

Mill Hollow Heritage Association Newsletter

April 2016

From the Vice- President

Dear Friends of
Chase's Mill,

Although most physical activity at the Mill stopped during the winter months, the Mill Hollow Heritage Association has been active. Last fall we received a matching grant from the New England Preservation Alliance to conduct a Needs Assessment. This has recently been completed and it provides both estimated costs and recommended phases for rehabilitating the Mill.

We have also been working with the NH Department of Environmental Services and have received their evaluation of the Mill pond dam, along with priorities and a timetable for repairs.

These documents have provided important information enabling us to complete a five-year strategic business plan outlining our overall mission, vision, and phased objectives. Copies are available on request.

As we look to the spring and summer, we



Oxen lying down, as threshing is going on

A time for threshing

*When the wheat and the oats are ready
And the combines are out "Doing their thing",
Just how many of us can remember
The days of the old threshing ring?**

*This poem was written by the wives of men in a threshing ring – a neighborhood group who used the same threshing machine. Florence I. McEron discovered it in a box with her parents' items. It was reprinted in the News-Banner in Bluffton, Ind.

Hartley Dennett, the builder of the mill, had a strong commitment to the concept of community. The first equipment ready for use there was a threshing machine. During its first year, 1918, the grain for 17 local families was threshed there. Mostly the grains were barley and oats, although some wheat was also grown.

The grain stalks were cut in the field and brought by wagon to the mill yard where they were pitched in the open window on the second floor of the ell, seen on the left in the photo. The thresher separated the grains from the stalks. The grain was collected in bags, while the stalks and chaff were pitched out the window on the right. A man can be seen on the wagon building the load, while the oxen rest on

will be launching a capital campaign to purchase the property and begin repairs. We will also be applying for an LCHIP grant in May, and we are at work to have the Mill designated as an Historic building.

Our work is made possible through the generosity of the community, through donations that help to cover operating expenses, through memberships in the Mill Hollow Heritage Association which demonstrates community support to potential grant-making organizations, and through the efforts of volunteers. On that front, we are in need of people with experience in accounting, data entry and computer skills, fundraising, graphic arts, and more. If you have 2-3 hours available per month, please contact us at: www.millhollowheritageassociation.org

You will be hearing from us soon regarding the Capital Campaign. Thank you, Sharon Spaulding

the ground.

After a time Hartley had a circular wood saw set up in the mill yard for sawing up firewood and a set of hay scales for weighing loads of hay, for both neighbors' use and that of the family. A diary entry of Sarah Wilder, neighboring farm woman, sometime later, said, "We take load down to Dennett's, measure hay."

Margaret Perry



Photo by Tafi Brown

Dam Assessment has been completed.

The Department of Environmental Services' Dam Bureau is responsible for ensuring the safety of dams in NH through its dam safety program. The dam was inspected by DES August 2015 and the report just received outlines some steps to take and procedures to follow, with a timeline, from the present to the end of 2019 to ensure the dam is safe and in compliance with its present designation as a "low hazard" dam. The steps outlined with timeline will be incorporated into the new Business Plan. Along with the structural Needs Assessment completed by Bob Neeld of Engineering Ventures we have some sound knowledge of the condition of both the building and the dam upon which to plan our rehabilitation.

Bob Brown



Belt Stapler



Turbine

Items Donated to the Mill

Two visitors to our Open House in September made offers of historical items for the Mill collection. MHHA has received generous donations of a turbine from Stan and Robin Kmiec and an old belt stapler from Peter and Debbie Rhoades. The turbine is very similar in size and design to the Mill's turbine. It will likely be used in an interpretive display showing how the turbine works. The belt stapler is used to tie together the ends of the heavy drive belts that wrap around the spinning wheels and transfer the energy from flowing water to machines. Bob Brown

New Hampshire Preservation Alliance Grant Awarded!

We are pleased to announce the receipt of a \$1,250 grant from the Rick and Duffy Monahan Fund of the New Hampshire Preservation Alliance, for the specific purpose of providing a building assessment with preservation guidelines for the mill.

From the Preservation Alliance: *"The Mill Hollow Heritage Association has good forward momentum but needs the boost of a professional assessment grant to help them prepare for a campaign that will complete important preservation repairs and allow the public to use this building. The earliest of a dozen mills in East Alstead's Mill Hollow district and the last remaining, this mill site dates to 1760. Chase's Mill, the current structure, was built c. 1917, and it is an important town and regional landmark in East Alstead. A non-profit was recently formed to purchase, rehabilitate and program the mill, and has been working with owners and local residents Mow Kazati and Kate Tarlow Morgan. The group secured Seven to Save status in 2009, benefited from a team visit organized by the Preservation Alliance (that included Rick Monahan) to identify key needs and ideas for next steps, and stabilized the building with a new roof. Volunteers are currently restoring original windows, cleaning and oiling antique tools and creating architectural drawings of the mill. "*

The Preservation Alliance's grant review committee includes representatives from LCHIP, the Division of Historical Resources, the National Trust for Historic Preservation and Preservation Alliance board member and architect. Helen Frink

Visit our web page

www.milhollowheritageassociation.org

Put Your Amazon Shopping Dollars to Work

Here's how:

- Go to www.smile.amazon.com . Log into your existing Amazon account or create one.
- Search "Mill Hollow Heritage Association" and select it as your charity.
- Amazon will then donate to MHHA 0.5% of your purchase prices. It adds up over time!

How to Support the Mill

Stay up-to-date on Mill activities and the planning process while showing your support. MHHA is now a nonprofit registered as a 501(c)3. The size of our membership demonstrates to grant-making foundations and other major funders that the Mill has community support. Your contributions help to offset operating expenses such as printing, postage, materials and other basic costs. Send your contribution to **Mill Hollow Heritage Association, 801 Forest Road, Alstead, NH 03602**, or go to www.milhollowheritageassociation.org and click on "Donate" for easy on-line giving.



Early photo of Lake Warren