

SCRIBNER'S MILL PRESERVATION, INC.

NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 323 Harrison, ME 04040

Spring



2020

We regret to announce that the Back to the Past Celebration

“A Tribute to Maine’s 200th Anniversary”

has been cancelled. Please join us on August 14, 2021.

Officers

Peter Hammond, President
Roy Clark, Vice President
Torry Eaton, Secretary
Penney Bean, Corresponding Secretary
Marilyn Hatch, Treasurer,
Newsletter Editor

Directors

Barry Sturdivant
Tim Pike
Martha Denison
Cheryl Callahan
Matthew Charlebois

Membership Chairperson

Stuart Reynolds
415 Rodge Rd.
Bowdoinham, ME 04008

Mission Statement

The Barrows/Scribner's Mill will be an accurately reconstructed early saw mill museum used for educational purposes to teach the life and times of a family operated lumbering business.

Website: scribnersmill.org

It is with a heartfelt *thanks* to our membership for your financial support. Your generosity has made a difference in what we can accomplish this year.

Getting the south sill replacement in out of the weather.

Director Barry Sturdivant cut a replacement timber for the south sill and delivered it last fall. So it was important to put it undercover until we are ready to put it in place. The Mill's brow was the perfect place to store it. Moving day was May 30. Mathew and Barry started early and were finished by noon.



Timber In place on the brow.

Scribner's Mill to open this season on July 4

The Covid19 has made a big change in all of our lives and one is the constant reminders to wear a mask and safe distance yourself at least 6' apart. Scribner's Mill Preservation has taken this to heart and put together a plan that was sent to Maine.gov for approval. We were pleased when our plan was approved, and that we could go forward to open in July. So this is the plan, those who come to the mill will be greeted by a friendly person with a mask. The mill, the shingle mill, the blacksmith shop and the barn and ice house will be available to tour. The Homestead will not be open at this time.

There will be a person in charge of directing those who visit the mill as to where to start their tour to prevent groups from congregating together. All visitors and staff are asked to wear a mask and to be mindful of standing at a safe distance for everyone's protection. There will be hand sanitizer available.

The summer's schedule is July 4 & 18, August 1 & 15, & September 7 (Labor Day).

Storage/Exhibit Shed Update

All of a sudden we had a light bulb moment and instead of calling the shed that is to be built one for storage, we realized that it should really be an exhibit shed where the very interesting pieces of equipment we have been gifted will be on display. Within time it will be good to have the equipment operational.

As of this June 3rd, we were finally given approval to construct this structure and have been issued our building permit. It will be a three bay building with the third bay being an open oxen shoeing exhibit area. It has taken over a year to obtain this final permit due to Harrison's shoreland regulations. The ordinance requires that we retain 20 % of the property vegetated. When the property was surveyed, it showed that we lacked 10 of the required 20 %.

Dale and Jesse Scribner to the rescue! Just south of the blacksmith shop is a low lying wet area that they offered to deed to us as a gift. With this block of land, it gave us 19.9 % of what was required. In addition, there are two areas that we plan to re-vegetate due to sand infiltration. This will more that meet the Town's requirement. The next task is to lay out the building's footprint and bring the blocks of granite, that have been in storage, to the mill site to be used for footings.

This fall several grants will be submitted to request the

funds needed to construct the building. Hopefully we will have a framing workshop to help defray the cost.

Once the framing is ready, we will have a shed raising.

It has been a long process to get to this point, but we are hopeful that our efforts will be well received as we add another educational experience at the mill. We wholeheartedly thank the generosity of our neighbors.

Message from the President

Have you, as a member of Scribner's Mill Preservation, visited the mill in the last twelve months? If not, why not make plans to stop by and see how things have progressed since your last visit.

Starting July 4th the Mill will be open the first and third Saturday of the month from 1 to 4PM. The usual "social distancing" practices suggested by the State of Maine will be in place for everyone's protection.

A Scribner's Mill membership might make a well appreciated gift for that hard-to-shop-for relative or friend. While we are on the subject of membership, the Annual Meeting of the organization will be held on the third Wednesday of August starting with dinner at 5PM, followed by the business meeting with reports and election of officers and directors. Maybe you or someone you know would be willing to serve as a director and help to preserve this valuable piece of Maine History. For more information please contact me at toryburn@juno.com.

