

Johnsburg

The first clearing in the Town of Johnsburg took place about 1790 on Elm Hill, located one mile south of Johnsburg Corners, now known as the hamlet of Johnsburg by John Thurman. John then cleared land on Beaver Brook (Now called Mill Creek) and erected a grist mill and sawmill on the falls of the brook. Then about 1794 he opened a store and distillery.

Johnsburg's first school, circa 1814 was called The Square Roofed School and stood on the west corner of Goodman and Park roads. A new schoolhouse was built about 1875 near the east end of Bates Cemetery, called Johnsburg Village School. Now used as a private home.

This district was set off from district No. 3 on May 1, 1818 and was always called The Elm Hill School. In 1822 District No. 5 which was located on the land opposite the Hodgson Street turn and a frame school was built. This was used for many years as a home and was torn down some time ago.

Established February 8, 1823 was the first post office in Johnsburg by Dr. Martin Gillet, who was also our first physician.

David Noble of Ireland was a local preacher and founder of Methodism in our area. He built a log home near Beaver Brook from which he conducted the first Methodist meetings. Around 1838 the construction on the Methodist Episcopal Church began. This lot was located next to the cemetery on which the presently named United Methodist Church stands and was donated by Mrs. Catherine Dunn who owned the Dunn Mansion which was erected around 1845 next door. The church was completed by John Hodgson and was dedicated on June 6, 1843.

Two of the industries in Johnsburg were the paint bed mine and graphite mill. The paint bed mine was located at the foot of Crane Mountain which was discovered by D M Haley in the fall of 1893. A corporation called the Glen Mining Company was formed and the mine opened in 1894. Most of the paint, which was called "Johnsburg Red" was shipped in a powder form. The mine building burned on January 22, 1896 and that was the end of the mining business.

The graphite mill which once existed at the interior of Collignon Road off Hudson Street started May 4, 1899. In Feb of the following year the company sustained a heavy loss in a flood. Then on May 17, 1932 the abandoned buildings burned during a forest fire.