

## A. G. Spalding and Brothers of Canada Limited (1392)

A. G. Spalding and Brothers, an American company, wanted to build a factory in Brantford to manufacture sporting goods before their rival, the A. G. Reach Company of Canada, Ltd., could finish their new factory (**Brantford Expositor**, November 14, 1913, p. 1). Both companies were in Brantford for a number of years before the entry for the Spalding company in the 1927 city directory listed them as "successors to A. J. Reach Co." with their factory now located at 5 Edward Street, the former A. J. Reach building. In 1955 the company moved to a new plant at 11 Spalding Drive. They became part of the Questor Corporation of Ohio, a diversified international consumer products company. Spalding had plans to close the Brantford plant and move closer to Toronto in 1978 but reached an agreement with the union to keep the plant here. Some of their most popular products were golf clubs, golf balls (including Topflite), and golf bags which they supplied to retail stores and pro shops across Canada. Spalding Canada Limited closed in September 1982. Canarinda Manufacturing Ltd. of Waterford, Ontario, made up of former Spalding employees, purchased machinery from the company in 1983 so that they could make golf equipment. In 1985 the factory on Spalding Drive was purchased by two local businessmen who had plans to lease it out for warehouse space. The Evenflo Juvenile Products Company, a division of Spalding and Evenflo Canada Inc., was established in 1978 and made a wide range of feeding and furniture products for babies and toddlers. It was located at 121 Roy Boulevard, and later at 11 Bodine Drive. This company closed in 1996, relocating to Oakville, Ontario.

## Flour Mills

### A. Watts Flouring Mill

Alexander Bunnell built the Bunnell Merchant Mills next to the Grand River canal (Greenwich Street and Eagle Avenue) in 1856. This mill was taken over by Alfred Watts and the name was changed to A. Watts Flouring Mills. It later became known as the Brant Mills. They produced 250 barrels of flour per day and shipped a lot of flour to the Maritimes. Thomas Robson worked as a head miller for A. Watts for several years before going into business for himself. Alfred Watts died in August 1913 (**Brantford Expositor**, August 2, 1913, p. 1).

For more information:

- Warner's 1883 History (p. 148 of PDF)

### Brantford New Mills

William Gibson built these mills on the south bank of the navigation canal. They burnt down in 1864 and were rebuilt later that same year. The business changed hands several times before Thomas Robson purchased the mills. There was an office on Colborne Street where flour and grain could be purchased. Thomas Robson died in July 1901 (**Brantford Weekly Expositor**, August 1, 1901, p. 3). He had worked at the Holmedale Mills as well as Alfred Watts' mill before going into business for himself.

For more information:

- Warner's 1883 History (p. 148 of PDF)

### Flouring Mill of Thomas Draper

This mill was located on the canal immediately west of the Alfred Watts' Mill on Greenwich Street. It produced about 30 barrels of flour a day. Thomas Draper retired from business because of failing health and died in January 1900 (**Brantford Weekly Expositor**, January 18, 1900, p. 13).

## Holmedale Mills

George S. Wilkes, a former mayor of Brantford, built the Wilkes Dam across the Grand River in Holmedale in 1856 to supply hydraulic power for his new mills. The mills were owned and managed by Mr. Wilkes for several years before Mr. Ker and Mr. Coleman took over. David Plewes became the owner circa 1867. By 1883 the mills were producing 1,000 barrels of flour per week. David Plewes died in August 1905 (**Brantford Weekly Expositor**, August 17, 1905, p. 16).

**For more information:**

- Warner's 1883 History (p. 148 of PDF)

## Kerby Mills

Abram Kerby built the Kerby Mills circa 1838 on the Grand River on West Mill Street at the foot of Adelaide Street (West Mill Street is now Grand River Avenue and Adelaide Street is now Waterloo Street). It was also known as the "Red Mill". The mills produced 200 barrels of flour per week as well as buckwheat flour, corn meal, and chop. Other owners of the mills included: David Plewes, Thomas Robson, and George Draper. The mills were in operation until the late 1890s with James Wilson as the last owner. The Kerby Mills in Holmedale were torn down in May 1901 (**Brantford Weekly Expositor**, May 23, 1901, p. 11).

**For more information:**

- Warner's 1883 History (p. 147-148 of PDF)



## Wood Brothers

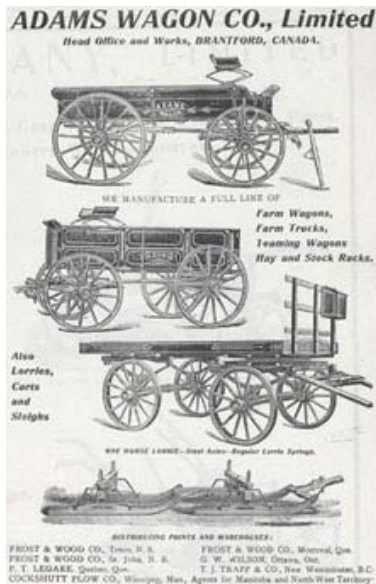
Brothers William and David Wood started making flour in St. George, Ontario circa 1870 before establishing another mill in Brantford at Colborne and Bain Streets. The mills were also known as the Wood Brothers Flour Mills and the Brant Milling Company at different times. Royal Gold and Northwest Gem were two of the

company's most well-known brands and they sold flour not only across Canada but also in Britain, South Africa, and the West Indies. In May 1899 the White Mill was destroyed by fire; this mill had been built by Alexander Bunnell in 1859 before being sold to Alfred Watts in the late 1860s and then purchased by the Wood Brothers in the 1890s (**Brantford Weekly Expositor**, May 18, 1899, p. 1). In 1911 the Dominion Flour Mills were organized under a federal charter with the head office located in Montreal. William Wood moved to Montreal to become the president and general manager of this company. Eventually a larger mill was built beside the South Market Street bridge. David Wood, a former mayor of Brantford, died in 1921 (**Brantford Expositor**, May 2, 1921, p. 6). William Wood, who also served as mayor of Brantford, died in March 1928 (**Brantford Expositor**, March 20, 1928, p. 1). The Lake of the Woods Milling Company eventually took over the business. The Brantford operations were discontinued in the early 1960s.

**For more information:**

- Expositor October 1909 (p. 88 of PDF)
- Industrial Recorder (p. 12 of PDF)
- Reville's History Volume 2 (p. 155 of PDF)

# Carriage Manufacturers



## Adams Wagon Company

Peter Adams started making wagons and buggies in his blacksmith shop in Paris, Ontario in 1863 where the company was known as Adams & Son. By 1900 a larger factory was needed to handle all of the orders so the company moved to Mohawk Street in Brantford where it became known as the Adams Wagon Company. The **Cockshutt Plow Company** acquired the business in 1911. Peter Adams, the founder of the Adams Wagon Company, died on December 23, 1911 in Paris, Ontario. **From wagon to trailer: a history of Trailmobile and its forerunners** by Michael Hand provides a history of the various companies, including the Adams Wagon Company, which became part of Cockshutt and eventually the Trailmobile Group of Companies. The Fruehauf Canada plant in Brantford, owned by Trailmobile Canada, closed in July 1990.

For more information:

Reville's History Volume 2 (p. 147 of PDF)  
Expositor October 1909 (p. 21 of PDF)  
Industrial Recorder (p. 10 of PDF)



## Brant Carriage Factory

Woods Lyons started a carriage factory in 1858 at the northwest corner of King and Darling Streets. During his career as a carriage maker there were five major fires at his factory. He retired from business in the early 1900s. Woods Lyons died on January 4, 1917 in Brantford.

## Brantford Carriage Company

The Brantford Carriage Company received its charter in September 1887 and opened for business in 1888 on Pearl Street. They made carriages, wagons, carts, sleighs, and cutters. In 1911 the **Cockshutt Plow Company** purchased controlling interest in the capital stock of the company. In 1924 the Canada Carriage and Body Company, composed of The Dominion Carriage Co., Montreal, the Alexandria plant of Carriage Factories Ltd., and the Brantford Carriage Company, was formed (**Brantford Expositor**, November 18, 1924, p. 8). This company later became Brantford Coach and Body Limited and then Brantford Trailer and Body Limited. **From wagon to trailer: a history of Trailmobile Canada and its forerunners** by Michael Hand provides more information on the Brantford Carriage Company.

### For more information:

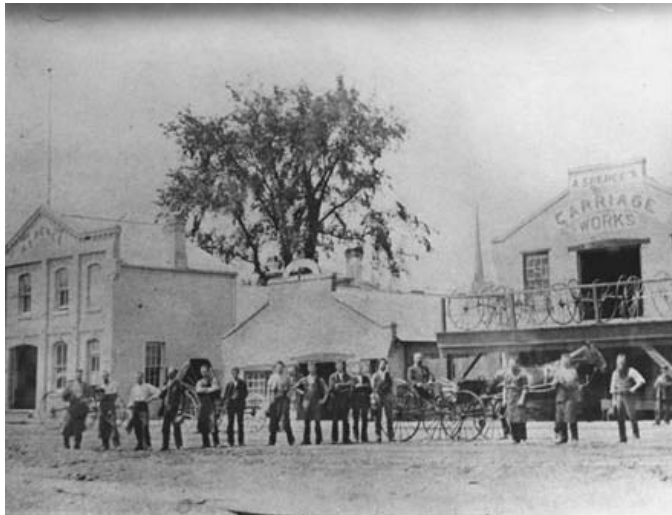
- Reville's History Volume 2 (p. 150 of PDF)
- Expositor Semi-Centennial 1877-1927 (p. 84 of PDF)

## Brantford Carriage Works

Brothers Thomas and John Hext started the Brantford Carriage Works in January 1866 at the corner of Dalhousie and Queen Streets. Thomas Hext was forced to retire from the business because of poor health and died at the young age of 37 (**Brantford Weekly Expositor**, July 9, 1875, p. 2). After the death of John Hext on March 24, 1889, a notice appeared in the newspaper announcing that his carriage factory was to be sold by public auction on November 26, 1891 (**Brantford Weekly Expositor**, November 13, 1891, p. 5).

### For more information:

- Warner's 1883 History (p. 146 of PDF)



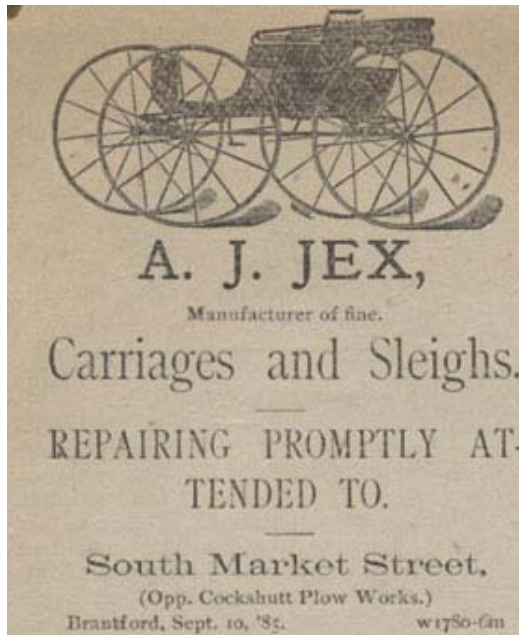
## City Carriage Works

Adam Spence started manufacturing wagons, carriages, buggies, and sleighs in 1857 in a factory on the corner of Colborne and Clarence Streets. On June 12, 1864 his business was destroyed by fire. He built a new factory at 272-282 Colborne Street. The name of the company was changed to Adam Spence & Sons, when his sons Thomas (who died in September 1907) and William became partners in the business in 1892. Adam Spence retired from the business in 1909. Mr. Spence died on June 21, 1916 (**Brantford Weekly Expositor**, June 22, 1916, p. 6). William Spence carried on the family business for many years.

### For more information:

- Warner's 1883 History (p. 146 of PDF)
- Industrial Recorder (p. 6 of PDF)

## Other Carriage Manufacturers



The names of other carriage manufacturers in Brantford throughout the years included: the Ontario Carriage Factory on Colborne Street, owned by Cleugh and Harris, the Brant Wagon Works, on Colborne Street, which was bought by the Massey-Harris Company in 1895, the Dominion Carriage Works on the corner of West Street and Brant Avenue, the Bain Wagon Works, and the factories of A. J. Jex on South Market Street, Samuel Fear on Dalhousie Street, John C. Oberlin on Darliing Street, and John W. McLaren on Oxford Street.

