

ship of William Stinson, who started our first shoe shop in Rodney near his own home. Anderson Baker had a log house where Mrs. John McArthur now lives. A house owned by Archie McArthur stood near the railroad on the present property of the Canada Wood Products. Another house, a log house, owned by Jas. McArthur, stood on the west corner of Furnival facing Back Street.

Richard Lusty purchased from his Uncle Coates the south quarter, fifty acres, on Lot 7, the south-west^{NE} corner of Furnival and Queen Streets. A log house was standing on this property which had been built by Donald McLean in the early 1850's. It was on this property that the first Disciple Church was erected and also the first Town Hall and where the Fair Grounds are located. It was in this log house where the first white child, Agnes McLean, was born, in 1850, within the Rodney incorporation as of to-day.

The Richard Lusty log house stood where the Christian Church Parsonage stands to-day, where he and his mother and the Lusty men lived, Albert Street, south of the house being named for his son.

With the advent of the railway many new buildings began to spring up near the railway rather than at Old Rodney or Centreville; This being the birth of New Rodney. In 1871, John Hoskins built a store on the north side of Queen Street at Furnival and secured a license for selling liquor. This place was burned down in 1875. Neil Gray built a large hotel in 1876, and called it the Edinburg Hotel. Part of this building still stands and is used by Charles Gladstone.

After the trains began to operate, the first station Agent was Chas. Brown, who held this position for some time, until he left the railroad, going into the business of buying and shipping horses to Manitoba. The first Station was an old box car. As soon as the mail started coming

over the R.R., the Post Office moved to the railway and carried the name of Rodney with it. This was in 1873, and the postmaster, Albert Humphrey, erected a new Post Office on the corner of Victoria and the Furnival where Walker's Funeral Home now stands, and built a home just south of it, now owned by Roy Ward, and is still occupied by his daughter, under the name of Grace Hairdressing Parlors.

Richard Lusty, who had married Mary Jane, daughter of Janet McTaggart, built a good sized hotel on the north corner of Queen and the Furnival, just east of the Greenock Hotel and ran it for a short time. It was called the Erie House. It was in this Hotel that the first show or concert was put on in Rodney. The performance was a Puppet Show put on by Cyrus Oakes of Orford, who was Grandfather of Mrs. Doug Walker and Mrs. Fred Wallis. The Erie House was taken over by John Livingstone in 1874, and was run by him for about ten years, when he sold it to the W.C. Smith family. The Smiths ran it until January 11, 1893, when it was burned. Mrs. Smith with her son Ed rebuilt the present one and named it the New Erie Hotel, now the Thomas Apartments.

In 1873, N.S. Lusty moved his house from Old Rodney to New Rodney, locating it on the lot where the Keutch brick house is, (block 99 Lot 1, corner of Albert Street and the Furnival) and built an addition to it. It was in this house the writer, E.G. Lusty, was born July 12, 1874. All of the family older than I were born in a log house at Old Rodney. The house was burned January 9, 1912. It was the first house built on the fifty acre square bounded by the Furnival and Queen Street, on the west corner.

J.H. Barnes built a large hotel in 1873 on the north corner of Victoria and the Furnival; he called it the Canadian House, and ran it for a few years and then sold to William Somerville. The place was burned on November 4th, 1887. Mr. Barnes also built Union Hotel on the west side of Furnival at the Railroad tracks and ran it for some time.

THE FAIR GROUNDS

Before 1858, the Township Council was meeting at Airey (New Glasgow) at the New Glasgow Hotel. The Agricultural Society tried to persuade the Council to build a Township Hall at New Glasgow and offered to donate \$100. towards its erection. In 1869, both the Council and the Society were holding their meetings at the Forest Inn, and the Society tried to persuade the Council to build a Township Hall at Old Rodney, but their efforts were of no avail. Then the Society tried to purchase Fair Grounds at the corner of the Gore Concession and the Furnival. In March 1872, the Council received a letter from Judge Hughes asking them to build a Hall in New Rodney where he could hold Court, and immediate action was taken. They purchased two acres of land from Richard Lusty for \$200. and on July 16th 1872, a contract for a new Hall was given to Dan McLaren to be completed before November 1st of the same year. The council met in the new Hall on December 23rd, 1872, to pass the jobs, but adjourned to transact their business in the Forest Inn. The first business meeting of the Council in the new Hall was held January 10, 1873. It was left to the Reeve, Colonel C.A. O'Malley, to purchase the big armchairs and to N.S. Lusty to erect the seats.

The Agricultural Society followed the Council to New Rodney and used the two acres for their Fair Grounds, with the New Township Hall as the Crystal Palace. The Society is still holding fairs on the same, but much enlarged, grounds.

The Township Hall was used for many purposes, for several years. It served as the first school and the place for the first Church Services, as well as for concerts, dances, tea-meetings, lodges, etc. By 1875, New Rodney was growing very fast, a very flourishing village with four hotels serving liquor, but not a Church.

PRESS COMMENT, March 5, 1875

(An item in the St. Thomas Home Journal from our Rodney correspondent reads:)

"Building will be pretty brisk when Spring opens, there being not less than a dozen new buildings talked of. Among those to be erected are two or three Churches and a Masonic Hall. We then need not blush to say that we have four hotels and not one Church, to counteract their naturally demoralizing effect. Subscriptions are being extensively circulated in aid of the churches. When a lady with a long piece of paper goes into a store where a knot of men are engaged in discussing the politics or the weather of the day, that store is evacuated instanter. Notwithstanding all this they are meeting with reasonable success, and enough is already subscribed to make it a certainty. The Evergreen Temple of the I.O.G.T. are doing well. Not a meeting passes without one or more of the "Everdry Order" being convinced.

