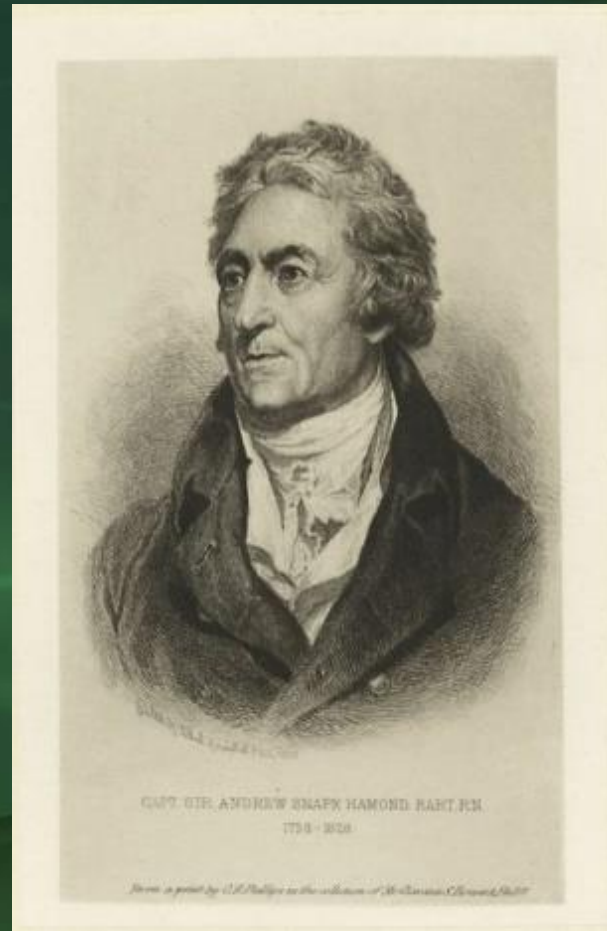


The Founding Fathers of Hammonds Plains

**Presented by Hammonds Plains Historical
Society**

November 17, 2016

The Founding of Hammonds Plains - 1786



Original Land Grants Given to 42 Land Owners



Original Land Grantees were Halifax Business Folks (Loyalists)



Condition of grant was that grantees had to have residents living on land or the grant would be returned to the government



Almost all of the grantees took the trees off their land and sold them but didn't become residents



During the late 1700's and early 1800's many of the grants were either put up for sale at public auction or re-granted

Windhill, in Idle.
To be SOLD by AUCTION,
By Mr. J. RAMSDEN,
At the House of Mr. Samuel Atkinson, the Fleece
Inn, in Shipley, on Monday, the 9th Day of July,
1810, between the Hours of Three and Five in the
Afternoon, subject to Conditions ;
A FREEMOLD ESTATE, situate at Wind-
hill, in the Township of Idle aforesaid ; in the
following Lots, viz.
LOT I. THREE DWELLING HOUSES, and a
WAREHOUSE, in the respective Occupations of
William Hall Abraham Hall, and George Beecroft.
LOT II. TWO CLOSES of LAND, called *Middle
Close* and *Far Close*, containing by Estimation Seven
Days' Work, (more or less), and in the Occupation of
David Mellor.
LOT III. A PIECE of GROUND, Part of the
Mill-Dam, at Windhill Wood End, late in the Occu-
pation of John Wilkinson
The Land Tax of the Premises is redeemed.
Lot II. is supposed to contain a valuable BED of
COAL.
Mr. David Mellor, the Occupier of Lot II. will
shew the Premises ; and further Particulars may be
had at Mr. Cunsley's Office, in Bradford.

**Folks from the South Shore
(Chester Group) became interested
in the lots and bought them up –
(1800-15)**



Founding Fathers

**Name given to the men
(families) who were
prominent in creating the
village of Hammonds Plains.**

The Founding Fathers

Robert Anderson

James Bezanson

George Frizzell

John Hays

Jacob Haverstock

Thomas Johnson

Amos Melvin

Christian Schmidt

Ebernezer Smith

Robert Thomson

George Worrall

Robert Anderson

- Scottish descent
- Set up one of first farms in Hammonds Plains
Purchased lot # 2 in the late 1780's (Around Edible Matters). Purchased lot # 6 after 1800's (where Haunted Hollow is located)
- Married Ellen – had 6 children
- Had considerable wealth – purchased land in and around Halifax. Had success as a farmer in H P. Supporter of road through H P
- Sold H P Lands to daughter and husband - 1823
- Died 1829



