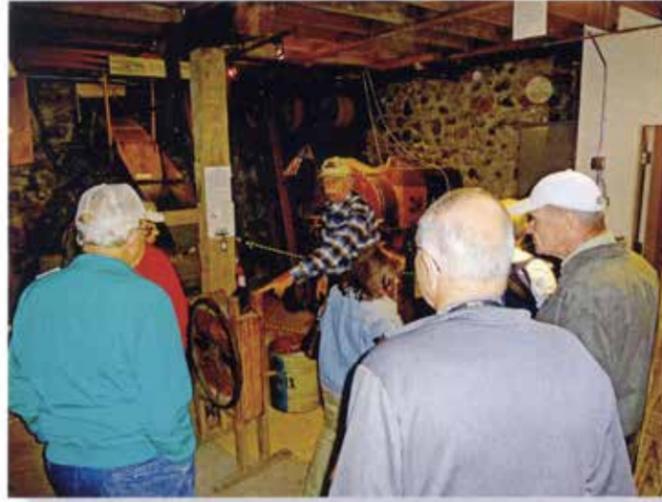


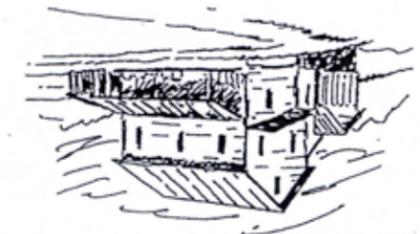
dollars annually, the Sloan Museum periodically rotates the vehicles on display.

We concluded our tour on the second floor of the mill, where local memorabilia is tastefully displayed amid several tall, narrow grain bins thoughtfully preserved by the historical society. Some of our group chatted with board members, including Barb Hartwig, granddaughter of the former owners. One guest from Indiana reminisced with Reta Copeman about the Edison Diamond Disc phonograph she was demonstrating. A couple people explored the attic of the mill, while yet others viewed a fascinating display about Lloyd Copeman (Kent's grandfather), inventor of the electric stove, automatic toaster, and several hundred other innovations.

We ate lunch at the Hadley Community Church, directly across the street from the mill. Those of us that visited here ten years ago still recall the excellent meal we had then, and today's was just as delicious and served as professionally as in an upscale restaurant: beef stew and Chicken a-la King over mashed potatoes; homemade biscuits, fresh spinach salad with feta cheese; and for dessert, apple cake with ice cream and caramel sauce!



Dave Beckley compares the three corn shellers on display.



Hadley Township Historical Society
Box 20
Hadley, MI 48440

Board Members:
Kent Copeman, President
Dave Beckley, Vice President
Dennis Emery, Treasurer
Kristie Waldorf, Secretary
Tim Lange, Archivist
Reta Copeman, Trustee
Barb Hartwig, Trustee
Joyce Ivory, Trustee
Ron Johnson, Trustee
Kirk Mancour, Trustee
Neil Reiche, Trustee
Editor:
Kent Copeman

Hadley Township Historical Society Fall-2017 Hadley Mill Museum

The Historical Society has now completed another year and has settled in for a "long winters nap". As with all historical societies there is always something to do. There are newsletters that need to be written, printed and mailed throughout the year. Our Board needs to plan for the coming year including the four historical programs that we offer during the summer months at the Hadley township office building. We started off the year with a Vernor's ice cream float. How can we top that for 2018?

This newsletter is somewhat different than what we normally do. This fall the Great Lakes Chapter of the Society for the Preservation of Old Mills (SPOOM) visited our mill. The article, written by Craig Wiley, our regional president, did such an excellent job of highlighting not only our museum but the town of Hadley. We could not help but ask for permission to reprint it as our Fall Newsletter. It was quickly granted and here it is for your enjoyment. The annual regional membership is \$10.00 and meets twice a year at various mills in Michigan, Ohio, Indiana and Illinois. It is great fun to meet other people that have an interest in the preservation of old mills. The individual cost for the national SPOOM membership is \$23.00 and holds a yearly conference once a year. For the year 2018 it will be held in the state of New York. Once settled in the hotel, participants visit various mills in the area by motor coach. They also publish the **Old Mill News** magazine. We have membership forms if anyone is interested in joining.

