

# MILLWORK



Winter, 1997

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## Board of Trustees Update

by Bill Brophy, Board of Trustees Secretary

It was hard to ignore the empty chair when the Hanford Mills Museum board met on December 7, 1996. Board president Gretchen Sorin reminded trustees that the Museum had lost a dear friend and tireless advocate, with the passing of Ed Dorr of Laurens, New York. While the board will find someone to fill that chair, it will be next to impossible to "replace" Ed.

The board of trustees went on to cover a diverse array of topics, taking actions that represent some first-steps in the Museum's emerging long-range plan. Numerous aspects of the Museum's operations are being reviewed by Trustee committees in an effort to map out a clear, viable long-range plan, assuring that the Museum will be able to continue providing its eclectic, first-class educational programs and resources.

The trustees heard reports from the Executive Director, Director of Programs, Curator and Mill Foreman before moving on to their own sub-committee reports. Sorin expressed the Board's gratitude for the above and beyond the call of duty service given to the Museum by retiring members John Hamilton, Michael Getman, Grace Kent and Bill Oles.

The slate of officers for the new year was presented and approved by affirmation. To honor the contributions of Ed Dorr, and all of the retiring board members, the Board asked that framed color photos of the Mill be created for each member, with nameplates describing the length and quality of each member's service.

During the executive session, a general discussion of the proposed budget and salary increases ensued. Trustees were quick to applaud and recognize the excellent work and achievements of Museum employees. In a year that was marked by an extremely volatile tourism and grants market-place, a year also marked by natural disasters that profoundly affected the Museum, the employees distinguished themselves time and again.



Standing (l. to r.): Secretary Bill Brophy, Robert Bishop, Eric Olsen, Jane des Grange, James Van Buren, Wilbur Oles. On bench (l. to r.) Walter Gladstone, Treasurer Howard Nichols, Vice President Gordon Roberts, Ed Dorr. On grass (l. to r.): Grace Kent, Charlotte Hill, President Gretchen Sorin, Jean Hillson. Not pictured: Vice President John Smith, Betty Bergleitner, Katie Boardman, Craig Boyko, Carol Detweiler, Wayne Mellor & Craig Van Cott.

## Eggs in One Basket

Plan to bring your kids and their baskets to Hanford Mills for our Third Annual Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 29. It's free and it's fun. 4000 plastic eggs,



each with a prize inside, will be hidden on the grounds for youngsters aged twelve and under to collect. Last year, over 600 egg hunters and friends roamed the grounds. Join in the fun! Gift Shop, concessions and special drawing!

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## Endowment Fund Drive


Once again we are pleased that the O'Connor Foundation presented us with a matching fund challenge for our Endowment Fund. This means that for every dollar we raise the Foundation will match it with another dollar. As the Endowment Fund grows, the original funds are held in a Trust Fund account at the National Bank of Delaware County in Walton. We use the interest generated for Museum operations, such as building restoration, staff salaries, grounds upkeep, program development, artifact

preservation, and publications, to list just a few. The true value of our Endowment Fund is its future potential in the preservation of the Mill and Museum. For many years the potential will not be realized, but it is our promise to the future of this institution. By building the Fund now, the greater return will be realized in years to come.

If you have a will, you may have planned to leave a bequest to a charity. We would like to suggest that you consider Hanford Mills Museum's Endowment Fund as a possible recipient of a portion of your estate. Either a general or specific bequest allows you to give

property or money, or a percentage of your estate to help support the future of Hanford Mills Museum. The following is an example sentence in the correct format that you can use in your will.

**"I give Hanford Mills Museum in East Meredith, New York (amount of asset) for deposit into the Endowment Trust Fund."**

By remembering Hanford Mills Museum in your will or in a special gift to the Endowment Fund, you will provide continuing support for future generations of students, historians, and visitors. It will assure that we can continue to preserve the heritage culture of our locale at this premier location. 

## The Hermance Moulding Machine

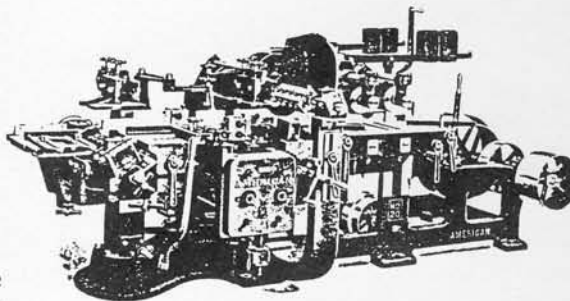
by Tres Loeffler

The Hermance Moulding Machine Company of Williamsport, Pennsylvania was founded in 1902 by merging the Rowley and Hermance Company with the American Woodworking Machinery Company. From this new business, came Hanford Mills' moulding machine, purchased direct from the factory on May 5, 1911.

Although it was not the first moulding machine in the mill, it was by far the most versatile. The Hermance machine has a cutting head that can shape up to an eight-inch wide piece of moulding. Also, with its two side cutters, it is capable of producing tongue-and-groove flooring, wainscoting, shiplap and novelty siding, along with many other products. The machine also has a fourth cutting head for smoothing or planing the back side of the work piece.

