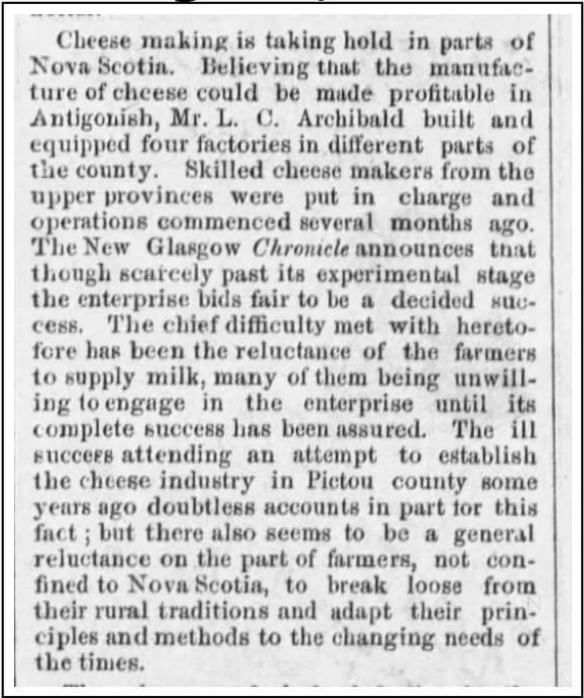


Marsh Road Cheese Factory

Located on the Marsh Road, near the present day Firehall, you will find a spring that is still in use as a drinking water supply for locals. It was this spring that probably influenced Leonard Archibald when he was looking for a place to build his cheese factory.

Leonard Archibald lived in the Antigonish Harbour area and in 1888 he started production in the four factories he had built in different parts of the county. He built in the county as he thought it would be better to be closer to the milk providing farmers. Skilled cheese makers were brought in to oversee the different factories.

Aug 29 , 1888



Cheese making is taking hold in parts of Nova Scotia. Believing that the manufacture of cheese could be made profitable in Antigonish, Mr. L. C. Archibald built and equipped four factories in different parts of the county. Skilled cheese makers from the upper provinces were put in charge and operations commenced several months ago. The *New Glasgow Chronicle* announces that though scarcely past its experimental stage the enterprise bids fair to be a decided success. The chief difficulty met with heretofore has been the reluctance of the farmers to supply milk, many of them being unwilling to engage in the enterprise until its complete success has been assured. The ill success attending an attempt to establish the cheese industry in Pictou county some years ago doubtless accounts in part for this fact; but there also seems to be a general reluctance on the part of farmers, not confined to Nova Scotia, to break loose from their rural traditions and adapt their principles and methods to the changing needs of the times.

Before Leonard got into cheese making he was a merchant of some type. In the 1871 census he was single and living in a boarding house. He was employed as a Merchant. In the 1891 census, he was into his cheese making life. His wife was Annie, and he had at least two children - William and Harry.

At first, it seems it was hard to get the local farmers to buy into the idea of using their milk for local cheese making. But eventually he must have got some level of buy in as cheese was made and it was good cheese - award winning even.

July 8 , 1893

THE PRIZE CHEESE WINNERS.

To the Editor of the Gazette :

SIR,—In your issue of 3rd inst., giving the names of prize cheese winners at the World's fair, you credit the County of Pictou, N.S., with two and Antigonish with one, whereas it is the reverse, and as follows :—

	Points.
Angus Cameron, Antigonish, N.S.....	98
Allen Kennedy, Union Centre, Antigonish, N.S.....	90
Dougald McPhie, River John, Pictou Co.....	92

They are all young men and natives of this county who learned the business in my factories since 1888. The cheese exhibited in their names was made by them in my factories. In all I made five entries with the above result.

Will you kindly make the above correction in your next issue, and greatly oblige.

Yours very truly,

L. C. ARCHIBALD,

A subscriber.

Antigonish, N.S., July 5.

Despite award winning cheese, the factories seemed to be short lived. But by 1911, he was back to being an employee in an unknown business. It might have been the cheese factory in Antigonish which ran for many years. To this date we have not found any photographs of the factory on Marsh Road.