

VIOLET HILL

Since 1836

Earliest settlers: Bowers, Swansea
Campbell, Newton, Aberdeen.
By the 1870's a thriving community
with tavern, Temperance lodge,
church, school, saw mill, blacksmith
and an Orange hall.

1851



2001

VIOLET HILL

Violet Hill is located on Highway # 89 near the 3rd lines of Mulmur and Mono. The name appears to have originated with Mrs. Robinson, the Post Mistress, in 1897, in whose home the office was located on the 4th line of Mulmur. She named it Violet Hill because of the vegetation on the surrounding hills. Soon after the post office was moved to the home of Samuel Parson, then to Herb Dickey's, later to William Allen' and lastly to the east of the village to the home of Mr. John Thompson. These men had to carry the mail from either Rosemont or Shelburne.

The village prospered. John and David Hawkins operated a sawmill and Samuel Bowers, a blacksmith shop. The community boasted of "Old Mr. Grashy" who was a dentist as well as a well digger. Mr. Richard Holt ran a shingle mill and there was a hotel known as "the Bluejay".

Early residents included the Pages, Dicksons, Andersons, Reids and Barbers. One of the log homes built by the Andersons still stands today to the east of the village. James Swansey, Alex Mitchell, John Newton, James Halbert, James Aberdeen, John Liddy, the Robinsons, the Hogs, the Dudgeons, and the Bowers moved to the area between 1836 and 1865.

Violet Hill had a Men's temperance organization known as "The Good Templars". This group erected a log building on the Aberdeen farm for meetings. Members included Wilsons, Braidens, Hares, Halberts, Hoggs and Martins.

"The Chosen Friends" was a society for both men and women for the purpose of insurance, who met also in the Templar Hall.

"The Grangers" were formed and met in a log building on the Parson farm. This was a type of co-op with members taking turns bringing supplies from the station.

Violet Hill also was proud of its Library. It was well equipped and membership was 25 cents. The books were housed in the Templar Hall.

In 1898, the Orange Hall was built and still stands today as a

commercial store.

In 1872, the Methodist Church was built on the Nicholas Parson farm at the western edge of the village at the top of the hill.

The land was given free as long as the building remained a religious meeting place. Prior to the building of the church, services were held in the Parson home.

A school was erected in 1887, S. S. # 2, Violet Hill, just off the highway. Previously the students had to walk to the 4th line and the 30th sideroad in Mono.

The Mulmur Church was on the 2nd lot on the 5th Line, on the Robinson farm. In 1875 a brick building replaced the log one. A cemetery developed on the church grounds and it is reported that Grandfather Robinson was the first to be buried there in 1854. Over the years the cemetery suffered neglect and in 1937 a committee was formed to clear the grounds, repair the stones and a stone gateway was built. The church was finally taken down and materials used from it to build a small storage shed. This committee was supported by Cliff Hand, Robert Liddy, and Alonzo Parson and the Violet Hill Women's Institute. An endowment fund provides perpetual care for the cemetery now. Long time descendants are still on the Cotton, Newton and Parson farms.

The community continues to be home to many inhabitants today with a busy restaurant, store and gas station.