



Reflections

Newsletter of the Marsh Historical Collection
Amherstburg, Ontario



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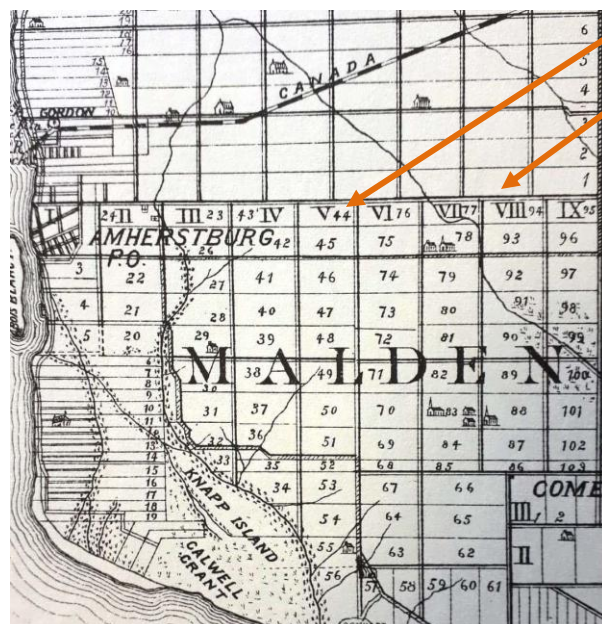
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The Essex Union Cheese and Butter Company

By Vicki Petras

The 1891 establishment of a cheese factory in Harrow, combined with high praise for Ontario cheese displayed at the 1893 Chicago World's Fair, inspired a number of Anderdon Township farmers to jump on the bandwagon. In 1893, Albert E. Bailey was appointed by the group to gather information from cheese makers, as well as to canvass local farmers for start-up financial assistance and commitment to provide the necessary raw milk.

By early 1894, Malden farmers expressed interest in joining this venture, suggesting a central factory location that would accommodate both Anderdon and Malden. Enterprising Amherstburg businessmen, among them *Amherstburg Echo* publisher John A. Auld, banker F. M. Falls, and merchant J. David Burk joined forces in various capacities. In typical 19th century fashion, legal organization was expedited such that "The Essex Union Cheese and Butter Co." was incorporated in March 1894. Under the direction of Board of Trustee members - Thos. Coyle, Patrick Power, R. E. Golden, Wm. Atkin and Richard Atkinson, Sr. - a 3/4 acre property at the northeast corner of Malden Lot 44, Concession 5 was purchased from Thos. Taylor.



Cheese Factory Location
(northeast corner Lot 44)
Amherstburg/Malden Townline
(Alma St.)

drought adversely affected pastures and milk quantities dropped. This caused the plant to be prematurely closed for the season at the end of September. The cheese already produced was sold to a wholesaler for shipment to Glasgow, Scotland.

In 1896 and '97, under the guidance of cheesemaker E. J. Stone, the output increased. Historically, production at this factory peaked in 1897 when 951,837

pounds of milk was received. Then in both 1898 and '99 drought struck again, and a dwindling participation by patron farmers took its toll, necessitating early factory closures each year. Typically, a season would run from mid-May to mid-October when pastures were viable. Milk from fodder-fed dairy cows in fall and winter was unsuitable for cheesemaking.

Continued on page 3...

Amherstburg contractor James Wilderspin was engaged to design the 30' x 40' dairy building, complete with an 11' x 10' wing for the engine/workhouse, and a 25' x 40' one-storey high "dry house." Tenders for construction were issued in March 1895. Adolphe Reaume was awarded the building contract; John Beetham the well-drilling job; Richardson & Webster of St. Mary's, the supply of machinery for the plant. Six routes were established for the drivers who would pick up milk from the local patron farmers, deliver it to the factory and then return the cans.

Opening day was May 15, 1895. By the end of the month, 40 cheddar cheese were already formed, but a protracted summer

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Happenings at the Marsh

This April, we will have a small display on local dairies. Milk bottles, caps, photos and advertisements will be on exhibit, showcasing the many dairy businesses that once operated in the area.



What's In the Collection?

The Marsh Historical Collection mandate is "to collect, preserve and encourage research into the heritage of Amherstburg and the lower Detroit River district."

