

## Copy of "Valley Town" by Fred Inglis (The Evening Citizen, Ottawa) Jan 13, 14, 15 / 1953

### Aultsville: No. 1

AULTSVILLE – Two more communities slated for complete obliteration when the St. Lawrence Seaway-Power Project materializes are Aultsville and Farran's Point, its sister village, two miles to the east.

Mention "the Seaway" here and you get a variety of reactions, ranging from "Do you think it will ever come?" to "when it comes..." and "it will never come." On one thing everyone is agreed; that the shadow of the project has hung crepe on any possible development along the river; it has stifled ambition and ruined real estate values.

Aultsville is a quaint little village of 350 temperance-minded citizens, situated on the double-tracked CNR and on busy No. 2 Highway, nine miles east of Morrisburg and 18 miles west of Cornwall. Half a century ago its people decided they could get along without liquor outlets and ever since 1903 it has had local option.

A town that once had many thriving industries, Aultsville now has only one, a modern cheese factory. Nearby is a fairly large and modern poultry farm.

The villagers are proud of their one and only physician who has practiced in Aultsville for over 50 years..." We'll never get another," they told me, "for when he's gone, no young doctor will settle in a small place like this."

Aultsville's village has deep-rooted ties with the Presbyterian Church through its oldest families and a flavor of Newfoundland from whence came two of its leading families.

Aultsville that was once the site of court sessions, has sent many of its young men and women into the professional fields where they gained distinction in law, the ministry and politics. About a mile east of the village on Highway No. 2 is Melody Acres Turkey Farm, a busy place when I called there two days before Christmas. Last minute orders of tender, oven-ready turkeys were being packed in neat cartons, ready for delivery in Cornwall and district.

Thirty-year-old John Alguire, of Cornwall, and his wife, pretty Pat Lill of Kapuskasing, never expected to be in the turkey business. John's father and his grandfather were doctors and John had four years towards a degree when he joined the navy where he served four years as executive officer and saw service at sea.

"We met in Halifax while we were both in the navy," his wife explained. "When we got out of uniform, we both went to Macdonald College where John graduated in Agriculture."

Equipped for scientific farming, the Alguires acquired a 170-acre farm near Aultsville and converted it into a poultry raising establishment. They buy day-old chicks and produce about 5,000 broilers four times a year and raise about a thousand turkeys for Thanksgiving and Christmas markets.

"We also can a large quantity of turkey," Mr. Alguire told me. "We dispose of nearly all our 'B8s' this way and last year we canned a thousand seven-ounce tins. Going well? So well that we can't keep up with the demand."

The name, "Melody Acres?"

"Well," Mrs. Alguire explained, "I guess I saw it on a farm in Texas and we liked it."

How is turkey farming?

"Not so good," said the former hydrographer-turned-farmer. "Turkeys are cheaper than chickens right now - even cheaper than hamburg!"

### Aultsville: No. 2

AULTSVILLE - A man who remembers when Aultsville had a busy tannery, four shoe-makers, a saw mill, a shingle mill and two brickyards, is John M. Loucks. Mr. Loucks was born 79 years ago in the family farm house where he lives in retirement with his wife, just west of here.

The Loucks farm is one of three locations chosen to be marked as historical sites. That was the site of the Loucks tavern, sometimes called the Lunenburg Inn, where sessions of the court were held. The original farm of 400 acres was a land grant to U.E. Loyalist Richard Loucks, one of the first settlers in this district. The Loucks farm is now only 25 acres in size.

On the old military road that followed close by the river's shore was the Loucks Tavern and beside it a store built by Richard Loucks about 1792. The first son born of each generation of Loucks was also named Richard.

John M. Loucks (the "M" is for Milton - his dad had a fondness for the poet's works) gave up a promising career as a secretary or bookkeeper to take over the family farm of his brother Richard, who died at an early age.

The village was first named Charlesville until it changed to Aultsville in the 1840's, Mr. Loucks told me. His father, Richard Loucks, rafted timber from Gananoque to Quebec City and timber for the Loucks' barn that still stands, came down river by this means. Richard Loucks often brought "a 100 of flour" home from Napanee on horseback and thought nothing of going to Quebec on horseback. There was later a sawmill on the Loucks farm.

As a lad, John Loucks helped break up tank bark at Thomas Brown's tannery in Aultsville where people took "their own hides" to be tanned and then to the shoemakers to be made into boots. The tank bark went into a crusher where it was ground up by a horse-turned windlass. When the bark was exhausted, it was spread onto the road that was called Tan Bark Avenue but is now know as Melburn Street. Aultsville has its York Street, Nelson Street and Palace Street.

Earliest traffic on the river, Mr. Loucks remembers was tugs and barks and passenger boats of the old Richelieu and Ontario Navigation Company - the Rapids Prince, Rapids Queen and others that ran from Prescott to Montreal. Here the river boats picked up pilots and husky raft hands. He remembers when the boats were not allowed to leave Toronto on Sunday.

Mr. Louckes let me squint through an old telescope that was found on the site of the battle of Crysler's Farm, about four miles west of here. I opened an ancient padlock that once fastened prisoners in a pillory in the days when justice was meted out at the Court of Sessions for the District of Lunenburg in the old Loucks Tavern.

Until recently Mr. Loucks had an old slave yoke, made with three long iron spikes, that clamped around the neck. Mrs. Loucks had an old family spinning wheel, a big one, that she gave to a lady who operates a tourist home near here.

Among the noted citizens who came from Aultsville are W. Edgar Raney, attorney general for Ontario when the UFO party came into power around 1920.

