

Harvey Business Firms Go Back For Eighty Years

Year 1857 Saw Establishment of Woollen Mills of Briggs and Little—Since That Time Mercantile and Manufacturing Enterprises Have Appeared In Steady Succession—Qualities Which Produce Success Observable.

Harvey Station, N. B., July 15.—An integral part of the growth and development of Harvey and district has been the rise of the various business firms which have from time to time come into existence. Famed for its Jerseys and its cream and butter, Harvey is not a community of one industry. During the last century many firms have sprung up and, built on the foundation of tenacity and thrift inculcated into the people from their forefathers, have come down through the years growing as the community grew.

Briggs & Little.

1857—This year saw the founding of the woollen manufacturing firm which now operates under the name of "Briggs & Little Woollen Mills."

About the year 1857, George Lister, built the first woollen mill in York Mills. Mr. Lister also built a sawmill and a gristmill.

The woollen business was established, under Mr. Lister's management, as a cloth mill. He later sold the business to John Taylor. Mr. Taylor continued for several years. James Skene later rented the business, and ran it for several years, but finally sold it to T. R. Jones, Saint John. T. R. Jones later sold out to an English firm, Moore & Robinson, and it was during this regime that the original factory was burned.

A few years later Alexander Little built the present mill and he and his son, Roy Little, continued for a time. Roy Little later took over the business and established the present system of making yarn only. He sold out to Matthew Briggs and H. M. Little, who managed the business until in November, 1934, Mr. Briggs succumbed to a heart attack. Mr. Briggs' son, Russell, took his father's position in the office and the business continued under the name of Briggs & Little.

W. W. E. Smith.

1869—In this year the firm of W. W. E. Smith, general merchants, came into being. The store in the valley near the station was opened by Mr. and Mrs. Smith shortly after their marriage in that year. Since then it has carried on a continuous business, supplying the needs of the community in the line of general supplies. Groceries, clothing, hardware, and all of the other lines of material usually found in a general store were handled.

On the death of her husband, Mrs. Smith carried on the business. Today, at the age of 87, the nearest living descendant of the original colonists, she is still active in her establishment ~~energizing the work and some-~~
Farmers' Trading Company.

1892—In this year the Harvey Farmers' Trading Company was brought into being, with the object of supplying the farmers of the Little Settlement district with groceries, farm supplies and household goods at moderate prices. The store received its charter under the "New Brunswick Joint Stock Companies Act," and is the only Farmers' Trading Company in the province to-day operating under that early statute.

The purpose of the company is to enable the farmers to purchase their supplies in large quantities and share in the reduction thus gained. Goods are sold as close to cost price as is possible, allowing for the maintenance of the store. This co-operative effort, has been of great value to residents of the district and has had much to do with their progress since its inception.

Murray Brothers.

1912—This year witnessed the coming of the Murray Brothers' business to the Harvey district. First established in York Mills in 1912, a lumber-mill was operated there until destroyed by fire in 1918. Almost immediately afterward lumber-mill and grist mills were built in Harvey and a lumber-mill in Tweedside. Since 1920 the Murray Brothers' business has operated continuously.

All kinds of dimension lumber are manufactured by the firm, most of the stock being hauled in by trucks during the summer by farmers of the district. When the lumber manufacturing season is drawing to a close the workers are transferred to the work in the excelsior factory and grist-mill which then begins operations.

1913—Robinson House was founded to give Harvey an up-to-date hotel. The original building was destroyed by fire, but a smaller building was erected with modern equipment on the hill overlooking the railroad and the hotel business was continued.

Davis' Store.

1916—Saw the opening of the Dallas Davis general store in the village of Harvey Station. The store has operated continuously since that time and has aided meeting the needs of the community for groceries and household supplies. Other goods carried include building equipment, farm supplies, paints and most lines essential to the welfare of a farming community.

Swan's Garage.

1916—In this year Swan Brothers opened a garage at Harvey to meet the needs of automobile drivers. Although the automobile business was in its infancy at this time, a good volume of business was enjoyed by the firm. This business has increased steadily during years as the reputation of the firm gained prestige and to-day an up-to-date service for all the motorists' needs is provided at the garage in Harvey Station.

