



## The York County Mill Research Consortium

Adam Bentz - York County  
History Center

Rick Resh - Heritage Committee  
of West Manheim

Tom Yingling - Codorus Valley  
Area Historical Society

**Welcome everyone.**

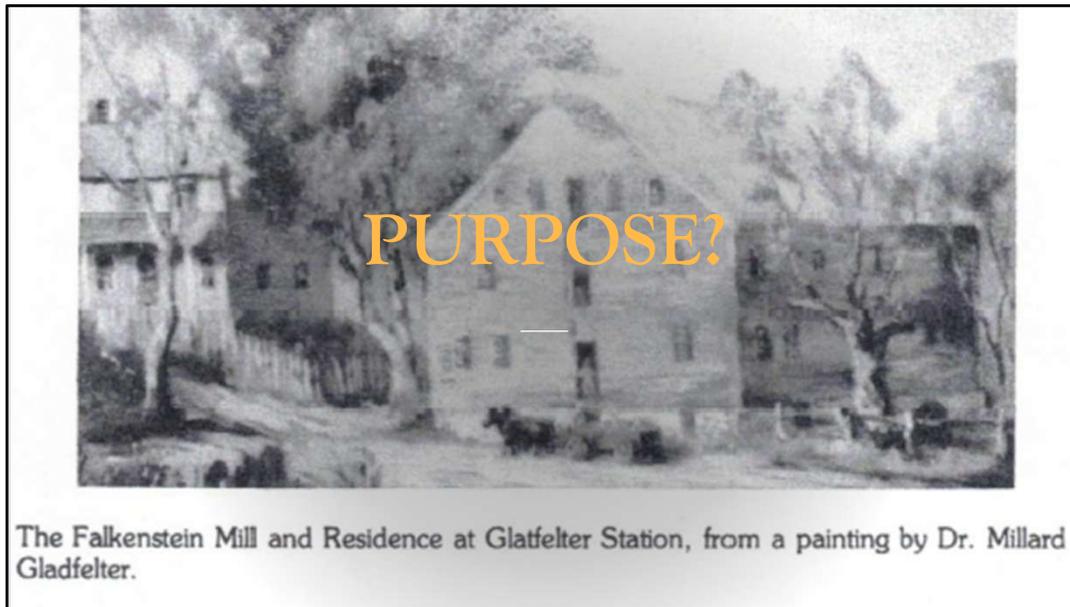
**Introduce:**

**Tom Yingling – Codorus Valley Area Historical Society - co-leader**

**Rick Resh – Heritage Committee of West Manheim Twp. & CVAHS  
- co-leader**

**Adam Bentz – York County History Center advisor**

**Have everyone introduce themselves and organization they may  
represent.**



Our purpose will be to review and update the list created by Grant Voaden from the 1940's through the 1970's. Grant Voaden was an engineer for S. Morgan Smith Co. & Allis Chalmers. You will hear more about him in a moment. One of his hobbies of collecting the history and photographing the many water powered mills of York County. Over 270 mills are in this list, yet there are mills and details to mills missing. Along with wrong information that we would like to research and add to the list. I say this not to discredit his work. It was a monumental job and he produced an incredible an incredible amount of data. There are going to be mistakes with something this big. I am sure some of his sources had wrong information that was passed along. Anybody that has done historic research can vogue for that. Plus, synchronize some other lists and others research, that we will talk about later. By working with the York County History Center and their expertise in archiving this will help make this effort more public and organized. Our goal is not to create a book, Rather it is to improve the tools Grant has provided us so future researchers can more quickly and accurately find the information they need before this information is lost also to stop parroting wrong information that happens too frequently within the history world. Our goal is to try to have the smaller historical society's have good information on the mills that were in their area, in their libraries. Adding greater value to your local organization as well as the county.



## Grant Harvey Voaden

1902 to 1994

Hydraulics Engineer for  
S. Morgan Smith Co.  
and it's successor  
Allis Chalmers, Inc.



Grant Harvey Voaden was born in Ontario, Canada in 1902. After receiving his Bachelor's degree in engineering from the University of Toronto he moved to York County, PA in the 1920's to begin work at S. Morgan Smith Co.

