

STORES AT OAKDALE

William Ayers had the first store in Oakdale. When he came in 1823, he built a log house. Some time later he built a two story frame bouse just west of this log house. he used the old log house as a store and sold supplies to those who lived in the area and also to people who passed through on the old trails which passed his store. This old store is part of Mrs. T.E. McLean's barn.

From Mrs. Thomas LmLean's Scrap-book and from her daughter Anna Boyd's Scrap-book, I found this clipping from an old newspaper: "After the war some army pals started a store near Ayers Point. They were David Wylie, Archibald Hood, Thomas P. Anderson, and David McClurkin. They nicknamed their place Stag Town.

When they went West, Mr. Steele and Mr. McLeish had stores. Later Mr. Steele started a store in Evans, Colorado and James Torrens went there to clerk for him."

From a book of records and clippings kept by Miss Ella Auld, now owned by Mrs. Ward Auld, I found these two clippings from old newspapers:

"Notice of the death of Captain Anderson, brother of R.P. Anderson of Coulterville was received here. He was a former resident here. He and David McClurkin and Archie Hood had the first store in Oakdale on the hill now owned by Mrs. Julia Borcharding."

"T.P. Anderson Obituary-Mr. Anderson died in Kansas City, Mo. on February 26, 1915.

"For a time, he with David McClurkin as a partner kept a store at Oakdale, Illinois." (In 1969, Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Fulton live in the home once owned by Mrs. Julia Borcharding.)

Messrs. J.R. Morrison and John McKean built a drug store before the town was platted. When the town was surveyed, this store was found to be on ground that was surveyed as part of High Street. Mr. John McKean later built a drug store on Second Street in Block 6, Lot 4.

This small first drug store was later used by the Garnholz Store for many years as a warehouse.

From the WASHINGTON COUNTY HISTORY OF 1879, I find that the founders of Oakdale carried on merchandising in the old Ayers log building after it was surveyed in Jan. of 1867. They operated this store for one year. In the latter part of 1867, Steele and McCleish opened a general store. They were followed in 1868 by Gormley & Co. The town now contains two stores, a general store by Ardrey & Bro., and a drug store by J.R. Morrison & Co.

(Mr. Ray Kirkpatrick tells us that Gormley & Co. bought out the McCleish Store and that Mr. Ardrey later bought it from Gormley & Co.)

ARDREY STORE

On the inside of the cover on the McLean Scrapbook was pasted what appeared to be the picture from a large calendar given in 1907 by the Ardrey Store. Above the picture were the dates 1871 on the left side and 1907 on the right hand side. Between the dates were the words COMPLIMENTS AND BEST WISHES OF R.G. ARDREY AND SON.

No doubt the Ardrey Store was owned by R.G. Ardrey and his brother Thomas who later moved to Missouri. Mr. Ardrey's son, William was born August 16, 1869, hence would not be able to help for many years. The son married in 1896 and went to Colorado soon afterward. Mr. Ardrey did many things besides operate a store. In June 1877 he was postmaster and operated the Post Office in the southeast corner of his store room until 1907 when Ray Kirkpatrick was appointed to be postmaster. The Post Office remained in the store until 1913 when Mr. Kirkpatrick moved into a new building which he had built just west of the old bank building.

Just back of his store, Mr. Ardrey had an ice-house, built with double walls filled with saw dust for insulation. In the winter, he had young men go out to the ponds, saw out blocks of ice and store in the ice-house. Many a good freezer of home-made ice-cream was frozen by this ice. He also had poultry dressed back of the store.

In the early days, a Mr. McAfee was a clerk in this store for many years. George Borcharding began counting eggs for Mr. Ardrey in 1892. He continued to work on in various capacities until 1904 when he entered the Garnholz Store. Mr. John Murphy clerked most of the time between about 1897 and 1908 or whenever the store closed down.

About 1908, Mr. Charles Lancaster, his brother LaMarr and two brothers-in-law came to Oakdale to open a bank. They brought with them the safe which was later enclosed in the green cage used by the Oakdale banks until Dec. 21, 1968. They opened a private bank in the corner of Mr. Ardrey's store. It was just to your right as one entered the front door of the original store. As I recall, there was some kind of an inclosure around their work center. The bank was known as the OAKDALE COMMERCIAL BANK. They gave out small banks in the shape of books as souvenirs. The bank was re-organized shortly with business men and farmers buying stock and a building. The bank was moved from the store and the Lancasters and company left.