"He was born here and went to school here," Mr. Loucks told me. "His father gave him \$5 when he left home. He educated himself and became a lawyer." J.P. Whitney, once premier of Ontario, came from a farm just west of here. The mother of E.B. Joliffe, CCR leader in the Ontario House, is an Aultsville girl. Frank T. Shaver, conservative Member of Parliament for Stormont from 1930 to 1935, is a prominent merchant in the village. John Croil, who wrote Croil's History of Dundas was born on the Croil farm just west of here. It was once part of the Loucks farm.

Through his long years of farming, John Loucks has made good use of his secreterial training, learned when he took a commercial course in Belville. First he was secretary of the Sons of Temperance for five years. Then he was financial secretary of that body. Then followed 38 years as secretary-treasurer of the Oddfellows and he was district secretary of the IOOF for 26 years.

Additional duties he undertook were secretary-treasurer of Emmanuel Presbyterian Church in Aultsville for 16 years and for the past six years as secretary of the local branch of the British and Foreign Bible Society. He is the fifth of five generations to be an ordained elder in the Presbyterian Church. Last year he represented Glengarry Parish at the 75th assembly of the Presbyterian Church at Montreal. He was only a year old when his father attended the first assembly when the four Presbyterian branches in Canada were united.

John Loucks is the last of his family and with no children to succeed him, he thinks the old homestead will die with him. But if the seaway comes through, he will have no worries about the possibility of the farmstead passing out of the family's hands for the great St. Lawrence reservoir will put the farm eight feet under water at the front gate.

### **Aultsville: No. 3**

AULTSVILLE - If ever the waters of the St. Lawrence inundate this UE Loyalist-founded village, scheduled to be sacrificed to give Ontario more electric power and Canada a deeper waterway, there is one store that will be left high and dry. It is the big general store of Doug Jarvis and Frank Shaver, on the county road, at the north end of the village. It's just south of the CNR's double-tracked lines over which speeding passenger and freight trains thunder their way to Toronto and Montreal.

Doug Jarvis and his sister, Jessie, who is Mrs. John M. Loucks, came to Aultsville from Newfoundland with their father, James Jarvis, who opened the store in 1887.

Another couple who came from Newfoundland, by way of Montreal, are Mr. and Mrs. Hayward Parsons. Mrs. Parsons runs the Caribou Tea Room here and her husband works for a Montreal construction firm.

The Parsons came to Canada from Harbor Grace after the First World War. The name Caribou Tea Room has its association with Canada's tenth province, once a dominion in its own right.

"I served overseas in the Royal Newfoundland Regiment," Mr. Parsons told me. "Our cap badge was a caribou and so Mrs. Parsons took the caribou as a name for the tea room. Doug Jarvis and my mother were first cousins - but I didn't know it until after we came here. The Jarvis family came from John's, the capital of Newfoundland."

Aultsville, named for a big family of U.E. Loyalist Ault brothers, Simeon, Charles, Arthur, and Edward, has hardly any Aults living here now. It is a police village in Osnabrock Township of Stormont County. Chairman of the board of Trustees is Charles Hanwell, a retired gentleman and members are Hector Murdock, Pepsi-Cola man at Cornwall and Mrs. Hayward Parsons, of the Caribou Tea Room.

Storekeeper Shaver has lost none of the eloquence he used to describe the beauties and resources of Stormont County when he was in the Commons.

The big Borden's Chateau Cheese division, next to the Jarvis and Shaver store at the north end of the village near the CNR tracks, was established by the late W. A. Edwards who died last January in his 80th year. Completely remodeled, the plant employs a dozen men the year round.

"Mr. Edwards was one of the outstanding cheese manufacturers of Ontario," Mr. Shaver told me. "He had five cheese factories and was a buyer at Cornwall for the Dominion Cheese Board."

It was Mr. Shaver who told me Aultsville is served by a "travelling bank," a branch of the Bank of Montreal, open here two days a week. The village has one hotel, the Riverview, established over a hundred years ago. With local option here since 1903, no liquor has been sold here for 50 years. When a vote was taken in 1934, the township went drier than ever by a majority of more than two to one.

Aultsville has an egg grading station, a modern fire pump and hose manned by a volunteer brigade, a public school with two teachers; three churches, United, Anglican and Presbyterian.

The people of Aultsville are proud of their Public Park, the first project of the Men's Service Club when it was formed about seven years ago. The park, originally intended for boys and girls, is used by people of the whole area. A soldiers' war memorial was moved to a new site in the park where they play softball, play on the swings or just sit on the benches and admire one of the most impressive views of the St. Lawrence.

It's just 50 years since they built the Fraternal Hall, a big two-storey brick building on the main street. Main floor is used as a public hall, for meetings and dances; upstairs is the Farran's Point Masonic Lodge hall (the lodge was formed at Farran's Point in 1871 and later transferred here) and the Aberdeen Lodge of the IOOF, was named for the Earl of Aberdeen who was Canada's governor-general when it was formed in 1895.

Aultsville's only physician, Dr. Edwin Brown, is still practicing at 77, after ministering to the community's sick for over 50 years. His father was the late Dr. Miles Brown who practiced in Chesterville from 1880 until he died in 1924 and an uncle, Dr. William A. Brown, doctored in Chesterville before he moved to Kingston.

Dr. Brown practiced medicine at Chesterville for a year before he came to Aultsville in 1901 and married a local girl, Miss Mabel Cross. During his half century of service to this area he has brought more than 2,000 babies into the world, many of them living on the other side of the river which he used to cross on the ice. He remembers three ice bridges across the St. Lawrence in his time.

"The Seaway?" He smiled with amusement. "Well, I suppose they will come to it," he said. "They've been talking about it for 50 years."

And that's pretty well the attitude of the older folks around here.