The machine we have now, although not the original, is an exact duplicate of the one that operated in the mill from 1911

through 1965. In its current position, it sits adjacent to the planer in the sawmill room. We have reason to believe, from research done by our Mill Foreman and Curator, that it lies about ten feet from its original position. It originally sat directly under the skylight. We have plans this winter to




*This American Moulding Machine is similar in design to the Hermance Moulding Machine.*

place it back where it previously sat. The machine weighs approximately 2,000 pounds. We will jack it up, and using

pipe rollers, turn it end for end, while moving it backwards. The original pulley, which we believe ran the machine, is still on the main shaft below the floor. Turning the machine around will then line up the fast/loose drive pulley with the main shaft.

Our future plans for the machine are to produce traditional mouldings for exhibition purposes. From our knife collection of over 400 patterns, we can mix and match them to make virtually any style. We plan on concentrating on wainscoting, bed moulding, and a few other patterns found in the Hanford house here on the site.

We plan to have the restoration of the moulding machine completed by the spring. I believe it should turn out to be a great addition to the mill. I invite you all to come out and view it, along with all the other great things that are happening here throughout the season. 

# "Cooking With Cold"

by Eric Paige

*Editor's Note: Eric Paige attended the Cooperstown Graduate Program for History Museum Studies and is the owner of Computer Services for Museums, a computer and publications consulting service. Eric also has an interest in historic foodways.*

Through the nineteenth and into the first quarter of the twentieth century, people relied on iceboxes or cold springs to keep foods chilled. Mechanically produced ice was available in the late nineteenth century, but the machinery was far too large for home use.

The advent of the electric motor paved the way for the home refrigerator. Though Kelvinator and Frigidaire produced machines in the 1910s and 20s, the first commercially successful machine was the General Electric Monitor Top. Introduced in the fall of 1925, by 1929, over 50,000 had been sold, and in 1931, GE produced its millionth refrigerator.

Today, the refrigerator is taken for granted, but in the 1920s it was a new technology that presented new possibilities. Instruction books complete with recipes told the consumer of the many delights their new machine could produce.

Imagine, ice cream without the laborious cranking of an ice cream freezer; elaborate jellied salads and aspics, and even fancy ice cubes, all from this one appliance, that also kept perishable foods fresh.

In 1927, GE produced Electric Refrigerator RECIPES and Menus, an elaborate hardcover cookbook complete with color illustrations. The recipes range from making ice cubes (remember this was a new technology), to rich frozen and chilled des-



serts, to oddities such as Tomato Frappe. Most refrigerator cook books also include recipes for such classics as icebox cookies (where the dough is chilled and sliced off as needed).

Cookbooks of this period are not unlike the flood of microwave oven and crock pot cookbooks of the 1980s. Because the refrigerator was a new technology, old recipes had to be adapted. 1920s cooks were told how to obtain the desired texture using gelatine, evaporated milk, and corn syrup, much as microwave cookbooks taught us how to create the illusion of browning in our microwaved dishes.

Today, we primarily use the refrigerator for keeping foods chilled and frozen, save for the occasional jellied salad at the holidays. For those of you who want a taste of the 1920s, here are a couple of recipes:

## Pears Frozen with Ginger Ale (From Electric Refrigerator RECIPES and Menus, 1927, General Electric.)

Drain syrup from canned pears and put pears in refrigerator pan\*. Add to pear syrup an equal amount of ginger ale. Pour over the pears and leave two hours, or until mushy. Place pears in nests of lettuce leaves, fill center with preserved ginger, chopped, or with chopped nuts or with cream cheese and serve with mayonnaise dressing or omit lettuce and serve with whipped cream.

\*The GE refrigerator had a small freezer and came with a pan that could be used to freeze one solid block, or that could, by use of an insert, make ice cubes.

Or for the less adventurous:

## Butterscotch Cookies (From Cooking with Cold, 1933, Kelvinator).

1 ½ cups butter  
2 cups brown sugar  
3 cups flour  
2 teaspoons baking powder  
2 eggs

Cream butter, add sugar and well beaten eggs. Mix well. Add flour and baking powder sifted together. Mix to a dough. Shape in rolls, wrap in waxed paper and store in Kelvinator. Slice thin and bake on a floured cookie sheet in a hot oven. (375 degrees).

### Resources:

- ~ Cooking with Cold, 1933, Kelvinator.
- ~ Norge Recipe Book, undated, Norge.
- ~ Electric Refrigerator RECIPES and Menus, 1927, General Electric.

Refrigerator history from:

- ~ More Work for Mother, Ruth Schwartz Cowan, 1983, Basic Books.





