ties like bread, liquor, and deerskins. The laws of estates were not as detailed as in Massachusetts, nor were debtor-creditor relationships as harsh compared to the other colony.

Professor Beckman has provided lawyers and historians with the basic documents of early Pennsylvania law along with a useful introduction. She provides an index for the latter, but none for the laws themselves. This book is a must purchase for all libraries with collections in either Pennsylvania law or history.

Allegheny County Law Library
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania


For anyone interested in how a gristmill operates, this is a fine book, or really two books under one cover. The first two-thirds of the book outlines succinctly the development of methods to grind grain from the mortar and pestle up through the most complicated of the water- and wind-driven mills of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. The last third of the book deals with the development of the mill at Philipsburg Manor, Upper Mills, near Tarrytown, New York, its subsequent decay, and its reconstruction.

The chief pleasure of the book is that it describes in a clear and simple manner the ways various mills were designed and worked. The reader quickly grasps the fundamental operation of the various kinds of water- and wind-driven mills, including tidal water mills, and at the same time can appreciate the engineering and the craftsmanship that went into their creation. From dressing the stones to developing different numbers of cogs in one gear in relation to teeth in another so that there was no uniform wearing, the builder’s craft is described without romantic gloss or needless technical jargon.

The book is well illustrated with drawings and photographs of the development of mills and of the different mechanical parts of a mill, each illustration placed appropriately in the text so that the reader does not have to leaf from page to page hunting the illustrations as they are referred to. The book includes a handy glossary for the study of gristmills, and has an index. It is handsomely bound in cloth and is admirably printed.
The emphasis of the book is on the design and operation of a mill rather than the history of mills per se. In fact, specific mills are used only as illustrations for this history of technology, although at times the authors do convey marvelous images of the plenitude of mills that existed at one time in the United States, especially on Long Island in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.

The discussion of the mill at Philipsburg Manor is not altogether relevant to the history of this technology, but it does serve as a useful example of one particular kind of mill, a water-powered gristmill. Built circa 1684, it was subsequently destroyed as the vitality of the Philips family was sapped in its third generation. Because Frederick Philips III, the third generation of the family, was a loyalist, he fled to England after the American Revolution, and the new government expropriated the lands acquired by his grandfather and sold them off in small plots. Ultimately the mill area property was acquired through the generosity of John D. Rockefeller, Jr., and ownership passed into the hands of Sleepy Hollow Restorations. Today, the mill, based on archeological evidence, has been entirely reconstructed and is now operating for the public to see.

For Western Pennsylvanians mills have a great interest. We are all familiar with the restoration of McConnells Mill by the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, and we will soon be treated to restoration of one of the last large gristmills locally, that which is at Jennerstown. It is now being moved to the Somerset Historical Society complex for reconstruction there.

Handsomely illustrated, handsomely printed, here we have a clear-cut guide to the evolution and operations of nature-powered gristmills.

**Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation**

**Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania**


This handsome volume is the eighth edition of Colonel James Smith's complete journal. It was originally published in 1799 by John