In 1905 Mr. Ardrey bought the "mill site" and used the rock from the old basement walls to lay foundations for additions to his store. He probably used some brick in constructing the first addition. His business was expanded after the first addition was built by moving the dry goods section to it. I doubt if he ever used the last addition he built for any of his business.

The Ardrey Store Building was used in various ways after the store was closed out:

Ray Kirkpatrick continued with the post office until 1913.

Cinda Kaufman Brammeier bought cream there for several years.

Dr. Lester Barton had a dental office for a time in one room.

Charles Kaufman had a barber shop there for a time.

Al Guthrie had a hatchery here before moving to the Garnholz-Borcharding Store Building.

The Oakdale High School used the original room for a gym.

A.J. Gambill started a grocery store and meat market in the middle room and remained there until he moved his market to the building which Ray Kirkpatrick had built for a post office on the west half of Lot 1 Block 3. He moved about 1918.

Ray Mazander bought milk there for the Pevely Dairy Co. while they built their new receiving station.

Until the second room was added to the Garnholz-Borchherding Store, they used part of the store for a ware-house.

It may have been used in other ways of which we have not learned. Finally another cream buying place and a small grocery and meat market was opened by a Mr. Smith. On Dec. 9, 1938, a stove he used, exploded and burned the building to the ground. This is the only building in the surveyed town of Oakdale that ever burned down, to the best of our knowledge. At the time the building burned it belonged to Mrs. George Decker, she having inherited it from her father, Henry Grammaman.

The Ardrey Building was located on the corner of Second and Walnut, Block 6, Lot 8.

WILLIAM KROENER BLACKSMITH SHOP

Several years after the Ardrey building was burned down, Fred Buhrman bought the site, had a neat filling station built which he leased to a Mr. Garner of Nashville for ten years. Several attempts were made to operate a filling station here. Ed Hudspeth used it for a garage for his school bus several years.

William Kroener had started blacksmithing in the Decker Shop in 1947. When Mr. Decker sold his shop in 1959, William Kroener bought the filling station site. He disposed of the pumps and has been kept busy ever since, especially in the busy farming season. On a summer day the space in front of the shop is lined with machinery waiting for welding or some other repair job.

OAKDALE CREAMERY

According to the records, James B. McClurkin, unmarried deeded to the Directors of the Oakdale Creamery Association and their successors in office on March 29th 1887, Lots 6 & 8 Block 4 town of Oakdale, Illinois." Book 76 page 375

On the south-west corner of Lot 6 a creamery was built on the west slope of a low hill. Farmers delivered their milk on the east side of the building, where it was weighed by Charles McElhenny for several years. The milk was separated and butter was made by John B. Torrens. The farmers drove down the slope on the north side of the building and around to the south side where they could buy skim milk for very little or maybe it was given away to them. Excess skim milk was also sold to people around town who raised pigs. Butter washings were run into a cistern on the west side of the building.

On March 4th 1893 "The Oakdale Creamery Association of Oakdale, Illinois, a corporation of Illinois by J.W. Torrens, President and A.T. Kennedy, Secretary, deeded Lots 6 & 8 Block 4 of Oakdale, Illinois to R.G. Ardrey for \$ 2200.00."

When Mr. Ardrey bought the building from the corporation, he hired James Ranwick Kirkpatrick as butter maker and Andrew Hildebrandt as milk weigher. In 1895, at the age of 15 years, Ray Kirkpatrick worked at the creamery with his father until his father's death in 1899. John Gordon worked at the creamery, probably after Mr. Kirkpatrick's death.

On August 26th 1905, R.G. Ardrey bought Lots 2 & 4 from Moses Keady and wife for \$200.00. "Book 106 page 376

Sam McConaghie worked at the creamery for several years, it is not known when.

"On Nov. 28th 1908 R.G. Ardrey and wife sold Lots 2-4-6 & 8 Block 4 town of Oakdale to Wm Grafeman of St. Louis, Mo. and to C.F. Finke, Nashville, Ill. for \$2300.00." Book 114 page 354

Later C.F. Finke and wife sold their interest to Grafeman. After Grafeman bought the creamery, the milk was separated by Charlie Hawker. The skim milk was made into casein and shipped to St. Louis in ten gallon cans. The cream was also shipped in the same manner.

