

Grant's Point/Bend

Grant's Point is located on the north branch of the Sydenham River, on the north half of the north half of Lot 10, Concession 8, of the former Sombra Township, now St. Clair Township.

In the last half of the 1800s, this point of land overlooked many activities on this waterway.

1. Banking grounds – During the winter months loggers cut timber and piled the logs on this point of land, awaiting spring break-up. After break-up the logs would be rolled into the water and floated downstream to sawmills in Wallaceburg.
2. Sailing ships on their way to the Port of Wilkesport, were pulled bow first to Grant's Point, then turned around at this wide point of the river, at the mouth of Ryan's Creek, then towed stern first the rest of the way. The ships were then loaded with squared timber bound for England.
3. Upstream 250 yards, barges loaded with gravel were unloaded into wagons, to supply materials for the manufacture of concrete blocks to build foundations for houses and farm buildings.

Note – approximately 125 yards directly east of the point stands a Sycamore tree, eight feet in circumference or 30 inches in diameter. It is estimated that this tree was a sapling in 1880 and would have been witness to all of the above activities.

Encased in the southwest quadrant of the tree, about three feet above ground, protrudes a one inch long steel tip of a plow point. Approximately 3 ½ inches were visible in 1950.

2017 commemorates the 180th anniversary of the arrival of Peter and Elizabeth Grant on Lot 10 Con 9 Sombra Twp. Their first home, a log cabin, was located near the southeast corner of the Grant Cemetery.

This plaque is a Canada 150 project.

Excerpts from – *Wilkesport A Passage Through Time*
Compiled by Shelley Lucier

This plaque is on private property.

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