

## **The Roaring 20's of Yesteryear**

(Submitted by the Hammonds Plains Historical Society)



To appreciate the progression of Hammonds Plains into a thriving suburban community, let's explore what things were like in Hammonds Plains 100 years ago.

In 1921, the world was coming out of a pandemic (the Spanish Flu of 1918-20). This fact alone might indicate that things haven't changed all that much in 100 years, yet to put things in perspective, the 19<sup>th</sup> century sight of horse drawn wagons were still prevalent everywhere in the community.

Hammonds Plains of 1921 based on the census of that year, listed 608 residents. This included 251 in Hammonds Plains proper, 249 residents in Upper Hammonds Plains, 53 in Yankeetown, 26 in Kemptown and 29 at Pockwock Lake.

Almost all the homes at the time were located along the Hammonds Plains or Pockwock roads, making the community a two road village. Many of the homes had a fence around the front yard to keep farm animals from wandering the roads, however, it was nothing to look out the window and see a stray cow munching on the grass in the backyard. Hammonds Plains was still in pre electricity times in 1921 so candles, kerosene lamps, wood stoves and preparing everything from raw ingredients were the norm in each home. Big ice squares were cut from the local lakes and stored in an ice shed near one's home. This was the fundamental way of the time to keep food from spoiling. For the most part, conventional traditional gender roles formed the basis for domestic responsibilities in and outside the home.

Looking out onto the Hammonds Plains road in 1921, one may have seen a horse drawn wagon passing by. Strangely from today's perspective, it was the British way of staying to the left rule that govern the flow of traffic, staying to the right wasn't initiated until 1923. Cars were still a futuristic dream in Hammonds Plains, although motorize vehicles from other places did sporadically travel the road.

Almost every household in the community was directly influenced by the lumber industry. There were at least 16 saw mills in the area which each employed an average of 10 folks. Approximately 30 cooper or wooden box shops added to the employment impact. Economic times in Hammonds Plains was healthy indeed!

The roaring 20's weren't wild times in Hammonds Plains however, as prohibition kept a lid on things, although the local bootleggers were very popular in the community. On occasion, this led to a few occasions where good celebratory intentions spilled over.

The simpler times of 100 years are now faint thoughts in history but remembering those days gives us sense of how much the community has changed.



**Getting ready for Ice Cutting on Pockwock Lake - 1920's (Ice to be used in household ice shed as a refrigerator)**