

Friends of the Stockdale Mill

Summer 2013



Around the Mill

Ron McColley

Just like the wheels on a bus that go around and around.....at Stockdale Mill the water flows under the mill, drops six feet and causes the three Leffel turbines to go around and around. Above the basement floor, attached to the turbines are wooden gears. Two gears have 66 wooden cogs each; one has 68. (Think of “cogs” as gear “teeth”.) Over the years, the wooden cogs become worn or broken and need to be replaced. Actually replacing the cogs is a fairly simple task. FINDING replacement cogs is a challenge.

Each gear's set of cogs varies. Each cog, approximately the size of a man's hand has 6 sides: top, bottom, front, back, and two ends. Each of those 6 sides has its own angles, making finding replacements a process. Each cog is held in place by a tapered wooden “pin”.

Since renovation of Stockdale Mill began in 2001, 4-5 cogs have been replaced. The cog supply left by the late Addison Krom, former mill owner, has been depleted. The search for replacements has been in progress for months. Contacts have been pursued throughout five states and especially with an industrial

engineer professor at Purdue University, all to no avail. Unfortunately, no computer or manufacturer's specifications exist. The only directions available are the existing worn

cogs. Finally, within 20 miles of the mill, James See and Bob Masten of Peru, Indiana, machinist and woodworker respectively, have agreed to the task of making some new cogs.



Mill volunteers have learned that the cogs must be made of hard maple and have a grain that runs vertically with the cog's gear, so that the cogs do not break while in operation. Before usage, the new cogs will be soaked in Boiled Linseed Oil to lubricate and strengthen them. Once assembled on the gears, both the cogs and gears will be treated with soft wax which will act as a lubricant, quiet the gears' noise, and help them to run more smoothly.

Stockdale Mill is operated by something so simple as cogs in wheels that go round and round. Amazingly, the simple cog operation is actually complex.



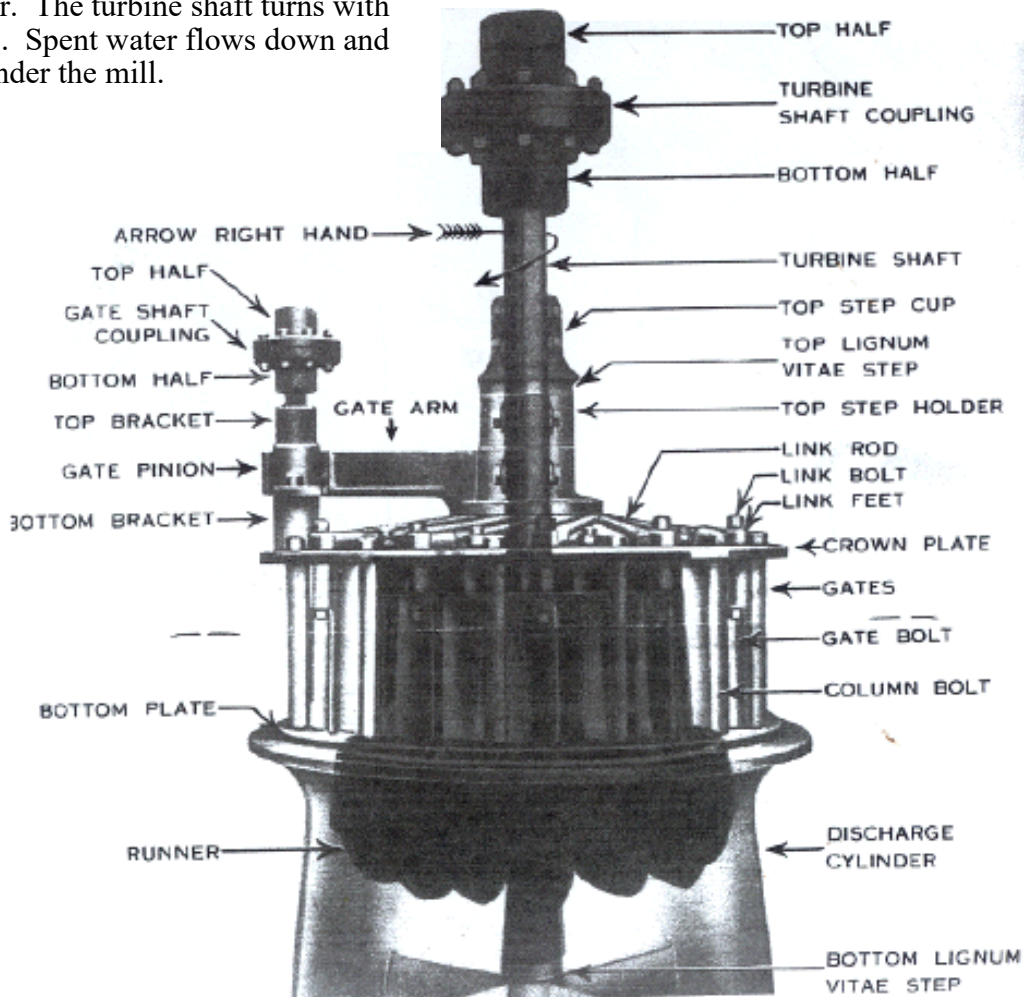
Addison Krom holds a wooden “pin” as he adjusts cogs in 1953



One of three turbines is exposed under the mill during renovation in September 2002. Normally the turbines are submersed in about 5 feet of water. When the operator turns the gate shaft, link rods push open the gates allowing water to enter the turbine. Water flows over the cupped runners generating power. The turbine shaft turns with the runners. Spent water flows down and out from under the mill.



