

Chaplin's Dairy in Glen Tay Hamlet

Only a few decades after the demise of the major mills in Glen Tay Hamlet, the hamlet became known for a very different product. Chaplin's Dairy was launched in the early 1900s by the Chaplin family, and subsequently owned and operated by Delbert Chaplin (m. Mabel Millerⁱ) and brother Edgar (m. Laura Jackson, Beatrice). Chaplin's had succeeded the Tayside (Miller) Dairy, on present-day Miller Lane, which operated from the 1920's to about 1935.

In its early years, Delbert Chaplin managed the dairy business and Edgar it's distribution, which covered a market from Perth to the upper Tay area cottages. In the 1940s, Delbert's children took over the business; John Chaplin (m. Orpha Korry) and Cameron Chaplin (m. Betty Trueman) were running the dairy, and Don Chaplin (m. Doris Gamble) managed the farming. Cameron had stepped into the business, when brother Gordon and his wife Lorna Korry, and their child, died in a train accident in Perth, on April 24, 1949.

The 300-acre Chaplin farm bordering Glen Tay was sold in 1970, and, in 1974, the brothers stopped processing milk themselves, importing it from Clark's Dairy in Ottawaⁱⁱ. In 1977, the dairy business was sold to William McConachie. In 1982, home deliveries were discontinued, and, not long after, the dairy was closed - the end of an era for Glen Tay as the last of its large businesses that had provided employment to so many in this area. In addition to the Chaplins, the many community families that worked in the dairy included Staffords, Blairs, Buchanans, ...

Several properties remain in the hamlet as legacies of the dairy and Chaplin family, including the milk processing building, one of the early barns and a number of the family's homes. At the beginning, the Chaplins operated the dairy from their farm, then, in 1935, built the processing building on Glen Tay Roadⁱⁱⁱ, now home to the *Little Stream Bakery*.

Next door, south of the dairy building, is one of the early family homes (661 Glen Tay Road). About 1945, Delbert and Mabel Chaplin moved from there to the stone (Adams) house at the river. Ernie Miller relates that they and the Miller farm had arranged to have Hydro extended to that area at that time^{iv}.

On the property next to #661, is the Chaplin barn, relocated from Delbert and Mabel's stone house on the river (about the mid-1940s). In its previous life, the barn had other roles in the community, including as a dormitory for mill employees and a cheese factory^v. A second family home, built by John and Orpha Chaplin in 1947, is located at 634 Glen Tay Road at Somerville Drive, on the original farm property (now Chaplin Heights housing development).

Earlier, from 1887, John A. Chaplin, grandchild of John Chaplin Sr., owned 'Chaplin's Store (general store), at the corner of Christie Lake Road and Glen Tay Road^{vi} - known as Manion Corner. He was also postmaster there from 1893 to 1911. In 1911, his brother Alfred Chaplin is listed as postmaster, until 1918. John and Alfred had traded homes



around 1908. Alfred had owned the house now PIN #661, which was known as 'the dairy house'^{vii} – apparently where the milk was processed before the factory was built. Alfred also owned the building beside it, in which he ran a paint and wallpaper store (the red barn, now located across Christie Lake Road, beside the General Store building).

Chaplin General Store at 'Manion Corner'



**Chaplin Dairy Sleigh –
Thanks to Gay Lea Dairy Museum, Aylmer, Ontario**

David Taylor, January 2022, Glen Tay

Sources for this article:

1. Arlene Stafford Wilson's article on Chaplin's Dairy may be viewed at:

<https://arlenestaffordwilson.wordpress.com/2020/09/18/chaplins-dairy-in-glen-tay/>

This article is also included in Arlene's book, "*Lanark County Kid: My Travels Up and Down the Third Line*", available at The Book Nook and Spark Books & Curios in Perth, Mill Street Books in Almonte, and online at www.staffordwilson.com.

2. Gordon Chaplin, of Perth, son of John Chaplin, provided considerable information on the Chaplin family and dairy.

3. Barbara Jordan's book '*Glen Tay, Then and Now*' (1997) has provided considerable details on the family details for this article – which is also an excellent source of information on Glen Tay's history.

4. Diane Miller Duncan's book '*Tayside Memories: The Story of a Lanark County Lad*' (2018) based on a 1996 manuscript by Ernest J. Miller, copies of which may be obtained at: <https://www.blurb.ca/b/9129783-tayside-memories>

3. Research by the author.

ⁱ Barbara Jordan

ⁱⁱ Arlene Stafford-Wilson

ⁱⁱⁱ Arlene Stafford Wilson

^{iv} Diane Miller Duncan

^v Barbara Jordan

^{vi} Barbara Jordan's book provided the information on the store and houses John A. and Alfred Chaplin.

^{vii} Quoted in Barbara Jordan's book, from Pearl Chaplin, Alfred's daughter.