

MILL MUSINGS

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DR. EDWARD E. CAHILL

January 3, 1931- March 23, 2019

We mourn the passing of Janie's father, Edward Cahill. Ed was a long time supporter and benefactor of the museum and helped with the initial purchase of Falls Mill in 1984. Ed was a former department head of Sociology and Anthropology at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga (UTC). He had also taught at the University of Georgia, Villanova University, and The University of Pennsylvania. He is survived by his wife Dr. Patricia Bytner Cahill of Chattanooga, and children Christina Teague, Janie Lovett, Helen Cahill, Marie Ross, Cathleen Cahill, and Gina Perfetti Moore and Leonard Perfetti, six grandchildren and one great grandchild. Ed was especially fond of attending the picnics and hearing the musicians at Falls Mill. Leilani Hammock was a particular favorite and he loved singing along with the old standards. He will be greatly missed at these gatherings and by all his family and friends.



Ed Cahill on his 88th birthday

IN MEMORIAM

It is with profound sadness that we report the passing of our members and museum supporters. In May we lost Mrs. Bettye Zimmerman. Bettye and her husband of 73 years, Walter Zimmerman, have been friends and supporters of the mill since we purchased it in 1984. Marian Moore, one of John's childhood friends from his hometown of Crossett, Arkansas, also recently passed away. John attended Marian's memorial service in Crossett and saw many of her family and friends that he hadn't seen in about 20 years. Jean Thomas, a lovely and talented lady from Chattanooga, and long time friend, also died recently. Janie and Jean's daughter Sally were in anthropology together at UTC. Jean was an exceptional musician, and worked with the music programs in the elementary schools throughout the state of Tennessee.

MEMBERSHIP PICNIC SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14th

Mark your calendar and make plans to attend our fall museum membership picnic on Saturday, September 14th from 4:30 -6:30. Guitarist **Shane Adkins** from Hazel Green, AL will be entertaining for the event. Bring your favorite covered dish or dessert and we will supply the barbecued pork and chicken and beverages. R.S.V.P by September 7th by phone at (931) 469-7161 or send us an email at admin@fallsmill.com

Shane Adkins is a singer, songwriter, and guitarist who is devoted to preserving traditional thumb and finger style guitar. His musical approach reflects his admiration for legendary musicians such as Chet Atkins and Doc Watson, yet he enjoys creating his own sound through original music and popular favorites.



2005 International Finger Style Guitar Champion
2003 International Thumb Picking Guitar Champion
Performer for the Chet Atkins Appreciation Society
Opening act for Lee Greenwood & Loretta Lynn

NEW LOOK FOR FALLS MILL PACKAGING

El Dorado Paper Bag Company has been manufacturing the packaging for our milled products for many years. The traditional pasted open mouth design was used by small mills who still filled the bags by hand. The company is no longer producing this style of bag, in fact no other manufacturer in the United States still offers this type bag. John printed the labels and recipes on the bags using our Chandler and Price printing press. Our new bags will still be printed here at the mill but are a bakery style with a fold down wire tab. The new bags are printed with red ink and are poly-lined. This will help keep the products fresher when stored in the refrigerator or freezer. Since the space on the bag is limited, we will be posting our recipes online at the fallsmill.com web site beginning in August. Logan Turnpike Mill is producing the stone ground grits and corn meal for our use.

WELCOME RACHEL HAMMER

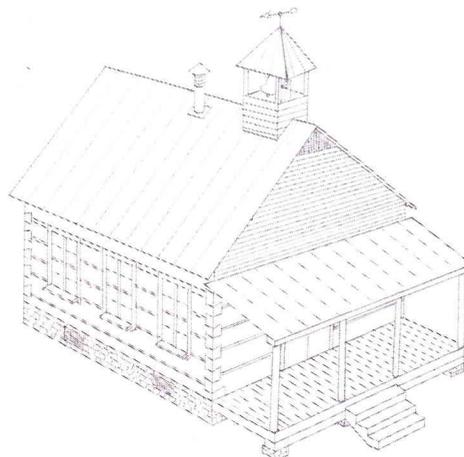
Rachel Hammer has been helping us at the mill this summer. She has a family legacy at Falls Mill. Her maternal grandfather, Tom Cowan, was one of the founders of the Tennessee Valley Woodworking Club and a long time volunteer at Falls Mill. Tom built the cabinets, doors, and windows for our bed and breakfast log cabin as well as many display items including Janie's spinning wheel. Tom's daughters Jonanne Hammer (Rachel's mom) and Emily Ezelle both worked at the mill during their high school and college years. Rachel has been helping part time with grounds keeping and greeting visitors. She spent her junior year in Japan as an exchange student with Rotary International. She is also learning the skills required to warp looms. She will be entering the University of Alabama in Huntsville in the fall.

