

BLAKENEY, ONTARIO: Over 150 years ago...

When the first settlers arrived in this area in 1821, they recognized the potential for developing water power here in the "Bay" area of the Mississippi River. They built a sawmill, gristmill, and a timber slide to divert logs from the rapids into the "Bay" and on to calmer water. An inn at the Ninth Line corner provided lodging for those heading north to the lumber camps.

Known variously as Norway Pine Falls, Snedden's Mills, and Rosebank, the village received its present name of Blakeney in 1874. In 1865, the B & O railroad was extended towards Arnprior, passing near the village and opening up markets, so that by the late 1800s, Blakeney was a hive of activity with a flour mill, a large woolen factory, a sawmill, a cheese factory, a Presbyterian Church and manse, and a general store & post office. The original log bridge, which provided a vital crossing for the Bytown Road, was replaced with the present one in 1915.

Nothing remains of the early industries but stone foundations, but many new houses have been added to the homes of the early inhabitants, creating a pleasant hamlet in what is now the Ramsay Ward of the Town of Mississippi Mills.

Legend

1. Snedden Stopping Place
2. Snedden Stone House (later Cheese Factory)
3. Glover's Cooper's Shop
4. Fenlon's Hotel (later Cheese Factory, then Nontell's Dance Hall)
5. Coxford's Cobbler Shop
6. Marshall's Sawmill (later Wm. Snedden's)
7. Dam for Sawmill
8. Storehouse for Woolen Mill
9. Gomersall & Littlewood Brewery
10. McDougall Woolen Mill (later P.J. Campbell's)
11. Gomersall's Tannery (site of first sawmill)
12. Bridge to Pine Isle
13. Livery Stables
14. Merillees Home
15. Oatmeal Mill
16. Flour & Grist Mill
17. Site of first gristmill
18. Timber Slide
19. Peter McDougall's House
20. General Store & Post Office
21. Blakeney Presbyterian Church (later United)
22. Church Manse
23. Usher's Home
24. York's Store
25. Orange Hall
26. Blacksmith Shop (Harry James)
27. Snedden's Station



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