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## Gray's Mill: Adamsville History

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Adamsville (originally Taborville) was settled in the late 17th century when a stream was dammed and a mill was built. The mill pond created power to run a grist mill, a saw mill and was a source for cutting and selling ice. The mill, originally powered by a wooden wheel, ground meal for human use, fodder for animals and sawed timbers for construction. A blacksmith, meat market, bakery, harness shop, and ice houses, etc., were some of the businesses that sprung up around the mill.

In the mid 19th century the influence of the Industrial Revolution arrived in Adamsville and the mill building and its works were rebuilt to incorporate a turbine. The turbine, a more efficient source of power, lasted until it was destroyed by the 1938 hurricane. The turbine, replaced with a gasoline engine, meant that there was no further need to maintain the millpond.

In 1980 the miller, who was then 80, decided to sell the mill. Ralph Guild, a summer resident, remembered the mill from childhood and not wanting to see it fall into ruin, bought it, restored it, and hired a miller to run the mill. For 17 more years the mill continued to produce Rhode Island's famous Jonnycake meal. However, by 1999 Guild realized that the mill could no longer be profitable --super markets and fast food had taken over -- and he closed the doors. With nobody in charge at the mill, the community didn't know what to do when the pond flooded or became a mosquito infested trickle. They did know that they didn't want to lose the mill or the pond, which have always been the heart of the village. Consequently various people tried different ways to stabilize the pond, compounding the problem and progressively the life of the pond and its relationship to the mill and the village have deteriorated.

Gray's mill and millpond are rich in historic and cultural significance, and are the heart of the surrounding community. Its resources include, 300 years of community life, industrial technology, archaeology, ecology, sociology, politics, economics, and recreation. By the summer of 2002 the mill will be back in operation again.

producing its famous Jonnycake meal.

with plans to produce its famous jonnycake meal, supply producing again its famous Jonnycake meal.Gray's Jonnycake meal famous through out the region  
Supplying the region with its famous jonnycake meal,

And Gray's Jonnycake meal famous through out the region

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Gray's mill , famous for its jonnycake meal