

TYPICAL CHEESE FACTORY

There were many cheese factories in the township but typical of them was the cheese factory on Shurmer Road, that was located some distance back from the road, near 17890 Shurmer Road. It was built by William Schurmer and operated by his son, John, for many years.

The building contained several large storage tanks for the milk and considerable shelving space for the storage of the large circular cakes of cheese, where they could ripen. Outside the building was a large tank for water, which was required to wash the curd and clean the equipment. There was also an ice house to store ice cut from the pond.

Allison Clement recalls hauling milk to this creamery in large 20-gallon cans. It was poured into large tanks, along with the milk from other farms. Rennett was added. After standing overnight, the curd would separate from the whey and rise to the top. In the morning, this curd was removed to make cheese and the whey was taken back to the farm and fed to the pigs.

Norris Crumpler, Sr., recalls that about 1895 Abe Stouffer, father of Vernon and Gordon, traveled through Strongsville with a team and wagon, collecting cream and milk. He paid 70 cents per hundred pounds for the milk. Norris also remembers his father taking a wagon load of cheese to sell in Wellington.

This factory, the Shurmer cheese factory, was later owned and operated by Grant Atkinson, Strongsville's first mayor.