

CONFERENCE ISSUE – Summer 2018

the TIDE MILL TIMES

www.tidemillinstitute.org

Committed to Sustainable industrial Heritage



TWO TIDE MILL CONFERENCES !!

Honoring its mission commitment to advance appreciation of American and international tide mill technology, TIDE MILL INSTITUTE recently held conferences in Maine and New York. In October, our annual meeting was in Portland Maine. It was a two-day event, highlighting early regional tide mills, visiting a few of their sites and hearing about the earliest tide mill yet studied by archaeologists. Early in April, TMI linked with a historical society in greater New York City to bring together tide mill enthusiasts of that area to explore early tide mills in the region and to discuss contemporary efforts in the field. These two events illustrate the growing interest in tidal energy and the role TMI is playing in that effort. Details of both conferences follow.

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***THIS IS THE FINAL ISSUE
OF TIDE MILL TIMES
IN THIS FORMAT!!***

We've worked up a more useful and timely way for you to keep up with TMI's doings and to find out about tide mill activity in the US and around the world.

Shortly you'll receive an email note from TMI board member Ron Klodenski with the first issue of TMT in the new format. Issues will be produced more often than in the past. You'll still hear what TMI's up to, and we will still continue to offer occasional articles with general information about tide mills, but in shorter, more frequent installments..

An exciting new feature will be "WHAT'S NEW?" It will give YOU the chance to respond and to submit your own articles about the tide mills in your life, to share your own research or photos, and if you're researching a particular tide mill topic to use an index of articles from early issues. Ron will be the new editor. We're sure you'll enjoy what he has in store for you!

SAVE THE DATE!

TMI's NEXT CONFERENCE

Nov. 10th Beverly MA

ANNOUNCING

THE

14th

TMI

TIDE

MILL

CONFERENCE

NOV.10th

TIDE MILLS
Then, Now and Never

TIDE MILL INSTITUTE's
fourteenth annual conference
will be held November 10th
at Cummings Center in Beverly Massachusetts.

8:30 – 4:00

TOPICS

How tide mills moved from mainland Europe
to England and Ireland

Characteristics of vertical and horizontal millwheels

A “perpetual power” tide mill that was never built

A tide mill at the heart of a Revolutionary War battle

Fresh-water tidal rice mills in South Carolina

Reports of members' research

Also: *a few surprises*, the Annual Meeting & other fascinating topics

SAVE THE DATE

SIGN UP EARLY

Sign up now Registration \$50

Member discount

info@tidemillinstitute.org

207-946-4156

THE PORTLAND CONFERENCE – Day One

The first day of TMI’s 2017 conference focused on four early tide mills of the Portland area. Participants boarded a bus in the morning for low-tide visits to three of their sites and hear about their history. In the afternoon, informal presentations were offered by people with experience of some sort with each mill, and a session was held to explore “tide mill forensics” – how to study tide mill sites.

Mary DeRose, associated with the South Portland Historical Society, met the group on a bridge overlooking the Mill Creek tide mill site, pointed out the topography of the area and explained its history. Ford Reiche, who for years has been searching for Casco Mill, one of Portland’s earliest tide mills, showed us where he thinks it might have been., **Leslie Safford** grew up in a house at one end of the Mussel Cove tide mill in the Falmouth neighborhood and shared stories of her youthful escapades swimming through the opening in the in the dam. At Portland’s Deering Oaks Park, participants visualized how a bridge from Portland to Westbrook became a dam for a large millpond, now filled in by tennis courts, a softball field and a highway overpass.

During the afternoon, traditionally featuring informal presentations, three of these tide mill explorers shared details of their studies. Ford **Reiche**, assisted by George **Carhart**, shared Reiche’s contention that the Casco mill lay in an area later covered by a nineteenth century foundry, and using maps showed where he feels that core sampling may disclose buried sawdust from that early sawmill. Mary **DeRose** explained the story of the Mill Cove tide mill and its place in the commercial history of South Portland before it became the site of a small shipyard. Artist Leslie **Safford** shared her life-long relationship with water accompanying her comments with personal photos of the Mussel Cove dam when she was a child and one of her paintings that nicely captures the feel of the area. **Jim Cram**, Director of the Freeport Historical Society explained the provenance of the watercolor image of the Stroudwater tide mill near where the conference was being held. These presentations were followed by a lively presentation led by **Leith Smith**, archaeologist with the Maine Historical Preservation Commission, and TMI Board member **Ron Klodenski** about appropriate ways to document tide mill sites in ways that are useful to historians.



