

Garnet Lake

As late as the 1850s, no regular road entered the Garnet Lake area other than from the Town of Thurman. Hence the residents, particularly those nearest to Mill Creek Pond, identified more with the Town of Thurman than with the Town of Johnsburg. By 1875, however, the road we know today as Garnet Lake Road had been established.

School District#18 (changed to become District#11 on December 28, 1868) Located on the Garnet Lake road, not far from the town line between Johnsburg and Thurman in the Buckskin Valley area. Usually called the Reynolds dist., also Mill Creek and Garnet Lake School. Now used as a camp.

The school in District #13 (also known as the Putnam District) was located in the building which today belongs to the Garnet Lake Volunteer Fire Company. On October 17, 1953, the District 13 School was closed.

On February 8, 1862, the First Wesleyan Church of Johnsburg was incorporated. This church was located within the confines of the present-day Mill Creek or Wesleyan Cemetery at the intersection of Garnet Lake Road and Hudson Street. A leading force in establishing the Wesleyan Methodist Church was in response to a perceived lack of commitment to the abolishment of slavery by the Methodist Episcopal Church. The Church fell into disuse and in 1964 was torn down and the lumber used to erect an addition to the Wesleyan Church in Bakers Mills. The Church building was erected about 1859.

A Post Office was established at Garnet and John Grogan was appointed Postmaster on May 7, 1891, followed by Charles Kenyon on April 6, 1904. The last Postmaster of Garnet was Dorothy Russell. After the office was closed, mail was delivered by a Highway Contract Route from the Johnsburg Post Office, as is the practice today.

Perhaps one of the best-known businesses in the Garnet Lake area was the Putnam Dairy Farm of Enos Putnam, later run by the Bateman family. Mr. Putnam also had a small store, as did numerous other individuals at various times.

Today's Garnet Lake Lodge was first established as a hotel and boarding house for summer visitors. It is presently operated by the Parker family and opens only during the summer months. The area around Garnet Lake itself is today primarily a summer colony with numerous camps and cottages.