

# TERRA NOVA

*Since 1860*

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Early settlers were Thompson, Duffin and Lloyd. A Methodist church and general store were built in 1889 and a post office opened in 1891. Important for shingle and saw mills

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*1851*



*2001*

## **TERRA NOVA**

**Terra Nova, meaning New Land, was one of the last Post Offices in the township and may have been given its name then.**

**Records do not provide that information for the community located at the junction of the 20th Sideroad and the 2nd. Line east, in the basin of the Pine River.**

**It is felt that Lewis Horning, Horning's Mills, John Little, Stanton and the Whitleys from Whitfield were familiar with the area but did not settle here. William Fewster from Melancthon visited the area to obtain choice pine for building.**

**Robert Duffin from County Down, Ireland found his way to Hamilton and then because of the infestation of vermin decided to move farther north. Unlike the Yorkshire men who migrated to Honeywood area, he chose the sunny slopes of the land near Terra Nova and the fine lumber that abounded.**

**Log homes were built and the great need for shingles arose. John Abel of Lot 17 the 4th line opened a shingle mill and Welsh's saw mill came later. The dam on the Pine River for power was built by the men labouring with shovels. The Hughstons, Ned Bradley and Ned Hicks joined the growing community in the shingle business around the year 1875. The Sriver's Mill was built on Lot 20 west of the village. These men were followed by John Larkin, Mr. Button, Andrew Finley, John Beatty, John Ireland and the Stevenson family who were associated with the Abel mill and when many of them began to shut down Peter Thomson operated the mills for some years. He continued to expand and businesses are still operating in the Thomson family in Alliston and Creemore.**

**The Post Office opened in 1891 in a small store kept by John Walker. He was followed in the job by John Beatty who along with the store ran a hotel at Terra Nova. Others who followed were Ben Beatty, W.T. Dean, James Simpson and Mrs. Annie Simpson.**

## 2. TERRA NOVA

Some of the other pioneers of the area were William Simpson who died at age 104, Robert Duffin and his brother Neilly, John Thompson and his brother Nathaniel. It is interesting to note that the Duffin family is still prominent in the Terra Nova area with direct descendants into the fifth generation.

It is felt that Lewis Hanning, Hanning's Mill, John Little, Stanton and the Whitneys from Whitefield were familiar with the area but did not settle here. William Lewster from Melancthon visited the area to obtain choice pine for building. Robert Duffin from County Down, Ireland found his way to Hamilton and then because of the infestation of vermin decided to move farther north. Unlike the Yorkshire men who migrated to Honeywood area, he chose the sunny slopes of the land near Terra Nova and the fine lumber that abounded. Log homes were built and the great need for shingles arose. John Abel of Lot 17 the 4th line opened a shingle mill and Welch's saw mill came later. The dam on the Pine River for power was built by the men laboring with shovels. The Hughtons, Ned Bradley and Ned Hicks joined the growing community in the shingle business around the year 1875. The Scriver's Mill was built on Lot 10 west of the village. Three men were followed by John Larkin, Mr. Gorton, Andrew Finlay, John Beatty, John Ireland and the Stevenson family who were associated with the Abel mill and when many of them began to shut down Peter Thomson operated the mill for some years. He continued to expand and businesses are still operating in the Thomson family in Alliston and Creemore. The Post Office opened in 1891 in a small store kept by John Walker. He was followed in the job by John Beatty who along with the store ran a hotel at Terra Nova. Others who followed were Ben Beatty, W.T. Dean, James Simpson and Mrs. Annie Simpson.