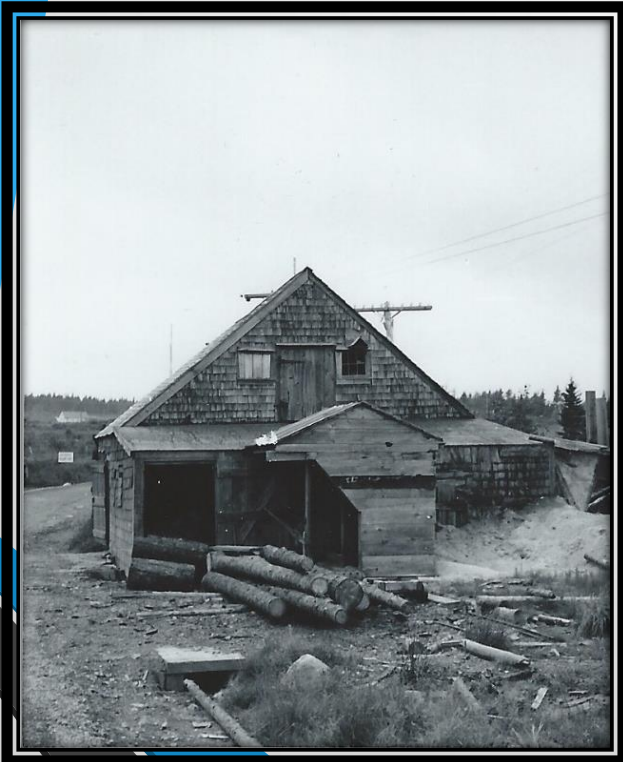


Hammonds Plains & Its Past Connections to Lumber Mills A History



Importance of forest industry can be traced back to Original HP Land Grant of 1786, due to excellent first generation forest growth

