

# Highlights of Deans History

*Georges Road opened before 1695. It ran from Inians Ferry at New Brunswick to Crosswicks. It was also referred to as the Crosswicksung Trail reflecting perhaps its original path as one used by the local Indians.*

*1729. Peter Sonmans sold Thomas Lawrence 500 acres in the Deans/ Dayton area.*

*1733. William Cox purchased about 350 acres from Peter Sonmans and built a sawmill at the Davisons Mill location. He owned all the land between the mill area and Rhode Hall Road up to Georges Road including the Lawrence Brook through this area. George Davison took over the mill and operated it as a gristmill and sawmill around 1810.*

*1730s. David Williamson, a Scott, moved into the Rhode Hall area and began operating a tavern/inn sometime after his arrival.*

*1770. the first school in Deans was said to have opened. Called the Sandy Run School, it stood in the middle of the current intersection of Georges Road and Deans Rhode Hall Road.*

*1805. Elizabeth Wetherill inherited all lands at Pidgeon Swamp from her father, George. In 1810 Elizabeth Wetherill Morris deeded for \$800 lands she had inherited referred to as "Pidgeon Swamp" to Samuel Dean.*

*1845. Deans became a kind of mini company town. It was know as Martinsville until the railroad put in a new station at intersection with Deans Lane and after some debate over what name to give the station. The story goes that the railroad chose Deans as the station name, because it was much shorter than the other suggested names.*

*1866. Deans Station opened.*

*1852. The Dean Distillery was sold to William Hammell, then to his son, James H. Hammell.*

*In 1835 there was a supplementary act to empower the owners of Pigeon Swamp to fine those who willfully dammed or obstructed the ditch or watercourse of the Lawrence Brook. Riva Avenue from the road to Milltown to the road from Woodsville to Davisons Mill was opened in 1857.*