

an extra ramp so the vehicles, as they were set up, could go upstairs the front way, and when completed, down the back way. Everything had to be done by hand; it required very efficient workmen. The wood work was also made by hand.

Mr. James Carter, who was associated with Mr. Markle from the start was a No. I carriage maker, but after some time he wanted to branch out for himself. Mr. Wm. Matthews, who was working in the shops, stepped into his place. Mr. Markle was a wonderful blacksmith and, with plenty of helpers, everything went along fine. The tires on the wheels were all set outside, as it required a large fire to heat the whole tire at once. Mr. John Mercer was head painter. He had several men to assist him to do the striping and varnishing to complete an AI job.

Mr. Markle attended the Hogan barn-raising one afternoon and in attempting to ride up the first bent, met with an accident. When it was about half way up, it got away from the men and fell with Mr. Markle trapped in it. He was broken up quite badly, and was partially crippled afterwards.

About this time, the factory-make wagons and carriages were coming on the market. The iron work on these was all done by machinery; the axles turned by machinery; the painting was done by dipping. With Mr. Markle's injury, along with the factory competition, he decided he could not compete. He gradually got out of the new works, letting most of his men go by degrees, and turned his attention to repair work only. He finally retired from the business and rented his buildings for various other purposes. During his busy years he had employed about fifteen men.

The paint shop upstairs was used for a practice room for a

brass band, for a time, then all the upstairs was used for the manufacture of baskets, run by Charles Mistele. The carriage portion was rented to Neil Campbell and others. The blacksmith shop was rented to John Glidden, and others, for many years.

Mr. Markle had only one son, Charles, who had spent years in Seattle, Washington, going there as a very young man. When the Father's health was failing, Charles came home, inherited the property, and soon opened a machine sales business. He carried on this business using a large portion of the lower floor for his show-room and storage for his car. One day the garage door was found partially open, the car engine running, and Charles sitting at the wheel, dead.

Finally the building was sold to James Coleman, who wrecked it and re-built it on his farm. The land was then sold, and to-day Robert S. Kerr has a fine Auto Show Room and garage on the lot.

Written by: Ernest G. Lusty

MR. CHARLES MARTINI, Senior

Mr. Charles Martini, Senior, was born at Petersburg, Waterloo County, June 22, 1856, and died at Rodney May 3, 1948, leaving four of his seven children still in Rodney, and maintaining active interest in all the village affairs, also being strong supporters of the Roman Catholic Church.

At an early age, Charles learned tinsmithing, plumbing and the hardware business in New Hamburg, Ontario. When his apprenticeship was over he came to West Lorne to work for Munroe and Bowsby. In 1876 and 1877 he worked in London and Wardsville respectively.

In November 1882 at Wardsville Roman Catholic Church he married Mary Ann Schnekenburger of Aldborough Township, and two years later they settled in Rodney where Mr. Martini worked for six years for the Porter Hardware Store.

He opened his own store in 1888 where the present Post Office stands. In 1906 fire destroyed his building, and in 1908 after a second fire, he bought the McKay block where he remained until his retirement in 1931.

Charles Martini was a friendly man who took a lively interest in all civic affairs. It was he who made the motion to have Aldborough Old Boys' Association adopt that title. He also liked to tell of the motion he made to have the Rodney School built where it still stands. He was given the task of securing the school bell which he bought from McShane Bell Foundry of Baltimore, Md.

The first street lamps the village had he made by hand in his own shop; also several others for those who could afford to have them erected beside their homes. One of these lamps can be seen at Memorial Park, New Glasgow, among "Aldborough Old Boys' Association" antiques.

Written by: Miss Minnie Martini

GEORGE R. WHITTON - Merchant-Farmer

In 1870, George Whitton, his wife, Jessie Kidd Whitton, and three-year-old son George, arrived at Paris, Ontario, from Dundee, in Scotland.

George senior was an iron moulder, by trade, and found employment with an implement firm, remaining in Paris until the foundry burned six years later. Then the family moved to Fingal where the father was working for Macpherson and Company, makers of threshing machines.

George junior, who started to school in Paris, graduated from Public School in Fingal, aged 15 years. He entered the flourishing general store that was one of the earliest in that district, which had been started by a man named Arkell. After the railroad was built a few miles north of Fingal, this business was moved to Dutton.

George R. was then 18 years old and he became the owner of a Fingal Grocery which he ran successfully for fifteen years. Then he, too, felt he should move closer to the railroad.

In 1901 he had married Elixabeth Cooper, of London, and two years later they bought the business of J.A. Cole, a general merchant at Rodney. This was in the McKay Block (now Walker's Funeral Home, 1953). Three children were born to George and Elizabeth Whitton during the years they lived above the store, namely; William Cooper, Jessie Kidd, and George Ewart.

In 1911 when Mr. Whitton sold out they were doing business where the Vince Block now is. The reason for selling was due to the fact that they had decided to buy acreage and grow good fruit. First class fruit had been difficult to secure owing to insect pest damage, and at that time spraying had not become a popular idea.

They purchased sixty acres of land on the Gore Road (two roads north of Queen Street) and planted fruit trees. A few years proved

that this was poor peach property, and as apples took longer to produce at a profit, George sold all but 25 acres of this fruit farm, and bought a general store in Alvinston, where he remained for twenty-seven years.

During those years he cared for the 25 acres which he had offered at sixteen dollars when moving to Alvinston; but he got no bids.

Now in 1953 these acres have proven to be a profitable venture in popular varieties of apples, as well as an absorbing interest for the owner's later years. To-day can be seen there trees from two to forty years in age.

Mr. Whitton spends his winters in Rodney, and his summers on the farm.