We hope you enjoy this special issue of the Newsletter and we wish you a Very Merry Christmas and a joyful 2018 New Year.

Great Lakes Chapter News

by Craig T. Wiley, President

The Great Lakes Chapter held its fall meeting on Saturday, September 30 at The Hadley Mill Museum in Lapeer County, Michigan with 25 members and guests attending. Kent and Reta Copeman were our hosts. It had been ten years since we last visited there.



Hadley Mill as viewed from the street.



Hadley Mill rear view.

The village of Hadley is located approximately halfway between Detroit and Flint, amid gently rolling hills, and numerous small lakes and wetlands. The morning was pleasant with comfortable temperatures and just a hint of early fall color. As we drove into town, the picturesque red mill, a white gothic church across the way, and the tree lined streets reminded us of a New England village. Like many other small towns in the Great Lakes states, this one bears resemblance to the eastern ones from

whence some of its early settlers hailed.

We gathered inside the mill in a neatly furnished modern apartment on the first floor—the exact same spot where years ago a cider press stood. Kent Copeman, president of the Hadley Township Historical Society, shared a brief history of the mill. He explained that it was originally called “Hadley Mills,” because it produced flour, grist, and cider. Regarding the cider pressing operation, Kent explained that after the pressing, the mash “was loaded into a trip cart that was pulled across the lower mill pond and dumped on the far side. Folks who fished said ‘it was the best place to find angle-worms.’”

Prior to the meeting Kent also furnished some detailed written history for this article:

“After Roy and Lila Griffith closed the mill in 1964, Ralph and Marie Hartwig bought it.



Host Kent Copeman gives a brief history of Hadley Mill.

As it had been used for storage and left to the elements, it was a labor of love to bring it back to its present condition. At the time of purchase the mill was being held up by a cable that was hooked to an apple tree out front.”

The Hartwigs owned the mill for several years. In the summers they lived in the apartment where the cider mill had been and spend the winters in Florida.

Kent explained how he became involved.

“The Hartwigs had determined to turn over the mill and some acreage to Hadley Township. In turn, the Township asked me if I would be interested in forming a historical society whose main object was to collect and display the ‘history of Hadley Township.’” Kent consented

and the local historical society was formed in 2003. In the fourteen years since, the society has made much progress, funded in part by memberships and endowments. Kent recalled how one elderly man asked how much money

it would take to get something running inside the mill, whether \$100,000 might be enough?” to which Kent replied: “We can get *anything* up-and-running for that amount!” The man bequeathed a coin collection and part of the proceeds were used to excavate and stabilize the turbine pit, where the abandoned turbine had for years remained in situ.



Barb Hartwig, Hadley board member and granddaughter of mill donors.

Kent recounted the society’s progress over the years, including the museum’s collections:

“We’ve added floor joists, rafters, and re-floored three floors. We started with having a commercial company come in and vacuum the entire building: walls, floors,



Mike Hartwig operates the vintage Farquhar sawmill.

