

# Atlas shows the 1877 Georgetown relied heavily on manufacturing

Manufacturing has always played an important part in the life of Georgetown since George Kennedy first trekked here through the forests of Upper Canada in 1820.

The Halton County Atlas, published in 1877, said Georgetown "has the reputation of being one of the most enterprising villages of its size in the province. The river Credit and its branches run through the village and supply power for quite a number of energetic manufacturers in its vicinity."

It is interesting to look at the Georgetown of 1877 as seen through the eyes of the entrepreneurs who produced the Atlas and left us a picture of the early years. The Independent reprints part of the Georgetown story in the Atlas to show that the foundations for the prosperous community were laid back in the days of bustles and beaver hats:

"The village is the greatest manufacturing centre in the county. The principal manufactory is the paper mills of Wm. Barber and Brothers. The Barber Bros. deserves more than a passing notice, not only on account of the energy and ability they displayed in acquiring for themselves their great wealth, but for the benefit they conferred upon the community by their enterprise.

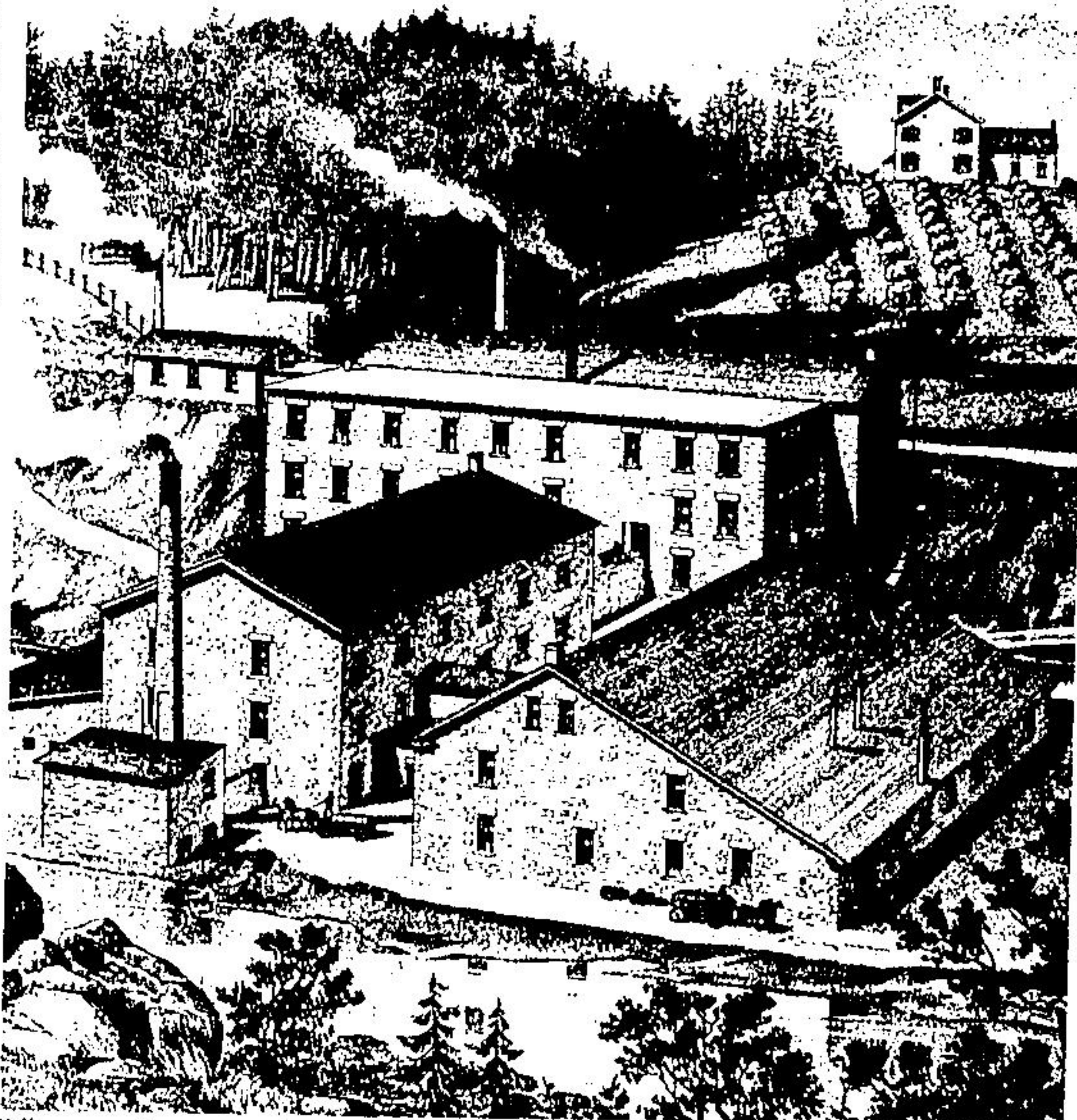
"For thirty-nine years, the brothers carried on their immense business in partnership without a settlement between the

partners, owning almost everything in common, an example of the beauty of "brethren dwelling together in unity," refreshing to behold in these days of selfishness. The brothers, Williams, James, Joseph and Robert Barber, were born in the County of Antrim, Ireland, and arrived in Canada, with their father, in 1822.

