

BRUSSELS



Main Street – Brussels

Celebrating the historic streetscape of downtown Brussels



Turnberry Street, Brussels

*History
of the
Village
and
Commercial District*

Introduction

Welcome to another of our late 19th century streetscapes remaining in the Province of Ontario.

This is a third in a series of publications celebrating the history of the towns and villages in Huron East, a thriving amalgamated and largely rural municipality in Huron County.

The story of Brussels begins on the following pages. Fires destroyed most wood frame buildings in 1876 and again in 1883. Many of the brick buildings you will see date from these times when Brussels was a bustling commercial centre to the surrounding agricultural area.

We are pleased to bring this compilation of the stories of the original and rebuilt buildings together in one booklet that can serve as a reminder of the ingenuity and industriousness of our pioneers and the legacy of their entrepreneurship.

Inspiration for this publication began with an effort to research the original records of the buildings that form our Huron East past for a Doors Open project in 2004-5. So much information was gathered from many diverse sources that the project gave rise to an urge to prepare our village histories in more depth in follow-up publications. Our first booklet highlighted interesting building and features sites across the municipality and was entitled *Doors Open – Huron East*. The second publication celebrates the history of the buildings forming the remarkable and award-winning provincially-designated streetscape of *Main St, Seaforth*. More publications are planned – stay tuned.

This publication was conceived by committee members of Huron East Economic Development and Huron East Heritage Conservation. It was researched, compiled and written by Dianne Smith, an Egmondville Huron East resident, was published by Huron East Economic Development, and printed at Goderich Printing Ltd.

We invite you to tour the downtown of Brussels, and the historic designated streetscape of Seaforth. Using this book as your guide, stroll along the sidewalks of Brussels, up one side and down another, and imagine what it must have been like to live in this village so many years ago.

Enjoy, and come again!

Huron East Economic Development, 519-527-0160 edo@huroneast.com
Visit our website at www.huroneast.com

From the Beginning....

Brussels officially became a village in 1872, however, it started out in 1855 as the village of Ainleyville. A post office named Dingle opened in 1856. Because of its waterpower and its location on the northern stage road between Seaforth and Wroxeter, the village was soon flourishing.

Thirty years earlier, in 1825, the Crown had purchased a 1-million acre parcel of land adjacent to Lake Huron, known as the Huron Tract, from the Chippewa First Nation. The Canada Company, a land company, was granted a royal charter on August 19, 1826 and proceeded with the sale of the land within the Huron Tract. The wedge of land between the northern limit of Canada Company land (along what is today Huron County Road 25) and the Indian territory to the north in Bruce County, remained Crown land, more familiarly known as the Queen's Bush.

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Crown lands were allowed the 10-year pay period. The first settlers began to move into Morris Township in 1849 and 1850 and into Grey Township in 1852. It was not until 1854 that the Grey Township lots were officially put up for sale and settlers could obtain free title to the land.

William Ainlay, who was born in Yorkshire, England, was a surveyor for the Canada Company, a job that took him throughout the Huron and Perth area. He first came to the area that would become Brussels in 1852 and found it an excellent location for his proposed community. The waterpower provided by the Maitland River and the rich, deep, and untouched soil beneath the canopy of trees made the site a good one. Ainlay convinced neighbours in his home in Logan Township, Perth County, to join him in settling in his yet-to-be village. A number of families did move to Grey Township in 1852 and 1853. Thomas Halliday and 30 other families moved to the Morris Township location in 1853.

The village of Ainleyville, so named after William Ainlay but misspelled by the recording clerk, was begun in the southeast part of the present village of Brussels. The main street, Turnberry Street, forms the border between the townships of Morris and Grey. Ainlay owned 300 acres on the Grey Township side while the Hallidays owned 100 acres on the Morris side. Ainlay and Halliday were for some time the only settlers actually on

the site of the present village. In 1855, Ainlay laid out a village plot and in 1856 sold his property, including the village site, to John Nicholas Knechtel, a local merchant and land speculator. Knechtel and Halliday sold most of the main street lots on either side of township divide of Turnberry Street between 1859 and 1861.