Ford Reiche

George Carhart

Mary DeRose

Leslie Safford



Jim Cram

Leith Smith

Ron Klodenski

VISITING PORTLAND TIDE MILL SITES



SOUTH PORTLAND – Mill Creek [L] Mary De Rose shares the history of the Mill Creek Mills. [C] The second of two mills at the site. [R] “Mill Creek Today” painted from a photograph taken the day of the conference.



FALMOUTH – Mussel Cove Top: [L] Earl Taylor admires the cam. [C] Participants enjoying the view. [R] Safford painting of the Creek. Bottom: [L] Schooner loading or unloading product at the mill. [C] Remains at the site (Flap Gate support?) [R] Vertical Sheathing at the core or along the inside of the dam helped keep it from leaking.



PORTLAND (Top) [L] 1845 map shows original extent of mill pond. [C] By 1852 a railroad crossed the pond and filling of Baco Cove decreased available water for milling. [Bottom] 1842 pencil sketch of the mill on the dam. [C] Modern aerial shot shows what’s left of the pond. The red star shows site of the mill, now covered by a city street. [R] Advertisement of City Mills, one co-owned by George W. True.

THE PORTLAND CONFERENCE – Day Two

The second day of a TMI conference features longer, more detailed presentations than does the first. This year was no different. Here's a summary of presentations, with photos of the presenters and some of what they presented



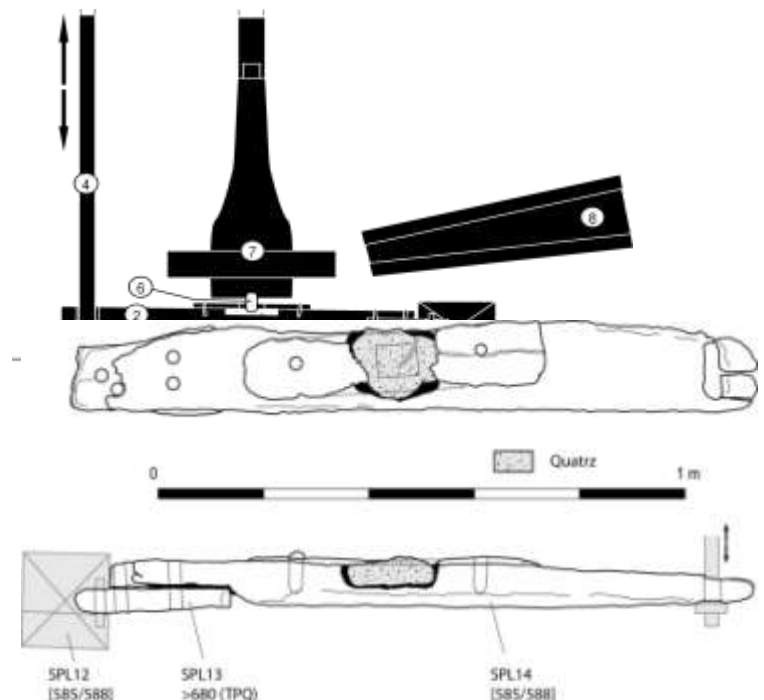
What in the World is Going on with Tidal Energy?

Nate Johnson, who is associated with ORPC (*Ocean Renewable Power Company*) of Portland, sponsor of this year's conference, presented a well-illustrated and informative overview of international technical efforts to harness tidal and ocean stream energy. There is much activity in this important area – research, proposed projects and prototype equipments. Several show promise, though none have yet been wildly successful commercially. ORPC's in-stream device that operated effectively in Maine's Cobcook Bay feeding power to the New England grid is currently undergoing enhancement, and another is effectively producing power in Alaska. ORPC has also established a base in Ireland, which broadens its opportunities.

Medieval Tide Mills in France: A Vector and Catalyst of Cross Channel Exchanges



Vincent Bernard, a dendrochronologist at the National Centre for Scientific Research at Univ. Rennes 1 in France, described his work at St. Pol de Leon in Brittany at what turned out to be the oldest medieval tide mill yet studied - 1585/1588 AD! He offered historical background and presented evidence of similarities of mill technology between mainland Europe and England/Iceland. Of particular interest were his description and detail of features of the "bridge tree"tha tadjusted distance gbetween millstones.



