

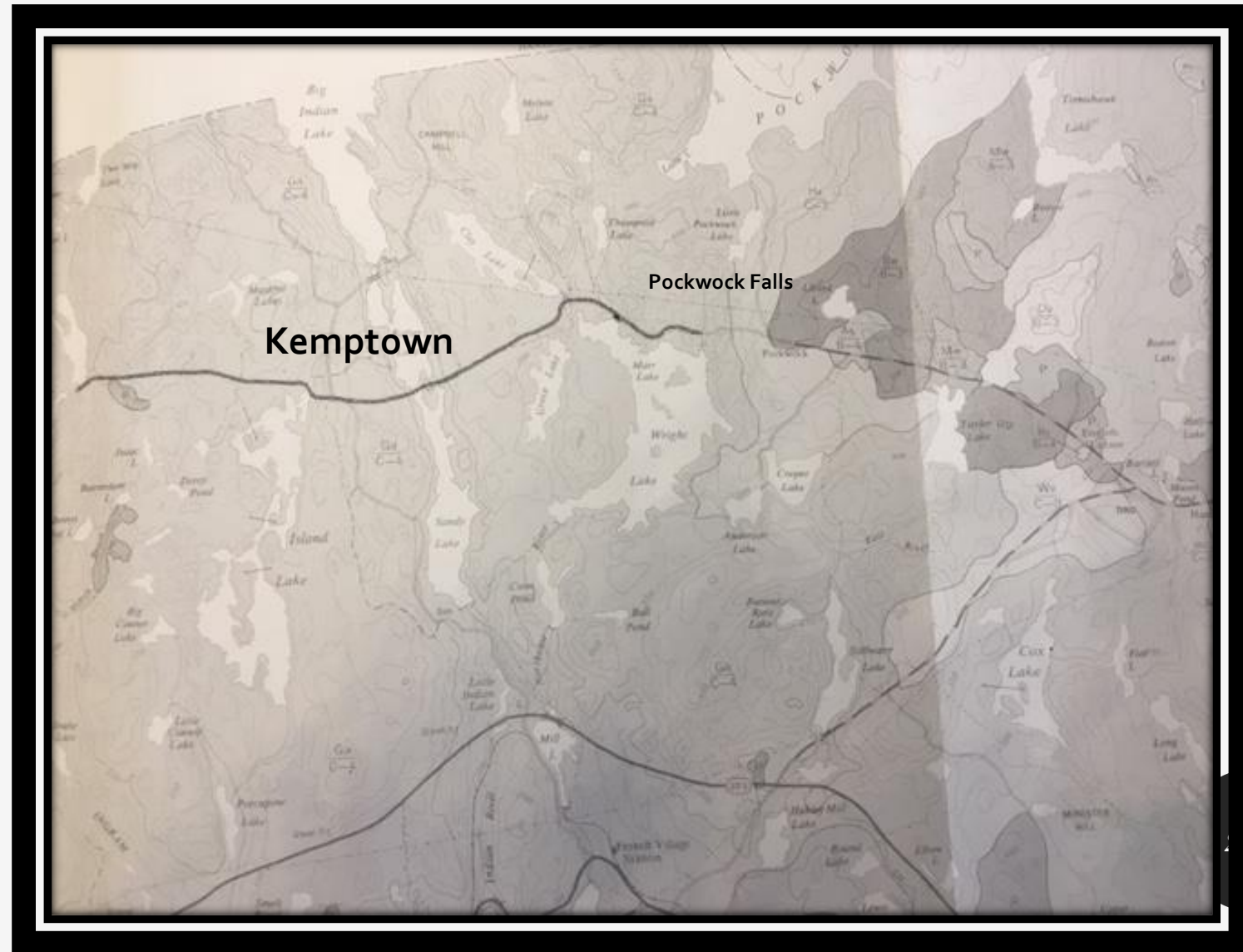
*Exploring the  
History of  
Kempton*



***Kempton –  
Our  
Forgotten  
Village***



*Where was  
Kemptown?*

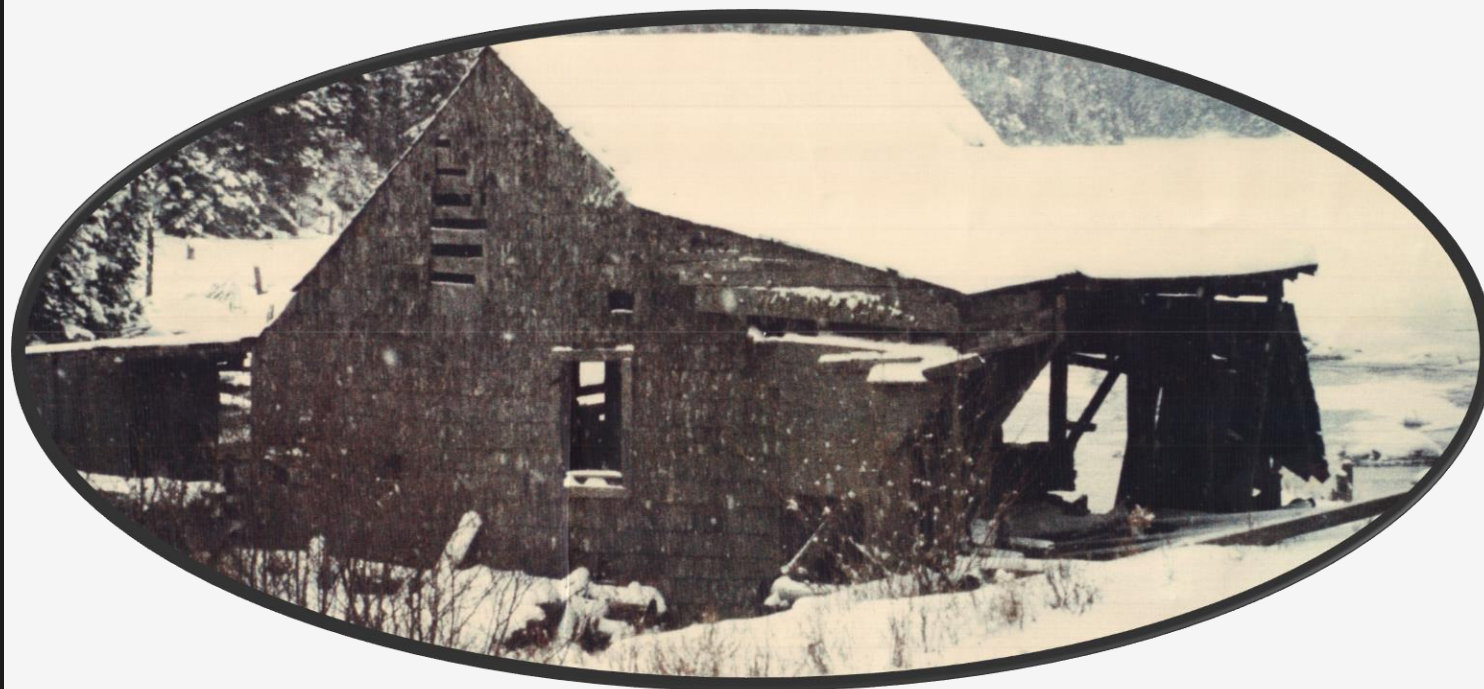






# *Kemptown – A History*

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## *The Beginnings – 1700's*

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During the late 1700's the British Government in Nova Scotia expressed a desire to have a road run from Halifax to Annapolis Royal.



# *The Beginnings – 1815*

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At Battle of Waterloo  
in 1815, Napoleon was  
finally overthrown and  
peace was made  
between England &  
France



## *The Beginnings – 1815*

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This led to England being flooded with war vets, causing unemployment to becoming a big problem.

