



Dalmeny Cheese Factory

## Osgoode Township Historical Society & Museum

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

Newsletter

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### DALMENY CHEESEFACTORY BY Grace Blair

Dalmeny cheese factory was built on the south west corner of the south half of lot 35 on the fourth concession of Osgoode Township, land owned by Moses Gordon which had been purchased from Duncan Ferguson. Hence it was called the Gordon Model.

Jane, a daughter of Moses Gordon married James Serson Melvin, a cheese maker of Osgoode. Could he have been the first cheesemaker at Dalmeny? They later moved to Manitoba. A man by the name of Colin Lyons was there in the early 1900's to be followed by Herbert Taylor. Mr. Taylor owned the farm west of Dalmeny, which is now owned by Ferguson Brothers. In 1918 Mr. Taylor sold the farm to Howard Ferguson and the factory to Jack Adams. The Adams' and subsequent cheese makers lived in the house across from the road from the factory where Mrs. Colley now lives.

Ed. Wynn was the next cheesemaker and around the time he left, the factory was bought by Frank Lewis of Kemptville. Other cheesemakers were the Smith brothers Joe and Clare, Harvey Levere, Frank Pope, Howard McCredy and Percy George.

When Herb Taylor was cheesemaker, he was assisted by Walter Bonsall until he left to serve in the first World War where he won several medals for bravery. On his return he made cheese at Dunrobin where he won awards which are in the Museum at Vernon. When the second world war broke out he again enlisted but was not sent overseas.

Secretary Treasurers at the factory were Peter Robertson, Charley Blair and Eric Ferguson.

The local cheese factory was to men, what the Women's Institute was to the ladies. A place to meet one's neighbours and discuss crops, prices and politics. At Dalmeny the younger boys who met at the factory probably discussed sports and made plans for evening dates.

Milk was unloaded in the order in which one arrived at the factory and the story is told of Mr. Cam Stuart arriving from the east just as Ross McDiarmid arrived from the south. When it came their turn to go in Ross said "I don't know which of us was here first. It was nip and tuck." Mr. Stuart came back with "OK, you be nip, I'll be tuck" so Ross drove on in.

The Gordon Model factory burned in the morning of May 23, 1951, when Percy George was cheesemaker, and thus ended an era. Some patrons went to Maple Grove factory and some to Belmeade but soon trucks began picking up the milk to be taken to Bordens in Kemptville or Aults in Winchester.

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT BY Shirley Low

As President of the Osgoode Township Historical Society it is my pleasure to report on a busy and productive 1986.

On February 15 we welcomed over 50 people to our Heritage Day celebration with the theme "Focus on Vernon". Memories of Vernon were recalled by long-time residents of the area and pictures from our collection were examined and enjoyed.

In April a tour and a discussion of how to collect and organize family records was presented for members of Nepean Park and Receptions "Senior Scene" group. Members of the visiting group expressed their appreciation for the opportunity to see our collection and meet with our experienced researchers.

The Museum was open for two full days during the celebration of Vernon's Pioneer Days. Over 160 people visited our building during the week-end.

### President's Report continued

A large crowd attended the unveiling of a plaque to mark the site of the Campbell Brother's Mill. We were pleased to have descendants of the two founding brothers join us for this special day in October.

Exhibits were set up and members answered questions at Ottawa Gene-o-Rama, the Ottawa Exhibition for 11 days, and at Metcalfe Fair for 3 days. Individual members attended seminars and displayed materials throughout the area. One of our members guidance and research for the Osgoode Lions to erect an historical marker on the Post Office Property in Osgoode Village.

After several meetings with Osgoode Township Council we received \$3000. toward improving our hall area. We also had Councillor Alexander become a liason between our group and the Council.

During the year members worked to catalogue, display, and label collections in the Museum and Archives. We were thankful to have two students work with us for about 12 weeks in the summer.

Once again I want to express my appreciation to the members who have given their time so willingly to support the Historical Society and our work in and around Osgoode Township. Each year presents new projects. I hope we can work together to increase our membership and continue the good work.

### MUSEUM COMMITTEE REPORT BY David Gray

In 1986 the Museum received an operating grant of \$1,325.82 from the Provincial Ministry of Citizenship and Culture. This, in combination with the \$3,000.00 received from the Township, allows us to proceed with the upgrading of our Museum entrance and hall display area.

This year temporary exhibits of materials relating to Vernon history were on display at Heritage Day and for the unveiling of the plaque on the Campbell Brothers' Mill.

