
The Gristmill Gazette

Jerusalem Mill Village News & Notes Winter 2018



(Re)Introducing the Gristmill Gazette!

The Gristmill Gazette was first published by the Friends of Jerusalem Mill at various intervals between 2007 and 2010, in paper format. We thought it would be a good idea to reintroduce it, but this time in electronic format to reach a broader audience for a much lower cost. We'll use this newsletter to keep you informed on the programs available in the village and the progress we continue to make to restore the buildings, explore the past, educate the public, and provide an enjoyable experience for our many visitors. Since we had your e-mail address on file, you're automatically receiving a free subscription. If you no longer wish to receive this free quarterly newsletter, send an e-mail to GristMillGazette@gmail.com with the word "unsubscribe" in the subject line and we'll remove your address from the subscription list. If you know someone who would like to receive a free subscription, have them send an e-mail to GristMillGazette@gmail.com with the word "subscribe" in the subject line.

Upcoming Events

March 24th – Annual Easter Egg Roll & Easter Bunny visit.

May 4th – Annual Spring Dinner, 6 p.m., Mountain Branch Grill and Pub, 1827 Mountain Rd., Joppa, MD. Join us to honor Chris and Joan Scovill. Hear the President's Year in Review. Enjoy the annual auction of handmade blacksmith items, and more. \$\$

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

Tell Amazon to Support Jerusalem Mill!

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support Jerusalem Mill Village every time you shop. Just tell Amazon to donate to The Friends of Jerusalem Mill! When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to Jerusalem Mill. You can use the same account on AmazonSmile that you use on Amazon.

Here's how:

To shop at AmazonSmile, simply go to smile.amazon.com from the web browser on your computer or mobile device. You may also want to add a bookmark to smile.amazon.com to make it even easier to return and continue your shopping at AmazonSmile. On your first visit to AmazonSmile, select "Friends of Jerusalem Mill Inc." as the charitable organization to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. Amazon will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make at smile.amazon.com will result in a donation.

100% of Amazon's donation to Jerusalem Mill will go toward the maintenance, restoration and operation of the village!

Jerusalem Mill on Video

If you haven't seen the video "Grist Mills of Harford County", produced by the Harford Cable Network (HCN) for a series called Harford's Heritage, you might want to check it out. There's a segment at the beginning on Jerusalem Mill. HCN is a public-access channel operated by the County Council of Harford County. You can view the video at:

<https://hcn.viebit.com/player.php?hash=m3KYd3T8ohip>

The Jerusalem Bank Barn

To continue our goal of preserving and sharing our rich history, each issue of The Gristmill Gazette will highlight one of the buildings or special activities within the village. These articles will provide historical perspectives and future plans, so you'll understand our past and anticipate our future. This first (re)issue will present the Jerusalem bank barn, the building that has undergone the most dramatic improvement over the past two years.

A "bank" barn is a structure built into a hill or bank, so that two levels of the barn are accessible from the ground. The Jerusalem Mill bank barn was built into a "gentle grade", facing Jericho Road, and had a compacted earthen ramp sloping up from the road sometime before 1803. The second level, then, could be used to store hay, straw or feed brought in by horse-drawn carriage or later by tractor and wagon. The lower level would be used for livestock. The feed could then be tossed over a ledge to get it from the second level down to the livestock in lower level.

Through the years, Jerusalem Village's barn(s) sustained several disasters. According to a Baltimore newspaper, on Sunday, May 24th, 1863, "the barn of Mr. David Lee, at Jerusalem Mills, Harford county, near the confines of Baltimore county, was struck by lightning and

consumed with its contents, including three mules and two horses." Although the news article didn't specify that it was the stone bank barn, records do not indicate the presence of any other barn on the property in 1863, particularly one large enough to house at least three mules and two horses. Then on Sunday, May 21st, 1876, a severe storm "unroofed" a barn. The final devastating event was not caused by nature, but by arson. Shortly before 1:00 a.m. on Sunday, May 14th, 1961, a fire destroyed the bank barn, leaving only the stone walls and some internal concrete flooring and troughs remaining. At the time of this fire the property and barn belonged to Thomas Cadwalader. During the fire an 18-year-old firefighter, Ronnie Haggerty of Joppa, collapsed and was taken to Harford Memorial Hospital and treated for heat exhaustion. The fire was so big it took firefighters from Joppa, Bowley's Quarters, Cowenton, Kingsville and Long Green fire departments to put it out. Interestingly, all three of the barn disasters occurred on a Sunday in May!

For the next 54 years following the devastating fire, the barn remained in ruins. The following photograph shows what it looked like in December 2009.



The Friends of Jerusalem Mill received a grant from Preservation Maryland and the Maryland Historical Trust and provided matching funds to commission an extensive "Reconstruction Assessment Report" of the bank barn and adjacent pump house. The report was completed in 2009 by architect Jeffrey A. Lees, an architect from Baltimore. According to the Lees report, "At some point probably in the second quarter of the twentieth century, the barn was converted to dairy usage, and concrete

block walls were constructed along the lower west (barnyard) side up to probably the first floor joists/plate.”

