

Friends of the **Stockdale Mill**

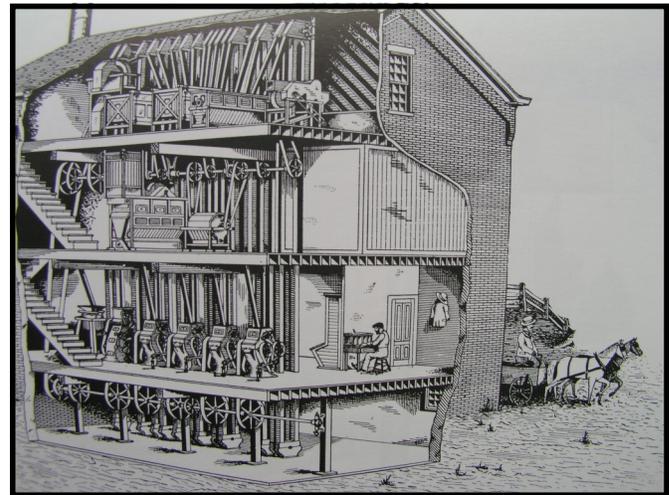
www.stockdalemill.org



Restoration Continues

One of the restoration projects for 2014 was the renovation of wheat elevator #2. This elevator reaches from the basement floor to the tip of the top floor. It moves wheat from the middle floor grain bins to the wheat scourer located on the top floor. Restoration included fabricating a complete replacement boot (bottom section) out of wood, replacing a wooden spout, removing buckets (cups) from the old belt, installing new belting, and bolting the buckets into place. Visitors may view the moving buckets through openings on the main floor and in the basement.

The mill has three wheat elevators and ten elevators for ground material in the flour milling operation plus one grain elevator on the feed milling side.



Above: *Illustration of 4 floor milling similar to Stockdale Mill shows a row of elevators.*
Lower Left: *Old advertisement for elevator supplies.*

Below: *Photo of the basement portion of two restored wheat elevators*

ROBINSON MFG. CO.  MUNCY, PA., U.S.A.

ELEVATOR

Vertical bucket elevators, as illustrated, are used for carrying grain and ground products from the lower part of the building to the top of the building where it can be spouted to any point desired. For general mill work the head, boot and vertical boxes or casing, are made of soft yellow poplar joined together so as to be dust tight. When suitable lumber is available locally, elevator can be furnished without the vertical casing.

Elevators numbers 1 to 19 inclusive are furnished with cotton belting. Larger sizes with rubber belting. Elevators for flour products furnished with tin buckets. When used for corn products, feed or grain, furnished with steel cups. Elevators number 30 and larger are fitted with iron boot, Figure S4.

ELEVATOR EQUIPMENT

One complete elevator includes wood head with pulley, wood or iron boot with pulley and shaft, necessary cotton or rubber belting, and necessary buckets with bolts for attaching. The shaft for the top pulley is not included but when shaft is not ordered with elevator, size of shaft should be designated so pulley can be bored to fit. Elevator can be furnished either with or without lumber for vertical casing.

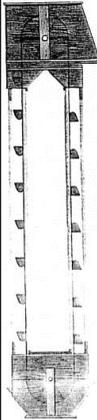


Figure S1

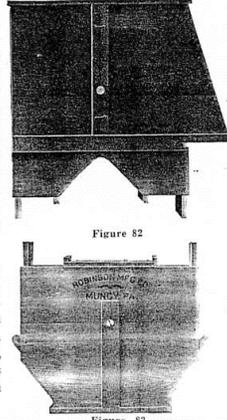


Figure S2

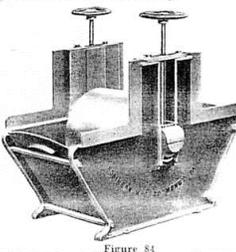


Figure S4



Interview with Ruby (Jacobson) Gaston *Stockdale Mill Impressions*

Peggy Morris

Harvesting grain in Indiana back in the 1930s and 40s was becoming increasingly mechanized as horses were replaced by tractors and mechanized implements. Still, I recall that raising grain crops, hand-weeding fields, harvesting crops and separating the grain from stalks and chaff were all labor intensive jobs. So much work needed to be done; even very young children had jobs to do. As a preschooler, I helped my older brother, Ben, carry jugs of water and lunches to my dad and other field workers. They simply did not have time to come to the house for meals.

Before combines came into use, harvesting the grain crops required a series of "jobs". First, the ripened wheat and oats stalks were mowed and bound into sheaves (bundles) by a horse- or tractor-drawn harvester. (We called this farm implement "the binder".) The next harvesting jobs were very hard work for adults and older children. On hot summer days, the sheaves of wheat (or oats) were gathered or stacked upright into shocks out in the field. Perhaps 7 to 9 sheaves were placed, grain heads at the top, into each shock. Then one or two sheaves were fanned out horizontally over the top of each shock, forming a "roof" over the upright sheaves. These shocks allowed the grains and straw to dry and cure as they sat in fields during the heat of summer. (Corn shocks did not have bundles. The corn stalks were cut manually at ground level and then gathered into shocks. After drying in the fields, the stalks were used as fodder to feed cattle during the winter months.)