## Shoe Companies

### Agnew Group Inc.

John Agnew opened a small shoe store in Brantford in 1876. John and Frank Bauslaugh, relatives of John Agnew, joined the business with Frank running the warehouse in Brantford while John opened branches in other Ontario cities. John Bauslaugh became the president of the business in 1916 when John Agnew retired. In 1928 the company had more than 20 stores in western Ontario when it amalgamated with Surpass Shoe Stores and the John Ritchie Company of Quebec City and the name was changed to Agnew-Surpass Shoe Stores Limited. An explosion during the noon hour which blew out all of the windows at the store at 166 Colborne Street resulted in a fire (**Brantford Expositor**, November 4, 1958). The interior of the store was destroyed and all of the stock was lost. Several people were injured and there was heavy water and smoke damage to the stores on either side. Genesco Inc. of Nashville, Tennessee bought controlling interest in the company in 1961. In 1964 a new head office and warehouse was opened at 298 Park Road North to replace the smaller one at 100 Elgin Street. Surpass was dropped from the company's name in the 1970s. Agnew Group Inc. moved its head office and distribution centre to London, Ontario in 1992. The company declared bankruptcy in 1996. In 2000 the remaining Agnew Shoe stores were closed.

### Brandon Shoe Company

Alexander Brandon started the Brandon Shoe Company in Alymer, Ontario in 1907. He relocated to 125 Pearl Street in Brantford after a fire destroyed his factory in Aylmer. He expanded the Brantford factory several times and was manufacturing 800 pairs of shoes a day including the Brandon, Monarch, and Dr. Brandon Cushion Shoe lines. The building, machinery, and stock were destroyed by fire in the early morning hours of March 25, 1923 (**Brantford Expositor**, March 26, 1923, p. 1). Loss was estimated at more than \$200,000 and a vacant house adjoining the shoe factory was also destroyed but firemen managed to save other nearby homes. The factory was not rebuilt after the fire and 80 people were left unemployed.

For more information:

- [Reville's History Volume 2 \(p. 153 of PDF\)](#)

# Cigar Manufacturers



## Alexander Fair Cigar Company

Alexander Fair started making cigars in 1873 in a factory on the southeast corner of Colborne and Murray Streets. Mr. Fair manufactured 20 different brands of cigars including: "La Carolina", "Patience", "Henry Clay", and the small and large "Punch". A fire at the factory in October 1881 destroyed 100,000 cigars valued at approximately \$5,000 (**Brantford Weekly Expositor**, October 7, 1881, p. 1). In the late 1880s Thomas J. Fair, Alexander's nephew, took over the company which then became known as the T. J. Fair Company. Alex Fair, who became a wholesale distributing agent after retiring from the business, died on December 12, 1903 in Baltimore, Maryland. Thomas Fair died in September 1922. Wm. Ward & Sons, cigar manufacturers from London, Ontario, were supposed to open a branch factory in the old T. J. Fair building in July 1923 (**Brantford Expositor**, July 7, 1923, p. 1). However the following year, it was noted in the newspaper (**Brantford Expositor**, May 13, 1924, p. 10) that the building had been torn down. St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church was eventually built on the site of the old cigar factory.

For more information:

- Warner's 1883 History (p. 147 of PDF)



## S. W. Cornell and Company

This cigar manufacturing company was started by S. W. Cornell. Henry B. Gardner was Mr. Cornell's partner before taking over the business in 1883. Located at 9 King Street, the brand names of the cigars manufactured included "Selects", "Battle Queen", "Iroquois", "I'm A Clansman", "Citizens Five", and "Gardner's Special". Mr. Gardner moved the business to 41 Colborne Street in 1915. He retired in July 1918 because of poor health and died on October 11, 1919 (**Brantford Expositor**, October 11, 1919, p. 8).

For more information:

- Warner's 1883 History (p. 147 of PDF) (Note: listed as Connell & Co., Cigar Makers)
- Expositor October 1909 (p. 17 of PDF)
- Brantford the Telephone City (p. 3 of PDF)
- Industrial Recorder (p. 17 of PDF)

## Halloran and Haskett

Matthew K. Halloran started manufacturing cigars in the 1880s. By the 1890s the factory was located at 31 Colborne Street and he also had a retail cigar store at 150 Colborne Street. The brand names of his cigars included the Jewel, the Don Antonia, and El Merito. Mr. Halloran was also involved in municipal politics and was an alderman and then Brantford's mayor in 1903 and 1904. John Haskett became his business partner in 1906 after working at the company for several years. He died on April 13, 1914. Matthew Halloran died on September 20, 1914. According to his obituary, his daughter Alice was going to carry on her father's business (**Brantford Weekly Expositor**, September 24, 1914, p. 14). The Halloran Cigar Manufacturing Company is listed in the city directory for the next two years but by 1917 both the factory and the store on Colborne Street were owned by Charles Maxwell, another cigar manufacturer.

### For more information:

- [Industrial Recorder \(p. 14 of PDF\)](#)

## Bunnell and Busch

Bunnell and Busch, another cigar manufacturer in the city, manufactured cigars under the brand names "Ontario", "BB", "Cameo", and "Gem".



## Barber-Ellis Company

John F. Ellis and James Barber started the Barber-Ellis Company in Toronto in the 1870s. After the Toronto plant was destroyed by fire the company relocated its factory to Brantford in 1904, first on Elgin Street and then on Marlborough Street (**Brantford Weekly Expositor**, November 23, 1911, p. 15). This company manufactured envelopes, printing papers, and stationery. John F. Ellis, a grandson of Henry Ellis, one of the first settlers of Mount Pleasant, died on February 19, 1928 in Toronto (**Brantford Expositor**, February 20, 1928, p. 1). He had become president of the company after buying out James Barber. By 1930 Barber-Ellis was the largest Canadian manufacturer of envelopes and stationery with factories in Brantford, Winnipeg, and Vancouver, and warehouses in eight cities. The company moved to a new building on

Plant Farm Road in 1990. Known as Innova Envelope, it closed in August 1996 (**Brantford Expositor**, May 7, 1996, p. A1).

### For more information:

- [Reville's History Volume 2 \(p. 149 of PDF\)](#)
- [Expositor October 1909 \(p. 58 of PDF\)](#)

## Scarfe and Company

William J. Scarfe purchased an interest in a Windsor, Ontario varnish works in 1877 and moved the company to Victoria Street in Brantford the following year. The company relocated to Greenwich Street in 1885. Products included: shellacs, and paints. **Mr. Scarfe**, who served as Brantford's mayor in 1884 and 1885 before resigning to become the Brant County Sheriff in October 1885, died in April 1891. Inmont Canada Ltd. bought the plant in the 1960s from Rished Mason of Canada Ltd. The plant on Greenwich Street was closed on June 1, 1977 when the business moved to a newer building at 10 Craig Street. Inmont Canada became known as BASF Inmont Canada in the mid 1980s. The company closed in December 1996 when it was decided that the factory was too small to be productive.

### For more information:

- [Reville's History Volume 2 \(p. 149 of PDF\)](#)
- [Warner's 1883 History \(p. 152 of PDF\)](#)
- [Expositor October 1909 \(p. 36 of PDF\)](#)

## Brantford Emery Wheel Company

The Brantford Emery Wheel Company, located at 22 Dalhousie Street, was first listed in the **Brantford City Directory** in 1909. A year later they moved to a larger factory at 188 Pearl Street. The company manufactured both silicate emery wheels and vitrified emery wheels. The Waltham Grinding Wheel Company of Waltham, Massachusetts took over the business in 1920 but three years later it was back in Canadian hands, reorganized as the Brantford Grinding Wheel Company. In March 1938 the company became part of the Bay State Abrasive Products Co., Westboro, Massachusetts. After being purchased by the Avco Corporation in 1964, the company was then bought by Dresser Industries Ltd. of Dallas, Texas in 1971. The shipping department was relocated to 41 Craig Street in 1975 to make room for expansion at the Pearl Street site. The company opened a new factory at 354 Elgin Street in 1980. However, by 1990 both plants were closed with production being moved to the United States.

### For more information:

- [Expositor October 1909 \(p. 50 of PDF\)](#)
- [Expositor Semi-Centennial 1877-1927 \(p. 26 of PDF\)](#)

## Breweries

### Westbrook and Hacker Brewing Company

Hugh and Thomas Spencer started the Spencer Brewing and Malting Company in 1845. It was located in West Brantford at the bottom of Strawberry Hill. In 1855 they built the West Brantford Brewery which was later occupied by the Brantford Brewing and Malting Company. The company changed hands several times through the years and one of the owners was Humphrey Davis who owned a hop farm nearby. Fred Westbrook and Charles Hacker took over the brewery in 1903 and changed the name to the Westbrook and Hacker Brewing Company. Prior to taking over the brewery they had made names for themselves as trick bicyclists, going on a 60-week tour with the Barnum and Bailey Circus. This brewery manufactured beer, ale, and porter. In 1908 they added a malt plant so that they could malt their own grain and supply it to other breweries. The brewery was destroyed by fire in July 1910 (**Brantford Weekly Expositor**, July 28, 1910, p. 15) and it was not rebuilt. Afterwards, both men went into the hotel business. Fred Westbrook died in April 1945 (**Brantford Expositor**, April 4, 1945, p. 6) and Charles Hacker died in July 1955

### For more information:

- [Warner's 1883 History \(p. 283 of PDF\)](#) (Brantford Brewing and Malting Company)
- [Expositor October 1909 \(p. 84 of PDF\)](#)
- [Brantford the Telephone City \(p. 17 of PDF\)](#)





## Bixel Brewing and Malting Company

This brewery was started in Strathroy, Ontario in 1859. The Bixel brothers, Cyrus, Oscar, and Arthur, moved the business to 1 Alfred Street, Brantford in 1888. In March 1898 the malt house was damaged and much of the half malted barley was destroyed by fire (**Brantford Weekly Expositor**, March 10, 1898, p. 11). Oscar Bixel was killed in September 1923 when his gun accidentally discharged while on a hunting trip (**Brantford Expositor**, September 20, 1923, p. 1). Frederick (Major) Bixel and his brother Matthew formed a new company to take over the Bixel Brewing and Malting Company in August 1929 (**Brantford Expositor**, August 31, 1929, p. 19). The company was sold to Canadian

Breweries Limited on March 7, 1944 and operations ceased later that same month. Frederick Bixel died in October 1961. The brewery building, being used by the Taggart Transport Company, was destroyed by fire on March 12, 1979 (**Brantford Expositor**, March 12, 1979, p. 1).

For more information:

- Remember 1877-1977 (p. 37 of PDF)

## Spring Bank Brewery

The Spring Bank brewery, started in 1850, was owned first by William Spencer and then by Mr. Lafferty. George White, one of the company's brewers, took over the business in 1856. Lager was the only variety of malt liquor produced here. In 1863 Mr. White sold the business and the new owners converted the building into a tannery. The building was destroyed by fire in the 1870s. In 1880 George White rebuilt on the same site and resumed the brewery business. According to the local newspaper, George White died in Norwich, Ontario in July 1902. His death notice stated that "At one time he was the owner of the brewery in West Brantford and subsequently he owned the brewery in the East ward, which was purchased from him by Mr. Bixel." (**Brantford Weekly Expositor**, July 10, 1902, p. 7)

For more information:

- Warner's 1883 History (p. 283 of PDF)

## Washing Machine Manufacturers

### Blue Bird Corporation, Limited

After World War I had ended the directors of **Motor Trucks, Limited** were looking for another product to manufacture. Brantford representatives travelled to the Blue Bird Company in St. Louis, Missouri to persuade them to establish a factory in Canada to make electric washing machines (**Brantford Expositor**, January 15, 1920, p. 1). The Canadian company was incorporated in February 1920 and was located in Plant No. 1 of Motor Trucks, Limited at 69 Elgin Street. A fire broke out in the warehouses in October 1921 with damages estimated to be in the \$30,000-\$50,000 range (**Brantford Expositor**, October 24, 1921, p. 1). In September 1923 there was another small fire at the factory. After the company declared bankruptcy in 1923, Edward Cutmore acquired its assets. An article in the newspaper stated that the company, now known as Bluebird Ltd., had been reorganized and would start to make washing machines again at 16 Grey Street (**Brantford Expositor**, July 29, 1925, p. 31). This company was listed in the city directory for several years before being taken over by the Brantford Washing Machine Company. In 1929 Ruddy Manufacturing Company bought the old plant on Elgin Street which had been vacant for several years (**Brantford Expositor**, January 22, 1929, p. 1). **From automobiles to washing machines** by Robert L. Deboer provides more information about this company.

