



OLD MILL NEWS

Publication of the Society for the Preservation of Old Mills

Vol. LII No. 3 Whole Number 211 Summer 2025

- Meet Charlotte Cook-Fuller
- Northeast Chapter Report
- 2025 SPOOM Kentucky Conference
- The Carew Tidal Mill Dates to 1540
- Updating SPOOM's By-Laws
- Book Review

Mill Springs Mill
Host of 2025 SPOOM Conference

Photo by Kyle Dugger

Old Mill News

A Quarterly Magazine Established in 1972
Issued in February, May, August and November

Vol. LII No. 2 Whole Number 211 Summer 2025

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EDITORIAL GUIDELINES

Unsolicited manuscripts are accepted as word documents sent via e-mail (preferred) or typed copy. Photos accompanying the manuscript should not be embedded in the text, but sent as prints or jpg files. Queries welcome. Formal editorial guidelines are available upon request. Copy deadline for all articles is the first of January, April, July, and October. Send correspondence to the Editor. Back issues of OMN can be obtained through the Mill Bookstore for \$4.50 each

PAID ADVERTISING GUIDELINES

Must be received by the Advertising Manager one month before copy deadline. One full page ad is \$275.00, one-half page \$140.00, one fourth page is \$85 and one-eighth-page ad is \$60.00. Send your inquiries and items to: Chuck Ketchie, 602 Steiner Place, Charlotte, NC 28211 or email *oldmillnews.ed@gmail.com*.

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Old Mill News is mailed from Tucson, AZ, generally during the first or second week of February, May, August and November. Please allow three weeks for delivery. Canadian and overseas mailing are not made at the same time using the least expensive rate available.

ADDRESS CHANGES

The Postal Service does not regularly forward Third-Class Mail. Old Mill News is not responsible for copies not forwarded, or destroyed by the Post Office. Replacement copies must be ordered from The Mill Bookstore. Allow at least four weeks for address changes by writing to SPOOM Circulation Manager, P.O. Box 182483, Shelby Twp., MI 48318-2483

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On The Cover



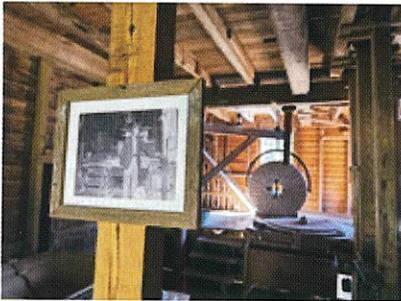
Photo by Kyle Dugger

Mills Springs Mill *Monticello, KY*

Mills Springs, and the US Army Corps are the hosts for the 2025 SPOOM Conference based in Monticello, KY. The mill’s 40 foot Fritz Waterwheel will be turning for our visit which is located on a hillside overlooking beautiful Lake Cumberland.

Historic Yates Mill in Raleigh, NC Is Hiring a Head Miller!

The Miller will serve as an independent contractor reporting to Yates Mill Associates (YMA), a nonprofit partner in a public-private partnership with Wake County and NC State University.



Originally built in the 18th century, Yates Mill is a fully restored gristmill and the centerpiece of Historic Yates Mill County Park. It's listed on the National Register of Historic Places and recognized as a Raleigh Historic Property.

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Learn more at <https://www.yatesmill.org/news-and-events/>

Membership Effusions

To all—remember your renewals are automatically sent via email in the month of expiration and three preceding two months. If there is not an email address on file, then you will receive notification in the same time frame by regular mail. You can, though it takes time, renew for more than one month—you just have to repeat the renewal process however many times that you wish to renew for. That's what I have to do when I receive a check for more than one year. Renewal by check will work if you have trouble doing so online. You do not need a "form," a piece of paper with an address label attached, plus phone and email number will work. PLEASE include the membership number from your address label—it makes things much easier.

Also, remember to let me know of changes in address. Organization and Corporate membership should have secondary members listed as part of their membership. For both groups, as names of Presidents, treasurers, or anyone who might be listed as renewal contacts change, be sure we know what that change is too.

