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Gray's Mill: Email correspondence to Ralph Guild, July 26, 2001

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Date: Thu, 26 Jul 2001 18:29:21 -0400  
To: RalphG  
From: "Anne W. Baker" <awb02@sprynet.com>  
Subject: Gray's updates.  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
X-Attachments:

It's amazing. Now that the doors are open and things are happening people are stopping to look at the mill. I have been there everyday for at least an hour and there has always been two separate vistors -- people who are interested in its history and how it works. Connie says they come all day. And a big plus is that after Erin cleaned it actually smells good again.

The project is moving along as planed.  
Here is this weeks happenings:

The driveway next to the building has been fixed so that the water from the highway now drains away from the building and into the ditch south of the little white storage shed.

The 2 pieces of machinery, (corn sheller and corn cracker) that were stored in Grayton's barn are now in the mill. They were too large to fit into the white shed so we put them in the mill. They are wonderful and certainly should be on display. The wooden corn sheller is a gem. Anxious to hear its history?

Grayton tried to make us take a whole lot of other stuff, but then admitted that it probably had belonged to his grandfather, and then agreed that there was no further rent.

Connie has dug out the rubble (glass, cement, iron, etc.) along the edge of the section of ditch behind the mill that drains the field. He is now repairing the stonewall that holds back that bank--- the 12' section of ditch that we looked at last Saturday. -- from where Tim's tractor was to just behind the white shed.

The brush cleaning is moving along and unless bad weather all should be done by the time you get back.

I have contacted two additional people to bid on reshingling the roof but I haven't heard anything yet.

I did talk to Dan Tripp, and I agree he has sensetivity.

It is exciting to see the mill smiling again, but I've been thinking about where to stop this phase so it doesn't turn into a bottomless money pit. I can see that with the completion of the work we are doing in the back, , the roof resingled, a motor or engine to run the works, and a maintenance plan in order to keep the fields clear and the mill clean, would complete this phase and bring the mill back to what it was while making it ready for its future. A future that I think Paul Drumm (It's not Dumm as I had thought) from Kenyon's, will be a big help with ideas. He called and said Aug. 11 is fine for him to met with us at the mill. So if that is still OK plan on 11:00.

As for the National Register. I feel it is very important to apply for a nomination, but that could wait as hiring somebody to do that could cost \$5000. The Mass. Historical Commission is very particular on how it is done and who does it. In the mean time I do know somebody that they approve of and if you want I can find out exactly what it would actually cost.

I'm off in the morning for a weeks trip with the ghosts of Lewis and Clark. I think you are off too. I will call you after the 8th. And yes, I plan to remind you about August 11 at 11:00. How can I not. I'm in love with your mill.

Have a great vacation.  
Pete

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