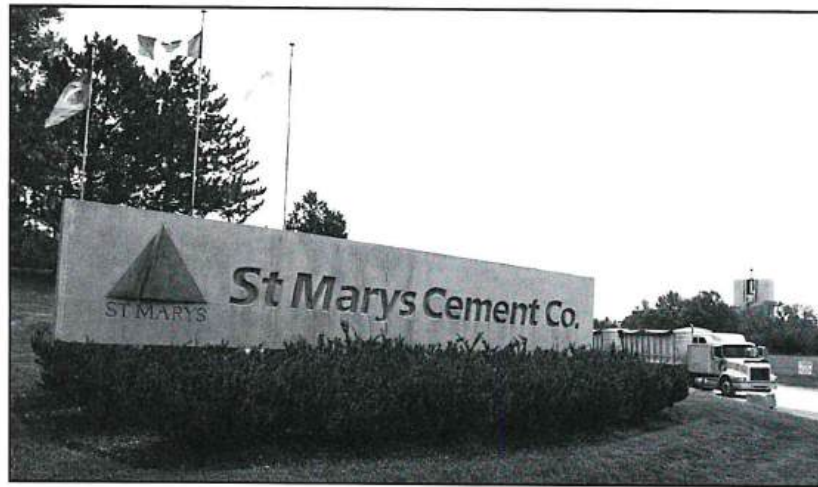


St. Marys Cement Company 1912 - 2012



A century of photographs

Presented by the St. Marys Cement Company and the St. Marys Museum

St. Marys Cement Company

1912 - 2012

Published by the St. Marys Museum

in cooperation with

The St. Marys Cement Company

Text by Mary Ainslie Smith

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ISBN 978-0-9681594-2-2

All reasonable attempts have been made to check and verify information presented in this book although sometimes the records are incomplete and personal memories differ. The St. Marys Museum will be grateful to learn of any errors, omissions or discrepancies and will record them with the archival material relating to the history of the St. Marys Cement Company.

Printed in St. Marys, Ontario, Canada

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BACKGROUND

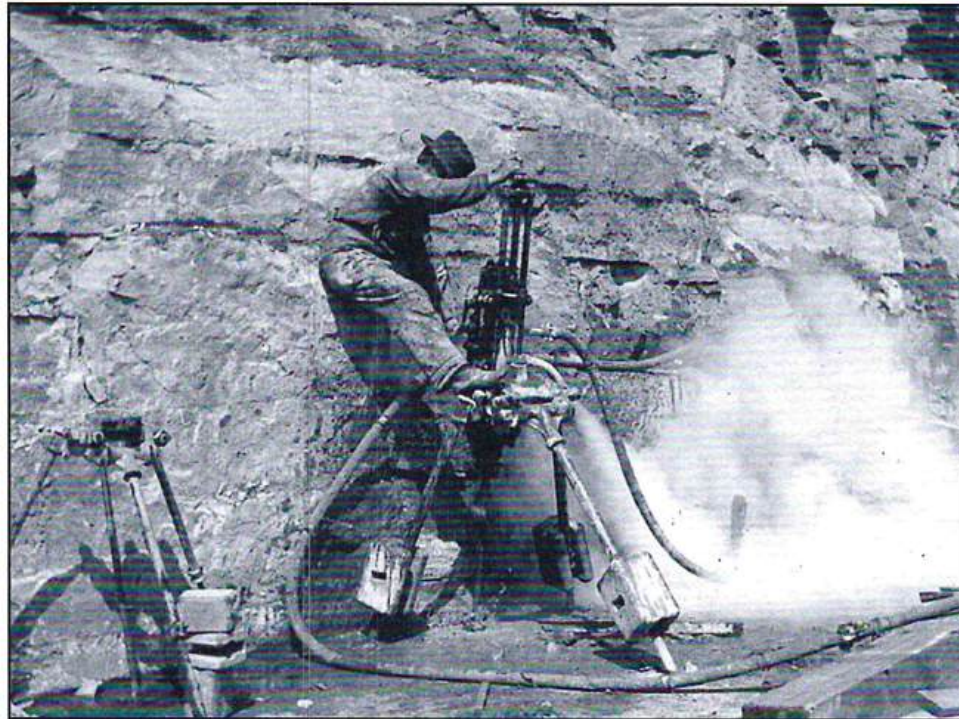
Long before the arrival of the St. Marys Cement Company in 1912, there was limestone and there were stone quarries. These quarries were not only part of the local landscape but a major economic force in the community.



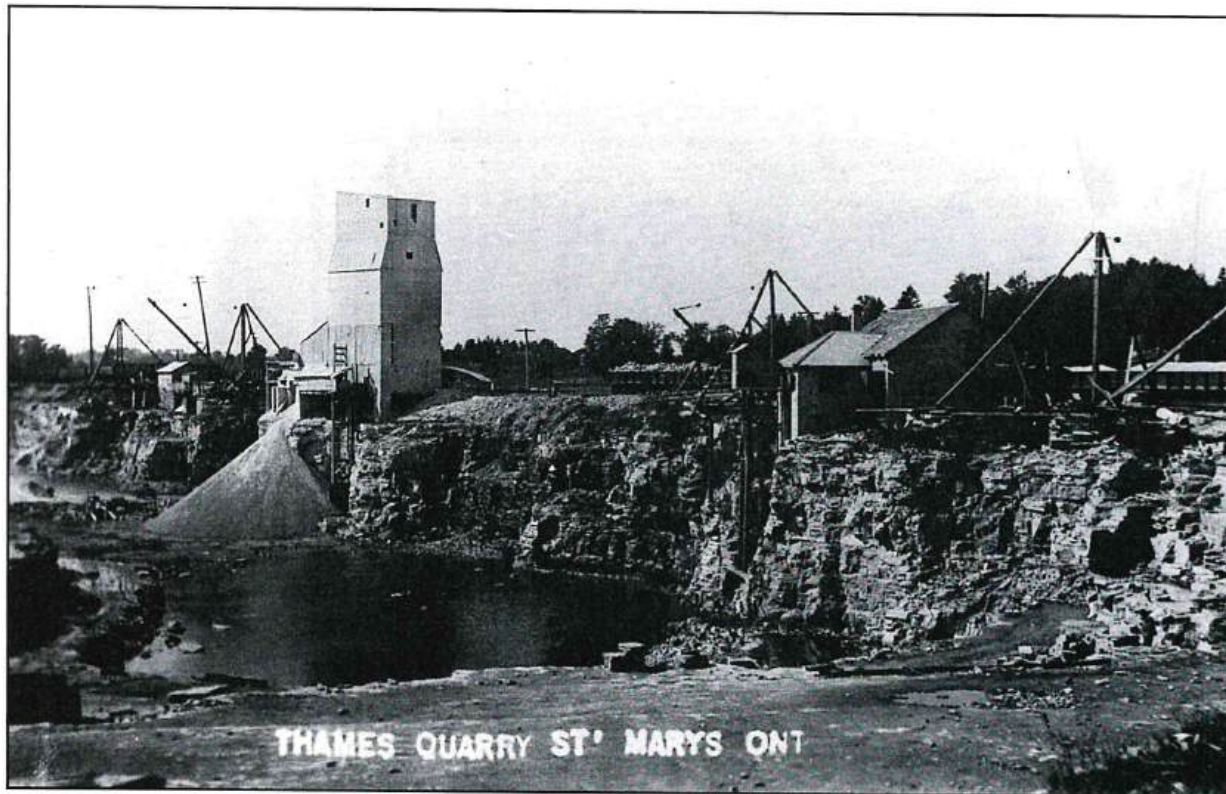
*Quarrymen work in the Thames Quarry beside Water Street in St. Marys in 1904. They are using centuries-old methods to extract blocks of limestone from the sedimentary layers in the quarry.
St. Marys Museum collection*

At the beginning of the 20th century, there were two large commercial quarries producing limestone blocks for building and crushed stone for such purposes as road and railway construction. An additional quarry served a large commercial limeworks, burning a lower grade of stone to produce slaked lime.

These industries provided opportunities for their owners but also for trades such as masons, stonecutters and contractors. Labourers were needed to extract and process the stone, cart it by the cord to building sites, load and unload the wagons. The work was heavy, the risk of injury was high and most of the jobs were seasonal but still the stone quarries sustained many St. Marys families from the mid-19th century onwards.



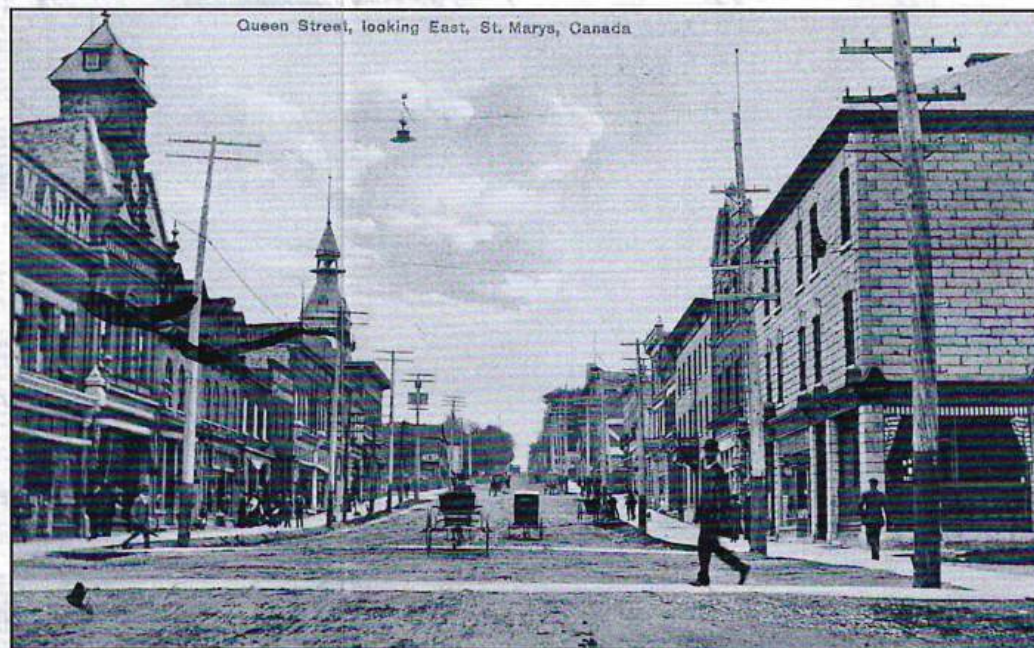
*This steam drill in use at the Horseshoe Quarry, ca. 1903, shows development in the technology of stone extraction but little regard for the safety of the worker.
Milton Reesor collection, St. Marys Museum*



By 1912, the Thames Quarry was producing mostly crushed stone, much for use in road construction. This postcard view shows the quarry's crushing operations and the railway cars on the CPR tracks filled with stone for delivery throughout the province. St. Marys Museum collection

A NEW INDUSTRY FOR ST. MARYS

In the first few years of the 20th century, St. Marys seemed to have reached a plateau both in population and industrial growth. The 1891 federal census gave the population as 3,416 – an all-time high. By 1911 it was 3,388 – a decline of 28 people. Young people in particular were leaving the town, drawn by jobs in growing Ontario cities such as London or Toronto or going farther to the United States or west to Manitoba or Alberta.



Postcard view of downtown St. Marys, ca. 1910 St. Marys Museum Collection

But then St. Marys received an enormous economic boost. A new company to manufacture Portland cement decided to locate within municipal limits. By the fall of 1912, the cement company was in full production, employing more than 100 men with additional income for many men with wagons and teams of horses. By 1921, the census reported a population of 3,847 – an increase of 459 people. From this time on, the town continued to grow steadily.

A portion of the bylaw presented to the St. Marys electorate in 1911 to authorize the municipality to back the new cement company to the extent of \$40,000. The bylaw passed convincingly. St. Marys Municipal Records, St. Marys Museum.

BY-LAW NO. 165

To Authorize the Town of St Marys to Guarantee the Bonds of an Incorporated Company to be formed by John G. Lind and Thomas J. McNally to the extent of \$40,000 for the purpose of erecting a Factory, Buildings, Plant, and Machinery in the Town of St. Marys to carry on therein the business of manufacturing Portland Cement.

WHEREAS John G. Lind of the Town of Owen Sound, in the County of Grey, Manufacturer, and Thomas J. McNally, of the City of Toronto, in the County of York, Physician, have agreed with the said Town of St. Marys:

(1). To form a Company incorporated under the Laws of the Province of Ontario with a capital of not less than \$250,000.

(2). To procure a site within the Corporation of the Town of St. Marys and thereon to erect the necessary factory buildings for the manufacture of Portland Cement.

(3). To expend before the 15th day of September 1911 the sum of \$200,000 pursuant to the valuation to be made by the said Corporation in the

(a) procuring the necessary site within the Town of St. Marys, (b) constructing and erecting the building and (c) the erection of the plant and machinery in connection therewith for the purpose of the said factory;

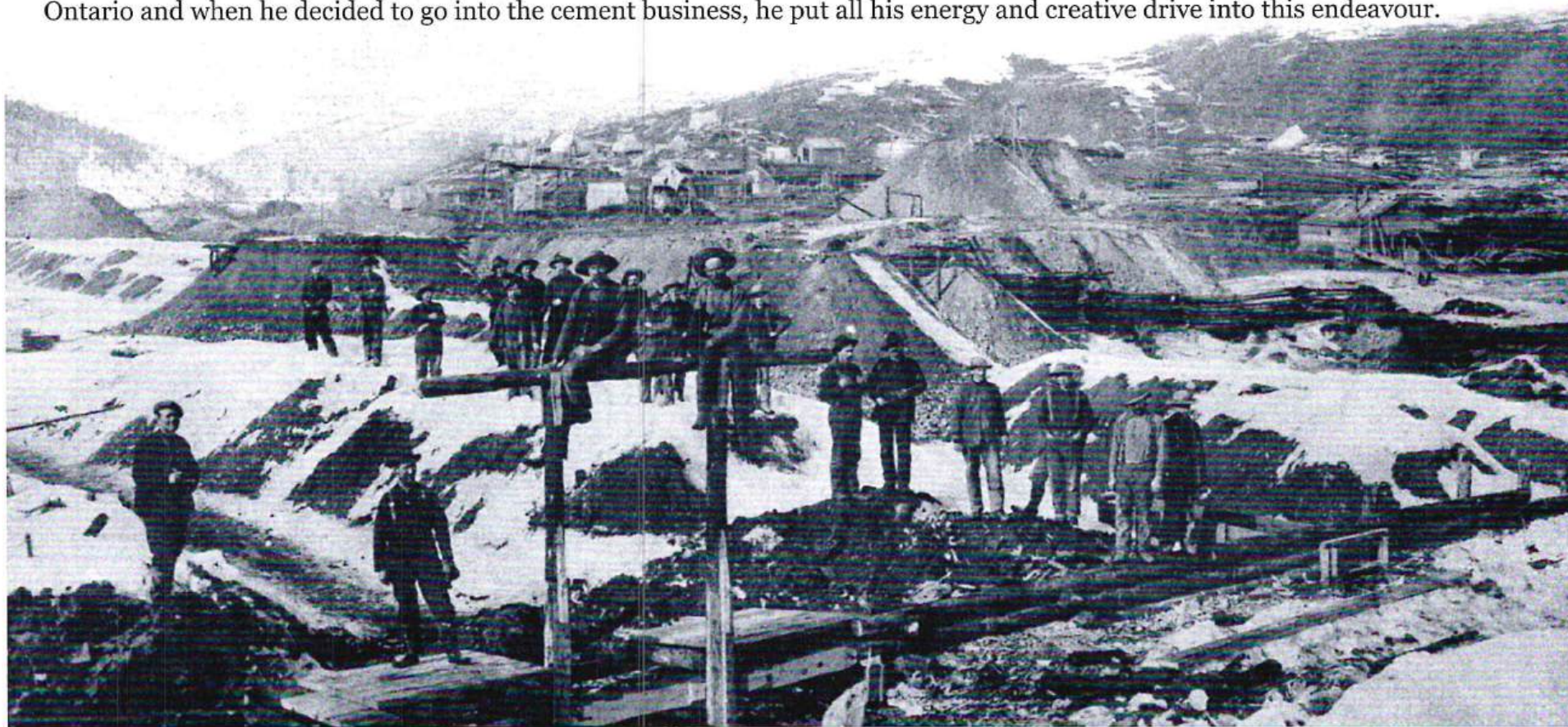
(4) To erect said factory and equip the same with plant and machinery ready for the manufacture of Portland Cement before the 15th day of September 1911, delays from strikes or other necessary and unavoidable causes excepted;

(5). To employ at least 100 hands for at least 10 months in each year after the 15th day of September 1911 except in the case of strikes, fire or other casualties over which the said John G. Lind and Thomas J. McNally or the said incorporated Company have no control.

