

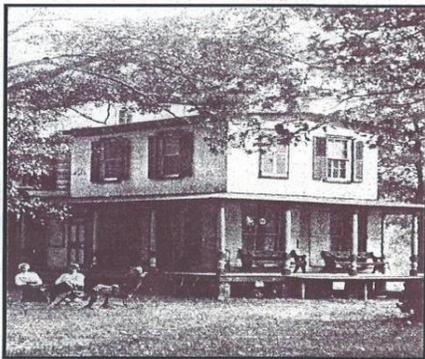
# CARMANS RIVER NATURE TRAIL & SANCTUARY



**SITE 1 • Homan House before and after restoration**

John Homan with the permission of Brookhaven Town in 1762 dammed the Carmans River to construct a saw mill. In 1771 Daniel Homan added a gristmill and a bolting mill. The Homan family lived in this house while operating the mills. Daniel Homan sold Mills to Robert Hawkins in 1821 during these years the village was known as Millville the name was changed the Yaphank in 1845.

William Jones Weeks built an octagon shaped house in 1848. Only the stone foundation of the house remains today on the trail. Proponents of octagon houses claim they were cheap to build and easy to heat.



**SITE 2 • Weeks Octagon House**

William Jones Weeks had a great interest in natural history and taxidermy. He gathered and preserved specimens of native wildlife. Beekeeping was another of his hobbies. His paper on the hexagonal cells of bees was published in Scientific America in May of 1860. He cultivated cranberries in a bog at Weeks Pond



**Weeks Pond circa 1880**

In 1821 the home and family sold their Mills to Robert Hawkins and the old mill was torn down and replaced with the largest sawmill. Robert Hawkins taught his nephew R.H. Hawkins the trade and soon Gerard took over his Uncle's mill and winning to partnership with William Sidney Smith in 1836. In 1884 E.L. Gerard bought out Smith's interest in the mills. Gerard operated the mills until his death in 1899. His wife Agnes ran the Mills until the Gristmill burned down in 1919.



**Mary L. Booth Birthplace | Abolitionist**

**SITE 4 • Gerard Mill circa 1915**



**St. Andrew's Episcopal Church 1853 built in memory of James and Susan Weeks lost grandchild**

**For more information about the structures on these trails or interested in taking a tour or volunteering please contact:**

**Yaphank Historical Society 631-924-3401**