Written by:

RODNEY'S DOCTORS

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1. 1871 - Dr. E.M. Ostrander
 2. 1873 - Dr. James Sylvester Munger
 3. 1874 - Dr. William Brock
 4. 1879 - Dr. D.F. McDonald
 5. 1884 - Dr. Soloman Matthew Dorland
 6. 1890 - Drs. Charles and Hugh McDonald
 7. 1895 - Dr. Hector McLean Paterson
 8. 1926 - Dr. Thomas Ivison Barnby
 9. 1940 - Dr. John G. Whitteker
 10. 1947 - Dr. Harold McCann

DR. E.M OSTRANDER

Dr. Ostrander was the first medical doctor in Rodney, coming in 1871. He lived on the west side of Furnival Street, south of the railroad tracks, on the top of the hill, known in the early days as the Ostrander Hill.

He built the house now occupied by Mrs. E. Winn. Its location is now forward and north of the original location.

Dr. Ostrander lived here for about twenty years.

DR. JAMES SYLVESTER MUNGER

Dr. Munger, son of Isaac and Frances Sherwood Munger, came to Rodney in 1873. He was born at Hampton Ferry, New Brunswick, December 29, 1830. He spent his childhood at Hampton Ferry, and received his early education there, and later learned the cabinet-making trade. As a young man he went to St. John, N.B. and worked at his trade for a time. It was while working there that he met Miss Sarah Ann Smith, who later became his wife. In the meantime his parents moved to Burford Township, Brant County, Ontario, where they settled on a farm. It was while living there, in 1859, he married Miss Smith.

Four children were born to them: two of whom grew to womanhood - Leona, who later married Mont Humphrey, and Lydia, who became Mrs. John Pegg.

Shortly after his marriage Dr. Munger decided on a medical career, and went to Ann Arbor, Michigan to take up his studies. During his stay there, his family sold their farm at Burford, and bought a farm at the corner of Talbot Road and the first side-road above Clearville. (Now No.3 Highway). This was about 1865.

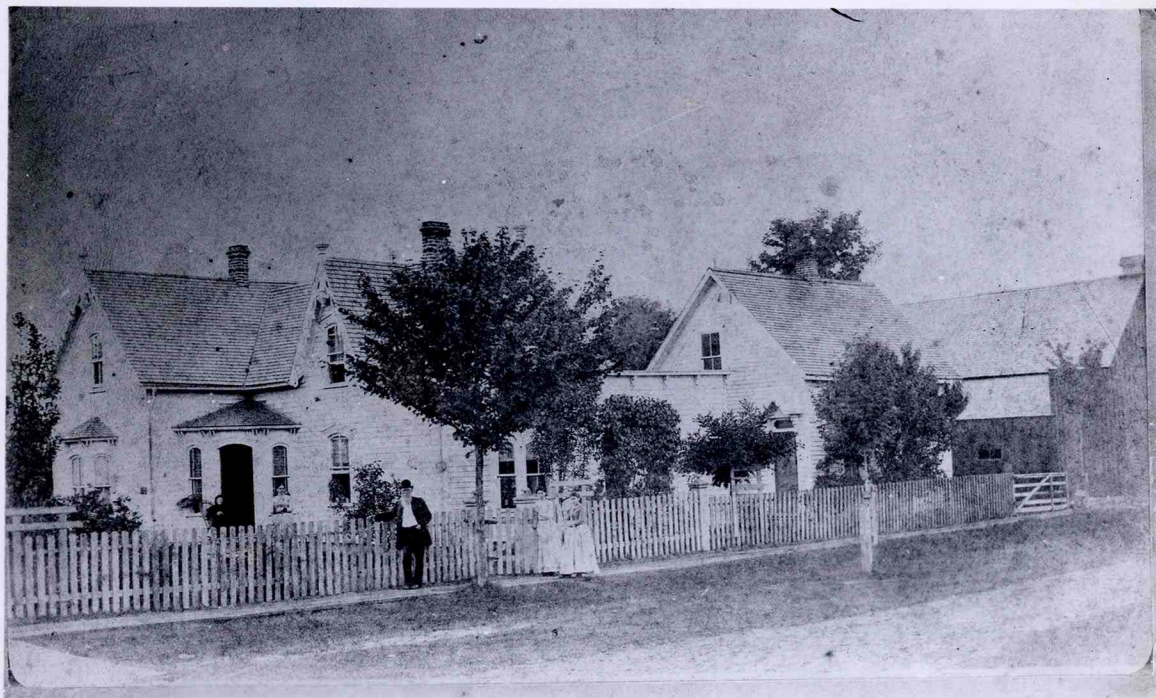
After finishing his medical course, the doctor and his wife and one daughter, Leona, took up residence in Duart, Ontario, then known as Kilmarnock, where he established his first medical practice. His second daughter, Lydia, was born here in 1870.

In 1871, the family moved to New Glasgow where the Dr. practised medicine until about 1873 when he built a home in Rodney, where he moved his family, also his father and mother. In 1891 the doctor put up a building on main street which he used as a drugstore,

Dr. Munger continued

which until recently was owned and occupied by Scott Menzied Gents Furnishings. He engaged a Pharmacist, Ramsey Sinclair, to operate it for him. However, in 1895, he retired from active medical practice, and devoted the rest of his life, until about two weeks before his death, to the Drug business. Dr. Munger died March 14, 1912, and is buried in Rodney Cemetery.

Written by: Gladys Humphrey McLarty, granddaughter



ORIGINAL HOME OF DR. J. S. MUNGER.
RODNEY 1873

DR. MUNGER standing by gate.