The Lees report also points out that “One significant change or modification is the battered (tapered) stone buttress which rises to above the first floor level on the south gable end wall only... The buttress was not part of the original construction, as evidenced by the fact that the stones are not coursed into the wall, but rather there is a continuous vertical mortar joint or seam at the intersection of the buttress and the wall.” Lees attributed this modification to possible outward bowing of the wall due to “wet/spongy soils on this side of the barn”. The buttress still exists today, in its restored state.

In a cooperative effort between the Friends of Jerusalem Mill, the Percy Lee Dairy Farm Foundation, and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, the Lees report has been used to develop a plan to protect, stabilize and preserve the structure, with the ultimate goal of reconstructing the barn for multi-purpose use. In 2015 Old World Stone Masonry, Inc. began major repairs to the stone structure.

Here’s what it looked like in September 2017, looking from the same perspective as the previous photo:

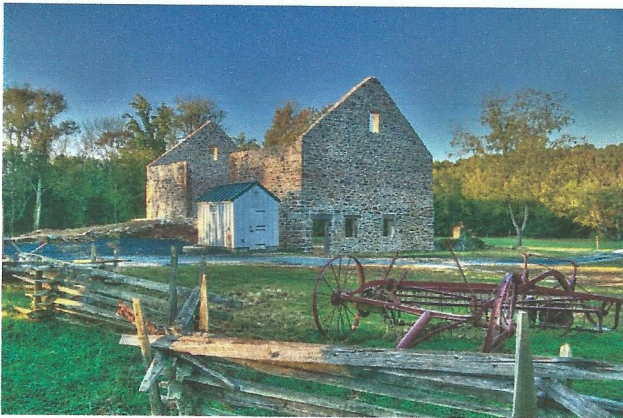


photo by Jack Benesch, FOJM volunteer

Harford County has been an active partner in supporting the reconstruction efforts, providing a \$25,000 grant in 2016 and 2017, which were instrumental in the restoration of the stone walls, the installation of granite lintels in the doors and windows, removal of the deteriorated

concrete floor, and the completion of timber frame drawings and fabrication of a 1” to 1’ model of the proposed reconstruction.

Reconstruction actually began in 2009, with a Conservation Job Corps project that rebuilt the pump house foundation in front of the barn. A 2012 Eagle Scout project added the walls and roof to the pump house, making it complete.

We have requested an additional grant for 2018 to professionally salvage timbers and hardware from an 1820 bank barn in Sykesville for re-purposing in our timber frame structure, restoring the pasteurizing building and lean-to stone walls, and restoration of the two doors and eight windows.

When reconstruction is complete, the bank barn will provide a large public space, protected from the weather, to enhance all aspects of the year-round wellness, recreational, historical and educational programs. We hope to also make it available to rent for receptions, family reunions, organizational gatherings, parties and other private events as a source of income to fund our continued maintenance and restoration of the village.

Here’s a video recently produced for us to promote the completion of the bank barn:

<https://vimeo.com/241209004>

Own a Piece of Local History

We have birdhouses hand-crafted from the wood of the old Jericho Covered Bridge. They’re available in natural or painted finish. Singles are \$75.00, cash or check (doubles will be available soon for \$110.00), and come with a Certificate of Authenticity. Please come see them in our Gift Shop (McCourtney’s Store). If you want more information, contact Carol at 410-322-0226.

More Opportunities to Visit!

The Visitor Center & Museum has new hours:
Sunday – 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Monday – 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Friday – 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Saturday – 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Come hear about the history of the village. View the artifacts on display. Learn how a grist mill operated. Find out what part the village played in the Revolutionary War and the Civil War. Hear about the many activities available throughout the year, like outdoor concerts, jousting, vintage baseball, living history, and more. Ask us about the many trails in the area, geocaching in the park, and yes, “Where’s the falls?”!

A Great Gift Idea

Here’s a great idea for a gift for someone who loves local history. We have limited edition prints of Jerusalem Mill circa 1910, by artist John Stevens. The 16 ½” x 32” print shows the former Jerusalem Covered Bridge, the grist mill and the blacksmith shop in the foreground, and a portion of the Lee Mansion in the background. Originally valued at \$75.00, you can now get these beautiful prints with a donation of only \$20.00 if you’re a member of the Friends of Jerusalem Mill, or \$30.00 for non-members. Matte and frame are not included.



What’s New in the Visitor Center and Museum?

We have recently added a temporary exhibit of native Maryland shore birds, hand-carved by local residents Walter and Ruth Betz. The exhibit includes a Killdeer, Brown Pelicans, a Great Blue Heron, an American Oyster Catcher, and a pair of Night Herons.

In our continuing efforts to modernize the Visitor Center – Museum to enhance our visitors’ experience, we’ve added a new display base for the covered bridge model. Crafted by volunteer Merlin Erickson, the display base is made from actual planks reclaimed from the old covered bridge. We’ll soon be adding a few samples of the massive hardware removed from the old bridge.

Brian Payne, our model builder, has made repairs to the mill model and we now have “working” water wheels again. He’ll soon be working on other enhancements to complete the model.

A Tribute to 2017

Thanks to so many of you, we had a very successful 2017. Our living history program, education days, sporting events, concerts, special holiday events, Second Saturday Serve, and many other activities continue to attract people from all over the country and around the world. To help us celebrate 2017, Jack Benesch, one of our volunteer photographers, has put together a slide show of some of the highlights. We hope you enjoy it:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OLtSnVwLcFQ&feature=youtu.be>

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.