



Loom and Spindle

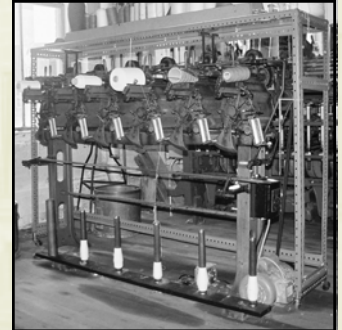
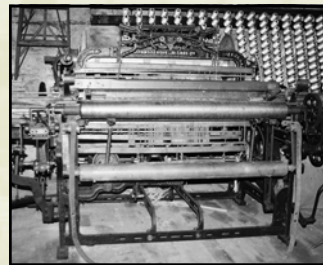
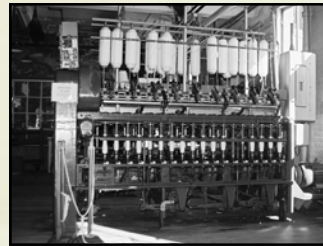
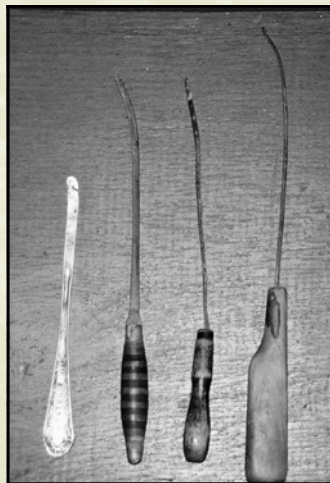
THE MILL MUSEUM OF CONNECTICUT / WINDHAM TEXTILE AND HISTORY MUSEUM

MILL MACHINERY ON EXHIBIT IN THE MUSEUM'S DUGAN MILL

COMING EVENTS:

- **Sock Hop.** Oct. 27. Windham Mills Complex (across the street from the Museum).
- **World War II Connecticut Soldiers' Letters.** Nov. 11. Kit and Jamie Eves. 2:00 PM.
- **Tri-Museum Auction.** Nov. 16. Ernie's Auction Center, Willimantic.
- **Victorian Holiday Tea.** Dec. 2, 4:00 PM.
- **Celebration of Gingerbread.** Dec. 8, 2:00-4:00 PM.
- **Holiday Gift Wrapping.** Dec. 22-24. Eastbrook Mall.
- **Snow Ball.** Feb. 9.

The Mill Museum has numerous machines and tools used in 19th- and 20th-century textile mills on display in its Dugan Mill exhibit. Volunteers Dale Plummer and the late J. A. Atwood have lovingly restored some of electrical machines so that they actually run. A few of the machines and tools are pictured below and to the right.



At left: Handmade hooks used by mill workers.

Above top: 20th-century electric spinning frame.

Above bottom: 19th-century water-powered loom.

At right top: 20th-century electric winder.

At right middle: 19th-century water-powered carding machine.

At right bottom: Early 20th-century electric industrial sewing machine used in sweatshops.

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NEW DIRECTOR HIRED

In August the Mill Museum hired Brooke Shannon as its new Executive Director, replacing Mary Brown who left in June to pursue other interests. Brooke comes to us from the Willimantic Victorian Neighborhood Association, where she was a major part of this year's Victorian Days celebration.

"Anyone who is familiar with Brooke's volunteer work for WVNA knows that she will bring the same dynamism and creativity to projects at the Museum," comments the WVNA. "She is literally a bundle of energy and ideas." Brooke's experience includes 25 years as a port coordinator

for Crystal Cruise Lines and many years as an independent event planner. Brooke's principal duties will include supervising volunteers, managing the Museum's gift shop, planning events, inventory, publicity, working on the Museum's Web site, and fundraising.

SHOP FOR THE HOLIDAYS AT THE MILL MUSEUM GIFT SHOP

BRING YOUR GROUP FOR A HOLIDAY TEA AT THE MILL MUSEUM

Relax and enjoy a pot of tea, scones with lemon curd and clotted cream, sandwiches, and pastries while you enjoy music and the feeling of an old English tea party.