JOHN GRIEVE LIND

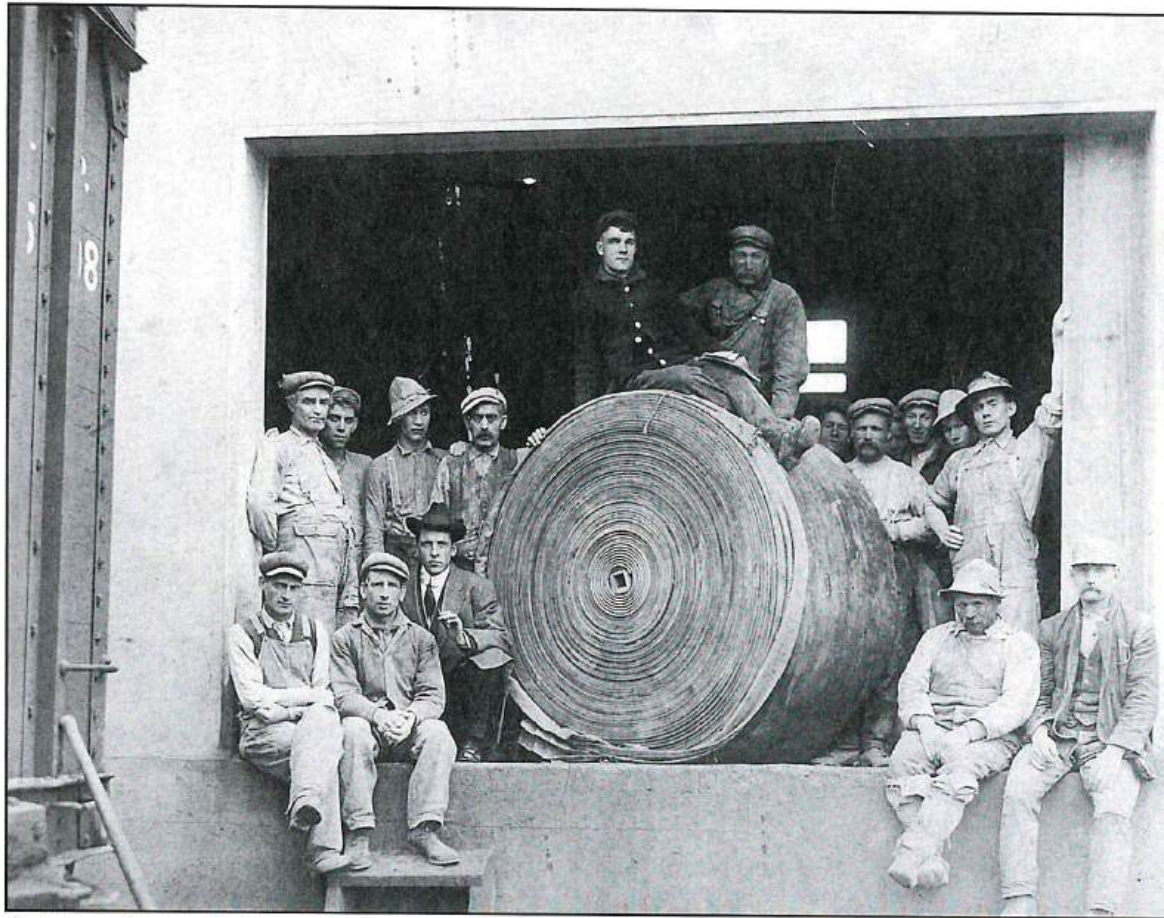
The person most closely associated locally with the new St. Marys Cement Company and the main spokesman during negotiations with the town was John Grieve Lind. While the other directors were based in Toronto, he and his family moved to St. Marys and became part of the community.

Born in 1867 on a farm in nearby Pond Mills, Lind left Ontario when he was a very young man to seek his fortune. He crossed the continent, working at a variety of jobs including bridge and railway construction until he reached Seattle. From there in the early 1890s, he went north to look for gold in Yukon Territory. That made him a genuine sourdough, already an experienced prospector by the famous Klondike Gold Rush in 1898. In 1903, he was among the few to leave the north as a wealthy man. He returned to Ontario and when he decided to go into the cement business, he put all his energy and creative drive into this endeavour.



*Klondike, 1900, John G. Lind, lower left on platform
Photograph, Margaret D. King collection*

Lind began by investing in a cement plant in Owen Sound. As this company's fortunes were in decline, he decided to take an active role in its management. He purchased and closed several smaller, unprofitable cement companies in the area and then decided to find to a new location that would work well for the production of Portland cement. He and his partners chose St. Marys, a place that had abundant limestone, clay and water, was on two national railway lines and would have access to hydro-electric power from Niagara Falls. Construction of an entirely new plant began in 1911.



Some workers with Hunt Engineering and some newly hired employees of St. Marys Cement pose at a loading dock. John G. Lind, with hat, white shirt, tie and trademark cigar, is kneeling just left of the roll of belting. W. W. Carter, photographer, St. Marys Museum Collection

CONSTRUCTION UNDERWAY

The establishment of a cement plant in St. Marys was an undertaking of great magnitude. First, it required space – not just for the buildings to produce cement (enormous in themselves) but also for quarries and claybeds to provide raw ingredients. Most of an entire farm inside the southwest boundary was acquired and from there the company's land holdings began almost immediately to expand.

The logistics of site preparation were complex. The new plant required electricity at a quantity at that time unparalleled in this region. The lines bringing hydro-electric power from Niagara Falls had just reached St. Marys but a special contract was negotiated to guarantee an adequate supply for the plant's operations.



*Erecting hydro poles into the cement plant
Laidlaw Collection, St. Marys Museum*



*Laying railway tracks into the cement plant
Laidlaw Collection, St. Marys Museum*

Cement would be shipped by rail. The plant property straddled the right-of-way for the main CPR line into St. Marys. To get sidings for both the CPR and the Grand Trunk Railway to loading areas, rail-sharing agreements were put in place and new tracks laid.

William Laidlaw, a young man who had been born in Durham, Ontario, came to St. Marys to work as a stock clerk for Hunt Engineering. He stayed on to work for the cement plant for another 40 years. A keen photographer, he used his camera to record the building of the St. Marys plant. The pictures in this section are his.

One year ago, the St. Marys Cement Works was only a scheme or idea existing in the minds of a few men. Today it is almost an actuality. In two months the plant will be turning out cement at the rate of 1000 bushels or more per day and furnishing employment for 125 men.

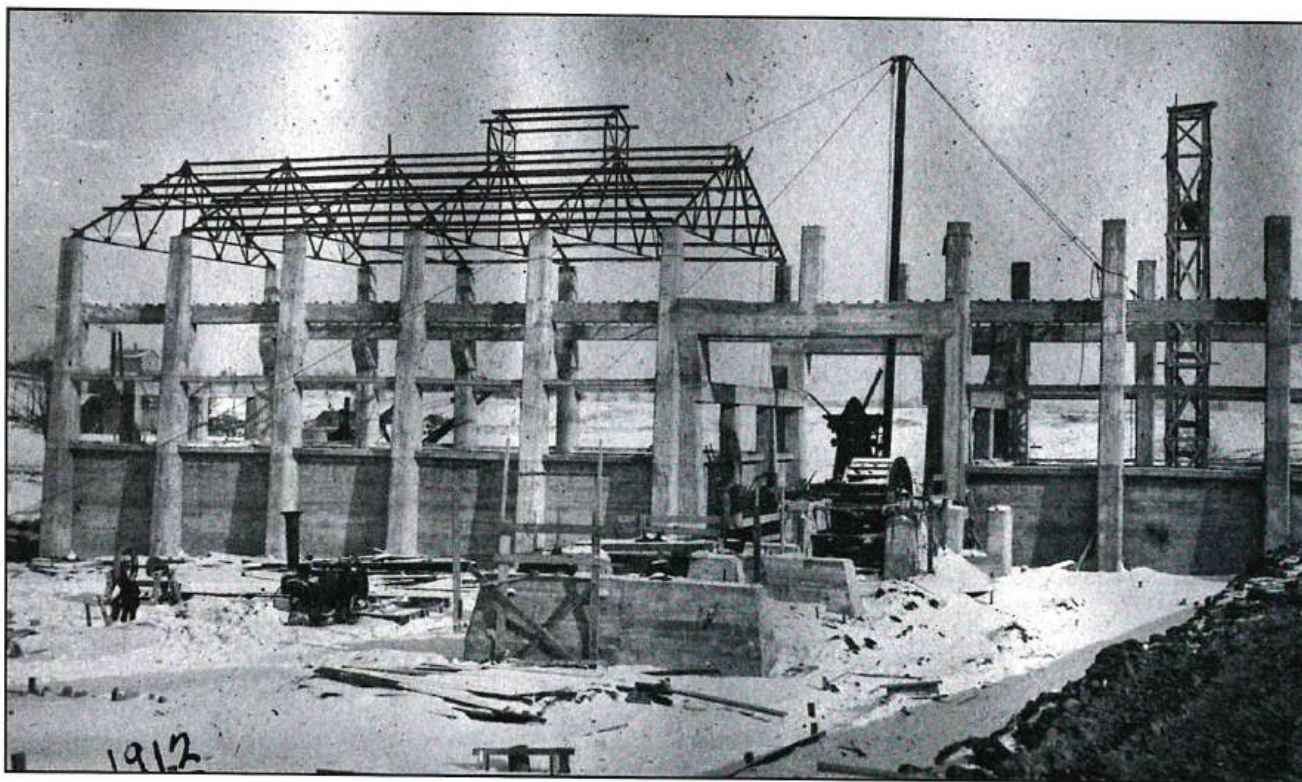
St. Marys Journal, April 4, 1912

The Hunt Engineering Company, Kansas City, Missouri, was in charge of erecting the buildings. This company built cement plants exclusively and in 1911 had constructed more mills than any other firm in the world. The St. Marys plant was one of the smaller projects but still required the full-time attention of a supervising engineer and administrative staff as well as construction labourers. A number of these men stayed on to work for St. Marys Cement when Hunt Engineering turned over the completed plant in the fall of 1912.

For the official opening on November 12, 1912, the Toronto directors, including George M. Gooderham, President, and Alfred Rogers, Sales Manager, arrived by private railway car to inspect the plant. John Lind, as Works Manager, greeted them at the site. A select number of local residents, including members of Town Council were invited to join them for a private lunch and a tour of the facilities.



*The main buildings were made of cement. This photograph shows the grinding mill taking form.
Laidlaw Collection, St. Marys Museum*



*Side view of grinding mill and portion of kiln building. The steam engine and the men on the left give some indication of the size of these structures.
Laidlaw Collection, St. Marys Museum*

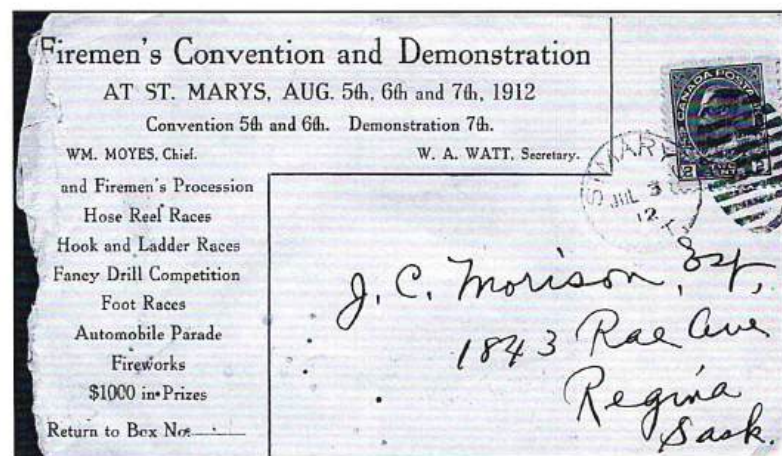
BECOMING PART OF THE COMMUNITY

In 1912 to celebrate a prosperous start of a new century the Town of St. Marys organized a Firemen's Convention and Old Boys Reunion. Invitations were sent by letter all over Ontario and beyond provincial borders, urging former residents (old boys and girls) to come home to see what a modern St. Marys had to offer. The reverse of the envelope listed 18 "Facts About St. Marys" that made it an attractive place to live and to do business.

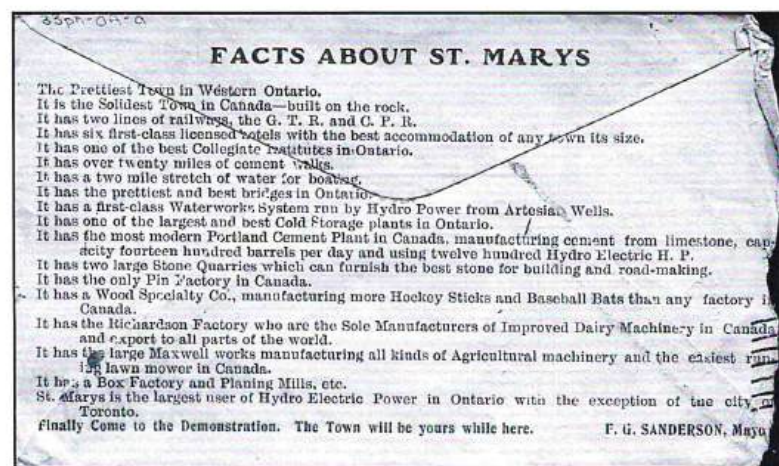
Fact Number 11 stated that St. Marys "has the most modern Portland Cement Plant in Canada, manufacturing cement from limestone, capacity fourteen hundred barrels per day and using twelve hundred Hydro Electric H.P." This was almost true. When the notices were printed, the cement plant was expected to be in full production by mid-summer. However, there were delays – mostly in negotiations with Ontario Hydro-Electric Power Commission to guarantee delivery of electrical power required to operate the plant.

The Old Boys' Reunion featured a parade celebrating St. Marys industry. Volunteers from the cement plant staff and their friends prepared a float for this occasion – a large cage on a wagon drawn by one of the teams of horses, supposedly containing prehistoric creatures found in the depths of the stone quarry, with the banner: Cement Company's Pets!

A few months later, in the spring of 1913, with the cement plant in full production, John G. Lind decided to take another step to show community involvement. Proud of his Scots heritage, he sponsored a kilted marching band. Although there were a couple pipers and some drums, the majority of the bandsmen played brass instruments. A number were cement plant employees but the "Kiltie Band" was open to all citizens. It made its first appearance on Dominion Day, July 1, 1913.



