



Dalmeny Cheese Factory

Osgoode Township Historical Society & Museum

Vernon School
P.O. Box 83 - Vernon, Ontario
K0A 3J0

Newsletter

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THE CHEESE INDUSTRY IN OSGOODE TOWNSHIP

Feb. 14, Heritage Day at the museum, David Gray, programme Director gave a brief History of Cheese making in the township, to the sixty-some people in attendance. David hopes to compile a history of cheese factories in the township, and hopes all those people who could contribute information and artifacts will get in touch with him. The next presentation was given by Mr. Harry Pietersoma, of Agricultural Programming at Upper Canada Village. His dissertation involved a discussion of the earliest Cheese factories in Ontario and how their traditions are carried on in the factory at Upper Canada Village which is a model of the 1860 Era operation.

Carol Lindsay, Historian, from Kars told of the Cheese boats and the Rideau River trade particularly of the activity around Lindsays Wharf, her tales highlighting much of the life style of the local farmers who brought their products to the wharf for transportation for far away places. The wrap-up of the programme was particularly enjoyed as owners, cheesemakers, and patrons of the local factories shared their memories.

Harold Hover, Arthur Folkard, Norbert Donovan, Archie and Amon Sheldrick shared their memories, bringing to life the Historical aspects of the area, getting up at 4 a.m. to start the boilers, how the wages were \$15.00 a month with room and board and how during the winter months other work had to be found as the factories did not operate during the winter months. Their memories of the cheesemaking industries were to many of us, like a turning back of the pages of time. Many of those present, like them have memories of horses and expresses of drawing cans of milk to the various factories throughout the township, but then like the closing of a book the Era of the local Cheese Factories are now but a memory.

A GLIMPSE INTO THE PAST (continued from the last episode).

He was a well-known and colourful figure along the country side for years. He outlived his employer and later, rather surprisingly went to the war in South Africa as a batman to Col. H. J. Makie of Pembroke.

So Margaret Amelia and D. M. Rattray lived on in Portage and finished their lives there. My father, their son, often told his family of happy childhood days spent on both sides of the river. Margaret Amelia's last illness was lingering and became the centre of the old family religious conflict. She had never become a Protestant but neither had she gone back to to her own church and it will be remembered that her mother Catherine had given part of her U.E.I. Grant for land on which the Roman Catholic Church at Metcalfe was to be built. Naturally her close relatives wanted her to die in their faith. Finally our Scotch Presbyterian grandfather, weary of the turmoil and solicitous for his wife said finally that if the Ministrations of the church she was born and baptized into would be of comfort to her, she was to receive them, and that he, himself, personally would see that it was arranged.

So David Millar Rattray lies in our family plot in the beautiful, and beautifully kept cemetery near Cobden, Ontario in the country community where my father practiced medicine and here again the family history entwines with that of the country for in earlier days Champlain passed with his friends the Algonquins, and carelessly dropped the famous Astrolobe just a mile or so down the road.

In the Roman Catholic cemetery at Metcalfe our little grandmother, Margaret Amelia, is buried beside her father whose headstone reads:

(See next page)

Sacred to the memory of
Colonel Archibald McDonell
of the 3rd Battalion Carleton Militia
who died November 23, 1853
Aged 73 years

HE WAS THE FIRST WITH HIS FAMILY TO LEAD THE WAY INTO
THE WILDERNESS OF OSGOODE
1827

Mary Catharine Robertson (nee Rattray)

The above was taken from the Archives of the Osgoode Township Museum.

NOTES OF INTEREST Osgoode Mutual Fire Insurance Co. of which very little is known.
A. G. Robertson who was a salesman for the Howick Co. initiated the forming of the
Osgoode Mutual Fire Insurance Co. Circa 1910-1920.

President A. G. Robertson

Sec. Treasurer Robert McLaughlan, also salesman -

After his death Dan McLaren for a short period of time.

Directors - Robert Hill; John Cummings, Ormond; John Hume; Alex Dow;
John R. Boyd, Russell, also a salesman.

The Company was taken over by the Wawanesa Co. of which Donald Dow was one agent
about 1920.

Any further information our readers can come up with on the above would be appreciated.

HOME MADE GRINDSTONES. It is an ill wind which blows nobody good so it was when blocks
of Trenton Limestone intended for the building of the Parliament Buildings now and
again fell off the flat cars of the Bytown Prescott railway at various points in the
Ottawa district. The farmers around Gloucester Station and Osgoode Station used to
gather these stones and make Grindstone out of them. "I wonder are there still any
around?"

Did you know? The name Mountain was conferred upon the Township wearing it, in
honour of the first Protestant Bishop of Canada.

Examination Papers July Examinations, 1877

ADMISSION TO HIGH SCHOOLS

Time - Two Hours

Examiner - J. A. McLellan, L.L.D.