Book now

Grandmother/granddaughter
Mother/daughter tea
Special groups tea
Children's tea

\$15.00/person
\$10.00 children 12 and under

Contact Brooke at the Museum, 456-1287

"We rely on support from people like you — ordinary folks who want to preserve the history and culture of Connecticut."

As usual, there's a lot going on at the Museum!

First, I'd like to welcome aboard two new staff members. Brooke Shannon joins us as our new Executive Director. She's only been with us for three months, but already she has been a whirlwind of activity, cleaning, organizing, and setting up new programs. And Eastern Connecticut State University student Amanda Featherston joins us as a student intern for

the fall semester. Amanda will be working on collections and exhibits.

Second, I'm using my report to kick off the Museum's annual appeal fundraising drive. Soon, you and other friends of the museum will receive a letter outlining the Museum's accomplishments and needs, and asking you to please contribute what you can. Unlike big museums such as Mystic Seaport and Old Sturbridge Village, the Mill Museum does

not have a large corporate endowment. And unlike Lowell Heritage National Park, we don't receive annual federal appropriations. We rely on support from people like you — ordinary folks who want to preserve the history and culture of Connecticut.

Please dig deep and give what you can. We're depending on you.

Kit

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

HOLIDAY EVENTS AT THE MUSEUM

The Mill Museum will have several family-themed events to mark the upcoming holidays.

On December 2 at 4:00 PM the Museum will have a Victorian Holiday High Tea. Visitors will enjoy tea, scones with lemon curd and clotted cream, sandwiches, and pastries while listening to music and experiencing the atmos-

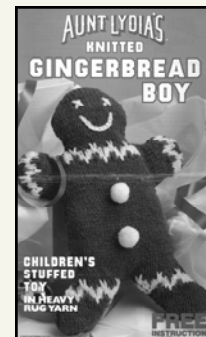
phere of an old English tea party. The cost will be \$15.00 person, and only \$10.00 for children twelve and under.

Then, on December 8 between 2:00 and 4:00 PM, the Museum will host a Celebration of Gingerbread. For children there will be gingerbread cookies, the opportunity to make gingerbread-style holiday ornaments and

tree decorations, and gingerbread-themed storytelling.

For adults, author Michele Palmer will be on hand to sign copies of her book, *Gingerbread Gems of Willimantic*.

Finally, as a fundraiser on December 22, 23, and 24, Museum volunteers will be at the Eastbrook Mall in Willimantic, wrapping holiday gifts.



1950s leaflet describing how to make a knitted gingerbread boy, from the Museum's collection.

FROM THE ARCHIVES:
PHOTOGRAPHING DISASTERS



Thanks to the loan of a scanner from photographer Bob Jacko, volunteers at the Mill Museum have spent many hours over the past months scanning the Museum's sizable collection of historic photographs. The project is ongoing, with many photos still to be scanned, and more volunteers needed.

Items in the Museum's historic photos collection include dozens of professional quality stills of machines and workers at the American Thread Company's Willimantic, Connecticut, Mills taken in the 1940s and 1950s; older pictures of the ATC mills and other build-

ings in Willimantic; old photos of the Wauregan Mills in Plainfield, Connecticut; hundreds of studio stills from photography studios in Willimantic and New London, Connecticut, mostly wedding and graduation photos; old postcards of Connecticut; stereopticons; and hundreds of amateur snapshots taken in eastern Connecticut.

Amateur photographers especially liked to take pictures of disasters. The Museum's collection therefore includes a number of snaps of storms and fires. The photos accompanying this article are some taken from the Museum's collection.



MUSEUM IS NOW VISITORS' CENTER FOR WINDHAM;
WILL BE OPEN EXTENDED HOURS

The Mill Museum has been designated the official Visitors' Center for the town of Windham, Connecticut. Windham includes the old mill village of Willimantic, where the Museum is located. The Visitors' Center is located in the Museum Gift Shop.