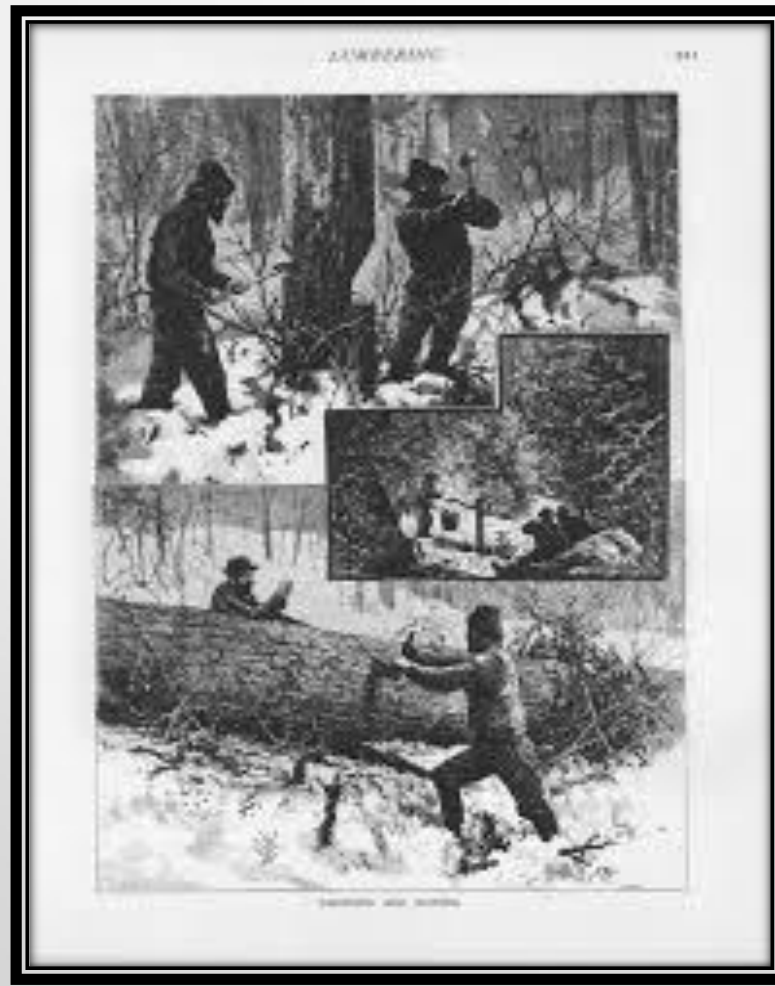


Photo: Adrian Dorst

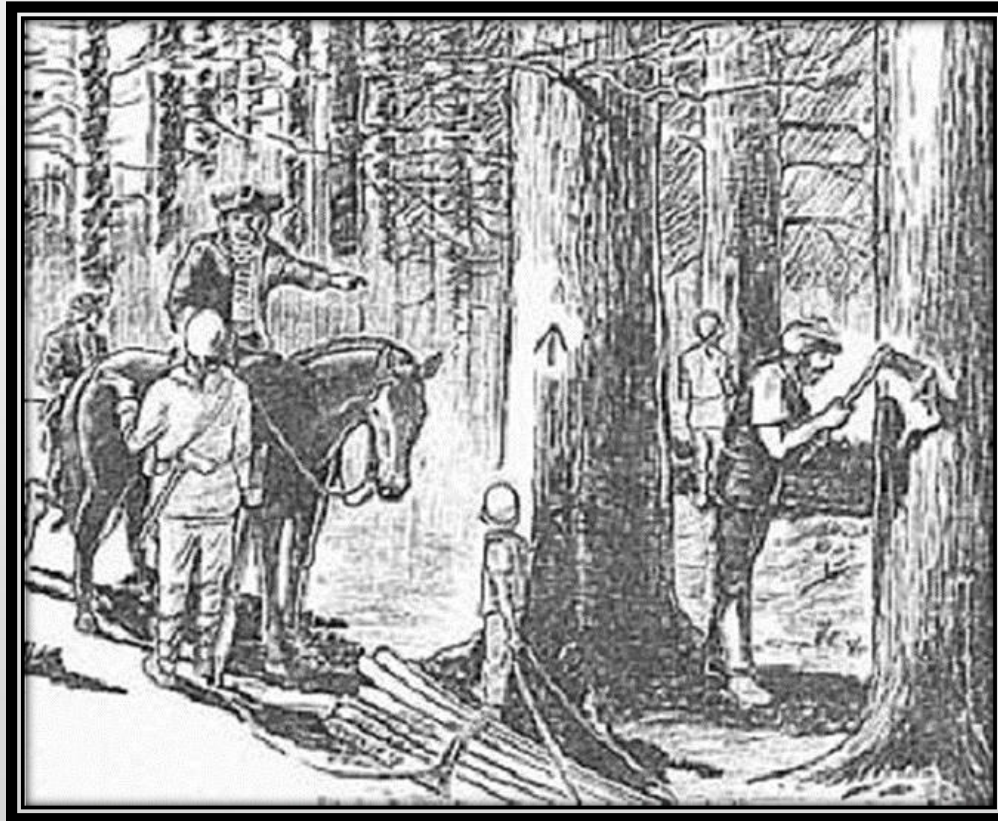
Hammonds Plains Eco-District – Why Forests Grow so Well?

- Part of St. Margaret's Bay Eco-District.**
- Dominant soils include drained sandy loams, evolving to clay soil in Hammonds Plains.**
- Valleys between hills provide thicker soil.**
 - Has a moist climate, good for forest growth.**
- Red Spruce is the dominant natural tree.**

Lumbering was the first PRIORITY for the original grantees – ahead of settlement of the new lands



**‘The Kings Woods’ – 1000 acres
between Birch Cove and Hammonds
Plains Grants reserved by the King
for ship’s Masts**



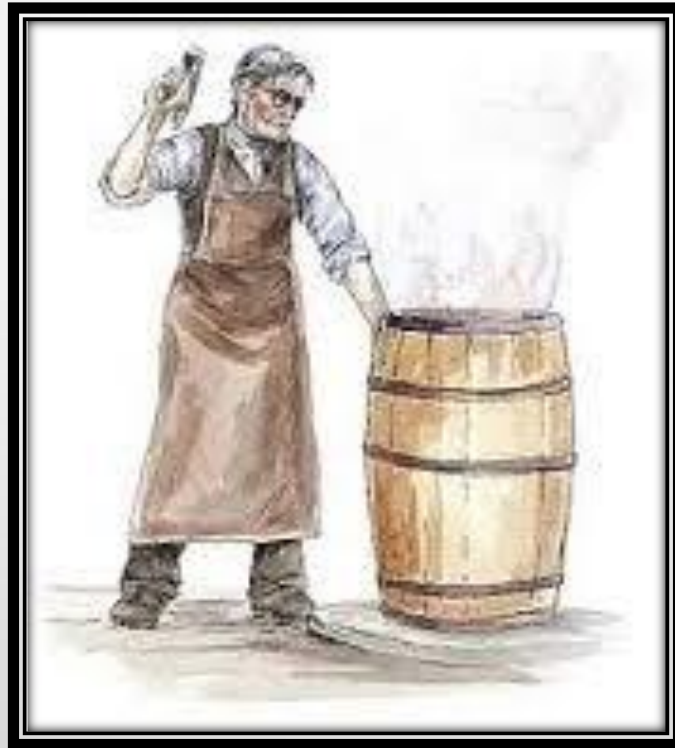
**Late 1700's - Logs were transported to
the Halifax Dockyards for shipbuilding
Nine Mile River - Bedford Basin**



First Mills in Area - Late 1700's / Early 1800's

- **Nine Mill River /Piers Mills Area – river was used to float logs to Bedford Basin. Dam & Mill built on Nine Mile River as early as 1770's.**
- **Christian Schmidt built a saw mill along Nine Mill River in 1805.**
- **Anthony Holland set up mill near Paper Mill Lake in 1819, which he used to make paper (Acadian Recorder).**
- **Some Evidence of a early Mill on Sandy Lake**

**Early 1800's – New Settlers bring
Cooper Skills to Hammonds Plains –
European Influence (Chester Group) /
Chesapeake Blacks**



First Mill in Hammonds Plains – 1816-18? – Built by John English



Jacob Shaffer - Pioneer of Lumbering in H P

- **Believed to have lived at Piers Mills.**
- **He petition for land in 1823, at foot of Pockwock Lake to build a large mill.**
- **Partners – Wright, Lunn and Leighteizer (received 950 acres to use for their business).**
- **Mill was moved to the Pockwock River Falls area after John Wright became sole owner.**

**By 1830, Pockwock/Kempton Area
becomes main lumbering area of HP –
Jacob Shaffer prominent leader**



The Hays Family

- **In 1838, the Hays Family (John Wesley Hays) buys 500 acres from Jacob Shaffer and re-establishes mill at foot of Pockwock Lake.**
- **Created a large mill. In 1860's sons Norman and Johnathan build a modern two story mill.**
- **The second story was used to cut barrel staves. The barrel pieces were hauled to Bedford Basin where the Hays family had Cooper Shop.**
- **By 1870's, the Hays brothers had a lucrative business, installing modern machinery and employing up to 50 people.**

**1890's - Hays brothers sell mill to
Lindsay Moren and Henry/Edwin
Haverstock**



The Legacy of John Wright

- **Moves the original Shaffer Mill to Pockwock River Falls and then to Wright's Lake.**
- **Believed to be the first mill in H P to use a cylinder saw (sawing barrel staves).**
- **Mill was powered by Wright's Big Overshot Wheel.**

Mill was in operation until 1960's.