My dad owned a threshing machine. Neighboring farmers and their farmhands formed Threshing Rings. All of these workers traveled from farm to farm, along with the threshing machine. This machine separated the grain from straw and chaff. Prior to or during threshing, men had to pitch sheaves of straw and grain heads onto wagons to be hauled to the threshing site. I had the easiest job. I drove the tractor that pulled the wagons from shock to shock. The men then drove the tractors pulling the wagons to the threshing machines. There, the men used pitch forks to pitch the sheaves into the threshing machine. Tractors or steam engines provided the power for the threshing machine by utilizing heavy belts, wheels, and pulleys. After the grain was separated from the straw and chaff, the straw was blown from a large, moveable chute into a straw mow or a straw stack. That supply of straw was used to bed the animals in the barns.

I was often "drafted" to tend the grain chute on the threshing machine—a difficult job for a farm girl. The grain, especially wheat, was a very precious commodity. Spill it and you are in trouble! It was a challenge to get the filled sacks set and an empty burlap bag under the chute before the filled bucket on the thresher tripped and dumped the grain down the chute and into the bag I was holding. (The bucket on the threshing machine had an important function; it measured the grain so farmers could determine bushels per acre.)

My mother, in the meantime, was very busy preparing the meals for the threshing crew. The meals consisted of chicken, beef, or pork (raised on our farm) plus home grown vegetables and fruit. She always baked rolls, cakes, cookies and pastries made with fine wheat flour from the Deck Mill. I preferred

helping Mom prepare the meals for the threshing crew rather than bagging the grain at the threshing machine, but kids helped wherever needed!

The grain mill at Stockdale was the hub of the community. Farm families were dependent on local mills to grind and mill the grains into feed for the animals and finely sifted flour and cornmeal for family needs. My dad stored most of the threshed wheat and oats in partitioned granary rooms in the barn. Later I would help Dad bag the wheat, oats, and corn so it could be taken to the mill. That's when I learned how important it was to tie the bags with twine tied into square knots. The bags would come untied and spill if I erroneously tied the twine into bad "granny" knots. My dad taught me the difference between the two types of knots and the importance of using square knots when and where needed. Now that I am in my eighties, these lessons continue to serve me well. Lifetime lessons were learned on the farm!

Once the bagged grains were loaded onto the farm truck, ready for the trip to Stockdale Mill, Ben and/or I would be enlisted to go with Dad. It took "kid power" to carry or drag the bags to the back of the truck; once there, Dad could empty the bags into awaiting "jaws" of the mill--a dangerous spot.

The first lesson I learned at the mill was that kids were absolutely forbidden to be in

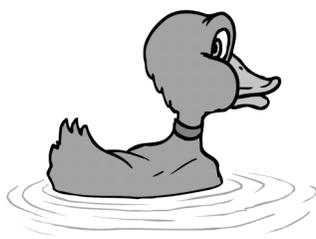
the mill when the machines were running. Jim Deck only needed to say "out" with a finger pointing to the big open doors. Ben and I could walk around the building to the office portion of the mill at the northeast corner of the mill. The office was sparsely furnished with perhaps only one chair or stool at the built-in corner desk. If I remember correctly, a gumball machine was the only temptation in that dusty office. Had pennies???

Soon the local mills would decline due to progress in feed processing. In the late 1940s Dad purchased a hammer mill so feed for the cattle and hogs could be ground right there in the barn. Combines would eliminate the laborious jobs of shocking the wheat and oats and then loading and unloading the wagon loads of sheaves as part of the threshing process.

As the lovely old barns and charming mills seemed destined to deteriorate and disappear, this "ending era" of farm to mill grain production seemed to be forgotten lifestyles. Fortunately money, individuals, and groups have saved some of these relics from the past and restored them so future generations can continue to learn about the "good ol' days". Thanks to all of you who are continuing to preserve the lovely old mill. It has many lessons to teach and memories to preserve. Hur-ray!

Great Eel River Duck Race

Sponsor a Duck - Support the Mill



Wanna race ?

