t a day. This was a problem
at exactly the right time, or the
and is lost.
cythe was invented. This was a
arp blade and wooden fingers
The cradle made it easier to
cradles, however, a family with
harvest more than 200 bushels
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
nners, and shoemakers often
ay, small villages were born.
many types of colonial
st sawmills in New Jersey was
1682. Mills could also grind
tery. They could even cut iron
ed in simple machinery.

Millstones

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.