## Brantford Washing Machine Company, Limited

The Brantford Washing Machine Company, originally located at 40 Colborne Street, was established in 1920 by A. C. Lyons. For several years their factory was located at 5 Durham Street before they moved to larger premises at 16-18 Grey Street, a site formerly owned by the Brantford Computing Scale Company. This firm manufactured the Locomotive Electric Washer which was introduced as a cabinet machine and could be used as a kitchen table when not in use as a washer (**Brantford Expositor**, May 3, 1930, p. 15). As well as doing a great business in Canada, many orders came from other countries including Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, and India. The company later took over the reorganized Bluebird Ltd. The Brantford Washing Machine Company was listed in the city directory until 1960.

## Box Manufacturers

### Brantford Box Company

The large number of cigar manufacturers in Brantford was instrumental in Walter Fowler establishing a cigar and paper box factory in 1875. It was located at the corner of Albion and Richmond Streets. By 1888 the **Barber-Ellis Company** had taken over the business and the company moved to 65 Elgin Street because it needed more space. The last time that this business appeared in the city directory was 1914.

#### For more information:

- Warner's 1883 History (p. 147 of PDF)
- Expositor October 1909 (p. 50 of PDF)
- Industrial Recorder (p. 15 of PDF)

### Canadian Folding Box Company

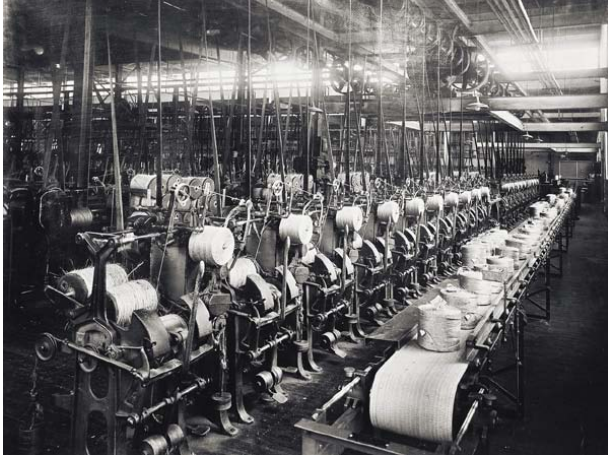
This company at 27-37 Jarvis Street was destroyed by fire on December 10, 1906 (**Brantford Weekly Expositor**, December 13, 1906, p. 1). The fire spread quickly because of the large amounts of paper and pasteboards and employees working on the second floor were forced to jump from the windows to escape since the stairs were blocked by flames. The damage, mainly to stock, was \$5,000. The business had been bought by a London company and was going to move to that city on December 17.

### Hampel Box Factory

William J. Hampel started this company on May 8, 1905. The company manufactured many types of boxes including ones for biscuits, candy, and cakes for many local companies. The factory was located on West and Centre streets in the building which was originally the **Buck Stove Company's** warehouse. On January 14, 1909 there was a fire at the Hampel Box Factory (**Brantford Expositor**, January 14, 1909, p. 1). Firemen managed to contain the fire to the top three storeys, saving the floors and the roof of the building as well as some of the machines. All of the company's stock was lost with damage costs reaching approximately \$12,000. However, the company managed to restart production within a week of the fire. In 1916 the business moved to a new factory at 27-31 Bridge Street. The company's name changed to the Brantford Paper Box Company circa 1938. This company celebrated its 75th anniversary in 1981. The Brantford Paper Box Company moved to 27 Woodyatt Drive in October 1986. It became part of Abco Box and Carton in Guelph which was later purchased by Ellis Specialty Packaging. This company closed in December 2008.

#### For more information:

- Expositor Semi-Centennial (p. 144 of PDF)



## Brantford Cordage Company

Charles Messecar purchased an interest in this small company in 1901 and later became manager. Located on Brant Avenue, it became the largest cordage and twine manufacturer in Canada. They manufactured binder twine with the brand names of "Gilt Edge", "Gold Leaf", "Silver Leaf", and "Maple Leaf". The company's warehouse was destroyed by fire in January 1913 at a loss of more than \$100,000 (**Brantford Expositor**, January 14, 1913, p. 1). The Brantford Cordage Company became a division of Tancord Industries in 1958 and relocated to 96 Sherwood Drive. The factory closed on November 17, 1972 after 70 years of operation.

### For more information:

- Reville's History Volume 2 (p. 152 of PDF)
- Expositor October 1909 (p. 56 of PDF)
- Expositor Semi-Centennial 1877-1927 (p. 120 of PDF)

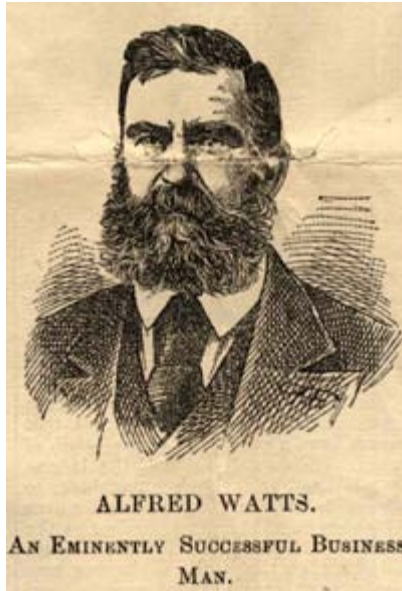
## Brantford Roofing Company

The first roofing manufacturer in Canada was established by a group of local citizens on Sydenham Street near the GTR train station in 1906. Their products included: asphalt shingles, roofing paints, and various types of asphalt emulsions. Four of their well-known brands of asphalt roofing were: Brantford Asphalt, Brantford Rubber, Brantford Crystal, and Brantford Mohawk. They purchased the Canadian Roofing Company in Windsor in 1924. A fire at the Sydenham Street plant in the asphalt section caused about \$20,000 damage at the end of 1924 (**Brantford Expositor**, January 2, 1925, p. 1). A federal charter was taken out in 1928 when the company was reorganized. They bought the Carritte Company of Saint John, New Brunswick in 1928 and by April 1940 it was known as Brantford Roofing (Maritimes) Ltd. They also bought the Superior Paper Company of Thorold, Ontario and a charter for this company, known as the Brantford Felt & Paper Co., Ltd., was issued in March 1929. The Brantford Roofing Company was bought by Domtar Inc. of Montreal in 1954. Globe Building Materials Inc. of Whiting, Indiana took over the company in 1991 and renamed it Northern Globe Building Materials. The company closed in November 1995 when they declared bankruptcy. A fire in June 1997 caused major structural damage (**Brantford Expositor**, June 5, 1997, p. A1). Another fire in May 1999 caused an estimated \$300,000 damage (**Brantford Expositor**, May 10, 1999, p. A1). The building was destroyed by fire in May 2001 (**Brantford Expositor**, May 16, 2001, p. A1) and was later torn down. This is one of Brantford's brownfield sites.

### For more information:

- Expositor October 1909 (p. 25 of PDF)
- Expositor Semi-Centennial 1877-1927 (p. 118 of PDF)

## Soap Manufacturers



### Brantford Soap Works

Charles Watts started the Brantford Soap Works in 1854 on Spring Street in Brantford. Charles Jarvis became his partner and managed the business for many years. The company made everything from laundry soap to fancy soap which was sold across Canada. Brand names included: "Mack & Co.'s Washing Compound", "Ivory bar" soap, and "Ivory toilet" soap. Charles' son, Alfred took over the business after his father died in 1868. Robert Henry became Alfred Watts' partner in 1871, the same year that a new factory was built. He was mayor of Brantford in 1878, 1879, and 1887 and the member of Parliament for South Brant, 1896-1898. He managed the Brantford Soap Works for many years until he moved to Windsor. The last time that the company was listed in the City Directory was in 1900-1901. Alfred Watts died on August 1, 1913.

**For more information:**

[Warner's 1883 History \(p. 151 of PDF\)](#)

### Soap and Potash Manufactory

Alonzo W. Hazelton started the Soap and Potash Manufactory in the 1860s in a building on Dalhousie Street. Brands of soap manufactured here included: "Resin Soap", "3X", "2X", and compound erasive soap. According to "Our Soap Interests", an article in the **Brantford Weekly Expositor** (February 3, 1871, p. 2), "the past year this factory has turned out 3000 boxes of soap, sixty pounds to the box". Mr. Hazelton's obituary (**Brantford Weekly Expositor**, October 2, 1885, p. 8) stated that he "was found dead in his stable" which was next to the soap factory.

### J. J. Inglis & Co.

According to an article in the **Brantford Weekly Expositor** (September 27, 1861, p. 3), J. J. Inglis & Co. manufactured all types of soap. At the time this article was written the company had only been in business a few months and the factory was located on Chatham Street. According to the article, "With its present appliances, which are about to be largely extended, the establishment can turn out about three hundred and sixty tons of soap per year."



## Brantford Stoneware Manufacturing Company (2140)

This company was started by Justus Morton under the name of Morton & Company in 1849. The business was located at the corner of Clarence and Dalhousie Streets and made common salt-glazed container stoneware. A. B. Bennett became a partner in the business circa 1856 but the partnership was dissolved a year later and Mr. Morton leased the factory to James Woodyatt and Company. Justus Morton took over the company again with Franklin P. Goold as a partner after James Woodyatt gave up the business to become Brantford's town clerk in 1859. However, in August of that year Mr. Morton sold the business to Mr. Goold and Charles Waterous. In 1864 the company won first prize at the Canada West exhibition for

an assortment of stoneware. On October 29, 1867 Mr. Goold sold the pottery to William E. Welding, a travelling salesman and manager of the business for a number of years, and William W. Belding for \$3,200. A fire on December 1, 1872 destroyed the pottery and all of its buildings, including \$9,000 of stock and all tools and equipment (**Brantford Weekly Expositor**, December 6, 1872, p. 3). Mr. Welding sold the property to his partner but then repurchased the site in March 1873 and built a new factory which opened in August of that year. During the 1870s the pottery started to make moulded rather than wheel-turned articles with the mottled tortoise-shell brown glaze known as Rockingham. In late July 1883 the business was destroyed by fire again but this time the exterior of the building was saved so that only the interior needed to be rebuilt (**Brantford Weekly Expositor**, July 27, 1883, p. 8). Rockingham and yellow-glazed housewares became the main products. In 1894 Mr. Welding retired and sold the business to Dr. David Lowrey, John Hemphill, and Henry Schuler. William E. Welding died in December 1903. The pottery was incorporated as the Brantford Stoneware Manufacturing Company on August 11, 1894. Between 1894 and 1906 the company made Rockingham, caneware, majolica, stove linings, firebrick and ware for chemical and sanitary purposes. In 1906 the business was dissolved for unknown reasons and in January 1907 the plant and the land were sold to Solomon Malener and Abraham Rosenfeld for the Brantford Rag and Metal Company. After being used for different businesses through the years the land and the building were sold to Firestone Stores and the building was torn down in December 1966. More information about this company can be found in **The Brantford Pottery 1849-1907** by D. B. Webster and **A History of the Brantford Pottery** by Robert Deboer.

### For more information:

- [Warner's 1883 History \(p. 152 of PDF\)](#)



## British America Starch Works

Andrew Morton acquired an interest in the starch manufacturing business owned by Mr. Imlach and Mr. Gould. He built a new factory at the locks in 1873. Andrew Morton and George Foster became business partners in 1877. Their factory, known as George Foster & Company's starch factory, was destroyed by fire on July 31, 1881 (**Brantford Expositor**, August 1, 1881, p. 4). After the fire, a joint stock company was formed consisting of George Foster, William Buck, and Andrew Morton. They took over a building near the canal which had

previously been the Builder furniture factory. They manufactured both laundry and culinary starches. In 1887 George Foster and William Buck sold their interests to Wynn Ellis. The Edwardsburg Starch Company of Montreal purchased controlling interest in the British America Starch Works in 1889. Local businessmen bought controlling interest of the company from the Montreal firm in March 1891 (**Brantford Weekly Expositor**, March 6, 1891, p. 8). In 1894 a "Notice to Creditors" appeared in the **Expositor** stating that Samuel G. Read was in the process of winding up the affairs of the British America Starch Company (**Brantford Expositor**, September 4, 1894, p. 4) and on September 29, 1894 a notice in the paper declared that all of the assets of the British America Starch Works were going to be sold by public auction. On October 8, 1894, George Foster, Ignatius Cockshutt, and Dr. Lowrey formed a new company to operate the starch works (**Brantford Expositor**, October 8, 1894, p. 3). A fire at the Brantford Starch Works in May 1902 destroyed the factory, with damage costs reaching \$65,000 (**Brantford Expositor**, May 29, 1902, p. 1). In 1906 there was another fire at the starch works which destroyed the main three-storey brick building (**Brantford Weekly Expositor**, October 18, 1906, p. 12). The Brantford Starch company and others were amalgamated to form the Canada Starch Company, Limited in 1906. According to the Brantford City Directory, this company was still in business in the 1920s.