S. Morgan Smith built water turbines primarily for the Hydroelectric industry by this time period. S. Morgan Smith Co. started off making water turbines for the milling industry in 1876. Water turbines were in use as early as the 1820's / 30's.

It was in York he met his wife Blanche K. Weaver, A local York Countian. They had one son. He was a member of the York Camera Club. Grant combined his interest in photography and the history of the turbine industry that employed him together to begin a new hobby. From the 1940's through the 1970's he began to collect photos and information on the old water powered mills throughout York and Adams County. He was able to talk to some of the last mill owner operator's to gather information. Gathering important information. His desire was to someday publish a book. Unfortunately that never happened.

In 1981 this collection was donated by him to the York County History Center.

The screenshot shows the York County History Center website interface. At the top left is the logo, which consists of a red square with a white stylized 'Y' shape inside, followed by the text 'YORK COUNTY HISTORY CENTER' in blue and red. Below the logo is a navigation menu with red buttons for 'HOME', 'KEYWORD SEARCH', 'ADVANCED SEARCH', 'RANDOM IMAGES', 'ARCHIVES', and 'PHOTOS'. The 'KEYWORD SEARCH' section is active, showing a search bar with the text 'Voaden' and a blue 'SEARCH' button. Below the search bar, there is a checkbox for 'Items with Images Only' and a 'Search Hints' section. The 'Keyword Search Results' section displays '166 results found.' and a list of four mill entries, each with a small thumbnail image, a title, and a location. The entries are: 1. 'Grant M. Voaden Mills - Acomac Mill' (Record Type: Photo); 2. 'Grant M. Voaden Mills - Adam Warner's / Dubs Grist and Saw Mill' (Long Run, Manheim Twp., Record Type: Photo); 3. 'Grant M. Voaden Mills - Amos Jacob's Factory Mill' (Beaver Creek, Paradise Twp., Record Type: Photo); 4. 'Grant M. Voaden Mills - Bacon / Gray Rock Mill' (Gray Rock Mill, East Hopewell Twp., Record Type: Photo).

## York County History Center online database

If you haven't already searched the York County History Center's website. Please do so. Under their research section you can view the Grant Voaden Mill Collection. They have 166 mills listed out of the 270 mills he gathered information on. This online list falls short of the total number of mills in Voaden's inventory.



## Mill Detail page view

Here is a sample page on the Accomac Mill. It has a more modern black and white photo and hand drawn sketch along with the name of the mill. As you can see very minimal information. I'm sure much of that is due to limitations in the software. You won't use this for a deep dive on information. However, you can use this to aide your search by being able to give the librarians the CATALOG NUMBER ahead of time to provide you with the information they have in their files on the mills you are interested in. For the most efficient use of your time and theirs, please contact by calling or email prior to your visit. That way they can have this information ready for you.

We will talk later about rules for taking photos, acquiring photo copies of photos and documents.



INDEX OF OLD MILLS IN YORK COUNTY PA.

NAME OF MILL (Presently most common) KRAFT  
(Also known as)

NAME OF STREAM WEST BR BRIDGE WHICH FLOWS INTO CODRUS CR.

PRESENT OWNER OF THE MILL OR PROPERTY GEORGE W. KRAFT ?

ADDRESS 313 SPRING GROVE  
ROSELAND HEDDENSBURG

DATE FIRST MILL BUILT 1796 BY MICHAEL LEIB

DATE PRESENT MILL BUILT " BY "

PHOTOGRAPH NUMBERS (Voaden File) 185-37 7/29/46  
3/1/72

HEAD OF WATER 12 FT HP. OR OTHER RATING

TYPE OF POWER FITZ ST. OVERSHOOT INSTALLED ABOUT 1900 AND  
WAS STILL IN OPERATING CONDITION WHEN FOUNDATIONS FAILED  
IN 1944. THE WHEEL WAS STILL THERE 6/30/46, FOR 100  
SINCE 2 SWS TURBINES PRECEDED FITZ BY 2 SWS 200000. DO  
NOT SHOW THEM (MAY HAVE BEEN 2ND HAND)  
EQUIPMENT IN MILL 3 FLOUR ROLLS 16" WIDE.  
3 STONES FOR FEED

PRODUCTS 25-30 BLS FLOUR/DAY

DATE LAST RUN BY WATERPOWER AUG. 1941 BY IRA C. KRAFT

DATE LAST RUN BY ANY MEANS " BY "