The facility contains a large collection of photos, books, genealogical records, maps and reference files on a variety of historical topics, plus microfilm of The Amherstburg Echo from 1874 to 2012. There is also a small gift shop which contains various publications about local history.

Funding comes from various foundations and private individuals. While **ADMISSION IS FREE**, donations are most welcome. A receipt for income tax purposes will be issued upon request for any monetary donation of \$10 or more.

**The Marsh Collection is open
to researchers and visitors
from 10am to 4pm Tuesday through Friday.**
Email: research@marshcollection.org
Website: www.marshcollection.org



Does Amherstburg Need a Marine Museum?

From its beginnings, the history of the Town of Amherstburg has been directly linked to the Detroit River. In early years, Amherstburg was a bustling port with merchant warehouses lining the waterfront, travelers coming and going, and of course major vessels being built in the King's Naval Yard. Amherstburg's position on the Detroit River made it possible for many different enterprises to thrive. Aside from these major themes in Amherstburg's history are the memories of trips to Bob-Lo Island and the stories from the kids who grew up playing at the river—all of which should be shared.

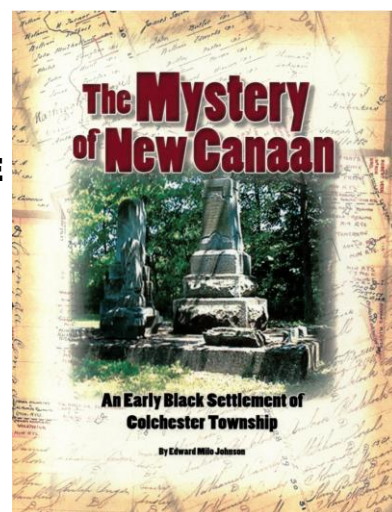
Many artifacts, photos, archives etc. exist in town that document our important marine history, but we lack a venue to properly exhibit these materials and information. Tell us what you think... Does Amherstburg need a marine museum?

519-736-9191 or research@marshcollection.org

Gift Shop

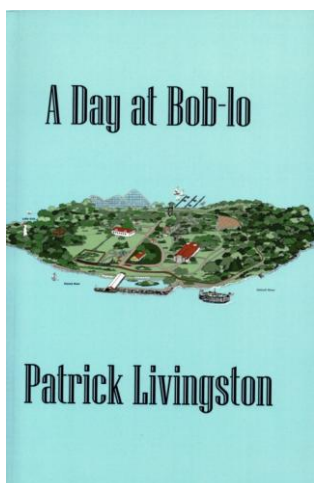
NOW AVAILABLE

*The Mystery of
New Canaan*
by Milo Johnson
(Author of New Canaan:
Freedom-Land)
\$18



COMING SOON- IN APRIL

Know Your Ships
Guide to Boats &
Boatwatching on the
Great Lakes & St.
Lawrence Seaway
\$22



Author Patrick Livingston has compiled a playlist to compliment his book *A Day at Bob-Lo*. The playlist features music from the mid sixties one might have heard played on the Columbia and Ste. Claire as well as from the CKLW remote broadcast booth on Bob-Lo. It is available here:

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/2WBLWMpEZ16NziYif0Aq7t?si=jmNvZsCsRcyKYCzNg-vmow>

The book is available at the Marsh gift shop for **\$20**

...Continued from page 1

Although the company remained intact until its wind-up in 1905, it never opened for production after 1899. This factory failed as did most of the other cheese factories which were operating in the county at the same time. Providing the milk was labour-intensive for the farmers who found hog-raising easier and more profitable. Other avenues of operation were considered, but none were adopted. The vagaries of the weather was also an impediment to success. However short-lived the company was, it served as a testament to the ambition and "never ventured, never gained" attitude of those who participated.

