25th Annual Conference on New England Industrial Archeology

Saturday, February 25th, 2012 Room 144, Boyd Hall, Plymouth State University, Plymouth, N.H.

9:30 AM Registration, coffee and donuts

9:45 AM Greetings from Plymouth State University and new NNEC president David Dunning

10 AM John Rule

The Brown Company: From North Country Sawmill to World's Leading Paper Producer

This paper presents a brief history of the Brown Paper Company from 1851 until 2011, concentrating on the years 1888-1965. The Brown Company grew from a north country sawmill operation into the largest single chemical pulp and paper manufacturer in the world.

10:30 AM Peter Morrison

Archeology of the Perkins Tidal Mill, Kennebunkport, Maine

From the 1600's to the 1900's over 200 tidal powered mills operated on the coast of Maine. Typical was the Perkins Grist Mill located on a small tributary to the Kennebeck River in Kennebunkport, Maine. The mill operated from 1749 to the late 1930's and burned in 1994.

11 AM Refreshment Break

11:15 AM Patrick Malone

"Poor Shad" Fishways on Lowell's Pawtucket Dam
Henry David Thoreau sympathized with the plight of the "poor
shad" affected by dams in and around Lowell, Massachusetts, in
the mid-nineteenth century. This presentation will look at the
history of the dam for almost two centuries and at the numerous
efforts to move fish safely past it.

11:45 AM Charles Parrott

The Historic Flashboard System and the Preservation of Lowell's Pawtucket Dam

For nearly 175 years the dam across the Merrimack at Lowell has been topped with flashboards. This presentation will recount their history and technology while outlining the alterations proposed by the dam's private owners to replace the flashboards with the bladder dam.

12:15 PM Lunch Break

1:30 PM Martha Cummings

The Patterson Mill: An Excavation and Interpretation Opportunity

In the obscure little village of North Groton, N.H., there stands a historic house nestled in the hillside along Hall's Brook. It is one of the many places Mary Baker Eddy, founder of Christian Science, lived and is the site of two early 19th century mills built years before the Eddys arrival.

2 PM Craig Austin

History of Industry along Mother Brook and the Fight for Water Rights

In 1639 the residents of Dedham Plantation dug a canal from the Charles River to a stream called East Brook to provide additional water to power a grist mill, and eventually 5 mill privileges led to disputes. Now known as Mother Brook, this presentation will cover the court case and a quick tour of the brook today.

2:30 PM Rick Russack

Redstone Granite Quarries and Archeological Site
The granite quarries on Rattlesnake Mountain in Redstone, NH,
(part of the town of Conway). The quarry and substantial
remains of buildings and machinery dating back to the late
1800's constitute one of the most interesting industrial archeological sites in New Hampshire.

3 PM Joseph D. King

The Fresh Pond Ice Company: Underwater Survey and Artifact Recovery from a 19th Century Ice House The Fresh Pond Ice Company is an exemplary case study of the evolution of the ice industry in New England. The company's operations spanned some 80 years from the early days of the ice pioneering entrepreneur to well beyond the introduction of the Frigidaire in 1923.

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