

Oh my, Molly! She milked record books

Although Wellington's claim to fame generally points to hometown boy Archibald Willard who created the famous "Spirit of '76" painting—there was one Wellington gal, who in her day, just may have been most famous resident of all.

That popular gal was Molly Baun, a two-year-old Holstein-Friesian cow, who was brought to the Wellington area from Holland via cheese production mogul C.W. Horr.

C.W. Horr, who is credited for making Wellington the "Cheese Empire" of the nation back in the 1800s, was in Europe seeking ways to expand Wellington's cheese industry when he made a side trip to Holland to view that country's high producing Holsteins.

With Wellington's cheese industry growing at a fast pace, more milk was needed to accomplish the job. At that time, Wellington's dairy cows were producing 3,000 to 5,000 pounds of milk a year while Holland's Holsteins were producing 8,000 to 10,000 pounds a year.

C.W. Horr had Molly, and several other Holsteins, shipped to Wellington where her arrival sent dairy producers near and far into a dither.

Every dairy producer wanted offspring from Molly – the cow from Holland who not only amazed the dairy industry by producing 17,000 pounds or 1,977 gallons of milk as a three – year old, but was also the first purebred in Ohio.

Molly Baun is still credited with the start of Ohio's excellent breeding program.

While the number of participants in Ohio's dairy industry has been declining, those remaining continue to strive for the best and have had herds that show the fruits of their labor.