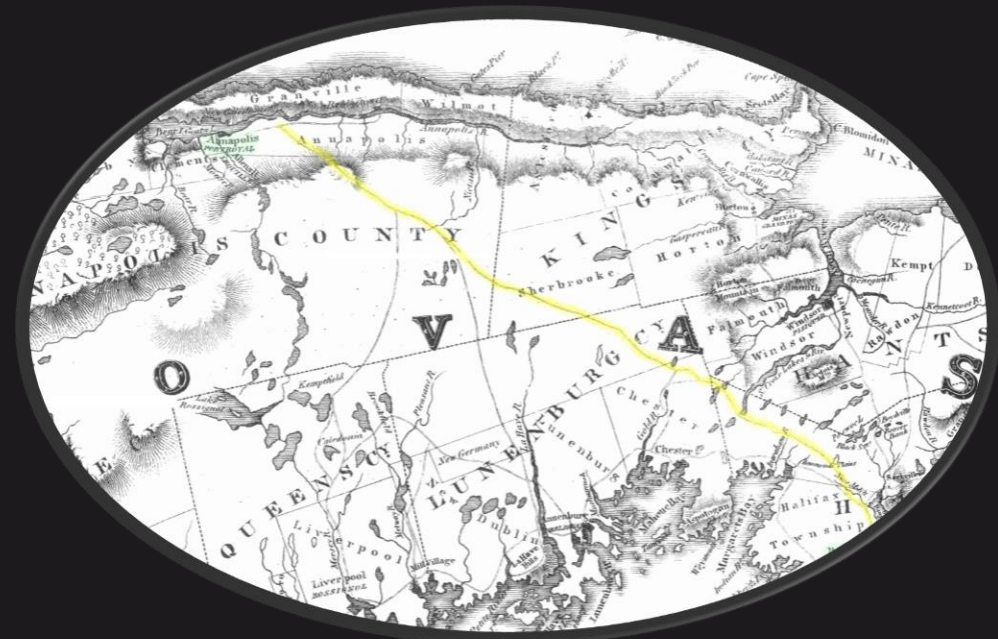




## *The Beginnings – 1815*

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Abled body folks  
were urged to go to  
the colonies to  
reduce social  
problems. Many  
came to Halifax.



## *The Beginnings – 1815*

A new attempt was made to connect Halifax to Annapolis Royal via road.





*The  
Beginnings –  
Early 1800's*

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This road was going to be part of existing road structure running from Nine Mile River through Hammonds Plains.



*The  
Beginnings  
– Early  
1800's*

---

Evidence that a **road** was cut through between Hammonds Plains and Annapolis Royal in early 1800's, but it was really no more a horse path in many spots.



*The  
Beginnings  
– 1816*

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In 1816, Lord  
Dalhousie becomes  
Governor of Nova  
Scotia



*The  
Beginnings – 1816*

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Lord Dalhousie  
was an  
enthusiastic  
supporter of the  
Annapolis Road.





# *The Beginnings – 1816*

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To support the development of the road, Dalhousie creates 3 settlements along the road – Wellington, Sherbrooke & Dalhousie.



## *The Beginnings – 1816*

Settlement of  
Wellington was  
established in 1816  
(from just west of  
Chesapeake Black Land  
Grants to Big Indian  
Lake area)



*The  
Beginnings  
– 1816*

---

Wellington Grants were issued to disbanded soldiers of the Royal Military.



*The  
Beginnings  
– 1816*

If the disbanded soldiers stayed and worked the land for 6 years, they would be granted lots.





*The  
Beginnings  
– 1816*

---

However, the winters were very severe and many of the grantees could not handle the weather and left.



*The  
Beginnings  
– 1822*

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**By 1822, only 14  
soldiers left to claim  
grants.**



*The  
Beginnings  
– 1818*

---

In 1818, a group of Irish Immigrants arrived in Halifax and applied for land grants.



## *The Beginnings – 1818*

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They received grants to form a new settlement to be named Kemptown, named after Sir James Kempt.





## *The Beginnings – 1818*

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Sir James Kempt was a soldier in British military, rising to quartermaster general of British North America.

Was Lieutenant-Governor of Nova Scotia (1820-28).



*The  
Beginnings  
– 1818*

---

The Kemptown  
Grants were between  
Big Indian and Ingram  
River.



## *The Beginnings – 1818*

Road through new settlement was in very poor shape. In 1819, the new settlers petition the government to improve the road 'from most westerly settlement of the Chesapeake Blacks to the end of the settlement of Kempton', a distance of about 10 miles.



*Wellington  
&  
Kemptown  
become one.  
-1820's*

During the 1820's, the new settlements of Wellington & Kemptown start to be unofficially known as Kemptown. Probably due to high number of original settlers from Wellington moving away.