With the construction of the first bridge over the Maitland River in 1857, a stage route was started between Wroxeter and Seaforth, passing through Ainleyville. William Vanstone built the first flour mill, grist mill and sawmill in 1859. A man named McLeod started the first hotel. Two tanning mills were opened, one by Ireland and Dodds and the other by John Knechtel, in 1861. John McKay followed with a woollen mill in 1863 and Thomas Smale opened a tinsmith business in 1865. Dr. Isaac Hawks arrived in 1862. There were several stores and businesses lining the main street. And, of course, there were farms all around in the surrounding townships. While the farmers of the southern townships were prospering from the shipment of wheat at the high prices of the American Civil War period, 1860-65, the northern townships were still hampered by the lack of any railway north of the line of the Huron Road. When the Great Western Railroad came to Huron County in 1864, the station was located about 6 km (4 miles) from Ainleyville. Railroad workers were given the privilege of selecting station names, and since many were of European descent, the name Brussels was selected.

In 1871, plans were made to have a railway pass through the Townships of Grey and Morris. An early inhabitant of the area, grain dealer John Leckie, is credited with convincing the Wellington, Grey and Bruce division of Great Western to build a line through Ainleyville. On December 20, 1872 the village of Brussels was incorporated. Early in the next year the village officially petitioned for a change to the Post Office name from Dingle to Brussels. And, on July 4, 1873, a big celebration was held in Brussels when local and railway officials opened the Southern Extension of the WG&B Railway. "The village was handsomely decorated with flags, banners, arches and evergreens. The main arch extended across Main Street from Mr. Leckie's store, to Hall's Hotel. On the top of the arch, in handsome letters, was the word "Progress." ("Brussels welcomed railway in big way in 1873," *Huron Expositor*, July 4, 1873)

The impact of the railway on the communities it served was great. The population of the village grew. Churches, businesses, newspapers, and industrial plants were added. The village also became an outlet for the growing farm production of its area. As the village prospered its architecture changed from frame buildings to the more imposing (and more fireproof!) brick buildings that line the main street to this day. The majority of the extant store buildings were built between 1877 (after the "Great Conflagration" of 1876) and 1891.

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A similar sketch of Grey Township describes its physical topography as "for the most part an inviting territory, the regular irregularity of its evenly uneven surface being such as to add a beauty to the landscape, and afford practical and cheap natural drainage to almost every acre in its bounds, excepting a portion of the eastern and south-eastern section, which is swampy; while in the character of soil it compares favourably with those townships considered the richest." ("Historical Sketch of the Township of Grey," *Huron Expositor* April 31, 1885)

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the Maitland River watershed about 13,000 years ago. Limestone bedrock underlies the deposits of sand and gravel left by the retreating glacier.

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A large salt deposit, known as the Michigan Basin, is a 350-million-year-old saucer-shaped deposit over parts of Ontario, Michigan, and Ohio. The salt was discovered in Goderich in 1866 and soon after, in other Huron County towns like Seaforth, Clinton, Blyth and Brussels, salt wells were drilled. Water was pumped down to dissolve the rock salt, the brine was pumped to the surface and evaporators using cheap wood fuel were used to produce dry salt. The salt industry was an important part of the local economy until 1880.

The soils of Grey Township were formed from loamy limestone till. The melting ice left deposits of considerable depth and they have not been modified by water to any appreciable degree. Sand, silt and clay are present in various proportions. In Grey Township, the predominant soil type is Harriston Loam, a very productive, naturally well-drained soil.

