

*Your Guide To*  
***Silver Lake Mill***

**As you walk through the mill,  
PLEASE follow these guidelines:**

*CLOSE EVERY DOOR BEHIND YOU if it was closed as you entered*

*PLEASE DON'T TOUCH any ceramic wares; some are not fired,  
and you can ruin our work with a mere touch!*

*PLEASE DO NOT ENTER THE SILOS! It's okay to look, but  
please don't go in them!*

*IF YOU COULD HOLD YOUR QUESTIONS until you return to  
the Store and History Center in the basement, that would be helpful.*

## *What Exactly Do We Do At The Mill?*

*We decorate glass and china for customers across the United States. We don't make the ware here (thankfully!), but we purchase it "white" from makers in the United States, Japan, England, Germany and other countries.*

*Some designs require us to handpaint the items, apply ceramic transfers, or directly print them. Most items are fired one or more times in our kilns located in the north silo.*

*Usually, we create the artwork for the customer as well as decorate the ware.*

*We do as few as eight dinner plates when we make custom dinnerware for someone, and we'll often do several thousand pieces for customers that are mail order catalogs.*

*Our customers include many fine folks, such as those at Colonial Williamsburg, Monticello, Mount Vernon, and The Homestead. We usually ship to all 50 states and several foreign countries each year.*

## **BATHROOMS**

Our public rest room is in the Store and History Center (basement level), but if you're interested in feed sacks, you may want to peek in the bathroom on each floor; each one features a different feed-sack theme. We've created ceramic tiles to go with the feedsack hung in that room.

## **MAIN FLOOR**

You'll see A LOT on this floor! It's usually the busiest floor in the mill – shipments are coming and going, handpainting is often happening, transfers are being applied to ware, carts are going up the elevator to the kilns on the third floor. Watch out, or someone may ask you to lend a hand!



## *Did you know Mole Hill was once a volcano?*

It's true! Mole Hill, one of many small, round hills rising from the Valley's floor, is an extinct volcano. Volcanic rock can still be found in the area.

According to Rockingham County's noted historian, Dr. John Wayland, an ox roast was held on Mole Hill to celebrate the end of the War of 1812.

# THIRD FLOOR

The third floor has its own interesting touches. We prefer that you stay out of the printing area, except as you pass through to look in the silos.

In the printing area, we'll likely be printing ceramic transfers and maybe Christmas ornaments. The windows surrounding the print room each have handpainted panes; the panes depict the four sides of the mill in the four seasons.

You are welcome to look into the silos, but please do not go in! Some kilns will be hot!

Our usual firing temperatures range from 1100 to 1450 degrees F.

In the kitchen area, you'll enjoy taking a look at the tile mural of the mill over the kitchen sink

# FOURTH FLOOR

On the fourth floor, you'll enjoy an assortment of gears and augers in the rafters where we found them, and you'll find our art staff hard at work. It's also a great place to get a view of Silver Lake and Mole Hill.

## *Printed Feed Sacks*

Be sure to enjoy the printed feed sacks hung throughout the mill. They were used to make dresses, petticoats, tablecloths, pillow cases and more.



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### *Will the millwheel ever turn?*

We hope so. We plan to work on it as we have time over the next 6-12 months. The shaft is currently out of alignment, so there's some major work to be undertaken. The stone wall for the tailrace needs to be built back up, and we plan to paint the wheel red (its original color).

### *What was the most difficult aspect of the project?*

Daily there were many decisions – most seemingly small – that would, when added together, affect the “feel” of the mill. It was a constant struggle to make certain that the building retained its “mill-ness” and yet provide a good work environment for us.

### *Did you keep the original floors and wood siding?*

We were able to reconstruct a tiny area with original floor material. We re-used some of the “better” flooring by re-planing it and installing it as railings and window trim (you'll see the worm holes!). The silo side of the building is entirely original siding, and the wheel side is about half original. The balance is new siding, cut to look like the old.

*Be sure to sign up  
for our mailing list!*

*We'd love to have you join our Silver Lake Mill family by signing up for our mailing list in the Store and History Center (basement level) or online at:*

[www.SilverLakeMill.com](http://www.SilverLakeMill.com).

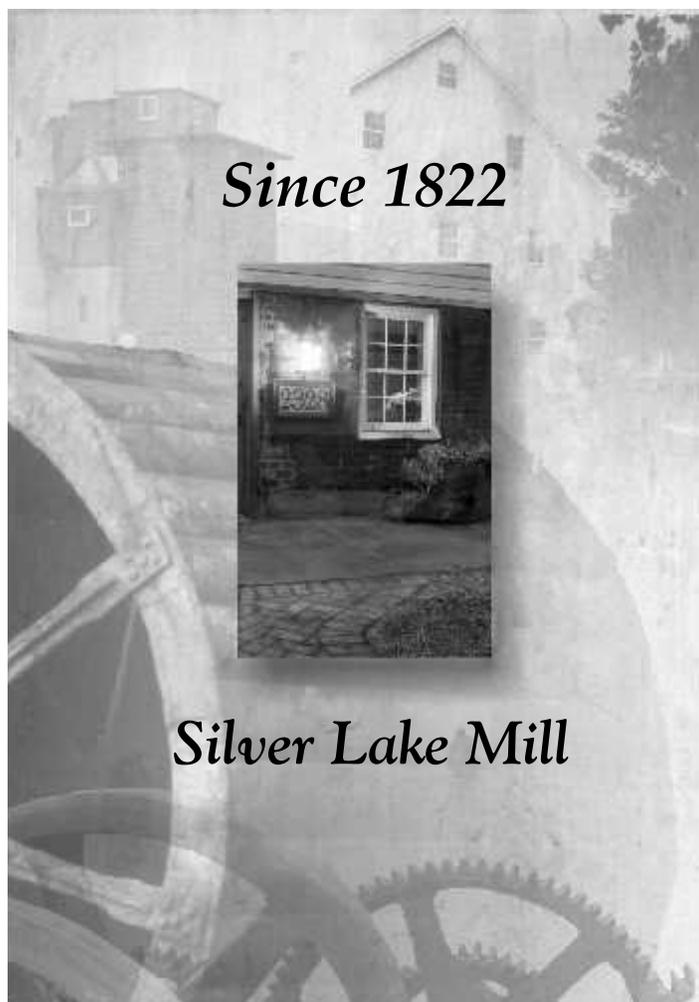
*You'll be notified of special events at the mill and new products coming out under the Silver Lake Mill name.*



# Silver Lake Tails

*Are the cats real?*

Yes, Frick, Frack, Mother Jackie and Piggs are all real and they all live here at the mill – on the third and fourth floors. They're a bit bashful about all the attention they're getting, so they might dash off if they see you. They're pretty busy these days because they're trying to solve the mystery of "Who Stole Mole Hill?". There's a rumor extant about that being the title of the next book . . .



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[www. SilverLakeMill.com](http://www.SilverLakeMill.com)

**THURSDAY, FRIDAY, SATURDAY 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.**