Two sides of an envelope with invitation to Old Boys' Reunion, 1912, MacKay Collection, St. Marys Museum





*Cement plant's entry in the Old Boy's Reunion Parade, 1912
Laidlaw Collection, St. Marys Museum*

*St. Marys Cement Company Band marshalling on Water Street, 1913
St. Marys Cement Company Collection*

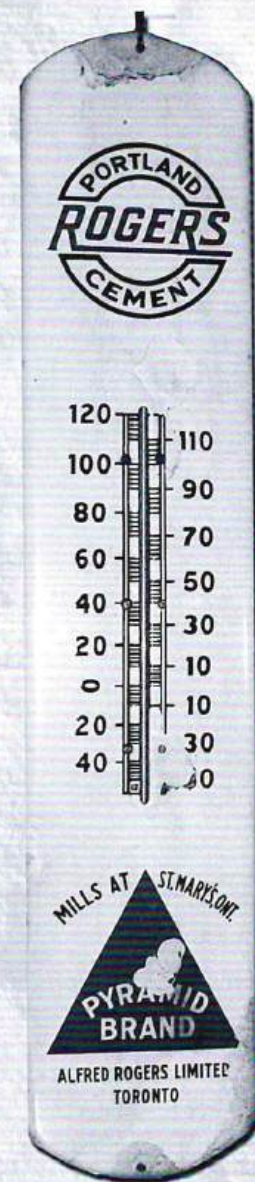


PROMOTING THE PRODUCT

St. Marys Cement Company began marketing its product under the brand Rogers Cement even before the opening of the new plant in St. Marys. The cement that was sold before 1912 was produced in the old Owen Sound plant before it was de-commissioned. But even after the plant opened in St. Marys, the Rogers brand was used for some years.

In 1915, the company produced a promotional portfolio consisting of photographs of operations in the new St. Marys plant and also of pictures of construction projects using St. Marys cement, mostly in the Toronto area. Copies of these photographs came into the possession of William Laidlaw who worked at the plant from 1911 into the 1950s and are now part of the collection of the St. Marys Museum. They show the work being undertaken to promote the use of Portland cement for a wide variety of residential, industrial, agricultural and civil construction projects.

*Promotional item: thermometer advertising
Rogers Pyramid Brand Portland Cement, ca. 1914
Donated to the St. Marys Museum's artifact collection
by George and Verna Burgin, February 2012.*

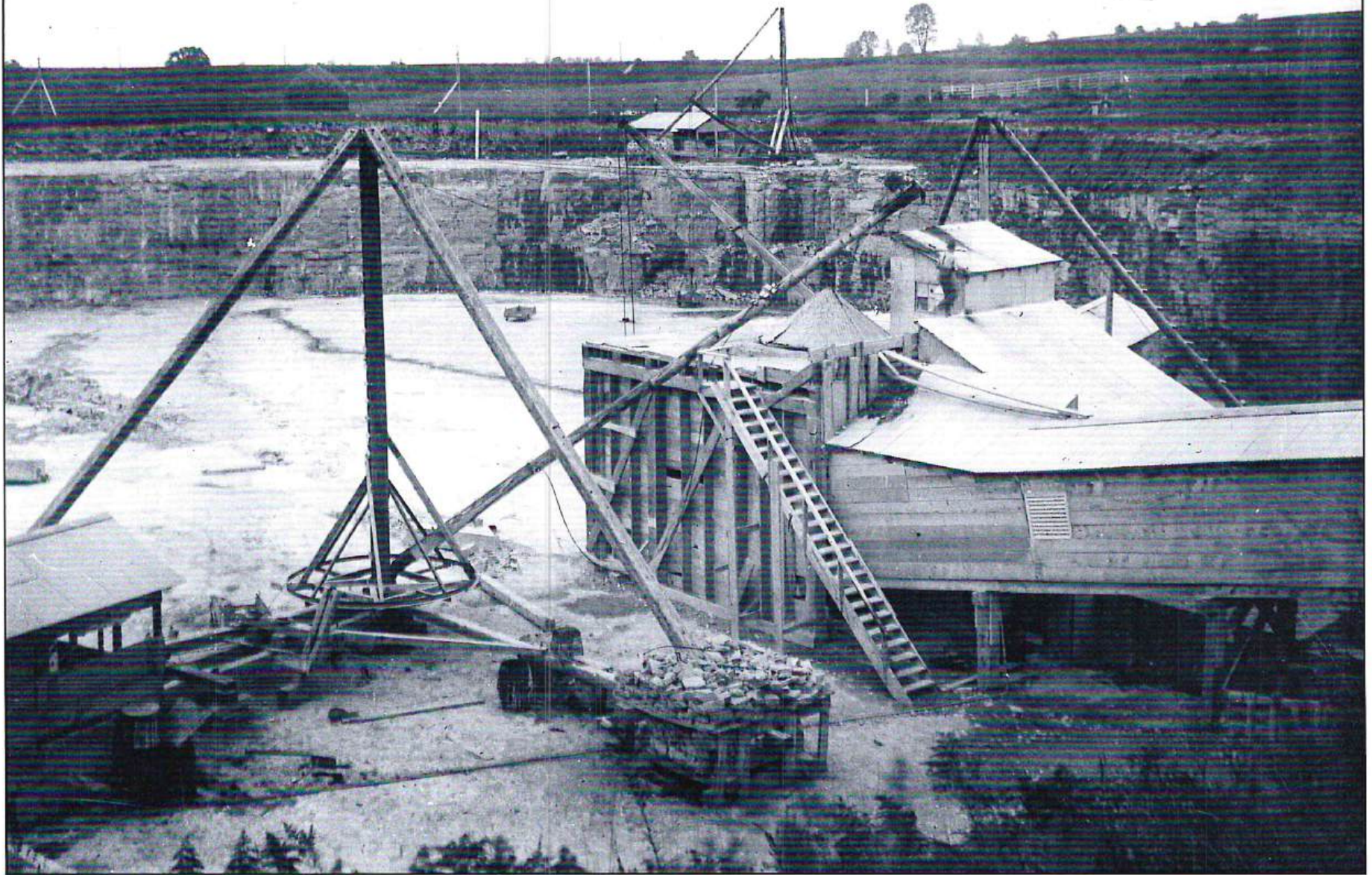


*This 1915 view of the cement plant was also used as a postcard, raising awareness of the new industry.
Laidlaw Collection, St. Marys Museum*

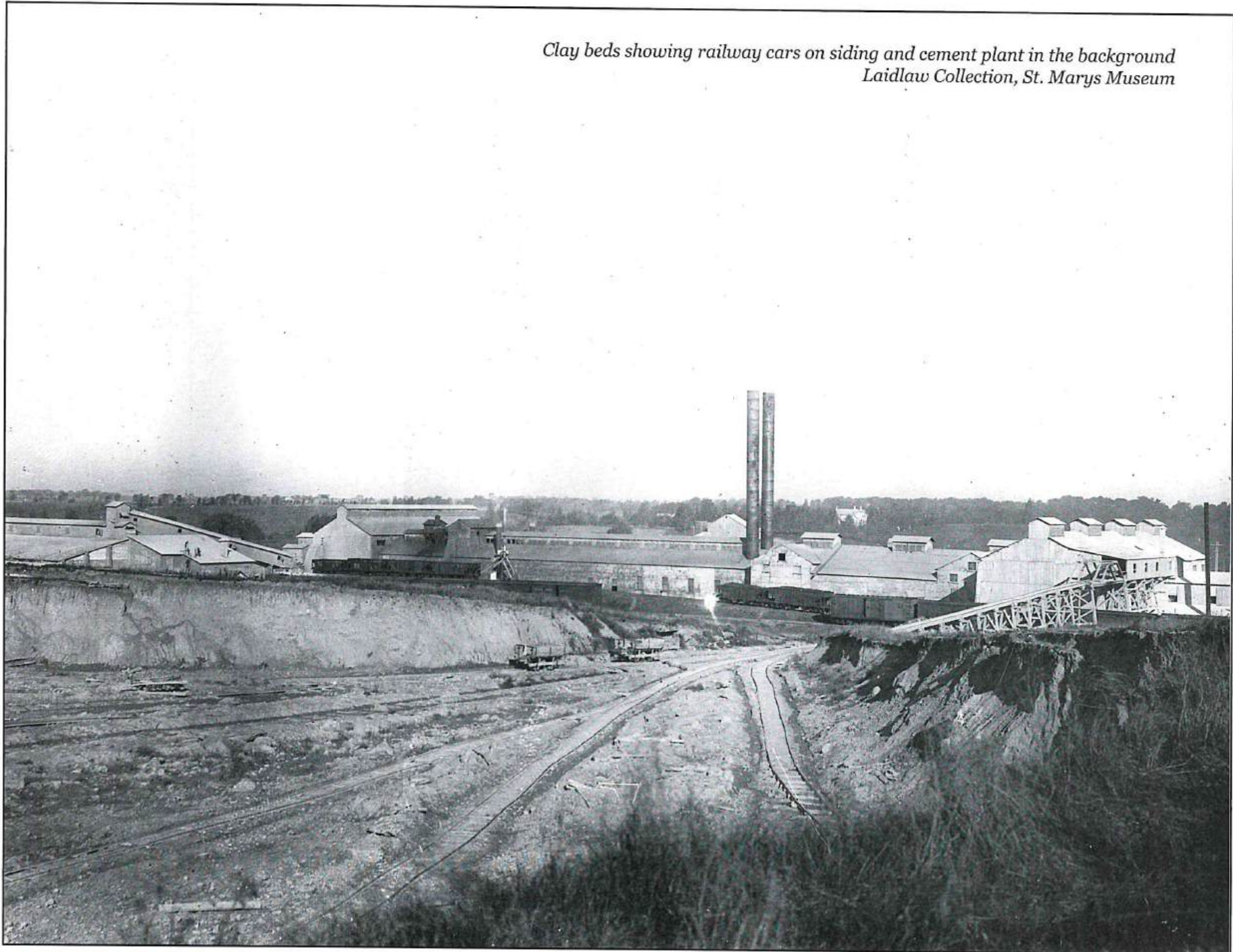


Plant No. 1 St. Mary's Ont.

*Rock quarry, cement plant, 1915. A farmer is working with a team of horses just beyond the fence in the background.
Laidlaw Collection, St. Marys Museum*



*Clay beds showing railway cars on siding and cement plant in the background
Laidlaw Collection, St. Marys Museum*





*Rogers Cement was used in the construction of the Wrigley
chewing gum factory at 245 Carlaw Avenue in the east part of Toronto.
Laidlaw Collection, St. Marys Museum*



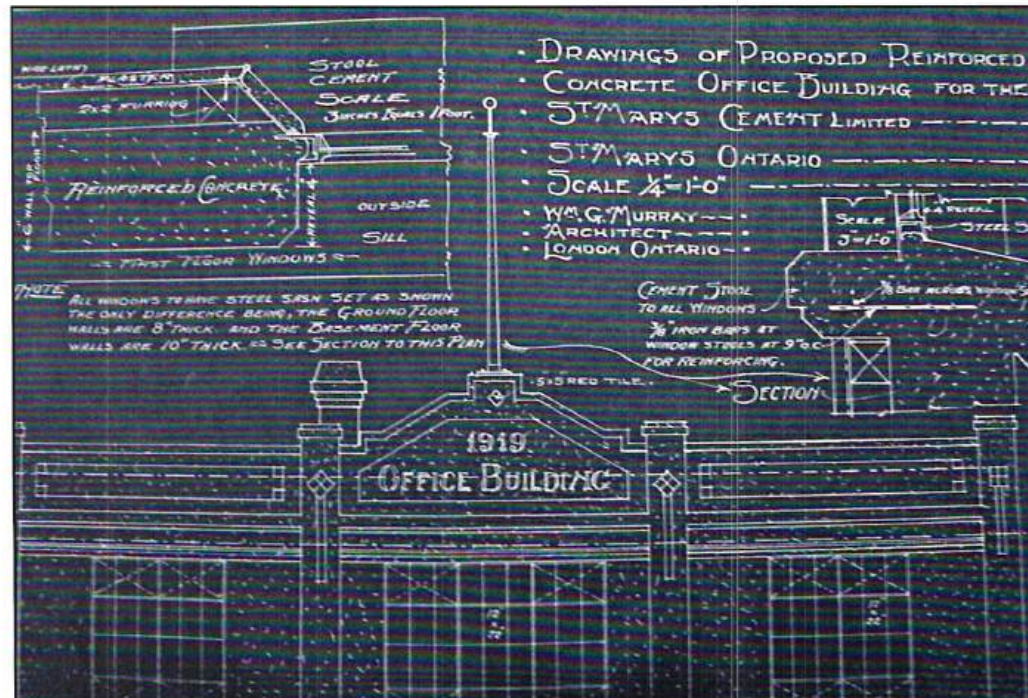
Testing the floor load capacity in the Wrigley building, 1915. Today this building has been converted into loft-style condos. Advertising emphasizes the original warehouse windows, the 14-foot ceilings and the gigantic concrete mushroom pillars visible in this photograph.
Laidlaw Collection, St. Marys Museum

THE 1920s

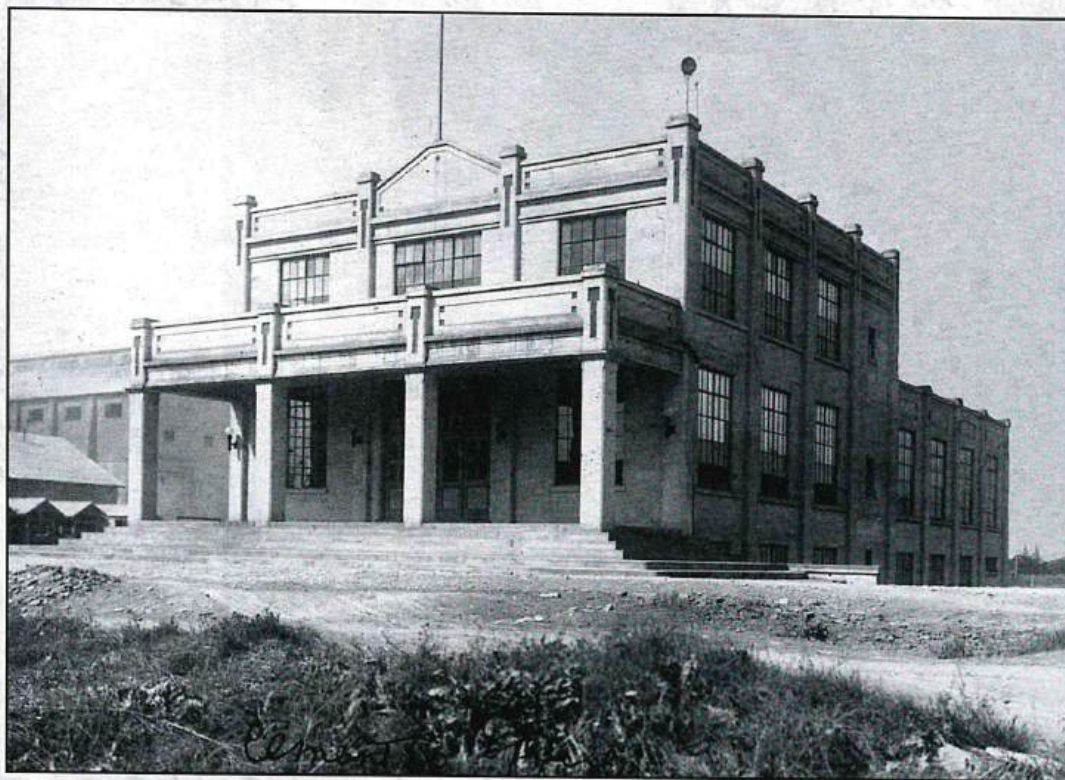
Just as operations were getting well underway at the St. Marys Cement Company, in August 1914 Great Britain (and Canada as a member of the British Empire) declared war on Germany and the Axis powers. For four and a half years while the Great War dragged on, civilian construction projects were disrupted with consequences to the cement industry.

