

A History of Centreville 1829 to 1931

BY CLARK A. McBRIDE

CHAPTER FIVE

HOTELS, MILLS, SHOPS AND
INDUSTRIES

Before attempting to give an incomplete account of the large and varied industries in Centreville during the past 75 years, the writer craves the indulgence of the reading public for the somewhat scant and hasty sketches herewith presented, of mills, factories, workshops, etc. Some injustice may be done, or omissions occur in giving this partial survey, and many cases exact dates are not obtainable. Any typographical errors made in these chapters will be corrected when this history is completed and published in book form.

The first hotel in Centreville was built about 1845, and kept by Mr. George Wheeler, on the corner where Mr. R. W. Balloch's general store was located. Mr. Thomas Margison had a tin shop in the same building in the rear.

About 1862 Mr. John D. Baird built a hotel, the carpenter work being done by Mr. Nathaniel Gregg. Mr. Baird carried on an extensive lumbering business with saw mills at the Boundary Line, Bridgewater and Masardis. At that time the Boundary Line was called Baird's Mills. In 1861, Carleton County had 6 steam saw mills, 27 water grist saw mills, 20 water power grist mills, 3 oat mills, 10 manual tanneries.

In 1866 Mr. John Owens and Mr. Moses Cluff took over the house known as the Wheeler stand and were fitting and preparing it for a "House of Entertainment".

In December 1865 the new Hall erected by John D. Baird was opened to the public by a concert under the direction of Prof. J. W. Cupples.

On March 26, 1866, the Baird hotel was taken over by Mr. David Gray, as proprietor, and was called the "International House". Mr. Gray sold the furniture and good will of the business of the International Hotel to Mr. David Burt, June 25, 1868.

On August 14, 1867, we read that John D. Baird advertised to rent for a term of years, the commodious new Baird's store, connected with the International Hotel and Hall, Centreville, situated in a thickly settled grain growing country.

In February 1877 an express passenger conveyance was established between the Centreville Hotel and Woodstock, by Mr. Isaac Tracey. In 1878 this hotel was known as the "Commercial House," with Mr. Lorenzo D. Kennedy, of Jacksonville as manager. In 1893, Mr. John Price of Woodstock takes over Burnham's Livery stable, opposite Rev. J. E. Flewelling's. In September, 1898, Mr. Charles Wilkinson has hung out his sign, "Livery Stable," with three horses to start with.

Mr. S. W. Burt kept the Exchange Hotel for a good many years. It was burned in the fire of September, 1914. Mr. Dickinson of Woodstock took charge of the Centreville Hotel in 1915. In 1921 it was purchased by Mr. Leander L. Kennedy. From 1926 to 1927, it was under the management of Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Martin of Newcastle. Mr. Kennedy assumed the management March 16, 1927, and it has since been known as the "Kennedy House", the transient public are always assured of cordial and generous treatment as guests, at this house.

In March 1922, Mr. Burt Hawkins opened a new restaurant and quick lunch on Main St., where he demonstrated his abilities as chef in the cooking of some very palatable and appetizing dishes and pastries.

The Misses Damey and Faye Burt cater to the traveling public at "Burt's Inn", where the cuisine is all that could be desired, and where transients are assured of quiet, comfortable and commodious quarters and home-like surroundings.

The first grist mill in Centreville was built by Mr. Dennis Getchell about 1880. Mr. C. M. Sherwood bought this mill February 4, 1904, and had it re-modelled, and began business November 16, 1904. The following are the names of the millers who have been employed since, all natives of Ontario: William Manders, 1904-1905, Mr. Pryne, 1905-1907, Mr. Sinclair, 1907-1913, C. H. Sullivan, 1913-1931. This is called the Centreville Roller Mill, and is a four story building, 35 by 50 feet, steel covering, operated by turbine water wheel, 80 H. P., burns buckwheat hulls, has never burned a cord of wood, has 5 1-2 double shafts, 9 by 24 for grinding wheat, and two for grinding buckwheat: has a capacity of grinding 200 bushels of mixed feed in the "chopper", during a 10 hour day.