1. What is the least number that must be added to five million to make the sum
exactly divisible by seven thousand and nineteen?
2. Simplify $\frac{20}{21} - \frac{(48\frac{1}{2} + 7\frac{2}{3} - 16\frac{3}{4})}{(15\frac{1}{2} \times 14\frac{1}{3} \times 12\frac{1}{4})} = \frac{5\frac{2}{7}}{72\frac{1}{5}}$
3. Simplify $\frac{\text{£}14\ 12\text{s.}\ 11\text{d.}}{10\frac{4}{5} - \frac{35}{6}} \times \frac{\text{£}10\ 10\text{s.}\ 10\text{d.}}{10\text{s.}\ 9\frac{1}{2}\text{d.}}$
4. A man bought a quantity of hay at \$15. for 20 cwt. He sold it at 85 cents per cwt.,
gaining \$22.25. How many cwt. did he buy?
5. $3\frac{1}{8}$ yards of cloth cost \$12.50; what will $23\frac{7}{16}$ yards cost?
6. A person having an annual income of \$1400, spends a sum equal to \$625.50 more
than he saves. Find his daily expenditure (year = 365 days).
7. A lady had in her purse just money enough to buy a certain quantity of silk; but
she spent $\frac{3}{10}$ of the money in flannel, $\frac{3}{4}$ of the remainder in calico, and had then
only enough money left to buy $10\frac{1}{2}$ yards of silk. How many yards of silk could
she have bought at first?
8. A room 15 feet wide and 18 feet long is covered with matting at a cost of \$25;
what would be the expense of covering, with the same quality of matting, a room
a yard longer and a yard wider?

(continued)

9. The average of four quantities is $18\frac{35}{297}$; the first is 26.207, the second 3.592, and the third is 38.06. Find the fourth.
10. A bankrupt owes to A \$1039.84, and to B \$612.80; if A receives \$357.44, what will B receive?

Note. - 10 marks to each question.

The above test was taken from Elementary Arithmetic Book found in a house that was being renovated on South half of lot 1 Con. 3 in Osgoode Township with the name James R. Meredith, Section No. 1, North Gower, Nov. 18, 1884.

Feb. 28, 1907. Train wreck at Mountain. 2 men died in the fiery crash.

Our THANKS go out to Mrs. JENNIE DOW, retiring as membership Director. Her many years of quiet, dedicated service to the Society and other organizations has been an inspiration to many. Mrs. Alice Craig has taken over the duties of membership.

Seven Million people immigrated from Ireland to North America. This is a huge figure in comparison to 400,000 African slaves brought to North America, out of a total of perhaps 9.6 million involved in the Atlantic slave trade. These were important movements of people in the history of the world. The one came largely from the east West coast Africa, the other from the rather small island of 36,000 square miles (Ireland) one tenth the size of Ontario.

From the Kemptville Advance July 14, 1892: Best from the cow. Milk boiled 'til the air is out of it. When the process was invented 15 years ago at an establishment in Texas. In 1877 several dozen cans were sealed up. After 15 years the milk has been found perfectly fresh.

SPRING HILL The name Spring Hill for many of us brings to mind a picture of a well-kept cemetery, lying peacefully and at rest beneath the green hillside, or a blanket of snow, where many of the early settlers who pioneered the rugged wilderness of Osgoode Township. A picture of weatherbeaten tombstones stands like sentinels with their shadows ever reaching to embrace all those entered beneath them.

Mr. William Dow, and his wife, Jennie, reminiscing of days gone by, bring fond memories of places and people. Mr. Dow remembers his first day at school and talks of how the present north road of the cemetery was the laneway to what was known as the manse. The manse, a beautiful structure (with a stair railing noted for its workmanship) was once used as the Presbyterian church and was moved from the South side of the lot to the north side, set amidst an apple orchard, and beautiful garden where blue and green grapes grew. The building continued to be used as the manse for some time after the present church was built in 1887 in Vernon. The minister had a horse for transportation. The barn was moved across the road to Harry Wolfe's by Fred Seguin, father of Mrs. Rose Morris of Metcalfe. The well in the cemetery is the one used by the manse. The cemetery was deeded to the Presbyterian Church until it was necessary to give income tax receipts. It was decided unanimously by the church to relinquish the burden. John York was the first remembered tenant, with two sons Campbell and Russell. Sadie Iveson, the school teacher boarded at the Yorks. When Bill was five years old, John York had an auction sale and moved away. The day of the sale the boys were warned by the teacher not to go to the sale. However, when the teacher went home for lunch, five or six of the older boys, including Bill and his older brother Russell took off to the sale. Miss Iveson really caned the boys the next day.

