

Mumbower Ledgers Returned to Mill



After 80 years, ten ledger books were returned to Evans-Mumbower Mill in Upper Gwynedd on Sunday, May 15. The books had been in safekeeping with the Fort Washington Historical Society at the Clifton House on Bethlehem Pike. President Roy Thompson of FWHS bestowed the books upon the Wissahickon Valley Watershed Association, current owners and operators of the mill.

The ledger books, also known as day books, cover thousands of transactions over the decades from 1850 to 1920. During that period, the mill was operated by Henry Mumbower and his sons, David and Harry. Many families from the North Penn and Gwynedd Valley areas depended on this mill for flour and corn meal.

One man was particularly gratified to witness the transaction. Nick Guilbert, former librarian of FWHS, has a personal connection to the books. His great-grandfather, Nicholas Guilbert Sr., owned a farm immediately adjacent to the mill. His name is listed many times in the books as a regular customer of the Mumbowers. Guilbert says that his ancestor was apparently quite an interesting character. In addition to being a dealer of "fancy" livestock, he also had a menagerie of wild and exotic animals.

H. Kirk Horstman
May 16, 2011