***Kempton -  
1827***

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**1827 Census indicate 73  
folks living in  
Kempton, with 66  
acres of cultivated  
land.**



***Kemptown –  
1830's***

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By 1830's, the dream of the Annapolis Road had died, leading to Kemptown being on dead end road, with little money for upkeep of road.



## ***Kemptown - 1838***

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**1838 records show population down to 38. In likelihood, decrease in population caused by families moving out due to Annapolis Road collapse.**



*1830's  
The Mills  
arrive*

However, due to the excellent growth of forests surrounding the area, Kemptown soon became a settlement, based on Forestry.





*1830's  
The Mills  
arrive*

---

During the mid  
1800's mills run by  
Melvin, Davidson,  
Dean, Little and  
Wright operated in  
the area.



*1830's  
The Mills  
arrive*

---

A couple of Cooper Shops also were in operation in the area during mid 1800's.



## *Kemptown - 1851*

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On 1851 census, 15 families are listed for Kemptown, consisting of 88 people.



*Kemptown  
has a Inn*

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A Inn was  
established by John  
Langille, probably  
out of his home.  
Called Checkerhouse  
Inn.









# *Gold is Discovered - 1863*



- Area part of rock deposit that had gold in it. Was surveyed for gold in 1863.
- 3 veins were opened in the following years and three shafts were sunk, with the largest being 130 feet.
- Project was abandoned in 1868.



## *Tragedy Hits – 1860's*

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A major Forest Fire engulfs the settlement in 1860's, causing most of the settlement to be destroyed.



## *Tragedy Hits – 1860's*

---

Many people leave, but  
some come back and  
rebuild.



*Revival –  
1870's -  
1880's*

The settlement shows signs of growth after the fire, due to rebuilding. Wright's Mill becomes the main focus of business.





*Revival –  
1870's -  
1880's*

The settlement even builds a school. 1880 Kemptown School records shows 13 students. Picture (date unknown) shows 20 students.





## *The Tale of the Census*

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- 1851 – 15 homes / Population – 88
- 1861 – 8 homes / Population - 61
- 1871 – 4 homes / Population 31
- 1881 – 11 homes / Population – 61
- 1891 – 9 homes / Population -51
- 1901 – 8 homes / Population - 45
- 1911 – 5 homes / Population – 36
- 1921 – 3 homes (Langille, Wright, Greene/Little) / Population - 26



# *The Families of Kemptown*

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- Wright
- Davidson
- Langille
- Green(e)
- Little
- Thomson
- Swindells /Swinton
- Worrall
- Smith
- Andrews
- Rafter
- Hurshman
- Reese



*Wright's  
Mill 1890's—  
The  
Backbone of  
Kemptown*

---

**During the late 1800's,  
Wright's Mill becomes  
the core business in  
Kemptown, producing  
barrels for the Halifax  
Market.**



*After 1900*

After 1900, families move away, not to be replaced by newer families. Kemptown becomes a village of fewer and fewer folks.



*1920's*

The Wright Family moves to Lower Hammonds Plains in 1922, virtually ending Kemptown as a village. The Greene & Little families last to live in Kemptown during the 1920's.





*After 1920's*

Wright's Mill operates  
until 1964.

The lakes of Kemptown  
are used as favorite  
fishing spots for  
residents.



## *1951 Plane Crash*

In 1951, 2 military  
planes crash in  
Wright's Lake area.  
One pilot is killed.





The Kemptown Road gradually becomes a road to no where, and enters into a state of disrepair.