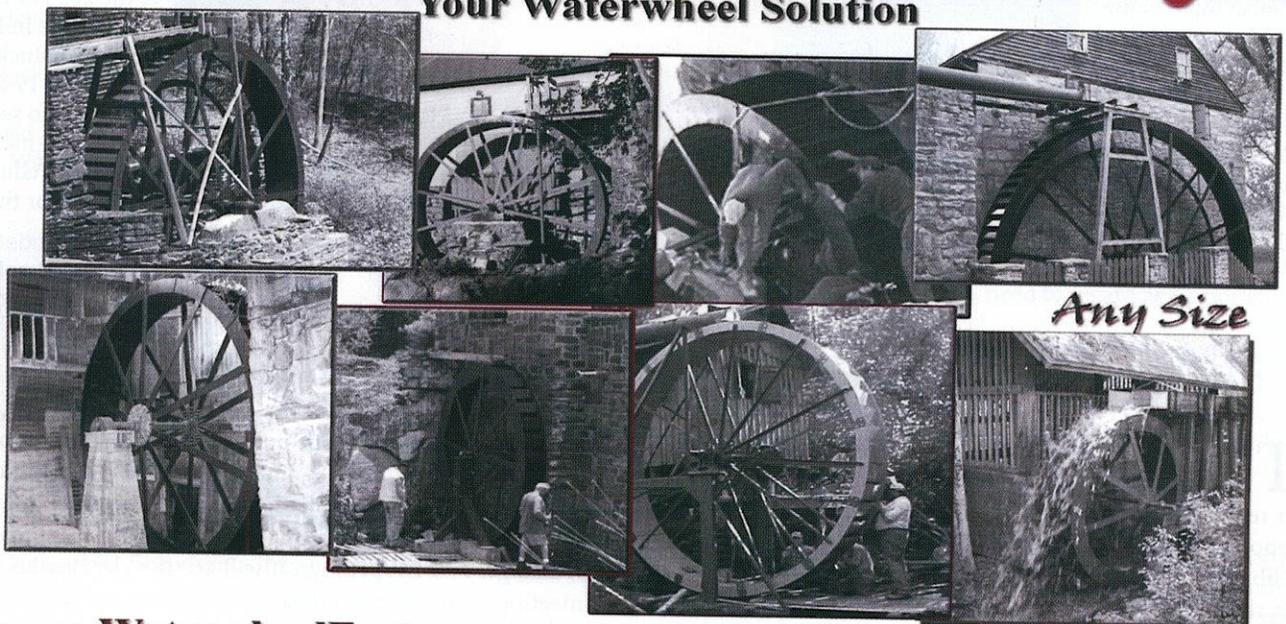
Also, it is particularly important for those members whose expirations are in March, June, September, or December. If your renewal comes in more than 30 days after the expiration date, you will not receive the next issue of Old Mill News as the billing cycle and mailing cycles are insync.

Visit SPOOM.org for Lots of Information

Have you visited our web page lately? Under the "Members" heading you will find a "Membership Directory", access to the "Bookstore", and "Photo Albums" containing pictures sent in by our members. The SPOOM Photo contest entries and winners are presented in a great video put together by Kyle Dugger. You can look up other members and even sort your search by state, or other key words, to help you find local fellow SPOOMers. Please log on and take a look at what SPOOM.org has to offer and plan on spending some time enjoying all the wonderful mill pictures on our site.

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Behind the Scenes of SPOOM – Meet Charlotte Cook-Fuller

Story by Chuck Ketchie

If you have ever taken advantage of SPOOM's State Mill Rosters (or Mill Lists) and scrolled through the vast amount of information that our members have provided about our mill population, you have probably run across the name Charlotte Cook-Fuller. I know in my research of North Carolina mills, her name appears regularly in updated mill listings on our state's list. As I began the "Stop by and See" feature for Old Mill News, using the list exclusively, I continued to see her name, in every state! Who is this person providing such useful information across the country?

I called Dale Cook, Mill List Coordinator, to inquire about her efforts and it turns out she is providing updates faster than he can input them for use on our website, currently finishing Maryland and working on updating Massachusetts, Virginia and New York before taking on the daunting task of Pennsylvania. So, who is Charlotte Cook-Fuller?

