parade of 60,000 marchers and over one million spectators. It was called "one of the greatest outpourings of public grief in history." Even today Grants Tomb is the largest tomb in North America.

The last time Elizabeth mentioned a president was on Saturday, September 14, 1901 when she wrote "Presedent Mckinley died", and then later on Thursday, September 19 she wrote "Oneonta Fair adjourned for today as Presi-

Con't. on page 12



Are Charlie Hanford & John Thompson in this photo taken of the Grant funeral procession in Albany?

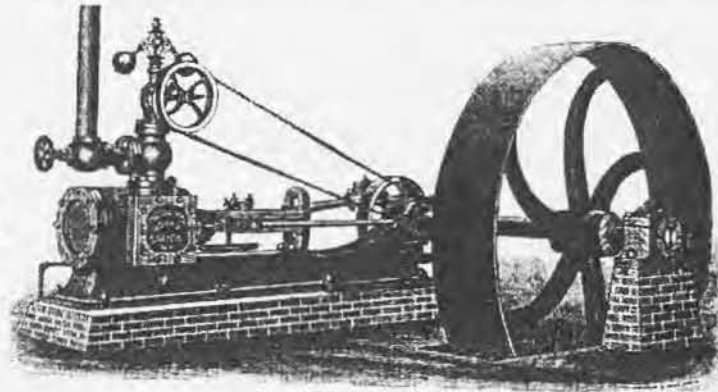
What's News?

Steam: Up and Running

- If you were unable to visit Hanford Mills Museum this fall during our Antique Engine Jamboree in September or our Mechanics' Harvest Festival in October, you missed the operation of our newly reconstructed steam boiler and engine. Yes! Steam is finally up and running! The steam volunteers of the Camillus Canal Museum worked hard this summer to restore our steam pump and vertical steam engine (see page 3). Both were in operation for the Antique Engine Jamboree. Mill Foreman, Robert Grassi, and volunteers Joe Michaels, Ron Zinski, and Phil and Nick Stanley worked together under the direction of steam expert George King, and the steam engine was put online to power the Mill's back shop. For the first time in nearly 70 years the Mill's steam whistle blew, kicking off a great Antique Engine Jamboree.

We've topped one hill, but there is still another ahead. For the past five years or more, we have been looking for the right horizontal steam engine- an Oneida 40 HP side-crank horizontal steam engine - to fill the stone piers left by the Hanford's steam engine, now long gone. It appears the type of engine we are looking for just doesn't exist anymore, or at least, no one wants to give or sell us one. So

Hanford Mills Museum is beginning to look into having a reproduction made. This means we will be able to get the exact engine we want that will be in perfect condition for operation. We have begun the first step. We have engaged



Hanford Mills Museum is still looking for a 40 HP version of this Oneida side-crank horizontal steam engine. And if we can't find one, we'll make one!

Kelly Anderson, who drew the technical plans for our Erie boiler front, to doing the technical drawings of the Oneida engine we want. He is working with pictures from an Oneida catalog, the measurements of bolt locations on our stone piers, and a background knowledge of what goes into making a steam engine. Next, wooden patterns will be made and an engine cast from those patterns.

Of course, this is not an overnight process. The drawings will take up to a year to complete. Then there is another year or more in fabricating an engine. We aren't giving up on finding an old engine either. If, during this whole process, we find an appropriate engine, we'll still

have the drawings to use in the Museum's education programs, interpretation, and exhibits. The cost will be high, too, and we are hoping to find other steam enthusiasts interested in buying a copy of the engine - since the

major expense will be in the drawings and patterns, not in the fabrication. We'll keep you posted as we progress up the next steam hill. And watch for scheduled "steam" weekends in 2005!

Water in the Mill

- The New York State Council on the Arts has awarded Hanford Mills

Museum over \$18,000 to be used towards restoration work on the Mill's Fitz waterwheel. Since the wheel is metal it needs to be painted periodically to protect it from rust. It was last done in 1984, and we plan to repeat the process in 2005.