SPECIAL HOURS

Roann Covered Bridge Festival

tour hours:

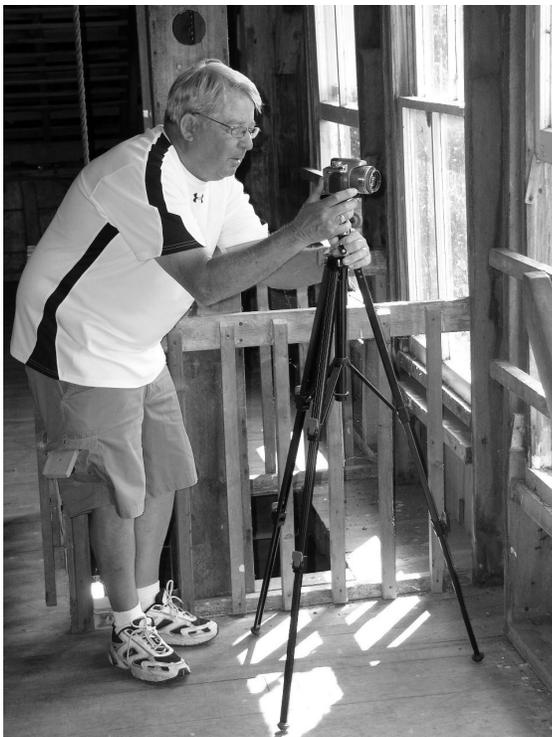
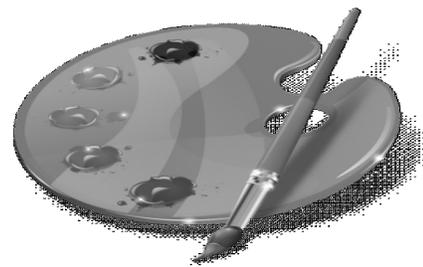
Saturday Sept 6 10-6

Sunday Sept 7 12-4

Pictures Unlimited

People are naturally drawn to the idyllic setting of our old mill, the dam, and the Eel River. Some are content to stare and take in the view. Others have their creative juices inspired. Whether with brush or pencil or shutter, each artist selects a perfect position and angle to capture the essence of the scene. Add chisel to the list – the Visitor Center hosts an amazing unique wood carved relief.

How many homes are graced by renditions of the mill is anybody's guess. Tourists click snapshots by the hundreds. One camera aficionado recently took two hours to capture the perfect black and white picture of one of the roller mills with his "large plate" camera. Painters spend hours studying the landscape and plying their brushes to canvas. This is not a new phenomenon. Some depictions have become family heirlooms. The oldest known postcard is thought to be from around 1910. Do you have a picture of the Stockdale Mill on your wall? In a drawer? On your computer? If so, we would like to hear from you. Tell us about your picture – send a photo –or tell us about your experience. Send a note to: info@stockdalemill.org



* * **DONATION CARD** * *

Stockdale Mill Foundation
c/o Pam Musselman
4328 E SR16
Macy, IN 46951

Donation by: _____

Amount: _____

Note :

Guests who signed the mill register in 2013 came from 18 states and 3 foreign countries. States reached from North Carolina to California and from Arizona to South Dakota – let's not forget Hawaii.

Around the Mill

Jennifer McColley

Ron and I moved to Stockdale in August of 1975. It was not long until we were strongly attached to the Eel River. We have two daughters who played at the river and now have four grandsons that love the river and the old mill.

Ron is now president of the mill association and we both give tours and help where we can with maintenance and mowing. We wonder at how things have changed in 39 years.

Future generations of our family will enjoy the mill and the river thanks to the Stockdale Mill Foundation.

'Bud' Rife

The Stockdale Mill Foundation has been blessed to have many tireless, dedicated volunteers over the years we have been in existence. When one of them passes on, it is like losing a member of our own family. Our most recent loss was this past March when Bud Rife passed away. Bud worked at the mill when he "was a kid" just out of high school. In his later years, he worked as a very capable tour guide, being able to draw on the years of experience he had as a previous mill employee. We are so appreciative of the many hours of volunteer service he gave to our community. He is greatly missed by his mill family.

*Some of our
Volunteers helped
Jim Watson
celebrate his
birthday on
Spring Clean-up
Day.*

*The crew cleaned
the mill from top to
bottom and prepared
the grounds to
welcome guests for
opening day.*



Stockdale Mill Foundation
c/o Ron McColley
7897 W River Rd.
Roann, IN 46974

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT #5
ROANN, IN
46974

RETURN REQUESTED

**Stockdale Mill Foundation
Board of Directors 2014**

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The Stockdale Mill Foundation is a non-profit Indiana corporation with the purpose of preserving the Stockdale Mill. We are a 501(c)(3) organization, enabling donors to deduct contributions. All donations are used 100% for historical preservation and restoration. We invite you to come experience what our dedicated volunteers have prepared for your visit.

E-mail us:
info@stockdalemill.org

Find us on the web:
www.stockdalemill.org

Answering machine:
(765) 833-2019



Regular tour hours are
Saturdays
Noon to 4PM
May through October

**Special tours may be arranged for
your family group or organization.**

SUMMER 2014