Here teams arrive daily in the busy season from all directions within a radius of 15 or 20 miles. Mr. John Owens, father of John Owens of Royalton had a shingle mill near F. G. Burt's tannery.

In 1887 George Smith and Henry Smith of Jacksonville, were rebuilding the steam saw mill, near Getchell's mill.

In 1888, John G. Simonson had a saw mill running part time. In 1889 James N. Sloat and Charles White had a cheese factory at Tracey Mills. In Feb. 1897, J. G. Simonson hoped to have his fine new saw mill running shortly. Mr. Simonson died Nov. 4, 1899, aged 42 years. On June 17, 1898, the grist mill of Zebedee Sloat and saw mill of Sloat and Miller at Tracey Mills, were burned with a loss of \$8,000. These mill had been standing over 60 years.

Mr. C. M. Sherwood operated a saw mill from 1907 to 1909, sawing shingles and long lumber. About 1905 the last big drive of logs passed down the Presque Isle stream, consisting of about one million feet of lumber. In Feb. 1915, Mr. C. M. Sherwood was grinding a carload of No. 1, Manitoba hard wheat and placing the flour on sale in his store.

About 1878, Mr. Alfred J. Lee moved from Florenceville where he been engaged in the tailoring business with his father, Mr. John Lee,

and erected a dwelling house in Centreville. For a number of years rented shops for his business, and about 1885, he built a tailor shop of his own and continued in the business until about 1925, when failing health compelled him to relinquish his work to a large extent although he did some light and easy jobs for some time afterwards. In 1893, he had a staff of 7 girls employed. He also kept a stock of ready made clothing and cloths. A careful, courteous and efficient workman, he is greatly missed, when the infirmities of age have obliged him to give up his life work. In 1896, Mr. Charles Olmstead, now located at Perth, carried on a tailoring business in Centreville.

About 1889, Miss Jennie Henderson, afterwards Mrs. Charles Long, was one of our popular dressmakers and kept a staff of about 5 girls employed. In 1898, Miss Helen West was engaged in the same vocation. For about 35 years Miss Bertie West, and for about 30 years, Mrs. Bessie W. Campbell have been our efficient dressmakers and tailoresses, a record of long and faithful service. About 1891, Mrs. Guildford Perkins kept a millinery shop. In 1893, Mrs. W. L. Thafford had a millinery shop next to E. L. West's. In 1898, Miss Lottie E. Fitzgerald carried a full stock of millinery and had a first class milliner to assist her. About 1910, Miss Annie Anderson of P. E. I., was engaged as manager of the millinery department of C. M. Sherwood, Ltd., and has continued in the employ of this company ever since, where she has given careful attention to the needs of all customers desiring furnishings and fitting in this department. Mrs. C. M. Sherwood, also was milliner for a number of years in connection with this store.

The first harness shop in Centreville was kept by Mr. Johnson G. Emery. The following is his advertisement appearing in the Carleton Sentinel and dated September 1, 1866:—

"The subscriber begs leave to call the attention of the public to his large stock of Harness, which he keeps constantly on hand, consisting of Single Harness of all kinds and description, from \$16 to 40, and also his heavy Team Harness and Collars. Most of these Harnesses are made of the best of Oak Leather, and are warranted to give good satisfaction, and will be sold cheap for cash. Shingles and Oats, at his shop formerly occupied by Mr. John Raymond in Centreville."

In April 1875, Mr. Fred G. Burt informs the public that he has employed a first class workman, and will continue the Harness-making Business, where persons can be suited to either Heavy or Light Team or Driving Harness, Collars, etc., on reasonable terms and cheap for cash. In 1887, Mr. Charles Cliff starts a barber shop in connection with his harness shop.

In 1898, F. G. Burt was showing a fine assortment of harness. From 1900 to 1915, Mr. Freeland McKenzie conducted a harness shop, where Mr. C. Caines' barber shop is now located. Mr. McKenzie's shop was destroyed in the fire of April 27, 1926.