The workforce was also affected. A number of cement plant workers enlisted or were called up, not all joining the Canadian forces. Some were reservists with military obligations to other countries. For example, a special train was commissioned by the Italian consulate to cross Canada from west to east picking up Italian nationals who had come to Canada to work but who were reservists in the Italian army. A number of men employed at the cement plant returned to Italy to fight. After the war, some came back to St. Marys but others did not.

Following the war, the company erected a new office building of reinforced concrete on the plant grounds, set a bit apart but overlooking the mills and the kiln structures. This handsome office was a declaration of confidence in the value of cement and its place in post-war growth and development.



Detail from blueprints for reinforced concrete office building for the St. Marys Cement Company, Wm. G. Murray, Architect, London St. Marys Cement Company Collection



*Office building at the St. Marys Cement Company, designed in 1919 and opened in 1920.
Laidlaw Collection, St. Marys Museum*



*Panoramic photograph of the workforce at the cement plant, taken in the mid-1920s in front of the office.
Photographer unknown. Photograph courtesy June Poole*



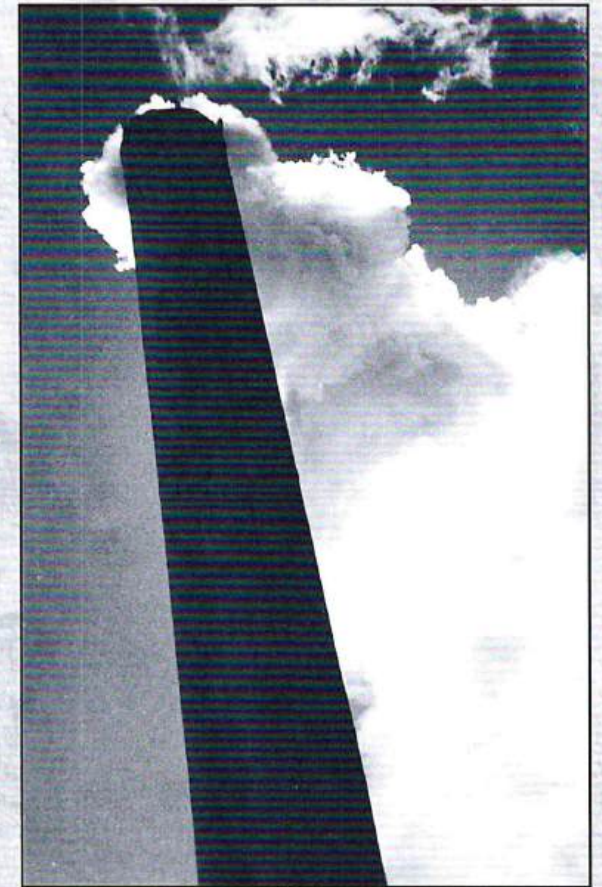
THE 1930S

The Great War was over but another challenge soon arose: the Great Depression of the 1930s, a disastrous economic downturn that affected the entire continent and spread into Europe and around the globe. In retrospect, St. Marys survived these years comparatively well, thanks in part to good municipality policies and procedures. By the early 1930s, Town Council had established a Relief Committee so that residents in greatest need received assistance. Make-work projects, partially subsidized by the province, were put in place, such as the dredging of Trout Creek and the building of floodwalls.

Some independent stores and businesses could not survive. But through prudent management, the three largest industries (Maxwell Ltd., C. E. Richardson and the cement plant) were able to maintain at least limited production for most of the 1930s and provide some level of employment for their workers.

John G. Lind's management of the cement plant during the tough years of the early 1930s and his consideration for his men became almost legendary. Shifts were organized so that as many men as possible could work at least part-time and have some wages to take home to their families. Alternate jobs were created involving maintenance and up-keep – including the cultivation of vegetable gardens on the property. Cement plant employees also supplied the labour to create a new town park on the northeast corner of Church and Jones Streets. Lind purchased this derelict lot and had it professionally landscaped. Lind Park was opened in 1934. By 1935, most laid-off cement plant employees were back at work.

In the late 1930s, high school student Alan Andrews, a keen photographer, took a number of pictures, a record of St. Marys at that time. He was fascinated by the cement plant and had access through his good friend Ron Laidlaw, another dedicated photographer, and the son of William Laidlaw, long-time cement company employee. The photographs in this section are Andrews' work, generously shared with the St. Marys Museum.



Alan Andrews was proud of this photograph, showing the emission plume from the stack at the cement plant. Although it was often challenging to hang out laundry when the wind was from the southwest, St. Marys residents saw the plume as a hopeful sign throughout the years of the Depression. The plant was still in production!



During the Depression, John G. Lind purchased this property at the corner of Jones and Church Streets, hired a professional landscaper and using labourers from the cement plant created a lovely park.



In the late 1930s, Alan Andrews “stitched” two photographs of the cement plant together to create this spectacular panoramic view.



YEARS OF TENSION

World War II was declared in early September 1939, ushering in six long years of tension and disruption for St. Marys, for Canada and indeed for the entire world. The cement plant was not immune. Some members of the workforce were among the 100 St. Marys men who volunteered immediately for active duty. Others enlisted or were called up as the war continued.

Early volunteers included John S. H. Lind, who was named second in command of the Perth Regiment before going overseas. Throughout the 1930s, he had been clearly in line to succeed his father as cement plant manager but John G. Lind, 72 years old in 1939, had to postpone any plans he might have had for retirement.

There were very few people in St. Marys who didn't suffer anxiety and hardship during the war – the most extreme, of course, for those who lost family members. Long separations, restrictions imposed by rationing, disruption of normal patterns of living and a background atmosphere of suspicion and fear all had to be contended with.

And at the cement plant, there was an additional source of anxiety. In 1943, John G. Lind suffered a stroke. From then on, although he continued to arrive for work at 7 a.m. and remained at his desk protected by a fiercely loyal office staff, he could no longer communicate well enough to manage day-to-day business. With his two sons both serving in the armed forces, he had to accept the company's appointment of a temporary manager. This manager was viewed as an outsider and did little to make himself respected or liked. By the time hostilities ended in 1945, morale was at a low point at the cement plant.



The bulletin board at the St. Marys Journal Argus office on Queen Street kept townspeople up to date on the most recent war news. St. Marys Museum Collection.



*The Perth Regiment parades through St. Marys prior to embarking for England, 1941.
A number of cement plant men served with this regiment.
St. Marys Museum Collection*

JOHN S. LIND

John Skiffington Heming Lind was born in 1908 in Owen Sound. As a very young boy, he moved with his family to St. Marys where he started school. He went to Ridley College for his secondary education, followed by Royal Military College in Kingston. This was where he developed an aptitude for army life.

However, he was being groomed for another role – to succeed his father, John G. Lind, at the St. Marys Cement Company. He began work at the plant in the early 1930s but maintained his connection to the military through participation in the militia. When war was declared in September 1939, Lind went on active service immediately. He was named second in command of the Perth Regiment.

He was sent to England in 1940 to take officer training, coming back to Canada to instruct officers. Returning to Europe, he earned positions of increasing responsibility culminating in appointment as Acting Brigadier of the 12th Canadian Infantry Brigade during the Italian campaign in 1944. He received a Distinguished Service Order, presented at Buckingham Palace by King George VI, for his leadership, specifically in the Liri Valley. By the end of the war, his rank was brigadier.

He might have become a career soldier but his leadership was also desperately needed in St. Marys. His father had had a stroke in 1943 that impaired his ability to communicate and the plant was struggling under an unpopular interim manager. By the end of 1945, John S. Lind had left the army and was back at the cement plant, ready to lead it into a new and competitive future.

At the time of his death in December 1982, John S. Lind was still actively involved in the company although his son, John M. Lind, had assumed the manager's position.



Reg Kirkby, long-time cement company employee, receives a retirement gift from John S. Lind. John M. Lind is in the background. St. Marys Cement Company Collection

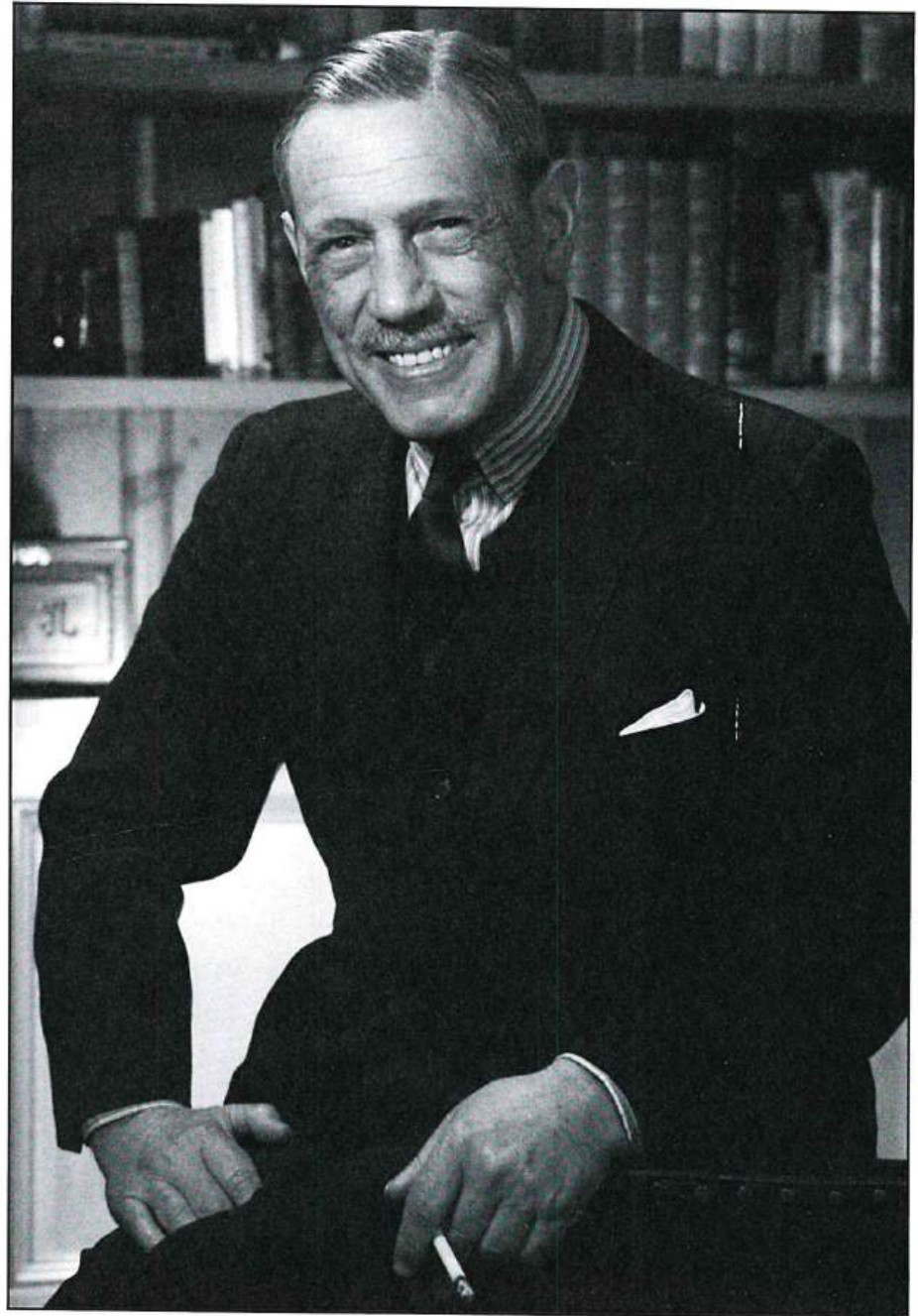
Some memories from cement plant retirees:

"We respected him. He was always known as Mr. Lind to his employees."

"He knew the names of every man at the plant and probably the names of 90 per cent of their wives."

"I went to the plant to apply for a job in 1950. I had been in the navy and had a tattoo on my forearm. Mr. Lind asked, 'Were you in the service?' I told him that I had been. He said, 'Start work on Monday!'"

"He was tough but he was fair."



Margaret D. King collection

THE POST-WAR YEARS

The years following World War II were boom times for Canada. A growth in population meant expanding urban areas with new homes and new commercial centres. New industries required buildings along with upgrades in the infrastructure to support this expansion. There were tremendous opportunities for construction-related industries like cement manufacturing but there was also fierce competition. St. Marys Cement, now under the direction of John S. Lind and Guy Rogers (son of Alfred Rogers), entered the market aggressively. They began to update the St. Marys plant, expanding the quarries and investing in new machinery.



Downtown St. Marys in the early 1950s. A Jack Palance movie is playing at the Lyric Theatre at the right of the picture. St. Marys Museum collection.

Gord Foster (1927-1973) worked at the St. Marys Cement Company for a few years in the 1940s, just after the end of the war. He enjoyed photography and took a series of pictures of the trucks, shovels and other equipment in use at that time. His daughter, Ann Switzer, has provided the St. Marys Museum with digital copies of these images. They are a remarkable record of the post-war years of transition showing equipment that had been in use for decades beside new haulage and dump trucks, purchased to improve efficiency in the plant. The photographs on the next several pages are from this collection.



