

The second Annual Show was held in the Village of Airyville on September 30, 1856. The Show ground was on the south-west corner of the Furnival Road and Talbot Street on John McDougal's farm (rent \$3.00). Now it is the corner of Highways 3 and 77. The Society at this time had one hundred and three members.

1857 A Directors meeting was held in New Glasgow Hall, September 28, 1857 for the purpose of preparing a show bill to advertise the fair. The Fair was to be held on October 29, 1857. This bill contains the total prize list of the show for that year, also advertising the sale of the five Durham bulls at Public Auction on the show grounds.

The Auctioneer was George Hill and he received for his services one pound five shillings. One of the original show bills is in the possession of the Society and is in the Secretary's Office. It is framed and is on exhibition at Rodney Fairs every year. This bill was donated to the Society by John Crowder of Morpeth in Howard Township, who found it being used as padding in the back of an old looking-glass for over fifty years, and is as follows:

Copy of Prize List

Aldborough Agricultural Prize Show

For 1857 will be held at

New Glasgow

on

Thursday, the 29th October

Show to commence at the hour of ten o'clock am. Entries to be made before that hour in the Secretary's Book. A fee of 25 cents will be charged on each entry. The Grains and Vegetables must be of own producing and of this year's growth.

Horses

For the best Stallion	\$2.00
Second best Stallion	1.00
For the best span Draught Horses	2.00
Second best span Draught Horses	1.00
For the best span Carriage Horses	2.00
Second best span Carriage Horses	1.00
For the best Brood Mare	2.00
Second best Brood Mare	1.00
For the best 3-year-old colt or filly	1.00
Second best 3-year-old colt or filly	.50
For the best 2-year-old colt or filly	1.00
Second best 2-year-old colt or filly	.50
For the best 1-year-old colt or filly	1.00
Second best 1-year-old colt or filly	.50

Cattle

For the best aged Bull	\$2.00
Second best aged Bull	1.00
For the best 2-year-old Bull	2.00
Second best 2-year-old Bull	1.00

For the best 1-year-old Bull	\$1.00
Second best 1-year-old Bull	.50
For the best yoke of working Oxen	2.00
Second best yoke of working Oxen	1.00
For the best Milch Cow	2.00
Second best Milch Cow	1.00
For the best 3-year-old Heifer	1.00
Second best 3-year-old Heifer	.50
For the best 2-year-old Heifer	1.00
Second best 2-year-old Heifer	.50
For the best 1-year-old Heifer	1.00
Second best 1-year-old Heifer	.50
For the best pair 4-year-old steers	1.00
Second best pair 4-year-old steers	.50
For the best pair 3-year-old steers	1.00
Second best pair 3-year-old steers	.50
For the best pair 2-year-old steers	1.00
Second best pair 2-year-old steers	.50

Vegetables

For the best half bushel Turnips	1.00
Second best half bushel Turnips	.50
For the best sample of Beets	1.00
Second best sample of Beets	.50
For the best sample of Carrots	1.00
Second best sample of Carrots	.50
For the best peck of Onions	1.00
Second best peck of Onions	.50

Flannels & C

For the best piece of Flannel, five yards or upwards	\$1.00
Second best piece of Flannel, five yards or upwards	.50
For the best plaid	1.00
Second best Plaid	.50
For the best pair of Stockings	1.00
Second best pair of Stockings	.50
For the best pair of Socks	1.00
Second best pair of socks	.50
For the best pair of Mitts	1.00
Second best pair of Mitts	.50

Produce

For the best 10 lbs. or upwards Butter	1.00
Second best 10 lbs. or upwards Butter	.50
For the best 8 lbs. or upwards Cheese	1.00
Second best 8 lbs. or upwards Cheese	.50

Cattle

For the best pair 1-year old steers	1.00
Second best pair 1-year-old Steers	.50
For the best Beef Bullock, 4 years old and upwards	1.00
Second best Beef Bullock, 4 years old and upwards	.50
For the best Beef Cow or Heifer	1.00
Second best Beef Cow or Heifer	.50

Sheep

For the Best Ram	\$1.00
Second best Ram	.50
For the best pen of Lambs	1.00
Second best pen of Lambs	.50
For the best pen of Ewes	1.00
Second best pen of Ewes	.50
For the best Ram Lamb	1.00
Second best Ram Lamb	.50