## Pins and Needles OR Women's History Month?

by Jane Shepherd

Several years ago, my younger sister gave me the most surprising of gifts. At a nearby yard sale, she found a very small and ancient leather suitcase in which someone had stored embroidery patterns. Not really knowing what they were, but realizing they may be of historical value or interest, she bestowed them upon me, her "museumy sister who likes old stuff." As I rummaged through what I considered a real treasure, I discovered these very old and much used patterns dated from as early as 1890 up to 1937. Many were worn from much tracing and pinning, some were clipped from magazines and newspapers, others were purchased, and a few were original design work. I surmised that many were used as patterns on lingerie, linens, dresser scarves, pillowcases, nightgowns and more. So far from the textile painting and press-on appliques of today, these worn and brittle templates carried the story of feminine delight in the gentle lace and needle work that adorned garments and household linens.

To commemorate Women's

History Month, in March, and to keep alive those tried and true



needle skills of yesteryear, Hanford Mills Museum will again offer a series of textile classes through out the month. These classes will include quilt making from beginning to end in which all participants will make a quilt using several techniques including piecing, applique, and crazy quilting. The finished product will be a sampler quilt for use on a bed or to hang on a wall. A tatting class will teach beginning and intermediate tatting to new and past students. Tatting is that very puzzling pastime you may have seen your grandmother doing. Using a ball of thread

and a small metal bobbin, she produced a fine curly lace to go around hankies. A beginners crocheting class will teach basic stitches. You will make a set of pillows in this class to put on your sofa or maybe hide in the closet. Knitting mittens can be fun for beginners, and learning basic stitches a tangle of enjoyment as well. Hardanger will delight all of us as we create those mysterious and beautiful pieces of cut work embroidery that we have admired so often. And for the first time we will offer a class in embroidery, using those wonderful patterns from the old leather suitcase.

Diaries left by many of the Hanford women tell us that they were no strangers to needles and pins. They were even spinning at the turn of the century which, in most cases, was unusual, then again the Director and Curator at Hanford Mills Museum still spin! We wish to keep alive many of the textile skills of bygone days by offering these classes during March, Women's History Month. If you are interested in participating in the textile classes call the Museum for information on time, fees, and place.

## Report from the Administrative Assistant

by Steve Sutton

With the arrival of winter and the closing of the mill site, it seems like an odd time to become a new member of the Hanford Mills Museum staff, however, I find myself in that very position. I am very excited to be here and to learn about and to be involved in all the activities that go on at Hanford Mills Museum. It is really mind boggling to be involved in all the "behind the scenes" activities,

even when the site is closed for the season. I can only imagine how interesting things will be when we are in full swing for our 1997 season.

Before joining the staff here at the mill in October 1996, I worked independently as a woodworker. I specialized in a line of wooden toys which featured the reproduction of vintage vehicles for collection, as well as a line of toys suitable

for children. During this time, I would find myself thousands of miles from home for a week or so at a time, selling my work all over the country. Because of all the time spent away from my wife, Lorraine, and three sons, Loren, Willie and Brian, I needed a job that would keep me at home. The opportunity to be part of the staff here was very inviting and it's really great to

*Con't. on page 6*

# The Mysteries of Adaline Barnes

## The Cooper's Daughter

by Caroline de Marrais

In honor of Women's History Month, much of this issue of Millwork is dedicated to women's history topics. It would be appropriate, then, to talk about a woman millworker at Hanford Mills. Unfortunately, the Hanfords never hired a woman to work in their mill. This, of course, was not unusual. The Hanfords did deal with a woman in a woodworking business, though, and we would like you to meet her.

Adaline Barnes was born in July of 1848 to Harvey and Hulda Ann (Bowen) Barnes in Oneonta, New York. She was the second child in a family of four children. She had an older brother named Dewitt C., a younger sister named Caroline and a younger brother named Solon. Her older brother was probably named after DeWitt Clinton, a famous New York State governor.

We know very little about Adaline's life as a child. Her father, Harvey, was a well-known cooper with a water powered cooperage on the Main Street of Oneonta. Their home was situated almost straight across the road on a side street at 3 Elm Street. Both of Adaline's brothers took some interest in woodworking, and probably worked in their father's business as children. Meanwhile, Adaline was learning sewing, a skill that she later used to help support herself.

Starting in 1868, the Barnes children began to marry. Dewitt married Harriett (or Addie) Richard, Caroline married a Mr. Gravant and Solon married Sarah Brewster. From the first records available to us, it appeared that Adaline never

married. Census records showed differently, however. This is our first mystery. The 1880 census shows that Adaline Barnes, at the age of 31, was living with her parents and her 11 year old son, named Harvey Barnes. The census noted that she was married, but where is her husband and why is she using her maiden name? It is possible that she married another Barnes, as there are several unrelated families in the area. One might also wonder why her son is named Harvey. It was usually the custom to name your first son after his father's side of the family, not the mother's. It appears that Adaline married about 1868, and she could not be found in a quick search of the 1870 census for the area. Of course, she would have been hard to identify if her husband did not have the last name of Barnes. By the 1900 census she was divorced from her husband, which was very unusual for the time period. Who was Adaline's husband and what happened?