*Electric shovel with truck and side-dump trailer in the stone quarry, 1940s.
Gord Foster collection, courtesy Ann Switzer*

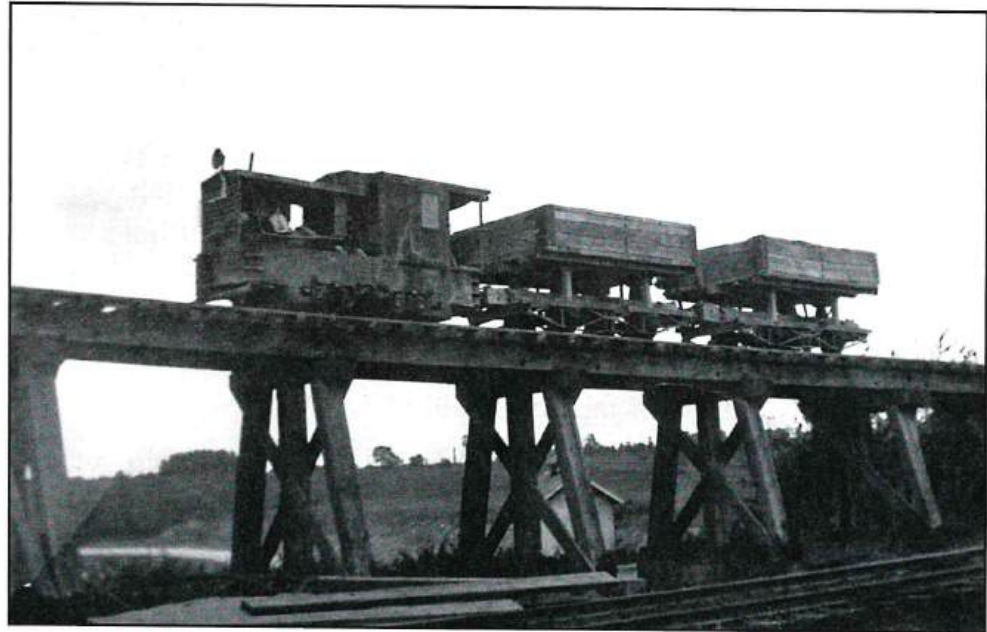


*An electric shovel is used to load stone into a truck in the quarry.
Gord Foster collection, courtesy Ann Switzer*

*A truck dumps a load (probably of clay) into a cart drawn by one of the Plymouth Locomotives used for decades in the cement plant. These engines were comparatively small and ran on narrow-gauge tracks.
Gord Foster collection, courtesy Ann Switzer*



*The locomotive and two carts on ramp between
the clay field and the clay storage area.
Gord Foster collection, courtesy Ann Switzer*

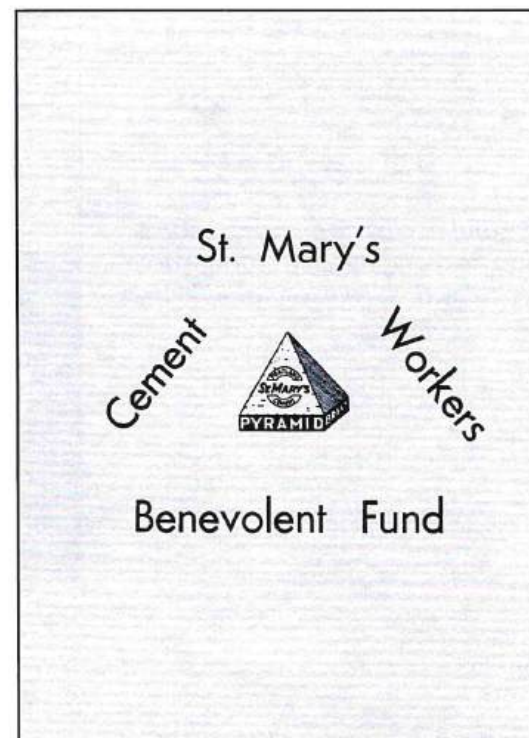


*Refuelling the Plymouth locomotive using gasoline cans,
left for that purpose at the side of the track.
Gord Foster collection, courtesy Ann Switzer*

The years following World War II also brought in a new era in employer/ employee relations. In 1947, the first union at the cement plant was formed, a local of the Amalgamated Building and Construction Workers of Canada. At first an open shop union, its organization had received little opposition either from management or workers. According to Adam Stephens' study of the process, the early union was not a result of dissatisfaction with current management (John S. Lind shared his father's reputation for fair treatment of his workers.)

Partly the plant workers were swept up in post-war unionization drives across the country. But there was also a feeling that the workers should seek avenues to protect and speak for themselves in a changing world. The period of interim management from 1943 to 1945 when John G. Lind had fallen ill had been an unsettling experience.

The union became stronger through the years. Collective bargaining led to better wages and hours of work. Meanwhile, relations with management generally remained positive and benefits improved. With the encouragement of John S. Lind, better health coverage not only for workers but also for their families was instituted in the plant as was an excellent pension plan. The union created a Benevolent Fund to assist sick and injured workers and their families.



Cover and one of the inside pages of the Cement Workers Benevolent Fund, 1961

VII QUALIFICATIONS AND BENEFITS

A.	Years of Membership at Plant Retirement date	Retirement Benefit	Death Benefit	8 Weekly Sick Benefits
1—	5 Years and Under	—	\$250.00	\$40.00
2—	5 Years but Less than 10 Years — (at Plant Retirement date)	All monies paid in, refunded — Less any Sick Benefits received	\$250.00	\$40.00
3—	10 Years but Less than 15 Years — (At Plant Retirement date)	All monies paid in refunded	\$250.00	\$40.00
	15 Years and over at Plant Retirement date	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$40.00



According to notes made by John King, this undated photograph shows No. 2 Quarry with a Marion electric shovel and side dump. Two Joy drills are in the background. St. Marys Cement Company collection.

DIVERSIFICATION AND GROWTH

In the decades following World War II, the cement company expanded well beyond the boundaries of St. Marys. Improved products were developed. Ready-mix, building materials, transportation, precast and aggregate companies were established in other locations and became part of the corporation. The St. Marys Cement Bowmanville plant opened in 1969 with improved access to Great Lakes shipping. Locally, in the late 1960s, a new stone quarry was opened off Thomas Street on the west side of the Thames River and a giant conveyor was built crossing both the river and Water Street South to carry crushed stone to the plant.



*Conveyor crossing the Thames River from the Thomas Street Quarry
St. Marys Museum collection, August 2012*

**Our new bag comes with
a great new formula.**



**This new masonry cement
formula gives you:**
Increased plasticity.
High water retention.
High resistance to efflorescence.
Excellent yield.
Excellent durability—
thanks to the addition of a special
air-entraining agent.

**Today see what
better results
you get.**

FREE BOOKLET

When buying for the family, new 15 lb. bags of all
types of masonry and general building
cement, "St. Marys Masonry Cement Company
Masonry".

ST. M. A. S. Masonry

General Building Cement

St. Marys Cement Company

1000 Temple St., Toronto 12

Please send me your new reference material

Name _____

Address _____

St. Marys Cement Company collection.

February 1976



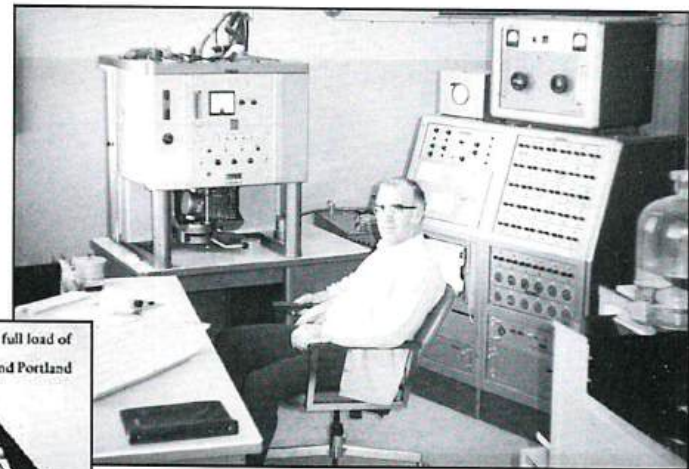
**Like our truckers—
we've grown...
to serve you faster and better**

In the 1923 Labor Day parade in London, Ontario, Hayman & Mills carried a full load of St. Marys Pyramid Brand Cement — 50 bags.
Today, modern transports of up to 40 tons capacity speed our Pyramid Brand Portland Cements to all corners of Ontario.
Our plant facilities have been constantly upgraded to meet the growing demands of the industry — including the recently completed Bowmanville mill expansion and a complete new plant now being planned for St. Marys.
Getting bigger hasn't meant losing the personal touch. It just means serving you better.
Nothing is more important to us than getting you exactly what you want, when and where you want it.
If you want to talk to us about fast service, call us.
St. Marys Cement Company with Head Office at 2200 Yonge Street, Toronto, (416) 485-4411, and mills at St. Marys and Bowmanville.



St. Marys knows Ontario...after all, we grew up together

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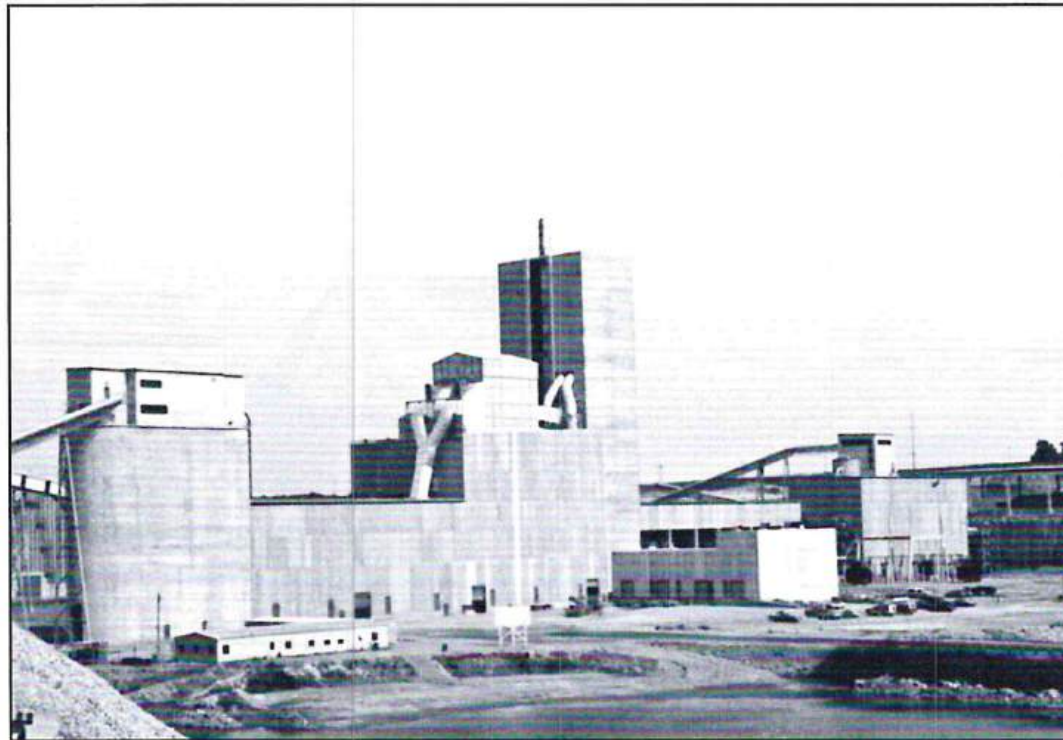
*Upgrades in the laboratory were also vital.
In this picture Gord Ball sits beside
new x-ray machine ca, 1965
Photo courtesy Gord Ball*

*The Pyramid Brand was strengthened through
advertising. Hutton Transport tractor-trailers,
carrying bulk cement, were well-known on Ontario
highways and beyond.
St. Marys Cement Company collection.*

THE NEW PLANT

Modernizing St. Marys Cement to keep it competitive in a 20th century market was an ongoing process. The biggest development came in 1977 with the completion of an entirely new, \$40 million, dry-process plant in a quarry near the original buildings. When it first started up, it had a capacity of 650,000 metric tonnes. (Modifications since then have further increased the capacity.) From a second entrance off Water Street, a curved roadway led between two landscaped lakes created from abandoned quarries to the new complex, offering a spectacular view of the entire plant.

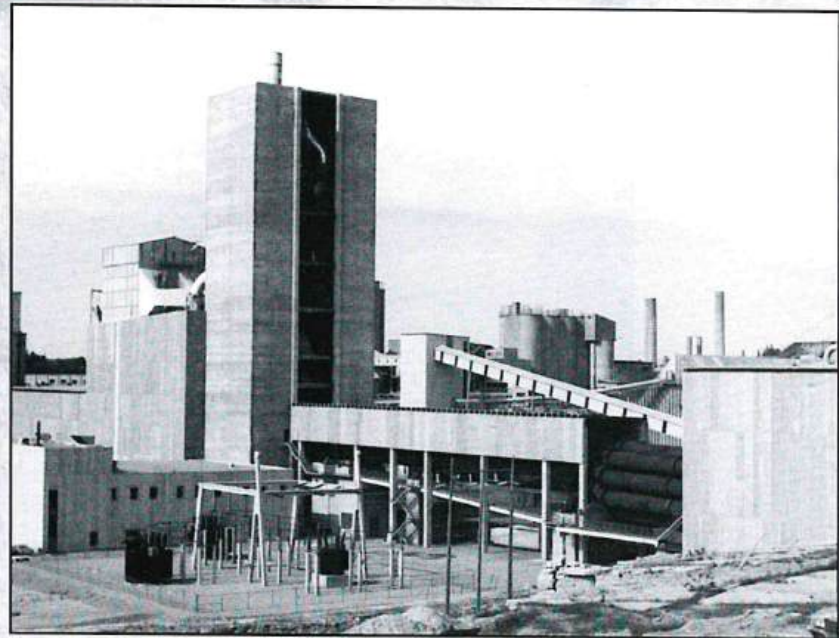
Photographs were taken of the new buildings as they were completed. Three of them, part of the St. Marys Cement Company collection, are reproduced in this section.



New buildings, St. Marys Cement Plant, June 1977



Clinker storage building, 1977



Preheater tower and new kiln, 1977

75TH ANNIVERSARY

In 1987, the St. Marys Cement Company celebrated 75 years of production with an open house and tours at the plant. It was a day to celebrate the many changes in the industry and the company's place in this community. In an anniversary supplement to the St. Marys Journal Argus, John M. Lind, Vice President, Cement Operations, had this message:

The 75th Anniversary of St. Marys Cement Corporation marks a very important milestone for our company as well as the Town of St. Marys. Over these 75 years we have seen growth and change in our operation to what we hope is a good corporate citizen. St. Marys Cement is proud to be part of the Town of St. Marys and to take an active part in its development. ... On this our 75th Anniversary, I would like to thank our dedicated employees and the Town of St. Marys for your support and cooperation.



John M. Lind, right, welcomes visitors to the 75th Anniversary open house, assisted by clowns Gerry Teahen, left and Wayne Cousins, centre. Photograph courtesy Gerry Teahen.



The St. Marys Journal Argus recorded the open house at the cement plant celebrating its 75th anniversary. In these two photographs, cement company employee Ernie Robinson leads a group of visitors on a tour of the complex.
Eedy Archives, St. Marys Museum

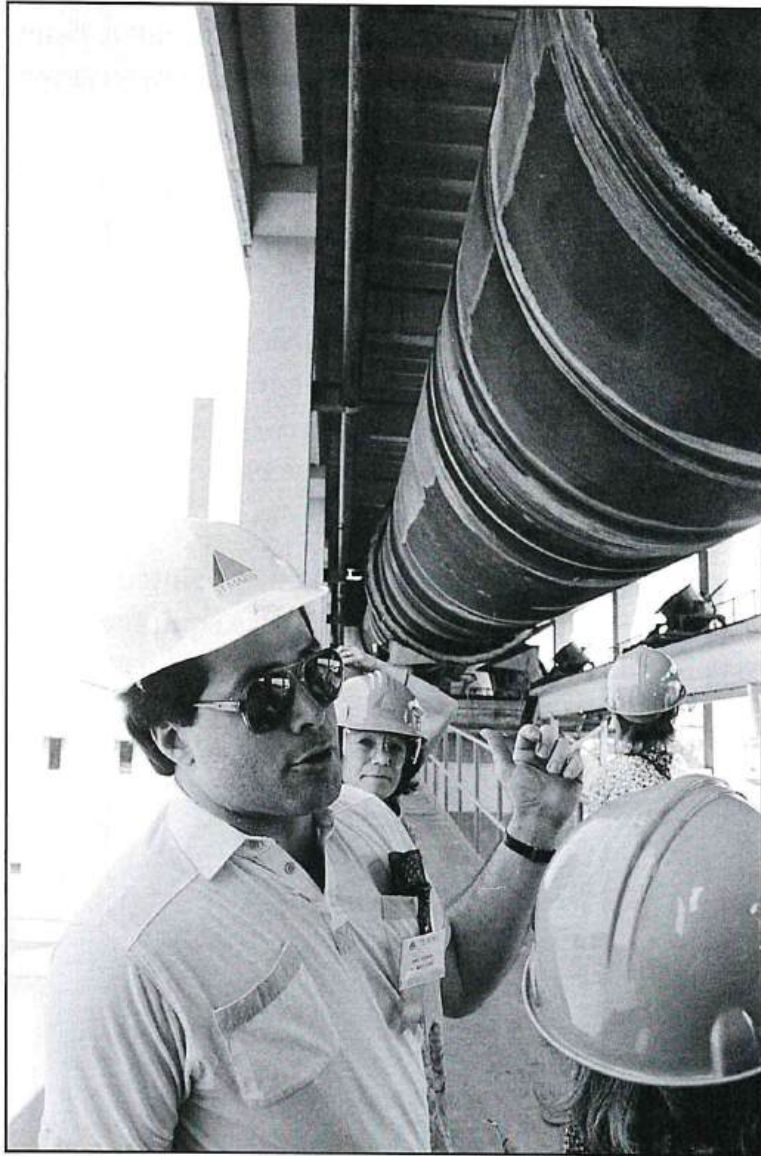




Large hospitality tents (above) were part of the anniversary open house as was a demonstration of bricklaying, using St. Marys Masonry Cement (right). Journal Argus photograph, Eedy Archives, St. Marys Museum



Lou Lavelle, whose family were original cement company employees, with his wife Blanche, enjoying the open house. Gerry Teahen photo



Ernie Robinson explains the action of the rotary kiln to his tour group. Over his shoulder, Margaret (Mike) King listens in the background. Journal Argus photograph, Eedy Archives, St. Marys Museum



Vintage and modern trucks and heavy equipment were popular exhibits at the 75th anniversary open house. Journal Argus photograph, Eedy Archives, St. Marys Museum

HEALTH AND SAFETY

From the first opening of limestone quarries in St. Marys, there were accidents and misadventures. The nature of this difficult work involved heavy lifting, backbreaking pounding to split the rock and massive slabs of limestone falling to the quarry floor. Later, blasting with dynamite and early machines such as improvised derricks to assist with lifting brought more hazards. The new cement plant introduced massive machinery for grinding and burning. With this came additional risks.