DISPOSITION OF THE MILL BUILDING BEING TORN DOWN  
MARCH 1972 SEE PHOTOS TAKEN 8-11-72

NAME OF NEXT MILL UPSTREAM \_\_\_\_\_ DOWNSTREAM \_\_\_\_\_  
CONSTRUCTION OF MILL 3 1/2 STORY STONE  
(more)

Sample of Grant  
Voaden's Index  
of Old Mills In  
York Co., PA

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LIST OF OWNERS OF THE MILL PROPERTY & DATES

DATE	TO
MICHAEL LEIB	1796
JOHN LEIB	1858
JONAS MUMBERT	1858 1873
JESSE KRAFT	1873 6/2/1892
WILLIAM C. KRAFT (and wife)	6/2/1892 1940
WILLIAM KRAFT ESTATE	1940 AFTER 6/30/46

Trustee's Sale.

To be sold at Public Sale, on Wednesday, the 2nd of October next, the following Real Estate, as the property of Christian & Michael Bucher, viz. of a valuable PLANTATION of Patented Land, part situate in Heidelberg and part situate in Codrus township, York county, one and a half miles from the town of Jefferson, and Codrus creek runs thro' the same, adjoining lands Henry Renoll, Michael Stambaugh, David Danmer, Mathias Stoyer and others—containing

**43 ACRES,**

more or less. The improvements thereon are a large two-story **STONE MILL,** with four pair of stones, a SAW-MILL, a log dwelling House a log Barn, and other necessary out-houses, and an excellent young Orchard. This farm is under good fences and in a high state of cultivation. Those wishing to view the above property before the day of sale, will please call on Michael Bucher, on the premises, or Christian Bucher, near the same, or on either of the trustees who will shew the same.

Sale to commence at 10 o'clock in the forenoon of said day. Time of possession, and terms of sale will be made known, by

GEORGE EBERT,  
HENRY BOWMAN,  
Trustees of Michael and Christian Bucher.

September 10, 1823.

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LIST OF OPERATORS OR RENTERS HENRY A. FAY RENTED MILL  
FOR 1YR ABOUT 1896. CHARLES SPANGLER RENTED IT  
FOR 3 YRS AT LATER DATE.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION- PERSONS- IRA C. KRAFT 7/29/46

PUBLICATIONS JEFFERSON CENTENNIAL REV.  
DEEDS SHOWN ME BY IRA KRAFT 7/29/46 SUNDAY NEWS  
MAR 6, 1906.

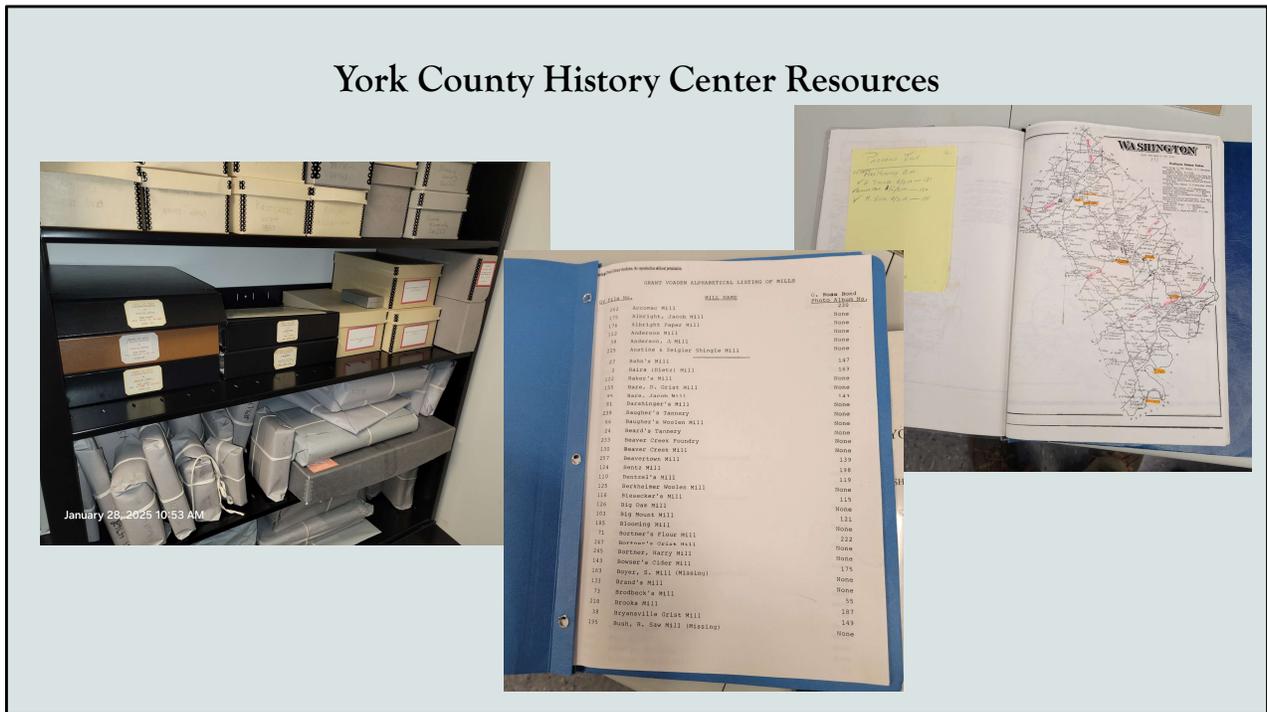
THIS PREPARED BY G.H. Voaden DATE 3/17/72