James Kricker of Rondout Woodworking in Saugerties, NY has finished the restoration of the Museum's scroll water turbine. Check the last Millwork issue (Vol. 18 No. 1) for an article by Jimmy on the restoration process. Engineer Joe Michaels will be working with us on planning the turbine's installation in the Mill's basement. Since the Museum is still looking for grant funding for this project, the turbine will not be installed until 2006.

Lumber Shed Restoration

by Robert Grassi

Many who visited the mill this season may have noticed a new look to the south wall of the Drying Shed. During the course of the summer, the mill staff sawed out and replaced all the hemlock siding. We also rebuilt the jambs as needed and repaired the window sash on all four windows.

Out of all the sides, the southern end of the Drying Shed gets the most exposure to the elements. The original siding had deteriorated after over one hundred years of service. This is quite a testimony when you consider it was never painted. We know this from period photographs, and the physical evidence. Years of exposure to the weather had taken their toll.

The original one-inch thick hemlock boards had weathered to nearly a quarter of an inch in thickness. The wood was brittle, badly cupped and checked, and many knots had completely fallen out leaving the framing of the building exposed to the weather.

Before we could even consider replacement we needed to do some detective work. We removed one of the frieze boards exposing the original unweathered siding boards lying underneath. Upon examination we determined the wood species, Eastern Hemlock, and found their thickness to be a heavy one inch. Their finish was rough sawn (not planed smooth) and their application was more than likely "green"

or unseasoned when first hung. We determined this by measuring the space or gaps between the boards and then measuring their finished width. With this information we were ready to begin work on replacement. Hemlock logs of the appropriate length and girth were purchased from a local logger to begin sawing out our siding stock.

Measuring each and every board, we replaced the original with an exact duplicate in material and size. Cut nails were purchased to fasten them, just as were used on the original siding.

The boards were applied in an unusual fashion for vertical siding. Typically, vertical board siding has bats or battens (narrow strips of wood) applied over each joint where two boards meet on edge. This creates a weather seal preventing moisture and air infiltration. This type of siding was historically utilized on barns and outbuildings, but only occasionally used on homes. In fact, many refer to this board and batten siding as barn siding. The back wall, lower level of the Drying Shed has this type of siding. The Hanford's, when building this garage addition onto the lumber Drying Shed, applied the battens first, under the siding, then applied the vertical boards. This works just as well, though seems to take a bit more time to hang, but creates visually, the appearance of a very flat, smooth wall. We can only




Museum Interpreter, Bill Brindle, and Mill Foreman, Robert Grassi, carefully measured and cut each board for the restoration of the south end of the Drying Shed. This photograph, taken on July 2, 2004, shows original boards in the middle and on the left, and new boards on the right. They are replacing the boards where the ladder is standing.

Con't. on page 10

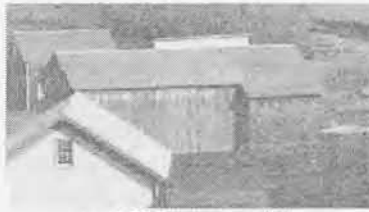
Lumber Shed - con't from page 9
 presume this is the effect the Hanford's desired when it was constructed. Where vertical boards were joined, we used a forty five degree splice joint, overlapping the upper over the lower board, again, just as was done on the original work. The new siding needs a few years time to weather to a gray to look

like the original.

Many comment on how crooked the building looks, and in all actuality it is listing in two directions. Next season we plan to work more on stabilization of the structure. We also hope to begin the coal shed addition off the back of the building. We had to remove the existing rotted addition a few years ago for

safety reasons. The most recent addition was added by Ken Kelso, replacing the original coal shed the Hanfords added in the early 1900s. Through period photographs we can determine the size and construction techniques used, and recreate as accurately as we can the original addition. 

