

WATERVILLE, BURTON PARISH

Sunbury Co, N.B.

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When my youngest daughter was in grade school, her class was assigned a project of gathering the history of their local area. (This is the result of that assignment, with only a few minor editing by me. cbb) Although brief, I believe it to be fairly accurate.

The area now known as Waterville has been known by many names. Waterville is a comparatively recent name and has been adopted for the entire road, when in reality it was the name of the community at the end of the road. It is rather confusing to many people to discover the last mile and half is actually the end of the Smith Road, and the community name was Alcorn.

From what can be determined, from interviewing older residents of this area, the road leading from the Broad Road towards French Lake was known as the Cogswell Road, but ended in a dead end. There was a stretch of road leading from the Smith Road, going toward the end of the Cogswell Road, known as the Foss Road. Each road taking it's name from the family at the end of them. However, they did not meet. Exactly where it was separated is not certain, but it assumed that it was in the area of the Estabrook's - Cogswell property line. This is where the present road makes a sharp turn.

When the Cogswell Road and Foss Road joined it soon became known as the Waterville Road as it lead to the area known as Waterville. This road had more homes and it became a higher grade road a long time ahead of the Smith Road. It was not until the late 1950's or 60's that any homes were built on the Smith Road, other than the old Smith homes near the lake, or a few near the Broad Road end.

On the end of the road known as the Foss Road, 3 Foss families had houses. Next came the Estabrooks farm, then Cogswell, then Harper and finally Brown. There may have been more property owners but these were the ones with homes on the property. Alcorn's once owned the Estabrooks property and a few members are buried in a small cemetery at the corner of the Estabrooks farm at the sharp bend of the Waterville Road. There were also cemeteries on the property near the Estabrooks home, the Cogswell home and behind the home now occupied by the Oakly family. There are also two cemeteries on the Smith property, one near the lake on what became Park property. The other further in the road opposite the home of Malcolm Barnett.

Near the home of Wilson Lohnes there was once a saw mill.

In 1788, George Hayward petitioned for the property eventually owned by the Smith family. His petition for the land reads: *(punctations added)*

To His Excellency Thomas Carleton, Esq.
Lieutenant Governor and Commander in Chief of the Province of New
Brunswick, &c, &c, &c.
May it please your Excellency the Memorial of George Hayward
Humbly Sheweth

That in the year 1763 your Memorialist came with his family from Great Britain to Nova Scotia in order to become a settler of that province. He applied to the Board of trade; who gave him a letter of recommendation to receive five hundred acres of land where he should like; the same being vacant and more according as he should improve or his family want to improve. Your memorialist came to the River St. Johns but not being in circumstances to go on a new farm where he could find it vacant he lived until he was able by care and industry to purchase, and never applied for any lands your memorialist now having purchased a piece of land on the Oromocto at

the French Lake where he is building a house and moving his family and intends to use his endeavour to make a good settlement; Your memorialist having two sons young men; and their being two vacant Lotts No. Sixteen and Seventeen that lay adjoining the land your memorialist is now improving, your memorialist humbly asketh that It is may please your Excellency in the wisdom of your Counsel to grant the two vacant lotts to your memorialist or to his two sons he will endeavour to Improve it., and in duty bound I will ever pray, [G.H.]

Lincoln Augt 20th 1788.

From the grant map, it is shown that George Hayward owned 500 acres, the entire portion of land on one side of French Lake. The bulk of the land was to the east of the lake, with only a narrow portion skiting the lake and the other end stretching toward the Oromocto River. His name is also affixed to two lots, nos. 16 and 17, adjoining his, which apparently are those mentioned in the above petition. He eventually sold this property to Jeremiah Smith. (*Could this be the Jeremiah G. Smith who is shown on the same map as having 100 acres abutting Mr. Hayward's property on the north east end, and runs along the bottom of lots 16 & 17?*)

In Mr. Hayward's petition he mentioned about building a house. The site of this cannot be determined, unless it was the little two roomed building used by George Mott, as he worked on building the Jeremiah Smith house. It was Mr. Smith that built the homestead house (or had it built / see following), which was still standing in the mid 1960's, and will be dealt with later in this narrative. During his day, a post office called Alcorn, was run from his home, and that name can still be found on the Department of Highways maps. Later still the area became known as Waterville.

In early times, the main mode of travel was by water. Like many homes of this era, the Smith homestead was built to face French Lake. As time passed, and roads were built, the road ran behind the house dead-ending at the Oromocto River. This left a very long driveway to the home, which continued passed it down towards the lake. This became part of the winter highway system, when people from the other side of the lake crossed over on the ice, considerably shortening their journey as their road system was very long to get them to Geary or Oromocto, or beyond.

The oldest known residence is the Jeremiah Smith house (now destroyed). It was reportedly built by George Mott, the son of a Loyalist settler from the lower Saint John River Valley. He took three years to build it, doing all the tree cutting, hauling to his own mill and back to the site of the house. He began this work while still in his teens, and much of the work was done with simple hand tools...the only exception being the sawing of the logs at his small mill. The descendants of the Smith family say that even the bricks for the many fire places were made from clay found on the lake shore. (*See FREDERICTON NEW BRUNSWICK BRITISH NORTH AMERICA, by I. Louise Hill, pages 461-467 for details of the house and its builder.*)

THE RED ROSE TEA COMPANY

The Red Rose Tea Company was located near the French Lake Road. (*Off of Geary*) It was owned by Theodore Harding Estabrooks.

Mr. Estabrooks was born in Wicklow (*Carleton Co.*) on the 28th December 1861. He became a well known scientist who developed many techniques for farming.

The Red Rose Tea Company started during the Second World War. It was adopted in Saint John, New Brunswick and the product sold throughout the Atlantic Provinces.