### For more information:

- [Reville's History Volume 2 \(p. 149 of PDF\)](#)
- [Expositor October 1909 \(p. 58 of PDF\)](#)
- [Industrial Recorder \(p. 12 of PDF\) \(Brantford Starch Works\)](#)
- [Remember 1877-1977 \(p. 44 of PDF\)](#)

## Mineral/Soda Water Manufacturers



### Burke Mineral Water Company

Austin E. Burke purchased the R. S. Dunlop Mineral Water Company, which had been established before the turn of the century, circa 1903. The company was located at 17-21 Colborne Street. The products included: Brant Mineral Water, Burke's old English-brewed Ginger-Ale, and a wide variety of soft drinks. Trucks delivered these products within a thirty-mile radius of Brantford. Austin Burke, a native of Norfolk County, was in business in Brantford for over thirty years, except for a five-year retirement. The company was not listed in the city directory after 1932. Austin Burke died in October 1933 (**Brantford Expositor**, October 4, 1933, p. 5).

#### For more information:

[Expositor Semi-Centennial 1877-1927 \(p. 49 of PDF\)](#)  
[Expositor October 1909 \(p. 17 of PDF\)](#)

### Rathbun Soda Water Manufacturers

This company was located at 25-27 Colborne Street. They had moved from 29 Colborne Street because they needed larger premises. Fred C. Rathbun was the manager and according to a December 1913 newspaper article, this business had been in existence for three years (**Brantford Expositor**, December 6, 1913, p. 8). The company was also the agent for O'Keefe ales and porter. This business was listed in the city directory until 1925.

### Soda Water Manufactory

The Soda Water Manufactory was established by Henry F. Whitham circa 1863. Located on South Alfred Street it had a capacity of 300 to 400 dozen bottles per day. Mr. Whitham sold his business to Robert McGill, a former city alderman, for \$6,150 in 1885 (**Brantford Weekly Expositor**, January 16, 1885, p. 8).

#### For more information:

- [Brantford Heritage Inventory](#)

## Whitaker Baking Company

Starkie Whitaker started the Whitaker Baking Company in the 1870s. The company was originally located at 152 Market Street before moving to larger premises at 90 Queen Street. The company made bread and cakes which were sold directly to consumers as well as to many local stores. After Mr. Whitaker's death in April 1909 the business was taken over by the Gibson-Whitaker Company, which was owned by his son Gladstone and William Gibson. This partnership was later dissolved and Gladstone Whitaker remained the sole owner until his death in January 1915. His wife ran the business until September 1917 when she sold it to Harry E. Gignac and Leo Page. In 1923 the company purchased the rights to the trade name "Butter-Nut Bread", a well-known bakery product. The Whitaker Baking Company bought out the Hugh Adams bakery in Holmedale and used both plants for a while before consolidating operations at the Queen Street location. F. C. Bodley, a well-known local architect, designed an addition to the plant in 1927. By 1929 the business had been taken over by the Canada Bread Company Limited. This company was listed in the city directory until 1957.

### For more information:

- [Expositor October 1909 \(p. 90 of PDF\)](#)
- [Brantford Heritage Inventory](#)



## Canada Glue Company

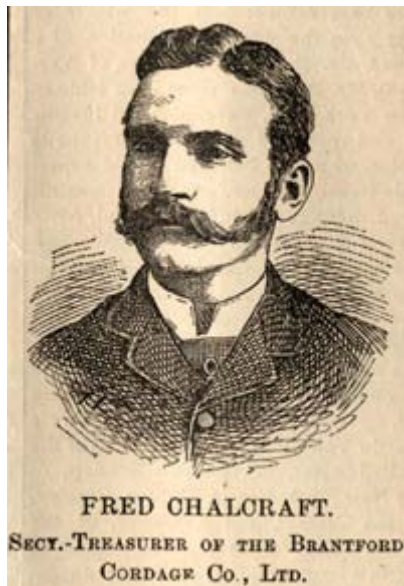
The Canada Glue Company was incorporated on March 4, 1905 and the plant opened in early 1906 with Lloyd Harris as president. Lloyd Harris, a Member of Parliament for Brantford, 1908-1911, was the grandson of Alanson Harris who founded A. Harris & Son Company, a manufacturer of farm machinery that amalgamated with the Massey Company. The factory, located on Mohawk Street at Locks Road, produced glue of all grades. In 1914 the company was reorganized and the American Glue Company of Boston, Massachusetts invested capital. On May 9, 1914 the factory was destroyed by fire (**Brantford Weekly Expositor**,

May 14, 1914, p. 7) but it was rebuilt by January 1915. The Canada Glue Company had two subsidiaries: the Canada Gelatine Company Limited (made gelatine for ice cream and pure food use) and the Abrasives Limited (used the products of the Canada Glue Company as part of the raw material for abrasive papers and cloths). The company which had operated as a division of the Peter Cooper Corporation since 1930 (**Brantford Expositor**, October 15, 1930, p. 1) was bought by Rousselot S. A. Paris, France in December 1976. The plant closed on September 30, 1985. Reichhold Chemicals Inc., White Plains, New York, purchased the contracts, trade names, machinery, and inventory of the company but not the property or the buildings.

### For more information:

- [Reville's History Volume 2 \(p. 152 of PDF\)](#)
- [Expositor October 1909 \(p. 69 of PDF\)](#)
- [Semi-Centennial 1877-1927 \(p. 68 of PDF\)](#)





## Chalcraft Screw Company

Edward Chalcraft and his son Fred started the Chalcraft Screw Company in 1898 at 43-47 Dalhousie Street. They manufactured bolts, screws, and nuts. In 1901 the business was taken over by the Brantford Screw Company. **Lloyd Harris**, a Member of Parliament for Brantford from 1908 to 1911, was the president. The factory later moved to Colborne Street West near the railroad tracks. In 1909 the Brantford Screw Company merged with the Toronto Bolt and Forging Company, the Gananoque Bolt Company Ltd., and the Belleville Rolling Mills to form the Canada Nut and Bolt Company. The following year this company merged with the Hamilton Steel & Iron Company, the Canada Screw Company, the Montreal Rolling Mills, and the Dominion Wire Manufacturing Company to become the Steel Company of Canada, part of Stelco. During World War I the company finished 18-pound shell casings. There were many expansions to the plant through the years. In 1990 the company became known as Stelco Fasteners after three fastener plants in Toronto, Brantford, and Burlington were consolidated into one location at 225 Henry Street in the former Massey complex. After the Brantford plant was sold to Genfast Manufacturing of Michigan in 1998 business increased for several years until a slowdown in the automotive industry led to layoffs. After declaring bankruptcy Genfast closed in April 2007.

For more information:

- [Expositor October 1909 \(p. 28, 44 of PDF\)](#)



## Cockshutt Plow Company

James Cockshutt started the Brantford Plow Works in 1877 in a building on Market Street South. In 1882 it was incorporated as the Cockshutt Plow Company. The company's products included plows, cultivators, harrows, seeders, and rollers. **W. F. Cockshutt, Frank Cockshutt, and Harry Cockshutt** all held the position of president of the company at various times. The company relocated to 66 Mohawk Street in 1903. In 1909 they purchased controlling interest in Frost, Wood and Company, an agricultural implement business, in Smiths Falls, Ontario and in 1911 they bought the Adams Wagon Company and the Brantford Carriage Company. During both World Wars Cockshutt

manufactured transport equipment, shells, and other weapons to help with the war effort. The Cockshutt Company became a subsidiary of the White Motor Corporation, Cleveland, Ohio in the early 1960s and the name was officially changed to White Farm Equipment in 1969. Creditors forced the closure of White Farm Equipment in 1985 with the last shift coming on April 10, 1985. **About Cockshutt: innovation, people industry survival** by William Henry Cockshutt provides an in-depth history of this company. **Cockshutt: the complete story**, compiled by the International Cockshutt Club Inc., provides a lot of information and photos of the equipment manufactured by the Cockshutt Plow Company.

For more information:

- [Reville's History Volume 2 \(p. 149 of PDF\)](#)
- [Warner's History 1883 \(p. 150 of PDF\)](#)
- [Industrial Recorder \(p. 10 of PDF\)](#)
- [Remember 1877-1977 \(p. 8, 34, 35, 58 of PDF\)](#)

## Crown Electrical Manufacturing Company Ltd.

This company, located at 17 Sydenham Street, was incorporated on May 4, 1910. When it opened it was a branch of a lighting fixture company in St. Charles, Illinois. They manufactured various appliance and light fixture products. The company went bankrupt in 1936 but within three weeks a group of Brantford businessmen had obtained a new charter to restart the business. During World War II the company made component parts used in Mosquito aircraft and other fighter and training planes. In 1951 the company diversified by going into the commercial kitchen business as a national distributor for several American companies, including Jet Spray, Inc., Magic Chef ranges, and Jackson dishwashers. Crown Electrical Manufacturing took over the Allen-Ritchie Co. Ltd., an old Brantford custom cutting business on Alice Street, in 1973. They also bought the Kevco Manufacturing Company in 1977 and it became part of the Allen-Ritchie Division, making television and stereo console masonite backs. The company went bankrupt in 1991 and the factory was vacant until 1993 when Harold's Haulage signed a lease to use the building as a place to store tires for recycling and resale. This is one of the city's brownfield sites.

## E. and A. Gunther Company, Ltd.

The E. and A. Gunther Company was established by two brothers, Egmond and Anton Gunther, in Toronto in 1857. They made jeweler's tools and supplies. Two of Egmond's sons, Reinhold and Egmond Gunther Jr., took over management of the business in 1896. The company moved to a factory previously owned by Motor Trucks, Limited at 298 Murray Street in 1926. When the business was taken over by E. V. and J. E. Mele of the Mele Manufacturing Company, Utica, New York in May 1962 the name of the company was changed to Gunther Mele Limited. In 1976 Vernon Gale and Douglas King bought controlling interest in the company, bringing it into Canadian hands again. In 1994 the company started an American branch in Buffalo, New York. The company moved to a new building at 30 Craig Street in January 1997. Their products now include: jewelery packaging-cases, pouches, and display stands; boxes and baskets; giftwrap, tissue paper, and ribbons. This company is still in business today at the Craig Street location.

**For more information:**

- [Gunther Mele](#)

## Robbins and Myers Canada Ltd.

This company was incorporated in 1919 (**Brantford Expositor**, August 22, 1919, p. 1) and initially used space in the **Motor Trucks Ltd.** factory so that they were able to start production right away. They were owned by the Robbins and Myers Company of Springfield, Ohio. The American firm wanted to have a Canadian factory to make products for their expanding Canadian market. A factory was built at 58 Morrell Street. The company originally built vacuum cleaner motors but this product was discontinued. In the 1940s they started making motors up to 75 horsepower and eventually were able to supply a motor for almost every use. There was a sixteen-week strike at the company in 1959 with the key issues being wages and hours. In 1978 the company sold its motor division to a group of former Myers and Robbins executives who formed Etatech Industries Inc. at the Morrell Street plant. Etatech Industries went into receivership in 1987. A plant at 17 Woodyatt Drive became the Canadian Moyno Fluids facility, making Moyno pumps. Robbins and Myers closed in the fall of 1992 when its American parent company bought Prochem Mixing Equipment Ltd. in Brampton and moved all production to that facility.

**For more information:**

- [Expositor Semi-Centennial 1877-1927 \(p. 35 of PDF\)](#)

## Farm & Dairy Utensil Manufacturing Company

Matthew Whiting, William J. Scarfe, H. M. Wilson, A. D. Cable, M. F. Hale, and R. C. Smyth obtained a dominion charter in 1881 to establish this agricultural implement business (**Brantford Weekly Expositor**, August 26, 1881, p. 2). The factory was located on the northeast corner of Duke and Waterloo Streets in a building formerly known as the Jones' Foundry. Their products included: Bickford's combined force, lift, tank and suction pump; the Weller independent spring-tooth cultivator, with broadcast seeder attached; the Monarch fanning mill; and the Figure Eight churn. The offer of fifty cents on the dollar by the creditors of the Farm & Dairy Utensil Manufacturing Company was accepted when they met on August 14, 1884. The business was expected to continue operating as usual (**Brantford Weekly Expositor**, August 22, 1884, p. 8). The assets and good will of the company were sold to Mr. Dowling for a syndicate of purchasers in Brantford for \$26, 500 (**Brantford Weekly Expositor**, October 10, 1884, p. 8). This company was not listed in the 1888 city directory.