In 1862, Charles E. Parent carried on an extensive business making waggons, sleds, etc. He built a carriage shop. Mr. Charles Wilkinson worked for him a while. Mr. Samuel McKee made furniture, chairs, tables, etc., at this time. In September 1876, Mr. Parent had put up a large building, containing blacksmith, carriage and furniture shops. The blacksmith shop was run by Mr. Edward

A. Hoyt, the carriage by Mr. Parent, and the furniture by Mr. Belyea. Mr. Thomas Reid made and repaired carriages over C. A. West's shop. A. C. Gibson and Haddon S. Burt were manufacturing good leather. Ludlow B. Clark and W. J. Webb were making it into boots and shoes.

Charles Wilkinson began business in Centreville in 1879 and continued until 1928. He carried on general repair work and the manufacture of waggons sleds, etc. In 1888 F. G. Burt built a new and larger harness shop. S. A. McKenzie bought S. W. Burt's shop and built carriages and did painting for about 15 years. Hiram J. Clark had a repair shop built about 1889, built a new one in 1893 and continued in business about 30 years. Mr. Clark was also a Justice of the Peace for many years. He died March 13, 1894. Since his death the repair work has been carried on by his son, Leland L. Clark.

About 1870, Mr. Fred G. Burt built a tannery on the bank of the Presque Isle stream, near the bridge and a large business was carried on here for about 35 years. Haddon Burt was associated with him in the business. A. C. Gibson worked in this tannery several years. They shipped their leather raw. They manufactured the leather they used in their harness shop. After the fire in 1893, S. W. Burt built a carriage factory near the old one and F. G. Burt built a large harness shop and show room.

The first blacksmith in Centreville was Mr. Andrew Scott, who had a shop near where Leland Clark lives now. He began work 1855. Mr. Moses Cluff was another of the early blacksmiths.

Mr. Charles A. West, who learned his trade in Woodstock with Mr. Parent, built his dwelling house in Centreville about 1856, shortly afterwards building his blacksmith shop on the south side of his lot next to Joel Perkins. He bought the lot where the shop now stands, from Mr. Weyman Shaw, March 8, 1871.

Mr. Anslow Miller carried on blacksmith work for about 20 years, from about 1875 to 1895.

Mr. William Higgins did blacksmith work for a good many years, associated in business with Mr. S. W. Burt. His shop was burned in the fire of 1893. Mr. Edward L. West began work as an apprentice, in his father's shop when 15 years old, and worked in the same shop 56 years, until 1930, when Mr. F. J. Stallard came from Nova Scotia and took over his business. Among the different helpers and apprentices who were employed by Mr. West in his shop, during his long and faithful service to the public, were Percy Pasche, William Pritchard, Fenwick Fowler, Murchie Stewart, Joel Valley, Wellington Pickles and Hewlett Smith.

Mr. Amos Downey began the blacksmith business in Centreville, April 1, 1895, buying the Orslow Miller shop. Mr. Downey came from Minudie, Cumberland Co., Nova Scotia, November 30, 1894. He is still engaged in the same business after a long and efficient service of 36 years.

Mr. Andrew Carr had a shop for about 10 years, from 1900 to 1910, near the C. N. R. crossing. Mr. Edmund A. Hoyt moved from Kansas City to Centreville and conducted a blacksmith shop for about 20 years between his house and Mrs. J. E. Alexander's. Mr. Hoyt died June 21, 1922. Amos A. Campbell had a shop 3 or 4 years, from about 1882 to 1895, where Leland Clark's shop is now.

Mr. Alexander C. Gibson supplied the needs of all the surrounding districts and did the necessary repairs in tin work at his shop for about 30 years, from about 1895 to 1925, when failing health compelled him to give up his work, his son, Fred A. Gibson took over the business, and carried it on until early in 1931, when he was appointed assistant Collector of Customs at Centreville.

In 1888 Mr. John W. Adams had a shop on Mechanic St., dealing in caskets, coffins and picture frames. For some years previous to his death in 1911, Mr. John E. Alexander carried on an undertaking business and since 1911, Mrs. J. E. Alexander has conducted the business. During the past few years, Mrs. Alexander has had Mr. Howard Adams, of Hartland, engaged as undertaker.

