

The short sawmill film I mentioned earlier in the year has been scanned and we received the digitized files a few days ago. Christina Hostetler at town hall did the ordering and took care of shipping the original film (which we have now received back from the vendor.)

The 16 mm film was given to me by former Historic District Commission chairperson Bill Fossum around 2015. Bill F. told me he had never looked at it - the film was given to him years ago by a former Historic District Commission member (or maybe it was someone involved with the sawmill restoration project in the 1970s). I don't know if Bill F. ever shared anything about the film to the Commission. I had no way to view a 16 mm film, so the digitized version we just received is the first time I have viewed (and heard) it.

Length of video is 3 minutes, 51 seconds (there is sound).

The filming was done for a television news report. It's not the final edited report - for example, it has multiple takes of reporter wrapping up. Reporter says "Ken Bennett, channel 8 Yankee Traveler" (at 2:42). He also says it is a "bicentennial project" (at 2:32), so film is probably from 1976 (although it could be 1975 - the year restoration was completed and the mill was opened for visitors). Don't know if the report was ever aired on channel 8.

The film shows exterior views of the sawmill. The running mill is barely visible in the background of some of the footage. Unfortunately there are no interior views.

The film shows several people who were involved with the sawmill restoration in the 1970s including comments by Ledyard resident Wendell Comrie and a few words by Ledyard resident Fred Allyn, Sr. (need to confirm this is Fred Allyn, Sr.). Also shows a glimpse of a person who I think may be Al Sears who was also involved with the mill when it first opened in the 1970s.

I have downloaded the files (there were two files at two different resolutions). Take a look at the film at

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1FvASmtht7HJG3M0jyAP7jzvUrySHnp6R/view>

It's really nice to have Wendell Comrie on film remarking about the mill - he was probably the key person involved in the restoration. I plan to use excerpts of the film for social media and on the sawmill website. Film maker Jack Desormier may have use for some of the footage in the short documentary he is making about the sawmill. (Jack recommended the vendor we used - The Film Photography Project Store <https://filmphotographystore.com/>. It was a good recommendation: the digitization was very high quality.)

I think it will make sense to have the original film kept in the historical room at the Bill Library - I'll talk to Andrea Buka from the Ledyard Historical Society about that. They also can add the digitized files to their archive of e-records of Ledyard history-related documents.

thanks

Alan