Hogs

For the best Boar	1.00
Second best Boar	.50
For the best Breeding Sow	1.00
Second best Breeding Sow	.50

Fowls

For the best Turkey Cock	1.00
Second best Turkey Cock	.50
For the best Turkey Hen	1.00
Second best Turkey Hen	.50
For the best Shanghai Cock	1.00
Second best Shanghai Cock	.50
For the best Shanghai Hen	1.00
Second best Shanghai Hen	.50
For the best Common Hen	1.00
Second best Common Hen	.50

Vegetables

For the best bushel Potatoes	1.00
Second best bushel Potatoes	.50

Grains

For the best 1 bushel of Fall Wheat	1.00
Second best 1 bushel of Fall Wheat	.50
For the best bushel of Spring Wheat	1.00
Second best bushel of Spring Wheat	.50
For the best bushel Rye	1.00
Second best bushel Rye	.50
For the best bushel Barley	1.00
Second best bushel Barley	.50
For the best bushel Oats	1.00
Second best bushel Oats	.50
For the best bushel Peas	1.00
Second best bushel Peas	.50
For the best bushel of Corn in the ear	1.00
Second best bushel of Corn in the ear	.50
For the best bushel Beans	1.00
Second best bushel Beans	.50

Fruit

For the best bushel Apples	\$1.00
Second best bushel Apples	.50
For the best bushel Peaches	1.00
Second best bushel Peaches	.50

Persons taking \$1.00 premium will be requested to leave it with the Treasurer for his yearly fee for A.D. 1858.

Notice

There will be on the same day Five Thoroughbred Durham Bulls offered for sale by Public Auction. Terms: Half payable 1st October, 1858 and balance 1st October 1859, with interest. Persons purchasing will be required to give joint approved note.

By order of the Directors.

Findlay Macdiarmid

Secretary and Treasurer.

P.S.-- The Directors are to meet at New Glasgow Hotel on Saturday previous to the Show.

BURKE & TRAVERS

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St. Thomas, Ont.

Owing to the Directors being scattered over the Township and it being mostly thick woods, with very poor roads, the Directors were not very regular in the attendance at the meetings and many times there would be less than a quorum present.

1858 At the Annual meeting being held in the McBride School House on January 14th, 1858, it was moved by George Munroe and seconded by James McKinley and resolved that if John McKillop gets north of Concession 7, within ten members of as many as there will be south, then the business of the Society will be conducted in a central place.

Mr. McKillop must have accomplished his task because on February 9th, 1858, the Directors, all members present, met at the central place which was the Hoskin's Forest Inn. This central meeting place was then named Centreville, and the Directors continued to hold their meetings in this Hotel quite regularly, but would occasionally go back to one of their former meeting places.

1859 On the 16th of January 1859 the Annual meeting of the Society took place at the McBride School House.

1860 On Monday, the 16th of January, they met at the School House in New Glasgow, for the purpose of reading the annual report. This School House was on the first lot south of the New Glasgow Presbyterian Church.

March 1st 1860, at a Directors meeting held in New Glasgow Hall, a resolution was passed offering to donate \$100.00 to Aldborough towards a Township Hall to be erected at New Glasgow, and providing the Society could use the same for Agricultural purposes. Nothing appeared to have come out of this resolution.

At this meeting a resolution was passed that two more bulls be purchased, and they also ordered twelve copies of the Canadian Agriculturist for the benefit of the officers.

Much credit should be due these men in trying to improve their cattle, and also keeping informed by securing such good reading material.

1861 January 6th 1861. Moved by G.J. Coventry, seconded by H.D. Smith that the Electoral Division Society be paid \$7.50 for services rendered the Branch. Carried.

It was moved that the Sec. & Treas. be paid for his services.

1862 Moved by Duncan McColl and seconded by Donald McKillop that we sell Bull Master O Ghant at Public Auction on the 2nd day of May in the Village of Ridgetown.

It was moved by C.A. O'Maley and seconded by George Henry that the Secretary be paid \$25.00 for his services as Secretary.

On May 17th 1862, they held a plowing match on the same farm near the Fair Grounds. There were to be no wheels or guages allowed on the plows. The prizes were as follows: Men's class - \$4.00, \$3.00, \$2.00, \$1.00. The boys' class to be the same.