After Googling Charlotte before I reached out to her, I learned SPOOM is lucky that she has fit mills into her incredibly busy life. After raising two daughters, she went on to get her PhD and taught Nutrition in the Health Sciences Department at Towson University from 1978-2000. During this time, she was also editor of "Annual Edition: Nutrition" for twelve editions. Recently she has focus on volunteer efforts including transcribing, for the USGS North American Bird Phenology Program, bird data cards recorded between 1880-1970. Before I even get to her interest in historic mills, I must mention her textile wall hangings, each of which can take over 100 hours to complete and have been featured in art galleries. Included among these showings is the two-person show she did with her artist daughter, Lynette Cook. Charlotte duplicates her daughter's realistic paintings of San Francisco buildings using textiles to create interestingly paired works.

So how, and when, does she have time for historic mills? She loves to travel and started adding covered bridges to the sites to see. A couple of these bridges had mills nearby and as Charlotte told me, "You can only see so many covered bridges". The pivotal event was in July 2006 at Lanterman's Mill in Youngstown, Ohio when mills became the focus of her travels. To SPOOM's great benefit, she discovered SPOOM and their mill rosters which she began working with Fred Beals and many/most of the mill list coordina-

tors since then. I asked her how many states have been the recipients of her mill research. She didn't know, so I looked it up. Charlotte Cook-Fuller has her name on almost every state mill roster in the continental United States, lacking only seven.



Charlotte Cook-Fuller relaxing in front of one of her textile hanging and taking a short break from contributing to another State Mill Roster.

When asked about the most interesting mill she had run across in her research, she replied, "an animal powered mill." I have not heard of any since this primitive form was not often recorded. Then she ended her response with "using a pet bear". A pet bear-powered mill?! Now that is a truly unique mill! ♦

The Old Mill at Robert H. Treman State Park

By Amelia Kaufman

Located just south of Ithaca, NY, Robert H. Treman State Park straddles the dramatic Enfield Glen, where Enfield Creek has created a stunning gorge amidst a hemlock and mixed hardwood forest. While the park might be best known for its scenic hiking and many waterfalls (including the 115-foot Lucifer Falls), the park also has a unique gem of social history leftover from the mid-19th century. It's aptly named the Old Mill—a 4-floor grist mill from 1839 nestled by Fishkill Creek in the upper part of the park. The building hasn't operated as a mill since 1916, but for three decades has functioned as a museum where visitors can learn about milling from interpretive panels and 19th-century milling equipment.

The Old Mill's beginnings trace back to 1817 when a man named Isaac Rumsey built a grist mill to grind the grain of local farmers. That mill burned down in the 1830s, but in 1839 Jared Treman (great uncle of Robert H. Treman, the park's namesake) built a new one in its place. It is the same mill that stands today. By 1866, the small but bustling hamlet of Enfield Falls had developed around the mill, including two sawmills, a tourist hotel, a school, a blacksmith shop, and a general store. Sometime after 1870, the mill converted to the New Process of milling, which produced whiter, finer flour than ever before. It was in operation until

1916, when local businessman, banker, and philanthropist Robert H. Treman and his wife Laura bought the land surrounding it.

The Tremans loved the landscape of the Finger Lakes region with its abundant gorges and waterfalls. Over the course of several years, they purchased and donated many natural lands for the purpose of public enjoyment, including the land of Enfield Glen. In 1920, they donated this land to New York State to become a park, which opened to the public in 1924 as Enfield Glen State Park. The site was renamed in Treman's honor after his death in 1937.

The Old Mill has since become a special place for park visitors. Shortly after New York State took ownership, a wrap-around porch and fireplace were added, creating an inviting pavilion and event space for generations. In the early 1990s, the mill transitioned into a museum space with the production of interpretive panels detailing the history

and process of milling. Recent renovations—significantly funded by grants from Parks and Trails New York—have preserved this historic building into the modern era: a new paint job matching the original color was done in 2018; a new roof was installed in

Story Continues on Page 23



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B.E. Hassett—Millwrights has reconstructed mills from Virginia to Pennsylvania and as far west as California, and in between in Kentucky, Tennessee, and Ohio.

