
*Friends
of the* **Stockdale Mill**

www.stockdalemill.org



Around the Mill

Sometimes it is hard to distinguish maintenance projects from restoration projects. Whatever the case may be, both have been moving ahead at the Stockdale Mill. Since our last newsletter our volunteer crew has identified a number of tasks to be performed.

Among these are refurbishing six windows and three doors. The sills on the mill office door and the basement door beside the race were completely overhauled. The Visitor Center door was rehung and a new stoop was installed. Spouting from the grain bins to the wheat elevators has been reworked. In the basement, the corn cob shaker below the corn sheller that separated grain and cob has been rebuilt.

Gates on water turbine #3 have been adjusted, but continue to be stubborn. Brush and timber on the south side of the river, below the dam, was collecting considerable debris during periods of flood. Trees had grown taller and were obstructing the view

from the highway. Sections have been cleared to take care of this problem. Another ongoing project is renovation of the west bay of the Visitor Center. During initial mill restoration, this section was reserved to house old lumber. With only scraps remaining, it was decided to convert this section into storage for Visitor Center supplies, freeing up the middle bay for a learning center.

Big Antique

Some adults are into antiques. Some like to play with big toys. Still others delve into history. At the Stockdale Mill, our helpers enjoy all three together. The water-powered mill is a really large antique toy filled to the brink with local history. Adding a river and a dam to this provides you with a great place for passing a day.

If you could make yourself free one day a month, you could join the fun. Everyone from within an hour's drive can be a friend of the Stockdale Mill. Perhaps you could write news articles or run a weed-whacker. Maybe you could help sweep or assist with ongoing restoration. Planting flower bulbs, mowing, repairing window panes, grinding cornmeal, and keeping the water flowing in the mill race are all activities that need a pair of hands.



The mill is also in need of some friends who are willing to be “tour guides” to show visitors around. Visitors of all ages come from all 50 states. Our guides get to watch people’s amazement when the four floors of equipment begin to shake and rumble as the water turbines bring the mill to life. Don’t like stairs—the lower two floors have ramps. We have training for new guides and provide a prepared fact-book to follow.

The Stockdale Mill Foundation is a non-profit organization. The sole purpose is to preserve our unique setting that epitomizes a by-gone era. We have no paid staff. There is no exclusive group. The only requirement is a caring attitude and a willingness to pitch-in. Enjoying playing with a big antique doesn’t hurt, either.



Innovation at the Stockdale Dam

Watch for upcoming announcements about developments at the Stockdale Dam. The dam is roughly 5-1/2 feet high and 200 feet long. The current concrete dam was built in 1915 in front of the original wood dam. The wood dam was formed by hewn timbers forming a chain of cribs which were then filled with field stone. The wood dam was then covered with planks. The dam is back-filled with field stone for a distance of about 30 feet. The dam forms a pool of water which feeds three operational water turbines in the Stockdale Mill. The turbines

generate power that runs equipment on all four floors of the mill.

The Stockdale Mill Foundation has partnered with the Middle Eel River Watershed Initiative, Manchester University, and Indiana Department of Natural Resources Division of Fish and Wildlife, for the development of an innovative fish by-pass. The project designs and implements a unique enclosed pathway for smaller species of fish to scale the dam. Current designs are useful only for larger, stronger fish.

As the engineering of this first of its kind enclosed bypass continues, other aspects of the project have moved along. A site survey has been completed. [*The survey revealed that the Stockdale Dam remains unbelievably level.*] All permits have been secured.

Manchester University interns have completed a survey of fish species both above and below the dam. Small-mouth bass have been implanted with micro-tag sensors so that they may be tracked electronically. It is noteworthy that the interns have also reintroduced a species of mussel that is on the federal endangered list.



The timeline for implementation is dependent upon the engineering and manufacturing process. Stay tuned for important developments.

History Flows With The Eel River

Joe Krom

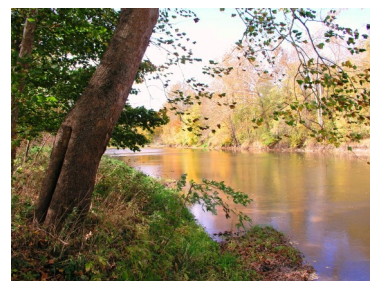
The waters of the Wabash River reflect the stately image of the George Rogers Clark Memorial. The monument is a fitting tribute to the battle of Vincennes fought during the American Revolution. However, that is not the only frontier battle to have been waged along the rivers of Indiana during the Revolution and on to the beginnings of the War of 1812. A quest for smaller markers will take you on scenic byways along the **Eel River**.

Prior to his defeat at Vincennes, Governor Henry Hamilton of Canada, led a column of British soldiers from Detroit to strengthen Fort Vincennes. Along the way he recruited Miami warriors to join his force. In his journal he describes his visit to the Miami village of **Eel Town** on the **Eel River** (*now Adamsboro upstream from Logansport*). The village stretched a full three miles along the north bank of the river.

Augustin de LaBalme accompanied Lafayette upon his arrival in America. Clark's success in capturing the Illinois towns and Vincennes inspired LaBalme to mount his own expedition of conquest in 1780. He recruited rough-and-ready locals of French descent and headed up the Wabash. His goal was to capture Detroit, the British stronghold in the west. Outwardly professing the American cause, he may have aspired to found a French province and eventually reclaim all of Canada. His true motives will never be known since his force was terminated in what is now Whitley County. Upon reaching Kekionga (*now Ft. Wayne*), he found his hoped-for support from the Miami to be a mirage. He confiscated

what few supplies that were found and burned the villages. Needing gun powder, he headed northwest along the portage to the **Eel River**. Unfortunately, the old French trading post he sought belonged at that time to Little Turtle's sister. LaBalme and his troop now rest on the banks of the **Eel River** (*above Columbia City*). A small plaque marks the battle where Little Turtle rose to prominence among the Miami.