Even as wages and benefits improved, injury potential remained a constant in the workplace. Cement dust was a respiratory health hazard. Employees climbed high wooden ladders, crawled under running mills and walked across tin roofs. As retiree George Stevens said in a 1998 interview, “Nobody gave much thought about safety.”

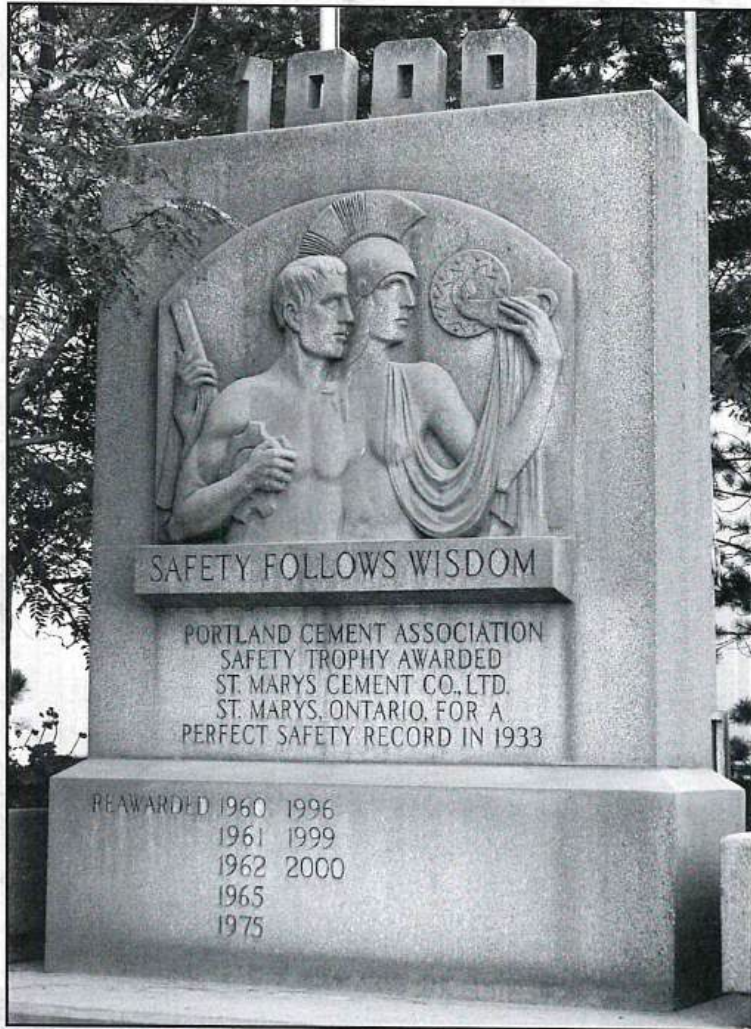
Industrial accidents were surprisingly few but several fatalities and a number of terrible injuries embedded themselves in the collective memory of the workforce. Following one particularly serious accident, John S. Lind is credited with instituting St. John first aid training courses to create first responders. These courses were held right at the plant and workers were encouraged to obtain certification. Through the years, the Lind family maintained a close connection with St. John. As well as his military orders, John S. Lind used the title Order of St. John to follow his name for formal occasions.

Eventually the Ministry of Labour imposed regulations for health and safety in the workplace. The cement plant appointed a safety manager whose job was to ensure compliance – even among some older workers who resisted wearing protective equipment that included safety glasses, dust masks, ear protectors and safety vests as well as standard hard hats, gloves and steel-toed boots.

In an interview in the early 1990s, Wayne Cousins said, “The plant is a much safer place to work today.”

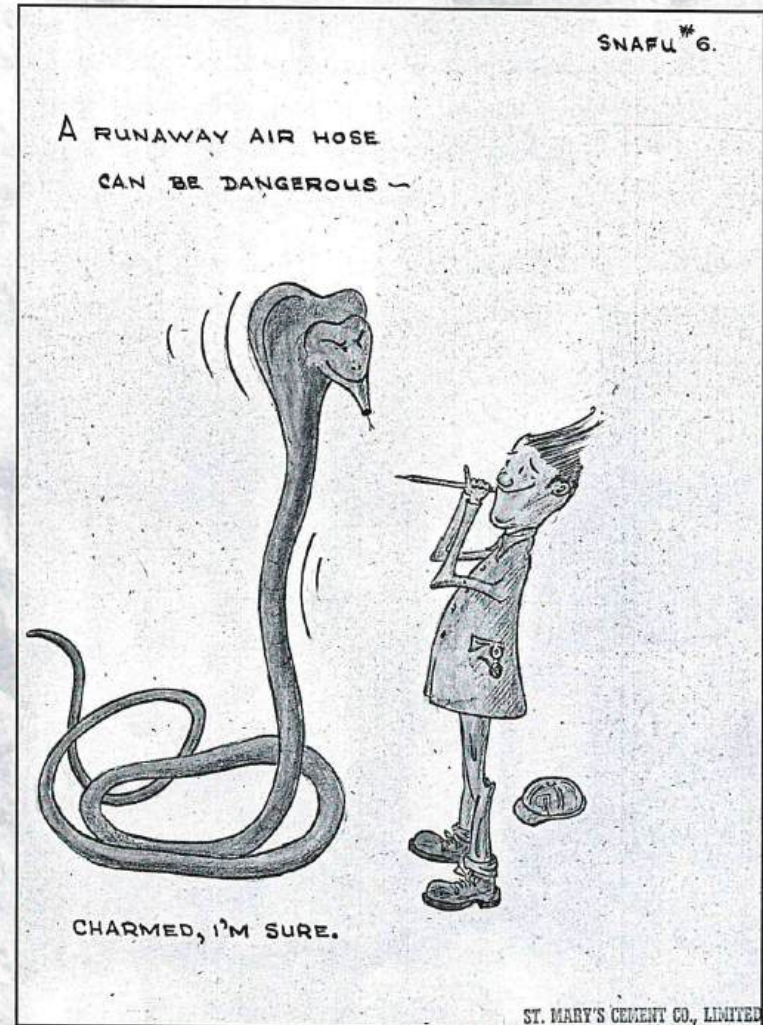
John S. Lind may have been introduced to St. John first aid courses during his time at Royal Military College. This image from Wikipedia indicates a historic connection.





This beautiful concrete monument was presented to the St. Marys Cement Company by the Portland Cement Association in recognition of a perfect safety record in 1933. Successive accident-free years are acknowledged on the monument that sits in a prominent place near the entrance to the office and lab building.

Photograph, St. Marys Museum, August 2012



Longtime cement company employee, Art Griffiths, had training as an artist. He used his talent to create a series of safety posters for the cement plant. One of them is reproduced here.

For the 75th Anniversary supplement in the St. Marys Journal Argus, the cement company commissioned group photographs of the employees. Two large groups posed on the front steps of the office/training centre building. Unfortunately, it was not possible to find good photographic prints of these pictures and so reproduced here are the best copies that could be made from the newsprint supplement. At least they give an idea of the size of the workforce in 1987 and also provide a record of the names of the employees.

Note that approximately 50 additional employees were absent for these photographs.



Back Row: John Eybergen, Fred Pennesi, Walter Clark, Gerry Seguin, Bill Girolodi, Brian Agar, Jack Prout, Alex Wilson, Dieter Ackerman. Third Row: Stew Riordan, Brent Dundas, Ernie Robinson, Dan Graham, Gerry Blackman, Ken Dingman, Don Scheuermann, Ed Thompson, Winston Smith, Rod Riordan, Doug Richardson, Ted Mahoney, Mac Barron, Ron Jackson, Henry Fluttert, Gary Jackson. Second Row: Emerson Martin, Murray Lindsay, Bill Near, Darwin McClocklin, Harold

Blackman, Chuck Armstrong, Lou Cappa, Frank VanZeist, Wayne Cousins, John Queenan, Jim Heinbuck, Gerry Youngson, Art Massellis. Front Row: Orville Knox, Jim Sloat, Ernie Little, Chris King, Mette Madsen, Meris Cauduro, Ron Cauduro, Bill Hance, Arrigo Pagotto, Nick Eybergen, Bill Scheuermann, John Neilson, Arnold Mann.



Back Row: Bill Porter, Phil Monteith, Bob Lang, Ron Fletcher, Don Jardine, Ron Hoskins, Vic Noble, Ron Harris, Ted Black, Bill Hannaberry, Eric Jackson. Third Row: David Cousins, Kevin Stephen, Paul Flanagan, Rodger Scheuermann, Jim Coddington, Allan Gates, John A. Lind, John M. Lind, Laurie Bell, Murray Fletcher, Art Riordan Don Bailey, Dale Dawson, Gil Esson, Jim Murray, Don Dufton. Second Row: Clare Thomson, Bruce Watson, Keith Stephen, Bill Lloyd,

Louis Corriveau, Bob Houston, Nick Baluszek, Harvey Pfaff, Bob Mossey, George Werden, Gord Ball, John Stuart, John Tevlin, John Murray, Bob Bendall, John Levy. Front Row: Ted Oliver, Don Benner, Kelvin Thomson, Tom James, Vince Bryans, Barry Hilchey, Don Anderson, Gerry Teahen, Debbie Munro, Ann Simpson, Jim Robinson, John Reid, Paul Gardner, Howard Poole, Brian Pearson, Doug Scheuermann.

List of employees absent when the two pictures were taken.

Absent when the photo was taken: Al Lawson, Pat Champion, Harvey Dunnell, Osvaldo Marcaccio, Ernie Hemphill, Emmett Healy, Ken Gorvett, John Cook, Jim Hogg, Harry Stevens, Ed Gough, Armando Antuono, Jim Walsh, Ken Bailey, Ted Brick, Paul Dufton, Steve Fuoco, Don Gooch, Reine Van Arkel, Carlos Boscarato, Ralph Baker, Frank Dickson, Wayne Jones, Gary Graham, Steven Ellis, Stew

McLennan, Jim Weston, Jim Flanagan, Harold Switzer, Gary Lang, Jim Noble, Bob McDonald, Roy Bendall, Ken Masselis, Jim Riley, Brian Weston, Bryan Glanville, Fred Trott, Gary Patterson, Gary Smale, Bill Carr, Gord Noble, Glen Watkinson, Gerry Brockman, Brad Gardner, Dave Feeney, Dave Noble, Ron Smith, Gord Marshall, Eric Jeffery, Greg Moffatt, Pat Arnold, Tom Wall.

CHANGE

In 1997, the St. Marys Cement Company was sold to Blue Circle America Inc. The withdrawal of the Lind family from front-line management of the company was a source of regret for many. It was an adjustment to replace local connections with new, multi-national global realities.

Still, the cement plant was still in St. Marys. Blue Circle continued the company tradition of supporting community endeavours, including a contribution towards a new pool house/change rooms/curling facility at the Quarry – the Lind Sportsplex.

The final agreement to transfer the cement plant property to the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame was also announced during Blue Circle's ownership.

FOUNDED IN 1912

St. Marys Cement sold

No changes expected at local plant, manager says

The St. Marys Cement Company has been sold.

The 85-year-old business will become property of Blue Circle America Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of Blue Circle Industries, PLC (BCI), in about three months.

Blue Circle officials announced yesterday (Jan. 21) in a press release that the company had signed a letter of intent to purchase 100 per cent of the St. Marys Cement Corporation, subject to due diligence and requisite regulatory clearances.

"The proposed acquisition of St. Marys represents a significant step toward the realization of BCI's objective for profitable growth in North America," Keith Orrell-Jones, group chief executive of BCI, said in a press release.

"St. Marys has a strong, integrated, strategic position in its core Ontario market which we believe is poised for significant growth following a protected economic downturn.

"The potential rewards from combining Blue Circle America and St. Marys represent a considerable upside for BCI shareholders," he said.

Four generations of the Lind family of St. Marys have been involved with St. Marys Cement. John M. Lind is currently corporate vice-president at the company's Toronto offices. It is not known if he, or his son Jay, who works at the St. Marys office, will remain with the organization.

St. Marys plant manager John Queenan says the local operation

will not be affected significantly by the sale.

"The employees here should have no reason to anticipate any changes," Queenan said yesterday.

There are currently 119 hourly-paid employees, and 30 employees on salary.

The plant manager noted that Blue Circle is the third or fourth largest cement company in the world, and has an excellent reputation.

The company had been for sale a couple of years ago and Blue Circle had been interested at that time, Queenan said, adding that the latest negotiations had been kept very quiet.

David F.G. Lovett is CEO of Blue Circle America. "The merger of St. Marys and Blue Circle America's operations will create a very strong network of facilities in Canada and the U.S., and powerful technical capabilities within the businesses," Lovett said.

"Both companies share a strong customer orientation and their combination will consolidate and improve efforts to provide better products and services in the market place."

St. Marys Cement, with 1996 net sales of approximately \$300 million US, has two dry process cement plants in Ontario, and a clinker grinding plant in Detroit, Mich., which the Bowmanville plant supplies. The Ontario plants' combined cement capacity is 2.3 million metric tons with an additional annual grinding capacity of 1.2 million met-

ric tons in Detroit.

In addition to its cement operations, St. Marys has leading positions in the Ontario ready-mix concrete, concrete masonry product, concrete pipe, pre-stress concrete, and construction aggregates markets—primarily through its Canada Building Materials (CBM) division. CBM is one of the oldest, most recognizable and respected names among Canadian construction materials suppliers.

Blue Circle America is a subsidiary of Blue Circle Industries, PLC, a building materials and equipment company traded on the London stock exchange. It is composed of Blue Circle Cement, Blue Circle Williams, Blue Circle Materials, and Blue Circle Aggregate, and serves customers in 32 states.

"They've made an excellent acquisition," Queenan said.