Above: Archaeological site at Saint Pol de Leon.

Right: L (top) Diagram of the bridge tree, shaft base with turbine base and penstock at the 1585/1588 tide mill.

Right: (bottom) Sketch of what was found in the mud. A piece of quartz (gray) served as the bearing for the shaft.

The Ackerman-Zabriski Mill at New Bridge New Jersey

Deborah Powell, of the Bergen County Historical Society, shared the long history of a tide mill on Cole's Brook, a tidal tributary of the Hackensack River. It was built by Johannes Ackerman in the late 1600's. It was bought in 1745 by Jan Zabriski, who operated it until the Revolution, carrying product to New York by vessel. Because he was a Loyalist, his property was seized and presented to Baron von Steuben, famous for his military service under Washington. After the war, the property was once again acquired by the Zabriski family, one of whom fell into the waterwheel and was crushed and drowned. The mill burned about 1852. A sandstone block in the house carries the image of a mill wheel. An interesting early drawing of the mill shows a man apparently pulling on a rope to open a watergate. Little is left for archaeologists to study.



Above: [L] Sandstone millwheel block in the Steuben-Zabriski house. [C] 1905-1910 photo of the mill site. [R] An early drawing of the mill.

CLICKETY CLACK – Saga of the Stroudwater Mill Dam Company

TMI president **Bud Warren** made use of limited corporative records found at the Maine Historical Society to describe the business history of the company that built and operated the large Stroudwater dam on which were sited a number of tide mill operations. Incorporated in 1834 by eight Portland entrepreneurs, the dam offered a location for a number of milling activities through the years – a soapstone-cutting operation, a bark-grinding facility, a sawmill, a facility grinding of salt and plaster and a grist mill that produced corn meal and flour. Tides ran the machinery, while a vertical windmill atop the roof operated the bolter for sifting flour; neighbors could hear its clickety-clack sound when it operated. Limited corporate records show that dam paid small dividends, and stockholders decreased in number until 1889 when Walter Fickett had 997 and L.B.Chapman just one of the 998 shares. No documents were found after that date, though the mill continued for some years.



Above: [L] Stroudwater causeway today. The conference site was to the left, just out of view, the last mill just beyond the bridge. [C]. The south end of the last mill. [R] Sketch looking southward along the causeway

TRUE STORY- Birth, Life & Death of the Casco Bay Mills



George W. True entered Portland Maine's wholesale grain trade in 1866 and a year later spearheaded construction of a large tide mill at the mouth of Basin Cove on Harpswell Island in Casco Bay. With five run of 8-foot diameter stones, it was eventually the largest tide mill in the country. Grain was originally brought by vessel to Portland from New York and Baltimore, eventually by rail from Canada and transshipped to the island by schooner. Sales of \$200,000 in 1866 grew to \$700,000 by 1874. With the advent of steam, the mill stopped operations in 1885. The mill deteriorated and blew down in a storm in 1907. **Todd Grisct** gave this presentation based on his research and on the information and images offered by **John Goff**, who has been studying this mill for years and was going to tell us about it, but was unable to attend because of illness.



Four views of the mill at Basin Cove in Harpswell.

TMI BOARD AT WORK



Each January or February the Board and Advisors of TIDE MILL INSTITUTE gather to plan the year's conference and organize other activities. In the photograph at the left, Pat Malone makes a point as we discussed the proposed April conference in New York. Bud Warren is at the head of the table; clockwise from there are Todd Grisct, Pat Malone, Ron Klodenski, John Morse, Bob Gordon, Earl Taylor and Deane Rykerson. John Goff, who also attended, took the photo

JOHN GOFF GIVEN LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

We're pleased to let our readers know that The New England Chapter of the Victorian Society in America recently awarded **John Goff** co-founder of TIDE MILL INSTITUTE and former editor of *TIDE MILL TIMES*, a lifetime achievement award for his accomplishments and years of work in historic preservation. A highly-regarded architectural historian and principal of his firm Historic Preservation and Design, John is best known to those of us associated with TMI for his enthusiastic commitment to telling the stories of tide mill technology and the people who created and manned the mills. His presentations at our conferences have always been enlightening, extremely well-researched and enthusiastically received. Congratulations from all of us, John! The recognition is well deserved.