James Bezanson

- Was from a French Foreign Protestant heritage
- Came from ship building family in Chester area
- Married Dorothy Melvin in 1827 / bought part of original lot 12 from Melvin Family
- Had 13 children
- Was a community leader – was assessor in 1840, served as trustee for Baptist Church
- Family built the 'Curlew' in H P
- Passed away in 1872



George Frizzell

- Was a loyalist from the US (New Jersey?). Believed to have come to Hammonds Plains (Yankeetown area) between 1809 – 1811
- In 1811, George and Son petitioned for land behind the McCrea Lot (behind Uplands Park)
- Married Elizabeth Graham – Had 10 children
- Frizzell family one of the founding members of First Baptist Church
- Died 1824
- The Frizzell family ran a saw mill in Yankeetown area in mid 1800's



John Hays

- Moved to Hammonds Plains area around 1805, first living in Yankeetown area
- He was a loyalist of Scottish Descent
- Married Phobe (last name unknown) – had 10 children
- In 1815 he was granted original lot #25 (near White Hills Long Term Care Center)
- Died 1823
- Laid the seeds for a timber empire around Pockwock Lake. Son John Wesley and later grand sons Jonathon & Norman operated a large mill at foot of Pockwock Lake (approximately 1838 – 1890)
- Norman was very first elected councillor representing H. P.



Jacob Haverstock

- German Descent. Father was a discharged soldier in English military.
- Moved to Hammonds Plains from Sackville Area around 1802. Believed to have moved to Yankeetown area
- Married Nancy Anderson and after she died, married her sister, Ellen. All together they had 16 children.
- Anderson father (Robert) gave original lot # 6 to Jacob and Ellen in 1823.
- Jacob's children attended Upper Hammonds Plains School for many years (for free??)
- Passed away in 1863
- Laid the foundations for the family to become a giant in the lumbering business in H P



Thomas Johnson

- Irish Descent, serving in Royal Military
- Discharged from army. Settled in Chester area. Considered educated.
- Married Mary Tufts – had 9 children
- Purchased original lot # 7 in 1812 (where Lucasville Road joins H P Road)
- Was a diversified business person – Operated grist mill (imported from Britain), ran an Inn, was in charge of mail.
- Was first Victualler for Chesapeake Blacks
- First person in H P given 'Esquire' status
- Passed away in 1857, but before he died, he donated land for Anglican Church (later St. Nicholas was built).



Amos Melvin

- Known as the Father of H P
- Born on Oak Island, came from well to do family. Literate at a early age. Acquired large land holdings in Chester area.
- Married Dorothy Webber – Had 11 children
- Sold his land holdings to purchase land in H P in 1811 (original lots # 11 & #27) Blue Barn Farms
- Also purchased large tracts of land in Upper Hammonds Plains / Around Pockwock Lake
- Leader of the Chester Group – talked others into in purchasing in H P. Brother Nathaniel also purchased land in H P
- In 1824, he donated land for cemetery and meeting house. Also donated land for Chesapeake Blacks.

