

# Friends of Valley Falls, Inc.

## ANNUAL REPORT 2022

JULY 1, 2021 - JUNE 30, 2022







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The Friends of Valley Falls, Inc. is a private non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. Organized in 1972, the purpose of the Friends is to take responsible ownership of Valley Falls Farm, and to promote the betterment of Valley Falls Park. We carry out this mission through careful stewardship of their historical and natural resources, and through outreach to the community.

***About the covers:***

*The Heritage Center exhibits are nearing completion. The bell exhibit is featured on the front and back covers. Other exhibits are shown on the inside back cover.*

*The big green mill bell in front of the stable once hung in the Springville Mill tower in Rockville. It was moved to Valley Falls Farm about 1964 by the Darico family, owners of Valley Falls Farm at that time.*

*The front cover shows the bell's wheel. Bell wheels are devices invented in the 17th century that produced better sound or ring. The long ropes that rang the bell were attached to the wheel, instead of the bell. The wheel rotated and turned the bell to an upward position, producing a louder sound.*

*Photos of the bell's move from the mill tower are also in the exhibit. They were taken by a young Mike Darico with his Brownie camera when he was about eleven years old. Mike has recently passed, but his memory lives on in this bell exhibit.*

***Front cover:*** Mill Bell Wheel - photo by Nancy Steffens.

***Back cover:*** Mill Bell, installed at Valley Falls Farm; moved from Springville Mill, about 1964, photos by Mike Darico at age 11.

***Inside Back cover:*** Other Heritage Center Exhibits - photos by Jean Merz and Nancy Steffens.







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