

# ORIGINS

The following is a brief overview of the origins of the **Town of Hume** and the settlement of **Mills Mills**. Information for this article was taken from the following sources:

Allegany and It's People A Centennial Memorial History 1795-1895 by John S. Minard  
History of Allegany County New York with Illustrations 1806-1879 by W. E. Morrison & Co.  
Bill Farrell of Syracuse University

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Hume, one of the northern tier towns of Allegany County, is bounded north by Wyoming & Livingston Counties, east by Granger, south by Caneadea and west by Centerville. John S. Minard, a former Town of Hume and Allegany County Historian, believed Hume was named after an English Historian named Hume. This is not the belief of Bill Farrell of Syracuse University. Farrell says the Town of Hume was named after David Hume a Scottish philosopher and historian, who lived in the 1700's.

Hume was originally part of the territory known as the Town of Angelica. Nunda was split from that territory on March 11, 1808 and then further reduced to the Town of Pike on March 3, 1818. Township 6, Range 1 of the Holland Land Grant officially became the Town of Hume on March 20, 1822. "Brooks Gore" (Dutch Hill) was later added in 1846.

In the spring of 1806 at the age of 60 years, Roger Mills of Canajoharie, Montgomery County came here in search of a mill site. He traveled from Pike where he had spent the winter. There he hired a man named Olin for \$1.00 to lead him on his quest for land that would be of good use. Olin lead him through the Wiscoy Valley to the "upper falls" in Wiscoy Creek and there is where Roger Mills found the best location for water power.

Mills left for Batavia to acquire the lots of land # 36 & 37 and upon his return he built a log cabin. The following year a dam was built across the creek and a sawmill was erected. In the winter of 1807 castings and stones were brought from Albany by sleigh by George Mills and Zach Keys. The following year a gristmill was added, the first in the area. Men came from as far away as Geneseo (40 miles) and were also assisted by the Indians from the nearby Caneadea Reservation, to help in the "raising" of the mill. The mill was primitively constructed, its gearing, cog-wheels, etc. made mostly of wood. The development of the gristmill was important since it was used to grind the first crops of the early settlers. People came from as far away as Great Valley (40 miles) with their grist on a drag drawn by a yoke of oxen. The Indians also took advantage of the "modern" convenience and gave up their mortar and pestle. "Teseona" is the name which the Indians gave the gristmill and "Kanisteoni" for the sawmill which they didn't patronize, too much labor was needed to cut and draw the logs to the sawmill.

In 1809 Elisha Mills sold the first stock of goods from the mill. Part of the mill was also used for housing and it is said that Goodwin Mills was born there. The mill was also used as a make shift "hotel", for people who had traveled a great distance. They were given a meal provided by the miller and the use of a sack or bag of grain for bedding. The mill served as the distribution center of mail brought from the nearest Post Office. The mill served many uses for the early settlers of this area which became known as **MILLS MILLS**. And so the growth of the Town of Hume began.....