

The Lake Plan Social History-Part Two
Mapping the area 1860 to 1878
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H.F. Walling produced the first map that depicts the area well in 1860 (fig. #1). On this map we can see 10 lots that have been patented to various individuals or families, roughly as far north as where Norman Lane is today. The following names were included on the 1860 map: P. Woodcock, S. Shibley, E. Davis, J. Silver, Mrs. Ennis, C. Smith, W. Baternore, I. Brook, M. Connolly, and C. Knowlton. The map also shows us that some of these landowners had already constructed buildings at the time of the mapping.

1860 Walling Map of Loughborough Township

Curiously by the time of the next mapping in 1878 by the Meachem Map Company (fig. #2 note the very distorted sizes of the North and South Branches on both the 1860 and 1878 maps), very few of the names from 1860 were still evident in the area. The 1878 map shows people living all around both the North and South Branches of Buck Lake, including a concentration of residents along Perth Road from Buck Lake past Devil Lake. The names on this map include: David Sears, H. Sears, William Sears, Henry Green, William Green, Jabez Stoness, N. McCallum, William See, Benjamin Aykroyd, I. Cobett, James C. Darling, Joseph Darling, C.W. Darling, Joseph Harris, George McFarlane, George Teepell, Thomas Votrey, Thomas Galliger, George Ennis, John Ennis, James Hamilton, John Richardson, John Buck, S. Hartman, H. Scott, S.W. Davis, W.E.M. Davis, S. Ennis and James Rutledge. There is one particularly dark story from these early settlers. Elijah Vankoughnet murdered John Richardson in 1881 at his home on Buck Lake. For the murder, Vankoughnet entered the history books as the last man hanged in Frontenac County. At this point a small amount of land was still controlled by the Canada Company, a large private British company established in 1825 to aid in the colonization of Canada. The Green Family was among the first settlers of the area, having arrived from either Ireland or Chicago. The Green Family was made up of hunters, trappers, fishermen, and guides. An old Green family cemetery still sits on Roushorn Road and direct descendants of the original settlers still live on the lake.

1878 Meachem Map of Loughborough Township

As hinted to earlier, the major drivers of commerce in the area were logging and mining and the biggest entrepreneurs around Buck Lake were the Tett and Chaffey Families. In the 1860s the combined operations of John Chaffey and Benjamin Tett were milling as much as 7,000,000 board-feet per year, making them one of the biggest mills on the entire Rideau system. A substantial amount of logging occurred around Slide Lake, and the logs were slid into Buck Lake and floated up to either of the Tett or Chaffey mills. The largest concentration of logging activity occurred around Lake Opinicon, where there were three mills, owned by James Hunter, Charles Gildersleeve, and the Tett-Chaffey operation. Initially, many of the mills were sawing boards for settlers to construct houses, but as the lumber business grew, wood was being floated down to Kingston or up to Ottawa. As part of this endeavour, John Chaffey built 44 boats, tugs, and barges at Bedford Mills. Many of the logging entrepreneurs also helped open up the back country to farming. After a lot or a section of lots had been logged, they could be sold as farmland.

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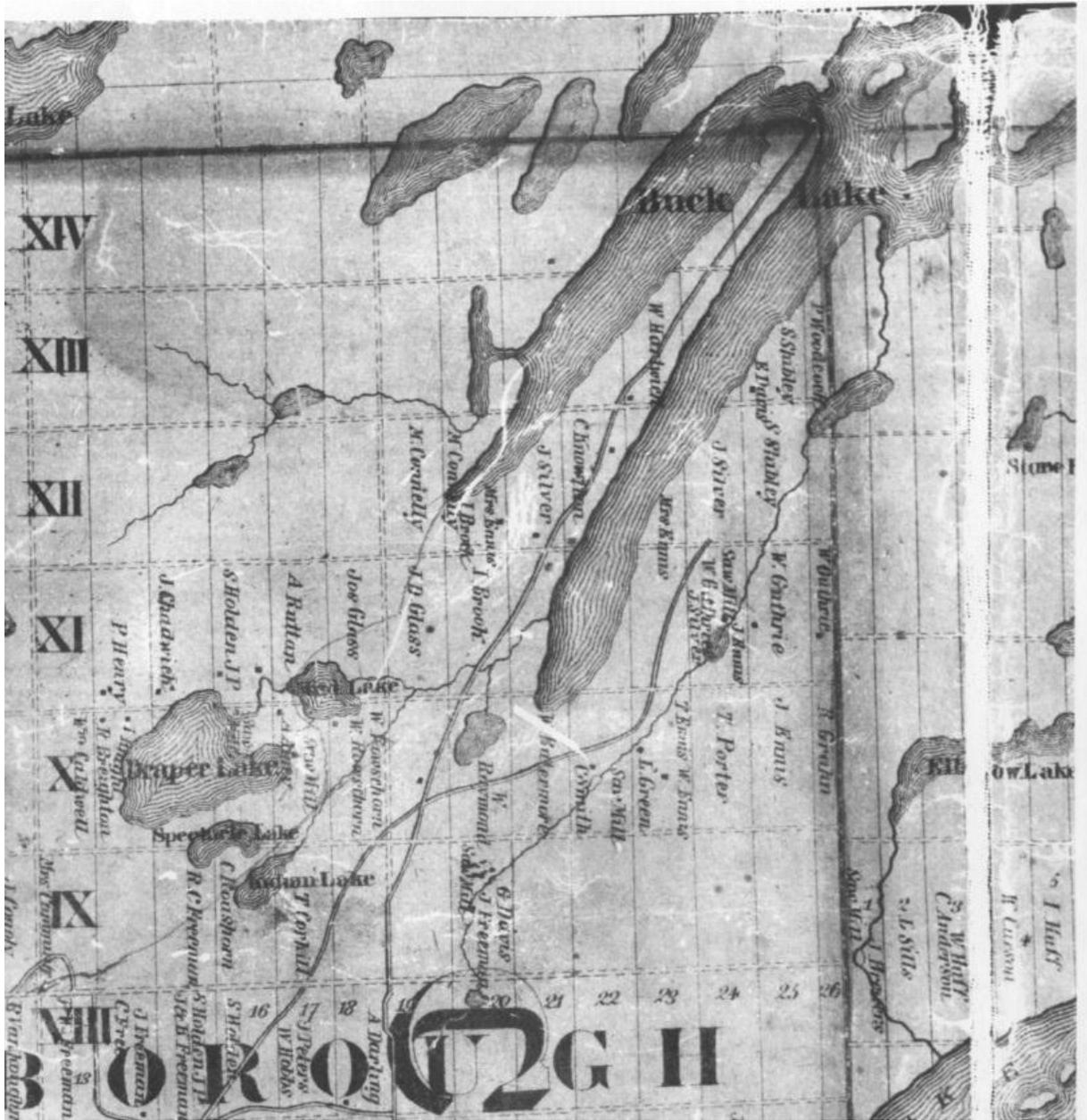


FIG #1Buck Lake Map-HF Walling 1860 1