HAMMONDS PLAINS

BAPTIST CEMETERY



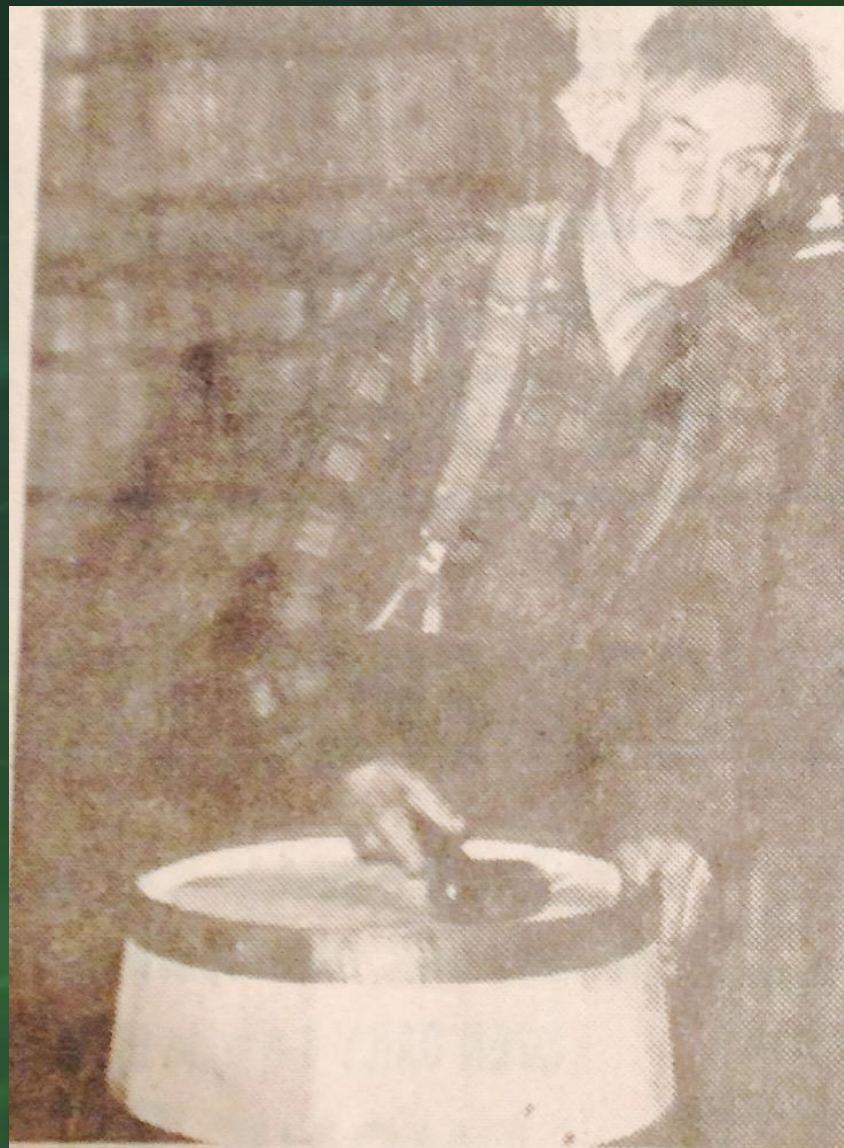
Christian Schmidt

- German Descent. Served as Captain in Royal Foreign Artillery
- Was granted the McCrae property (Uplands Park area) in 1791, but it was depossessed in 1815, and he moved to Halifax
- Was in the lumbering industry – In 1805, he bought land for a saw mill at Nine Mile River. Built mill but sold it a year later
- He died in 1828. However, one of his sons, Charles returned to H P in 1860's. Lived on side of Schmidt's Hill. He was a retired lawyer. Son, Henry operated a steam mill, until it burnt down in 1902. Other son, Frederick operated store in H P
- Schmidt's Lake named after family



Ebernezer Smith

- Believed to have come from Maryland as a loyalist, via short stays in Shelburne and Halifax
- Acquired H P grant in 1787 – Original Lot # 22 (Yankeetown)
- Became the only permanent settler who acquired his land by grant
- Married to Mary – had 5 children
- Was a farmer
- Was first overseer of H P Road
- Year of death unknown
- The Smith Family became known in H P for their coopering skills



BARREL MAKING — Cooper Norman Smith, Ham
Plains, still works at the trade he learned from his father as
of 14. Mr. Smith is shown putting the final steel band around
barrel. (O'Brien

Robert Thomson

- Part of the Chester Group – came to H P in 1811
- Educated early in life
- Bought original lot # 9 (Land around Woodhaven Campground)
- Very active in developing infrastructure of developing village
- He held titles – Commissioner of Roads, School Trustee, Land Assessor, Clerk of First Baptist Church
- Instrumental in creating First Baptist Church
- Strong supporter of Education – made sure his children were included in new Upper Hammonds School
- Married Margaret Duncan – had 3 sons
- Passed away in 1868 at 82. Buried in Baptist Cemetery.



George Worrell

- Was a loyalist whose family had come from Boston
- Purchased original lot # 12 (located on top of hill on Bedford side of Kynock's) in 1791
- Well educated. Noted for his neat handwriting
- Prominent in the community as an early business leader. He established a mill near Big Indian Lake.
- Had two sons who lived in Kempton until 1850's
- Passed away in 1841

