

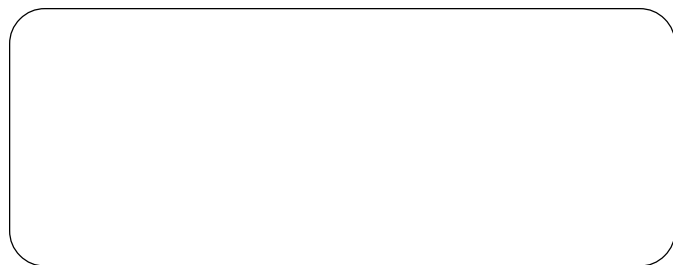


Photo: Archives of Friends of Peirce Mill.

**O**n a sunny day in June 1940, some families are visiting the mill. The north and west walls are covered with ivy. You can see the breast wheel and parts of the headrace. In this period the mill ground useful quantities of corn meal and flour and supplied them to government cafeterias. ☒



4305 38th Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20016



# Milling About

News from the Friends of Peirce Mill Spring 2001



## We get some publicity!

**T**he *Washington Post* gave us some very nice publicity on February 8. I hope you all saw the cover story in the District Extra on that day, complete with photographs and a well-written story by *Post* reporter Karlyn Barker. We have copies of the text (with one photo only), so let Richard know if you want a copy (202-244-2379). An abbreviated version appeared in one of the Virginia Extra editions, but regretfully not in the Montgomery County edition. Of course, the object was not to get Richard's picture in the paper, but to make more people aware of what our project is all about and attract new members. It seemed to have the desired effect—we had eight phone calls and six e-mails as a result of the article, and our web site registered 51 hits on the day the article came out. Several callers joined FOPM and others made contributions. We also got some fresh ideas: one of the callers (and new member), **Kate Maynor**, came up with an idea for a Community Day at the mill in May and offered to help get the word out (see below). Another positive outcome from the article was a \$1000 grant from ANC3F, the Advisory Neighborhood Council for the area which includes Peirce Mill.

## More funds for the National Park Service?

Our hopes for sharing the cost of the restoration of Peirce Mill with the National Park Service were raised by recent news that President Bush was requesting \$4.9 billion over the next five years to restore what Bush described as “the nation’s crumbling national park system.” What this means to Peirce Mill is not yet clear, but we are monitoring the situation with Rock Creek Park officials in hopes of getting some funds for our project in future NPS budgets.

## Community Day at Peirce Mill

Following up on Kate Maynor’s suggestion, we are planning a “Community Day” at the mill on Saturday, May 5. We are focusing on people living in the neighborhood, especially apartment houses along



Close up showing rot in a beam and column at the Mill.

Connecticut Avenue, but all members are welcome—indeed encouraged!—to attend. The program runs from noon to 4:00 PM and will include programs for children, mill tours, films, a progress report on on-going work on the floors of the mill, a talk on the planned fish passage around the nearby dam on Rock Creek, and musical entertainment. Come, bring the children, and learn about the work your organization is sponsoring at the mill. Here is the full schedule:

- 12:00–12:15 Welcome/Progress report on work at the mill. (Richard Abbott, Laura Illige)
- 1:00–2:00 Special kids program. (Park Ranger Aly Baltrus)
- 1:30–2:15 Mill tour (Park Ranger Russell Lahti, with FOPM volunteers)
- 2:00–3:30 Musical entertainment
- 2:30–3:30 Talk of fish passage project -outside by the dam. (Laura Illige)
- 3:00–3:45 Mill tour

Films will be offered throughout the day upon request.

## Lifting the upper floors of the mill

After lengthy preparations to be sure no damage was done to the mill—or the workers—**Steve Ortado** finally was able to turn the crank and begin the lift of

*Continues on page 2*



Adjustments being made to the lift assembly prior to lifting the upper floors.

the upper floors of the mill. The jack rests on timbers in the basement and lifts a steel and timber assembly which reaches up to the main beam supporting the second floor, attic and roof, a weight of about 17 tons. The great event took place in March, and while it was pretty modest as lifts go—about 1/8 inch—it was enough to expose the rotted area in the main basement beam and the bottom of the column which rest on it. Procedures are now being developed by Steve and **Kirk Mettam** (our structural engineer) to stabilize the situation, probably with the use of epoxy, and at the same time find a way to deal with a sizable crack which runs most of the length of the beam. The two accompanying photographs give an idea of how the whole lift assembly looks. You'll find additional photos on our web site, and they will be added to as the work proceeds.