### For more information:

- [Warner's 1883 History \(p. 144 of PDF\)](#)

## G. F. Sterne & Sons

George F. Sterne, an employee of Buck Stoveworks, started making stove polish and cement for mounting and repairing furnaces at night in a small house on Darling Street in 1898. The first factory was built on Bruce Street in 1906. George Sterne was president of the company until his death in 1919. The business became known as Sternson Limited in 1932. They also made construction products, water treatment chemicals, and industrial chemicals. Sternson moved to a larger factory, originally built for the Adams Wagon Company, at 22 Mohawk Street in 1967. M. T. Bright Holdings Ltd. purchased the company, which had been controlled by the Sterne family since its inception, in 1979 and by 1986 Tom Bright had taken over ownership of the company in partnership with Princeton Holdings Limited. They moved their chemical products division to a plant on Oak Park Road in 1985. The Oak Park Road plant was bought by Eaglebrook Inc. of Canada, a company based in Concord, Ontario, in 2002 (**Brantford Expositor**, March 7, 2002, p. A1). Gaco Systems Limited, another Sternson company established in 1951 and located at 54 Morton Avenue East, custom designed and made industrial sized water and waste water treatment equipment systems. It was last listed in the 1995/96 city directory. The plant on Mohawk Street was closed in 1998 and the buildings were torn down. This is one of the city's brownfield sites.

### For more information:

- [Expositor Semi-Centennial 1877-1927 \(p. 114 of PDF\)](#)



## Goold Bicycle Company

W. J. Knowles and Edward L. Goold started manufacturing bicycles in 1887 in a factory on Dalhousie Street. W. J. Knowles had been selling bicycles imported from England at this same location since 1873. The company later occupied part of the Schultz Brothers building on Albion Street before moving to a larger factory on Elgin Street. Several additions had to be made because of the increasing popularity of the bicycle across Canada; at one point the company was making as many as 100 bicycles per day. The most popular bicycle manufactured by the Goold Bicycle Company was the Red Bird. The Goold Bicycle Company sponsored a team of racers that at one time held all the Class B championships in Canada except one. The Canada Cycle and Motor Company bought the company in 1899. Besides Brantford they had plants in Toronto and Hamilton. Brand names of the bicycles manufactured included Brantford, Cleveland, Massey-Harris, Welland Vale, Columbia, Crescent, and Tribune. CCM bicycles were exported to many countries including: Britain, France, India, South Africa, and Australia. The Brantford factory closed in the early 1900s when the automobile became a more popular method of transportation.

For more information:

Industrial Recorder (p. 15 of PDF)



## Goold, Shapley and Muir Company

Edward L. Goold, W. H. Shapley, and John Muir formed the Goold, Shapley and Muir Company in 1892 when they took over Goold & Company, manufacturers of beekeepers' supplies and refrigerators. The factory was initially located on Albion Street before a new factory was built on Elgin Street. A fire destroyed this factory in March 1898, with damage costs reaching \$20,000 (**Brantford Weekly Expositor**, March 10, 1898, p. 11). The company then moved to the former Verity Plow Company site at Wellington and Clarence Streets. The products manufactured included: windmills, gasoline engines, tanks, lookout towers, concrete mixers, and pumps. They were the first company in Canada to make steel windmills. Another fire in February 1907 almost completely destroyed the western section of the plant (**Brantford Weekly Expositor**, February 14, 1907, p. 16). Edward L. Goold, president of the company, died in February 1920. John Muir, general manager of the company for many years, died on September 26, 1934. The Goold, Shapley and Muir Company went out of business in the mid-1930s.

For more information:

Reville's History Volume 2 (p. 151 of PDF)  
 Expositor October 1909 (p. 50 of PDF)  
 Expositor Semi-Centennial 1877-1927 (p. 87 of PDF)  
 Industrial Recorder (p. 13 of PDF)



## Kitchen Overall and Shirt Company

Charles E. Kitchen and Luther Whitaker started manufacturing overalls and work shirts on Dalhousie Street in 1911. The business relocated to the Cockshutt Building at 11 Queen Street but by 1918 they needed more space so they moved again to the former Buck foundry building on West Street. They

acquired the Peabody Overall Company and the Leather Label Over-Haul Company of Windsor. In May 1926 they took over the Waterloo Shirt Company and moved it to the building formerly occupied by the Waddell Preserving Company on Clarence Street (**Brantford Expositor**, May 7, 1926, p. 1). Charles E. Kitchen died in August 1927 from internal injuries that he received in a car accident (**Brantford Expositor**, August 8, 1927, p. 6). The company became known as Kitchen-Peabody Garments Limited in the early sixties with the factory on Edward Street. The Great Western Garment Company (later known as GWG Limited) acquired control of the Kitchen-Peabody Company in 1968. After purchasing the two GWG sewing plants at 5 Edward Street and 383 Elgin Street in January 1980, Levi Strauss Canada Inc. moved the company to 70 Easton Road in May 1981. It became the finishing centre for all Levi clothes manufactured in Canada. In March 2004 the factory in Brantford was closed along with Levis Strauss's other Canadian plants.

### For more information:

- [Reville's History Volume 2 \(p. 153 of PDF\)](#)
- [Expositor Semi-Centennial 1877-1927 \(p. 14 of PDF\)](#)



## Ham and Nott Company, Limited

John and Joseph Ham started the Ham and Nott Company in 1892 on Elgin Street. Their products included: woven wire bed springs, refrigerators, screen doors, window screens, kitchen cabinets, and beekeepers' supplies. Joseph Ham, a member of the Ontario legislature from 1914 to 1919, died on January 20, 1925. Later that same year the Ruddy Manufacturing Company took over Ham Brothers (**Brantford Expositor**, May 16, 1925, p. 1). Ruddy Manufacturing became Ruddy-Freeborn in 1936 when a group of local businessmen started manufacturing cabinets for refrigerators. The Hussmann Refrigerator Company purchased Ruddy-Freeborn in the late

1940s. Hussmann Store Equipment ceased operations in March 2002.

### For more information:

- [Reville's History Volume 2 \(p. 150 of PDF\)](#)
- [Expositor October 1909 \(p. 68 of PDF\)](#)
- [Expositor Semi-Centennial 1877-1927 \(p. 110 of PDF\)](#)



## Massey-Harris Company

Alanson Harris started manufacturing farm implements in 1857 in Beamsville, Ontario. In 1871 he moved the business to Brantford where he formed a partnership with J. Harris and J. K. Osborne and the company became known as A. Harris, Son & Co. The business was located on the south side of Colborne Street with additional buildings being erected on Market Street South in 1882. The company manufactured reapers, mowers, self-binding harvesters, harrows, and cultivators. In 1891 A. Harris, Son & Co. amalgamated with the Massey Company and became known as Massey-Harris (**Brantford Weekly Expositor**, November 20, 1891, p. 8). In 1953 the company's name was changed to

Massey-Harris-Ferguson after they merged with the tractor firm of Harry Ferguson. Later the name was shortened to Massey-Ferguson. In June 1964 the company opened a multi-million dollar plant in the Braneida industrial park in the northeast section of Brantford. By the late 1970s Massey-Ferguson employed over 3,000 people but the company started to lose money because of slumping sales and by 1981 a large refinancing package was needed to keep the company open. Massey Combines in Brantford became a separate company (the rest of the company became known as the Varsity Corporation) after a major restructuring took place in 1986. The plant was closed on March 4, 1988 after the company was placed into receivership when it couldn't meet its debt payments.

### For more information:

- [Reville's History Volume 2 \(p. 146 of PDF\)](#) (Massey-Harris Company)
- [Warner's 1883 History \(p. 144 of PDF\)](#) (A. Harris, Son & Company)
- [Industrial Recorder \(p. 12 of PDF\)](#)
- [Remember 1877-1977 \(p. 30, 42 of PDF\)](#)
- [Antique Farming](#)
- [Massey-Harris-Ferguson Collection](#)
- [Massey-Harris Tractors](#)



## J. O. Wisner, Son & Co.

Jesse O. Wisner started manufacturing fanning mills on Colborne Street in 1857. In 1872 his son, Wareham Wisner who had his own business making seed drills, joined the company. Their products included: one and two horse drills, drill and broadcast seeders, spring tooth harrows, spring tooth cultivators, and sulky rakes. The company moved to larger facilities at the corner of Wellington and Clarence Streets. This firm became part of the Massey-Harris Company in 1891 and the factory closed on August 10, 1892 (**Brantford Weekly Expositor**, July 29, 1892, p. 8).

### For more information:

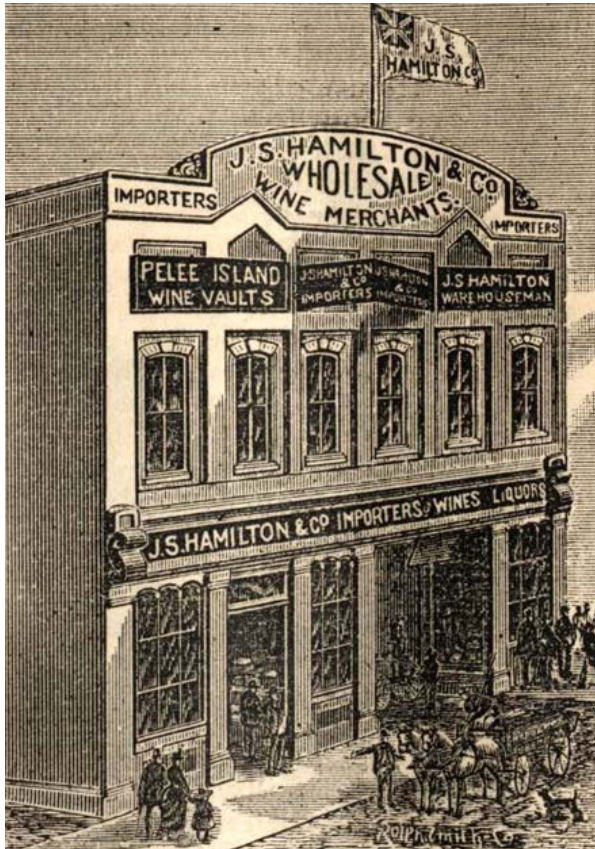
- [Warner's 1883 History \(p. 145 of PDF\)](#)



## Verity Plow Company

William H. Verity started the Verity Plow Company in Exeter, Ontario in 1857. He manufactured plows, straw cutters, pulpers, wood sawing machines, mowers, reapers, and stoves. After 1875 the company concentrated on making plows under the name W. H. Verity and Sons. The company relocated to Brantford in 1892 and used the building at Clarence and Wellington Streets, formerly occupied by J. O. Wisner & Son. After this factory was destroyed by fire on October 26, 1897 (**Brantford Weekly Expositor**, October 28, 1897, p. 1, 4), the company moved to a larger facility at the foot of Murray Street, south of the canal. The Verity Plow Company became affiliated with Massey Harris in 1895.

- Reville's History Volume 2 (p. 147 of PDF)
- Industrial Recorder (p. 14 of PDF)
- Remember 1877-1977 (p. 44 of PDF)



## J. S. Hamilton and Company

Joshua S. Hamilton started a grocery and liquor business in 1871. A couple of years later R. S. Dunlop became a partner with him in Hamilton, Dunlop and Company, a wholesale wine and liquor business located on Colborne Street. After R. S. Dunlop retired in 1877 the name was changed to J. S. Hamilton and Company. Mr. Hamilton started advertising Pelee wines after became associated with Thaddeus Smith of the Vin Villa Vineyards located on Pelee Island. This led to the establishment of the Pelee Island Wine and Vineyards Company with J. S. Hamilton as president and managing director. One of the company's most well-known products was St. Augustine Communion Wine, purchased by churches in Canada, the United States, and Great Britain. Needing more space the company moved to larger premises at 91-93-95 Dalhousie Street. In 1913 J. S. Hamilton bought the property adjoining the fire hall on Dalhousie Street and built a large warehouse. The Pelee Island Wine and Vineyards Company amalgamated with J. S. Hamilton and Company in 1919 to become J. S. Hamilton and Company Limited with Mr. Hamilton as president and managing director. J. S. Hamilton died in March 1931 but the business continued under his name until 1945 when London Winery Ltd. acquired the company.