The plant was sold by public auction in May 1905 to

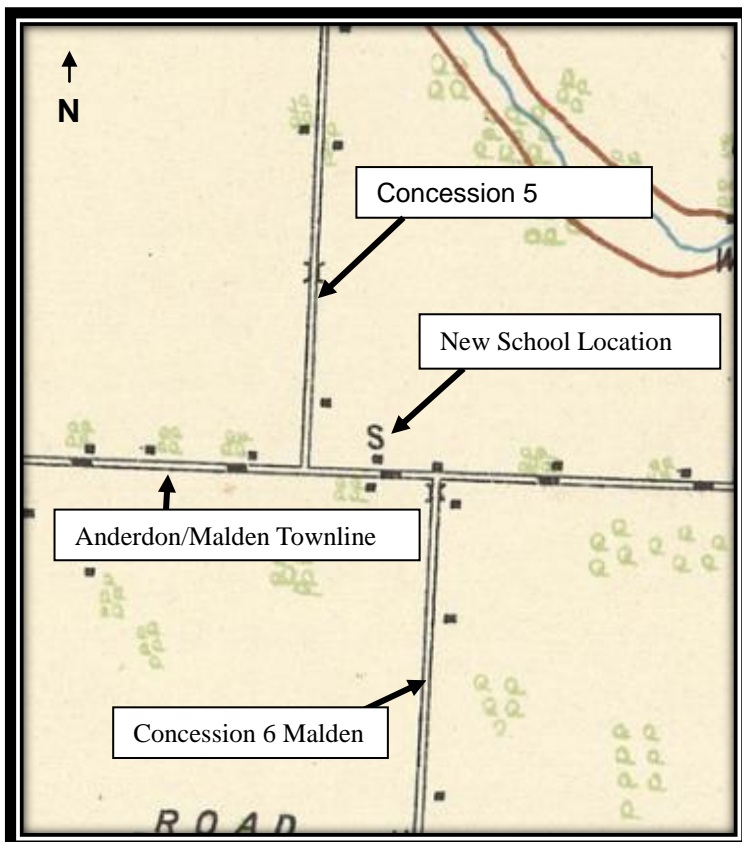
Rev. J. F. Parke for \$515. Parke then sold the contents of the buildings by auction. The "curing" building was moved to the southeast corner of Texas Road and 5th concession of Anderdon where the Patrons' Hall was located, and remodeled for use as the Trinity Anglican Church chapel.

The remaining structures and the Lot 44 property (south side of Alma Street) were acquired by Malden Township R. C. School Section #7, and the building was repurposed as the "Cheese Factory School." Within a short time that building was moved directly across the road to the north side of the townline road (Alma Street) to newly-acquired school property. School Section #7 was disbanded in favour of the new R.C.S.S. No. 11 Union School,

Anderdon, where it served to educate area students for many years.

In 1962 the new Separate School, St. Gerard Majella, was opened on the northeast corner of Alma street and the 6th concession. The old "Cheese Factory school" building was eventually moved to the Dingle farm, 6th of Malden, where it remains today. More history of the school and the building are subjects for another time. The Marsh Collection staff and volunteers are always seeking more related data and photographs.

Vicki Petras has kindly donated her research materials to the Marsh Collection where it is available for anyone seeking more detailed information. If you have subject matter that may be valuable to this file, call 519-736-9191.



Map dated 1910 showing the new location of the school on the north side of the Anderdon/Malden Townline.



Cheese Factory School, c.1905

Courtesy of <http://internationalmetropolis.com/>

Upsetting the Hour Glass

1930

March- The Klu Klux Klan raid recently enacted at Oakville has a touch of local interest from the fact that Rev. Constantine Perry, pastor of the A.M.E. church in that town, who has been roundly denouncing the raiders, was a former pastor of the A.M.E. church in Amherstburg and is well known here.

April- F.P. Scratch & Co. have a dollar day to-morrow.

May- Moffat's Drug Store has installed this week a new soda fountain, which is the last word in up-to-date equipment. This has electric refrigeration and not only keeps ice cream, soft drinks etc. cold but also supplies refrigeration for the fruits and syrups.

1940

March- Ice is from 12 to 15 inches thick along the Canard, and it will be some time before the muskrat season can get underway.

April- Bob-Lo Island had its first visitors last week. They were a flock of white swans and the channel between the island and the bank of the Livingstone Channel was literally white with graceful birds.

May- A great many cottagers

were down Sunday and spent a few happy hours raking up their lawns and preparing for coming as soon as warm weather sets in.

1950

March- Grays Greenhouses, Dalhousie Street, Amherstburg has issued an invitation for the people of Amherstburg and Essex County to visit their pre-Easter flower show that will be staged next Sunday afternoon.