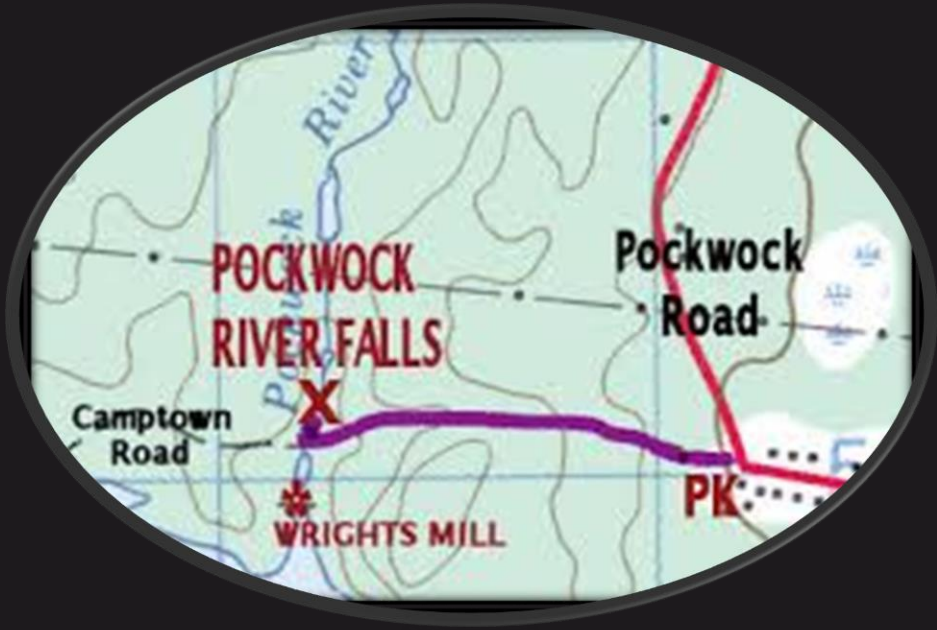
*Later 1900's*





# *The Bridge*





## *Kemptown vs Camptown*

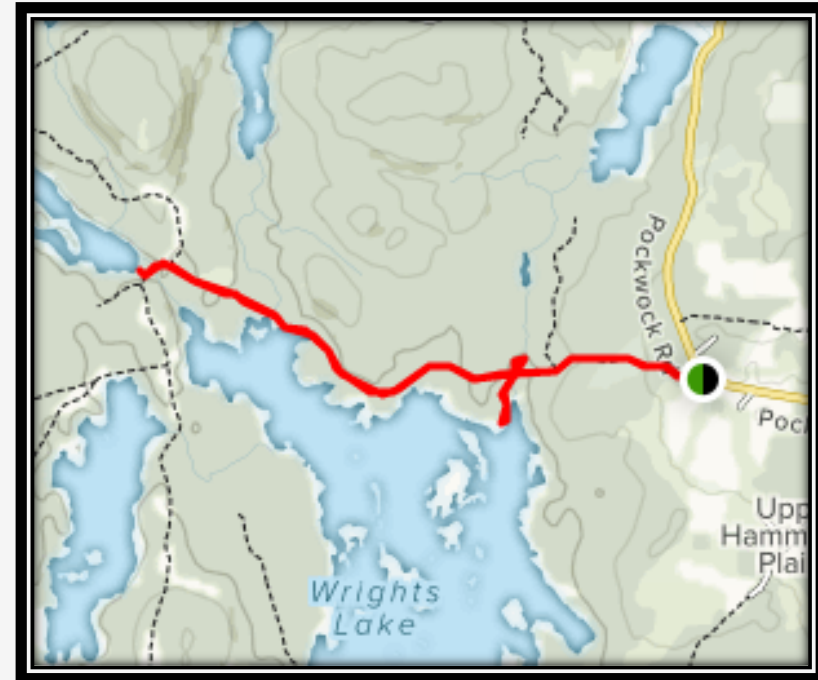
Kemptown is the official name of village, as designated by province. During the 1900's, the road was also known by as Camptown Road. Said to be given name because of lumber camps in area.