One key piece of information that should be in each mill file folder is this document. It would be important to acquire a copy of this document for each mill. Some mills may have more than one double sided sheet. Part of your homework will be to verify what is on this sheet to the best of your ability. This will be done by doing deed and township tax searches. Even auction notices on Newspapers.com. Before real estate companies existed property was often sold through auctions, if it did not get passed on to a relative.

If you can find an auction notice you can find a lot of information. The above 1823 notice reads: *43 acres more or less. The improvements are a large two-story STONE MILL with four pair of stones, a log dwelling house a log barn, and other necessary out-houses, and an excellent orchard. This farm is under good fences and in a high state of cultivation. Those wishing to view the property please call Michael Bucher or Christian Bucher.*

Voaden's info had Michael Leib as the builder and original owner. With this information I not only found the earlier owners names. The deed only had the trustee names. I found out details on what was there in 1823. The Bucher owners names were also verified on an 1821 York County map. I still haven't verified the 1796 build date.

## York County History Center Resources



The photo on the left shows the Voaden photo collection as well as the G. Ross Bond (1888 to 1976) photo collection.

In the middle is a book that is an index of the photos the YCHC has. In alphabetical order it provides the Grant Voaden File Number and cross references the G. Ross Bond number for his photo, if it exists. Courtesy of the YCHC, this is available in a digital PDF version, I will make available to you.

The booklet on the right is a marked up 1876 map identifying the mills and creeks by township. This was created by Richard Wentz in 2001. This too is available in a digital PDF version, I can email to you.

I also have a digital PDF of a marked up 1821 map with the mills identified to share with you.