### Are you on e-mail?

The number of people with e-mail these days is really amazing! Of our 95 members, 70 have e-mail now, a big jump over last year. This makes communication with members much easier. Although we're relying mainly on this newsletter to communicate with members, there are times when an e-mail is useful. Last week Richard sent an e-mail to

the entire list about an event at the Cleveland Park Library on April 21 (an illustrated lecture on the history of Peirce Mill) which would be just a bit too early to inform members through the newsletter. Hence the e-mail notification. If you did *not* receive that e-mail, then we don't have you on the list. In that case, please inform **Sheila Ploger** at ploger@us.net.

### New round of fund-raising begins

Fund raising by the Friends is being carried out on two fronts. **Mrs. Randall H. Hagner, Jr.**, assisted by **Mrs. I. Townsend Burden**, continue to develop new sources of funds through direct contact with donors. Meanwhile, a Friends committee (David Lyman, Lisa Siegrist, Barry Nestor and Steve Dryden) are generating grant applications to foundations which supported us last year, and making calls to foundations and corporations listed in directories to identify new sources and their requirements.

The list of grants and donations received thus far appears below. This is an update of the list published in the Spring 2000 edition of *Milling About* and will be a regular feature of the Spring issue from now on.

### Grants and Donations Received by FOPM

May 1997 through January 2001

#### Foundation, Corporate and Association Grants and Pledges

Marjorie Merriweather Post Foundation <i>May 1997</i>	\$ 3,000
Riggs Bank <i>October 1997</i>	\$100
James Ford Bell Foundation <i>March 1998</i>	\$30,000
D.C. Historical Society <i>October 1998</i>	\$150
National Parks & Conservation Association (Georgia Pacific Corp.) <i>July 1999</i>	\$48,800
Chevy Chase Bank <i>September 1999</i>	\$5,000
PEPCO <i>October 1999</i>	\$5,000
Association of the Oldest Inhabitants of Washington, D.C. <i>October 1999</i>	\$3,000
Helen Parker Willard Foundation <i>December 1999</i>	\$5,000
The Kiplinger Foundation (Pledge) <i>January 2000</i>	\$50,000
Dahlgren and Close Attorneys-at-Law <i>January 2000</i>	\$2,000
Philip L. Graham Foundation <i>May 2000</i>	\$20,000
Marjorie Merriweather Post Foundation <i>July 2000</i>	\$10,000
Fannie Mae Foundation <i>September 2000</i>	\$1,000
Helen Clay Frick Foundation <i>October 2000</i>	\$5,000
Marpat Foundation <i>December 2000</i>	\$12,500
Clark Winchcole Foundation <i>December 2000</i>	\$10,000
Helen Parker Willard Foundation <i>December 2000</i>	\$5,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$215,550</b>

#### Special Grants

The National Park Service (for architect and engineering studies) <i>Oct 1998/Jan 2000</i>	\$21,000
The National Trust for Historic Preservation (for services of fund raising consultant) <i>November 1998</i>	\$5,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$26,000</b>

#### Individual Donations

Mr. Joe L. Allbritton	\$5,000
Mrs. Randall H. Hagner, Jr.	\$4,300
Mrs. Florence Keys Willard	\$4,000
Mr. and Mrs. Adam Sieminski	\$1,000

Mrs. F. Moran McConihe	\$1,000
Mr. E.M. Dodge	\$500
Mr. Philip Gaudette	\$500
Mr. Robert Reynolds	\$120
Mr. A. Steward Booher	\$150
Mr. and Mrs. James Wright	\$100
Mr. John Sargent	\$100
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Wieczorowski	\$100
Mrs. Marie Keats (in memory of Margo Hills Tyler)	\$100
Other Individual Donations	\$687
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$12,657</b>

#### Grand Total of Cash Grants \$259,207

In addition, in-kind grants valued at a total of \$4,500 were received from Mrs. Randall H. Hagner, Jr. (printing costs), Mrs. Barbara Gaillard McNear (sketch of the mill), the National Institutes of Health (white oak tree), Mr. Robert E. Day (materials for special events), and Mr. Daniel Goggin (web site costs).

### FOPM Board Members, Officers and Key Individuals

President:	Richard Abbott
Vice President:	Steve Dryden
Secretary/Treasurer:	Sheila Ploger
Business Manager:	David Lyman
Archivist:	Philip Gaudette
Legal and Tax Affairs:	Gene Hines
Chair, Proctors Committee:	Mrs. Randall H. Hagner, Jr.
Assistant Chair, Proctors Committee:	Mrs. I. Townsend Burden
Special Events Coordinator:	Robert Day



Steel and timber shoring in place around the column.