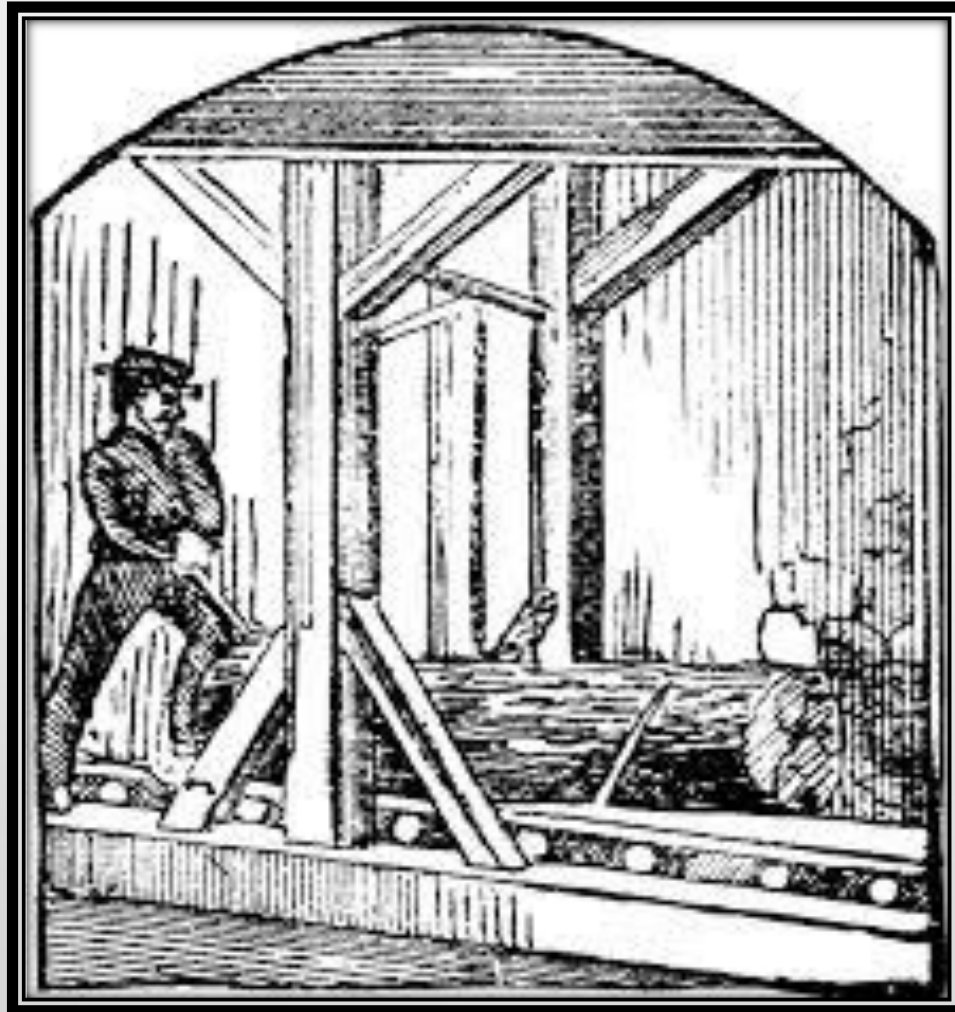
Wright Family Mill





1851 Census

Lists 7 Mills in Hammonds Plains Area



Issues with Mills of the 1800's

- **High risk of fire**
- **Dangerous work around saws**
- **Water flow due to weather (mills that did not dams)**
- **Finding a good millwright**
- **Break down of mill equipment**



Kempton Area - The heart of the Hammonds Plains Forestry - 1800's

- **Mills built in 1860's by Melvin (between Big Indian Lake and Rafter's Lake). Their mill had a gang saw that could saw 12 boards at one time.**
- **Dean's Mill**
- **Little's Mill**
- **Worrell's Mill – built in 1820's**
- **Davidson Mill – Largest in area. Floated lumber down Ingram River – hauled on two wheeled carts to Halifax Market**

Lower Hammonds Plains Mills - 1800's

- **Henry Schmidt – Steam Mill behind Bloom Nursey area (burnt down in 1902)**
- **Melvin - Bezanson Mill (Near where Kynock Resources is to-day)**
- **English / Mason / Melvin Mill (On Mason's Pond)**
- **Mill near English Corner**
- **At Baptizing Lake**
- **MacQuade's Lake**
- **Mill on Cox's Lake - Yankeetown**

Upper Hammonds Plains Mills - 1800's

- **A couple of small mills on Lizard Lake (Allison family involved)**
- **Deal Whiley Mill – built in 1888**
- **Mill on Anderson Lake**





**During the second half of the 1800's
HP area becomes recognized for it's
second generation growth timber**



2nd Half 1800's - Mills begin to produce secondary wood products leading to a thriving industry – Barrels, Staves, house planks, fish box materials, apple boxes