## Ray Kinard

1935 to 2024



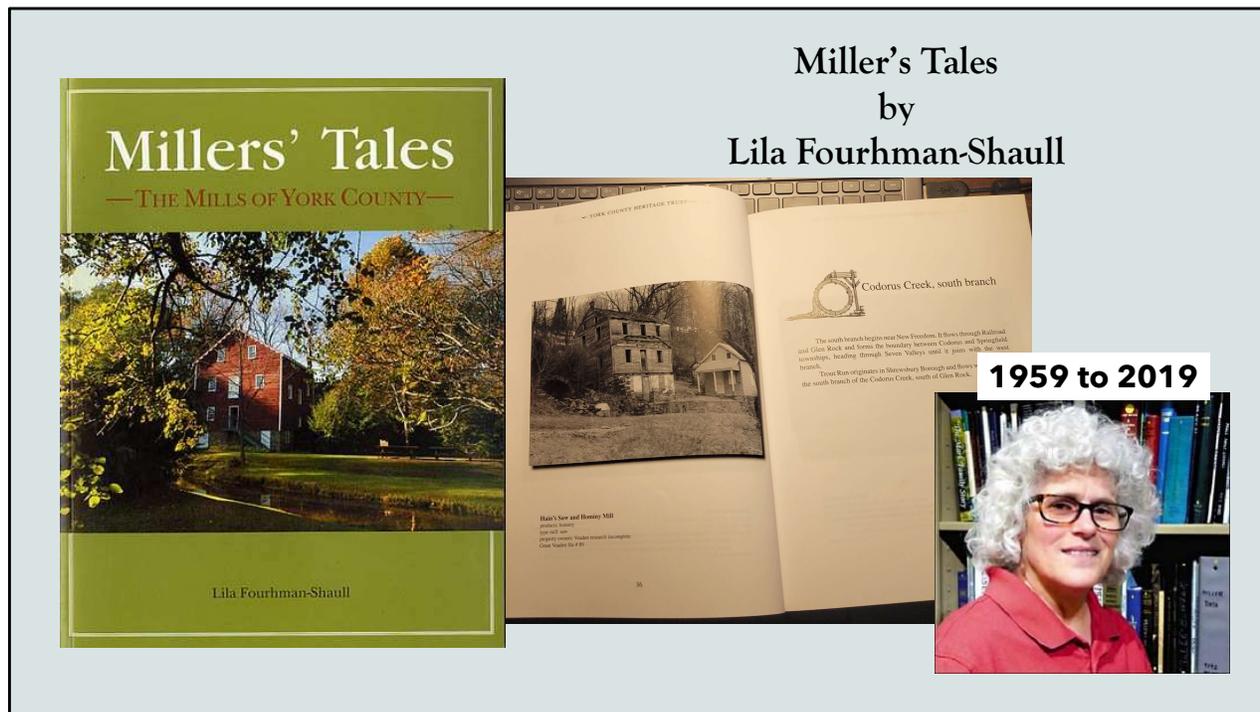
## Terry Koller

1944 to 2017



Our predecessors, but after Grant Voaden. Ray Kinard and Terry Koller decided they wanted to collect information on mills. As far as I know none of there information they gathered ended up in the York County History Center. Back around 2010 Ray & Terry embarked on photographing, researching and traveling around to mills in York, Lancaster, Adams and Cumberland County, PA. They even went into Maryland in Harford, Baltimore and Carroll Counties. The became known as the Mill Masters of York County, they called their team the K K team. I didn't know Terry very well, but got to be good friends with Ray. Ray in particular collected all things history in York County and beyond. Particularly information on Lincoln, Kennedy and the Civil War. Ray had over 4,000 books and notebooks he made up in his house. I had the privilege to root through his books over a two day period. I pulled out 24 boxes of books to take back to our library. You would not have known I took anything when I was done. Six of those boxes were on mills. Three are shown above and these have been thinned out with duplicate and triplicate information removed. I knew he had some of this information but had no idea how much or what. Scott Becker and Rick Resh have had the pleasure of thinning and organizing this collection. We still do not know if they have any different information than what is already available. Certainly newer colored photos. Some of the photography is not very good though. My goal is to get this condensed down to a point where we can determine if it has any value for YCHC or any smaller historical societies. This will be an ongoing task.

Ray & Terry often used Grant Voaden numbering system, however, they also created their own.



## MILLER's Tales

Historian and past Director of the library of the York County History Center, Lila Fourhman-Shaull published a book in 2010 from much of the information that Grant Voaden collected. It mentions 130 mills from around York County with B & W photos and a brief statement on the PRODUCTS, TYPE, OWNERS (from the past) and Grant Voaden's file #. It uses the most common name of the mill in the 1900's as the main identifier and sorts them by the creek it used as it's power source. It also includes some history on Voaden and a general mill history on York County mills. It's a wonderful 159 page book and is still available at the York County History Center.

This is not a comprehensive book for doing mill research but should certainly be included in your organizations library.

**Society for the Preservation of Old Mills**  
**PENNSYLVANIA MILL LIST**

AKA: Mauds Mill  
Type: Grist Mill  
Condition: Nonoperational  
Currently: Other Business  
Latitude: 40.01549 Longitude: -76.69225  
Watersource: Codorus Creek  
Reference: SPOOM

Powered by: Overshot Wheel  
Built: SPOOM

PhotoCredit:

Location: [ADC 48 D6] [R 111] (Go south out of Mount Wolf (a suburb of Manchester) On Rte. 24. The mill is just after crossing Codorus Creek, past the waste water treatment plant, on the corner of Glades Road.