"After living two years at the old Town of Niagara, the family removed to "Crooks' Hollow," which was at that time the greatest manufacturing centre in the West-

ern Province. Here the Hon. James Crooks, father of the present Provincial Treasurer, carried on the following works: a distillery, flour mill, grist mill, oil mill, tannery, edge tool factory, woolen factory, saw mill, potash factory, cooper shops and also worked a large farm. In 1826 he erected the first paper mill in Canada, and received from the Government \$500 for the first sheet manufactured. At these works the brothers remained. William and Robert going into the woolen factory, James into the paper factory, and Joseph learning the millwright and building trade.

"Thirteen years of labor and saving supplied them with sufficient capital to start a custom and one set carding mill in Georgetown, to which place they removed in 1837; and six years later, built an establishment of the same proportions in Streetsville, under Robert Barber and Benjamin Franklin, a brother-in-law. As the country grew so did each factory, until the Georgetown one had too much machinery for its water power, and the one in Streetsville for its buildings. A new factory was consequently erected at the latter place in 1852, and the machinery from both mills placed into it;



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"After the removal of the woolen machinery from Georgetown in 1853, the building of the Grand Trunk Railway, showed that a paper mill might be carried on successfully, and the first one was erected by them; the second one followed in 1858 and since that time other erections for bleaching and working straw, and wood papers, etc. The buildings are all of stone. First mill is 60 x 100, two floors; second mill, 84 x 85, three floors; machinery mills, 145 x 65, two and three floors.

"The machinery consists of one seventy-six, one sixty-two, and one fifty-four inch Fordrinier paper machine, with all the necessary complicated machinery. The number of hands employed is about sixty. The consumption of rags is two and a half tons per day, and of chemicals two hundred tons per year, with about 2,500 cords of wood annually. The machinery is driven by four immense water-wheels, and four steam engines, the force employed being estimated at 200 horse power.

"In connection with the establishment are complete wood pulp and straw pulp works, both being used more or less in every variety of paper made. The firm established in 1837 was dissolved in 1869, William and Robert retaining the woolen mills in Streetsville, James, the paper mills in Georgetown and Joseph Barber

and B. Franklin retiring.

"John R. Barber, second son of James Barber was born in 1841. He went into the paper mill office after the burning of the Streetsville woolen mills in 1861, and still continues in charge of the financial part of the business.

"Joseph Barber, Jr. eldest son of James Barber, was born in 1839, and takes charge of the manufacturing. He has taken little part in public matters, being fully occupied with his business affairs.

"The paper-hanging window shade factory is now owned by Messrs. Barber and Cole. This manufactory was first started by Wm. Shaw, in 1864, and carried on by him until 1871, when Mr. J. Mark Barber purchased it and carried on the business successfully. This year he associated with him Mr. Cole, and they have added very largely to their machinery. The machinery at present consists of one grounding machine, which will turn over 4 miles of paper per day, one wall-paper machine the capacity of which is 2,000 rolls per day. The drying process is done by steam, in one room there are 2,300 feet of steam pipes. They have the best kind of machinery, and their goods find a ready sale. The paper is principally manufactured at Barber Brothers paper mills. The amount of business annually done is from \$20,000 to \$25,000.

"The Georgetown Envelope factory was

opened by Mr. E. C. White in 1863, and has since been continually in operation. The machines are all American make. There are five envelope machines, each capable of making 100,000 envelopes per day. There is also a large power cutter and a box cutter. The envelopes made at this factory are of a superior quality and take very well in the markets.

"Franz and Pope Knitting Machine Mfg. Company—Some years ago Messrs. Creelman Brothers of this town were appointed agents for the celebrated Franz & Pope Knitting Machines, that were manufactured in Bucyrus, Ohio. The business increasing so fast in Canada, owing to the reputation which the machine attained, the Creelman Brothers entered into partnership with the original firm, and started a factory in Georgetown. The machinery consists of 2 Miller, 1 Lathe, 2 Drills, 1 punch and all the necessary machinery for the finishing of the machines. They will manufacture about 600 machines per year.

"Boot and shoe Manufactory—The boot and shoe manufactory of Mr. J. B. Dayfool has long been a source of wealth to the town, he employing regularly from 80 to 100 men. He manufactures principally heavy boots, and disposes of them generally in the city markets. The machinery is of the latest patterns.

"Georgetown Carriage Factory—This extensive establishment is owned by Messrs. Culp and McKenzie. The building is a 3 storey brick building, 90 ft. long, 30 ft. wide, situated on the south side of Main Street. The business done at this factory is enormous. Their carriages, cutters and wagons are to be seen all over the country. It is no uncommon thing for them to carry off all the first prizes on all the articles they exhibit not only at county shows but at the central fairs. They keep constantly employed 15 hands. Mr. D. McKenzie, one of the firm, has been member of the Village Council for a number of years, and now occupies the position of Reeve. The firm started business in 1862 and were burned out in 1866. The present building was built in 1876.

"D. McKinnon, keeps a general blacksmith and jobbing shop, which he started in 1859. The buildings are of stone and very commodious. In addition to his general blacksmithing, he carries on the wagon and carriage making. He also manufactures a very large number of plows and harrows during the year. He employs six hands.

"Alex. Greeves also carries on a general blacksmithing business and plow manufactory.

"Mr. Lawrence Rose has the only grist mill in the village. It is a frame building but we un-

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