Others who worked at the creamery were Lambert Raglan, Elmer Borcharding, Bill Douglas, Ross Guthrie, Conrad Bassler. The old creamery was closed down for some time. At that time John Klene Husky (Harold) McGill and Ray Mazander hauled milk to Nashville when trucks could get through, otherwise it had to be shipped on the train. The Condensery at Nashville is thought to have been the buyer. George Decker was thought to have had these people hired to haul for him.

In the fall of 1925, the property seemed to have been sold for taxes by H.F. Heckert and it came into the hands of the Pevely Dairy Co. of St. Louis. They wrecked the old building and replaced it with the building now used as a barn on the Coulter property. While the building was in construction, Ray Mazander bought for Pevely at the Ardey Store. He and Elwood McClurkin and also Harry Schaeffer worked in the new receiving station. At this time the chilled milk was trucked to Nashville by Husky McGill and others. Gus Luebke had the contract for hauling. It probably did not operate more than five or six years.

After the roads were improved, Roy Carr drove a truck over the country from farm to farm picking up the cans of milk from 1938 to 1947. He delivered to the Addieville Dairy Co.

As laws were changed and electricity came into common use, the dairy business changed. Small herds disappeared, large herds milked by machines, with the milk chilled in electrically refrigerated vats is now picked up at the farm and hauled in vacuum tanks to dairies in Chester or St. Louis. Hands do not touch the milk in the whole process. Barns, machinery etc are inspected regularly.

THE KENNEDY MILL IN ELKTON

William Kennedy was born in Ireland, August 1, 1809, the son of James and Catherine Cannon Kennedy. He came to America with his parents in 1823, where they first settled in Pennsylvania. On November 17, 1836 he married Eleanor McCall Todd who had been born in Charleston, South Carolina on November 17, 1812. She was the daughter of Dr. Andrew Todd and sister of Rev. A.C. Todd, an early minister in the Elkhorn Covenant Church.

Mr. Kennedy settled on a tract of land in Johannsburg and Plum Hill Townships where he farmed, hauling his farm products to St. Louis by wagon. He was the father of four sons and one daughter: Andrew Todd, James Renwick, William Cannon, John Calvin and Louisa Margaret who grew to adulthood. He gave a home to several homeless men and boys. Two of the sons, Andrew and John served in the Civil War.

When his family was about grown, he moved to Elkton where in 1866, he built a flour mill which he and his four sons operated. They also bought and sold wheat. Brand names of their flour were: "Southern Star", "Kennedy's Choice", "Kennedy's Family", "Sucker Mills", and "Washington Mills". Their products were hauled by wagon to St. Louis and supplies of various nature were brought back. We are told that Mr. Conrad Kaufman, father of Daniel Kaufman and grandfather of Mrs. Cinda Brammeier, also hauled flour to Coulterville. An illustration of the roads in those days; the hills at Mud Creek were steep and when mud was deep and the mules strained to go up hill, the wagon tilted to the back. Mr. Kaufman found that by walking out on the tongue between the mules, the wagon came down and the mules could make it up the hill.

"When Mr. Kennedy built a brick house in Elkton, an entry in his day-book states that he paid on 8-16-1867 \$2,000. He then dug there two cisterns and a well and built a barn."

"Fire destroyed the mill in March 1876. Little was saved, loss was estimated at \$12,000 with \$7,300 insurance."

Mr. Kennedy's great-grand-daughter, Mrs. Harold Auld has a tin-type picture of the Kennedy Mill. It looks as if it had been a large two story building with a very tall chimney.

On February 13, 1880 Mr. Kennedy died suddenly while seated in his chair in his home. His widow remained in their home for many years. A grand-daughter, Eleanor Todd Kennedy returned from Pennsylvania and lived with Mrs. Kennedy until she was married. She was married in their home in Elkton on Nov. 13, 1889 to Mr. David Carson of east of Oakdale.

Mrs. Kennedy spent the last years of her life in the home of her daughter, Mrs. Louisa Auld, where she died on July 30, 1900.

