



1973

Lyons "B" team are North and South Dorchester "B" League Champions for 1973. The Lyons team beat out Harrietsville three straight and eliminated Crampton, to take the title. In the front row are: Coach Pat Wat-

ters, Kevin George, Coach Jack McCallum, Randy Jacques, Gord Jenkins and Paul McCallum. In the second row are: Mark Shackelton, Ken Watters, Lee Wilson, Larry Webber, Phillip Hamilton and Roy Willsey.

## LYONS CHEESE FACTORY

In 1864 Ontario's first cheese factory was built in the county of Oxford. During the next few years they were being built all over Ontario and it was a great relief to the farmer's wife to be rid of the strenuous task of making up the cream into butter or the milk into cheese.

In the winter of 1869-70 the Lyons Cheese Manufacturing Company was organized by the local farmers. The first milk was brought to the factory May 9, 1870. The milk hauler was Mr. Thomas Bellmore. The first cheese maker was Wm. Kirkley - who was a son in law of John Blake. Following him was John Winder, Thomas Barry, Jas. McCaulley and Charles Luton. When Charlie Luton came to Lyons he was unmarried and boarded with Mrs. Thomas Winder. When he was to be married in 1893, it was decided to build a house, as the dwelling over the make-room was not very satisfactory. In the minutes of the meeting of January 28, 1894, we find this entry, "That the matter of building a house for the cheese-maker be left in the hands of the directors for 1894 and should they decide to build, a sum of money - not to exceed \$350.00 is to be expended." The directors for that year were J. M. Criukshank, Jas. Mitchell, Sr., D. Appleford, John Simpson and Edward Martin, Sr. The house was built and remained as it was erected at this initial cost until J. W. Boyes rebuilt it in 1922.

In 1899, John Williams bought the factory from the company and J. W. Boyes bought it and took possession on January 1, 1904 and operated it until war conditions made it impossible to secure labour for making cheese and he closed it on October 17, 1943.

We are not sure if Mr. Fullerton was the first secretary, but we know he held this office in 1881. Then Thomas Wilkinson, and he held the position until 1892 when Duncan Taylor was appointed. In 1907 E. E. Martin took charge of the secretarial work and was followed in 1915 by J. C. Simpson who held the position until 1936 when W. T. Burks was appointed and he carried on until the closing of the factory.

In 1901, John Williams bought the factory and in order to facilitate the elevation of the whey - he moved the factory near the north end of the lot and placed it directly in front of the house. When the factory was built, the curing room - then called the dry room - was built in the south west corner of the lot. It was a very

THE CHEESE FACTORY C'T'D.

large building and in 1921 J.W.Boyes moved it into a better position and made it into a good frame factory on the site of the present building.This was destroyed by fire in May,1926. The present large cement block building was erected immediately and opened for business on August 1 of that year.

Among the names of the early directors of the cheese company we find: J.C.Sherk, Jas.Mitchell,Sr.,Darius Appleford, Matthew Whyte, Edward Martin Sr.,P.J.Putnam, A.C.Graham, Wilson McCredie,J.W.Simpson, J.M.Cruikshank, John Orris,and later his son Fred, Wm.Demray, H.Roberts, W.F.Roberts, Colon Blake, H.McGregor, J.Ferguson, D.Ferguson, Ed.Garton, John Williamson.

The following names are those of the stock-holders of the Lyons'Cheese Company that started the business.

Darius S.Appleford----	3shares	John & Peter McNeill-----	4 shares
Darius Appleford-----	2 "	James McCredie-(Orwell)-----	3 "
Mrs.Rachel Ackert-----	1 "	Edward Marlice Sr.-----	2 "
Mrs.Ash(Rodney)-----	1 "	Frederick Orris-----	14 "
John Blake-----	35 "	James Mitchell Sr.-----	2 "
Colon Blake-----	1 "	Peter J.Putnam -----	3 "
Joseph Blake -----	1 "	Mrs.Mary Ruckle -----	1 "
Mrs.Robert Brown-----	3 "	Wm.F.Roberts -----	7 "
Henry Bryce -----	1 "	John W.Simpson -----	2 "
Mrs.Lewis Clark(widow)	1 "	Mrs.Henry Sterrick(Mich.)----	2 "
Amos Charlton(Aylmer)-	2 "	(transferred to J.D.Roberts)	
Benjamin Dennis-----	7 "	Mrs. John L.SHERK -----	2 "
Jane Dunn&Archie Reauce	3	David Sherk(Aylmer)-----	2 "
Mrs. Matthew Fullarton		(transferred to J.D.Thompson)	
and Miss Loniza(Brantford)	23	Jacob Sherk-----	2 "
Peter Ferguson-----	2 "	James Sherk -----	4 "
John Geawburg-----	2 "	Matthew Whyte -----	4 "
Alexander Gunn(Toronto)	14"	Richard Whyte -----	1 "
A.C.Graham-----	1 "	Thomas Winder -----	3 "
Mrs. John Luton(Aylmer)	4"		
Mrs.John McArthur,Sr.		Because of labour problems in the	
(Yarmouth Centre)-----	3 "	war years the Lyons'Cheese Factory	
Mrs.L.D.Marlatt-----	2 "	ceased operation in June 1943.	
Mrs. Ed.McCausland		Ray Minor(Aylmer) was one of the	
(Aylmer)-----	5	last employees.	

