



HAPPY VALLEY

This hamlet grew around the clearing of the land for three lumber mills. The Campbell and Wilson Mill was at the foot of the 6th line, immediately north of the Pine River, on the 17th sideroad around 1870.

Two other mills in the area, The Harrison and Hatton Mill, just west near the 5th line (Happy Hollow), Henry Mill (about 1873) to the north of the 20th sideroad (Rookery Creek).

The property of the Campbell -Wilson Mill was later owned by Hugh Lamb. Nine log houses were built for the workers. Each had a cow or two, a few pigs, hens and sheep. Mr. Lamb grew feed for the animals and they had their wheat ground at the Boyne Mill to the south. Mr. Lamb was a man of many talents. He could weave carpets, flannel and other cloths.

The Lambs had three sons James, George and Archie. Other workers were Mr. & Mrs. Bill Sloan (Mrs. kept a boarding house), Dick Atkinson, Bill Frockins, Jim Duffin, Archie MacIntyre, Pokelong and Ivon Symington. A shingle mill soon joined the lumber operation.

About 1888 the best of the timber had been logged and the Campbell-Wilson partnership was dissolved. Campbell moved to Cookstown but built a large home in Happy Valley. He became quite prominent in municipal government and served the township as a Councillor and a Deputy Reeve from 1879-1881. These were the beginning years for Dufferin County.

Mr. Wilson moved to lot # 21 and continued farming.

The Lamb family, among the early pioneers, played a very important part in the milling business and remained in the area. HAPPY HOLLOW, nearby, was the site of the Hatton Mill, which later was the John Sawyer farm. Bill and John Hatton were joint owners with Wilmot Harrison. They employed 25 men who lived at Mrs. MacDonald's boarding house. Mr. MacDonald was the foreman at the mill. This mill has often been referred to as MacDonald's Mill or Sawyer's Mill.