A few miles upstream another plaque marks a second defeat Little Turtle inflicted upon Americans. By 1790 the Revolution



had come to an end, at least in the east. The British defied the peace treaty by holding Detroit and other stations on the American side of the Great Lakes. They continually provoked area tribes into hostilities against American settlers in the Ohio valley. The main jumping-off points for raiding parties of the Miami and various tribes from the north were at **Eel Town** and at Kekionga. To halt these atrocities, and to secure the portage of the Maumee-Wabash trade route that connected the Great lakes with the Mississippi, President Washington determined to have a fort established at Kekionga. Things did not go as planned. General Josiah Har-mar led an American army north into the wilderness from Fort Washington (*Cincinnati*). Finding Kekionga abandoned, his men looted and burned the town. Eager for a fight, sorties were sent out to probe the enemy. Colonel John Hardin's patrol followed a well-traveled trail to the northwest. Little Turtle's Miami warriors lay in wait on the north bank of the **Eel River**. A marker telling about Hardin's Defeat stands east of US33 at

the river crossing.

Washington turned to Arthur St. Clair to punish the Miami for their insolence and see to building his fort at Kekionga. St. Clair, Governor of the Northwest Territory,



formed his army of two thousand men at Fort Washington. Meanwhile, he directed James Wil-

kinson to lead a mounted raiding party of two hundred Kentucky Militia against **Eel Town**. With the warriors gone in defense of Kekionga, **Eel Town** was destroyed. However, St. Clair's main force was obliterated at what is today Ft. Recovery, Ohio with a loss of over six hundred men.

President Washington next turned to Anthony Wayne, a hero of the Revolution. General Wayne took two years to build a better-trained, better-equipped army. At the Battle of Fallen Timbers (*Maumee, OH*) the confederation of tribes was crushed. Finally, in October, 1794, Wayne built Fort Wayne. Washington's desire of a post in the heart of the Miami resistance was realized. Wayne negotiated peace with the several tribes. The Treaty of Greenville (1795) became the law of the land. The **Eel River Tribe** (*part of the Miami Confederation*) chiefs signed the treaty along-side the Miami and other tribes. The frontier remained relatively quiet for fifteen years.

In the autumn of 1811, William Henry Harrison led an army up the Wabash from Vincennes. In the Battle of Tippecanoe (*Battleground, northeast of Lafayette*), Harrison defeated the Prophet's followers. He

destroyed the town and the resisting warriors scattered. Many consider this the opening battle of the War of 1812. Congress formally declared war with England in June of 1812. The Miami, attempting to remain neutral, concentrated in remote areas along the **Eel** and Mississinewa rivers. Flush with victories elsewhere, the Pottawatomie and others laid siege to Fort Wayne. William Henry Harrison formed an army in Cincinnati and quickly marched to the relief of Fort Wayne.

After securing Fort Wayne, Harrison sent a punitive expedition against the Pottawatomie villages on the Elkhart River (*New Paris*). Another expedition was sent against Turtle Town on the **Eel River** (*downstream from the site of LeBalme's defeat*). The vacant town was destroyed, except for Little Turtle's former home which was ordered by Harrison to be spared. The Miami were henceforth discovered fleeing downriver. The army took up the pursuit. The rear guard of the Miami defended the **Eel River** crossing (*below Columbia City*), but was soundly defeated by the Americans. A third expedition destroyed the trading post and the village at the Forks of the Wabash (*Huntington*). Later, a force from Greenville was sent against the Miami along the Mississinewa (*Marion*).

Seeking out the small markers at these battle sites leads to secluded riversides. Pastoral scenes and rippling streams will spark your imagination. Allow time to roam. Dangle your toes in Eel River waters – perhaps you will feel the history. These same historical waters



* * **DONATION CARD** * *

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Note :

Great Eel River Duck Race

Sponsor a Duck - Support the Mill

*The only duck
race where
ducks go over
a dam to win !
Sept 11, 2PM*



SPECIAL HOURS

Roann Covered Bridge Festival

tour hours:

Saturday Sept 10 10-6

Sunday Sept 11 12-4

MILL ROOF PROJECT

The Stockdale Mill is in need of a new roof. Income generated each year from donations and sales covers basic costs of operation and general maintenance as well as mill restoration. The roof project will require support beyond what our general donations have been. If you wish to give specifically for this, please indicate "ROOF" on your donation.

BEACON CREDIT UNION "SPOTLIGHT"

Beacon Credit Union donated a generous prize to the Stockdale Mill with their "Project Spotlight" in 2015. The prize was used for new promotional literature.

Again this year the Mill is competing for a prize from Beacon. You may help our mill by voting online. You may **vote once each day** through the **end of September**.

Go on the web to:

www.beaconcu.org/project-spotlight

And select: *Wabash County (City of Wabash)*.

Select "*Stockdale Mill*." *pssst – pass the word*

Your Newsletter Options

Your newsletter will continue to be mailed unless we hear from you that you wish otherwise. We now have an on-line option available. On your computer go to:

www.stockdalemill.org/news

There you will find the current newsletter along with past issues. News updates will also appear. If you prefer this option, please let us know and we will remove you from the mailing list. This will be a cost savings to the mill.

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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 2016