In 1887, Mr. Charles Cliff started a barber business ever since, or 44 years of continuous service, which we think is quite a record in this particular trade.

Fred Pond, barber, died very suddenly, on Monday, June 8, 1914. He had been engaged in his business until a late hour on Saturday evening. On Sunday morning he was stricken with spinal meningitis, and died early Monday morning. Harry E. Hagerman, of Hartland, came to take his place and continued in the business until his death, September 12, 1921.

In 1924, Mason C. Caines and Vaughan Sloat began the barber business in the F. K. P. McKenzie building, which was destroyed in the fire of April 27, 1926. Mr. Caines erected a new shop on the site of the old building, and Mr. Sloat opened a shop on Main street, where they continue to cater to the tonorial needs of all and sundry, male and female.

(Continued on Page Seven)

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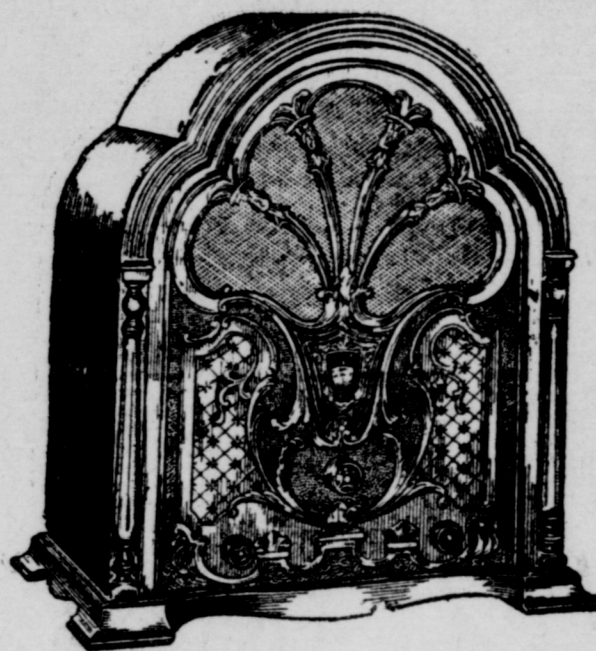
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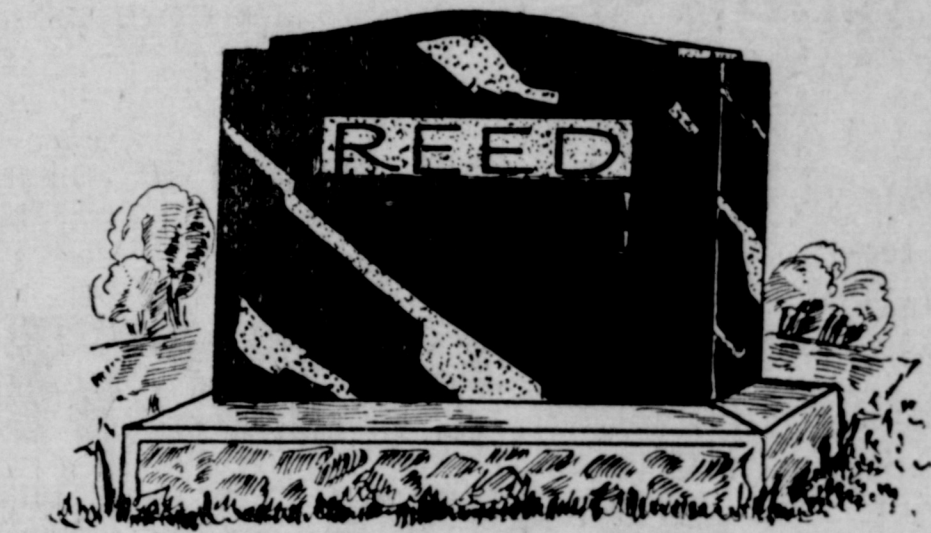
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