**By 1880's HP becomes a
community of small mills and
cooper shops**



Early Mills built near or on water – needed for power



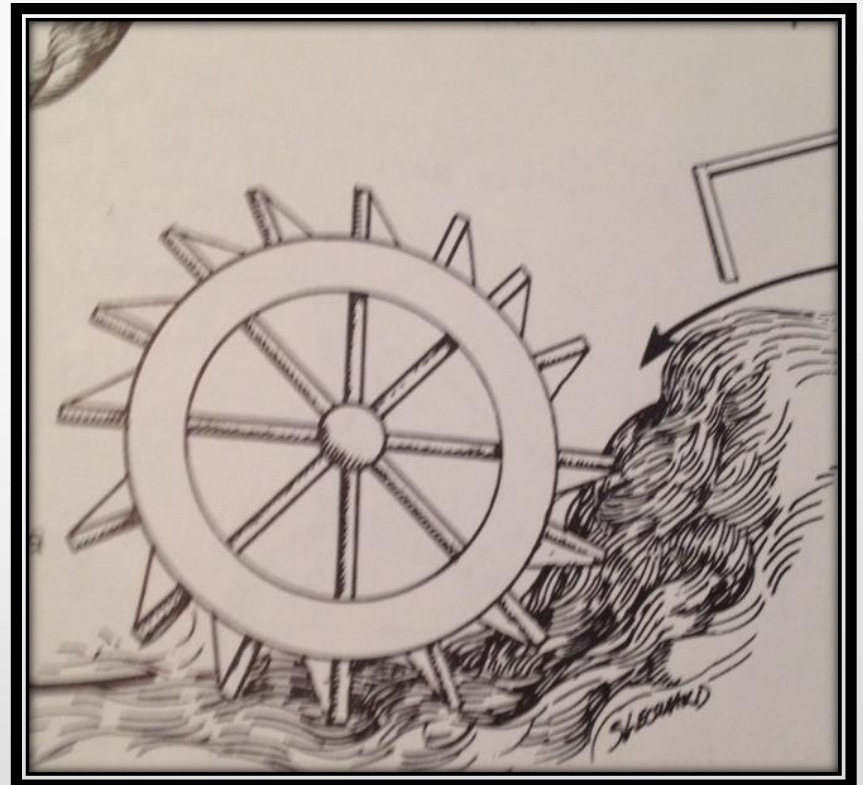
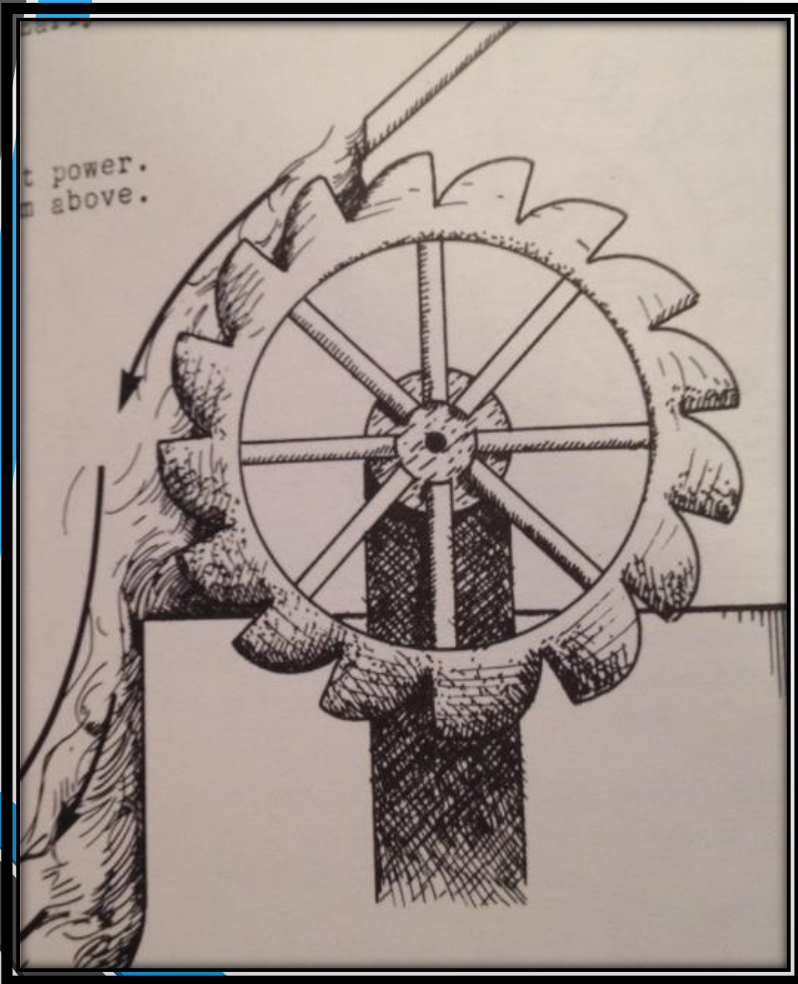
Water Power - 1880's

- **Had different types of wheels to run mills, depending upon the head of the water available.**
- **Overshot Wheel (water fell in buckets) was use for water falling from above.**
- **Breast Wheel was used where there was no height of water, but great volume.**
- **Undershot wheel was used for water flowing in a straight line.**
- **A tub wheel was used where space was an issue.**

