



KRUG BROTHERS COMPANY

The firm was founded May 18th, 1886, by five brothers and a brother-in-law. John, Conrad, Christian, William, and George Krug and Henry Ankenman. None of these founders who were all under 25 years of age at the time, are living but the control of the company has remained in the family. Most of the original family were employed at a Listowel furniture plant. A cousin, Kaspar Grosch of Grosch & Ralston, felt the need of a manufacturing company in Chesley, and offered them half the water power of their plant in the North Saugeen River to start an industry, the price was \$2,250. The plant was built on the north side of the dam. At first the firm gave work to these six and six more including the father of these boys, Peter Krug, a skilled cabinet maker. The first sale of furniture was made in Port Elgin. Deliveries were made to near by centres by horsedrawn wagon, but before long, orders were being freighted across Canada. The Grand Trunk Railway, now C.N.R., had come to Chesley just five years before the industry was established. The Industry grew steadily. Their aim was to provide steady work for themselves and those whom they employed. After establishing the plant, the brothers purchased the Rolston furniture and undertaking business. The store was needed as an outlet for the Plant's production, the undertaking business was carried on for a number of years.

The first building was fifty by one hundred feet, and was three storeys high. The mill has since been replaced and other buildings erected in the same location -- West of town.