



The Mill at Hope Park was important first as an adjunct to the 2,000-acre plantation, then later as a neighborhood mill which ground various types of wheat for the neighborhood until the early twentieth century. During the Civil War years, the owner of the mill and miller's house, Jack Barnes, was one of Mosby's Rangers. The mill itself, as "Post No. 3," was occupied by Confederate troops during the winter of 1862. Evidence of this remains in the wall carvings still visible on the second floor of the mill. The Hope Park Mill on Piney Branch is probably the second mill of the Hope Park Plantation. Edward Payne, first owner of Hope Park, is supposed to have built the first one during the 1750's. The exact date of the mill near Pope's Head Road and of the miller's house are unknown, but probably they date from around 1790-1800.



Hope Park Mill knew its period of greatest prosperity under the turn-of-the-century ownership of Frank Robey. Robey ground graham and buckwheat flour as well as the more common flours, and ran a small store in a wing of the mill. The house, store and mill were known locally as Robey's Mill (a designation still shown on local maps) and were the social and commercial center of the neighborhood. Robey's death in 1906 brought an end to the active commercial life of the mill. The consolidation of milling by the federal government effectively precluded the resumption of profitable milling at this and most other small neighborhood mills.



Hope Park Mill and Miller's House

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