Hanford Mills Museum is lucky to have a large collection of historic photographs taken on the mill site. Here is a photo timeline of the Drying Shed. Excuse the quality of some pictures and be aware that some of these shots of the Drying Shed come from much larger photos.



c. 1892 - west side



1894 - east side



1895 - east side



c. 1900 - north end



c. 1900 - north end



c. 1910 - west side



c. 1910 - west side

c. 1910 - west side



coal shed addition



1914 - north end



c. 1915 - north end



c. 1920 - north end



c. 1920 - west side



c. 1940s - north end

**You,
too,
can be
the
Power
of
History
at
Work!**



2005 Events

While the Ice Harvest is less than two months away, we don't want you to forget these other great events coming up in 2005:

May Day Festival & Families Understanding Nature (F.U.N.) Day

Saturday, May 7 ~ 10 am to 3 pm the Museum joins forces with the Catskill Forest Association to welcome spring. Families can try hands-on nature activities, dancing the May pole, a children's fishing derby, and much more.

Independence Day Celebration

Monday, July 4 ~ 10 am to 5 pm Old-fashioned family fun! Visit with President Teddy Roosevelt. Enjoy Mill tours, live music, frog jumping contests, games, and homemade ice cream .

Lumberjack Festival

Saturday, July 30 ~ 10 am to 5 pm Visitors can watch the exciting Indian River Olde Time Lumberjack Show. Or try amateur events - two-man sawing, axe throwing, and wood splitting.


Antique Engine Jamboree

Saturday & Sunday, September 10-11 ~ 10 am to 5 pm Come see old time engines, both gasoline and steam powered, of all shapes, sizes and power working throughout the site.

Textiles & Quilt Show

October 1 through 10 ~ 10 am to 5 pm Visit the John Hanford Farmhouse and view beautiful quilts of all ages and historic textiles.

Sawyers' Holiday & Mechanics' Harvest Festival

Saturday, October 8 ~ 10 am to 5 pm Explore the skill of craftspeople at work and watch over 200 years of sawing history. 

Fighting Cabin Fever?
Come to Hanford Mills Museum's



Winter Ice Harvest



Saturday, February 5, 2005
10 am to 4 pm



* Watch the mule-drawn ice plow on the frozen pond



* Cut a block of ice from the pond using an ice saw



* Take a ride on a horse or oxen drawn bobsled



* Great hot soups from local restaurants

And don't forget - the Museum opens for another great season on May 1, 2005!

Presidents - con't. from page 7
dent McKinley Funeral is today."

On September 6 McKinley was shot twice by anarchist, Leon Czolgosz, while the president was standing in a receiving line at the Buffalo New York Pan-American Exposition. McKinley survived an operation though the second bullet was not found. Despite what was considered a successful operation, he died nine days later from infection.

President McKinley's was

the third president assassinated in 36 years. Because of this, the Secret Service were given the full-time job of protecting the president.

The deaths of popular presidents very much affected Elizabeth Hanford. She rarely mentioned events outside of her East Meredith world. The death of a president merited attention. It is unfortunate that her 1865 diary no longer exists, as she surely would have commented on President Lincoln's assassination.



William McKinley

Raffled Off

Some of you may be wondering what happened with the two items Hanford Mills Museum had for our raffle this year. There was the table built by Bob Adair and the wooden bowl made by Glenn Fellows.

The drawing was on the last day of our open season - October 31. Dawn Brown of Jefferson, NY won the table and Chris Van Ginhoven of Bovina, NY won the bowl. Congratulations!

Look for our next raffle when you visit Hanford Mills Museum in 2005. And good luck next time.

On a historical note, you might be interested to know that Bob Adair's family comes from East Meredith - they owned a store. Bob works for Wightman's Specialty Woods in Portlandville, NY. An ancestor of the Wightmans, Dan Wightman, was the steam engineer at Hanford Mills in the early 1900s.

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MILLWORK is published by Hanford Mills Museum and distributed free to members. It is edited by curator, Caroline de Marrais ☞ printed with funds from the O'Connor Foundation.

MILLWORK



Winter, 2004

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Hanford Mills Museum

Vol. 18 - No. 2

Hanford Mills Museum

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