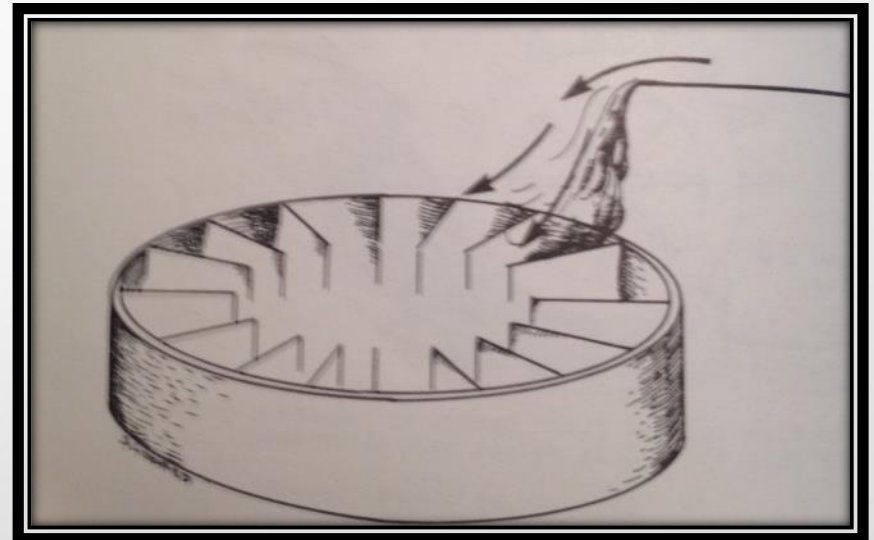
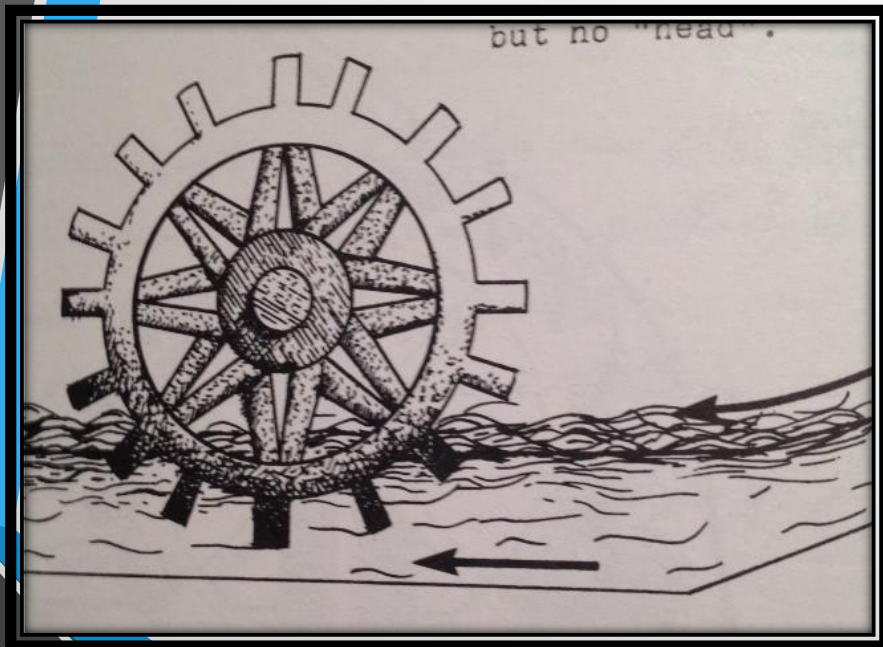
Water Power - 1880's

- **All types of wheels were used in the mills of Hammonds Plains.**
- **A box was built 3-4 meters from wheel to channel water and give pressure (called the flume).**
- **A gate was used to lift up and down (called the Stanpike) to control the flow of water.**

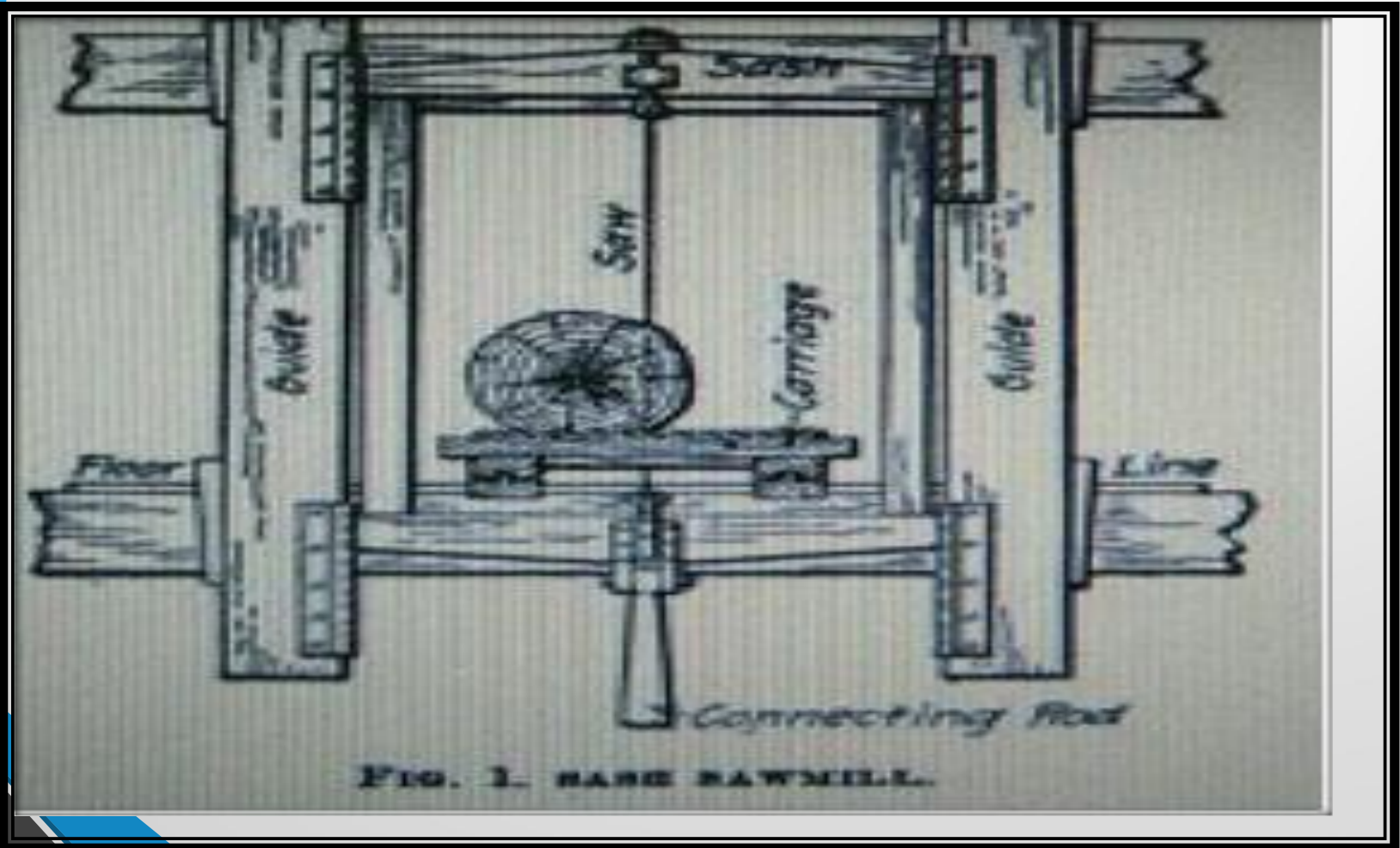
The Water Wheels – Overshot & Breast Wheel



