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JENNEY GRIST MILL

“AMERICA’S FIRST MILL”

Predecessor to Hydro-Electric Industry

In 1636, the Plymouth Colony General Court, under the leadership of Governor William Bradford, authorized Mr. John Jenney “to erect a milne for the grinding and beating of corne upon the brooke of Plymouth”.

This advancement of technology improved the lives of colonists by removing the drudgery of grinding their corn by hand. This court decision also set the compensation rate for the grinding of corn for others.

America’s first mill was driven by water power, a predecessor of hydro-electric dams and other current energy producing initiatives such as solar and wind energy.

Although the original Jenney Grist Mill burned down in 1847, a new working mill was built on the former mill site in 1970. It operates today as a historical and educational resource and continues to grind corn.

**Compliments of Register of Deeds John R. Buckley, Jr.
and Leo and Nancy Martin**

From the “Plymouth County Registry of Deeds Notable Land Records Collection”