Comments: The mill was formerly a flour and gristmill using buhrstones powered by an overshot waterwheel. It is now an office for the waste water treatment plant. No milling equipment remains. A 1 1/2 story stone mill with a door in the gable on the south end. It is in excellent condition.

**GOTWALT'S MILL** ID: PA-067-080 YORK Updated: 9/1/2014

AKA: RIEDER'S/BOWERS/MARTIN/AUSTIN/OLD MILL SHOP  
Type: Grist Mill/Cider Mill  
Condition: Nonoperational  
Currently: Other Business  
Latitude: 39.94739 Longitude: -76.66999  
Watersource: Mill Creek  
Reference: Voaden#143

Powered by: Overshot Wheel/Turbine  
Built: 1853

PhotoCredit:

Location: On Camp Betty Washington Road [SR-2005], 3 miles south of Rt. 124 (Mt. Rose Avenue) near I-83 interchange.

Comments: 2 1/2 story, stone and frame building. Mill stopped running in 1951.

**GREEN RIDGE MILLS** ID: PA-067-198 BRODBECKS Updated: 5/8/2022

AKA:  
Type: Grist Mill  
Condition: Nonoperational  
Currently: Other Business  
Latitude: 39.79098 Longitude: -76.82627  
Watersource: Codorus Creek  
Reference: Voaden#170

Powered by: Turbine  
Built: 1738 & 17

PhotoCredit:

Location:

**HARRY MILLER MILL** ID: PA-067-028 YORK Updated: 5/12/2022

AKA: CARLISLE ROAD/NEUMAN'S/WEIGELTOWN/WEIGLE/KURTS COXEN  
Type: Grist/Flour Mill  
Condition: Nonoperational  
Currently: Other Business  
Latitude: 39.98047 Longitude: -76.80651  
Watersource: Little Conewago Creek  
Reference: Voaden#114

Powered by: Turbine  
Built: 1738 & 17

PhotoCredit: K. Dugger

Location: [ADC 61 D1] [R 111] 2500 Carlisle Road, York. From US-30, west of York, take PA-74 (Carlisle Rd) west. Pass the community of Shish and look for Church Road (Route 238). The mill is 1/2 mile past this junction, on the left, at the edge of the Little Conewago Creek.

Comments: In the 1730s, Martin Weigle emigrated from Germany to West Manchester Township and built a small stone grist mill about 1739. When local Indians came around, he gave them home-made whiskey, and they helped him dig the millrace. The family remained owners for many years. One family, who was not very patriotic, was censured

3/15/2024 Page 1010 of 1062

# SPOOM

or

# Society for the Preservation of Old Mills

[www.spoom.org](http://www.spoom.org)

The Society for the Preservation of Old Mills also known as SPOOM, was chartered in Maine as a non-profit organization in 1972. Its members include mill owners, old mill buffs, museum curators, conservators, writers, teachers, artists, photographers, equipment supply firms, and institutions such as libraries. They have a large PDF document you can download for free of all the mills in the USA that they have on their list. Sixty pages of that document are for York County Mills. I can email you that list or you can go grab it yourself online.

SPOOM has their own numbering system they created which makes the most sense when looking at mills on a national basis. Thiers start with a prefix of PA meaning Pennsylvania then dash 067 which stands for the county. In our 067 is York County. This is followed by another dash and then a unique three digit number.

Once we verify and or correct the information on the mills we want to verify SPOOM information and add the SPOOM number to the spread sheet for the appropriate mill. Plus fill out a SPOOM form to submit to SPOOM to update their records. They are missing information as well as have wrong information. Don't forget to verify the GPS location.

One of things SPOOM wants is written directions. Ray and Terry have a lot of that information. The YCHC will not require that.