Undershot and Tub Wheels



Saws in the first mills were Vertical Saws



Circular Saws were introduced in the late 1800's



Pulley System

Mills used pulley system to run mill. It was connected to water system. Quite an art to connect all the pulleys together.



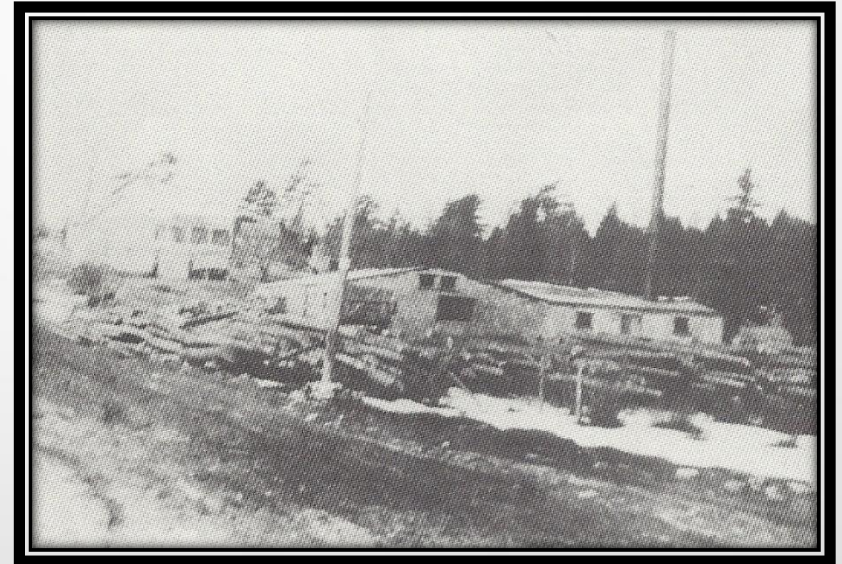
Turbines were introduced to help power larger mills in 1890's



Mills started to be developed along the main road – 1890's



Logs at the mill





Steam Power Mills – Introduced Early 1900's



The golden era of the Hammonds Plains Mills

Early 1900's



1923 Lands & Forest Map - 18 mills shown in H P Area



The Lumbering Process started with cutting logs in the woods



The Larger Mills had Lumber Camps located in the woods near logging site



Bringing the logs into the Mill



Many of the mills had associated Cooper or Box Shops



*Prominent Lumbering Families in Hammonds
Plains Area - 1900's*

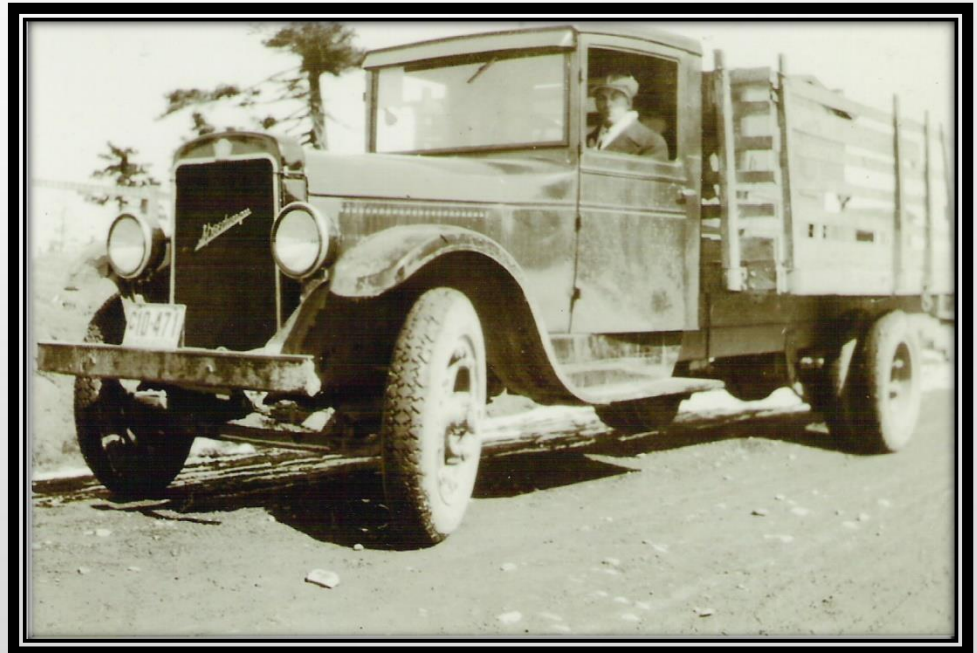
- **Anderson**
- **Eisenhauer**
- **Haverstock**
- **Melvin**
- **Moren**
- **Romans**
- **Smith**
- **Thomson**
- **Wiley**
- **Wright**