April- The J.W. Wescott Marine Office on the Livingstone Channel was totally destroyed by fire Wednesday afternoon. The blaze was caused by an overheated stove.

May- Amherstburg merchants are on the watch for counterfeit Canadian \$10.00 bills which have made their appearance in town.

1960

March- There is no immediate prospect of letter carrier delivery service in Amherstburg.

April- Two heavily laden soda ash cars broke away from a 12-car train at the Brunner, Mond Canada Limited Quarry, Wednesday afternoon, crashed through the carstop and landed on the Second Concession of Anderdon

Township blocking the road.

May- The general public has been invited to attend the formal opening of the Verdi Club, Texas Road, Anderdon next Saturday.

1970

March- The Youth Drop-In Centre which was operating at St. Rose High School, has moved to the McKim garage building on Murray Street.

April- Thursday and Friday last were moving days for office staff of Calvert of Canada Limited. Office headquarters for the office staff will be in the new three and a half million dollar office and bottling room complex along St. Arnaud Street.

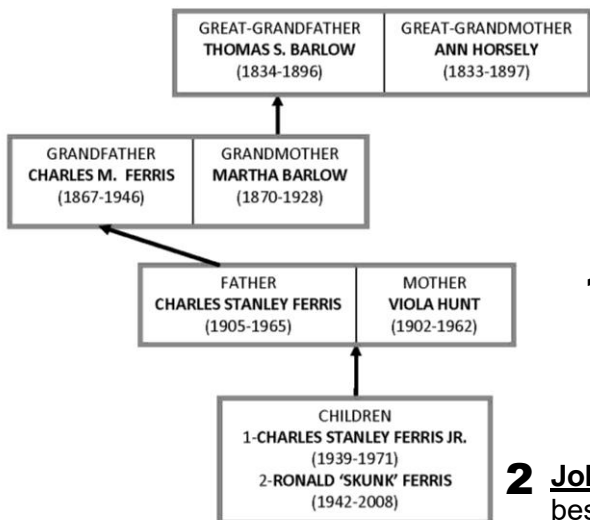
May- The small craft customs reporting office at the foot of Murray Street is in operation for the 1970 season.



Collection Highlights

Making the Connections *By Meg Reiner*

We recently acquired a number of images scanned from a collection of items belonging to the Bondy family. After going over these materials with the family, we were able to establish the links between the people featured in the collection.



The collection contained a photograph album with several portraits of local people ranging from the 19th century through the 1950s. While most of the portraits are unidentified, the mats indicate that many of the early photographs were taken by D.H. Terry. Terry was a well-known Amherstburg photographer whose studio was located in the present-day Downtown Espresso on Dalhousie Street.

1 Thomas Barlow was described as “one of the oldest and best known residents” by *The Amherstburg Echo* when he went missing in January of 1896. His body was later found in the river. Barlow was a marine engineer, who before coming to Amherstburg served in the British Army with the Light Dragoons and also worked in the Pennsylvania Coal mines.

2 John Horsley was also a mariner, having served as first mate “on some of the best boats on the lakes”.

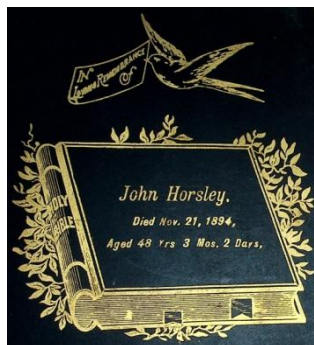
What's the connection? John Horsley's sister Ann married Thomas S. Barlow.

3 Viola M. Hunt was the daughter of Collier and Isabelle Hunt of Malden Township. Viola married Stanley Ferris Sr. in 1932 and they resided on Gore Street. Their children were Stanley Jr. And Ronald “Skunk” Ferris.

4 Stanley Ferris Sr. was the proprietor of Stan's Machine Shop. Almost anything could be fixed at Stan's shop. He was even commissioned to repair the rides on Bob-Lo Island. Stanley was a member of Rose Lodge No.28 of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.



