

## Millstones

t a day. This was a problem at exactly the right time, or the scythe was invented. This was a sharp blade and wooden fingers.

The cradle made it easier to cradles, however, a family with harvest more than 200 bushels a son. Any wheat not needed by With this money, the family such as salt, sugar, tools, and buy a few more acres of land.

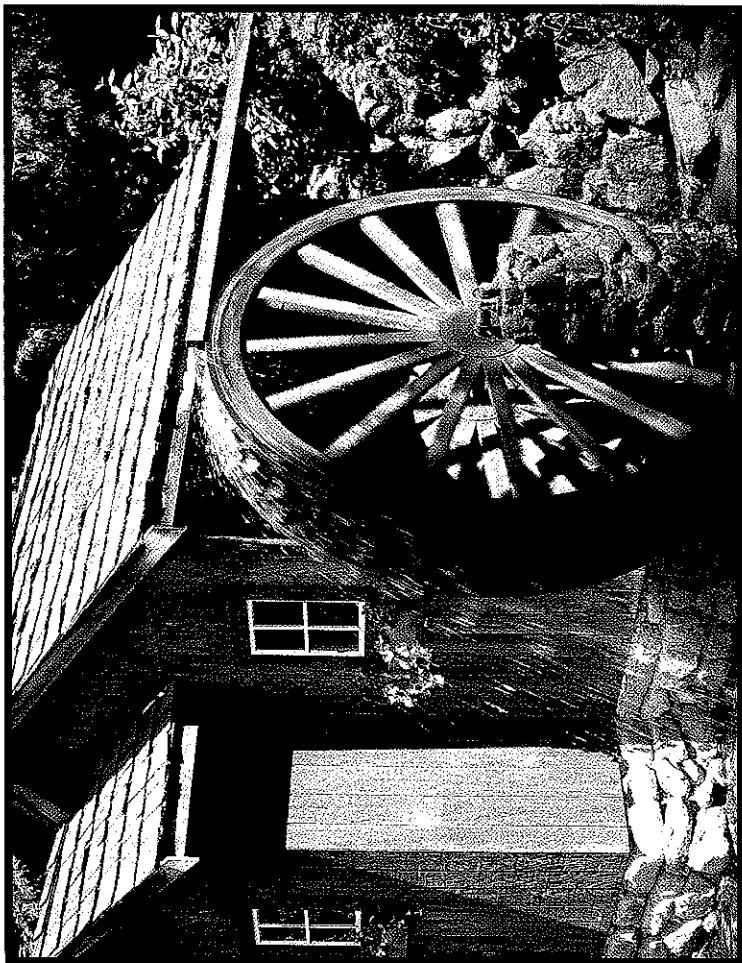
## the Miller

read, grain had to be ground. began with a miller who ground required a stream with enough The waterwheel powered the bakers, and shoemakers often day, small villages were born.

many types of colonial sawmills in New Jersey was 1682. Mills could also grind ironery. They could even cut ironed in simple machinery.

Grist usually refers to grain that has to be ground. Gristmills used a pair of millstones with grooves in them. These millstones varied in size from 4 to 6 feet (1.2 to 1.8 meters) and weighed as much as 1 ton (0.9 metric tons). The

distance between the two stones could be adjusted, depending on whether the miller was grinding corn, rye, or wheat. The stones had to be perfectly balanced and could not touch each other, or they would be ruined.



*Water provided the power to turn the wheel used to grind corn, wheat, and other grains in New Jersey mills.*