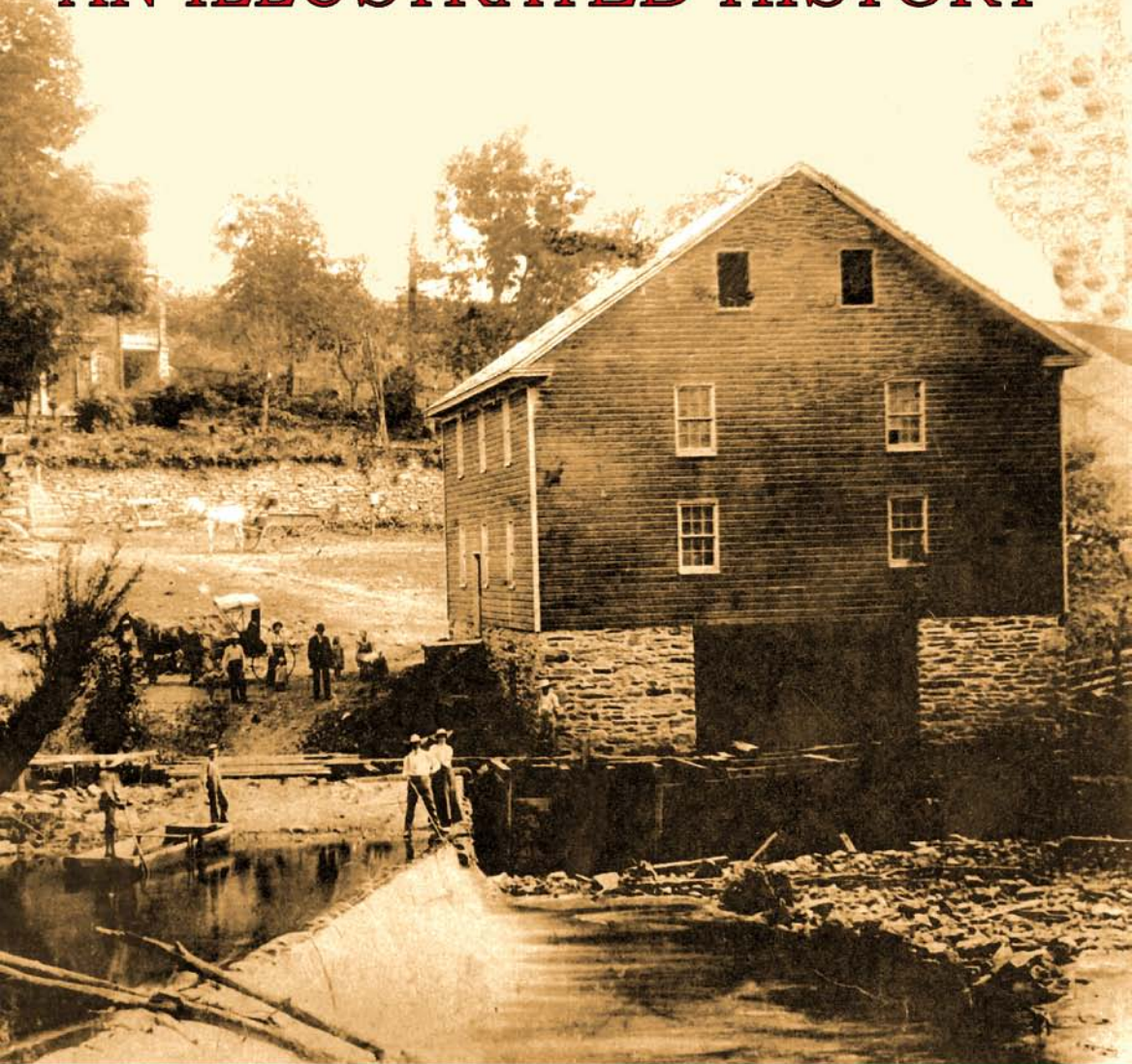


# EDEN MILL

AN ILLUSTRATED HISTORY



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# Preface

It was principally water that powered the development of industry in early America. Harford County, with its eastern portion adjacent to the coastal plain and the terrain rising towards the West, was a geographically ideal location. The fall of water along the Bush River, Winters Run, Bynum Run, Little Gunpowder Falls, and Deer Creek provided about one hundred locations for entrepreneurs to build and operate mills.

Josiah Carter was the first to acquire a waterpower site in the northwestern part of the county along Deer Creek called “The Miller’s Fancy.” In 1792, he transferred his land and water rights to Isaac Stansbury whose brother Elijah built a milldam, constructed a gristmill and sawmill, and established a farm. Although the Stansbury family had deep roots in Baltimore County going back to 1658, Elijah was the first to enter the milling business, which was continued by his descendents for eighty-five years. His legacy remains in the beautiful brick mansion that still towers over the site.

Stone grist milling introduced by Elijah became obsolete in the late nineteenth century, and with a change in technology, new owners emerged to carry on the milling business. In the decades following the Civil War, however, flour prices fell and with their decline so did the profits, as a series of entrepreneurs struggled financially to keep the mill operating.

Help came in 1919 when electrical generators went online to power lights and machinery in nearby Fawn Grove, Pennsylvania. This, unfortunately, was short lived, as less than a decade later maturing of the power industry eliminated the need for the hydroelectric source. Sustaining its traditional roots, the mill continued to grind grain for the local community until 1964.

In 1965 Harford County Department of Parks and Recreation acquired the mill and fifty-seven and one-half acres of land. Through the committed and dedicated support of a volunteer-led non-profit organization, the park has been revitalized, and today serves thousands of nature-seeking visitors each year. The group has recently begun promoting the Historic Eden Mill Museum to attract people wanting to learn about industrial grain-milling history.