PROGRESS ON EARLY CLOTH SHEARING MACHINE

John drove to Spruce Pine, North Carolina, to meet with Peggy Hart on June 23. It was discovered last year that Peggy owns an early cloth shearing machine similar to the one donated to our museum by the former American Textile History Museum (ATHM). Our cloth shear is thought to have been manufactured in Hoosick Falls, New York, by the Seth Parsons Company about 1825, making it perhaps the oldest extant cloth shearing machine in the country. None others close to its vintage have been located, until Peggy's machine turned up. Peggy is a fiber arts expert and was in Spruce Pine to teach a weaving class at the Penland School of Crafts. She has a weaving business in Shelburne Falls, Massachusetts. Her machine, like ours, has several missing parts, but she was kind enough to bring it with her and loan it to us so that we could compare the two and try to fabricate the pieces that are missing. This machine has been a puzzle from the start. Two patents were obtained by Parsons for the machine. The first, in 1819, was lost in the U.S. Patent Office fire of 1836, but the drawings still exist. The later 1838 patent is extant. Our machine and Peggy's appear to have been manufactured sometime between the two patents. Ours is more similar to the earlier patent drawings. The purpose of the machine was to pass a length of woven cloth through napping brushes, thereby lifting the nap, and then through a shearing cylinder where the nap was cut at the same height. The shearing cylinder worked just like an old push rotary mower. The shearing apparatus is missing on each machine, and is the most difficult part to replicate. Although the machines are primarily made from wood, there were cast iron gears on one end of each machine. Ours has a gear that was missing on Peggy's, and hers has a gear missing on ours. John had to make a wooden foundry pattern for another missing gear, and then send all the gears to the Cattail Foundry in Pennsylvania for duplication. Upon return, he hopes to get a better clue as to how the various cylinders on the machine were powered.

ACQUISITIONS FOR THE LOG SCHOOLHOUSE

We continue to collect school related artifacts for use in the future log one-room schoolhouse planned for the museum. These include about 28 school desks, ranging in age from the 1880's through the 1930's. John has been scouting for the older and more ornate desks, which are more representative of the 1890's period chosen for interpretation. If anyone knows of a desk similar to the one pictured, we would be most grateful to find if it is for sale. We also have found enough inkwells for all the desks, and a teacher's hand bell. John was able to find some 1890's maps of the world and North America. He even found a very early pencil sharpener! We continue to look for school slates and lunch pails (usually called berry buckets at antique stores). We have been able to find the entire McGuffey Reader series from 1879, as well as nineteenth century geography, arithmetic, and history books. We have a large pot bellied stove donated many years ago by Ralph Hall and restored here. John has just completed restoration of a rare wooden bucket pump used to draw well water by cranking a chain of buckets, and it is planned to incorporate this on the front porch of the schoolhouse as a working exhibit. We also have a school bell waiting to go into the belfry. John has made several decorative hooks in the blacksmith shop for use as coat hangers, and plans to make an authentic blackboard of the nineteenth century. We are still awaiting a quote for the foundation of the schoolhouse. A drawing of the schoolhouse is shown below.



MERMAIDS SPOTTED AT FALLS MILL

On a not so warm day in April, a young woman and her photographer and entourage arrived at the mill for photographs. This was not in itself very unusual, except for the fact that the woman was a mermaid. Well, not a real mermaid that lured sailors to their doom, but a member of a national mermaid association. In fact, we found out later she had been voted Miss Tennessee Mermaid. She was Megan Jones of Clarksville,



Tennessee, and produced from her car a large neoprene tail that she put on for her poses below the mill. By the time she left the water, she was turning blue, so her next trip was in warmer weather. This time she brought two mermaid friends along. Robyn Glazner, who was helping at the mill both times the mermaids showed up, was fascinated with the spectacle. The second visit was concluded by Megan giving us a photo of herself in full mermaid regalia taken below the water wheel.

GIFTS, GRANTS, and DONATIONS

For the twentieth year, the Camp-Younts Foundation of Raleigh, North Carolina, provided a \$2,000 grant to the museum, which we used to help with the replacement of the water wheel gears. Our longtime friend Laurie Atkinson of Huntsville has been instrumental in securing these grants, along with his nephew and foundation board member Hal Atkinson. We were thrilled when Laurie (age 91) was able to visit the mill after a long absence. In addition to the Camp-Younts grant, we would like to acknowledge the following donors who made gifts this year of \$500 or more: Gregory and Stacy Mullins of Franklin, NC; Frank and Beth Fogle of Huntsville; Dawna Zullo of Carmel, CA; Frank and Ann Cahill of Anchorage, AK; Jenny Glazner of New Market, AL. We are truly grateful for these and all other donations. These are so important in continuing our goals of restoration, exhibit development, and interpretation. In addition to monetary donations, Christine Hopkins and Pat Mahoney each donated an antique school desk, and Gail and Sherman Banks donated a Goodwin coverlet. Thanks also to Charles & Doris Lewis who donated a New England Organ Co. pump parlor organ for use in the schoolhouse.

Check your museum membership card, and if it is time to renew, please join us at the Museum of Power and Industry, Inc., at Falls Mill for another year! Your membership fee and any donation you care to make are so important to us in continuing the work we have undertaken these last 35 years. Thank you for your contribution.

Check the contact/calendar page of the website fallsmill.com for special events.

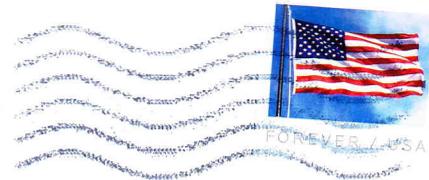
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Museum of Power and Industry, Inc.
134 Falls Mill Rd.
Belvidere, TN 37306

CHATTANOOGA
TN 37411
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Tennessee Valley Woodworking
Paul Jalbert
282 Shasteen Hollow Rd.
Lynchburg, TN 37352