

Fenelon Falls was once the busiest saw mill town in Victoria County according to T. A. English of Toronto, who is a constant reader of this particular column. Mr. English brings Fenelon Falls to the fore in the following newsy letter regarding days gone by.

"The Brook's Hotel was near the station and it was a good place for commercial travellers."

"At the junction of the Glenarm road, George Martin kept a general store for many years. He was also interested in timber and my father drew telegraph poles for him at Deer Lake to Diamond Lake near Bancroft, to be loaded on the old I.B. and O. in the winter of 1889. Across the street from Martin's easterly, was the Howie Lumber Mill which cut only choice green pine logs and lumber piles were stacked mountains high. The mill went up in flames one night and that was the last of the operation."

The first bridge, with the dam to the west, from which once ran a log slide beneath the bridge extended beyond the Falls. This was to expedite the movement of logs and sometimes a man went over also."

It is recalled that a local boy named G. Swift, who was assisting the Lockmaster, Thomas Junkin to adjust stop logs, had the misfortune to fall into the fast moving water, and his body was not recovered until several week's later.

Between the bridges was the old stone mill operated by McDougall, Brandon and Austin and a red mill was operated by Frank Sandford. This mill was in three sections, a grist mill, a wood factory and a woollen mill operated by a man named Walsh.

The old jail was located between the bridges and is apparently still there.

Down the river on the south side Green and Ellis operated a huge saw mill and on the north side was another mill in the area which is now a park. The old pulp mill was taken over by the Standard Chemical Company and the old lime kiln is long gone.

Sawdust from the old Moore and Connell Mill can still be noticed at the edge of the water. Another small mill operated at the Point upstream from the railway bridge.

An old steam powered roller mill operated just west of where Webster's warehouse now stands.

Besides Thos. Cashore, Auctioneer, there was also a man named James Powers who was like the much advertised Dr. Chase, of Chase's pills.

A man named Brokenshire had a small factory near the station where he made pumps recalls Mr. English, "I used many of them. As a young man I helped my father to cut and transport timber (Tamarack logs with eight inch tops, cut

in summer from the swamps, because the wood was soft) and take them to the Brokenshire factory. This man also weighed all the livestock, shipped from Fenelon Falls and he used a horse to provide power for the plant".

"I remember the road over the ice on Cameron Lake was a very busy road, especially when it was snow covered and the journey was rough on doctors and others.

Once three doctors lost their way on one of these night trips. These doctors were known as H. H. Graham, one nicknamed "Red" Wilson and another known as "Black" Wilson.

Many former residents of the Falls will remember the McArthur House (the Pig's Ear) and the Mansion which was operated by Aldous and Towmey respectively.

In addition to McCullum, a man named J. J. Townley ran a tailor shop and did a huge business. McGee and Heard ran hardware stores and later on Charles Burgoyne entered the business.

Thomas Robson and his brother had a foundry where the post office is now located. Other business men at the time included, McFarlane, Northey, Warren and other saw mills away back included those run by Decew and sons and Mickle and Dymont.