The Influence of the Haverstock Family

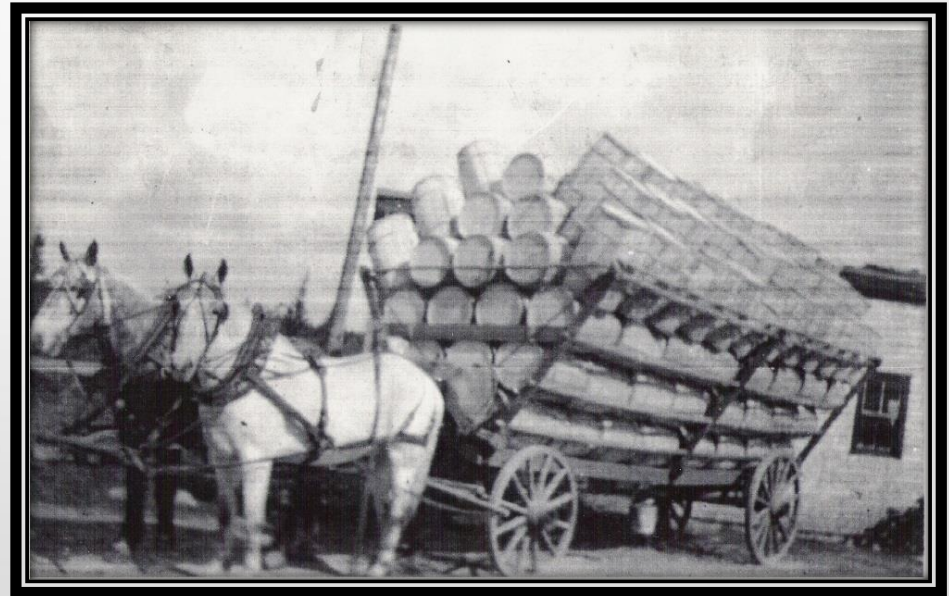
- **Had the most family members that were involved in the lumbering business in Hammonds Plains area.**
 - **Were involved in the lumbering trade for approximately 130 years, involving 4 generations.**
 - **Haverstock Family got involved in lumbering business in mid 1800's (not sure which mills the family was involved with at the time).**
 - **During the early 1900's, Haverstock family had ownership in five mills in the community.**
 - **Biggest influence can be traced to Henry Haverstock Sr. (1828-1904) whose 7 sons all became involved in the lumbering trade. It was sons Henry Jr. and Edwin who purchased share of Hayes Pockwock Mill.**
- In their golden years (Early 1900's) Haverstock Mills would have employed approximately 75 people in the community.**

1930's - A Decade of Transition

- **Electricity comes to Hammonds Plains. Mills start to be powered by electricity**
- **Trucks start to be used for transportation**
- **Tractors introduced to gather logs**



The Old Way



The New Way



The lumbering industry in Hammonds Plains started to decline in the 1940's as post World War 2 advancements met less emphasis on wood products