Queenan retiring

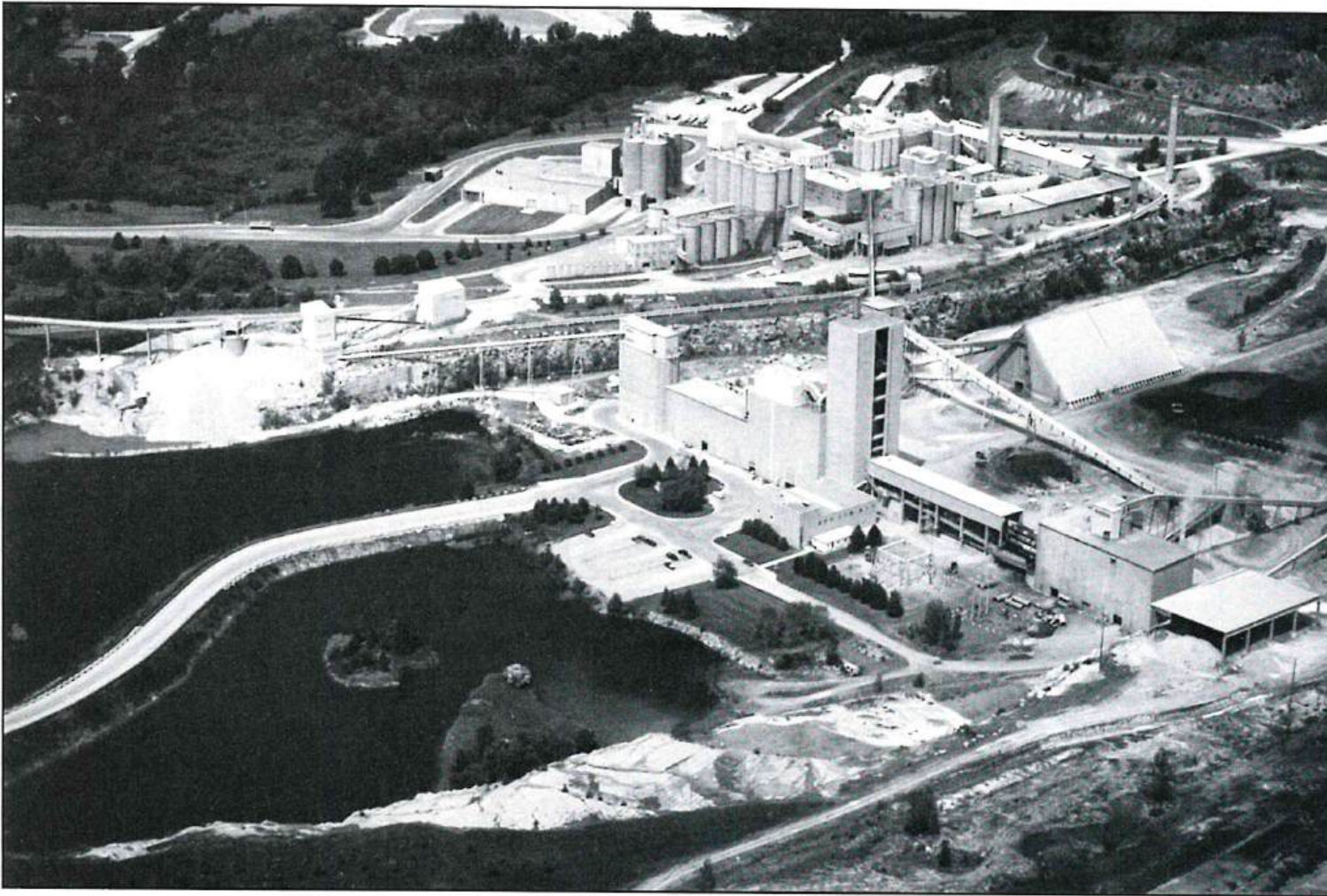
In other cement company news, plant manager John Queenan is retiring at the end of this month. The 29-year employee said it's just coincidence that his retirement is taking place at the same time as the sale of the company.

"David Whittall, who has been with the company since 1991 at our Bowmanville plant, will be in place as the new manager by Feb. 1," he said.

Queenan, 58, says the first order of business once he's finished work will be a holiday to his native Scotland.

"I haven't made too many plans any further than that," he said.

Newspaper clipping, January 22, 1997, announcing the sale of cement plant. Marys Journal Argus, Eedy Archives, St. Marys Museum



Aerial view of the cement plant in 1998, soon after the sale to Blue Circle. The main diamond at the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame, under development, can be seen at the top of the photograph. Gordon Strathdee photograph.

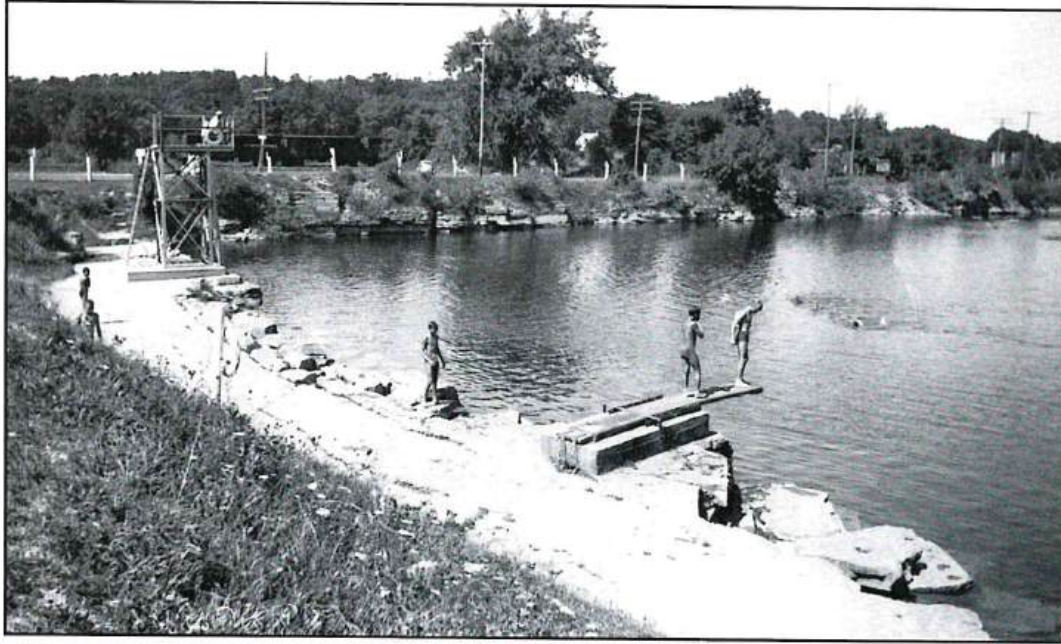
ST. MARYS CEMENT AND THE COMMUNITY

Looking back to the beginning of the cement company's generosity to the Town of St. Marys, it is sometimes difficult to distinguish whether support for various projects came from the company or from the Lind family.

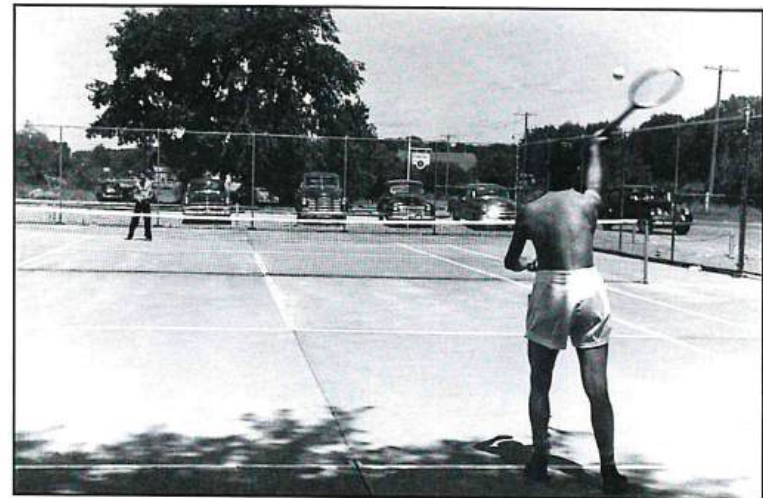
In fact, these two sources of generosity were inter-twined. For example, Cadzow Park was a gift to the community directly from John G. Lind. Cadzow Pool opened in the summer of 1926, made of St. Marys Cement and installed by labour supplied by the plant. John S. Lind's family enjoyed sports; amenities such as the deck of the quarry and the surface of the nearby tennis courts were made from local concrete with substantial donations from the Lind family in the 1950s.



Cadzow Pool in the 1930s, a few years after it first opened. St. Marys Museum collection



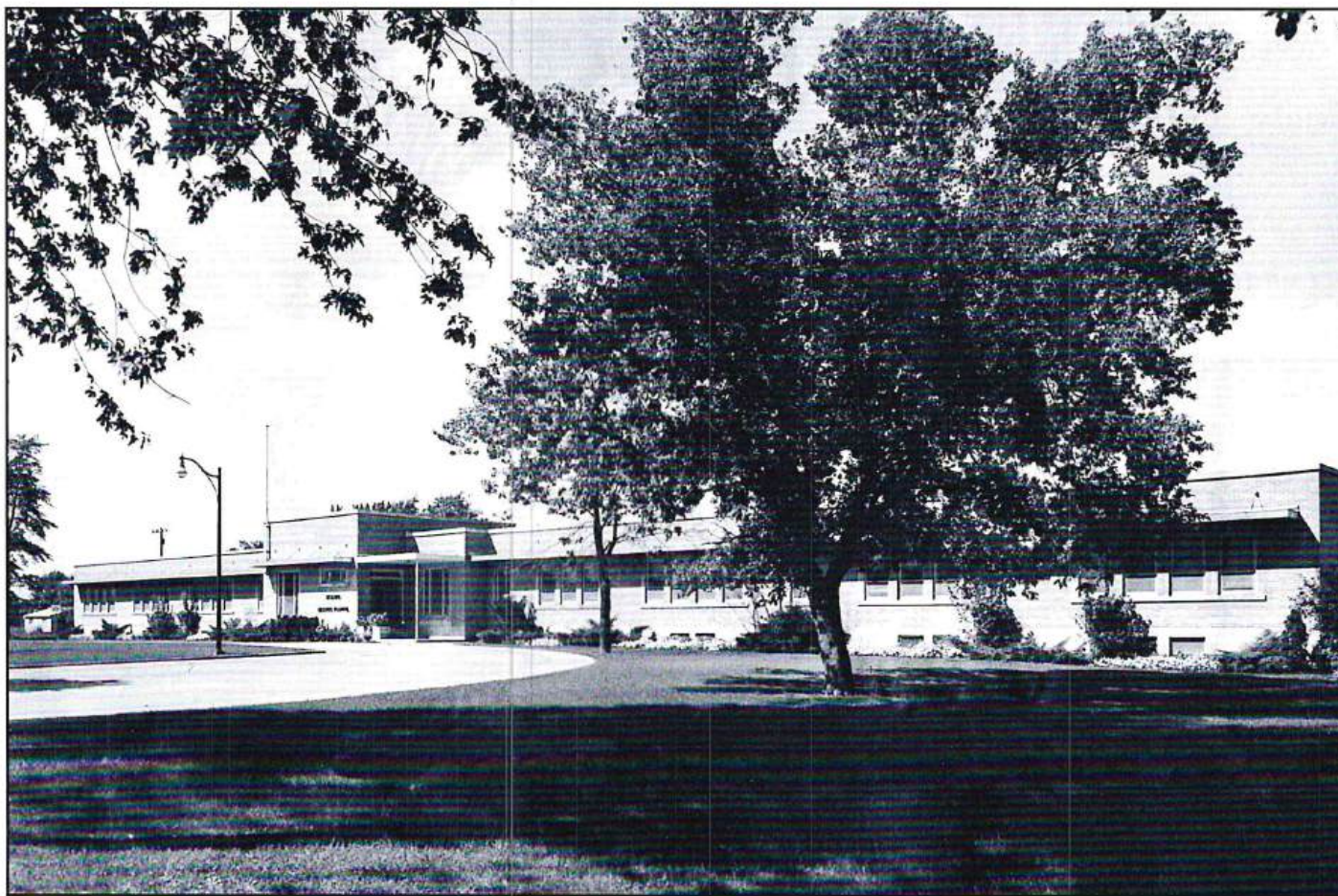
The photograph above shows the St. Marys Quarry, ca. 1950 and includes a recently installed high diving tower on a concrete section of the waterfront – a donation from St. Marys Cement.



To the right, also in the 1950s, players enjoy a game of tennis on the hard surface courts across Water Street from the Quarry, installed with the support of St. Marys Cement and the Lind family.

Both photographs are from the St. Marys Museum collection

The cement company and the Lind family made many contributions to parks and recreation but also to other community facilities, perhaps most significantly, St. Marys Memorial Hospital. As the town's leading industry, St. Marys Cement made generous donations from the earliest days of hospital fundraising in the late 1940s. The Lind family's service on the hospital board extended for more than 40 years with both John S. Lind and later John M. Lind serving as members – both for some terms as board chair. Margaret (Mrs. John S.) Lind and her daughter Margaret (Mike) King were both mainstays of the Hospital Auxiliary. In her role as president of the Auxiliary, Mike King also served on the hospital board.



St. Marys Memorial Hospital soon after it opened in 1950. Maurice Oliver photograph. St. Marys Museum collection.



The Lind Sportsplex officially opened Saturday, March 14, 1998. Participating in a ribbon-cutting ceremony are MPP Bert Johnson, John M. Lind, Blue Circle manager Shawn Sullivan, Ann Lind, Margaret (Mike) King, Mayor Jamie Hahn, Curling Club president Greg Thompson and Recreation Director Sharon Barnes. Journal Argus collection, Eedy Archives, St. Marys Museum.

On the same occasion, the employees of the St. Marys Cement Company acknowledged their appreciation of both the Lind and Rogers families with a formal presentation of the plaque shown at right. This plaque has been mounted just outside the Lind Sportsplex on a pyramid-shaped concrete monument. St. Marys Museum photograph, August 2012

This monument has been erected to express gratitude to the Lind and the Rogers Families for their unfailing support and commitment to the employees of the St. Marys Cement Company, their families, and the community. For their vision and exceptional generosity, we are grateful.



The transfer of 32 acres of land – an abandoned cement plant quarry – has been critical to the success of the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame & Museum. The premier diamond has been named St. Marys Cement Plant Field. This aerial view shows the proximity of the actual cement plant. Photograph courtesy Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame & Museum.



In 2001 to the Votorantim Group, a diversified Brazilian conglomerate, one of the largest cement producers in the world, purchased St. Marys Cement. Votorantim also supported community projects and was the major donor to the Pyramid Recreation Centre, opened June 2007. The logo of this facility recognizes the famous Pyramid Brand Cement.

PYRAMID
RECREATION CENTRE

FACES OF THE CEMENT PLANT TODAY

Work at the cement plant has changed enormously in a century of operations. Certainly the work is still heavy and demanding but new technologies have eliminated much of the tedious, back-breaking labour of a century ago. There are fewer employees today. As of June 2012, there were 85 hourly-rated positions, all for job titles requiring specific skills and training. There were also 25 salaried staff.