*H Barnes*

*Adaline Barnes*

*Mr Solon Barnes*

In the years after her marriage, Adaline lived with her parents and worked as a "tailoress" employed with a C. Yagel in Oneonta. Her father,

Harvey, began to order butter tub covers from the Hanfords in 1877 (about a year after the Hanfords started cover production). In the 1880s, Dewitt worked in his father's cooperage and sometimes corresponded with the Hanfords. By 1890, Dewitt found work in the expanding Delaware and Hudson railroad car shops in Oneonta. Solon also worked at various times, in his father's shop.

Then on April 24, 1898, Harvey Barnes died at the age of 73. Normally, if a family member was going to take over the business, it would have been Dewitt or Solon, but it wasn't. This is the second mystery. Adaline took control of the cooperage and ran it with the help of her father's master cooper. On June 17, 1898, she wrote a letter to the Hanfords, complaining about the quality of the covers they sent her. It was a remarkable letter:

**I never saw such poor covers in all my life you never sent Father such trash ... now dont think for one moment that because you are dealing with a woman that we dont know good covers ... Some of them are not even plained on one side and I could put them to gather better my self**

A second letter on June 28 suggests the Hanfords did send better covers, but may show that Adaline was having problems with her customers:

**it is not as tho our Father was living they think we do not understand it as well but we have the same cooper that Father had for 40 years or more**

Why did Adaline take over the business instead of her brothers? Did she enjoy the work or do it out of sense of duty?

*Con't. on page 6*

*Mysteries - con't. from page 5*

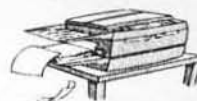
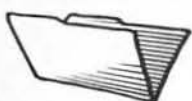
Despite her problems with the Hanfords, Adaline continued in the cooperage business until about February, 1899. At that time, her brother Solon began to make tub cover orders for the cooperage and the Hanfords never heard from Adaline again. This is the third mystery. Why did Adaline stop working at the cooperage? Did she want to give it up, or did her brother make her give it up? By March of 1900, Solon stopped ordering from the Hanfords altogether. In February of 1901, he died at the age of 47 from complications brought on by pneumonia. Harvey Barnes' cooperage closed.

According to the 1900 na-

tional census Adaline was still living at home with her mother and her sister, who had been widowed. By the time their mother died in September of 1901, both women had remarried. Adaline was 52 years old. One sister married Matthew Wilson, a boarder in their home. This is the fourth mystery. Hulda Barnes' obituary tells us that she was survived by two daughters - Mrs. Charles Hand and Mrs. Matthew Wilson. Which daughter married which man? The Wilsons were living in Oneonta in 1901, but the Hands had moved to Utica. At this point, we have no information on when Adaline died or where, and we do not know what happened to her son. These are

the final mysteries.

Even though we know so little about Adaline Barnes, it is interesting to speculate on her life. What was she like? What happened in her first marriage? Why did she take over the operation of her father's cooperage, and then why did she give it up? Who was her second husband? Where did she go and when did she die? The records she left behind show us such a small peephole into her fascinating life, we wish we could just open it further. Despite what little we know, we do know that, for her times, Adaline had to have been an unusual woman to have led the life she did.

*Report - con't from page 4*

be here. I am sure many of you can relate to the great feeling you get whenever you walk into the mill. To be here and be part of Hanford Mills, is truly special.

Since joining the team here, I have been busy becoming familiar with all phases of the mill's operation. One of the first things was the closing of the mill site, which is quite a process. Everything on the site had to be put away and stored, the buildings closed, water drained, and tools and machinery treated to prevent any damage. It does take quite a bit of time to complete the entire process.

Every day I have been working on becoming familiar with every person, business and organization with which we are associated in some way. I put together a visitor census report. This was broken down into various categories that represented all our friends who visited us here in 1996. We also completed an inventory of the gift shop. The entire staff

was involved with this process, making the task go very smoothly. It provided us with information on how well items sell and what will be needed for our next season.

A fuel oil report was completed, which provided us with some valuable information about our fuel oil needs for the past several years. With this information, we compiled as accurate information about our needs for the 1996-97 season. We forwarded this information to some of the local fuel oil suppliers, requesting the lowest possible "bid" for their service. There are four buildings that are heated, the Office, the Hanford House, the Hardware Store and the Post Office building, which includes the conference room and an apartment. We also have a summary of all out electrical needs for the past four years. This will allow us to monitor our electric costs and send up warning signals when a bill comes in that may seem out of line with our previous cost.

Even this winter, we are

sending out thousands of letters containing exciting information about the events at Hanford Mills Museum. We use a postage rate known as "Bulk Mailing" to send this information. This requires quite a lengthy process that usually involves the entire staff's contribution at some point. We are able to get this information to all of you at the most economically feasible means possible, so this effort is well worth it.

For the woodworking staff, the garage behind the Post Office has become a winter workshop. We have installed a wood stove and moved in some power tools. This will make a nice warm place to do some work during the winter months.

I have had the opportunity to meet some of you folks at the Volunteer Dinner or the Member's Holiday Party. I look forward to seeing you all again. Those of you that I have not met, I look forward to meeting you in the near future.