# The Road to-day is part of the Pockwock Falls Hiking Trail.

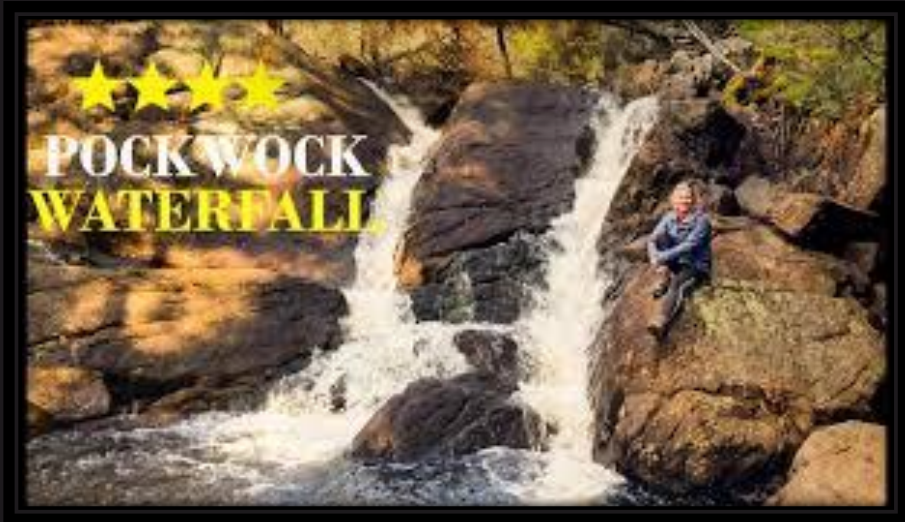


*To-Day*

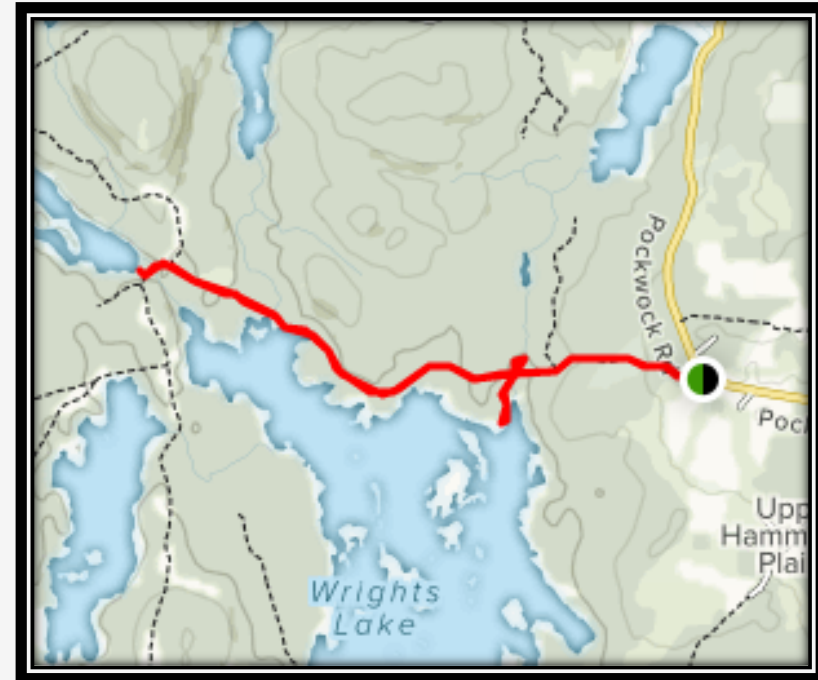


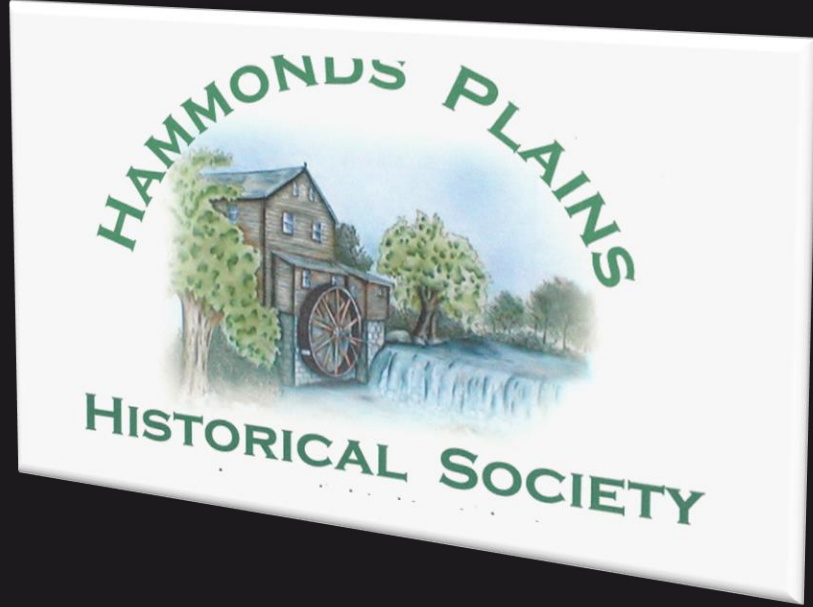


# Push to create a proper hiking trail.



*The Future*





*Presentation by  
Hammonds Plains  
Historical Society*

# *Kempton – Our Forgotten Village*

*September 26,  
2022*



***Kemptown is  
the name  
given to:***

*a. A land grant located west of  
Upper Hammonds Plains named  
after a British Military Figure.*

*b. A small town at the foot of  
Pockwock Lake, built around the  
