

The teachers in the winter session were most often men, whose job it was to get to school early to warm the building for when the children arrived. The school building burned down early in 1900 and a new building was constructed. With the new school came new methods and modern ways. Advanced students were prepared for regents examinations and were allowed to go over to the Livonia School. When the central district was formed, the school closed.

On an 1872 map School #1 is located at the northeast corner where Plank Road is intersected by Richmond Mills Road. The present home of Mr. Stanley Sherman was formerly a schoolhouse building on the same site.

HEMLOCK LAKE

Hemlock Lake, considered one of the most attractive of all the beautiful lakes in western New York, is almost seven miles long and six-tenths of a mile wide. Its greatest depth is said to be 90 feet.

History tells us that this particular region was the home of the Seneca Indians and in the Seneca tongue was known as O-neh-da Te-car-ne-o-di, which in English was taken to mean Hemlock Lake.

Following the Revolutionary War and the settlement of State titles, many of the men from Sullivan's army returned to purchase land. As settlers began to arrive, the original Phelps and Gorham purchase area was mapped and townships were established. Hemlock Lake was first mapped in 1790.



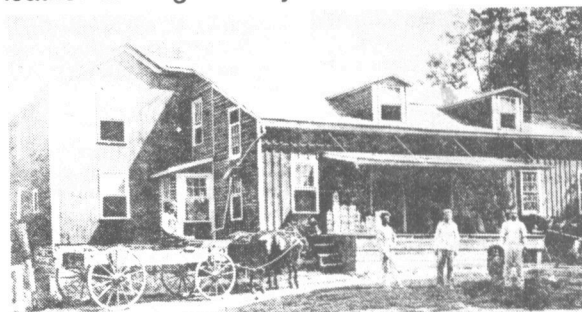
That tract of land at the head of the lake was called Hemlock valley and is now the Village of Springwater and the town of Hemlock is at the foot of the lake.

The first known settler near Hemlock Lake was Philip Short who arrived near the present village of Hemlock in 1795. A hermit named Maloy built a cabin on the lake around 1800. Other settlers followed, many of whom built their first dwellings along the lakeshore. Hemlock Lake itself became a sort of highway for the settlement of the region. Seth Knowles, the first settler of Springwater, came up the lake in March of 1807 by traveling over the ice with all his family and possessions. David Badgro and his family made the trip up the lake Indian style in canoes.

Thus began a period of great activity in the Hemlock region. What began as a route of settlement, quickly became a route of commerce. Hemlock Lake was located at a natural dividing line between the pine and hemlock forests to the south and the hardwood timber to the north. There was a great demand for softer building materials in the growing settled areas to the north. The forestry industry which developed sent lumber to the north in return for bread and foodstuffs which were needed to the south.

Sawmills were soon erected at both ends of Hemlock Lake. Many men were employed as lumberjacks and huge rafts of logs were floated down Hemlock Lake for shipment north. In the winter, as many as 200 teams of horses and oxen were used to pull lumber north over the ice. The first roadway was cut along the shore of Hemlock Lake in 1815.

Tremendous quantities of lumber were taken from the Hemlock valley in this manner. Hemlock bark was also taken for use in the leather tanning industry.



"Old Red Mill" - Gullburg - Beam Store 1895

In short order the entire foot of Hemlock Lake was cleared of pine and lumber was piled up for sale. Mule skinnors from the growing cities and towns to the north arrived with their wagons and a frontier town developed at the