

LOANS AND DONATED ITEMS

The Museum of Power and Industry at Falls Mill has received three interesting pieces on loan from members and friends of the museum. One of these is a pre-1830's "gin carder," a machine that was hand turned and used to both gin and card cotton. This machine is on loan from Tony Mullins of Louisiana. A second machine is known as a "plantation spinster (or spinner)," and was used to gin, card, and spin cotton by hand cranking. This is a primarily wooden machine found by museum member Bill Friday of Alabama. Bill also brought a device called a "filer/gummer" that was used to sharpen the blades on cotton gin saws. This is on loan from Bill's antique engine club. Bill and Tony have been collaborating with John to research the plantation spinsters and similar devices, and helped our museum secure such a machine that John is presently restoring (see related article).

Another donation came from Eva, Alabama. This is a horse-drawn corn binder donated by Don Oden, which we hope to use to help harvest our annual sorghum crop. This year's date for the sorghum cooking will be announced on the Falls Mill calendar in the Website at fallsmill.com, and should be around the first weekend in October. David Tapp and Jim and Mary Frances Neal are growing sorghum for our annual syrup making event this year.

Donna Bull of Winchester, Tennessee, donated her grandfather's grain cradle scythe, and Doris Lewis of Gurley, Alabama, gave the museum several items from her family, including a small corn sheller and seed planter and wash boards and ironing boards.

We are also very grateful to our members and friends who have provided monetary donations since the last newsletter. We depend greatly on these to keep the museum functioning, since we do not receive any type of funding other than through memberships, admissions, and donations, and an annual grant from the Camp-Younts Foundation of North Carolina.



Gin Carder



Plantation Spinster



Corn Binder