Becoming the Visitors' Center meant erecting a new sign on the Museum's front lawn, placing a wide-screen computer with internet access to in the Gift Shop, adding a display rack for flyers and leaflets, and collecting information on local restaurants, stores, and other museums and tourist attractions. A grant from the Thread City Development Corporation paid for the changes. Volunteers will staff the Visitors' Center.

One important plus of becoming the Windham Visitors' Center is that the Museum will now be open more hours each week, from 10:00 to 4:00 Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.

"Becoming the Windham Visitors' Center was a logical move," said Kit Eves, the Museum's President. "Because of our location on Main Street near the Garden on the Bridge and Windham Mills Heritage State Park, we were functioning much like a welcome center anyway."

MUSEUM MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FALL 2007

If you have already renewed your membership, thank you!

Student/Senior, \$10 _____

Sustaining, \$50 _____

Individual, \$15 _____

Patron, \$100 _____

Family/Household, \$25 _____

Sponsor, \$250 _____

Benefactor, above \$250 _____

Additional Donation _____

We are a 501(c)3 organization. Your donations are tax deductible.

NAME: _____ E-MAIL: _____

ADDRESS: _____

Checks payable to: W. T. H. M.

Windham Textile and History Museum, 411 Main Street, Willimantic, CT 06226

WE'RE ON THE WEB!
WWW.MILLMUSEUM.ORG

THE MILL
MUSEUM OF
CONNECTICUT
WINDHAM TEXTILE AND
HISTORY MUSEUM

411 Main Street
Willimantic, CT 06226

Phone: (860) 456-2178
Email: millmuseum@sbcglobal.net

Address Correction Requested

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

With only two paid staff – Executive Director Brooke Shannon and Educator/Curator Bev York – the Mill Museum relies on volunteers. Visitors arriving at the Museum are greeted by Claire La Fontaine, Eileen Burke, Kit Eves, and other volunteers. Volunteer Dale Plummer keeps the machines in the Museum's Dugan Mill exhibit functioning. Janice Knight, Michael Palmer, Anna Kirchmann, Leona Marcus, Amanda Featherston, and Jamie Eves take care of the Museum's collections of historic artifacts. Michele Palmer and Pam Horrocks work on exhibits and help Claire La Fontaine with the Gift Shop. Heather Brine, Claire La Fontaine, Eileen Burke, Kit Eves, and Jamie Eves are regular docents, and several other docents help when needed. Bob Horrocks and Steve Kenton look after the Museum's buildings. Pam Horrocks takes care of the Museum's gardens. Maureen Mulroy writes grants. Jamie Eves writes *Loom and Spindle*. Alas, limited

space does not permit us to list the dozens of volunteers who devote many our to fundraising and event planning, or the dozens of student volunteers from Eastern Connecticut State University and the University of Connecticut who help out with cataloguing and cleaning. The Museum's Officers and Board of Directors are all volunteers, including Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer Joe Duval, President Kit Eves, Vice President Bob Horrocks, and Secretary Pam Horrocks.

Please come and join us. Volunteers are needed for all of the following:

- Planning, organizing, and leading events
- Cataloguing and preserving collections
- Writing thank-you letters
- Docents (at least one 4-hour shift per month)
- Painters, bakers, knitters, and crocheters
- Volunteers to serve on the fundraising

committee

- Volunteers to help write grants
- Gift shop volunteers (at least one 4-hour shift per month)
- Visitors' Center volunteers (at least one 4-hour shift per month)
- Janitorial and maintenance volunteers
- Volunteers to work on *Loom and Spindle*
- Volunteers for a consignment committee
- E-bay coordinator

If you'd like to volunteer at the Mill Museum and help preserve the history and culture of eastern Connecticut, please contact Brooke Shannon at the Museum, (860) 456-2178 or millmuseum@sbcglobal.net.