

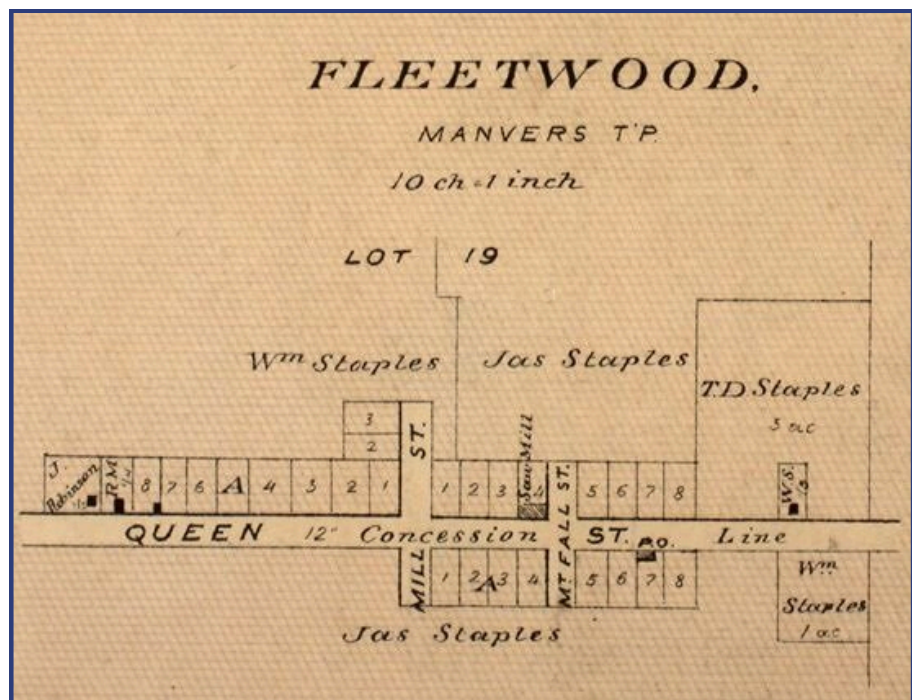
The Community of Fleetwood

Driving the back-roads of Kawartha Lakes can be one of the most relaxing and imaginative activities one can do in the area. On a warm summer evening, driving past old farm houses and acres of farmland or cycling past the ruins of an old barn dreaming of the families that once called these areas home, you can find yourself asking, “what was here?” The Hamlet of Fleetwood (or Brick’s Corners) is one of those communities. The only indication of this once bustling and thriving settlement centre is the Fleetwood School S. S. No. 6 nestled on the corner of Fleetwood Road and St. Mary’s and the 1870s brick house located down the road where the hamlet’s centre was.

There are two, possibly more, theories of how Fleetwood received its name. One is that it was given the name in honour of a local First Nations Chief, Chief Fleetwood, and some stories indicate that it was named after an Irish village of the same name.

The original village was outlined by members of the Staples family and planned on lots 18, 19 of the 11th Concession of Manvers Township.

At the top of lot 19, on the 12th Concession Line (Queen Street), is where the village centre was located.



In the late 19th and early 20th centuries it was here that you could find James Morrow or William Stacey’s general store and Thomas Russell or William Bate probably delivered your mail, and you may have gotten your shoes made at Henry Morrow’s shop. You could also find a black smith (you would have likely run into Thomas or William Staples), a cheese factory, saw mill and tavern.



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The first school in Fleetwood was built around 1855- 1860 and was located where the present school is today. According to the 'The Rolling Hills' Manvers History book attendance reached 100 pupils during this time! Around 1876-1877 it was decided that a new school would be built to accommodate the growing community, so the grounds were enlarged.

The survey of the first railroad by-passed Fleetwood in favour of its neighbours to the west in Franklin and, like many communities, this was the beginning of the end for Fleetwood.

The only indication that this once thriving settlement existed is the school (now a private residence), a handful of 'original' homes, and few first settler families.

Source

'The Rolling Hills' Mrs. Ross N. Carr, The Manvers Township Council, 1967