Due to health considerations most activities in celebration of Maine's 200th Anniversary have been postponed until 2021. Likewise, our plans for a Back to the Past event have been moved to 2021; more details will be forthcoming in a later newsletter. Let us know if you or you and family members would be able to participate in this enjoyable event. There are always lots of things to do before, during and after the event. Perhaps you (or someone you know) have an antique vehicle, engine, skill, collection, etc. that visitors to the Mill would enjoy seeing and talking about.

As we begin to get out and move around again remember to take into consideration the health of yourself and those with whom you come in contact. Be safe and well. I hope to see you at the Mill.

New Exhibits at the Mill and Homestead

In the Blacksmith Shop there is now one of two exhibits showing our outstanding collection of axes received from the Estate of Bourdon P. Scribner. George Ratterman, a summer resident, volunteered to help put the first portion of the exhibit together last summer. We are looking forward to his return this summer to help with the second part.

Cont. on Pg. 3.

This Day In Maine

Twenty six years after Maine finally achieved statehood, 35 year old entrepreneur Worthy Barrows, a mill wright from Bolsters Mills, had a dream of building a saw mill on the Crooked River at Carsley's Rips in Harrison. The Crooked River flowed directly into the Sebago Lake where there was a potential market for the booming building trade around Westbrook. Harrison was also the terminus for the Cumberland - Oxford canal system taking products to Portland and unlimited markets beyond.

Worthy's dream was realized "On October 15, 1847, (when) the Saw Mill commenced its specific operations by sawing a yellow birch for Headstock." By 1850 Worthy had become discouraged because the competition down stream was more than expected. In January 1851, Worthy sold the mill to his sawyer, Elijah Scribner and his son Cyrus. The mill was operated by three generations of the Scribner family and closed 1962 when Jesse Scribner retired after 78 years of ownership.

Happy Birthday Maine

Scribner's Mill Preservation will be joining the many other organizations who will be celebrating Maine's 200th + 1 year anniversary events. Hopefully!



Winter Scene at Scribner's Mill ca. 1890

Penney Scribner Bean appointed as Corresponding Secretary

I grew up in Scribner's Mills, the youngest daughter of Daniel and Roberta Scribner. I could not wait to "get the heck out of this small town and move to a city." After living in South Portland area where I spent 15 years in the baking industry I moved back to Scribner's Mills in 1995 realizing city life wasn't all it was cracked up to be.

I left the banking world in 2002 to enter the world of municipal government starting in the Harrison Town Office, then on to the City of Westbrook and now at the Town of Casco.

We have enjoyed working together at the T-shirt booth at our past Back to the Past Celebrations.

Scribner's Mill is a piece of my family's heritage and I am getting to the age that I am realizing how important it is to be involved in its preservation. What I hope I can bring to the board are connections- having worked in the area for so long I have met and know many people that will join me in supporting the ongoing restoration of the mill.

Exhibits cont.

After John Hatch's death, there came the question as to what to do with his large collection of antique tools. He always stored his tools in the Homestead pantry, so it was decided to restore the pantry and create a display of his tools.



John's collection was so extensive that his antique Coopering tools are now on exhibit in the mill behind the Cooper's bench. When you read about the tool you will learn what a precise skill was needed to produce a barrel. We now have machines that

produce the exact size and shape of each piece of the barrel. Before, it was all done by hand using these interesting tools.

There is still no room to display his timber framing tools at this time. We will be looking for an opportunity to display them, maybe in the Timber Framed shed that is to be built in 2020/2021.

Scribner's Mill 1847 - 1962

Go online to order your Scribner's Mill book at scribner-smill.org, scroll down the home page and click on **Order Now** to place your order. Once the order is placed the book will usually be delivered within a week to 10 days. Read and enjoy.

No internet, no problem, send a note to Marilyn Hatch with a check to PO Box 323, Harrison, 04040. Soft cover \$35, hard cover \$50 (add \$3 for postage).



Membership Renewal/Gift Form

Send checks made payable to Scribner's Mill Preservation, to:
Stuart Reynolds, 415 Rodge Rd., Bowdoinham, ME 04008

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Select membership level of support:

___ Student \$5

___ Individual \$15

___ Family \$30

___ Sustaining \$25

___ Corporate/Patron \$50

___ Benefactor \$100

___ Life \$500

___ Jessie P. Scribner Club \$1000 (Name placed on a plaque located at the Mill plus a life membership awarded.)

___ I would like to give a special donation for the exhibit shed project.

Your continued support is appreciated.

Contributions are tax deductible within legal limits for income tax purposes.