# "The Wild and Woolly West"

## Views from Back East

by Caroline de Marrais

The "West" has always fascinated the settlers of this continent. "The grass is always greener ..." and people hoping for a better life, riches, health or all three looked west of their own homes to find them. Without this fascination, villages and settlements west of the Atlantic coast would have never existed. East Meredith would not exist without settlers from the east, pioneers from Connecticut, Massachusetts and Europe. For many, East Meredith was the end of their travels, but not for all.

By the end of the Civil War in 1865, East Meredith, New York was settled and established, definitely no longer the frontier. In 1868, the national government recognized East Meredith with its first post office. The West had moved on and the adventure was no longer in the Catskill Mountains. But what did East Meredith citizens know about the West?

If you look through any major paper in the late 1800s, you will find articles about the West - advertisements for land sales, articles about natural wonders, and stories about Indian wars. Occasionally local folks visited the West and would write home. Sometimes their letters appeared in the local papers. Simeon R. Barnes, business friend of D.J. Hanford, was one such writer. In 1872, Simeon took the train to California and back only three years after the transcontinental railroad was completed. His letters home were published in a local paper for all to read. He wrote often about the train travel, weather and the economy of the areas he passed through. His comments on the Native Americans

he saw were typical for the times:

**Indians and squaws are plenty at most of these stations, standing as straight, stiff and motionless as if they were Lot's wife or some other fixture, rather than a dirty, ugly-looking savage made of flesh and blood. They are none of your painted up half-breeds, traveling around the country in broadcloth and with oiled locks, giving exhibitions of war-dances, whoops, and the like, but regular dirty, filthy, stealthy, mean looking savages (get away with "Lo! the poor Indian") that take all Uncle Sam's vigilance to keep them from scalping the operatives on the line of the road.**

Surprising for the time period, Simeon *did* have a good opinion of the Mormons he saw when he passed through Salt Lake City, Utah. He was impressed with their industry and thrift. Twenty years later, another newspaper story from the Delaware County Dairyman called Illinois, Wisconsin and Indiana the "wild and woolly west." They jokingly wrote that James Kelso, who visited there, "failed to get on intimate terms with any cyclones, tornadoes or sich[sic]."

Another source of information about the West came from the Wild West shows that traveled the country. Many of these featured stagecoach holdups, cowboy stampedes and "bloodthirsty" Indians, such as Simeon Barnes

mentioned. While these were not accurate portrayals of life in the West, people loved them. One such show came to Oneonta, (about 15 miles from East Meredith) in May of 1895. It was a big enough attraction to cause a "number of our boys," as the newspaper put it, to ride down on their "wheels [bicycles]" to see the show.

With all this information and misinformation, who decided to keep on moving west, and what were they looking for? Most were looking for a better place to live, better farming, better business opportunities - a place to become successful. The local newspapers felt that anyone who went West would do well, and had the examples to prove it. The December 20, 1895 Delaware County Dairyman reported the visit of Marian Whigham, saying that he "has

*Con't. on page 8*



*This photograph of Robert Brownell (seated) and friends was probably taken in Elk City, Idaho (see page 8). As you can see, they are ready to start a gold mine.*

*West - con't. from page 7*  
done well since going there [Iowa] - just as nearly every one else does who goes there." The East Meredith correspondent wrote in an April 30, 1897 item that "These Del. Co. boys manage to get well up where the big horns grow in the western push."

Perhaps it is stories like these that helped Abram Rowe decide to take his family West in 1879. We know little about this family, except that in January of that year, one of Abram's six children died of diphtheria. Maybe Abram had other problems as well. On Tuesday, November 4, 1879 Elizabeth Hanford wrote in her diary, "Abram Rowe family started for the West." We heard nothing more about the Rowes. Hopefully, they did well.

George G. Hanford, a nephew of D.J. Hanford, also took his family out West to Kansas in the 1870s. George received his land for fighting in the Civil War. While the Rowes never returned, the Hanfords did not find the West to be all that was promised. Their attempt to live in Kansas did not work well. The family was back in East Meredith by 1880, and they never left the area again.

A friend of Horace Hanford and a former mill worker, Fred Hagar went to California in the late 1880s. Unlike other East Meredith people, it appears that Fred went on his own without family, and found a job in a mill in California. On March 17, 1891, he wrote back to his friend Horace, praising the social life and weather of California:

**I met a lot of young people from Oakland [CA] they belong to a Quartette Club & I tell you We made Rome Howl for about Three Hours....There is a lot of Very nice players & singers here & they Want me to Join their Club and I think I Will.... I Would like to drop in on you & take a hand. but I**

**guess I Will Wait now until it gets to be a little warmer. my Skin is to thin for Zero now.**

Of course, others went West to get rich and never intended to stay. The best known example of this is the thousands of people that flooded into California for the Gold Rush of 1849. While we don't know about any East Meredith people who became California 49ers, we do know of at least one person who went West for gold. A Delaware County Dairyman news item in the April 15, 1898 edition tell us:

**Late letters from Robert Brownell, son of Wm. H. Brownell, locates him at Elk City, Idaho, where he has an interest in a gold mine which is to be worked this summer. We hope he will dig out a barrell full of gold dollars. He deserves it.**

A photograph shows us Robert Brownell with his friends ready to set out to pan for gold. He returned to live in East Meredith not much richer (though not poorer either), but he definitely caught the gold mining bug. He had local Mine Brook (the origin of the name is unknown) tested for minerals. The samples only showed traces of copper, lead and silver. No gold mines in East Meredith.

