

EARLY HISTORY OF GLASGOW STATION

In 1891, J.R. Booth, a lumber king, and Canadian Atlantic Railway stockholder funded The Ottawa, Arnprior & Renfrew Railway to the area. In 1894 it was extended through McNab Township as far as Goshen. A Station was established at New Glasgow, which was later changed to Glasgow Station and the Village grew up around the hub. The station, with all the passenger comforts, had holding pens for animals to be shipped by rail for sale out of the township. People used the train for transportation to town and the mail came daily to the post office. The original station was destroyed by fire in 1945 and was replaced. The last passenger train was in 1963 and the line was closed in 1990. When the pipeline went through here in the 1980's all the pipe was shipped here for transport to the worksite.

The village grew up around the train station, a number of the buildings were moved by horse and sleigh from Lundy's Corners, which is "just up the road" at the current corners of Calabogie Rd, Stewartville Rd and Anderson Rd., one of them is the house where we have resided for 53 years. The logs of the house were numbered, disassembled, placed on sloops and transported to the current site and reassembled. The single schoolmasters were boarded at our house for many years.

The school, S.S. # 13 was first erected at Lundy's Corners in 1868, which was across from the Temperance Hall, which was used for various community meetings. In 1893, there were 52 students. In 1906, a new school was built in Glasgow and remained open until the McNab Public School was completed in 1967, combining all the small one room schools in the district. S.S. #13 was sold and currently is a private residence.

2.

The Post Office too, was originally at Lundy's Corners. The mail was brought from Arnprior, 3 times a week by horse. Later, the Post Office was moved to the home of Robert Cherry and brought by train daily for distribution by horse and cart or sleigh, depending on the weather, starting in 1941. In the Glasgow Women's Institute Tweedsmuir History, there is a picture in front of our house, of Carswell Simpson starting out on his daily rural rounds by horse and sleigh. You could set your watch by "Caddy" and his horse or car. His delivery schedule never varied, regardless.

In the 1880's, Andrew Young built a home and Blacksmith shop at the foot of the hill. A grist mill was built and operated beside the current Glasgow United Church by Leonard Laventure. In 1948 it was moved to the CNR right of way and by 1956, the mill had closed and the property bought by David Craig and Son Ltd. of Arnprior and operated as a feed mill for many years.

The General Store, which was half way up the hill, was built by Angus McInnes in 1916. It was purchased in 1922 by my grandfather, Alex Stewart and with my grandmother, Myrtle, operated a general merchandise establishment for 40 years. Originally, there was a sizable outcropping of rock in the middle of the road. You went up the road on one side and down on the opposite. I can remember as a young girl, watching from the window of grandpa's house, when they dynamited the rock to make the road straight. A spectacular sight!

3.

Industry in the area was mainly farming. To support that, there were several Sawmills, the first being in 1885-86, built on the Dochart Creek, owned by William Miller on the farm owned by Andrew Hamilton Sr., and which still is in the Hamilton family. Cedar and pine were the main logs sawn and they also produced shingles.

Weaving was done by Mrs. Andrew Hamilton, Mrs. John H. Young and Robert Carswell, who all owned looms. They produced heavy woolen cloth, blankets and carpets.

In 1901, the dairy farmers formed a co-operative and built a cheese factory on Peter McIntosh's property, which is where our new overpass is now. The factory was moved to Goshen in later years but the cheesemaster's house remained until recent memory. My mother was born in that house in 1925.

In 1910, technology invaded the township and the rural telephone was born. The switchboard was in a private home, over at Lochwinnoch and I remember Mrs. Gladys Kewley who ran the switchboard. The party line was the best place to get the local gossip, with anywhere up to 15 people on one line, but it was the best fire system going. One long ring and everyone knew there was a fire and jumped on to find out where and head out to help. Our number was 15 ring 5, which meant when you heard 5 rings, you got to answer and the community gossips got to listen in.

4.

The Community Hall was built in 1916 and was a great place for a party. My mom would tell of dances on Saturday night. The place was heated by a wood stove near the back. Some of the local boys would bring their wobblipop, get polluted and start a fight on the dance floor. She said many a time they would kick over the stove and send soot everywhere....those were the days!

By the 1930's we had 2 service stations, a Texaco with a service garage and a Shell with small cabins to rent.

In 1945 the Glasgow United Church was built.

Many things have changed and the community continues to grow.