THE QUEENS CONFERENCE – Tide Mills of New York

Collaborating with the Greater Astoria Historical Society of Queens in April, TIDE MILL INSTITUTE broke new ground by organizing and conducting a successful conference/seminar outside New England. The goal of the event was to share the excitement of tide mill heritage with a new audience. It was heartening to meet kindred spirits, to give them the chance to share their excitement about their tide mills and to encourage them to continuing working together to work together in study of the mills in their area.

The template for the gathering was similar to most TMI conferences: a look at contemporary activity harnessing tidal or ocean current energy, presentations about regional tide mills or the history of specific mills, and something technical. The small but enthusiastic group that attended had the same reaction experienced years ago at the first TMI gathering: “This was really fun – let’s do it again!” We’ve heard some who attended the conference are already sharing tide mill information among themselves and are hoping to hold another event like it on their own in the near future. We encourage that effort and let you know how it goes!

Bud Warren set the tone for the day in a presentation titled “*Tide Mills – An Industrial Heritage Worth Paying Attention To,*” a general introduction to tide mills and their study. Other presentations are summarized below.

What’s Happening in the East River and around the World?



Trey Taylor, co-founder of VERDANT POWER gave a spirited overview of tide mill technology, starting with the 619AD medieval mill in Northern Ireland and discussed the status of a number of contemporary international tidal energy projects. He then explained his company’s three-phase program that developed a prototype device, installed the world’s first grid connected array of multiple turbines and developed a testing/demonstration site now operating in the East Channel of the East River in New York. After the day’s presentations, he participated in leading an open forum at which participants discussed the feasibility of tide mills becoming part of New York’s waterfront.



Top Row: Examples of tidal technology discussed in Taylor’s presentation.

Below: [L] The East River, location of VERDANT Power’s test/demonstration project. [R] Two of VERDANT’s devices.

The Ups and Downs of the Saddle Rock Tide Mill



Alice Kasten, president of the Great Neck Historical Society has a love affair with the Saddle Rock Grist Mill- one of America's few remaining tide mill buildings. For years she's been an advocate for restoration and operation of this mill which was built about 1700 and remained in private hands of owners and their families until the 1950's when it was given to Nassau County and underwent some restoration, operating for some time as a local history museum. Over the years the mill has deteriorated greatly, and is in need of tender loving care and financial aid to get it back on its feet. The Great Neck Historical Society is working to influence the County to seek the funding for those repairs.

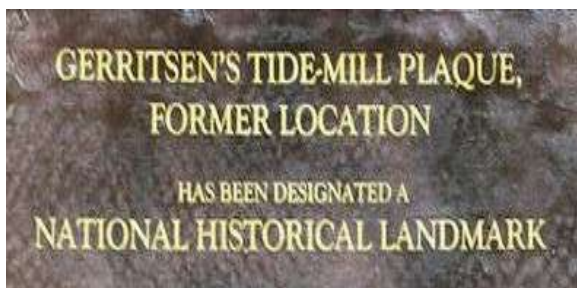


[L] Saddle Rock in better days. [C] The wheel has deteriorated. [R] Architect views winter storm damage.

Gerritsen – Brooklyn's First Tide Mill



Alyssa Loorya, Urban Archaeologist with Chrysalis Archaeology, has been interested in Brooklyn's Gerritsen's mill for years, co-authoring a 1997 archaeological report about an early dig there and conducting field schools at the site. The mill is considered to be New York's earliest tide mill, possibly as early as 1645. After ceasing operation in the 19th century, it slowly deteriorated and was burned by arson as plans for its renovation/ preservation were being developed. Alyssa recently visited the site at a particularly low tide and discovered several features not previously observed. A detailed restoration model of the mill shows how it would have been constructed.



Some Views of Gerritsen through the years --and a model of its structure.



Denton's Mill - The Tide Mill That Made America

Eymund Diegel, an environmentalist and urban planner and mapmaker for the NYC Dept. of Transportation, began by sharing a map of greater New York City showing the location of 53 tide mills. He then told the fascinating story of Denton's Mill (also known as Freek's or the Yellow Mill) and the role it played as a key site in the 1776 Battle of Brooklyn, where a delaying action by a Maryland regiment allowed the relatively safe retreat of the bulk of Washington's army to fight another day. He also showed plans to commemorate that battle by an appropriately designed memorial to replicate the size and shape of the original mill.

