SNIPPETS OF HISTORY – By Sandy Austin, Town Historian

CAMPBELL WAS ONCE

A PART OF THE OLD TOWN OF PAINTED POST

In 1801, the first settlers arriving at the 40 square miles which would become the Town of Campbell would have found a vast wilderness with only Indian trails along the Cohocton River.

The United States of America was newly formed into the 13 states. Western New York had just been opened up to settlers. The area was known as “the land of the painted post”; it was a central crossing of the principal Indian trails of the Senecas and the Iroquois, as well as a resting place for the Indians travelling in this area. They had erected a huge post in an open field which was said to represent the enemy. It was basically where the Cohocton River and the Tioga River meet to form the Chemung. There were many stories and descriptions about the painting of the post as red. We are not sure if it was red berry juice or blood. What was to become the Town of Campbell was in 1793, a portion of the old Town of Painted Post which consisted of our Town along with Hornby, Erwin, Lindley, Corning and Caton.

[see illustration map]

