

Langdon Hamlet

By: Karen Ferguson, Town of Kirkwood Historian

The Town of Kirkwood consists of 5 different hamlets. Starting at the southern part of the Town at the PA border and heading north/northeast, the hamlets are as follows: Riverside, Kirkwood village, Langdon, Kirkwood Center (a/k/a/ 5-mile point) and Brookvale. This month's article will highlight some of the significant structures that once existed in the Langdon Hamlet. Future articles will feature them individually in more detail.

Langdon is located about halfway between the Village of Kirkwood and Five-Mile Point. It is named after David Moore Langdon and his family who settled in this area in 1842. He purchased 640 acres of land that spanned from Trim Street to Johnson Road (formerly Watrous Road) and then expanded all the way up Trim Street to what was then known as the Ayres farm. David's occupation in census records lists him as a farmer. His home still stands at the corner of Trim and Route 11. A subdivision, street and creek in this area all bear his name.

Ironically, David Langdon's house wasn't the first house or structure built in this area, it was actually the second. First place goes to what is more commonly known as the O'Brien house. However, its original purpose wasn't a home; it was a tavern with a ballroom located on the third floor.

When David passed away in 1869, his son Myron moved from his home (which was the third structure built about a half mile up on Johnson Road) to reside in his father's house. It was in 1877 when he established a post office in this home and became its first postmaster. After Myron died, the post office changed locations to his younger brother's residence. Frank Langdon's home was the fourth house built in this area and was just a short distance north on Route 11. Frank served as the postmaster and operated the post office until its closing in 1910. Sadly, Frank's house no longer stands. It succumbed to a fire in 1985.

Schoolhouse #3 was the one-room schoolhouse on Trim Street that served this area for over 100 years until it was closed for the centralization of schools in 1947. The school building was then used by the newly formed Kirkwood Neighborhood Civic Association but was demolished for the construction of I-81.

The Langdon Church (more recently known as the First Christian Church) was one of the original churches in the Town of Kirkwood and was built in 1858. It remained as a church until 2020.

Another important asset of this hamlet was the Langdon Creamery. Local dairy farmers from approximately a 25-mile radius would bring their milk in milk cans to the creamery for sale and distribution. I am not exactly sure when the Langdon Creamery first opened but it operated until the mid-50s and later became a warehouse for potato chips. The building was destroyed by fire in January 1971.

Langdon was also a stop along the Erie Railroad. Passengers would wait for the train in an open box car. Tickets would be purchased once on board. There was a flag station, signal tower, as well as a water tower in this location. The water tower was destroyed in the 1880s by high winds.

This area has continued to evolve through the years. The original farm was subdivided and is primarily residential in nature making room for subdivisions like Valley Vista and Langdon. The schools and post offices all consolidated and the primary businesses closed. A few others have come and gone thru the years like the feed store, Danceland, and the Red & White grocery store. There are some businesses currently located in this hamlet. There is a manufacturing business named Fuse located on Route 11 in the former grocery store. The Christian Church of Fellowship resides near the corner of Trim Street and Zimmer Road and is now the only church in the Langdon area. The Hope Center occupies the site of the original Langdon church and provides professional mental health counseling and life coaching services. The Binghamton Elks Lodge #70 is located at the corner of Route 11 and Trim Street and is a vibrant community organization where neighbors can gather for a meal, host special occasions, and listen to local bands.