After serving as Sergeant in Co. F. 10th Mo., Andrew T. Kennedy returned to Elkton. On May 11, 1865 he was married to Miss Katie J. Wilson, daughter of Prof. James Wilson of Pennsylvania. His wife died on May 29, 1867 leaving a daughter Eleanor, who was cared for by her grandmother and aunt until she went to Pennsylvania where she lived with her aunts and attended school.

On May 1, 1872, Mr. Andrew T. Kennedy married Miss Rebecca Jane McClay, daughter of David and Nancy (Carson) McClay. They lived for a number of years on a farm east of Oakdale where a son Bliss was born on Jan. 23, 1876. He became a doctor and practiced in Maryville, Missouri. Four daughters, Katie Bell, Annie Laurie, Leila Ada, and Emily Rebecca were born to this couple.

On August 18, 1881, James Ranwick Kennedy was married to Emma Maria Beaver, daughter of Ephriam and Rebecca (Little) Beaver. They made their home in St. Louis, Mo.

On December 26, 1879, Louisa Kennedy was married to William R. Auld. They made their home on a farm west of Oakdale for many years. Eleanor, Ada, Kennedy and Ward were born to this couple.

Dr. William Cannon Kennedy born Sept. 2, 1856 was married on May 1, 1879 to Mary Mae Aitken. He practiced medicine most of his life in New York City.

General John C. Kennedy was born Oct. 20, 1843 and married his cousin Catherine Cannon Kennedy on Oct. 30, 1865. They lived in Denver, Colorado most of their lives.

Most of the material in the above article was found in a Genealogical Record Book and Scrap Book kept by the Will Auld Family, especially Eleanor. Some was from an article written by Lavina Anderson Sterrett found in another Scrap-book. Some was gotten through interviews with relatives.

We also found that John Burns, an orphan raised in the home of Thomas Donnelly, was a miller by trade and had worked in both the Elkton and Oakdale Mills. Mr. Burns along with Hugh Calderwood held 1/3 undivided interest in the Oakdale Mill for about a year, 1877-1878.

PARTIAL LIST OF TOWNSHIP OFFICERS

SUPERVISOR		ASSESSOR		TOWN CLERK	
1883	David Luke	1884	H. Dunkhorst	1884	J. R. Kennedy
	J. D. Maxwell		S. L. Coulter		C. B. Gudgen
	Jos. G. Carr		T. C. Klene		G. W. Snyder
	J. D. Maxwell		Henry Frieman		Chas. Kaufman
	Ed Kroener		Arthur Schaeffer		Walter Kling-
	A. E. Leish		Stuart Carson		enberg
	Lester Guthrie		Henry Frieman		Walter Maxwell
			Lonnie Kroener		Ray Kirkpatrick
			Ray Kirkpatrick		John Klene
			Stanley Geppert		
TAX COLLECTOR					
	M. Fox Collected	\$526.29			
1885	E. B. Maxwell	417.38			
1890	Alex B. Kane	1885, H. Seiling	E. Beaver	HIGHWAY COMMISSIONER	
189-	W. A. Kane	C. W. Rohde	E. Beaver	Thos. Gordon	
1895	R. J. Guthrie	1917, Allen Hahne	Nipper Rohde	Thos. Guthrie	
?	Thomas Klene			wm Douglas	

1929-'38 Ed Kroener
 1939-'42 Ed Alfeldt
 1943-'46 Geo. Rezba
 1947--- Herbert Dintelman

THE MILL COMPANY OF OAKDALE, ILLINOIS

We cannot say with certainty when the mill was started at Oakdale, however we do have these records which place the date as being within the first year after the town was platted.

David McClay & wife
James B. McClurkin
John McAfee & wife
S.D. McClurkin & wife

W.D. \$ 100.00
Dated March 21st 1867
Filed July 22nd 1867
Lots 2 & 4 Block 4 town
of Oakdale
Book 34 page 103

to
The Mill Company of Oakdale
Ill. known as
A. McClurkin & Co.

