

Cheese Factories (and School): Part 3

By Dorothy French and Friends

Our tour of the area cheese factories takes us to a location near the Walworth-Marion township line. We previously wrote about the cheese factories in Lincoln and at 2310 Walworth-Marion Road.

Marion Cheese Factory: The second cheese factory on Walworth-Marion Road was located a slight distance to the east of the Walworth factory in the township of Marion. According to Richard Roland, there originally was a "T" in the road where Walworth-Marion Road and Maple Avenue met. Walworth-Marion Road continued to the left for a short distance and then made a right-hand turn, headed east again. The cheese factory was located on the east side of Walworth-Marion Road, just prior to the right-hand turn.

Several people mentioned the nearby big hill on Walworth-Marion Road. At the bottom of the hill was a sharp curve to prevent cars from running into the cheese factory wall. However, some people went too fast, missed the curve, and smashed into the wall. For this reason the hill became known as Cheese Factory Hill. The curve was removed when the road was remodeled in the early 1950's.

Richard said that Robert Wignall operated this cheese factory. Robert and Emma Wignall, parents of George R. Wignall of Walworth, lived on Hall Center Road. George's great nephew, Robert L. Wignall of Colorado Springs, CO, has a copy of the Wignall genealogy, which mentions that Robert operated cheese factories in Marion, Walworth, and Macedon. Bob Wignall has written his remembrances of this area; look for his story in a future issue.

According to Leslie George Hall, the structure was built at the close of the 19th century. It was destroyed by fire approximately 1915-1920 timeframe, although a portion of the wall was still standing in 1958.



The Cheese Factory School was located diagonally across from the cheese factory, on the northwest corner of the present Hall Center and Walworth-Marion Roads. The cobblestone building was erected in 1848 at a cost of \$14.84 for the land and \$300 to build the school. The site was covered when New York State improved Walworth-Marion Road in the early 1950's. Children from the eastern area of Walworth attended this school, although it was located in the township of Marion.

Editor's Note: Does anyone know the location of other cheese factories in our area? Contact any officer or trustee listed on the front cover of this newsletter.