Finally, some people went West for their health. D.J. Hanford's son-in-law, Leslie Barnes (son of Simeon R. Barnes), was such a man. In 1880, after his marriage to

D.J.'s daughter, Elizabeth, the Barnes couple took a trip to Texas. They hoped that it would cure Leslie's consumption (better known today as tuberculosis). Luckily, Leslie's letters home were also printed in local papers. They arrived in San Antonio, Texas on December 26, 1880. Leslie wrote about buying a "Mexican pony" and riding for exercise. On February 28, 1881, in his description of the city, he wrote:

**San Antonio may be called a second Saratoga Springs. Every hotel and private boarding house is completely overrun with guests, at this season of the year. There are health-seekers from all parts of the country. The climate of Western Texas is especially adapted to persons suffering from lung difficulty, and many remarkable cases have come under my own observation.**

On March 1, 1881, he wrote that he had "increased in weight from 124 to 133 pounds, ... the cough that for the past year has been a source of annoyance is behaving remarkably well." By April, the weather began to turn hot and the Barnes couple moved to Donaldson's Rancho, which boarded a number of invalids, in Bexar county, Texas. Leslie wrote that they played croquet, hunted and went horseback riding. He also wrote of a disastrous pleasure trip:

**All went well until within a**

*Con't. on page 9*



*These photos of Elizabeth Hanford and Leslie Barnes were probably taken before they married and traveled to Texas.*



West - cont. from page 8

half mile of where we were to camp for the night. At this juncture our driver thought he would pass the team ahead of us, and in the race the wagon struck a stump, throwing Mrs. Barnes out, the hind wheel of the lumber wagon passing diagonally across her chest and right arm. The injuries received were not of a serious nature, as at first supposed, and she escaped with sixteen bruises and as many black and blue spots.... We pitched our tent for the night, but there was but little sleep, as the accident had put a damper on the enjoyment of camp life if there is any enjoyment in it.

Can you imagine prim and proper Leslie and Elizabeth sitting in their tent counting her bruises? The accident seemed to dim Elizabeth's sense of adventure. In July, when Leslie writes that he felt good enough to take a job with the engineer division of the Mexico and Pacific Railway, his wife decided to stay with the family of J.E. Dietz (formerly from the Oneonta area of New York). Leslie wrote that "Mrs. Barnes found the house and society so

pleasant that she preferred remaining there to a rough camp life on the frontier."

Many people who went West, did quite well. Clarence Hamilton, son of John and Margaret Hamilton who moved to Kansas in 1877, became a leading attorney in Topeka and served in the Kansas state senate. Mr. and Mrs. Fletcher Brownell of Powersville, Iowa (relatives of Elizabeth Hanford), did well enough in the West that they could afford the time and money to take month long visits to family and friends back in East Meredith. A quick search of Elizabeth Hanford's diaries show that they came in 1895 and 1898 and perhaps other times as well.

Others, though, were not so fortunate, and their trips West could be deadly. In the end, the Texas climate did not agree with Leslie Barnes. They returned to the East Meredith area at the end of 1881 having been away for a year. Leslie wrote in October that "it is a matter of serious doubt in my

mind as to whether a protracted stay in Texas is to be of any lasting benefit or not." Unfortunately, Leslie Barnes died in 1883, nearly a month after the birth of his first and only child, Merritt Barnes. In that same year, Will Johnson married Matie Murdock in East Meredith and they moved West to Kansas. Matie died there in 1897, and Will came back to live in East Meredith. On September 3, 1881, Elizabeth Hanford recorded another unfortunate western death, when she wrote "Thomas Douglass body brought from Colorado killed by Lightning."

The West wasn't for everyone. Many East Meredith people stayed in the East and led a good life. Others left for the "wild and wooly West." Some did well, others not so well. But judging from the frequency that the West was mentioned in newspapers and diaries, East Meredith thought the West was a fascinating place.

## Workmanship of Certainty

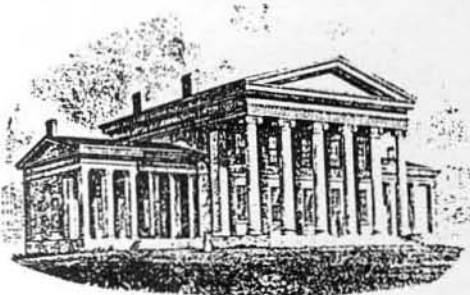
by Mark Watson

Hanford Mills Museum has an excellent collection of wood-working machinery from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. You have seen many of these machines operating in the museum for years. We are happy to announce that, beginning this spring, several additional machines will be part of an exhibit in the mill. In addition to the machines, we will include photographs, products, catalogs and brief histories of the machines. With these machines, *workmanship of risk* became *workmanship of certainty*, and the Victorian home came into existence.

