

# Indians once ground corn in Westford

By GORDON SEAVEY

**WESTFORD** — With the approach of harvest time, Cynthia Prescott Baker returns to the old Indian corn grinding mill-stone on Decatur Hill, much as probably her ancestors did, perhaps in fantasy to watch a squaw with a pole rotate a round stone over kernals to crush the corn into more edible particles.

Archeologists have determined that this Indian relic was in use for many years, for the "mortar" part of the primitive manufacturing process has been worn nearly a yard deep in a solid granite ledge outcropping. The opening in the top is nearly two feet across.

Cynthia's forebears were Fletchers, and the old salt box houses some 100 rods away, with its Indian shutters and witch's staircase, bears the placard that "Captain Pelitiah Fletcher, a soldier in the Revolutionary War, lived here." It is located on Lowell Rd., between Westford Center and Brookside.



**CYNTHIA BAKER**  
...reminisces at Indian  
corn grinding mill

Note: In later articles, you will see this theory totally refuted.