S.D. McClurkin & wife Elizabeth
John W. McAfee & wife Margery
David McClay & wife Nancy
to
James B. McClurkin

Vol. 34 page 343
Jan. 10-1868
Jan. 11-1868
\$ 950.00

W $\frac{1}{2}$ NW SE 14-3-4 & 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ acres in NW cor SW SE 14-3-4

Archibald McClurkin & Co,
James McAfee & John J. Torrens,
Partners, constituting the Mill
Company and known as McClurkin & Co.
to
James P. Lockhart & David Russell
Partners of the Firm of Lockhart
& Russell

Vol 46 page 208
Dec. 14-1872
January 21-1873
Co. Warranty Deed
\$ 5,000.00

Com. at N side of street opposite NE cor. of Lot 6 Block 4
Oakdale, th N 275 ft., th E 426 ft., th S 275 ft., th W to place
of beginning including the Mill Site and also NE SW 14-3-4.

The 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ acres transferred on Jan. 10, 1868 is the mill site.
We have no record of when it came into the hands of the Mill
Company, however we do know that Lots 2 & 4 in Block 4 were
bought the same year as the town was laid out.

The Mill site is now in Lester Guthrie's pasture, the home,
garden and a little of the pasture north of Claudine & Lucile
Coulter's home. The mill pond was in Lester's pasture, some of
the bank is still visible and the mill was located about ten
feet east of the Coulter house. Lots 2 & 4 are in front of the
house and the barn is on Lot 6.

The mill was built of brick on a rock foundation. It was built on the slope of a low hill with a rock wall for the basement or lower floor. After the mill was destroyed and Mr. R.G.Ardrey had bought it, he used rocks from the basement wall for the foundation of the two additions he built to his store. He may have used many of the bricks also, in the first addition. When Coulter's bought the site in 1935 they removed rock to build a retaining wall along their drive and to use in other places. When the yard was graded many of the rocks were covered over.

The mill was owned by many people in the few years it was operated. Russell and Lockhart sold to Archibald McClurkin and James McAfee on April 17, 1875. The name of John Burns enters the record as part owner on Dec. 6, 1875. James McClurkin drops out of the firm and Hugh Calderwood enters on Nov. 22nd, 1876.

John Burns & wife and Hugh Calderwood & wife sold to Moses Keady and James Keady on Oct. 4, 1880 for \$ 5400.00. James Keady sold his half interest to H.G. Calderwood on Oct. 17, 1882.

It seemed that the owners seldom operated the mill. The name of Moss Guthrie and also of M.T. Bagely appear as operators at different times.

The following account of the mill explosion was published in a neighboring newspaper, probably the Coulterville Republic.

A TERRIBLE EXPLOSION!

The Engine at the Oakdale Mill Bursts, Killing Instantly Eugene Wilson

At 11 o'clock yesterday occurred the greatest tragedy that ever shocked our neighboring village of Oakdale. The boiler in the mill at that place exploded and tore the engine room to fragments, instantly killing Mr. Eugene Wilson, who had been employed to run the engine that day for Mr. Badgely, who was sick. Mr. Eugene Wilson had his brains knocked out, and was badly scalded. He leaves a wife and seven children in destitute circumstances. The whole engine room and the engine boiler, were torn to fragments, and the east end of the mill building was badly damaged; but, strange to say, the brick smoke stack was scarcely touched. The village was strewn with fragments, and the mill pond is full of shingles, bricks, etc.

The Oakdale mill was a substantial brick building, and was well fitted up, but it seems that no person was ever successful in running it. Mr. M.T. Bagely and his son were the proprietors at the time of the disaster. They had leased it for two years, but their lease was about to run out when the accident occurred.

The mill blew up on Aug. 21, 1883.

FOX BUTCHER SHOP

In the early days of Oakdale, Robert Fox and his brother John built a butcher shop on the southwest corner of Lot 3 Block 3 on the north side of Second Street. Mr. Robt. Fox lived in the house on this lot. It is not known how long they operated the shop. There was a barn on the back lot where they butchered. In one end was a log structure in which ice was stored in the winter.

In time Mrs. Mary J. Kirkpatrick bought the property and built the house in which the Lester Guthrie family lives now. During the early 1900's Elihu Logan used the shop for his barber shop and ice-cream parlor. He sold ice-cream, sandwiches and pie as well as good home-made bread made by his wife, the former Alice Gordon.

When Mr. Logan moved to Iowa, Lester Guthrie, who had been licensed to barber Oct. 24, 1913 began operating the shop. Charles Kaufman and Dewey Maxwell both served as apprentices before opening their own shops.