For more information:

- Industrial Recorder (p. 15 of PDF)
- Expositor October 1909 (p. 84 of PDF)
- Warner's 1883 History (p. 259 of PDF)
- Expositor Semi-Centennial 1877-1927 (p. 52 of PDF)
- 1888 Telegram (p. 34 of PDF)



## Keeton Motors, Limited

The Keeton Engineering Company of Detroit decided to manufacture automobiles in Brantford. A group of local manufacturers as well as two American men connected with the United States company formed Keeton Motors, Limited which was incorporated on July 23, 1912 (**Brantford Expositor**, August 9, 1912, p. 1). Mr. W. P. Blanchard of Detroit was named the manager in October 1912 (**Brantford Weekly Expositor**, October 31, 1912, p. 13) with preparations being made to start production within a few weeks. The factory was located at 69 Elgin Street, a building that had previously been occupied by the **Barber-Ellis Company**. The six cylinder, 50 H. P. car was similar to the French Renault in design. The company's most popular model, the Keeton "4-35", with a Northway motor, a Delco self-starter, streamlined body, wire-spoke wheels, and a V-shaped radiator, cost \$1,390. As of December 1912 the Legare-Gadbois Company of Montreal had contracted for 150 cars while the Victoria Garage Company of Ottawa had ordered 75 cars. Production at the Keeton Motor Car Works of Detroit ceased in 1914 and the company was taken over by the American Voiturette Company. Production of automobiles at Keeton Motors, Limited in Brantford apparently stopped sometime in 1915 but the company was still listed in the **Brantford City Directory** until 1919.

Motor Trucks, Limited was incorporated in December 1915 at the Elgin Street factory with plans to manufacture military trucks for war use. By 1918 the company was making munitions for the United States Government and built a new factory at 298 Murray Street so that they could increase production but World War I ended before the factory was ready. In 1919 Motor Trucks, Limited made a claim with the Imperial Munitions Board for expenses relating to the cancelled government contract with the United States. When the company realized that the land and the building on Murray Street were not specifically mentioned in the claims agreement they refused to relinquish the Murray Street property to the U. S. Government.

However, they lost their case after a lengthy lawsuit before the courts (**Brantford Expositor**, September 29, 1923, p. 5). In 1920 Motor Trucks, Limited was reorganized resulting in the formation of the Blue Bird Corporation, Limited which planned to make electric washing machines (**Brantford Expositor**, September 1, 1920, p. 5). In April 26, 1926 the mortgage on the Murray Street property was discharged and the property was sold to Reinhold E. Gunther. More information about these companies can be found in the book **From Automobiles to Washing Machines** by Robert L. Deboer.

**For more information:**

- [From Automobiles to Washing Machines](#)





## Waterous Engine Works

**P. C. VanBrocklin** started making stoves in Brantford in 1844. C. H. Waterous acquired an interest in the business in 1848 and by 1874 the company was known as the Waterous Engine Works. Originally located on Dalhousie Street, the company moved to South Market Street in 1896. The products manufactured included: equipment for power plants, saw mills, and pulp mills. Waterous Engine Works acquired the Seagrave Fire Appliance Manufacturing Company of Walkerville in 1909 (**Brantford Weekly Expositor**, December 2, 1909, p. 11). In 1927 the name of the company was shortened to Waterous Limited since the company was manufacturing such a wide range of products. The 100th anniversary of the Waterous Engine Company was highlighted in the **Brantford Expositor** on June 10, 1944 (20 pages). In 1953 the Koehring

Company of Milwaukee, Wisconsin purchased the company which then became known as Koehring-Waterous. After being sold to Timberjack Inc. in the late 1980s, the company closed for good in October 1992 after 148 years in business. **Iron, steam and wood: 150 years with the Waterous Engine Works Company** by Mike Hand provides an in-depth history of this company.

### For more information:

- [Reville's History Volume 2 \(p. 145 of PDF\)](#)
- [Warner's 1883 History \(p. 147 of PDF\)](#)
- [Expositor Semi-Centennial 1877-1927 \(p. 30 of PDF\)](#)
- [Industrial Recorder \(p. 11 of PDF\)](#)
- [Charles Horatio Waterous](#)



## Paterson & Son. Co., Limited

In 1863 **William Paterson** and Henry B. Leeming took over the baking and confectionary business of William Winter on Colborne Street. William Paterson became the sole owner of this business in 1872 when Mr. Leeming became the Brantford Collector of Customs. William Paterson's son, W. F. Paterson joined the business and the name was changed to William Paterson & Son. Co., Limited in 1897. Mr. Paterson, the former Brantford mayor and Member of Parliament, died on March 18, 1914 in Picton, Ontario. The company was bought by Toronto interests in 1923 but the plant was closed two years later after the company got into financial trouble. The business was re-organized

in 1926 (**Brantford Expositor**, October 1, 1926, p. 1) as the William Paterson Company. George Weston Ltd. bought the company in 1928 (**Brantford Expositor**, May 22, 1928, p. 1). Weston Foods Ltd. closed on May 30, 1975 and the plant was torn down.

### For more information:

- [Reville's History Volume 2 \(p. 148 of PDF\)](#)
- [Warner's 1883 History \(p. 147 of PDF\)](#)
- [Expositor October 1909 \(p. 96 of PDF\)](#)
- [Expositor Semi-Centennial 1877-1927 \(p. 134 of PDF\)](#)
- [Remember 1877-1977 \(p. 42 of PDF\)](#)

## Penman Manufacturing Company

John Penman started this company when he came to Paris, Ontario in 1868. W. E. Adams was a partner in the business until 1870 when the partnership was dissolved. The company's products included underwear, socks, blankets, and flannels. Penmans bought the Adams-Hackland Textile Mill in 1887. In the 1890s they acquired the Peninsular Knitting Company, Thorold, Ontario, the Coaticook Knitting Company, Coaticook, Quebec, and the Norfolk Knitting Company, Port Dover, Ontario. Penmans purchased the Watson Manufacturing Company, St. Catharines in 1897 and moved the plant to Paris. After this factory became too small they built a new factory in the Holmedale area of Brantford. The company was incorporated as the Penman Manufacturing Company Limited in 1906 and it was at this time that John Penman relinquished control of the company. John Penman died in October 1931 (**Brantford Expositor**, October 19, 1931, p. 2). A strike began on January 17, 1949 at the Penman's textile plant in Paris that lasted three months (**Brantford Expositor**, January 18, 1949, p. 3). Penmans became a subsidiary of the Dominion Textile Company of Montreal in 1965. By 1961 Penman's No. 1 mill on West River Street was closed. The underwear factory in Paris was closed on August 31, 1970. By March 1983 the St. Hyacinthe plant was closed and production at the Paris and Brantford plants was gradually moved to Cambridge, Ontario. In September 1987 the Dominion Textile Company sold the business to the TAG Apparel Group of Mississauga. In March 1990 the TAG Apparel Group, owner of the Penman's sportswear plant in Cambridge and the Harvey Woods underwear plants in Woodstock and London was placed in receivership because of the company's failure to pay several million dollars in loans (**Brantford Expositor**, March 1, 1990, p. 1)

### For more information:

- [Reville's History Volume 2 \(p. 156 of PDF\)](#)
- [Reville's History Volume 2 \(p. 151 of PDF\) \(Watson Manufacturing Company\)](#)
- [Expositor October 1909 \(p. 77 of PDF\) \(Watson Manufacturing Company\)](#)



## Pratt & Letchworth Company, Limited

The Pratt & Letchworth Company of Buffalo, New York set up a branch of their company on Wilkins Street, beside the Grand Trunk railway tracks, in 1900

(**Brantford Weekly Expositor**, May 3, 1900, p. 14). The company manufactured malleable iron castings for railroad equipment and agricultural implements and it was the largest iron foundry of its kind in Canada for many years. In 1912 Canadian Car and Foundry Company, Limited of Montreal purchased the company's stock (**Brantford Weekly Expositor**, November 7, 1912, p. 14). The factory was partially destroyed by fire on April 23, 1913 with damage in the \$10,000 - \$15,000 range (**Brantford Expositor**, April 24, 1913, p. 1). The Brantford company closed in 1952 when all of the business was moved to Montreal.

### For more information:

- [Reville's History Volume 2 \(p. 152 of PDF\)](#)
- [Expositor October 1909 \(p. 40 of PDF\)](#)

## Robbins and Myers Canada Ltd.

This company was incorporated in 1919 (**Brantford Expositor**, August 22, 1919, p. 1) and initially used space in the **Motor Trucks Ltd.** factory so that they were able to start production right away. They were owned by the Robbins and Myers Company of Springfield, Ohio. The American firm wanted to have a Canadian factory to make products for their expanding Canadian market. A factory was built at 58 Morrell Street. The company originally built vacuum cleaner motors but this product was discontinued. In the 1940s they started making motors up to 75 horsepower and eventually were able to supply a motor for almost every use. There was a sixteen-week strike at the company in 1959 with the key issues being wages and hours. In 1978 the company sold its motor division to a group of former Myers and Robbins executives who formed Etatech Industries Inc. at the Morrell Street plant. Etatech Industries went into receivership in 1987. A plant at 17 Woodyatt Drive became the Canadian Moyno Fluids facility, making Moyno pumps. Robbins and Myers closed in the fall of 1992 when its American parent company bought Prochem Mixing Equipment Ltd. in Brampton and moved all production to that facility.

### For more information:

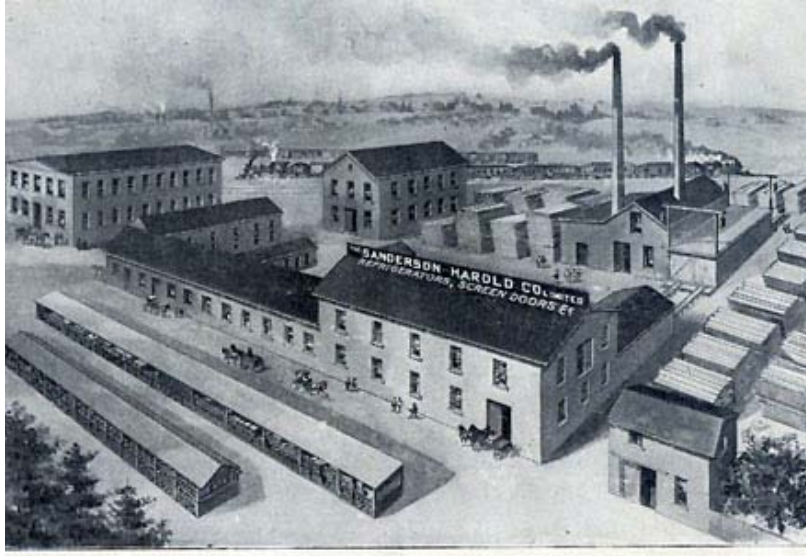
- [Expositor Semi-Centennial 1877-1927 \(p. 35 of PDF\)](#)

## S. C. Johnson and Son Ltd.

As a result of a chance meeting on a train to Toronto, Brantford mayor, Morrison Mann McBride, convinced Herbert Fisk Johnson Sr. that Brantford was the best location for his new factory. Herbert Fisk Johnson was the head of S. C. Johnson and Son, Ltd., a family owned and managed company that was started in Racine, Wisconsin in 1886. When the Brantford factory opened in 1920 it was 10,000 square feet in size with 12 employees making four different types of Johnson's Polishing Wax. Located at 1 Webster Street, with many expansions over the years, the factory has increased to over 250,000 square feet and more than 400 employees. The 70th anniversary of the Canadian headquarters of S. C. Johnson and Son Ltd. was in 1990. The company's many contributions to the community include a donation of \$590,000 in 2001 to help pay for the conversion of Thomas B. Costain School into a multi-use community centre.

### For more information:

- [Expositor Semi-Centennial 1877-1927 \(p. 147 of PDF\)](#)
- [S. C. Johnson and Son Ltd. \(Canada\)](#)



THE SANDERSON-HAROLD COMPANY'S WORKS.

## Sanderson-Harold Company

John A. Sanderson and John Harold started manufacturing refrigerators, screen doors, and window screens in the building formerly occupied by the Adams Wagon Company, Paris, Ontario, in the fall of 1902. After the factory was destroyed by fire on December 24, 1908 (**Brantford Expositor**, December 26, 1908, p. 1), a new one was built on Railway Street. John A. Sanderson, president of the company from 1902 until 1915, died on March 14, 1917 in Brantford. **John Harold**, who represented North Brant in Parliament from 1917 to 1921, died on February 16, 1947 in Paris. The company decided to concentrate on manufacturing kitchen

cabinets after the building burned down in another fire in 1956. The company is still in business today and is better known as Paris Kitchens.