1863 They held another plowing match on October 23rd 1863 near the same place. Prizes were just the same.

1864 They continued to hold Directors meetings at intervals in the McBride School House, New Glasgow Hall (which by this time had been named "Commercial Hotel"), and the Forest Inn at Centreville, and also held their Annual Show on the same grounds at New Glasgow until 1864.

1865 On January 10th 1865, Centreville had been re-named Rodney and a Post Office opened there. The Fair was then moved to Rodney. The saw-mill being changed for the day into a Crystal Palace where everything was hung up or spread out.

One of the interesting sights, as told by Mrs. Wm. Campbell (then a little girl) was that of a sweet old lady with her spinning wheel, who was none other than Mrs. William Hoskins instructing and showing women how to card wool and spin yarn with her spinning wheel.

Another interesting exhibit, as related by Dugald Shaw, who was a small boy at that time, was a miniature four mast sailing vessel about five feet long with all rigging and sails set. It was expertly made and shown by the maker, Richard Coates, who was Secretary of the Agricultural Society at that time. He was also the Uncle of the Lusty Brothers.

The live stock was shown in the mill yard on the sawdust where there was a small ring made. Wm. Campbell, being a little boy at that time, recalls an amusing incident when a large ox got off the high ground and into a swamp. He was mired and all the men could not induce him to get out. Finally some one came along with a good dog which was ordered to get him out and it did in short order.

The races were run on the Furnival Road opposite the Fair Grounds. As men were sent out one half mile in each direction to halt traffic during the racing, they encountered the resistance of some intoxicated men, and as Dan Munroe, then a child, recalls, it caused a free-for-all fight.

Mr. John McKillop, whose home was on the 1st concession and near Blacks Lane, was instrumental in having the Directors meeting held in this central place. He was President of the first Fair held at Centreville.

1866 In 1866, Mr. Albert Humphrey, who was Mrs. Tough's grandfather, was elected President. The prize money for this year was \$159.00.

1867 This year the prize money amounted to \$169.90.

1868 Before 1860 the Electoral District Society had purchased 5 acres on the south-west corner of Kelly's farm and re-sold it on September 12, 1868, it being unsuitable for their purpose.

1869 On February 27, 1869, the Society wrote to the Canada Company, a land company, to see what they would take for four or five acres of the north-west corner of lot 6, Gore concession, for Agricultural purposes and show grounds.

In the same year the President and Secretary were appointed to wait on the Aldborough Township Council to see what they will do respecting the building of a Hall at Rodney.

During this year the Society purchased four bulls, also a flag and engaged the Wardsville Band to play at their Fair.

1871 They continued to hold their Fair at the saw-mill, which was owned by Stoddard and Stewart until 1871, when they rented a piece of land across the road on Lot 7, and dug out some stumps, built pens, and made a show ring, still continuing to use the mill as a Crystal Palace.

1872 In 1872 the Canada Southern Railroad was built across the Township one and a half miles south of Rodney. The next year the Post Office moved to the Railroad where another village sprang up which was called New Rodney and built a Township Hall with the aid of the Agricultural Society, on two acres of land thus purchased.

1873 It was completed and ready for use in January 1873. With its completion the Society was able to use their property for Fair purposes. This is our present Fair Grounds. By the fall of 1873 the first Fair was held in New Rodney, the former place now being called Old Rodney.

1880 The Society continued to hold their Annual Fairs, and by 1880, having out-grown their grounds, were able to purchase seven-eighths of an acre of land on the east side from Wm. Morris and one acre on the north side from James Patterson, build some pens, remove an orchard, build a poultry and root shed, and enlarge the ring. The gate receipts for this year amounted to \$203.50.

1885 In 1885, the Society erected a Crystal Palace, 40x80x11 ft., posts, and a cupalo top at a cost of \$683.00. O.R.G. Stinson was the contractor. This was built in the east corner of the grounds with the end to the road.

Mr. Hughston of Glencoe offered to lay a good hardwood floor in it if he could secure a lease on the same for a period of years for roller-skating. This contract was entered into and the rink was very largely attended for about seven years. Finally this played out and it was rented each winter for dances and other amusements.

The Fair was to be held that year on the 13th of October with a Concert in the new hall in the evening, but owing to the day being very wet, the Fair and Concert were postponed to the 17th. The Fair and Concert were a grand success as the Auditor's report of January 1886 showed a balance on hand of \$927.00 and 105 paid-up members.