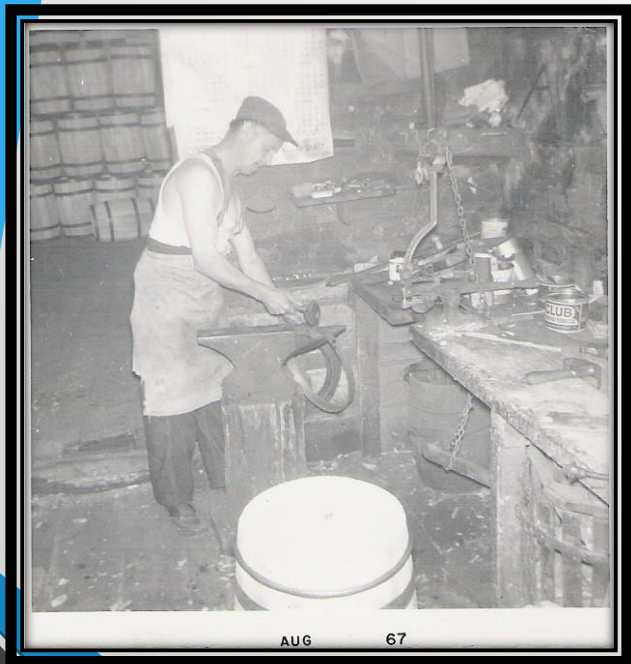


By the 1960's the lumbering industry was becoming a thing of the past in HP



Last Cooper Shop

W. G. Haverstock Cooper Shop – Late 1970's



Last Day to Day Mill Operation
**Whiley Mill (Upper Hammonds
Plains – 1990's**



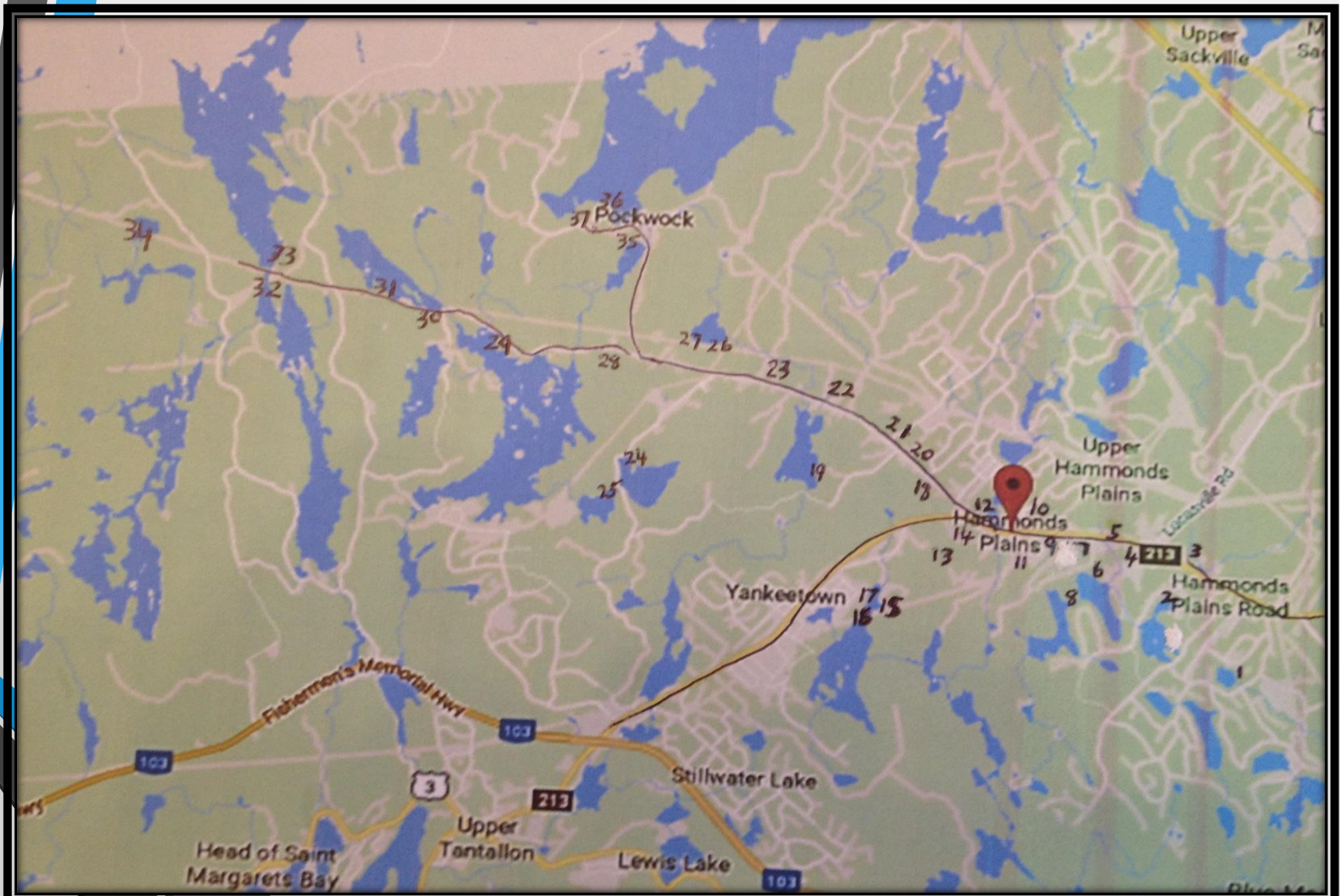
Today

Hatfield Farm

Cape Cod Siding



Where were the H P Mills? – 1820-1990



The Mills of Hammonds Plains (Locations & Family Operators)

1. MacQuade's Lake (on river at East End) – Unknown
2. Schmidt's Lake – Haverstock
3. Behind Farmer Clem's – Schmidt
4. Behind 1648 HP Road - Thomas
5. Behind 1699 HP Road – Thomson
6. First Lake – Eisenhauer
7. Hatfield Farms – Eisenhauer
8. Between First & Second Lake – Thomson
9. At 1910 HP Road – Thomas
10. Kynock Resources – Melvin/Bezanson
11. 2004 HP Road – Melvin
12. Mason's Pond – English/Mason/Eisenhauer
13. Wallace Hill – Unknown
14. English Corner – Unknown
15. Cox's Lake – Frizzel
16. Cox's Lake – Thomson
17. Cox's Lake – Smith
18. Across the road from Micmac Blvd Entrance Pockwock Road – Romans/Haverstock
19. East end of Taylor Lake - Kehoe
20. White Hills Long Term Care Center – Haverstock
21. White Hills Entrance – Wright
22. Pockwock Road – Whiley
23. Pockwock Road – Top of Jeffrey's Hill – Allison
24. Anderson Road – Marsman
25. Off Anderson Road on Anderson Lake – Anderson
26. On Lizard Lake – Allison
27. On Lizard Lake – Unknown
28. Kemptown Road – Marsman
29. Wright's Lake – Wright
30. Clay Lake – Little
31. Kemptown Area - Dean
32. Between Big Indian and Raffer Lakes – Melvin
33. Big Indian Lake – Worrell
34. Ingram River – Davison
35. Foot of Pockwock Lake – Shaffer / Wright / Lunn / Leighteizer / Hayes / Moren
36. Foot of Pockwock Lake – Shaffer / Wright / Lunn / Leighteizer / Hayes / Haverstock
37. Foot of Pockwock Lake - Haverstock

Hammonds Plains & Its Past Connections to Lumber Mills

A History

September 24, 2018

