

Main Street

with Ford Moynes



From little acorns large oak trees are likely to grow. From a large tree felled either by human hands or by the sharp teeth of a busy beaver across a small stream on the Pigeon River in Omemee some one hundred and twenty-five years ago developed a large dam. For many years ago this dam has been part of the life of the community and district, and as time went on a grist mill was built by a gentleman named Cottingham and was operated as such for many years. Prof. Kirkconnell's history of Victoria County states that the original name of the village as Williamstown, doubtless equivalent to "Wm. Cottingham's Town." William Cottingham was the first Reeve of the Village and also became the first Warden of Victoria County. As the years rolled by the ownership of the Mill was transferred to the Stephenson family and is still operated by George and Tim Stephenson. The first mentioned gentleman also served as Reeve of Omemee.

The old Mill functioned for many years by means of a huge water wheel, propelled by water from the dam. Some years ago this wheel was discarded in favour of modern mechanically apparatus and recently the water means of power development was replaced by electricity. The above is but one of many interesting historical incidents in the history of Omemee.