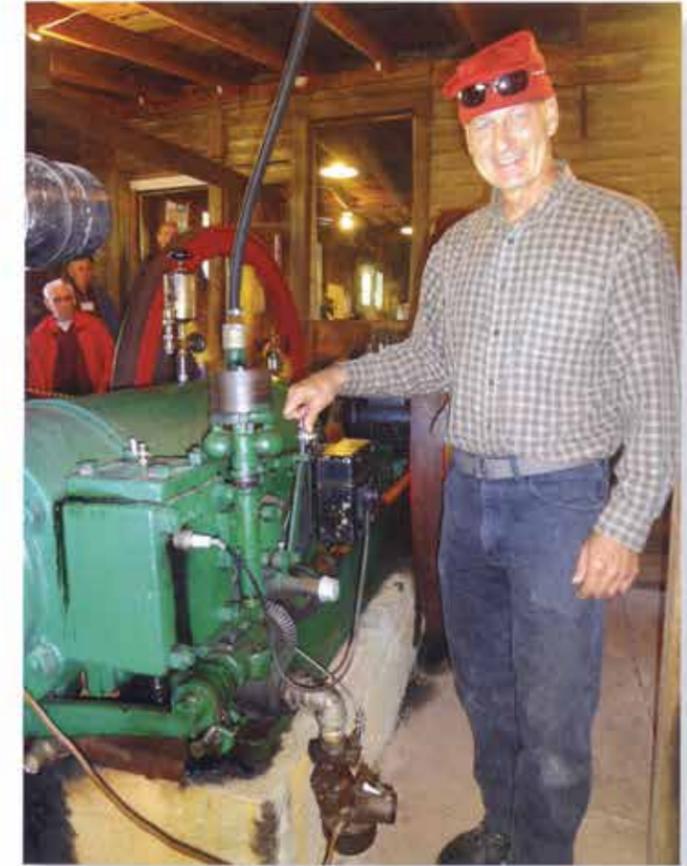
and ceilings. We’ve had a great many people volunteer in getting the interior museum ready. The Township had the mill completely rewired and the exterior of the mill re-sided. The turbine and turbine tank was filled with junk and dirt. Volunteers cleaned it out and we have had a treated wood structure built around the Leffel Turbine. We left the grain storage bins in place, as they [too] are part of the original mill. Once we formed the Hadley Township Historical Society, the local folks—even if they had moved far away—started giving their Hadley items to the museum for the collection. We have the school showcase, the church chairs, etc. and pictures of the four churches.”

Kent told us about the two mill ponds formerly located behind the mill, the turbine that powered the mill, and the steam engine that provided supplemental power. He recalled that one of the ponds later became the site of the town dump, and that the old steam boiler existed as late as the mid-1940s. Today the entire area is a large well-manicured lawn with a picturesque covered pedestrian bridge leading to a picnic pavilion beyond.

We walked across that area to a nearby building that houses a vintage Farquhar sawmill, a Rumley Oil Pull tractor, and other antique machinery. Mike Hartwig, grandson of Ralph and Marie Hartwig, demonstrated the sawmill with assistance from the historical society’s board members. He also shared an interesting story about two other machines inside the building: a small sawmill and accompanying hit-or-miss gas engine that were once used in Mackinaw City to saw lumber for fish crates. Years ago his grandfather bought the engine, but left the sawmill behind. Fifty years later Mike located it (by then the wooden parts were gone), bought it and reunited the two machines!

Mike led us back across the lawn to the main mill where he fired up a one-cylinder 20 horsepower Superior gas engine. Like many mills, Hadley’s power sources evolved over time out of necessity and modernization—water, steam, gas, electric. Elaborating on the engine we were now viewing, Kent and Mike both mentioned it came from an oil well but is similar enough to the original to be representative. “When operating, it could be heard a mile away!” There also remains in the mill one vintage electric motor dating back to the early days of electrification.

Downstairs in the mill basement, board member Dave Beckley talked about the three corn shellers on display and demonstrated a circa 1900 Eureka Receiving Separator. When he turned on the power switch, colorful Mylar streamers began to blow, providing visual evidence of the fans’ power and function. Overhead, line shafts, belts, pulleys, and gears turned slowly and quietly, effectively mimicking those of a working mill. Having motion inside the mill is important because it adds interest and helps tell the story, Kent explained. “We activated the last of two



Engineer Mike Hartwig and the 20 hp Superior gas engine.

original line shafts and have an electric motor powering the shaft which, in turn, turns the gears of the turbine, noting that “the turbine concept is very difficult for people to envision.” Volunteers also rebuilt one of the elevators in order to have “a little noise” in the mill.

In the next room we saw a 1914 Monroe automobile on loan from the Sloan Museum in Flint. For a few hundred



7 hp Majestic engine and companion sawmill.