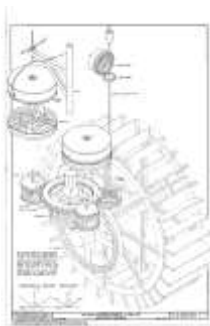


ABOVE: [L] 19th century drawing of the Yellow Mill. [C] Painting of the mill during the Battle of Breoklyn. [R] Map showing NY tide mills.



Huntington's Van Wyck-Lefferts Tide Mill is Still Standing!

The Van Wyck – Lefferts mill in Huntington has been called a remarkable survival, perhaps the only mill of its kind with so many of its original features. **Toby Kissam's** great-great-great grandfather was once its owner. His love for the mill was evident in his description of its place in the history of the town and as he shared details of generations of millwrights and photographs of its wooden gears and other mechanical details. Its only access today is by special tours led by the Huntington Historical Society.



Above: (top) [L] Van-Wyck Lefferts mill pond. [C] Early painting (courtesy Huntington Historical Society) [R] Mid-tide view of the mill.
(bottom) [L-R] HABS/HAER diagram of Lefferts-VanWyck machinery, wooden gears and belt pulley, and more wooden gears.

TIDE MILLS IN QUEENS – and a Summing Up



Bob Singleton, Director of Greater Astoria Historical Society and host of the conference used a combination of maps and early photographs to point out the location of a number of the early Queens tide mills – there were at least six of them. He then presented a strong case for the importance of tide mills in the development of the city’s economic power. The business acumen and technical skill of millers and millwrights, he postulated, set an assertive and “can do” standard and attitude for New York’s commercial life that continues today.



Above : [2 at L] Photos of two Queens tide mills. [2 at R] Early Queens tidal millstone imbedded in traffic island , now a table in a small park.

COLLEGIAL INTERACTIONS AT THE QUEENS CONFERENCE

[R] Discussing tide mill drawings.

[far R] TMI’s tide mill posters were a hit.



[below L] Two Brooklyn tide mill aficionados share thoughts.

[belowR] Talking it over with an expert.



TMI BOARD AT WORK



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MAINE SUPREME COURT KILLS PERKINS TIDE MILL PLAN

The Kennebunkport Conservation Trust has been working since 2011 to create the only working tide mill in America. Last spring Maine's Supreme Court overturned the town's Planning Board approval and took action against a proposal to build and operate a reconstruction of the 1749 Perkins Grist Mill. The action pleased neighbors and abutters who had fought against the proposal, citing their concerns about dangers of fire and explosion from flour dust as well as typical NIMBY concerns of traffic congestion and anticipated lowered property values.

The project had been approved by the Department of Environmental Protection, the Army Corps of Engineers, Maine's Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and the Maine Historical Preservation Commission. TIDE MILL INSTITUTE supported the project, attending a number of Planning Board meetings and served as an expert witness on technical milling matters.

The case was decided on a zoning technicality.

The mill had operated from 1749 to the 1930's when it was converted into a successful tea room. In 1994 it was burned by an arsonist.

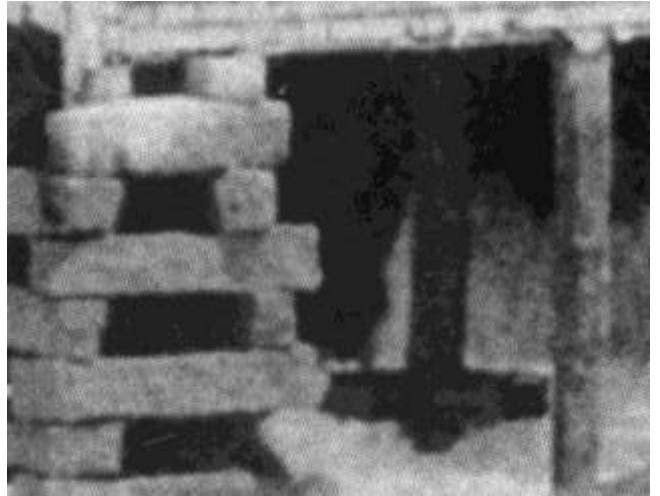


A HISTORICAL SOCIETY, A TIDE MILL - AND KIDS!

