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### THE CAMPBELLTOWN MILL

Bradford Campbell (b. 1804) and Henrietta (b. 1805) of New York, arrived in Hamburg Township, Livingston County in the mid 1830s. With them came seven children, three boys and four girls. The 1840 census tells us an elderly mother came also. The purchase of NE/NW  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 12, Hamburg Township is recorded on December 9, 1836. At that point Ore Creek flows through a gravel moraine from which aggregate materials were quarried.

It was 1841, when Campbell and partner Abel Peck constructed a dam across Ore Creek; on the south side of Hamburg Road and its junction with Maltby Road, a half mile north of Ore Lake. Within the year Campbell, a miller, had his grain/grist mill erected on the creek. (One of the several millers taking advantage of the power of the stream to grind grain and saw lumber.)

By 1850, Bradford and Harriet, with daughters Mary 25, Rachael 18, Helen 14 and son, Archa 16 (recorded as a miller also) were firmly established in Hamburg Township. The grain mill had many customers from the farms for miles around. A distillery was also built but burned some years later.

1860 finds them running the mill. Daughter, Rachael and her husband, John Cavel a miller, with four month old William, are living with her parents. Also Mary Neeley 16 and Thomas Peck 17, a son of Able.

Through the years Bradford had purchased several other 40 acre parcels in the area. After Bradford's death in 1864, Henriette appears to have returned to New York. She sold some Hamburg Township property in 1876 while living in Painted Post, Stueben County, N.Y. (A Solomon A. Campbell and wife, Emaline, acquire the mill property March 26, 1864, selling the same year. They are also of Painted Post. Solomon may well have been an older son.)

December 17, 1864, Emil Bode is owner of record of the mill property, until he sold to Luther Moon January 19, 1869. A few months later Moon sells to Almon Maltby May 19, 1870. (Maltby had constructed the saw mill in Brighton in 1833 on Ore Creek.) By 1877 the mill is sold again. The Toncray brothers (by 1880 Hunsey Toncray is running the mill), then James Pearson, then George Killin are successive owners. A source indicates the mill was in operation in 1907. Over the years the dam had collapsed several times but was always rebuilt (until the last time). The May 1, 1912, issue of the Brighton Argus notes the sale of the Campbell mill property to Carl Conrad of Brighton. He planned to build an electric light and power plant expecting to supply the citizens of Brighton three miles away. The actual demise of the mill, whether by fire, neglect or demolition still needs to be determined. (Compiled by Marieanna Bair from Census records; 1880 History of Livingston County; "Hamburg Memories" by Joyce DeWolf Terry; Brighton Argus May, 1972; and "Landowners and Settlers of Livingston County" and "First Landowners of Livingston County" by Milton Charboneau. Photos, information, etc., welcomed.)