large mill that was there.*

*c. A cluster of homes built around a  
stage coach stop near Yankeetown.*

*d. A 1700's British military post  
located on hill behind Hammonds  
Plains Consolidated School*





***Kemptown  
was located:***

***a. On the Old Morris  
Road south of Tomahawk  
Lake.***

***b. On the Old Annapolis  
Road between Wright's  
Lake to and Ingram  
River.***

***c. On First Nations Land  
on Wallace Hill.***

***d. In Yankeetown.***





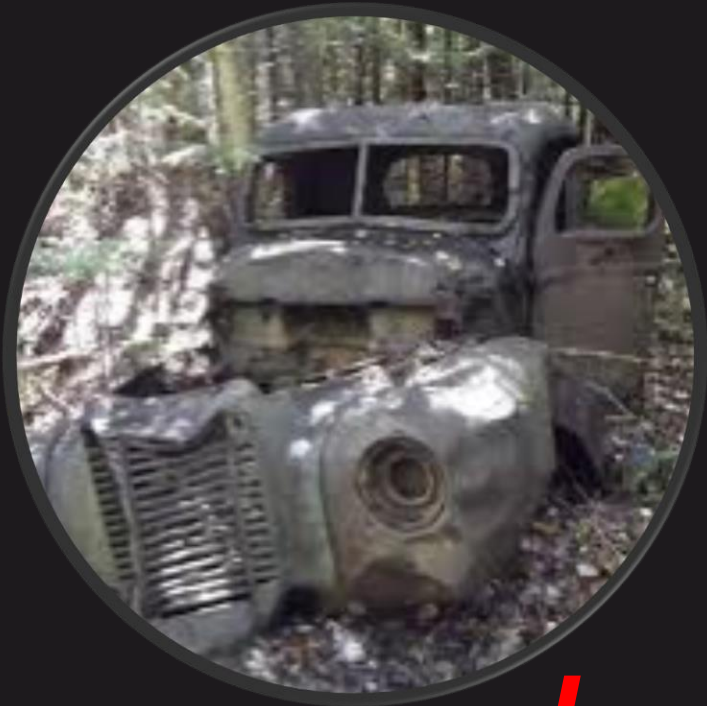
*The original land owners of Kemptown were of what nationality:*