Research began on the history of cheese-making in the township and several new documents and photographs for our planned new exhibit were collected.

Thanks to the efforts of Curator Patti Mitton and our two student workers, great strides were made in the labling, cataloguing and sorting of our collections.

In 1986 the society decided to return to the previous system of one set of financial books for both museum and historical sections. This means applying for only one operating grant and needing only one treasurer, thus relieving us of much tedious paper work and allowing us to work in other more critical areas. If our active membership grows sufficiently in coming years we can again qualify for a museum operating grant. Because of this change, this is the last report of the Museum Management Committee for the time being.

### LIBRARY REPORT BY Kay Hill

Thanks to the assistance of Dorothy Brown (Mrs. Stuart Brown) of Metcalfe, approximately 200 more books have been catalogued.

Since I could not be responsible for crediting the books to the correct donors in the accession book and since that has to be done before the books can be organized, I am also grateful to those two dedicated young women who were able to continue in that area along with all their other accomplishments at the museum last summer.

A special area with library shelving of pioneer style would be ideal - special in the sense that all books could be together.

### REPORT OF ARCHIVAL ACTIVITIES 1986 BY Elizabeth Stuart

During the first 4 months of the year the 1891 census was transcribed - the first four parts by Ora Bradford - an exceptionally fine writer and a careful worker - and the 5th section by Norma Morrison.

March 8, 1986 was the last day for submitting a request for students under the Challenge - 86 program. We were fortunate to get two fine students for twelve weeks. I undertook to be the principal supervisor because there were no other volunteers. Thus I was busy for about 4 hours every day, 6 days a week, for 13 weeks. There was a great variety of work done during the summer.

The Kemptville Advance was indexed, beginning in 1881, for only 3 months, and there are about 1500 cards. The Leeds and Grenville have just purchased three reels of the Athens Reporter under a Ministry Grant. We had the Advance microfilmed, not only to preserve it but to make money. As the owner charges \$7.00 for 15 minutes to read it, he is not interested in selling. We should be. Who should be finding out

the process? There is a great interest in purchasing it. We charged \$2.00 an hour for the use of the Reader. The Leeds Branch recently purchased a Reader-Printer. There seem to be Grants for such a machine from the Ministry. One of the questions in the Archives Survey asked for the number of our reels and the number used during the year. How could this information be kept? Personally I purchased the marriage reels from the Ontario Archives for Dundas and Grenville - still no Osgoode records. We purchased the 1891 census for Osgoode and this includes Russell, Gloucester, etc.

The students arranged the School Records into Finding-Aid form and we observed that for about eight schools we have many valuable records, pictures, teachers, etc. But for many schools that were attended by our members, their files are practically empty. Look through the filing cabinets for schools and see what you can add. There was a full drawer of unprocessed clippings that the girls processed. There are more clippings piling up. We should like even more of every category. We never know whom we are going to interest.

**TALES OF A TRAVELLING MAN (1904-1986)** In the last Newsletter there was a brochure promising an interesting publication by one of Osgoode's native sons, John Herbert Stewart of Dalmeny. Herb has travelled a great deal since his birth in a cheese factory at Enniskerry (Dawson), and at the present time he is spending the winter in Spain and Portugal. The 125-page book is now in print and we recommend it to our friends, not only as a picture of over 80 years of changes in our young country, but also as a story of travels in many countries of the world. The writer tells of school days at Dalmeny, Kenmore, Kemptville, Kars, the Ottawa Normal School, and Queen's University. And there is life on his father's farm and in various schools - Merrickville Continuation to Oakwood Collegiate and on to Switzerland. Along the way he had as teachers W. B. Wallen at Kenmore and Sadie Miller at Kars. He organized the S.T.O. (Superannuated Teachers of Ontario) Tours and even arranged a Heritage Tour to Scotland for our Historical Society. The book was edited and published by one of our members, George Neville of Ottawa, recent recipient of the Award of Merit from the Carleton Soil and Crop Improvement Association.

Herb has donated a number of his books to our Society to be sold and the receipts used as a Memorial to his late brother, Archie, and his wife Iris who were killed in a crash in the Fall. We are grateful for this donation. At present the books may be bought from any local member for a greatly reduced price of \$4.00. When the next edition is printed the price will be \$8.00. There are 800 books being offered to the thousands of STO members at this price. They will soon be sold.

#### SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR THE YEAR 1987

Executive - Past President -	Michael Daley
President -	Shirley Lowe
Vice President -	Murray Little
Recording Secretary -	Patti Mitton
Correspondence Secretary -	Harry Anderson
Treasurer -	Jennie Dow assisted by Michael Daley
Registrar/Curator	Patti Mitton
Archivist -	Elizabeth Stuart
Librarian -	Kay Hill
Maintenance -	Doug MacMillan
News Letter -	Michael Daley
Social Committee -	Alice Craig, Anne Carkner, Verda McNaughton
Directors - Gerald Morris	Murray Little
Bob Usher	Don Lowe
Lorne Craig	Margaret Robb
Shirley Lowe	Harvey Linton
Michael Daley	
Retiring Recording Secretary	Katie Campbell
Director	Michael Hinds

#### FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK -

The Membership fee for 1987 is \$5.00 single; \$6.00 family. (Receipts on request) If your membership card is not with this newsletter, then your membership fee is now due. If there is an error, please inform us. (When a man finds he has made a mistake, "and smiles", it means he has found someone to blame it on.) We sincerely appreciate your past and continued support as we strive to portray the Historical aspects of our Township History.

(continued)

Many are the stories that have been told since Archibald McDonnell and William York, and their families, our first Settlers, ventured into our township in the winter of 1827-28. Stories of pioneering, of hardship, of love, of wars, prosperity, progress, and faith, and through these stories there runs a single thread, it is the thread of hope. Sometimes these stories are fragmented, sometimes distorted but they tell something about the character of life itself. There have been changes but we have adapted. There have been tragedies, but life and community have gone on. The shape of our individual lives has emerged from those who have passed this way before us.

*GREELY A Brief Glimpse into the Past. (Continued from the last episode.)*

*MERCHANTS* Prior to the Huppe General Store, Sawmill, Shingle Mill, and Grist Mill, there was a General Store operated by people by the name of Cohen. The Store was situated across the road from Stanley's Hotel, now known as the Greely Cheese Shop. Huppe Mill was moved by a man named Crawford from the Henry Puper farm lot 5 con 3 to the Dunlap property in the early 1900s (?).

Huppe General Store was sold to Bill Straby in 1930. The Straby family operated the store for many years. Many were the good card games played over the counter -45, cut throat. You were almost sure to find Nick Tierney, Harold Shirley, Andy Shields, Paul Shanahan, Jim Lee, and Bill Straby playing cards in the evening. The Ottawa-Cornwall Bus stopped night and morning. During the War Years, many were the good card games, parties and dances held in the garage along side the store in aid of the Red Cross. Although the Straby store has long since been sold, the building remains and is now the residence of the Parker family.

Mr. Daniel O'Grady, merchant, operated the Blacksmith at one time, sold Derry machinery, washing machines, stoves, and monuments. Mr. James Lee, Farmer, lot no. 9, con 4 opened a roofing dealership in 1928 which gradually led into other farm related implements, plow points, cream separators, pumps, International machinery etc. In 1944 he moved to a farm north of Greely expanding his business, built a new shop and installed Shell gas pumps. In 1970 due to ill health and after 42 years of serving the community, a number of them on Township Council, he closed his implement shop, and sold out. As we delve into the fascinating world of History and Genealogy we cannot help but visualize the places and people of Greely as they were once known. Highway 31 now a major highway leading from the St. Lawrence Seaway to our Nation's Capital, by-passes the once quiet little hamlet of Greely, which is now a fast growing suburb of the City of Gloucester.

Notes of Interest - Did you know of the Osgoode Mutual Fire Insurance Company? (Read the next issue of your newsletter.)

Do you remember your Elementary Arithmetic Examination? (In the next issue - the July Examination papers of 1877 admission to the High Schools of Ontario.)

#### THE CHEESE INDUSTRY IN OSGOODE TOWNSHIP BY David Gray

In 1987 the Osgoode Township Historical Society will be researching the cheese-making industry in Osgoode Township. This will be the theme for research projects, a new exhibit, and several public events starting with Heritage Day, Saturday, February 14th, 1987.

With the help of those who were personally involved, or their families, we hope to compile information about each of the cheese factories that once operated in our area, and there were many! We are seeking old photographs of the factories themselves, of wagons drawing milk to the factory, shipping of cheeses and any related photographs. We would also like to know of items that could be lent or donated for our exhibit; cheese-making and testing equipment, record books, certificates, awards, etc.

Cheese making as an industry began in Ontario in the 1860's in response to the growing market for cheese in the United States (due to the civil war) and in the United Kingdom. By 1890 the United Kingdom imported half of its cheese from Canada.