1 Unidentified photograph from album, possibly **Thomas Barlow**.



2

Memorial card for **John Horsley**



Right:
Stanley Ferris
Sr., Stan Jr.,
Ronald Ferris



3 Postcard sent to **Viola M. Hunt** from a person in the U.S. Navy (pre-1932)

4 Independent Order of Odd Fellows overlay ribbon and medallion belonging to **Stanley Ferris Sr.**

Thank you to Jim Bondy Sr., Jessica Bondy, and Jim Bondy Jr. for donating these materials from their family collection. If you have photos, documents, etc. that you would like to share with us but do not wish to part with the originals, we would be happy to take scans!

Bricks-N-Beams St. Joseph's Academy (1867-1974)

By Eleanor Warren

We are grateful to Amherstburg resident Mary Murray for her well-researched articles, as published in the 1992 book entitled 'Led By The Shepherd' - a 190-year history of the parish as compiled by members of the Historical Committee of St. John the Baptist Parish. That book covers in great detail the history of St. Joseph's Academy, as well as St. Rose School (1879-1971).

The first St. Joseph's Academy in Amherstburg was built in **1867** facing Brock Street where it intersects with Richmond. This property was a part of that which had been willed to the Diocese in 1849 by Mrs. Archange (Baby) Cannon, *"in trust for the site of a Roman Catholic School or House of Education for the instructive tuition and bringing up of females."* The stone building, 32' x 52', was dedicated on October 24th, 1867. It was there that the Sisters of the Holy Names opened their 'Select School for Girls'. There were dormitories for the Sisters and boarders, classrooms, parlour, dining room, kitchen, music room, recreation room and chapel. The first boarders were Mary and Annie Cunningham and Eva White. By 1872 the convent had 28 boarders and 69 female day students.

By the **mid-1880s**, due to overcrowding, it was necessary to close the boarding school until an addition could be added to the convent. It was soon decided to build a 2-1/2 storey 58' x 32" **stone addition on the north side** of the 1867 convent, but the Bishop would consent only if the nuns could raise the estimated \$3,000. After holding many bazaars, picnics and other entertainments, enough funds were raised by **1887** to begin construction. By October 1st, **1888** the new addition was nearly completed and the Sisters were again ready to take in boarders.

Three years later, in **1891**, several improvements were made to the 1867 section of the building which allowed for including a furnace which would heat the whole building. The old frame boys' school on Murray Street which had been previously been given to the Sisters (in 1879 when St. Rose School was built) was joined to the rear of the convent. This served as a kitchen, laundry room and pantry. The census of 1891 lists eight nuns living at St. Joseph's Academy.



St. Joseph's Academy c.mid-1970s
Marsh Collection Society P4487

In 1901 there was no high school in Amherstburg. Department of Education regulations permitted high school work to be done in Continuation Schools, or "fifth classes." Trustees of the Public and Separate boards could not reach an agreement, so two Continuation Schools were established, the Public one on Ramsay Street, and the Catholic one was established in 1902 at St. Joseph's Academy. Twenty-three students attended that year. In 1928, St. Joseph's Academy became affiliated with the Conservatory of Music, and later with the Toronto Conservatory, which enabled Amherstburg residents to receive musical training. There are many local residents today who have fond memories of their piano lessons at the convent.

In 1944, the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary celebrated the 100th anniversary of their founding in Quebec. In Amherstburg, many gifts were presented, including 50 ten-dollar bills given anonymously to be used **for the improvement** of the Academy. In September 1951, it was announced that due to lack of staff, there would be no more boarders. As the years passed, the number of Sisters at the convent diminished. A few remained to teach at the new and modern St. Bernard and Stella Maris schools. The historic convent, now mainly empty and deteriorating, was demolished in 1974, three years after its next-door neighbour, the former St. Rose High School. The remaining Sisters moved to three newly-built town houses on Victoria Street.

Then & Now –Sandwich St.



75 & 77 Sandwich Street, 2004
Marsh Collection Society P3852



Rexall Parking Lot & Wendy's, present-day

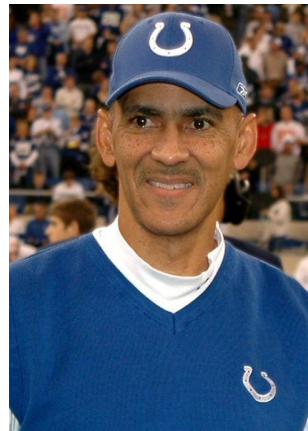
Ancestral Lines

By Phyllis Chant

One of the Marsh Collection's regular volunteers, who, possesses a wealth of local information mentioned a name to me...Tony Dungy and did I know about him? He suggested that I check with my husband, a football fan, to find out more about Dungy and his important Amherstburg connections.