Several members of the Brooksville (Maine) Historical Society are busy trying to develop a program for local schools to study one of the four or five tide mill sites in their town and perhaps to build a model of the mill. They have a couple of artifacts, a shaft with a bevel gear and another large metal piece and several photographs, one of which clearly shows what appears to be an open horizontal wheel and a large shaft. The first mill at Goose Cove was built during the Revolutionary War period, the other in the 1840's after that one burned. Each operated as a grist and saw mill.

The society has a number of photographs of the second mill and several artifacts, including an iron shaft with a bevel gear at one end. One of the photographs shows what appears to be an open horizontal wheel attached to a large (wooden) vertical shaft. Tide Mill institute has assisted by donating milling information and photographs of tide mills.

Goose Falls was named because the large amount of foam produced on the ebb reminded people of goose feathers. The flood tide still tops the ledge which the mill sat, filling the large pond behind it.



Become a TMI Member and Support the Organization's Activities!

Name: _____

Address _____

City State ZIP _____

Mail this form and check to

Earl Taylor - TMI Membership Coordinator - 123 Ashmont St. Dorchester MA 02124

OR: If you wish to use a credit card, please complete the following:

Name on card _____

Mailing address for card _____

Type of Card [Visa/MC/etc.] _____ **Card number** _____

Expires ___/___ **Security code** _____

Slade Spice Tide Mill Sustains Flood Damage and Looks To Rebuild

- by John Goff

Shortly after New Year's Day, 2018, the historic Slade Spice Tide Mill in Revere, MA was dealt a serious and compromising blow. On January 3, 2018, a New England winter storm charged in—bringing not just rain and snow—but severe flooding. The Chelsea Creek beneath the mill surged, and before long significant flooding affected the entire first floor and sub-floor framing, supporting one of New England's last surviving historic tide mill structures.

The Revere site is situated adjacent to the heavily-traveled Revere Beach Parkway (Route 16) about midway between Boston and Salem. A tide mill has stood and operated here since colonial times. The first mill, a tidal grist mill, was initially proposed in 1721—but not built until 1734. It then continued to grind “corn” [or a variety of colonial cereal grains] until after the Revolution and nearby Salem, MA opened up the China Trade as well as tea and spice trades for New England.

Some 15 years after the start of the War of 1812 - in 1827-the Revere tide mill during the prosperous Federal Period was acquired by David & Levi Slade's D. & L. Slade Company. It quickly thereafter became one of New England's best known spice mills—with cinnamon, mustard and other exotic spices being imported from the Far East by sailing ship during the Great Age of Sail. Spice grinding was initially done in a smaller timber framed mill building that stood upon the current tide mill site. Business administration was coordinated in an office building located on Boston's Atlantic Avenue waterfront. In the early 20th century, the earliest Slade Spice tide mill structure was mostly if not completely destroyed by fire. Yet business was excellent, and the mill had a reputation for producing fine product. So the Slade Company rebuilt and expanded on the old site. A larger three-story hip-roof Colonial Revival style structure was built—and shipping facilities were added to allow finished ground spices to be hauled away by truck and highway—in the modern manner.



[top] Painting of the old mill at mid tide.

[bottom] The other side of the mill as renovated for apartments. Note how close the water is to the building at a normal high tide.

By the World War One era, parts of old colonial millstones and remnants of metal turbines, etc., beneath the mill provided rich testimony of the antiquity and long-running service record of the Slade Mill. In the 1930s, when the mill was profiled in Alfred Elden's pioneering American tide mill article published in the SPNEA's *Old Time New England*, the Slade mill was covered on one outside wall with a large sign attesting to the unique, significant and priceless colonial nature of the place. During the American Bicentennial decade of the 1970s, attention was further directed to the fact that one of America's first Naval Battles in the Revolutionary War happened just downstream of the mill. The Slade Company reportedly ceased industrial operations on site in 1976—the American Bicentennial Year.

Since the early 1990s, the Slade mill has attracted a variety of American and international visiting tide mill scholars, including attendees to the Tide Mill Institute's annual conferences—such as David Plunkett from England's Eling Tide Mill and Tom McErlean from the Nendrum Tide Mill Site in Ireland. About 2000, most of the Slade Spice Tide Mill was converted to residential

condominium usage when Robert Brooker owned the complex and an important new interpretive center / tide mill museum was established in the lobby of the building,.

