



SOCIETY FOR INDUSTRIAL ARCHEOLOGY

NEWSLETTER

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BROWNELL TWO-CYLINDER STEAM ENGINE RESCUED

Northern Heritage Mills (NHM), a Claremont, N.H.-based nonprofit organization that seeks to preserve historic technologies for use in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) education programs, recently acquired a 10-ton, two-cylinder, Brownell steam engine. President Gerry DeMuro led the efforts, and the group plans to use the engine as a centerpiece for its proposed educational center.

The Brownell engine was built in 1923 for the Newark Boxboard Mill in Newark, N.J. The mill ran continuously for 70 years, producing paperboard used primarily for covers for American hardcover books. Since 1985, the restored steam engine had been on display at the Newark Paper Mills Group International corporate headquarters in New Jersey. The company was recently sold and the engine was in danger of being discarded until a member of the Newark Group management team learned that NHM seeks to preserve historic mill technologies as educational engineering tools.

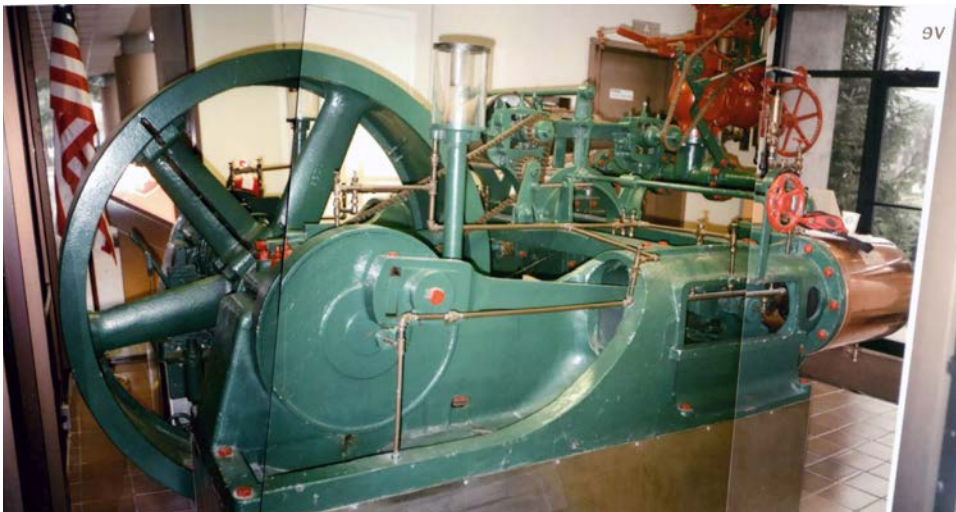
The Newark Group's origins go back to Puritan settlers in

Bloomfield, N.J. In 1815 the Dodd family built a water-powered paper mill on the Third River. In 1842 the Davey family built a paper box board (heavy cardboard) mill that processed hemp, ship's ropes, pulp, yarn, linen, and used tidal marsh phragmite (*Spartina Alterniflora*) reeds instead of wood from trees.

The Dodd and Davey families were eventually joined through marriage, and they continued in the paper mill business. The paper mill was successful as a supplier of paperboard. Bookmakers in the New York City area were a reliable market for paperboard or "binder's board," the demand for which substantially increased during the 1890s.

The growing company became Newark Boxboard in 1912 and by 1923 built a new mill powered by the two-cylinder, Brownell steam engine. The engine ran for the next 60 years. During that time the company expanded; by 1985 it was known as the Newark Group and had purchased other paperboard mills in New Jersey, New England, and overseas. Collectively the Newark Group owned 20 large paperboard mills and employed thousands. As technology changed, the

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Gerry DeMuro

Restored Brownell two-cylinder steam engine in the entrance lobby of the Newark Group office complex in N.J., just before being transported to NHM in N.H.

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Sept. 27–30, Dayton, Ohio
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CALENDAR

2018

July 9–13: 6th International Congress on Construction History, Brussels, Belgium. Info: <http://6icch.org>.

Aug. 31–Sept. 4: Assn. for Industrial Archaeology Annual Conference, Nottingham, U.K. Info: www.industrial-archaeology.org.

Sept. 13–15: XVII TICCIH Congress, Santiago, Chile. TICCIH's first in Latin America. Info: www.ticcih.org.

Sept. 13–16: Preserving the Historic Road 20th Anniversary Conference, Fort Collins, Colo. See note in this issue. Info: www.historicroads.org.

Sept. 27–30: SIA FALL TOUR, DAYTON, OHIO. Info: www.sia-web.org.

Oct. 11–14: Society for the History of Technology Annual Meeting, St. Louis, Mo. Info: www.historyoftechnology.org.

Oct. 17–20: Society for the Preservation of Old Mills Annual Conference, East Meredith, N.Y. Info: www.spoom.org.

2019

Jan. 9–12: Society for Historical Archaeology Conference on Historical and Underwater Archaeology, St. Charles, Mo. Info: www.sha.org.

Mar. 27–30: National Council on Public History Annual Meeting, Hartford, Ct. Info: www.ncph.org.

Apr. 24–28: Society of Architectural Historians Annual International Conference, Providence, R.I. Info: www.sah.org.

June 6–9: SIA 48th ANNUAL CONFERENCE, CHICAGO, ILL. Info: www.sia-web.org. ■