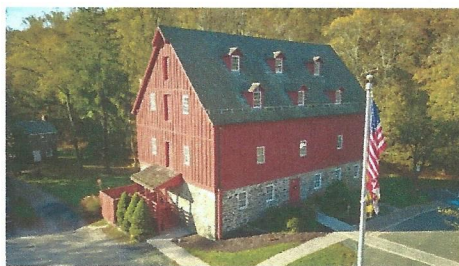

The Gristmill Gazette

Jerusalem Mill Village News & Notes Spring 2018



Upcoming Events

May 26th – Harry Brooks Memorial Jousting Tournament. 11:00 a.m.

June 2nd and 3rd – Gilmor's Raid. Civil War encampment and reenactment.

June 9th – Founder's Day Joust. 11:00 a.m.
- Yard Sale 9:00 – noon.

June 17th – Happy Father's Day from the Friends of Jerusalem Mill!
Sunday – Funday at Jerusalem Mill. Family games. 2 – 5 p.m.
Tracey Eldridge Music in Motion. Concert for children, in the meadow. 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. \$

June 23rd – George Kreutzer Memorial Joust. 11:00 a.m.
- Historic Hosanna School Museum in Darlington Juneteenth Celebration

June 24th – Charlie Zahm Concert in the meadow. 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. \$

July 1st – Renegade Thunder Concert in the meadow. 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. \$

July 4th – Kingsville Parade. See the Jerusalem Mill Float.

July 14th – Jerusalem Mill Jousting Tournament. 11:00 a.m.

Details on all of our events are available on our web page at www.jerusalemmill.org.

In the Spotlight: The General Store



The Jerusalem general store was built in the 1830's by the Lee family, and remained under their supervision until the 1880s. It was a valuable source of a wide variety of goods and materials for the village and surrounding communities. Its location on Jerusalem Road, at the intersection with Jericho Road, allowed it to take advantage of the traffic between Bel Air and Baltimore and was within walking distance of nearby Franklinville. Jerusalem Road was the northern end of the "Baltimore and Jerusalem Turnpike". Most of the former turnpike is the current Route 1.

Perhaps the store's greatest historical significance occurred in July 1864, when the Confederate cavalry, under the command of Major Harry Gilmor, raided the mill and store in Jerusalem. They requisitioned horses from Mr. Lee and took supplies from the general store, including boots, shoes and other apparel. Come to our Gilmor's Raid weekend on June 2nd and 3rd and explore our Civil War living history village.



Gilmor's Raid Reenactment. Photo by Jack Benesch

The store remained in business until 1939 when Samuel O. McCourtney, the store's last owner passed away. He had operated the store for 58 years, which explains why today the store is fondly referred to as "McCourtney's Store". Perhaps one of the more fascinating stories of Samuel McCourtney was his desire to demonstrate his fitness at about age 85, so he began a tradition of celebrating his birthday by walking all the way to Baltimore to visit friends. He did, however, accept a ride back to the village! He was also the Jerusalem Mills Postmaster from 1906 until 1923 when the post office was moved to Franklinville.

After McCourtney's death, the building was divided into apartments. The state park purchased the store from Mary Cadwalader in 1999 and added it to its park holdings, then to the Friends of Jerusalem Mill's lease. We were in luck that McCourtney's granddaughter, Mary Silling, and other relatives, had stories and artifacts from the McCourtney Era at the store. Thus we have dedicated the former dining room of the residence to tell the story of Samuel McCourtney's involvement in the village and share some furniture and other personal items from his stay at the store. We are fortunate to have some ledgers of his products and sales, as well as the names of his customers which help bring to life the happenings of the village in the early 1900's. Photos of family life are included in our collection.

Today the front room (or parlor) of the residence section includes information on the Gilmore Raid as well as other events in Harford County, reflecting the split in sentiment which existed at the time. In this room, the Civil War aficionado can find plenty of information to hold their interest.



