

In 1821 the cabin of Daniel Shipman, a United Empire Loyalist from Leeds County, stood where the Wylie post office now stands. In 1823, he built a grist mill and a saw mill at Ramsay's Great Falls, later called Shipman's Mills and now Almonte. The next year, 1824, Edward Bellamy, also a U.E. Loyalist from Leeds County, bought the falls on the Indian River and established a saw mill and a grist mill at what came to be known as Bellamy's Mills. He and his brother added a carding mill and a distillery. A village of about 250 people grew up with about 20 industries. It was on the main road from Perth to Pembroke and had two hotels. In the 1850's the name changed to Clifton as there is another Bellamy's Mills in Leeds County. Then in 1858 it became Clayton. There was a doctor at Clayton and they held a semi-annual market day known as Clayton Fair.

At Apple Tree Falls, John Teskey, one of the immigrants from Ireland settled at what came to be known as Teskeyville and is now Appleton. His sons, Joseph and Robert, built grist and saw mills and engaged in the timber trade. Albert Teskey had a general store. Peter Cram had a tannery, William Young had a tailor shop and there were also two blacksmiths shops and a wagon shop.

Because of the great scarcity of money at the time, many of the settlers could not pay back the money which the government had lent them when they first settled. They had completed all their homesteading duties but without this money they could not obtain their deeds. After many petitions the government finally consented to give them their deeds which they did in 1837. That is why many early deeds are dated 1837 although the land was settled as early as 1821 in some cases.

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