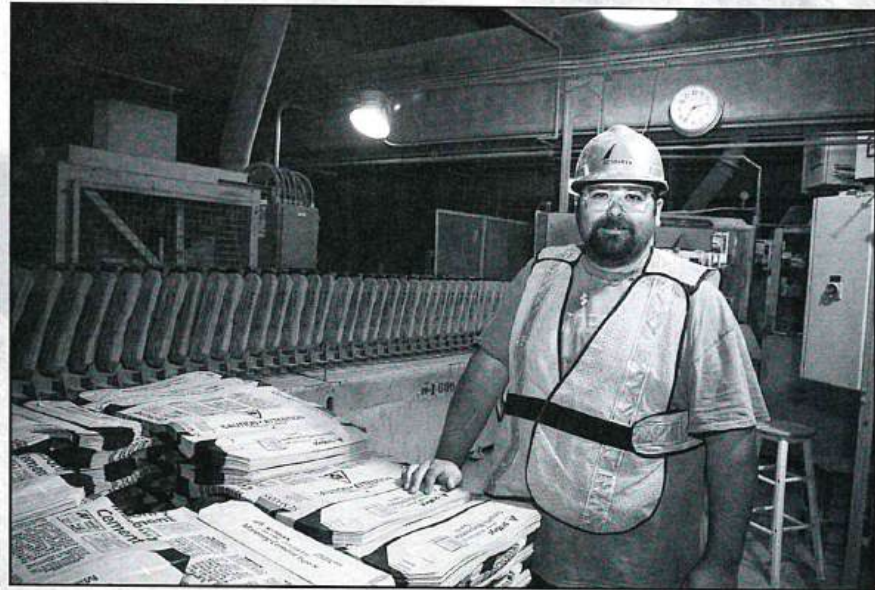
The six photographs showing employees in their workplaces were provided by the St. Marys Cement Company Marketing Department. They give some indication of the types of jobs and job skills required at the plant today.



Lee Watson at bulk



Rod Riordan in the quarry



Mike Frayne in the packhouse



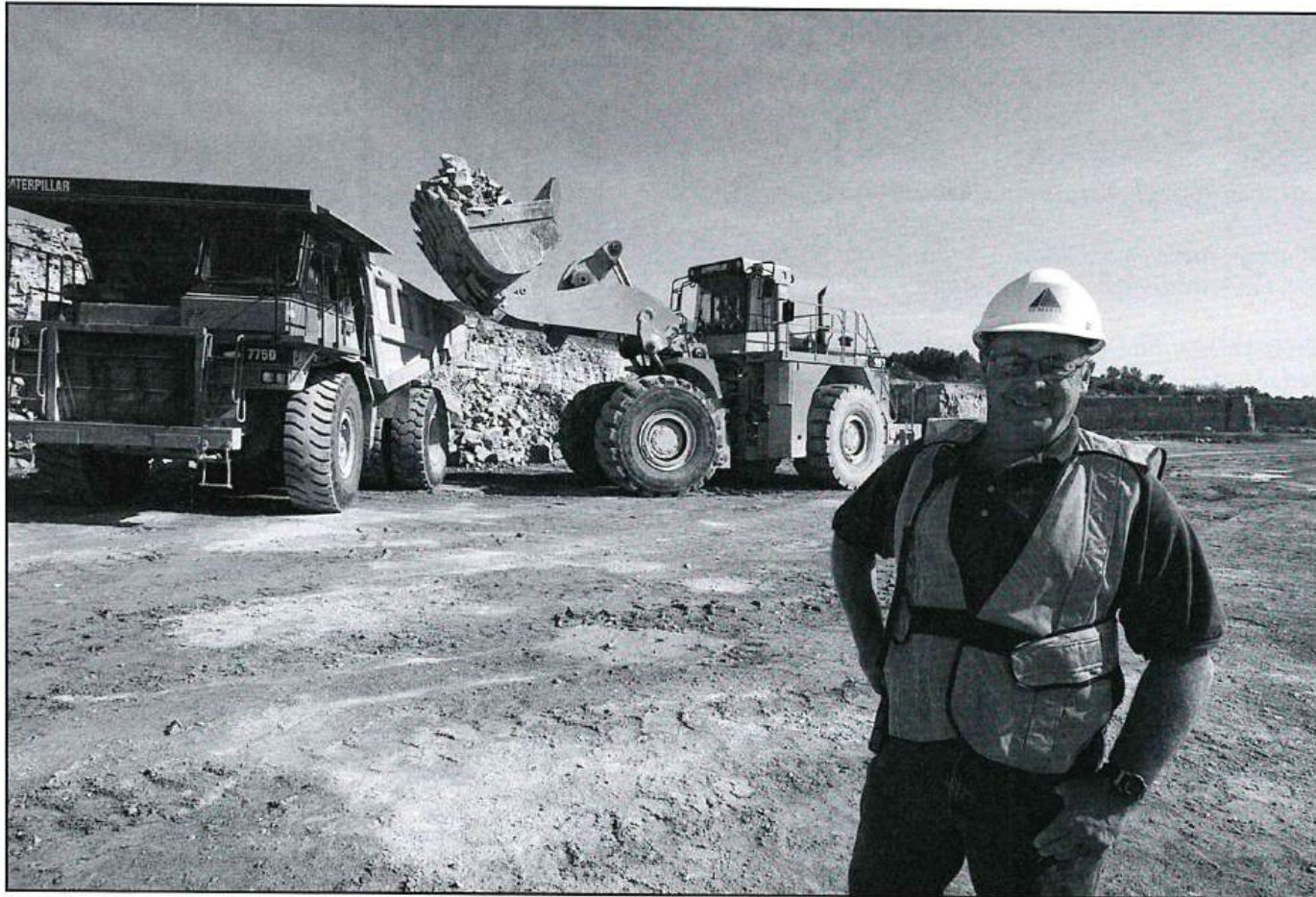
Robert Mossey in the control room

In the making of cement, the most important item cannot be seen by the naked eye – the intelligence that directs the stream of raw product through the mill.

*1926 speech by A. G. Larsson, Chief Chemist,
St. Marys Cement Company*



Roddy King in the lab



Don Benner in the quarry

Group Photo of all Employees, Summer 2012

Front row: Lee Watson, Mike Oye, Natacha Lago, Larry Forman, Dale Dawson, Don Stroud, Paul Alexander, Robin Chambers, John Lind, Ed Hay.

Second row: Travis Oakes, Sue Coveny, Jenanne Graham, Christina Kerekes, Aamir Syed, Marilia Cola, Pragnesh Patel. Debbie Munro, Robin Manzer, Dolores Bryant Dave Feeney, Dayna Gardner, Rebecca Feeney, Neil Dust, Brent Cubberley.

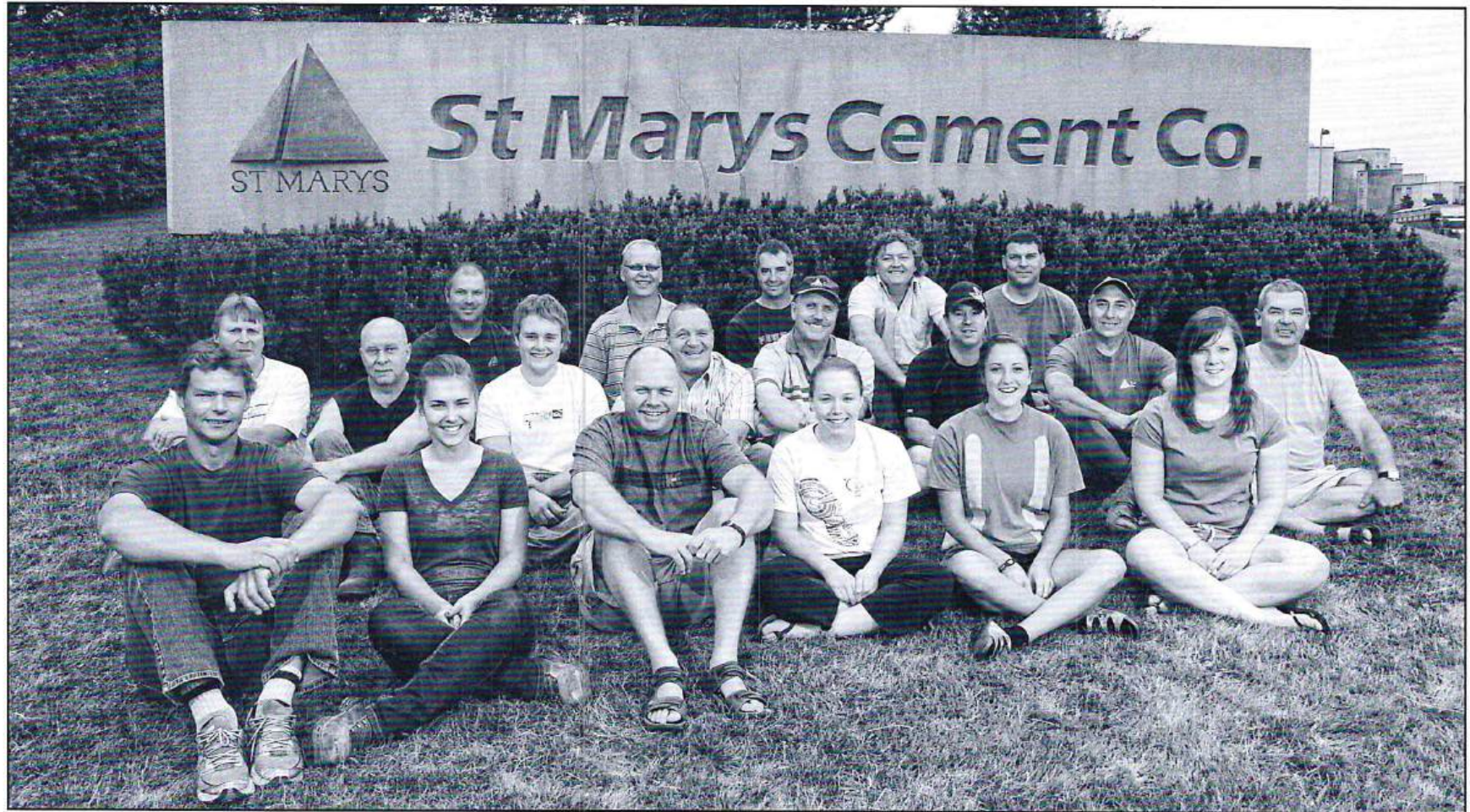
Third row: Teresa Bickell, Walter Pearce, April Innes, Kevin Doupe, Brad Gardner, Dwain Smith, Jim Hunter, Kevin Stephen, Shauna Scheuermann, Don Blum, Dan Graham, Mike Frayne.

Fourth row: Don Bailey, Steve Simpson. Don Benner, Robt. Houston,, Rod Riordan, Casey Boyer, Murray Lindsay, Paul Chessell, Rob MacKay, Bill Riley, Rae Brandon, Robt. Mahoney, Alex King.

Fifth row: Tony Black, Dino DiPietro, Matt Novada, John Cousins, Alan Gates, Ray Stevens, Rodger Scheuermann, Dieter Ackerman, Harold Bruulsema, Kendall Fluttert, Henry Fluttert, Tom Bailey, Jim Skirten, Pat Kirley, Paul Lamond, Mark Armstrong, Bill Scheuermann, Mike Foster, Roddy King, Fred Trott.







Employees who are second, third, fourth and fifth generation

Front row: Henry Flutters, Kendall Flutters, Brad Gardner, Dayna Gardner, Shauna Scheuermann, Rebecca Feeney.

Back row: Rod Riordan, Danny Graham, Ray Stevens, John Lind, Kevin Stephen, Don Bailey, Rodger Scheuermann, Tom Bailey, Tony Black, Robin Chambers, Rob Mahoney, Bill Scheuermann, Dave Feeney.

The tradition of employing summer students, when economically possible, meant that through the years, many young St. Marys residents could earn money for their continuing education while learning a great deal in the workplace. In 2012, the plant had eight summer students.

NOTE: Summer employee John Lind in the above photograph is the fifth generation of his family at the plant.

CONCLUSION

A century is a very long corporate life. Certainly there have been changes in the industry, in the ownership of the company, in the nature of the workplace and in the skills and training of those who work there. And undoubtedly there will be more changes in the future.

However, in 2012 there is still limestone. And the cement company remains, playing a significant role in St. Marys and far beyond.



*Sign at the Water Street South entrance
St. Marys Museum photograph, August 2012*



Centennial banner on conveyor over Water Street South. St. Marys Museum photograph, August 2012

Acknowledgements

The history in photographs of the St. Marys Cement Company was a project of the St. Marys Museum in 2012 along with the presentation of a major exhibit to acknowledge this major industry's milestone anniversary. Foundation in Stone opened at the Museum June 1, scheduled to run until thanksgiving.

- Mary Smith, local history researcher, led the history book project and wrote the linking text and the cutlines for the photographs.
- Museum Manager Trisha McKibbin and Curator/Archives Assistant Amy Cubberley led the cement company exhibit project. Much of the history book's contents grew from research for the exhibit.
- Summer staff members Kim Brine and Megan Lockhart, did additional research, transcribed interviews, sorted and inventoried old records, scanned images and cheerfully completed whatever additional tasks were required.
- Larry Pfaff, long-time friend and advisor to the Museum, provided invaluable contextual local history details as well as additional insights as a former cement plant summer student worker and as the son of long-time cement plant employee, Harvey Pfaff.
- Gordon Strathdee contributed research relating to the early cement industry in Ontario, particularly in the Grey-Bruce area, and generously permitted use of his own photographs, including a series of 1998 aerials of the cement plant.
- Marianne Ferguson, Ara Jane Ready, Muriel Sheldon and Ken Telfer were among the Museum volunteers who helped directly with the cement history project.

Throughout the project, the staff of the St. Marys Cement Plant were unfailingly helpful and supportive. They provided access to archived company records and photographs and supplied contemporary pictures and information about the operations of the plant.

Debbie Munro, Human Resources Representative, was the main liaison with the Museum. She set up interviews with company retirees, offered suggestions and patiently answered many, many questions.

Members of the Lind and King families provided both archival material and background information. Margaret D. King and John M. Lind were especially helpful. Research notes compiled by D. John King (d. 1987) were a valuable resource.

A number of people responded to the Museum's request for cement plant photographs and gave permission to make copies from their own collections. These included Gordon Ball, Jean Copeland, Reg Near, Nelda Oliver, Harvey and Marjorie Pfaff, Howard and June Poole, Ann Switzer and Gerry Teahen. Scott Crawford provided photographs of the St. Marys Cement Plant Field at the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame.

Richard Holt provided information on military matters and insight into the army career of John S. Lind. Richard Holt is the grandson of the St. Marys Cement Plant's first chief chemist, A. G. Larsson, and has placed his grandfather's papers in the R. Lorne Eedy Archives at the St. Marys Museum. The Larsson fonds gave additional context to the early history of the cement plant.

The R. Lorne Eedy Archives contains reference material that is invaluable to any local history project, particularly photographs and stories from early editions of the St. Marys Journal Argus, on microfilm in the reference room.

Other resources from the archives include:

Rocchetti, Loriana and Robert Rose. *Bravi: A History of the Italian Community in the Town of St. Marys*. St. Marys: St. Marys Museum, 1996. NOTE: Bravi was published in book form in 1996 based on a research project conducted in the summer of 1982. Loriana Rocchetti and Robert Rose's research notes are in the archives and provided background for this book.

King, D. John. *John Grieve Lind: 40 Mile River and The Klondike*. St. Marys: Limited distribution, 1983.

Stephens, Adam. "Reciprocal Loyalty: A Recipe for Unionization. The Case of the St. Marys Cement Plant." Montreal: McGill University, unpublished research paper, 1998.

A number of Cement Company retirees agreed to be interviewed about their experiences working at the cement plant. The information they provided was very valuable, providing both details and also background and context. There were some great stories. Special thanks to:

Gord Ball	Jack Prout
Patricia Champion	Winston Smith
Art Griffiths	Gerry Teahen
Vic Noble	George Werden

There was a great deal of community interest in this book project and many people provided information in less structured contexts.

Finally, thanks to Jack O'Neill and Julie Pickering at Thames Label & Litho.