A Jew, name unknown, opened up a little store in the manse, where the kids went for pop corn and gum. Glen Comrie, who lived where the Matchetts are now, swiped eggs from home, which he traded for our treats. Next came a Cameron family, no relation to the local Camerons. There were Allan, Dan, Mary and Lizzie. Allan could not see very well. When he met someone on the road he would say, "Are you driving the same little horse?", to get people to talk, hoping he might recognize the voice. They tapped the big bush and bought a new evaporator which was a real luxury. The first day they burned the pans. Once again the teacher forbid them to go to the sugar bush, but they went anyway, mostly to James York's bush, now just at the edge of the cemetery. One year in April the boys again disobeyed. They went to a pond in Cameron's field and hung their clothes on a basswood tree and went swimming, three days in a row. Allan Cameron was a terrible man to swear. They were in the midst of a fracas one day; Allan was chasing his sister up the outside cellar stairs when the minister arrived; "Oh Good day, Mr. McConnell, just cleaning out the cellar" said Allan. When Allan died Ernest Rolston, the undertaker, gave Tom Lemoine a bottle of liquor to help him lay out the body. Tom carried on a one-sided conversation the whole time with the deceased. Dan lived on alone 'til about 1926 to 1929 when a Simser family moved in with him. The last residents in the manse

were George Lewis and his family. It was then purchased by Rolla Campbell and it is now a part of the cemetery. A part of the cemetery along by the road at one time was a real bog. When the highway was rebuilt the last time the corduroy logs were removed from the road bed.

The house on the S. East corner of lot 30 con VI was the residence of Robert Comrie and family of 4 sons and 1 daughter. Wild poppies grew in abundance all around the place. It was vacant by times, was sold to Howard Glen, and is now owned by the Matchett family. On the N. east corner of lot 31 Con VI there was a white house occupied by a Mrs. Ferguson. It was once a Baptist manse and also a post office. Mrs. Earl Campbell recalls playing hide and seek in this house. John Weir added a little addition to the south side. Howard McRostie's family lived there for a winter to be close to the school house, on the opposite corner.

Dowser's family, two boys, James and Billy and 6 girls had a small house and barn on the lower corner of the lot with a garden and apple orchard and plum trees. This lot now comprises a part of the cemetery. This family was plagued by young and old especially at Hallowe'en. The express would be put on the roof of the house. The chimney would be blocked. They later moved across the road to the little white house on the opposite corner. Mr. Dowser was an illiterate, could neither read nor write, but clever enough. His wife would read him the Orange Sentinel, and he could repeat it with the papers upside down. The Dowsers operated a slaughter house. His wife Janet McNeil was a hardy soul travelling to market with son Billy with the slaughtered animals as many as 35 calves a week. John Dowser used to tell the school kids there were only two people who could cut their name backward on skates and he was one of them. The Dowsers could not have existed without the McNeils, who lived just east of the school. The log house was very small, but large enough that neither Jew nor Gentile were ever turned away. Three generations of nephews and nieces were raised there. Pack peddlers were regular visitors. Grandma McNeil gave Bill a setting of duck eggs. Ten ducks hatched. Bill was a chum of Grandma's grandson. She was a kind hearted soul. The rhubarb and apples grew in abundance. The saw horse was always at the door, and wood was sawed as it was needed, drying it in the oven. One moonlit New Year's night playing hockey Bill was put in as goal tender. He was hit between the eyes and knocked out, and was carried into McNeils, where they always put on their skates. Their only storage of vegetables was a ground cellar opened by a trap door. Stone was quarried from this farm for the road. The abandoned quarry became the first local dump and was a haven for rats. With the school house nearby the dump caused concern for the Vernon Women's Institute so they appealed to Council and the dump was closed up.

Just south of the school was a cheese factory. Charlie Wing's daughter married Ben McConnell (Cheesemaker). The factory burned down one night, and was never rebuilt. The milk then went to Cold Springs factory at Metcalfe corner. The Logans had the Post Office after Mrs. Ferguson. It was the custom and temptation to cross the field for the mail before going home from school. The Logans had a good apple orchard. There was a Bill Logan. He took the milk to the factory by pulling the express.

There was a nice brick house on what is now township property, the gateway where the tower entrance is. A McLaren family lived there. They kept good horses. Erskine Howell lived there a short time. His wife taught music. The Watchhorns lived there. They then moved further south to N. E. $\frac{1}{4}$ of lot 32 to a log house which was later moved across to Logans for a hen house, which still stands.

George Stearns then took over and opened up a gravel pit. The township now owns the property. Somewhere on the N. E. $\frac{1}{4}$ of lot 31 con VI is supposedly the highest point of land in the township.

In 1920-1921 the Cameron house lot 29 Con 6 was used for a camp by the contractor rebuilding highway 31. With a stone crusher set up east of the Spring Hill school house Wilfred Porteous was usually with the paymaster. This house burned and Fred Seguin built the present one.

To-day, the former school house serves as a chapel to the cemetery, and the Matchett family home are the only two of the original buildings still standing at the corners, but the many silent markers tell the story of years of toil, in less prosperous days.

The Model T. Ford cars in 1918 sold for \$670.00 full of gas and licence. A driver's permit was required in 1927.

You have to do your own growing up, no matter how tall your grandfather was.

Give a pig and a boy everything they want, and you will have a big pig, and a bad boy.

There can be no greatness without discipline and no discipline without sacrifice.

Show me someone who never makes a mistake and I'll show you someone who never does anything.

It is a lonely wash that doesn't have a man's shirt in it.