



## Introduction

Appleton was originally known as Apple Tree Falls but later became known as Teskeyville in honor of the three Teskey brothers who settled here. The Teskey family built Appleton's sawmill, grist mill and woollen mill. They also operated the general store and post office. It was not until 1857 that the community was officially re-named Appleton.

*We begin the tour at the North Lanark Regional Museum (River Rd. at Appleton Side Road) which sits on the site of the former S.S. #11 Ramsay School. The original red brick school house was built in 1879 to replace a log building and to accommodate growing attendance. The school closed down in 1969, was reinvented as a museum in 1971, but burned down in 1979.*

*Continuing into Appleton on River Road you reach the community boat launch which was the site of*

the **Appleton Cheese Factory**. Every morning the farmers dropped off their milk and every afternoon the local children would stop by for some fresh curds.

*As you continue down River Road at the curve is a stone house with a turret. In 1824 **Joseph Teskey** built a gristmill in Appleton on the East side of the Mississippi River. The mill provided flour and grain to the community into the early twentieth century. In 1946-47 the current home was built on the site using stones from the foundation of the closed grist mill. The home was built by John Collie whose father William Collie Sr. purchased the Woollen Mills in 1937.*

*Continuing on Appleton Side Road you arrive on the left at the Scottish Georgian style stone house of **Joseph Teskey**. The house was built in c.1844 and remains in excellent condition. You'll notice three arches which provided access to the carriage garage. The spacious home later*

served as a boarding house for the textile mill workers.

*Next on the tour is the former Methodist/United Church (#490 River Rd.), which is now a private residence. The Methodist Church was built on property donated by Joseph Teskey. The original church was a frame building built in 1868 which burned down in 1887. The stone church was constructed in 1889 with Robert Teskey given the honor of laying the corner stone. In 1925 the church became St. Andrew's United Church and remained in operation until 1962.*



*At the top of Hill Street there used to be the Presbyterian Church which was built in c.1875 on land donated by Andrew Wilson. The Presbyterian Church closed in 1925 when most of the Congregation joined the United Church of Canada. The Presbyterian Church was demolished in 1931.*

There was no Roman Catholic Church in Appleton, instead the priest would hold mass on Sunday afternoons in a private home.

*At the intersection of River Road, Hill Street and the Bridge sits a two storey red brick building built in the 1880s by Thomas Arthur. This is the former General Store and Post Office. Remnants of the Store signs are still visible on the south side of the building. The General Store was always the hub*

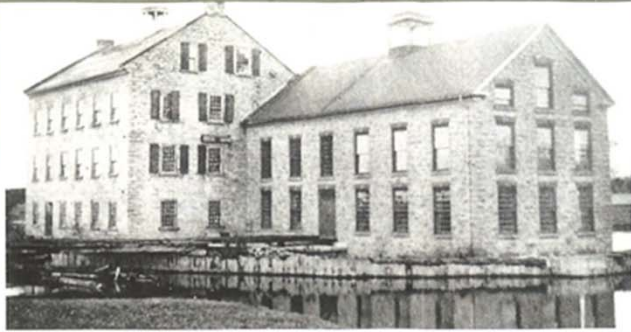
of the community. Locals came to buy their groceries, horse tack, coal oil for lamps and gas for automobiles.

The owner of the General Store typically ran the Post Office. When William Russell Lyons owned the General Store his wife Mrs. Jessie J. Lyons worked as store keeper, postmistress and village midwife.

*On the South West side of the bridge is a large white building with wood shingles (#449 River Rd.). This building was formerly the village blacksmith shop run by Andy Gladish. The building was built in the late 1940s by Mr. Gladish to replace a smaller shop located next to the red brick general store. It took Mr. Gladish a while to completely transition from the old building to the new building, for several years he worked out of both buildings. The new building also featured two apartments on the second floor where the Andy's children Max and Jack lived. During the 1800s there were always at least two blacksmiths in the village. The blacksmiths made tools, repaired equipment and shod horses. As cars replaced buggies and tractors replaced horses, the role of the Blacksmith slowly changed and largely disappeared.*

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To cross the Mississippi River there is a modern bridge built in the early 2000s. Appleton's original bridge was built by Albert Teskey in 1858 out of pine about 100 meters south of the modern bridge. A second wood bridge replaced the first one in 1864 this time built by Dennis Sullivan. In 1890 the bridge was reinforced with braces but was damaged and destroyed during the winter of 1899. An iron bridge replaced the old one and then in the 1950s a new bridge was constructed on the site of the current one.

As you cross the bridge and look North towards the power dam the ruins of the original Woollen Mill are still visible.

The original stone mill was built in 1862 by Robert Teskey using locally quarried limestone and featured prominent quoins. In 1880 John Adam Teskey built a second mill building on the success of the booming Woollen industry. The mill produced woven cloths and did custom carding and spinning.

In 1900 the Teskey family retired and the Woollen Mill was sold to the Caldwell family of Lanark who operated the mill into the 1930s. During the Depression the Woollen mill went largely



unused but started up again when the Collie family became owners in 1937. At its peak the woollen mills employed over 300 people and operated 24 hours a day.

Turning onto Old Mill Lane (#104) the majestic Robert Teskey house stands out. This large stone home was built in the early 1850s. The house is a two and a half storey stone home built into the side of a natural slope. This massive home once housed the Teskey family on the first two levels and their servants in the third level. The home originally had an upper and lower verandah running across its front. This front porch has since been removed but the bolt holes are still visible in parts of the stone.

Located almost directly behind the Robert Teskey house is the site of the former Collie Woollen Factory which was built in 1940. The large cement block building used electricity to power the production of textiles. With the addition of the factory the stone mills became the finishing department and the administration office. After the stone mills were destroyed in consecutive fires an addition to the cement block factory was built in 1950. The modern factory was used until 1992 when the company closed and the building was destroyed by fire in 2007.

Following onto Wilson Street (#124) one of the first buildings on the West side of the River is a large stone house. This one and a half storey stone

house was built in c. 1860 by the third Teskey brother, Albert. Albert was Reeve of Ramsay Township, operated a general store in Appleton and was Appleton's first postmaster from 1857 to 1883.



Continuing down Wilson Street and peaking down Apple Street and Duke Street you'll notice many log homes. When the first settlers arrived in Appleton during the 1820s their first priority was to build a home for the winter. Using their axes, adzes and other tools the settlers constructed small log homes. Small and cramped these log homes provided the necessary warmth, protection and security that the settlers needed. Eventually many of these homes were replaced with framed wood or stone.

During the twentieth century more log homes were built, this time mainly serving as cottages. Many families from Ottawa spent their summers fishing and relaxing in Appleton. At one time, Mr. Everett Dunn operated a boat rental business and named the boats after the local children.

Continuing on Wilson Street you'll come to Snedden Drive, which is named in honor of the Herbert R. Snedden who operated a Farm Machinery Dealership and store in the mid twentieth century. The land on Snedden Drive was used for equipment demonstrations. Many a local remembers coming to the store for ice cream during the summer and treats at Halloween. The Snedden store is no longer around but the large white Snedden House remains at (#256 Wilson St.)

Leaving Appleton on Wilson St and heading towards County Rd. 29 you pass through the Mississippi Golf Club which covers 190 acres and features nine holes on one side of the road and a second nine on the opposite side. The club was established in 1915 on the former Patterson Farm. The club began as a nine-hole course and added the second nine in 1987. A Pro Shop was built in 1992. The club's original stone club house was destroyed by fire in 1997 and was replaced with the current building in 1998. \*

