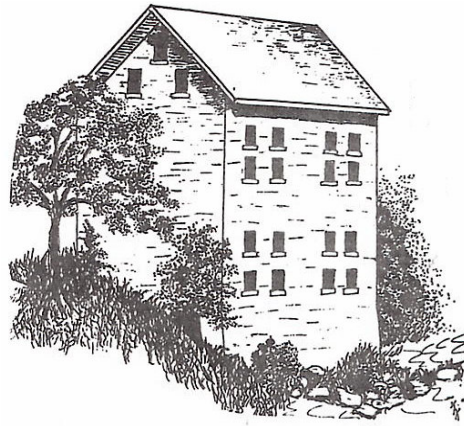


A newsletter from
The Motor Mill Foundation
of Clayton County

Number 9 Winter 2008

Milling Around



Join us:

The Motor Mill Foundation is made up of dedicated volunteers from diverse backgrounds. They meet regularly for planning or work projects.

Nested within the foundation is our Friends of Motor Mill group (FMM). Our friends share information, gain support for and help on various endeavors. To sign up:

Contact us:

Motor Mill Foundation
of Clayton County,
29862 Osborne Rd.
Elkader, Iowa 52043
563-245-1516. Email:
cccb@alpinecom.net

Milling Around is available electronically. Email addresses are welcomed to save postage. If you would like to be removed from our mailing list, please let us know.

Look for photos and current happenings at:
www.claytoncountyconservation.org
& www.motormill.org

Updates:

- The Big Blue Sky Concert held at the Elkader Opera House on Saturday November 24 was a huge success. 228 people attended the concert and auction which raised \$7,100 going toward the restoration efforts at Motor Mill.

- The Clayton County Conservation Board was recently awarded a \$1,500 grant from the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Grant funds will be used toward completing an engineering report on the Inn and Stable.

- Funds are currently being raised to replace the windows in the Cooperage. The Foundation is looking for sponsors for the 12 windows to be replaced at \$200 each. If you would like more information or to donate you may contact the Osborne Center at 245-1516.

Window Replacement Project

As you may have guessed, restoring an old limestone mill is not a one big simple step process. It is a process of many small steps, a lot of patience and occasionally one or two big steps forward. I am not sure if we have reached a big step yet, but the process to replace the 38 window openings in the mill is coming down to putting them in place.

The project got started last January when Foundation members began seeking cost estimates to replace the 38, 12 light windows. The initial cost estimates made the project impractical. But as more estimates were sought the project came into line with funding requirements.

The cost of each of the 38 openings boiled down to \$200 per opening. This cost included the two windows, an upper and lower, replacement of the window sills and framing and the hardware to install them. The lower two levels of windows will also have shutters installed for protection.

In April, the Motor Mill Foundation kicked off a fund raising campaign to raise the necessary \$7,600 to complete the project. The Foundation offered the public an opportunity to sponsor a window for \$200. Donations began coming in as soon as it was kicked off and by August, \$7,900 was raised.

The windows were ordered and are currently waiting at the mill. Some of the lumber and hardware needs to arrive before the windows will be ready to be installed.

The window replacement project is part of a larger project through a REAP Historical Resource Development Grant (HRDP). Other items for the grant include, an engineering report, baseline drawings, replacement of floor joists and flooring and some safety issue repairs.

The REAP HRDP Grant was for \$38,500 with a cash match of \$19,900. The funds raised for the windows will help meet the required cash match for the project. The entire grant has to be completed by January of 2009 and we are in line with the deadline date.

Floor Joists and Flooring

As mentioned above, included in the REAP HRDP grant is the replacement of floor joists and flooring material. With additional funding help from a Clayton County Foundation for the Future Grant and a grant from the Dubuque Racing Association, along with funds raised from the Big Blue Sky Concert, all of the floor joists and flooring have been purchased. The majority of the material is at the mill and is currently air drying. The material will be installed sometime this coming spring when the temperature is warmer and time becomes available.

Motor Mill Foundation
29862 Osborne Road
Elkader, Iowa 52043-8247

Big Blue Sky Concert

The Motor Mill Foundation sponsored the Big Blue Sky Band Benefit Concert held at the Elkader Opera House on Saturday November 24, 2007

The Foundation sought sponsorships for the event to offset costs and raise money and awareness of the restoration efforts at Motor Mill. Sponsorships came from 50 businesses and individuals.

An auction was added to the concert this year. There was a silent auction and a live auction held after the intermission. There were 35 donated auction items sold that evening. The event raised \$7,100 in funds to be used toward the Motor Mill restoration efforts. Thank you for your support.

2007 Tour Season

The Motor Mill was open for tours two weekends a month May through September in 2007. There were 13 special tours given over the course of the summer as well.

In all, there were 858 recorded visitors to the mill in 2007. Visitors represented 20 different states. 11 volunteer tour guides donated their time and talent during the open weekends and special tours.