G. Wesley Coburn.

1877—This year saw the founding of the firm which now bears the name of G. Wesley Coburn. At that time James Coburn, brother of G. Wesley Coburn, acquired the store from its former owners. The building had been erected and a business in groceries, dry goods and general supplies, had been carried on by its founder, John Piercy, for a number of years before Mr. Coburn took control. Frequent changes in ownership occurred with Mr. Coburn taking over in 1877. In 1890 he passed the establishment over to his son, G. Wesley Coburn, and since that date the firm has been under the one management.

G. Wesley Coburn and Sons carry on an extensive trade in farm and household supplies. One of the most important lines of goods carried is the Murphy Company, Montreal, products, which include a complete assortment of house paint, varnishes, Narvo enamels and floor enamels.

Jersey Breeders' Club.

1922—Saw the formation of the Harvey Jersey Breeders' Club. The work of this body in the promotion of scientific dairying has gained renown throughout the Dominion and its efforts have been of paramount importance in establishing the prosperity of the community.

Craig's Garage.

1924—Realizing the need for up-to-date service for motorists in the district, T. Kay Craig established a garage about four miles from Harvey Station. Beginning with a small trade, Mr. Craig's business has increased steadily. To-day he has a large trade and operates a repair-shop that is equipped with the most modern appliances.

Of special interest is the fact that Mr. Craig's garage is situated on the plot of land drawn by his grandfather in 1837. Three generations of the family have lived and worked on this same land.

Yarmouth Ice Cream Co.

1933—In this year the Yarmouth Ice Cream Company, Yarmouth, N. S., finding that its supply of high quality cream was short, canvassed the Harvey district in search of new sources. The result was that large quantities of Harvey cream has been shipped from the district since then, and last year a gathering station was built in the community where cream could be weighed, samples taken and other business carried on.

Harvey Creamery.

1934—In October of this year the Harvey Creamery was erected by McLean and Sons of Nova Scotia. Starting with a modest plant it was quickly seen that demand for the high grade butter made from Harvey cream was going soon to exceed the supply. Despite increases in equipment and the size of the plant, the situation took place and Harvey Creamery butter has established a province-wide reputation for itself.

Watkins Products.

1936—Last year James Walter Harrison, agent for Watkins Fly Products, moved to the Harvey district and quickly found that he had gained a decided vantage point for sale of his wares. Watkins' products sold themselves to the Harvey farmers, where the protection of the valuable herds from insect pests and vermin was of prime importance. The high quality of Watkins products has made them very popular in the district.

T. W. Coburn and Sons.

Supplying the general needs of the district for farm machinery, radios, Ford automobiles, washing machines, fire and life insurance, T. Wilbert Coburn and Sons, selling agents, of Harvey, have established an enviable reputation in the district for handling goods of high quality and economical price. An extensive business is carried on by this firm.

Wallace MacMonnies.

1934—In this year Wallace MacMonnies of Madison, New Jersey, first began buying cattle from the Harvey district for shipment to various parts of the United States. Acting through his agents, Howard Robinson and Sons, Mr. MacMonnies has purchased upwards of 400 head of cattle in the province since that time, providing a valuable source of revenue to cattle-breeders. Mr. MacMonnies specializes in high grade Jerseys particularly pure-bred. Although market conditions have caused shipments to cease for the time

being, it is expected that they will be renewed in the very near future.

Kent and Company.

Aiding in the development of the Harvey district, Kent and Company have proved very popular in the area in supplying the farms with water. Mr. Kent's well-digging machines have been patronized extensively in the district and have always given satisfaction. The providing of adequate water supplies has been of paramount importance to the various industries of the locality.

Ford Messer.

Ford Messer, Harvey resident, has carried on an important business during the last few years in imported draft and general purpose horses.

Mr. Messer's Harvey home is situated on one of the original lots of land drawn in 1837 by the original settlers. Mr. Messer is a direct descendant of the first colonists.

E. M. Young.

Among outside business firms which have had much to do with the supplying of Harvey needs is E. M. Young's of Fredericton. Among other products handled by this firm, Frost fences have proved very popular in the district and are used extensively on the farms.

Royal Bank.

Managers and officials of the Royal Bank of Canada branch at Harvey have taken a keen interest in the future of the community and have contributed largely to its success. A large business is conducted by the Harvey branch of the bank.

Ganong's Ltd.

Ganong's Limited have carried on a good business in Harvey from their headquarters in St. Stephen. The firm manufactures chocolates and other confectionery of high quality which are highly favored in the district.

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