

Annan

Annan was known as VanWyck's Cornery, and on March 1, 1865, it was called Speedie or Speedieville, and later Dunedin, and finally on May 1, 1874, it was named Annan, the name it still retains over an hundred years later.

The first place of business in Annan was the store erected by Mr. VanWyck and Mr. McKinnon, and this was a large roughcast two storey house which stood directly opposite the school on the road leading to Leith, and facing the Lakeshore Line. It was built of hewed barn timber frame and was a sturdy building. In the part of the house next to the road to Leith, was the hotel, kept by Mr. VanWyck, hence the name VanWyck Corner.

The next storekeepers after McKinnon were Rixon and Lemon who did business there for a few years. William Speedie was next in succession as a general storekeeper in the same location. He later moved farther north and built a store and a post office for himself. It is said that Mr. Speedie used to bite off with two teeth, the stick candy for his little customers.

The Ross Bros. (David and Hugh) kept store in the VanWyck building before they moved to the present site of the Annan store. Other occupants of this first large old building were Logans, Bryons and Tompkins. Another resident and business man was Charles Skinner, who had a butchering business there for awhile. Mr. Geddes bought it and tore it down and built the present house where Charles McPhatter recently resided.

This place of business was given the name of the White Duck, and then the hotel business ended with the coming of the motor car. In 1928 James Dickson opened a garage business in what had been the old stable, which was part of the hotel property.



A Postcard taken at Annan in 1916.
Back Row-L.to R. Bob Day and Alex Geddes,
Front Row-Maggie Bartley, William Geddes,
(Alex's brother)
Mrs. Sandy Geddes (mother of Alex and William)

The second place of business was a large frame two storey building opposite the VanWyck hotel on the Lakeshore Line. Here Thomas Vickers kept a store also ran a cheese factory. This building was also a hotel, and called the Grey Duck. Lillie and Nellie Logan were connected with the taverns. At one time a family of Campbells ran a shoemaking and repairing establishment there. It also served as a residence for awhile, and after being vacant for some time, it mysteriously burned at midnight.