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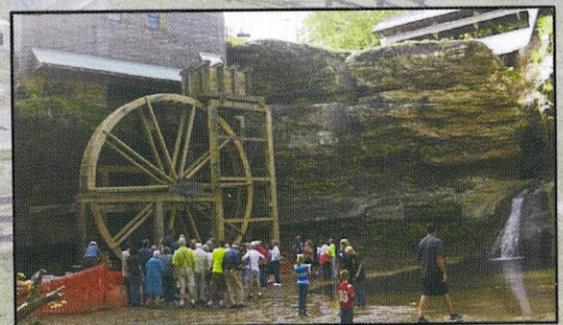


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The SPOOM Bookstore

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A little known W. Evans book on steam engine power; a very rare book. \$20.00

A BOOK OF WRINKLES

A collection of handy labor saving devices from the American Miller Magazine for millers and millwrights; 136 pages \$13.50

THE FISCHER WINDMILL

By Phillip E. Vierling. A history of the Fischer Windmill with drawings of its machinery and mechanism. Also contains a glossary of windmill terminology, 124 pages. \$14.00

FITZ WATERWHEEL BULLETIN #70

A 1928 catalog describing company products and a description of the virtues over turbines; provides specifications, running speeds, and general machinery descriptions, 84 pages \$10.00

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Companion to Fritz Bulletin #70, but describes Fritz-made turbines, and impulse wheel; oriented to small hydroelectric producers, 84 pages. \$10.00

FOR MILLERS IN THE MAKING

Edited by Edgar S. Miller. A SPOOM reprint of a 1936 text. A collection of articles prepared by the Milling Production Department that originally appeared in the Northwestern Miller. \$10.00

GRIST AND FLOUR MILLS IN ONTARIO

Do not be misled by the title of this book by Felicity L. Leung which describes the milling process in layman's terms. Illustrated; soft cover; 284 pages. \$30.00

A GUIDE TO UNITED STATES PATENTS FOR WINDMILLS AND WIND ENGINES

Describes U.S. Patent History, especially as it pertains to windmill improvement between 1793 and 1950. Compiled by T. Lindsay Baker as a TIMS publication in 2004. 120 pages. \$16.00

LEFFEL'S CONSTRUCTION OF MILL DAMS AND BOOKWALTER'S MILLWRIGHT & MECHANIC

A SPOOM reprint of an original 1881 publication. The book provides accurate descriptions and is written without the technical and abstract terms which made it understandable by every owner or user of water power. \$15.00

THE LEFFEL WATERWHEEL

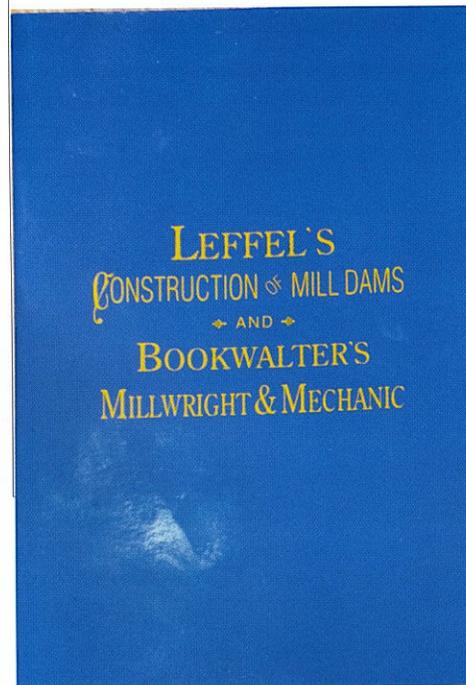
A rare 1883 handbook of 163 pages prepared by The James Leffel Co. of Springfield, Ohio, that contains power tables and turbines specifications; provides locations of 10,000 mills throughout the world with Leffel turbines. \$12.00

MEADOWS MILLS

By Marty McGee. A history of the first 100 years of the Meadows Mill Company of North Wilkesboro, N.C., 1902-2002. Hardcover; 86 pages. \$25.00

MIDGET MARVEL BOOK SET

A SPOOM reprint. Consists of Two books, Milling with the Midget Marvel Flour Mill and The Story of a Wonderful Flour Mill. The first provides basic non-technical instructions for the operation and maintenance of Midget Marvel Mill. The second book tells the history of the Midget Marvel Mill and provides testimonials regarding its use in revolutionizing the milling industry. \$12.00 per set



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Donald B. Ball and Charles D. Hockensmith provide a comprehensive study of millstone manufactures, along with historical data and patent information, 22 pages with diagrams, \$29.00

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The daily activities of Pennsylvania millwright Leslie Houseknecht from 1894-1894. \$11.00

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A Reprint of one this company's best, early catalogs. Excellent reference, 164 pages. \$10.00

