

The Rhody Warm 2010 Ashland Collection

from our Lost Village Series



Each year a unique pattern is selected for the weaving of the RHODY WARM wool and a name is chosen to identify that pattern. This year's blanket continues the Lost Villages of Scituate Series. Ashland was a village located in the southern part of Scituate close to where the Ashland Causeway (Route 14) is now located. The village was acquired by eminent domain to make way for the construction of the Scituate Reservoir.

Starting in 1913 and reaching completion in 1926, the Scituate Reservoir was created by building an earth filled dam to contain the North Branch Pawtuxet River and its two main tributaries, the Moswansicut and the Ponaganset Rivers. The toll of structures lost during construction of the reservoir included, "1,195 buildings including 375 houses, 233 barns, 7 schools, 6 churches, 6 mills, 30 dairy farms, 11 ice houses, 5 halls, post offices, taverns, general stores, blacksmith and wheelwright shops, cider mills, two fire stations and an electric railway system (the Providence and Danielson Railroad)." The total land mass inundated by the reservoir was nearly 3400 acres.

Of note in the village of Ashland was the Ashland cotton mill. In the early 1900's the mill employed 60 people and ran 5000 spindles. The Ashland Union Church built in 1850 was also claimed by the reservoir and if standing today, its steeple would just graze the water line. Marking the edge of the village was a large white oak tree known as "Big Oak". This tree measured 13 feet around and had a spread of 115 feet. It was estimated that the tree was 200 years old at the time the reservoir was built. Located just above the flood zone of the reservoir, "Big Oak" was spared living until the 1980's when it succumbed to deterioration and old age.



RHODY WARM is proud to honor the Lost Village of Ashland with its 2010 blanket.

RI Sheep Coop Members

Thank you to the following wool producers who contributed to the 2010 Rhody Warm project.

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No. Grosvenor Dale, CT

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Rhode Island Sheep Cooperative

P.O. Box 88 Harmony, RI 02829 401.578.2012

www.risheep.org www.rhodywarm.com