

FERGUSON STORE: WEST SIDE OF NIAGARA RIVER RD. N O. 244 & 242.

Richard Ferguson was born in Waterloo in 1850, the son of Ellen Fellen Ferguson . He came to the village in 1890 and took over the store of William R. L. W. FORD Jr. It was situated on the west of the street facing the Ferry Landing. He dealt in general merchandice, later adding a small addition to the north side where he sold china, wallpaper and paints. He was very active in realestate, and had large holdings on Erie St. near the Mill race. (later the site of the Peace Bridge) In 1884 he married a Miss Hanna Frances Elliot . They had three children Harry Francis: Laura Pearl: and Allan Clarence.

Mr. Ferguson's great love was horses, and he had a large stable behind the store and one on the foot of Bertie St. the north side. He had at times 14 horses. These he showed at fairs, rode or just kept for the enjoyment of the family. In later years Mr. Ferguson became quite bald, and around the village he would be seen wearing a wig. The villagers took to affectionately calling him "Wig Ferguson."

The store and the home just south of it was built by William Raisford Sr. in 1836. At one time Mr. Ferguson had working for him as clerk in the store J. L. Kraft. To help his family who owned a Dairy farm on Kraft Rd. he took to work while only a young man. He moved to Buffalo and later Chicago where he founded the Kraft Cheese Comp. Another clerk in his employ was W. M. J. Hawley, who later took up a business in general merchandice just a few doors south from the Ferguson Store.

In 1895 Mr. Ferguson provided telephone service from his store, eight to eight, weekdays and two to four on Sundays. He continued as local telephone manager in the village till 1912 when he retired. He moved to his home on the site of the Mill Race: Erie St. S.S. It was moved when the Peace bridge was built and Mr. Ferguson who was then a widower moved across the st. to live with his daughter Pearl Kee. He died In Nov. 1924.

Mr. Ferguson for a time even sold boots and shoes, and stored furniture in a small building on the riverfront just north of the pool hall. It was easy for one of the clerks to just run across the street and open up if a customer wanted anything in those lines. Inf. from Mrs. Pearl Kee.

FERGUSON Store: west side of Niagara Blvd: opposite the Ferry landing.

1836. WM. Rainsford purchased the claim of WM. Smith to village lot #1, on which he built a home, a store, and a work shop.

1856: James Richard Thompson to WM. Rainsford.

1890. WM. Rainsford Jr. to Richard Ferguson: general Merchandice.

1912. D.H. Johnston.

Jennie Willson: Millen eryl, Linens, Dry Goods & men's Furnishings.

Carlton Willson :Customs Broker& Insurance.

1920. Francis Rung ,Wife & Edward Rung.

1923. John Charles: Dry Goods & China.

1945. Mrs. Lillian Youn Johnston: Yong's Dry Goods & china.

1972. Broadway Fabrics.

Fort Erie Acupuncture: (Dr. Docherty)

1976. Salvation Army Thrift Shop.

1988. Fire destroyed the building beyond use.

The small addition to the north side that had originally been added by Mr. Ferguson, was at the time Young's took over, rented seperatley from the main building.

the Fort Erie Post Office.

1953. Bailey T.V.

Parkway beauty Salon. (Kay Gagliardo)

1981. Peace Bridge Trader;s Post & Auction Barn: (Coleman Bagu)

1986 Augie's Electonics

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