PRACTICAL MILLING

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WATERWHEELS

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WINDMILLS ACTIVITY BOOK

By James Owens, contains 50 pages of pen and ink sketches of windmills from around the world. Each has its own brief story, so the book is informative in addition to being a "coloring book." \$6.99

WINDMILLS AND WIND MOTORS

By F.E. Powell. A reprint of a 1910 classic that describes how to build and run windmills, complete with diagrams. \$6.00

WINDMILLS OF NEW ENGLAND

By Don Lombardo. An oversize book documenting windmills found in New England in both text and photographs. Includes an easy-to-understand explanation of how windmills and wind turbines work, as well as a useful glossary of terms, 260 pages. \$39.95

Update on the Windmills of St. Croix

The Windmills of St. Croix, a project by Bill Cleveland, is continuing to enjoy success with discovering the sugar mills on the island. Three new blogs are posted on their website covering the subject of slavery in milling. Each blog has illustrations and links to other resources for those wanting more information. The group is planning another research trip to St. Croix in February 2026 to visit several sites with colleagues from the International Molinological Society. They will be prioritizing animal-run mills which have been discovered by examining LIDAR images. They also have nine windmills they hope to get access to and to capture images to be shared. Three more newsletters are in the works for 2025 which will cover various aspects of the sugar industry in St. Croix and will include an article quantifying the numbers of windmills actually built. Another worthy project in progress is identifying the location of the thousands of sugar mill photos taken around 1990. Those found will be optimized and added to their respective web pages. Their website traffic has increased by 60 to 70% yearly. We congratulate them in their efforts to preserve these mills! Stcroixwindmills.org

Prater's Mill Fall Festival is On!

The Prater's Mill Country Fair is on! October 11 – 12, 2025. This fair was created by volunteers in 1971 to raise funds to restore the dilapidated 1855 grist mill and surrounding buildings, and has grown into a legendary celebration of Appalachian traditions. This is an invitation-only show for vendors where nearly 200 talented artists and craftsmen must hand-make their items out of only natural materials. The fair boasts the best Southern food this side of Heaven, with most of it prepared by local groups. Prater's Mill Historic Site is now owned by the people of Whitfield County, but continues to be operated and maintained by the Prater's Mill Foundation. As a non-profit volunteer group, the foundation relies heavily on revenue generated from the annual Country Fair. This is their primary fundraising event. All donations and proceeds from the fair go back into site maintenance and day to day operations. The mission of the foundation is to protect, preserve and present the heritage of the Prater's Mill Site for future generations. For more information call 706-694-MILL.

Cattail Mill Renovations Update

Cattail Millhouse is undergoing many modern improvements. Work continues on Cattail Mill located near the intersection of NC 42 and NC 96 outside of Clayton, NC. Norwood Thompson, the owner, is sparing no effort in seeing that this mill will last for generations to come. After two attempts to remove the damaged dam, they determined the 1920s structure control needed to be repaired instead. It was restored by shoring up both sides, pouring new concrete over rebar, and sandblasting and filling every crack and crevice before sealant was applied. A glass floor was installed in the turbine house to allow visitors to see the belt power the mill. Electrically controlled gates will control water flow. An ornamental over shot water wheel was built by the Water Wheel Factory and will be placed on the outside of the millhouse with stainless steel gates. Norwood consulted with the Army Corp of Engineers during every step of reconstruction and used stainless steel bolts and brackets on every square inch. Stay tuned and we will have full story by Rommel Edwards in a future issue of Old Mill News.

The Old Mill at Robert H. Treman State Park Story Continued

Story Continued from Page 18

2023. It is listed on both the New York State and National Registers of Historic Places.

The Old Mill is typically open to visitors daily from mid-May to mid-October. Inside you can explore all four levels of original 19th-century milling equipment, including machinery used in the New Process; equipment used for corn and buckwheat; the elevator that carried grist between the floors; and the great spur wheel on the lower level that carried power to the mill's machines. Nu-

merous interpretive panels—which will be getting a revamp in the coming months—explain the steps of the milling process for those curious to learn more. Also inside are smaller exhibits about archaeology in the park and the Civilian Conservation Corps, who were stationed at the park from 1933 until 1941.

Between the rich history and the many recreation opportunities, Robert H. Treman State Park has something to offer for everyone. We hope you'll plan a visit and see for yourself why this old mill has been a favorite building in New York's history. ♦

SPOOM Regional Chapters

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