

A

s we enter the village from the south on the Tatlock Road we pass by the old Methodist Cemetery and site of the first Methodist Church. The foundation of the church is still visible.

Further along is St. George's Anglican Church (2786 Tatlock Rd.). The first Anglican Church building was a log structure built in the present cemetery on the Bowland Road in 1840. It is not clear what happened to the church building in the cemetery but in 1872 the Anglicans purchased the Orange Hall in Clayton and named it Grace Anglican Church. That building was used until construction of the present building, on the same site, which opened in 1901. The congregation hauled all the stones by horse and sleigh, from near Almonte, during two winters. The foundation was dug by hand. Note the beautiful stained glass windows. The one at the front was donated by Mrs. Esther Dickson.

The home at 2791 Tatlock Rd. was the former Methodist Church from 1880 until 1925,



when the Methodist and Presbyterian churches formed the United Church. The building was sold to George and Mabel Bolger in 1929, who turned it into their home, where they operated a small general store into the 1950s.

The Clayton Community Hall was built by a local committee in 1978 with help from a Trillium grant. Further down Linn Bower Lane is an apartment residence for seniors, opened in 1996, called Linn Bower.

The older building at 2826 Tatlock Road was the original Presbyterian Church built by Daniel Watt in 1873. It was purchased by the Independent Order of

Foresters when the Guthrie Presbyterian Church was built in 1897. It was used as a community hall. On Dec. 23, 1966 the upper section was burned, but the lower section was saved. The small building beside it is the old shoe shop of John Nolan. His home was at 2826.

2834 and 2836 were the General Store and home of Ozias Banning until 1908. Ozias



Banning was also post master from 1862 until 1908. The home is designated as a historical property. Between the Banning home and the river was a harness shop, with adjoining ice cream shop added in 1899, operated by Mr. Somerville.

On the west side of the Tatlock Road at 2837 was the site of the original Bellamy homestead, which later was a temperance house known as Clayton House. The grist mill sat between the Bellamy homestead and the river. In 1824 Edward Bellamy, an American, came to Clayton, where he operated the grist mill and a saw mill. The grist mill ran day and night, all year long when other mills in the area were unable to do so, for lack of water. The grist mill was demolished in 1965.

As we cross the bridge, next on the left, was where the Carding Mill sat, on a small island in the river



between the grist mill and the saw mill. It was owned by Timothy Blair, who came here in 1843. The original carding mill burned in 1875. It was rebuilt, and came to a sudden, unexpected end one night in April 1918, when the dam burst and it was swept away. The dam was rebuilt, and then rebuilt again in 1968-69, when the boat launch and park were created.



The saw mill sat on the edge of the north side of the river, on the west side of the Tatlock Road. The saw mill operated in the summer months, cutting logs that had been drawn and left on the ice over winter. The saw mill closed in 1961.

Beside the saw mill was a hotel, which burned in 1875.

2862 is the Clayton General Store. The original store was a log building built by Ewan

CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: Grace Church (1890) †; Grist Mill (1950); Original Clayton Hall before the fire ††; Bellamy Mills Road, School House on the left. Note the wooden sidewalk on the right (ca 1890)‡; Sawmill (1950s) ††.

CONTINUED OVERLEAF <=>



Cameron in about 1839. Andrew and Esther Geddes purchased the property in 1849 and built the current building. Following the death of her husband in 1852, Esther Geddes married James Dickson, who died about 1864. Esther operated the store by herself until selling to her nephew Joseph Paul in 1896. Among the many owners who followed was Johnny Erskine, whose portrait is found on the feed shed at the bottom of the hill.

We will now head to our right on Bellamy Mills Road. Across the street from 1267 stood the longest running hotel. This hotel was originally owned by James Coulter. Several other hotel keepers followed. When it ceased being a hotel, it was divided to house two families.



At 1258 was the home of Dr. George Sadler, who was the village doctor from 1905 to 1917. As well, this home was the Methodist parsonage for a time. It is also a designated historical property.

Across the street at 1259 is the most unique house in the village. This house was a general store at the turn of the century, owned by John Proctor and his wife. West of this house was a blacksmith shop,

which was run by several different blacksmiths over the years.

1252 was the Clayton School. It was built in 1872 by Daniel Watt at a cost of \$150. This is the second school that was on this property. The first school was located beside it, with the door facing the road. At one time, both buildings were



used. Before the second school was built, the house across the road at 1251 served as a second temporary classroom. 1251 was also a hotel for a time.

The house at 1237 was the home of the longest serving doctor in Clayton. Dr. John Brown lived here from 1874 until his death in 1905. The front section of the house was added on to be his office.

Now we will return to the store and head up the hill on the Tatlock Road. At 2876, the original home (now gone) was the home of Aaron Barnett, who was the village cooper from 1879 to 1900. At 2886 lived John Shane, who was a shoe maker from at least 1857 to 1901.

At 2879 was the tanning mill and the home of the tanner, John Sutherland, who purchased the property in 1853. In 1866, he sold to George McNeil and that family continued

to operate the tanning mill into the 1900s. The tanner's home is behind the hedge and has been renovated. The mill sat between the house and the river.



Opposite the second line corner, at 2603 Con. 2, is the former location of the cheese factory. The cheese factory was built in 1893. It burned in 1896 and was rebuilt. The area farmers brought their milk to the factory every day during spring, summer, and fall. In 1941, it was torn down. ❄️