Oliver Evans Encyclopedia Article

Oliver Evans

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Oliver Evans

1755-1819

American inventor who devised steam machinery. Apprenticed as a wheelwright, Evans developed mechanical processes to make industrial combs. He automated flour mills by using a rake that sifted and dried the flour, resulting in a higher-quality product. Many millers refused to reimburse Evans for his ideas. Frustrated by this patent infringement, Evans, interested in steam locomotion, worked on a high-pressure steam engine as well as a steam dredging machine called the *Orukter Amphibolos*.