The first cheese factory in Carleton County was built in North Gower Village in 1867, one of 200 in Canada, just 3 years after Canada's first. I do not yet know which of the Osgoode Township cheese factories were established in those early days. Certainly the one in Kenmore, converted from a butter factory in 1882 was one of the early ones. So much cheese was shipped from the Rideau River area by steamer that many of the boats were known as the "cheese boats". At the peak of the industry there were 2,300 cheese factories and 570 combined cheese and butter factories in Canada. In the 1920's farmers began shipping milk by truck to Ottawa dairies instead of local factories. Milk was also taken to Osgoode Station to meet the morning train to Ottawa.

The decline in the local cheese trade was hastened by competition in the United Kingdom market by New Zealand producers, and the increasing Canadian demand for milk and butter. The last shipment of cheese on the Rideau River was carried by the

Ottawan in 1930.

Records from the Department of Agriculture for 1936 list 14 cheese factories for Osgoode township; Maple Ridge (Golden Valley), White Globe (Vernon), E/W. No. 16 (Kenmore), North Osgoode, Belmeade, Metcalfe, Central Star (Metcalfe), Hillview (Marionville), Gordon Model (Osgoode), Greely, North Branch, Alpine (Osgoode Station), Maple Grove (Osgoode Station), and McPhail (Marvelville).

No Osgoode cheese factories appear in the same list for 1965. There were only about 200 cheese factories operating in Canada that year, 134 in Ontario and 48 in Quebec.

NOTES ON THE 1891 CENSUS BY Patti Mitton

The 1891 census of Osgoode Township is now available to researchers at the Museum on microfilm, transcripts and a card index. Genealogists will be delighted to use it as a tool to reach back into earlier records, or to carry forward their family trees. The census is also a fascinating source of social and economic history.

In the transcripts, the reader will recognize pockets of Irish, Scottish and English settlers, descendants of Loyalist and Hessian families, and sprinklings of French throughout the Township. In some areas, one religion might prevail almost to the exclusion of others; elsewhere a single family might include people of four different denominations.

By far the majority of the population engaged in farming, but in the villages and choice spots, there were cheese factories, sawmills, flour mills, grist mills, general stores and hotels. There were blacksmiths, wheelwrights, harness makers, weavers, dressmakers, shoemakers, teachers, ministers, doctors and medical students, journeymen, clerks, bookkeepers and domestic servants. It was a time of vibrant communities alive with local industry.

In contrast to this, there are some stark and poignant pictures of economic and personal hardship: while some lived in great houses of brick and stone, others crowded families of 12 to 16 into tiny 1 and 2 room log cabins. An orphaned family of five children is split up and taken into different homes as domestics by their relatives and neighbours. A widower in his early 20's cares for his 3 month old baby alone. These are the images that bring to life the names and numbers on the page.

Here are some notes and explanations to guide you through the 1891 census index. The column headings as typed on the cards are as follows: Name, °(footnote), Age, Place of birth, Father's place of birth, Mother's place of birth, Religion, Occupation, Literacy.

As much as possible, names are spelled as read from the census, not as "what they probably should be", and are filed alphabetically instead of by presumed spelling. A user should therefore be sure to look under every possible spelling.

"M" in front of a name indicates "married". Where neither "M" nor "widowed" is shown, assume the individual to be single.

(F) or (M) after a given name indicates "female" or "male" where the name is unusual or illegible.

For lack of space, "son", or "daughter" has been omitted from the cards, as it is usually obvious from the name, age and marital status. A user can always refer to the transcript or microfilm to be sure.

° after the name refers to a footnote taken from other columns concerning relationship to head of household, widowhood, employer or wage earner, or whether deaf and dumb, blind, or of unsound mind.

Under "Place of birth", the information shown is often inconsistent both within a household listing, and by comparison with previous censuses. This could be an error, the result of misinformation, second hand details, or carelessness on the part of the enumerator; on the other hand, it might indicate that children were adopted or that parents had remarried.

The term "domestic" has a broad and variable meaning, referring to both household and farm servants. Also, in div 3, it is applied to extended family, to older children, brothers and sisters, even in some cases to parents, in-laws, aunts and uncles of the head of household, so this term does not necessarily infer an employer-employee relationship.

Under literacy \* means that the individual can both read and write, \*- means he can read but not write, and finally, -- means he can neither read nor write.

Concession and lot numbers on the cards do not come from the census itself, but are estimates based on other sources: Township Papers, maps and the 1896 Directory.