## Tasks

Update & correct spreadsheet

Find missing mills

Determine GPS Location

Verify ownerships & add dates

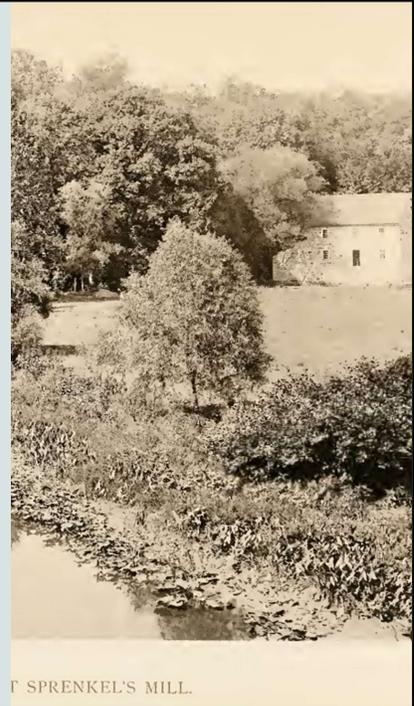
Source your information

Digitize

Current color photos of site, mill  
race or dam (digital)

## Definition of a Mill

- SPOOM's view of what a mill is (in regard to its mission) is any building or site at which milling of grain into human or animal food products was, or still is, performed and at which other products were made, most commonly called grist mills, flour mills, stamping mills, clover mills, oil mills, etc. The term "old mills" includes those that are deemed "historic" as well as those simply aged. Our focus is on water, wind, or animal powered mills, and those updated to diesel, steam or electric depending on what's left of the original physical components.



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Type of Mills	
Bark	Mill to crush Tree Bark used in the tanning process
Bellows	To power bellows for forge or furnace
Cider	Any kind of fruit cider
Flax	Mills which process flax. The earliest mills were developed for spinning yarn for the linen industry.
Flint	Mill to grind flint / quartz rock into powder
Forge	Mill to power hammer for forging iron and steel
Fulling	Or Woolen Mill in woollen clothmaking which involves the cleansing of woven cloth (particularly wool) to eliminate (lanolin) oils, dirt, and other impurities, and to make it shrink by friction and pressure.
Grist	Corn, Wheat, Barley, Flour Feed, Middlings
Hemp	Mill to produce hemp fibers
Hydro Electric	Water powered electric generators
Oil	Mill to press oil out of seeds, including hemp, clover, flax/linseed
Paper	Mill to make paper
Plaster	Mill for making plaster
Powder	Mill for making gunpowder
Pump	Mill for pumping water
Roller	Mill to power rollers for forming iron and steel
Saw	Mill for sawing logs, either reciprocal or circular saw method
Shingle	Mill to create wooden shingles
Silk	Mill for silk throwing or weaving

We are going to expand that definition that SPOOM has. Matter of fact they don't follow their own definition. I saw silk mills on their list.

Here is what we are going to include in our list. Where we will agree is with this part of SPOOM's definition.

**Our focus is on water, wind, or animal powered mills, and those updated to diesel, steam or electric depending on what's left of the original physical components.**

You will get a copy of this list.

**Mill Research Resources**

1. Tools for researchers
  - a. Forms
    - i. Deed Search
    - ii. Updated index of Old Mills Work Sheet form
    - iii. Tax record search
    - iv. SPOOM Survey Form
2. Resources to share:
  - a. Maps with weblinks that show mills
    - i. 1759 Map of Pennsylvania - Philadelphia; Sold by the author, Nicholas Scull, 1759. Library of Congress  
1. <https://www.loc.gov/resource/g302.ar129490?r=9.418.0.309.0.141.0.007.0>
    - ii. 1775 Map of Pennsylvania - London, Printed for Robt. Sayer & J. Bennett. Library of Congress  
1. <https://www.loc.gov/resource/g320.ar129600?r=0.108.0.115.1.111.0.009.0>
    - iii. 1821 Map of York & Adams Co. - D. Small & W. Wagner. Library of Congress  
1. <https://www.loc.gov/item/2012592228/>
    - iv. 1860 Map of York Co. Philadelphia: W.O. Shearer & D.J. Lake, publishers. Library of Congress  
1. <https://www.loc.gov/item/2012590161/>
    - v. 1876 Maps -Pomeroy & Whitman
      1. Available in book at the York County History Center
      2. Online digital maps
      3. <https://ancestrytracks.com/wp/home/free-resources/york-county-landowners/>
      4. [https://alabamamaps.ua.edu/historicalmaps/us\\_states/pennsylvania/AtlasYorkCoPA.html](https://alabamamaps.ua.edu/historicalmaps/us_states/pennsylvania/AtlasYorkCoPA.html)
  - b. Maps paper or books
    - i. "Soil Survey Map" book on York County, previous to 1960, shows mills and old schools.
    - ii. More modern ABC style book maps. Look at [index](#) for roads with the name mill in it. You may have to look at other records to identify where mill was. Estimate by using creek and land features.
    - iii.
  - c. History Books
    - i. Carter & Gips3000000er, 1834 / Rupp - 1845
    - ii. John Gibson - History on York County - 1896
    - iii. George Prowell History on York County - 1907
    - iv. Township and community history books.
    - v. Odd ball histories, like church histories.
    - vi. Family genealogies will often state person that owned mill
  - d. Old Newspapers (Newspapers.com)
    - i. Look for mill names or community histories.