The general store in September, 2015

Also in our front room, those interested in vintage sports can find information on 1860's baseball and our home team, The Chesapeake Nine, which plays on the field adjoining the store.

The store itself makes up the largest portion of the building. In 2006 The Friends finished renovating the downstairs apartment into the former store configuration. Relying on historical architect, Jeffrey Lees and the recollections of Mary Silling, the store was returned to a 1930's setting. Thanks to many generous donations the store recaptures an authentic feel, even down to 1930's radio shows and an always ready checker game next to the pot-bellied stove.

The Friends Gift Shop adjoins the general store. Our volunteers man the store and gift shop year-round on Saturdays and Sundays from 1:00 to 4:00 P.M. Some of the most popular items in the gift shop are the birdhouses made with reclaimed wood from the renovated covered bridge, the colonial toy collection, and specialty items made by our own blacksmiths.

The General Store is always looking for more volunteers. If you would like to help one or more days each month in the general store or any of our other buildings, you can contact us via e-mail at jerusalemill@yahoo.com, or by calling us on 410-877-3560.

Spring Dinner Honors the Scovills

On Friday May 4th, the Friends of Jerusalem Mill held its annual Spring Dinner at Mountain Branch.



Spring Dinner (photo by Jack Benesch)

This year the dinner was in honor of Chris and Joan Scovill for their lifetime of service to their country and their community. After honorably serving as commissioned officers in the U.S. Air Force, they settled down in Kingsville in 1988, beginning a long commitment of volunteer work. Chris built our Visitor Center and Museum into the attraction that it is today, bringing in visitors from every state and from 38 countries. Chris has also served as a mentor for the Harford County Public School Transition Program, and for the Valleybrook Day Camp volunteer service program. Joan created a unique colonial toy collection and demonstration that entertains people of all ages (and there's no electronics involved!). She has also fed countless volunteers at a wide variety of village activities, and has designed multiple floats for the Fourth of July parades, earning many awards.

There were a number of presentations after the dinner to honor the Scovills' service:

- State Delegate Kathy Szeliga presented a Governor's Citation
- A County Council certificate presented by Councilman David Marks
- Cheryl King from Valleybrook's "It's All Fun and Games" day camp presented a Certificate of Appreciation.
- Deb Comstock from the Harford County Public Schools Office of Transition presented a photo plaque
- A special thank you from Captain Mike Browning, Gunpowder Falls State Park Manager.
- An honorary bench, with engraved nameplate presented by Harry Sanders, Founder of the Friends of Jerusalem Mill. The bench has been placed in the Visitor Center – Museum.

Thank you Chris and Joan for all you've done for Jerusalem Mill Village, Gunpowder Falls State Park, Valleybrook "campers", Harford County transition students, scouting organizations, and countless others!



Governor's Citation, presented by State Delegate Kathy Szeliga (photo by Jack Benesch)

The Year in Review

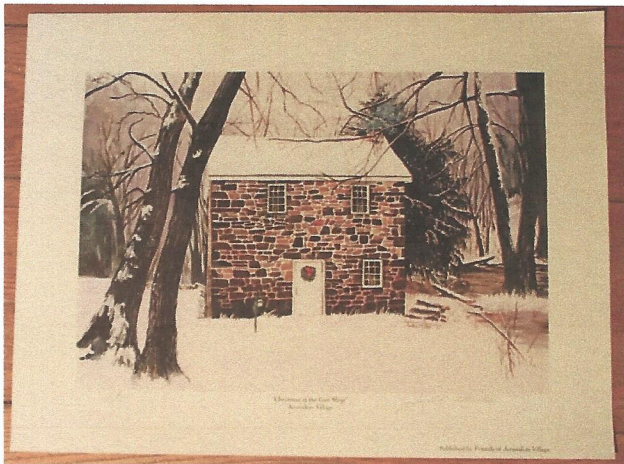
At the Spring Dinner the President of the Board of Directors for the Friends of Jerusalem Mill, Rick Decker, presented his Year in Review to the dinner guests. He gave special thanks to Mike Browning, Manager of the Gunpowder Falls State Park, and his staff, for their continued partnership throughout the year. Rick also highlighted two recent Scout projects: 1) a footbridge on the Little Gunpowder Trail, completed by Marley Downes and her team as part of her Girl Scout Gold Award, and 2) a 200' split rail fence completed by Nicholas Marks and his team as part of the Eagle Scout program. Congratulations to Marley and Nicholas on your accomplishments and thank you for your contributions to Jerusalem Mill Village and the Gunpowder Falls State Park.

