

# PREFACE

Three years ago in 2006, the Bedford Museum Volunteers researched and wrote 28 mill articles about different mills throughout the county. There will be 36 mills highlighted in the in this current book. Mills, Vol. I was so well received that we were encouraged to complete Mills, Vol. II this year,

While there are many more mills to be researched, we do not know at this time that a third volume would be forthcoming from the Museum. Therefore we included some additional articles although they are short to the mills in this volume. We have identified many known Bedford County millers from the 1700s to the 1900s using a variety of sources. We hope you will find this interesting and helpful.

We made a decision in 2005 not to repeat any mill information already in print, unless the article contained new information. Many mills were thoroughly researched in the Bedford Villages books, so if you see an article which was in Bedford Villages, you will know that the article in Mills, Vol II. will have new and additional information.

Some researchers took their mill story back to the beginning of the first mill owner of the mill site including the succession of owners, and ended it at the current owner. Others wrote about one phase of the mills life so you might find Kelso Mill and Andrew Donald's Mill information in Villages, but different information in Mills Vol. II. about the same mill. We are grateful to Betty Matthews for listing page numbers to locate mills in Villages and we thank the DAR Regent, Maxine Mitchell, for permission to print it in this volume.

Whenever one mill appeared to have a "kinship" to another, we tried to place them together in the book. Example: Ivy Mills and Perkins, Lowry, and Lankford Mill. (Perkins and his brother inherited 1850 acres at Ivy Mills from their father.)

Sometimes two people wrote about the same mill, but each article is entirely different. ("Bell's Mill" and "Otter Mill, Bell's Mill, Burton's Mill") is one as was the case of "Lankford Mill" and, "Perkins, Lowry, and Lankford Mill". In another instance there were five mills on Mill Creek in close proximity to each other and near Carter's Mill, therefore they are also placed together.

We would like especially to thank all of those people who opened their doors and their hearts to us by bringing pictures and stores. They have been an invaluable resource and inspiration. Much appreciation is due to the many who contributed their time and talent in so many ways.

This volume could not have been completed without the willing assistance of many people. Karen Glover of the Bedford County Clerk's Office, Rae Wilson, one of the computer specialists at the Bedford Museum, and Douglas Cooper, manager of the Museum problem solver, repairman, assistant to all, and now a writer! It would be impossible to count the untold hours of research by those who wrote. We are very grateful to our researchers who have worked tirelessly to resolve all those knotty questions.....*Douglas McLeod, Glenn Ayers, Douglas Cooper, Belle Harrell, W. Scott Smith, Clarence Hawkins, Pauline Noel,*