## RESEARCH RESOURCES

2 Page listing of  
resources,  
plus  
copies of forms we  
want to use.

- You have been given one copy of these forms. I suggest you photo copy some blanks
- There are numerous links on this sheet. With a digital (PDF) version of this emailed to you can click on the links to get to the websites. Or search the titles.
- Some of the History books are available for sale at YCHC or you may use them in their library. Many of the smaller history centers also have these books in their library. Also a number of these old books are available for free online using PDF. Which can be real convenient to do a search.
- The YCHC can give you access to Newspapers.com as well as some of the smaller history centers.
- Deed searches can be done and read online. You can buy copies online or contact the York County Archives with the deed numbers you are interested in and they will email you after providing them with a credit card number.
- Tax records only available at York County Archives. Some Township tax records in the 1700's have a summary sheet at the back of the year. This will tell you how many mills are in the township along with some other summary information.
- Genealogies are probably not something you want to read a whole bunch of. But, possibly during your own genealogy research you may have tripped across such information.

**Emailed to you provided by the  
York County History Center & Codorus Valley Area Historical Society**

- 1.PDF – Grant Voaden Index to townships and mills (65 pages)
- 2.PDF - Richard Wentz Index & York County Twp. Maps from 1876 showing mill locations. (73 pages).
- 3.PDF - Grant Voaden Alphabetical Listing of Mills (8 pages)
- 4.XLSX and / or PDF file of the Voaden Mill list
- 5.PDF – York County Township creation dates.

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4. XLSX and / or PDF file of the Voaden Mill list
5. PDF – York County Township creation dates.

## Guidelines

1. **Access to YCHC Library & Archives:** YCHC members and non-profit reps are free; others would pay \$12/day or \$10 senior rate.
  1. If you are not a member of YCHC, we strongly recommend you support YCHC by becoming a member.
  2. It is best to call or email ahead of time the date and time you plan to be here for research. That way the library staff can have your information prepared. Taking the burden off the volunteer staff and making the most use of your time.
2. Due to limited space with YCHC library any research documentation and photos we create needs to be in digital form to present to them. You may keep copies of your research for yourself or organization.
  1. PDFs, Photos JPEG or TIFF
3. YCHC is acting as an advisory role only, a central place to meet and the eventual centrally located housing of this project. This is a volunteer effort only to document the York County Mills and YCHC will not have personnel available for research.
4. **GET PERMISSION** if you plan to step foot on the property.
5. Be respectful to property owners and YCHC or other historical society personnel

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  1. If you are not a member of YCHC, we strongly recommend you support YCHC by becoming a member.
  2. It is best to call or email ahead of time the date and time you plan to be here for research. That way the library staff can have your information prepared. Taking the burden off the volunteer staff and making the most use of your time.
2. Due to limited space with YCHC library any research documentation and photos we create needs to be in digital form to present to them. You may keep copies of your research for yourself or organization.
  1. PDFs, Photos JPEG or TIFF
3. YCHC is acting as an advisory role only, a central place to meet and the eventual centrally located housing of this project. This is a volunteer effort only to document the York County Mills and YCHC will not have personnel available for research.
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### **York County Mill Consortium Schedule for 2025**

- 1. April 12, 2025** – Training Workshop @ York County History Center
- 2. May 2025** - Volunteers to gather PIN numbers and current landowners names and addresses and schedule work sessions with historical societies.
- 3. July 2025** – Follow-up meeting with all participants to review progress and outline new spreadsheet format for new database.
- 4. August thru October 2025** - Fieldwork continues as needed.
- 5. November 2025** - Begin Data entry
- 6. December 2025** – Check initial work