THE CHEESE FACTORY C'T'D.& THE POST OFFICE

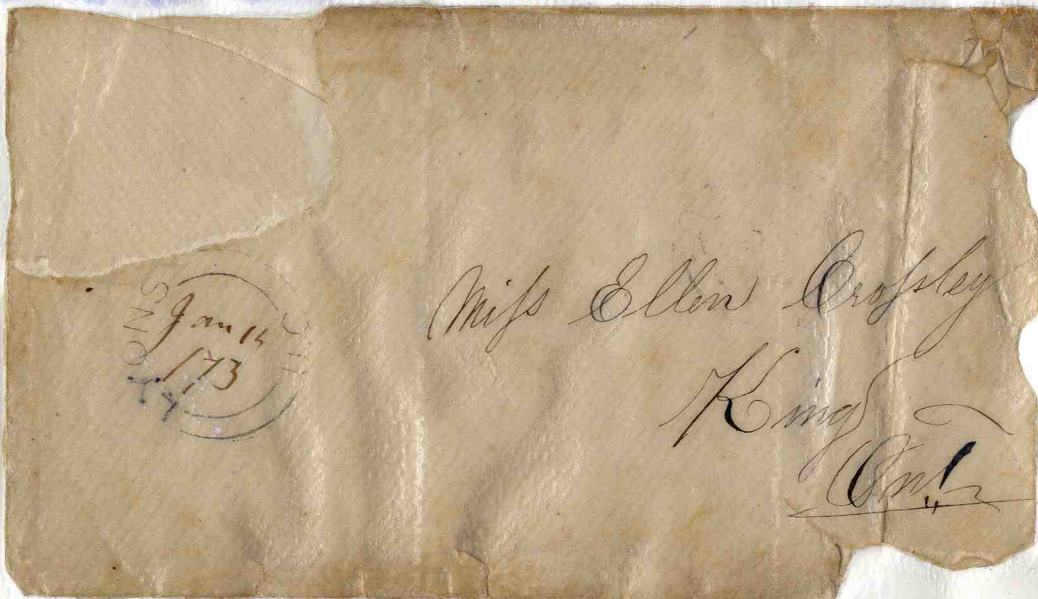
The property, which included the house and the factory, was sold to Ansel and Edna Martindale in the late forties. Ansel used the factory



as a repair shop. The present owners, Abram Klassen and family, who moved there in 1975, manufactures truck campers and caps & travel trailers.

THE LYONS' POST OFFICE

The Post Office at Lyons was located in the Inn or Tavern, the large white building across the highway from the store. The first mail was carried on horseback every two weeks to Hales' Inn. The horseman blew a horn when within one mile and representatives from the homes were waiting on his arrival. Later a daily stage coach was driven between Harrietsville and Aylmer leaving and picking up mail at the Lyons' Post Office. Rural mail delivery came about the time of the First World War.



Note the Postmark and the Handwriting on the envelope.

This envelope, posted in Lyons Jan. 14, 1873, was sent by Wilson McCredie <sup>to</sup> Miss Ellen Crossley, who later became his wife.

## THE PUTNAM PUMP SHOP

The Putnam pumps have had a reputation throughout Western Ontario for many years.

Mr. Peter Putnam started this pump business in 1868.

The pump logs were turned and bored by horse-power. For the first pumps he made, the power was supplied by a team of ponies that were driven by his wife. As a small girl, Mrs. Fred Rowe, of Currie's Crossings, a daughter of these pioneers, (Mr. and Mrs. Putnam), recalls riding on the logs as they were being bored.

Mr. Putnam's son, Thomas, took over the business in 1865. In November, 1905, Tommy sold it to W. Winder and George Simpson. The pump shop until this time had been located on the Putnam farm - now owned by Ronald K. McNeil. With the change in ownership it was necessary to move the business as the farm had been sold to Giles Martin and it was moved to a building west of Lyons corner, owned by Thomas Winder, Wallies' father.

The following year Wallie Winder sold his interest in the business to Charles Putnam, youngest son of the founder. Charlie Putnam and George Simpson operated the business together for a few years and then Charlie bought out George's interest in it and ran it until Autumn of 1915, when he sold it to Ed Brown.

Charlie remained with Mr. Brown for a few months to teach Mr. Brown the business. Enoch Brown, the only son who was working for his father, decided to become a druggist, so Charlie bought the business again in 1917.

After a few years, Lee Putnam, the son of Roland, (Charlie's older brother), went into partnership with Charlie. This continued for a few years and then the partnership was dissolved; Lee going in more extensively for plumbing and keeping up his business, at its present location, in Lyons, and Charlie, the old Putnam pump business which he carried on in St. Thomas.

THE PUTNAM PUMP SHOP

As the years went by Lee's son Bob soon grew old enough to join his father, and the business became L. S. Putnam & Son, Plumbing, Heating & Pump Work.

Bob then took over the business in 1960; that same year his son Stan was born.

When Stan became old enough he started working for his father during summer holidays and weekends. In 1978 he started working full time in the business with Bob.

Bob and Stan enjoy their work, and they are kept very busy.

The business that started five generations ago as the Putnam Pump Shop continues in the Putnam name today, but has branched into L. S. Putnam & Son, Plumbing, Heating, Electrical, Wellwork and Pump Work.



1951



L. S. PUTNAM & SON

1977



Bob Putnam displays his homemade sprayer which was used to spray their fruit trees etc.