My husband did indeed know Dungy (born October 6, 1955 in Jackson, Michigan) is a former professional American football player and coach in the NFL. Dungy was head coach of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers from 1996 to 2001, and head coach of the Indianapolis Colts from 2002 to 2008. Dungy became the first black head coach to win the Super Bowl when the Colts defeated the Chicago Bears in Super Bowl XLI. Dungy set an NFL record for consecutive playoff appearances by a head coach in 2008 with his tenth straight playoff appearance with a win against the Jacksonville Jaguars.

After his retirement in 2009, he has been an analyst on NBC's Football Night in America.



Tony Dungy, 2007
Source:
commons.wikimedia.org

Dungy was elected to the Pro Football Hall of Fame on February 6, 2016. But, that's where the information regarding Tony Dungy stopped until I did a bit of digging.

Tony's parents were Dr. Wilbur and Cleomae Dungy, leaders in the city of Jackson, Michigan. Dr. Dungy served in the U.S. military as one of the Tuskegee Airmen, the first unit of African American pilots in WWII. After the war he went on to become the first African American professor at Jackson College after earning his doctorate. Cleomae taught theater at Jackson High School and earned her master's degree. And with her is where the Amherstburg connection begins.

Continued on page 8...

Ancestral Lines- cont'd.



1937 General Amherst Highschool Basketball Team
Cleomae holds the basketball at centre.
Marsh Collection Society P98

Cleomae (1920 – 2002) was the daughter of Marshall (1883-1961) and Nora Dean (1884 - 1959, nee Davis). The Deans married in 1917 and lived in Amherstburg where they raised their family. Cleomae attended General Amherst High School and was on the girl's basketball team in 1937. Once married, she and her husband resided in Michigan. Her parents Marshall and Nora Dean are both buried at Rose Hill Cemetery, Amherstburg. Cleomae's mother Nora's parents, were Delos Rogest and Nancy Davis.

Delos R. Davis (1847-1915) lived with his family in New Canaan (Colchester North Twp., near Gesto). He attended school there until he married Nancy Jane Mitchell in 1868. In 1871 Delos taught at the Gilgal A.M.E. school. He then decided to resign to follow his dream of becoming a lawyer. He was appointed a Notary Public for the Province of Ontario in 1873. Delos practiced and studied law as a legal clerk for the next eleven years. To be admitted to the Bar, Delos had to article under a lawyer then pass the Bar. Due to his race, he could not find a lawyer to take him into their office. In 1884 Delos appealed to the Ontario Legislature, asking that the Supreme Court of Judicature admit him to the Bar without articling if he could pass the examination and pay the fee. Davis passed and was admitted to the Law Society



Delos Davis, c.1886
Marsh Collection Society P1040

of Upper Canada. Delos Davis was called to the Bar on November 15, 1886. He was the third Black to become a lawyer in Canada.

After being accepted to the Bar, Delos and Nancy moved their family to Amherstburg. In 1889 he rented one of the additions to 159 Gore Street to use as his law office. He was also Solicitor for the Town of Amherstburg and the townships of Anderdon and Colchester North. Edward Milo Johnson's book, *New Canaan: Freedom Land* states, "The Provincial Government recognized the achievements of Delos Davis and appointed him "King's Council" on November 10, 1910. He was the first Black appointed to such a position in the United Kingdom of Great Britain, Ireland, and the British Dominions". Davis focused on criminal and municipal law. During his impressive career he was council in six of the leading murder cases in the county, which included the infamous Amherstburg murder trial of Anderson Veney in 1892.

Delos Rogest Davis died in Anderdon Township on April 13, 1915 and is interred in Union Cemetery, New Canaan (Colchester North).

So, as told to me, Tony Dungy has a very notable family lineage and it appears along with his wife Lauren and his seven children, they will continue this impressive story.