Many early American orna-

mental wooden architectural components, mouldings and columns were based upon classical foundations. Americans' admiration for anything Greek was transferred to homes and buildings during the early-to-mid nineteenth century. The early United States was fascinated with the democratic principles of the Greek republic and sought to celebrate them in its architecture.

Asher Benjamin, a Boston architect, wrote extensively on mouldings in the 1830s. Benjamin saw mouldings as a "doorway" to understand and appreciate classical architecture. To Benjamin, Classical Revival buildings, public and



private, required authentically reproduced mouldings to be faithful to truth and honesty.

Benjamin went to extremes to instruct designers and moulding makers the correct dimensions and scale for exact duplication. Reading his *Practical House Carpenter* (1830), is reminiscent of stumbling through a high school geometry book. For example:

**divide the height AB into any number of equal parts, into four for instance ... and the**

*Con't on page 11*

# Projects from the Mill Foreman

by Robert Grassi

With our season officially over and the mill closed for the winter, we can now begin the maintenance and repair of our machinery collection. Typically, we begin by shutting off the water supply to the forebay and waterwheel. This prevents any ice damage. We loosen bearing caps on the line shafting in the basement to prevent any damage from frost heaves. The staff put fresh coats of wax on the surfaces of cast iron machinery to prevent rusting.

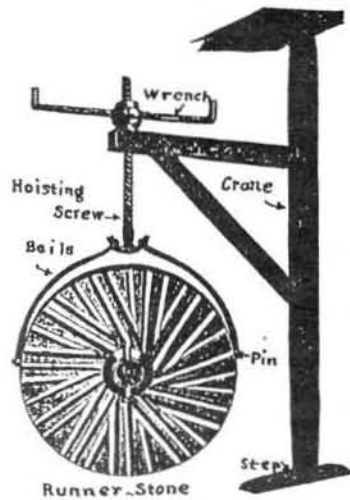
First on the repair list was the sawmill. It received a new flat belt. The original deteriorated to the point that a new one was warranted. The original leather friction (part of the drive for advancing the saw carriage) was so worn it did not function appropriately with the carriage. A new friction was installed.

The doweling machine and the Waymoth variety lathe both need attention this winter. The doweling machine will have its loose pulley repaired (the bronze bearing surface needs renewing), and the machine needs a going over with attention to adjustments. The Waymoth lathe needs work on its fast/loose pulley drive and, like the doweling machine, needs a good going over, knives sharpened and adjustments made to it. It is our intention to run these two machines on a more regular basis this coming season.

The Mickel barrel head machine, which we ran almost every tour last season, received damage to its cutter assembly while in operation at the end of October. I have made a pattern of the original part and it is being cast by Catskill Castings in Bloomville, NY and machined to replace the original. A new knife will also have to be fabri-

cated.

We are again turning our attention to the gristmill this winter, and have finished construction of a millstone crane. The millstone crane was used to remove the top millstone when the stones needed dressing (sharpening) or other service. According to a receipt dated December 8, 1896, D.J. Hanford purchased a 32-inch portable mill for his newly constructed gristmill. Along



Millstone Crane

with the mill he received a hoisting screw and bails for a millstone crane. This receipt along with the physical evidence found in the mill (the placement and diameter of both the head and foot of the original crane) tells us the mill had a crane and where it was placed. But what of its actual construction? To design a crane, I spent some time this past spring visiting other local gristmills, all from approximately the same period. One of these mills, the Georgia gristmill in Treadwell, inspired the last article in *Millwork*. I collected information on style and joinery to duplicate what might have stood in D.J.'s gristmill from 1869 to

1898 when they put in their new attrition mill. Of course, the attrition mill did not require the crane's services. The Hanfords probably removed at this point to create more floor space in the mill. With four crane designs to choose from and with our own gristmill timber frame in mind, I designed our crane. We purchased a screw and wrench from another millstone crane of about the same vintage as our own, but it did not come with a set of bales. We will have those custom made for the mill.

Another feature of our gristmill is a cracked corn reel bolter/sifter that was put in service when they modernized in 1898. Mark Watson and I discovered the reel, long since removed from its original location, in the attic. It is missing its original case and cover which the staff will rebuild before we can return it to service. It is our intention to have it up and operational sometime during our 1997 season. We have obtained a small pair of millstones (about 12 inches in diameter) to build a quern (a hand power millstone). The staff will use it in our interpretation of millstone milling to both school groups and public alike. I will keep you further informed as this develops.

In our ongoing research into original machinery placement and how our mill was operated historically, we are moving several machines back to their original working positions. First, the twenty-inch jointer will be removed from the sawmill and placed back in working position in the box room where the original sixteen-inch jointer last sat. The H.B. Smith table

Con't. on page 11


*Projects - con't from page 10*

saw and four-inch four-sided moulder in the sawmill, and the relisher and drill press in the box room will be removed and placed in collections since they are not original Hanford/Pizza machinery. Since we know the Hanford had a GreenLee power rip saw, one will replace the sawmill table saw. The eight-inch Hermance moulder will be returned to its original location

(see other articles for more information on this). We are moving the Mickel heading machine from its present location, driven from an overhead line shaft, to a position several feet away in the same room to be driven from under the floor, like its companion machine, the matcher.