The kind of house construction is given as wood, stone or brick, with the number of stories (1, 1½ or 2), and the number of rooms (from 1 for a shanty to 14 for a hotel) eg. Wood 2/8.

Finally, just to show that reader must not put too much faith in the accuracy of census reporting, it happens that two households were enumerated twice, in divs 4 and 5. Though taken only days apart, there are striking differences in the information gathered. See Baisel (Basl) Laplant and James McCorkell, p 5, div 4, # 18 and 19; p 16, div 5, # 67, 68.

A GLIMPSE INTO THE PAST - Compiled by Mary Catherine Robertson

The small but charming village of St. Andrew's East lies about twenty-five miles north of the present city of Cornwall - to this place came Alexander Macdonnell, in 1783-4. He was a Scot by extraction tho' American by birth. He had taken up arms in the King's cause during the American revolution and was therefore obliged to leave his native home and his property in Albany N.Y., and settle in Canada. With him came (or was born shortly after arrival) his daughter Catharine. Alexander as a Loyalist received a grant of 800 acres, and Catharine as his daughter 200 acres.

In the Roman Catholic Church at St. Andrew's is recorded Catharine's marriage in 1807 "after three publications on three Successive Sundays" (the parish register tells us) to Archibald McDonell (same name, no relation) said to be one of the first colonists of Glengarry after the disbandment of some of the Highland troops after the close of the Revolutionary war. Archibald later had quite a distinguished military career along the St. Lawrence frontier in the war of 1812-14, during which time he and Catharine lived in Cornwall and had already started their flourishing little family of twelve children, seven boys and five girls. Naturally they were anxious to become established on the generous allotment of their combined grants, 1000 acres. Archibald had already selected a spot during some lumbering operations along the Castor - it was where the eighth concession line crosses that stream. So they packed up the children and started in a northerly route from Cornwall, this they followed until they got into the wilderness where no roads existed - then took to the ice on the Nation River (this was in the winter of 1827-28) - following that river down to the junction of the Castor up which they drove to what was to be the family's new home. Lot 25, concession 8 in Osgoode Township.

At first they were almost completely isolated and knew nothing of Bytown or Philomon Wright's settlement - tho' on summer afternoons what they may have thought was a distant storm, might have been Col. By and his engineers blasting out their canal. However, one day two neighbors from Gloucester found them and after that it didn't take long with combined effort to cut a trail through to the Ottawa. Then they did their shopping in Bytown and took their grist to Philomon Wright's mill.

Archibald then became very public spirited - he was the oldest magistrate in the township; the Colonel of the Regiment of Militia organized in the County. He was the first district councillor sent by Osgoode to represent the township about 1833 when it belonged to the district of Ottawa. He continued to represent it in the council sitting at L'Orignal till the formation of the Dalhousie District in 1842. A commemorative plaque can be seen today to the right of the Besserer St., entrance to the Carleton County Court House, listing him, under Warden, Hon. Thomas McKay, as one of the Councillors (Osgoode) with Hammet Pinhey for March etc. 1842.

In the meantime the family grew up. Alexander, - Archibald and Catharine's eldest son succeeded his father in different public offices and - the girls got married. One of them, Margaret Amelia, born in Cornwall, 1812. (The Williams "boys" great-grandmother and my grandmother) at what must have been a very tender age indeed married a Mr. Baker - listed in the Militia lists of those days as Lieut., in the Battalion of which her father was Colonel. Sadly for Margaret Amelia her young officer died shortly after their marriage - but he did leave her some money - her father promptly took charge of this and used it to send her back to boarding school, - from whence she emerged later and married David Miller Rattray of the family of Dr. Charles Rattray of Cornwall.

Theirs was a mixed marriage and there was great bitterness in the families on both sides, - the young couple themselves seemed to resolve any religious difficulties tranquilly, but the in-laws.....!

So Margaret Amelia, and David Miller Rattray moved over to the Ottawa, living for a while at Aylmer, and then on up the river to Portage du Fort where they established a flourishing depot of men, teams, and supplies for the lumber camps on the Mississippi - Madawaska and the Bonnechere on the Ontario side and the Coulonge and the Lievre in Quebec. It was a busy place, and one day a young negro came along looking for employment. He was called Caleb, and was probably a refugee from the Civil War in the States. Anyway he fitted in most usefully. The C.P.R. had just pushed itself through on the Ontario side and it was one of Caleb's duties to drive a team across the bridge and along eight terrible miles of boulders and gravel to Haley's Station to meet the train at midnight and get the mail. (Continued in next issue.)