"Socially the Rodneyites are fully up to the mark. Sufficient evidence of this fact was given on Friday evening, 19th ult., by the young men of the village who gave a Bachelor's Ball that would have done credit to a much older and larger place. Too much praise cannot be given to the Committee who used every means at their command to make a success of it. The Town Hall where the party tripped the light fantastic was transformed from a comfortable but plain room into a gallery of art. The music was furnished by Hindmarsh and gave universal satisfaction. The Prof. has got a strong team now. The supper was prepared and served by mine Host of the Erie House, John Livingstone, and right well he did it. The dancing portion of the party enjoyed themselves to their entire satisfaction. They had quantity, quality, and variety and never have I seen a more sociable or happier party assembled in town, hamlet, or country, with such men as the Morris Bros., The Fredericks, Kennedys, Coates, and Dr. Brook on the committee, and with R.T. Green as manager, how could it be otherwise? So far

Rodney is ahead."

In 1875, The Disciple or Christian Church was built on the property of Wilfred Franks, on Ridout Street. The building was moved years afterwards to Main Street and is now occupied by Bert Lashbrook as an egg-grading station. The Methodist Church was built in 1877, but was taken over by the Christian Church in 1919. The Presbyterian Church was built in 1877; the Baptist in 1879; the Evangelical in 1898; and the United in 1926.

FAREWELL TO CENTREVILLE

About 1878, the Gouleys built a large saw and stave mill and an adjoining grist mill on Queen Street, opposite the north end of Sanford Street. In the early 80's the Gouleys traded these mills to McLaren and McArthur for the mill at Centreville or Old Rodney. The Gouleys then tore down their newly-acquired mill and moved it over on Lake Huron. The closing down of this mill was the last straw for Old Rodney. The McLaren boarding house was sold and moved away. William Hoskins and his wife had died and the Forest Inn was town down. The Rodney House was moved to New Rodney and placed on the north corner of Centre Street and the Furnival Road to serve as an Apartment House. This building was later purchased by Stewart Patterson and moved to the east side of the Furnival opposite Harper Street. It is still in use, a machine shop below and a dwelling above, owned by D.A. Scott and Son. The kitchen of this old hotel was left on the original site, and was used as a dwelling by Mrs. Anderson Baker, who later married Ben Coville. It was in this house that the unsolved Eliza Lowry murder was committed in 1905. After the murder the house was sold to Major Robinson and moved about one mile west of the Furnival on Concession 6.

As all parcels of land became vacant at Old Rodney, N.S. Lusty, the father of the writer, bought the lots until he and his wife, my mother, owned the whole fifty acres, later selling them to F.A. McCallum. Thus in

a period of fifty years the hamlet of Centreville or Old Rodney had flourished, then disappeared, as all the buildings had either burned or been torn down or moved away. Not one house was left as all business had moved towards the railroad at New Rodney.

Carpenter's store was moved to New Rodney opposite the Printing Office and purchased by S.B. and William Morris who had just arrived in Rodney, about 1874, and opened a General Store with a liquor licence. They, after running this store for many years dissolved partnership; S.B. went into the grain and lumber business and opened a private bank. He built an office and dwelling at the corner of the Furnival and Clark Street, and carried on a successful business for about fifty years. The Morris Block is now the Odd Fellows Hall, built in 1884. William Morris continued on in the general store business, his sign was a large metal sheaf of grain, painted golden colour and hanging out in front. There was a motto on both sides--"Trade at the Golden Sheaf. It will pay."

EARLY BUSINESS IN NEW RODNEY

Julius Krause kept a General and Hardware Store. H.P. Moore moved from Wardsville and built a Drug Store, sold out later to Dr. D.F. McDonald in 1879 (where Lloyd Garton's store is now). Michael Rothermael and Ed Allis kept a General Store, taking J.J. Mistele in with them, and later sold out to J.J. Mistele and Co. in 1875, who carried on the business until he died. E.J. Schmid, Jeweller, arrived in 1875 and carried on business until his death, when his nephew, Joseph E. Schmid, took over the business.

D.G. McArthur, cheese-maker, built a cheese factory on Jane Street near the railroad, later sold to Wm. Johnston. James Campbell had a tombstone shop on the north side of Victoria Street.

On May 11, 1883, Rodney's first Newspaper was issued, owned by

J.H. Aldridge and called "The Rodney Chronicle", a copy of the last issue of this paper, dated February 6, 1885, is in the possession of the writer.

About the year 1899, S.B. Morris decided that he wanted a cement side-walk to replace the wooden one in front of his property on Clark Street. He contributed freely himself and got the neighbours on the street to assist and thus was instrumental in securing for Rodney its first permanent sidewalk.

About 1890, Mr. S.B. Morris, who was living across the road from the wood storage yard, of the railroad, through his influence with the M.C.R.R., persuaded the railway company to clean up this plot north of the tracks and on the south side of Clark Street and set it aside for a park. The foundation money to transfer this property for a park was provided by Rodney sponsoring an excursion to the World's Fair at Chicago in 1893, and in 1900, this ground was made into a park where the trees were planted.

T.W. Kirkpatrick moved from New Glasgow, built a large general store on the Furnival opposite Munro Street, and later sold to Kerby and Purcell. Kirkpatrick then opened a Private Bank in the shop now run by Bert Fairles.

John Campbell with Dan and Alex McCallum built the Sash and Door Factory. Before the building was completed, Dan came in contact with a saw and lost most of the fingers of one hand. The factory was then sold to Archie Mitchell and Henry Mistele about 1886. Mistele died in 1892 and Duncan Graham bought his share. Archie Mitchell and Duncan Graham carried on this factory and building contracting business for years. The sash and door factory is now the Beaver Lumber Co.

Dick Sands started a barrel factory on Queen Street east of the creek. Apple, bean and sugar barrels were made there. Sands