Rick also shared the long list of Family Fun Events that occurred throughout the year in 2017, and thanked the audience for their support for a very successful year. He closed his presentation with a reminder of the many opportunities available to interested volunteers, such as weekly grass cutting, the monthly Second Saturday Serve, the many special events conducted throughout the year, and Visitor Center – Museum docent (greeter and tour guide). Without any paid staff, our success is completely dependent on volunteers, memberships, sponsorships, events and donations.

A Great Gift Idea

Here's a great idea for a gift for someone who loves local history. We have limited edition prints called "Christmas at the Gun Shop" in Jerusalem Village, by artist Jackie Miller. The 14 3/8" high x 19" wide print shows the building behind the mill after a December snowfall. The building at various times served as a wood shop producing gun stocks, a cooperage producing barrels, and a house for a succession of families. In fact, one of our docents, David Ewing, lived in that house as a child. Stop in and ask him about it!

Originally valued at \$70.00, you can now get these beautiful prints with a donation of only \$15.00 if you're a member of the Friends of Jerusalem Mill, or \$20.00 for non-members. Matte and frame are not included.



Jerusalem Mill Participates in Park Quest 2018

The Maryland State Parks come together each summer to provide a fun, family-centered activity at a variety of our State Parks to encourage families to get out and have fun together. According to their web site: "The goal of Park Quest is to engage families in outdoor activities throughout the summer, and allow them to experience state parks throughout Maryland. Park Quest allows families to relax, unplug from today's various methods of technology, and experience the beautiful natural and cultural resources that our public lands offer. Park Quest offers 1,000 teams who qualify an opportunity to explore the many hidden treasures found in Maryland's State Parks from June 1, 2018 through December 1, 2018." Registration is required to receive a passport that allows access to areas with an entrance fee, but registration is limited to 1,000 teams and they have already met the quota. However, teams can still participate and can enjoy all of the parks without a fee, or choose to pay the entrance fee for those parks that have one.

Jerusalem Mill Village will have a box hidden at each of 11 key historical sites throughout the village. Participants can use the information hidden in each box to answer the questions on the Quest worksheets. There will be a riddle to help guide you to the location of the next box. The answers to the riddles can be found in the historical brochures located at the information kiosk by the parking lot, as well as inside the Visitor Center – Museum in Lee's Merchant Mill. Get more information at: <http://dnr.maryland.gov/parkquest/pages/home.aspx>

An Invitation to Civil War Reenactors

Do you enjoy going back in time and helping to present part of our nation's history? Do you have Civil War garments, uniforms, or equipment to demonstrate to interested visitors? Come join in the fun on our Civil War weekend in the village. If you would like to participate in our Civil War living history program, and you have your own Civil War era clothing, weapons, camping supplies, cookware, etc., send us an e-mail at jerusalemill@yahoo.com.



To discontinue your free subscription to The Gristmill Gazette, simply reply to this e-mail with "Unsubscribe" in the subject line. To contact the newsletter editor, send an e-mail to jerusalem.mill.curator@gmail.com, or call the Visitor Center – Museum at 410-877-3560.

We are sincerely grateful to our sponsors for their generosity, enthusiasm, and belief in our mission! We encourage all of our visitors to patronize our sponsors' quality services and products. To inquire about sponsoring our many activities and events, [e-mail us at jerusalemill@yahoo.com](mailto:jerusalemill@yahoo.com) !

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