*a. Irish.*

*b. British.*

*c. German.*

*d. Scottish.*



*The original  
Kemptown  
land grant was  
awarded:*

*a. During 1700's.*

*b. During 1800's.*

*c. During 1900's.*

*d. During  
2000's.*



*Kempton was  
named after:*

*a. Admiral Robert  
Kempton.*

*b. Lady Jane  
Kempster.*

*c. Sir James  
Kempt.*

*d. Early resident,  
John Kempt.*



*The main  
industry in  
Kempton was:*

*a. Forestry.*

*b. Mining.*

*c. Trapping  
animals for furs.*

*d. Fishing.*



*Families that  
lived in  
Kempton:*

*a. Haverstock, Melvin,  
Bezanson.*

*b. Anderson,  
Marsman, Whiley.*

*c. Wright, Greene,  
Langille.*

*d. Trudeau, Pollievre,  
Singh.*





*What tragedy  
hit Kempton  
in the 1800's?*

*a. Outbreak of  
Tuberculous.*

*b. Fire.*

*c. Dam giving way  
causing flood.*

*d. The great landslide  
of Dauphinee's Hill.*



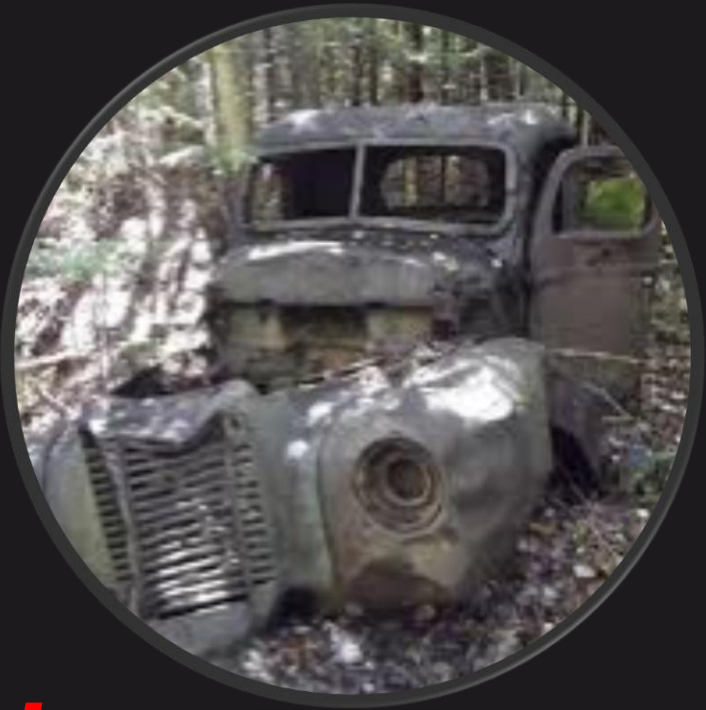
What mineral  
was mined in  
the Kemptown  
area?

*a. Gypsum.*

*b. Granite.*

*c. Gold.*

*d. Quartz.*



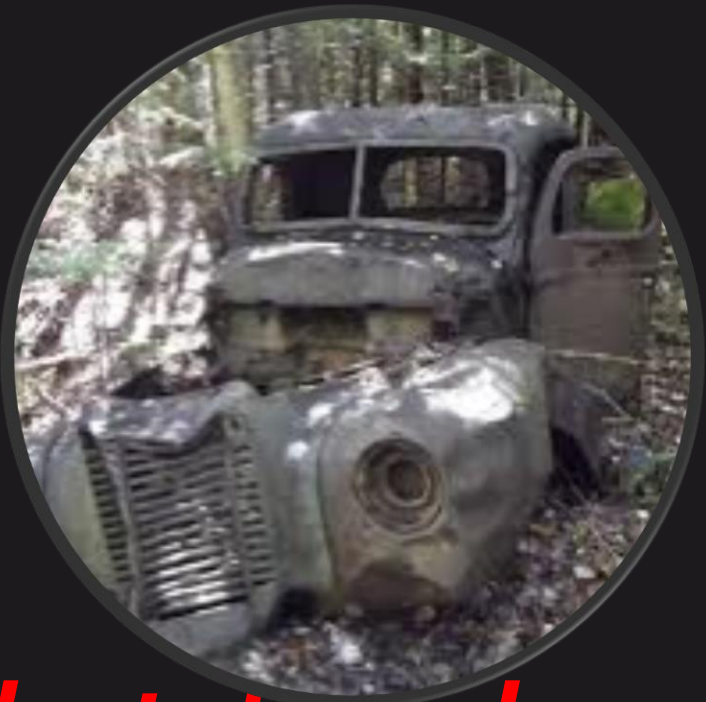
*The Kemptown  
area is  
sometimes  
referred to as:*

*a. English  
Corner.*

*b. Camptown.*

*c. Bear Trap  
Falls.*

*d. Ten Mile Bridge  
.*



*What decade was  
the fatal airplane  
crash that took  
place in  
Kempton?*

*a. 1940's.*

*b. 1950's.*

*c. 1960's.*

*d. 1930's.*



*What decade did  
the last permanent  
resident moved  
from Kemptown?*

*a. 1920's.*

*b. 1940's.*

*c. 1960's.*

*d. 1950's.*