### For more information:

- [Reville's History Volume 2 \(p. 157 of PDF\)](#)
- [Paris Kitchens](#)



## Scarfe and Company

William J. Scarfe purchased an interest in a Windsor, Ontario varnish works in 1877 and moved the company to Victoria Street in Brantford the following year. The company relocated to Greenwich Street in 1885. Products included: shellacs, and paints. **Mr. Scarfe**, who served as Brantford's mayor in 1884 and 1885 before resigning to become the Brant County Sheriff in October 1885, died in April 1891. Inmont Canada Ltd. bought the plant in the 1960s from Rished Mason of Canada Ltd. The plant on Greenwich Street was closed on June 1, 1977 when the business moved to a newer building at 10 Craig Street. Inmont Canada became known as BASF Inmont Canada in the mid 1980s. The company closed in December 1996 when it was decided that the factory was too small to be productive.

### For more information:

- [Reville's History Volume 2 \(p. 149 of PDF\)](#)
- [Warner's 1883 History \(p. 152 of PDF\)](#)
- [Expositor October 1909 \(p. 36 of PDF\)](#)

## Schultz Bros. Co.

George C. Schultz started a construction business in 1867 with a workshop at 35 Albion Street. He was joined in the business by his brothers Henry and William. In the beginning they made building materials such as doors, sashes and blinds and had a small contracting business. Not dependent solely on the construction business their other products included: the Knoll Washer, the Schultz Clothes Dryer, several lines of woodenware - crokinole boards, rocking horses, wheelbarrows, Silica pressed brick, motor boats, and portable houses. Many well-known local buildings were constructed by this company, including: the Carnegie Free Library, Brantford Collegiate Institute, Brantford General Hospital, and Grandview Public School. Schultz Construction Limited was established by a provincial charter in 1927 by J. Albert Taylor and Charles Robertson (**Brantford Expositor**, February 3, 1927, p. 1). In 1949 a new office was built at the north end of the company's property at 34 McMurray Street. The company was in business under the name of Schultz Construction until January 1, 1977 when the company became known as T. E. Taylor Construction Limited. with Tom Taylor and Jim Moyer as partners. The company relocated to 361 Elgin Street. When Tom Taylor retired in 1999 a new company, STM Construction Limited was formed and is still in business today.

### For more information:

- [Expositor October 1909 \(p. 32 of PDF\)](#)
- [Expositor Semi-Centennial 1877-1927 \(p. 109 of PDF\)](#)
- [Industrial Recorder \(p. 13-14 of PDF\)](#)
- [STM Construction Limited](#)



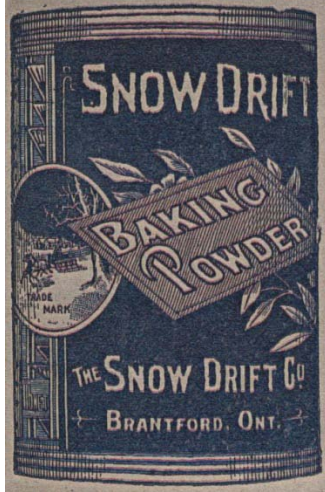
property and equipment in the early 1960s.

### For more information:

- [Reville's History Volume 2 \(p. 148 of PDF\)](#)
- [Warner's 1883 History \(p. 152 of PDF\)](#)
- [Expositor October 1909 \(p. 40 of PDF\)](#)
- [Expositor Semi-Centennial 1877-1927 \(p. 38 of PDF\)](#)
- [Industrial Recorder \(p. 13 of PDF\)](#)

## Slingsby Manufacturing Company

William Slingsby came to Brantford in 1872 and started the Holmedale Woolen Mills, a company that manufactured blankets and flannel sheets. The factory burned down on December 24, 1876 but a new mill was built the following spring. The company's name was changed to William Slingsby and Sons in 1877. When the Slingsby family sold the company in 1893 it was incorporated as the Slingsby Manufacturing Company, Ltd. (**Brantford Weekly Expositor**, March 31, 1893, p. 6). William Slingsby died on May 5, 1893, several years after retiring from the business. The buildings were again destroyed by fire in December 1902 (**Brantford Weekly Expositor**, December 11, 1902, p. 1, 2). Canadian Celanese Limited bought the company in the late 1950s but they sold the

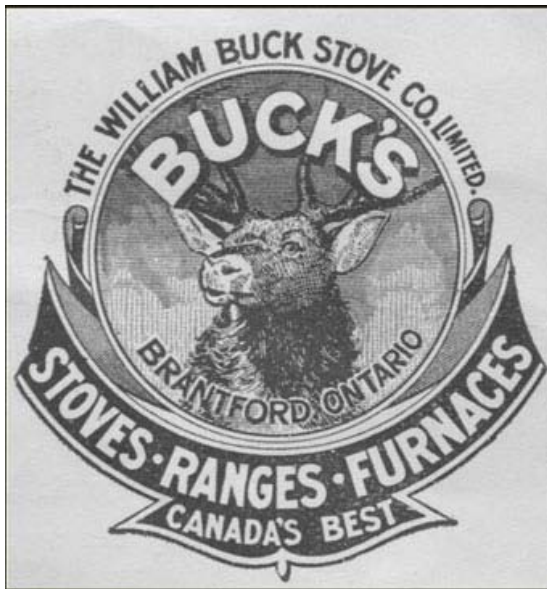


## Snowdrift Baking Powder Company

Jesse S. Mills started the Snowdrift Baking Powder Company in 1883 with R. M. Fullerton joining the business in October 1885. In the spring of 1887 the company moved to 37-39 Dalhousie Street from the Ryerson Bros. building on Colborne Street. They manufactured baking powder (including Snowdrift, Crystal, and Dominion brands), flavouring extracts, coffee blends (including the Snow Drift Blend), and spices. R. M. Fullerton became the sole owner in March 1895 (**Brantford Expositor**, March 11, 1895, p. 1). On September 18, 1902 a fire destroyed most of the Snowdrift Baking Powder Company as well as the factory and warehouse of George Watt & Sons with the total loss estimated at \$100,000 (**Brantford Weekly Expositor**, September 25, 1902, p. 12). R. M. Fullerton did not rebuild his business after the fire. However, the Brantford Coffee and Spice Company run by brothers Charles, Thomas, and Joseph House, was an offshoot of the company. They made specialty coffees, spices, baking powder, and essences. They were located at 370 Dalhousie Street from 1903 until 1972 when they moved to 89 Colborne Street. This business was listed in the city directory until 1975.

For more information:

- [Industrial Recorder \(p. 11-12 of PDF\)](#)
- [Expositor October 1909 \(p. 64 of PDF\)](#)(Brantford Coffee and Spice Company)



## William Buck Stove Company

William Buck started making stoves in the 1850s at the Victoria Stove Works on Colborne Street. The company was incorporated as the William Buck Stove Company in 1897. William Buck died suddenly of heart disease on July 15, 1897. The factory relocated, first to the Brant Avenue and West Street corner and then to Elgin Street (**Brantford Weekly Expositor**, January 1, 1903). As well as stoves with brand names "Radiant Home" and "Happy Thought" they also manufactured heavy castings, furnaces, and gas ranges. The mounting department of the Buck Stove Works was destroyed by fire at a loss of approximately \$75,000 (**Brantford Expositor**, May 6, 1920, p. 1). The McClary Company of London, Ontario purchased the plant in 1920 (**Brantford Expositor**, May 21, 1920, p. 1) and the factory became known as the Happy Thought Foundry Company. The Happy Thought Foundry was included when the McClary Company merged with the Thomas Davidson Manufacturing Company of Montreal and became General Steel Wares Limited. The Happy Thought Foundry Company closed at the end of 1931

when all manufacturing was moved to London, Ontario.

For more information:

- [Reville's History Volume 2 \(p. 146 of PDF\)](#)
- [Warner's 1883 History \(p. 148 of PDF\)](#)
- [Expositor October 1909 \(p. 64 of PDF\)](#)
- [Remember 1877-1977 \(p. 36 of PDF\)](#)

## Lesser Known Industries

### A. C. Spark Plug Company

According to an article in the newspaper, the A. C. Spark Plug Company, a subsidiary of the General Motors Corporation, was going to build a factory within sixty days on 16 acres of land obtained from the Waterworks (Brantford Expositor, May 4, 1920, p. 1). The factory would employ 100 people when it opened in three to four months and had plans for rapid expansion. The A. C. Spark Plug Company was listed in the 1921 city directory but by 1922 the Kanadda Biscuit Company of Canada Ltd. had taken over the building (Brantford Expositor, October 25, 1922, p. 10) and the spark plug company had disappeared.



### American Radiator and Boiler Company

The American Radiator Company of Chicago bought the old Cockshutt factory at the corner of South Market and Greenwich Streets in 1905 with plans for extensive renovations (Brantford Weekly Expositor, May 18, 1905, p. 12). In 1913 it was incorporated in Canada under the name of the American Radiator Company of Canada Limited at which time a new foundry was built and the plant was reorganized so that they could manufacture radiator equipment as well as boilers. In 1923 the company acquired the Dominion Radiator Company in Toronto resulting in the formation of a new company, the Dominion Radiator and Boiler Company, Limited. About 1929 the Brantford plant was converted in order to specialize in making boilers together with "Vento" radiation for hot blast

heating and ventilating. The company manufactured all sizes of heaters, from the very smallest for domestic water supply to the largest required for heating any type of building. The business relocated to Toronto circa 1939. Other companies used the building before it was eventually torn down.

### Bailey Cutlery Company

Eli Bailey, a native of Sheffield, England, was one of the earliest cutlery makers in Canada. He established the Bailey Cutlery Company on the corner of Queen and Dalhousie Streets where the post office was later built. By 1901 Frank Leeming was listed in the city directory as the president of the Bailey Cutlery Company. The company purchased the old Wincey mills and relocated to the West Mill Street location in Holmedale (Brantford Weekly Expositor, December 19, 1901, p. 8). By 1904 the Brantford Felt and Rubber Company had obtained an option on the buildings on West Mill Street with plans to start making felt and rubber footwear (Brantford Weekly Expositor, October 6, 1904, p. 11). Eli Bailey died in Toronto in February 1927 (Brantford Expositor, February 25, 1927, p. 13).

### Blacker Brothers' Brantford Steam Brickyard

Edward Blacker started the brickyard on Colborne Street circa 1836. A few years later he moved to Newport Road before finally relocating the business to Mount Pleasant Road near Tutela Heights in 1879. His sons, R. R. and William Blacker, took over the business when Edward retired in 1881. The company made both red and yellow brick. William Blacker died suddenly of heart failure in Toronto in September 1912 (Brantford Weekly Expositor, September 5, 1912, p. 4)

For more information:

- Warner's 1883 History (p. 145-146 of PDF)

## Brantford Computing Scales Limited

Brantford Computing Scales was established in 1910 by Joseph L. Howard at 22 Dalhousie Street. Mr. Howard, president and general manager of the company until 1917, died in July 1929 (**Brantford Expositor**, July 17, 1929, p. 7). The company manufactured automatic computing scales and meat slicers and was the first company to manufacture an all-Canadian made scale. By 1916 they had moved to a new factory at 14-16 Grey Street. This factory later became Blue Bird Limited and then the Brantford Washing Machine Company. When this plant was no longer big enough to handle all of their orders Brantford Computing Scales purchased the plant and five acres of adjoining property from the Ker and Goodwin Company in West Brantford for \$80,000 (**Brantford Expositor**, April 7, 1922, p. 1). According to the city directory, the Brantford Computing Scale Company was located at 135 Brant Street from 1923 until 1925.

## Brantford Felt and Rubber Company

In 1904 the Brantford Felt and Rubber Company obtained an option on the Bailey Cutlery Company buildings on West Mill Street with plans to start making felt and rubber footwear (**Brantford Weekly Expositor**, October 6, 1904, p. 11). The Brantford Felt and Rubber Company, with Joseph Ham as president, was listed in the city directory until 1908.

## Brantford Willow Works

Charles Fairfax Sr. established the Brantford Willow Works in 1901 at 251 Colborne Street. This company manufactured all types of willow goods including willow furniture and it became the largest business of its kind in Canada. They moved to 63 Colborne Street in 1907 and when they needed additional space a few years later they took over the adjoining building at 61 Colborne Street. They had 35 acres of willows on the edge of the city and also imported willows from England and France. Charles' son, William, who had joined the business in 1909, died in 1939. Charles Fairfax died in 1953. This company was last listed in the city directory in 1955.

For more information:

- [Expositor October 1909 \(p. 60 of PDF\)](#)
- [Expositor Semi-Centennial 1877-1927 \(p. 108 of PDF\)](#)

## Canada Valve & Hydrant Company

This company was started by H. K. Jordan and E. F. Roberts in 1924 in order to manufacture the "Darling" patented line of fire hydrants, valves, and other waterworks equipment previously made in Canada by the Dominion Steel Products Company. The factory was located on the first floor of the former Brantford Scale Company building on Grey Street before moving to larger quarters in part of the Robbins and Myers building at 42 1/2 Morrell Street. By 1935 they had relocated to 44 Holme Street. The company was last listed in the 1966 city directory.