Also, look for changes in the bag room of the mill. We hope to remove the machines, engines,

lineshafting/pulleys, etc. in storage and put them in collections. This will free up the space to be used not only as the Hanfords intended as a bag room with feed sacks and sack truck, but also as a display area for other machinery.

Come see us next season and check out all our new and ongoing projects in the mill. We are all quite excited about them. 

*Workmanship - con't. from page 9*

**projection BC into the same manner of equal parts; draw lines from A through the division 1234 on BC, and through the points where these lines intersect the lines cutting AB at 1234; trace the curve ...**

Consider the time making calculations. Benjamin's forms are complicated; each moulding is actually a combination of pieces joined to form one. Each of these parts required use of more than one moulding plane. These planes were hand-held and pushed the length of each piece.

*Workmanship of risk* results when there is always the opportunity of failure. That is, a plane might slip and ruin the piece, perhaps with much time having been spent already. This factor explains why only the wealthy could afford the arduous and time-consuming creation of usually non-structural decorative pieces. Ironically, only the rich could own what was supposedly "democratic" architecture.

By the 1840s, water powered sawmills had been around for some time. They permitted sawing straight and consistent (width and thickness) boards must faster than the primitive pit saw. Sawmills made lumber cheaper and therefore more generally available, but making mouldings was still considered *workmanship of risk*, beyond the reach of many.

C.B. Rogers and Company of

Norwich, Connecticut introduced "the first successful machine for cutting straight, stick mouldings," around 1850. The power moulding machine could produce in the matter of a few seconds, what had previously taken one man hours to fashion. The machine produced mouldings at speeds approaching 1000 lineal feet per hour. Moulding profiles (cross-sectional views) were soon standardized and given stock numbers, generally recognized industry wide. This interchangeability of components was a huge technological innovation. *Workmanship of certainty*, the ability to produce standardized products quickly, was born.

Within twenty years, the democratization of ornamental




wooden architecture had begun. The term democratization implies a complete availability to anyone who desired the product. Of course, this was not entirely true, but applied to a large and ever growing middle class.

Timber supplies were adequate in the mid-to-late nineteenth century United States. Millwork companies started near the lumber suppliers and the expanding railroad network allowed relatively inexpensive transportation to locations far from the factories. Sales offices were placed across the nation, from Portland, Maine to Portland, Oregon.

Companies began publishing pattern books of their products. These books made it possible to order plans of standardized houses without necessarily hiring architects. The plans were understood by most carpenters and owner-builders. Whereas the house plans were standardized (there were enough of them to make it possible not to duplicate your next door neighbor's house), the rapidly expanding millwork industry supplied a myriad of styles of woodwork to ornament the house, giving it something of a stamp of individuality - if not uniqueness.

The ever larger middle class could now afford more pretentious architecture. The rise in manufacturing created the availability of inexpensively mass produced architectural building supplies. And during times of economic stability, it has continued to be a perfect match.

Plan on visiting our new exhibit this spring. For opening dates and other information, please call the museum. 



## Life in East Meredith

by Alene Alder

What was life like in East Meredith in the 1920s and 1930s? What kinds of modern conveniences were found in homes in the village and surrounding farms? What was the daily routine of women, children, and men? What were some memorable community events and people? How important were the family, the church, and the general store in community life?

I am currently working on a thesis project for the Coopers-town Graduate Program for History Museum Studies. I hope to discover answers to these and many other questions. To do this, I have been



taping the memories of East Meredith's elderly residents. I have interviewed Elma Mitchell, Margaret Schmitt, Lenore Crandall, Florence Wiedeman, Charlie Haynes, Veronica Nelson, and Jean Kelso. I hope to interview several other people in February. If you or anyone you know remembers the village of East Meredith in the years between the two World Wars, please contact me through Hanford Mills Museum at 278-5744 or 1-800-295-4992. This research will help in the interpretation of the mill and the John Hanford house. In addition, look for articles generated from this research in future editions of Millwork.

## Up-Coming Events

**March 4, 11, 18, & 25**  
**Textile Classes**

Month long courses on quilting, tatting, knitting, crocheting, hardanger and embroidery. Call museum for details.

**March 29**  
**Children's Egg Hunt**

Children are invited to search the mill site for colorful eggs filled with surprises. Hunts will be organized according to age group. Call museum for details.



**April 26**  
**Arbor Day (Opening Day)**

Our 1997 opening day! Watch videos about trees and get your own free tree to take home and plant. Watch the mill start up again after an ice encrusted winter. 10 am to 5 pm.

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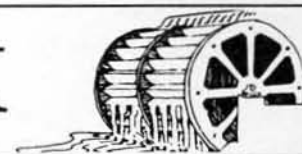
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## MILLWORK



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### Hanford Mills Museum

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