Mr. Guthrie went into other businesses for a time and the shop was used for a time by Charles Kaufman. Later or during this time the back room was used by Lyle McClay for a radio shop, by Dr. Lester Barton for a dental office. Frank Glenn operated a printing press here for several years while teaching in the High School. He did custom printing.

In the late '30's Mr. Guthrie returned to barbering and has continued until the present (1969)

Dr. Gene Stotlar used the back room for his office during the years he came on a part time basis to practice medicine.

THE DAVID McCLAY BUILDING

In January 1868, David McClay bought Lots 1 & 2 in Block 3 from his partners who laid out the town of Oakdale. Shortly afterward he built the brick store which stood on the east half of Lot 1. It was held by himself, his widow, Nancy McClay or her grand-daughters until the building was sold to the Lancasters in 1910 for use as a bank. All businesses operated in the building were tenants of Mrs. McClay or the Kennedy Sisters.

Morrison & Co. was the first one who ran a general store. We do not know how long he operated this store. He sold his business to Ed Rixman & 'Dick' Garnholz who used the building for a general store for some years. In time they sold their business to William Kleinschmidt. In Dec. 1904 Mr. Kleinschmidt moved his business to the store building which he had bought when T.V. McClurkin moved West.

We know nothing about how the store room was used between 1904 and 1910. It was used as a bank from 1911 to 1968

The upstairs of the building was occupied by the McClay's and the Kennedy Sister for many years. It was rented to Golvin Luney's, then by Rev. Ferguson, the Rodman family, Walter Klingenberg family, the Harry Cunningham family, the Lyle Torrens family and the Gordon Davis family, each for a short time. I might have missed some one.

GARNHOLZ-BORCHERDING STORE

It seems that Mr. J.D. Garnholz entered the store business again built a new frame store building across the street from the McClay Building, opened a store with George Borcharding as his partner in 1904. Edna Smith clerked in the store until about 1906, when she went to St. Louis to attend Brown's Business College. Olive Borcharding clerked until she was stricken with paralysis. About 1908 Anna Belle Kirkpatrick began clerking in the store and was later married to George Borcharding.

The store was a very good typical general store of that day, with crackers, sugar, oat-meal, salt, raisins, etc. all sold in bulk, out of the cracker box or the sugar barrel or the coffee bin. They always carried a nice line of yard goods, shoes, hose etc. I do not believe they ever carried womens hats or coats, but they did carry a large stock of men's work clothes, work shoes as well as dress shoes.

George took many newly married couples to St. Louis to the Lamert Furniture Store and let them select their new furniture. He didn't charge them for the trip and let them have the furniture at the wholesale price. He probably gained by having them as customers in the years ahead.

George was also a great Cardinal fan and went to St. Louis almost every week to buy merchandise for the store. On these trips he often took one or two boys with him and in the afternoon took them to the ball game. Many boys saw their first big league game with him.

The store bought much farm produce in exchange for cash, chips, or merchandise. He bought poultry, eggs, hams, bacon, butter, railroad ties and mine props. Hunters sold hides of coons, possums, skunks, after they had been dried out on a board for quite a while. He also bought rabbits at 25¢ each which were shipped in barrels to the city. In time they only brought 10¢ and finally could not be sold. They also bought raw cow hides.

The store was sold to a Mr. Oates in 1926. He managed it about a year and sold to Joe Maxwell who in turn sold out in about a year. Mr. Maxwell moved to Nashville to practice law and was soon elected to a county office, being both States Attorney and County Judge.

George Borcharding bought the store back in 1928 and Mr. Garnholz retired and soon moved to Nashville where he and Mrs. Garnholz spent the rest of their lives.

Sometime before 1926, a second room was added to the west side of the original store. They handled linoleums, stoves and various household appliances. They also kept men's work clothes and I believe they kept men's coats and suits.

George died suddenly of a heart attack on March 12, 1939 after working in or operating a store for 45 years. Anna Belle and her brother Ray Kirkpatrick operated the store until 1943. Then Anna Belle's son-in-law, James Henley helped her for a time.

After the store was closed by Anna Belle, she sold the building to William Kleinschmidt.

Dalton Rohde and Edwin Luczak both used it for the post office until 1952. It was also used for a school cafeteria and gym. Al Guthrie followed by Norman Friedman conducted a hatchery here.

In 1967 Mr. Pyatt converted it into a modern Funeral Home.