For more information:

- [Expositor Semi-Centennial 1877-1927 \(p. 131 of PDF\)](#)





## Dominion Cotton Company

Clayton Slater moved to Brantford in 1880 and established the Craven Cotton Mills in Holmedale. In 1883 he built the wincey mill which he ran with his sons until his death in February 1891 (**Brantford Weekly Expositor**, February 13, 1891, p. 8). A couple of months after his death the Dominion Cotton Company of Montreal purchased the mill for \$45,000 (**Brantford Weekly Expositor**, May 22, 1891, p. 3). The company made extensive renovations and modernized the machinery before

reopening. These buildings were purchased by the Penman Manufacturing Company in 1909. The cotton mill was eventually closed and the wincey mill was moved to Paris, Ontario.

For more information:

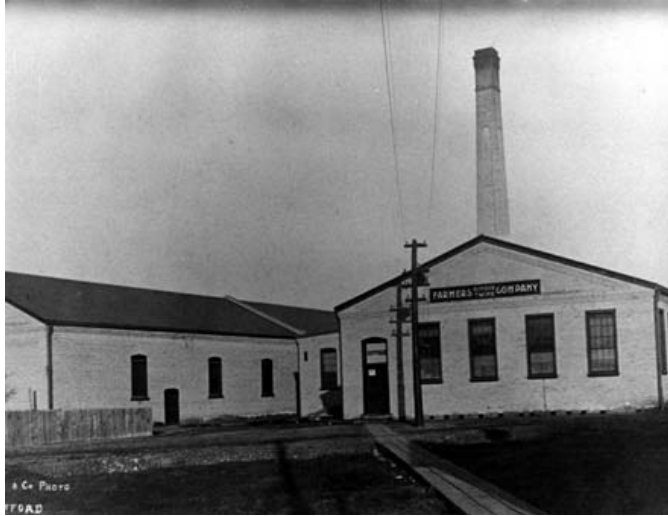
- [Warner's 1883 History \(p. 146 of PDF\)](#)

## Dominion Dress Company

The Dominion Dress Company was established in 1915 by Peter S. Cairns. The company manufactured ladies' and children's wear, including aprons, dresses, rompers, and underwear. They originally occupied part of the Hurley Printing Company's building before moving to temporary quarters in the factory formerly owned by the Brantford Computing Scale Company. In the early 1920s they built the Cairns building on South Street. Mohawk Garments, Limited, an offshoot of the Dominion Dress Company, made men's work shirts and children's play clothes which were distributed in this area mostly by Cairns' Limited, their retail store. Peter Cairns opened the first of the Cairns' chain of stores in 1923 at 119 Colborne Street. Another part of the company was Economic Distributors whose main business was to distribute the garments made by the other two companies to retail outlets across Canada. Peter S. Cairns died in Guelph in May 1961. The Dominion Dress Company was last listed in the city directory in 1964.

For more information:

- [Expositor Semi-Centennial 1877-1927 \(p. 20 of PDF\)](#)



## Farmers' Binder Twine Company

This company was established in 1893 (**Brantford Weekly Expositor**, January 20, 1893, p. 8) and was located on Sydenham Street. Joseph Stratford was the general manager and the organization was made up of thousands of farmers and small stockholders from across Canada. Farmers wanted the company to produce enough binder twine for their own use. The plant was destroyed by fire in May 1912 (**Brantford Weekly Expositor**, May 23, 1912, p. 4) with the loss estimated at \$75,000 and a fireman severely injured. It was unknown at the time of the fire if the plant would be rebuilt. According to the newspaper, the United Rubber Manufacturing and Reclaiming Company bought the former Farmers' Binder Twine factory in December 1913 (**Brantford Expositor**, December 13, 1913, p. 1).

For more information:

- [Expositor October 1909 \(p. 53 of PDF\)](#)

## John H. Hall and Sons

John H. Hall and his four sons, Ernest L., Leslie S., E. Winton, and A. Reginald, started a general repair business in 1903 in a single room of a building at 84 Dalhousie Street. A few years later they moved to a new 3-storey building at 32 Bridge Street when they needed more space. They made small machinery, pipe and bolt threading machines as well as the mechanical repairs. The company became the largest manufacturer of pipe machines in Canada. John H. Hall died in April 1919. In 1920 John H. Hall and Sons merged with the Williams Tool Corporation of Erie, Pennsylvania and the company's name was changed to the Williams Tool Corporation of Canada, Limited (**Brantford Expositor**, May 5, 1920, p. 10). Leslie Hall spent some time in Erie as general manager of the company before returning to Brantford as president of the Williams Tool Corporation of Canada. He died in March 1934 (**Brantford Expositor**, March 12, 1934, p. 6). By 1954, the company's location was listed as No. 2 Highway (East). This company was last listed in the city directory in 1956. A. Reginald Hall, who had also been president and general manager of the company, died in March 1975 (**Brantford Expositor**, March 19, 1975, p. 46)

For more information:

- [Expositor Semi-Centennial 1877-1927 \(p. 128 of PDF\)](#)
- [Expositor October 1909 \(p. 20 of PDF\)](#)
- [Brantford Heritage Inventory Website](#)

## John McHutchion Limited

Forced to leave his previous job as a moulder at Waterous Engine Works because of poor health, John McHutchion opened his first bakery in 1887 at the corner of King and Wellington Streets. The following year he obtained a five-year lease on a building on Colborne Street. He later relocated the business to an adjoining building at 363 Colborne Street. His sister Euphemia became a partner in the bakery. Not only did they deliver their bread throughout the city, they also shipped their bread and cakes within a 100 mile radius of Brantford. The company was the first one in this area to use Baker Automatic machinery which eliminated the handling of dough. John McHutchion died in December 1916 (**Brantford Weekly Expositor**, December 14, 1916, p. 10). This bakery was last listed in the 1976 city directory.


For more information:

- [Expositor Semi-Centennial 1877-1927 \(p. 136 of PDF\)](#)

## Kanadda Biscuit Company of Canada

In 1922 the Kanadda Biscuit Company of Canada Ltd. had plans to take over the factory on Morrell Street previously used by the A. C. Spark Plug Company (**Brantford Expositor**, October 25, 1922, p. 10). The newspaper reported on a meeting of various company officials and local politicians which extolled the virtues of the new company (**Brantford Expositor**, March 6, 1923, p. 8). This company was listed in the city directory from 1923 until 1925.

## Ker & Goodwin Machinery Company, Limited

The Canada Machinery and Supply Company, located at 193 Colborne Street, was taken over by the A R. Williams Machine Company of Toronto. In 1897 John Ker and Abraham Goodwin became the owners of this company. Needing more room they moved to the corner of Colborne and Charlotte Streets in 1905. Their products included lathe chucks, face plate jaws, and all-steel chucks. In 1915 an addition was built so that they could manufacture 4.5 explosive shells. John Ker died in October 1918 (**Brantford Expositor**, October 18, 1918, p. 3). After World War I the company began making oil engines under the "Hvid" Patent ranging in horsepower from 3  to 18. In October 1924 they built all of the cordage equipment for the new Brantford Cordage Company mill. The company began making oil burners for domestic heating equipment in 1925. Abraham Goodwin died in January 1946 (**Brantford Expositor**, January 17, 1946, p. 6). The Goodwin Chuck Company Limited began operations in 1951 at the Colborne Street location with Russel Goodwin, Abraham's son, in charge. In 1959 they acquired the J. A. Fellows Company property at 27 Jarvis Street and moved the business to this address. This company was last listed in the city directory in 1973. Russel Goodwin, the owner and manager of the Goodwin Chuck Company for thirty-five years, died in December 1993 (**Brantford Expositor**, December 21, 1993, p. B8)

For more information:

- [Expositor Semi-Centennial 1877-1927 \(p. 66 of PDF\)](#)
- [Expositor October 1909 \(p. 54-55 of PDF\)](#)

## Mickle, Dyment & Sons

The local branch of this company, located on the northwest corner of Colborne and Clarence Streets, was established in 1900. They manufactured finished builders' materials such as shingles, sashes, doors, blinds, and verandah posts. The head office was in Barrie, Ontario and they supplied lumber to plants in several cities besides Brantford. The manager of the local branch, Ross A. Rastall, was the mayor of Brantford in 1911. Starting in 1916 they also manufactured an educational wooden toy, the "Manual Constructor", which could be used to make bridges and houses (**Brantford Expositor**, March 12, 1917, p. 7). A fire on August 7, 1923 badly damaged the west wing of the plant, especially the second floor, causing about \$50,000 damage. The machinery had recently been moved to the east wing in preparation for removal to Toronto since the local factory had ceased operations about three weeks earlier (**Brantford Expositor**, August 7, 1923, p. 1).

For more information:

- [Expositor October 1909 \(p. 24 of PDF\)](#)
- [Reville's History Volume 2 \(p. 155 of PDF\)](#)

## Niagara Silk Company

John T. Shanahan, the president of the Niagara Silk Company in Tonawanda, New York, established a subsidiary of this company in Brantford in 1914. A new factory was built on Park Avenue East. A few years later it became an independent company. Their products included: gloves, hosiery, underwear, and later ladies' dress goods. In 1928 they expanded the business with the purchase of \$20,000 worth of new machinery and started producing several new lines of the highest quality silks (**Brantford Expositor**, February 4, 1928, p. 7). The silk was bought in skeins in the raw state from Japan and put through various processes, including winding, warping, and weaving, in the Brantford plant before being sent to Drummondville, Quebec for finishing and dyeing. The company bought the Trufit Globe and Hosiery Company of Toronto and used the Toronto office to handle the sales of all of the Niagara Silk products. The company was last listed in the city directory in 1931.

For more information:

- [Brantford Heritage Inventory Website](#)

## Park and Company

Seth Park moved to Brantford from the Niagara area in 1853 and opened a store selling artist's supplies. He operated a photography business with his wife for more than twenty years. His son Edward was young when his father died so his mother continued to run the business until Edward had completed high school and taken a photography course in Chicago. Edward and his mother reorganized the business as Park and Company in 1876 and he had a studio on the second floor of 134 Colborne Street. In 1882 he rented the store below his studio and started selling pictures and frames. He moved to 124-126 Colborne Street in 1893 and began selling fancy goods, books, and stationery. In 1903 he bought the building at 70-72 Colborne Street for a large photo studio and stopped selling the other items. Edward Park won three bronze medals for his photographs: in London, England in 1886, in Boston in 1889, and at the Chicago's World Fair in 1893. He also received a silver medal from the Photographic Association of Canada in 1891. The Ontario government often commissioned Park and Company for photographic projects and he took portraits of numerous famous people, including Alexander Graham Bell and Arthur S. Hardy. Edward Park died in 1947.

## Sheepskin Tannery of Franklin and John Ott

Franklin Ott opened a tannery on Oxford Street near the west end of the Lorne Bridge in the 1850s. He was eventually joined in the business by his brother John. In 1879 the frame building burned down and was replaced by a brick building later that same year. The following year they took over a building on Greenwich Street which had previously been used as a vinegar factory. A fire on the evening of January 1, 1884 destroyed the tannery and the leather stored there with the loss reaching approximately \$2,500 (**Brantford Weekly Expositor**, January 4, 1884, p. 8). Franklin Ott died in May 1893 (**Brantford Weekly Expositor**, May 26, 1893, p. 12). The tannery, except for the office building, was again destroyed by fire in October 1898 (**Brantford Weekly Expositor**, October 11, 1898, p. 7). John Ott continued to operate the tannery until about 1900 when he started selling hides and wool at 23-27 Colborne Street. He died in March 1905 (**Brantford Weekly Expositor**, March 16, 1905, p. 11).

For more information:

- [Warner's 1883 History \(p. 151 of PDF\)](#)

## Sterling Actions and Keys Limited

This company, which was originally located in Toronto, moved to Brantford in 1932 (**Brantford Expositor**, December 10, 1931, p. 1). Located on Alice Street in the former Huron Cordage Company factory, they made piano actions, keyboard assemblies, organ keys, and piano tuners' parts. Sterling Piano Products Ltd., a separate division of Sterling Actions and Keys Limited located in the same building, manufactured the hammers, wound brass strings, cut and punched piano cloth and felts that made up each piano action. It was the oldest manufacturer of piano actions in Canada and the last company of its kind in this country. Aeolian Corporation of New York closed the plant at the end of March 1971 because of increased Japanese competition and a drop in sales.

For more information:

- [Brantford Heritage Inventory Website](#)