On February 3, 2018—one month after this year’s “New Year’s” flood—I had the good fortune to be able to revisit the Slade Mill and meet with the current owners and some residents—in an effort to begin to identify and document the full nature of the recent damage. The mill demands immediate attention not simply because it is an historic site—and contains the only museum of its type north of Boston—but also because it supports 18 units of occupied waterfront housing.

The recent flood raised waters to about a foot over the first level finished floor—and when I visited, workmen were laboring to install new sheetrock and to make a series of repairs so existing apartments and communal spaces can be utilized



The storm surge raised the water level and flooded Slade’s lobby with a foot of water and ice.

But What about the Future?

The Slade Spice Tide Mill now requires repairs and improvements in four major areas. The most basic is to prevent the mill from being flooded again in future storms. To solve the flood problem responsibly, we believe that two necessary “big ticket item” improvements are needed ASAP – to jack up and lift the entire mill structure about 2 feet above its current level and to install new stone and wood piling supports, and to install a new pair of flood gates on Chelsea Creek. The Souther Tide Mill in Quincy, MA was similarly elevated for increased flood resistance beginning in the 1990s.

Other important activity includes repairing the mill’s original timber frame structure where an out-of-control car recently crashed into the building, repairing and installing new wood pilings and supports at one end of the mill that appears to have been sinking substantially, and dealing with mold and mildew associated with the recent flooding.

The Slade Tide Mill Museum should be incorporated as a 501(c)3 educational organization, upgrading its exhibits and developing public programs to tell the important story of this significant North Shore enterprise. As a non-profit entity the Museum could apply for donations, grants and funds to help pay for and to implement major projects. And commissioning a new Historic Structures Report and Restoration Plan would guide Slade’s future site activity.

All of this certainly describes a large job, but the prominence and rarity of the Revere tide mill requires that the structure—and its history—be preserved. Further explorations should be undertaken to see if mill repairs might be coordinated with upcoming historic anniversaries—such as a possible 300th anniversary of the mill in 2021. TIDE MILL INSTITUTE supports such an ambitious new program of proposed improvements, and stands ready to provide further assistance as required.



Saddle Rock Grist Mill 2018 Update

by Alice Kasten, President of the Great Neck Historical Society

Drive around Long Island's Great Neck area, and you will find signs pointing to the Saddle Rock Grist Mill. The Mill, the property of Nassau County, used to be visited by school children, who learned its history and brought home sacks of grain produced between its stones. But as no one has been able to visit lately, many have forgotten the importance of the Mill.

The mill was built about 1700 to grind the grain produced on the farms that filled the Great Neck peninsula. Originally it was used to grind corn, and that flour was then sold to the world markets. First owned by Robert Hubbs Jr, it was sold to Henry Allen in 1702, and passed through the Allen family, eventually being sold to Richard Udall in 1833. The Udalls improved and updated the mill, using it to grind not only corn but many other grains as well. They also used the mill as a dock for ships purchasing the products of Great Neck's prosperous farms.

The mill continued to pass through the Udall family, and eventually became the property of Louise Udall Eldridge, the same Louise Eldridge who helped to found the Great Neck Library, Park District, and Village of Saddle Rock. Mrs. Eldridge restored the mill, and upon her death it became the property of the Nassau County Historical Society. It was deeded to Nassau County in 1955 to insure restoration. It is listed on the National Registry of Historic Places.

The Mill has been restored numerous times, most recently in 1992, but increasing natural disasters, such as Hurricane Sandy, and decreasing funding have taken their toll. The Mill, once the site of school field trips, has been closed for years, awaiting the funding that will make it safe for visits.

Nassau County received a \$45,000 grant for architectural evaluation that was used to generate an engineer's report. That report shows that it will take hundreds of thousands of dollars to make the building structurally sound and spurred by Great Neck Historical Society member and County Legislator Ellen Birnbaum, the County is seeking State and Federal grants to meet that goal.

Recently, the County received a small grant to cover the damage done by Hurricane Sandy, and an architect has toured the Mill. The damage, both inside and outside the Mill, is extensive. Many floorboards are missing, and others are rotten, which has given access to various types of animal life. The wheel, pictured last year in poor condition, has now fallen completely apart, and is gone. There is no part of the Mill that is not damaged.