Bevel Gears – the larger gear with wooden cogs sets atop a water turbine shaft. Pins are visible underneath the gear. The smaller steel gear transfers power to a line shaft. Wooden pulleys on the line shaft are belted to milling machinery.



water turbine diagram

Interview with Wilbur "Web" Thrush: *Stockdale Mill Impressions*

Peggy Morris

To a young boy, Stockdale Mill was a fascinating place. Now over 80 years later, "Web" Thrush recalled some sweet memories. "Web" now 92 years young, abides in the country between Roann and Wabash with "Connie", his wife of 72 years.

Mr. Thrush recalls making trips to Stockdale Mill with his dad, Joe Thrush. His dad would put two bags of wheat in the back of their 1930 Plymouth, go to the mill, and exchange it for flour. His mother always made bread. A real treat was when she made sweet rolls.



"Web" was always impressed with the Old Dutch Mill clock in the mill office. He was mesmerized by its operation. He recalls there was also a big picture of the Roann Train Wreck. It must have been 2 feet long. He also found the grain pit fascinating where the farmers would

dump their loads of grain.

Mr. Thrush also remembered the chute where corn cobs from the sheller were sent to the river. (Yes, corncobs were disposed of into the river.) The dam was always interesting, but especially the mill race where debris was caught on the grating. To a young boy, it was interesting that sometimes there would be a dead fish. The fact that Mr. Jim Deck ran this large mill alone was remarkable.

One day in the 1930s or 1940s, Jim Deck paid the Thrushes a visit. Because of the drought, Mr. Deck needed corn for chicken feed for his customers. He offered \$1.35 per bushel, "Web" thinks. That was a lot of money then. The late Ron Thrush, "Web's" older brother, would tell the story that he "got" to shovel corn onto and off of an old 1931 Chevy Truck. The grain went into a metal grain bin at the mill. That bin is still standing east of the mill.



Mr. Thrush reminisced how he and the neighbor, the late Paul Deal, lived five miles south of the Stockdale Mill on the county line's gravel road. One summer day, the two boys rode their bicycles to Deck's Dam. There they played in the water and walked the dam. They discovered a large fish (Picture him demonstrating a one-two foot sized fish!) trying to jump the dam. The boys caught the fish barehanded and took it to Roann where they sold the fish for \$.35. The money was enough to buy them ice cream. The entrepreneurs continued their bike ride north to Lukens Lake for a swim.

Mr. Wilbur "Web" Thrush is grateful that the old historic Stockdale Mill is being



Spring Floods

Floodwaters threatened to delay the opening day for mill tours. On April 19, 2013 the Eel River reached the third highest level ever recorded at the Stockdale Mill. The river reached midway up the basement windows. Water stood 36-1/2" above the basement floor. According to the flood marks recorded in the mill basement, this year's level was 2" below the 1932 flood level and 13-1/2" below the record flood of 1959.

Mill volunteers showed up and community members pitched in to clean and scrub to prepare for the opening day, which was to be 15 days later. After much hard work, structural inspection, and finishing touches the mill opened for visitors as planned on May 4.

Twice more this spring the river rose to menacing levels. Fortunately, crests remained a few inches below the basement floor.

FALL MEETING Saturday, October 5, 2013 Stockdale Mill--Roann, Indiana Day's Schedule:

9:00 Registration: Stockdale Mill
until 11:30: Mill Tours
12:00: Lunch at
Roann Community Building
1:00: SPOOM meeting
Visit Historic Roann
Mill open until 4:00

* * DONATION CARD * *

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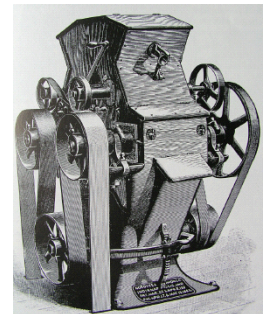
Note :

SPOOM is Coming !

SPOOM? Society for the Preservation of Old Mills is an organization of mill enthusiasts which is dedicated by its constitution to: "promote interest in old mills and other Americana now quickly passing from the present scene."

The Great Lakes Chapter will be visiting the **Stockdale Mill on Oct 5.**

This will be a unique experience for our region. The day's events are open to the public and all are encouraged to attend. This event will replace our **Annual Picnic**. Reservations are needed only for those who wish to join us for lunch at the Community Building - contact Pam Musselman for information.



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

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**Stockdale Mill Foundation
Board of Directors 2013**

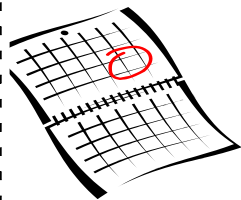
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The Stockdale Mill Foundation is a non-profit Indiana corporation with the purpose of preserving the Stockdale Mill. We are a 501©(3) organization, enabling donors to deduct contributions. All donations are used 100% for historical preservation and 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 2013