The Attawandarons, or the Neutrals, as the French called them, once inhabited this part of Ontario. Because they controlled the flint beds needed to make arrowheads, they were able to keep their neutrality with the warring Huron Nation to the north and the Five Nations Iroquois to the south (all speakers of the Iroquois language). By the end of the 18th century, after the fur wars ended, the victorious Iroquois tribes moved into this territory. It was the Chippewa (also known as Ojibway or Anishinaabe) branch of this tribe with whom the land treaties were signed. After the British defeated the French in Quebec in 1759, they gradually acquired the lands of southern Ontario from the Natives.

Brussels grew from its early days as the fledgling village of Ainleyville into a prosperous village with its own railway station, many local industries, several churches and community groups, and a main street of fine brick blocks. Many of the business blocks that line Turnberry Street to this day were constructed after one of many devastating fires the village came back from. The Graham Block, Little Bros. Block, Fletcher Block, Ament Block, and Leckie Block, all built soon after the fire of 1876, are still familiar landmarks. The section of store blocks on the east side of the street from the second Leckie Block south to the Garfield Block were all built in 1884 to 1889. The two blocks south of Graham Block, the JR Smith and the Vanstone Blocks, were also built in 1883-84. Representing a later building boom in 1890-91 are the Smith, Skene, Holmes, Richards & Laird, Stretton, Grant, and Blashill Blocks.

For more information on the history of Brussels and area see *Our Story: From Ainleyville to Brussels 1872-1997*, Bonnie Gropp *et al*; Keith Raulston, editor; Marion Engel's *Grey Township and Its People*; Jeanne Kirkby's *Morris Township Past to Present*; James Scott's *The Settlement of Huron County*; and, various articles in Huron County Historical Society's *Huron Historical Notes*.

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Sherriff & Neal Flour Mill Brussels Electric Light Works Williams & Son Livery

John Grewar bought 1½ rood of the west part of Lot 6, about 3/8ths of the one-acre lot, from John C. Holliday in 1865. John Grewar, along with his brother, built and operated a gristmill on this lot, on Mill Street opposite Elizabeth Street, in 1867. A mortgage for \$2,700 financed the work.

Sherriff & Neal Flour Mill

Two years later, in October of 1869, the mill was sold to Charles Sheriff. Sheriff, along with his business partner, William Neal, operated this mill, one of two gristmills in the village at the time. The *Huron Expositor* of April 29, 1870 notes: There are two grist mills, one driven by steam, with four run of stones, owned by Sheriff & Neal; and one driven by water and steam, with three run of stones, owned by W&J Vanstone.

The original stone mill burnt early in 1871. An 1873 article in *The Huron Expositor* describes the second mill building as being of stone, 60 x 30 feet, and 3½ stories in height. Mr James Mitchell, a stone mason from Grey Township, built the mill. “Steam is the motive power used – a 35-horse power engine, and 45-horse power boiler running the machinery. On the ground floor are the millstones. Of these are three pairs, and they all are, as a rule, kept regularly at work. On the next floor is one of Trimmer’s Smut Machines, and a chest of merchant bolts.... The engine, boiler, machinery, &c., were all made by Goldie & McCulloch, of Galt.”

The correspondent describes his visit to the mill where he found “the enterprising proprietors very busy attending to numerous customers, who were present in large numbers, as the sleighing was excellent on that day.” Mr. Sheriff is described as “one of those jolly millers we read of” and both millers were said to be “obliging and energetic men” who kept the mill busy from morning till night.

Mr. Sheriff died on April 23, 1880. The following week it was reported that, due to ill health, William Neal would also retire from mill work. The business was sold to William J. Mann in September of that year.

In 1883, Mann Brothers in turn sold to William Ross, of Brussels, for \$4,500. The new proprietor

**BRUSSELS STEAM FLOURING
AND GRIST MILL.**

The undersigned wish to return their sincere thanks to their numerous customers for their very liberal support during the past, and also take this opportunity of stating that they are better prepared than ever to turn out

THE VERY BEST OF WORK

the mill being in the best of running order. Parties can generally rely on getting their grist home with light

Flour and chopped feed always on hand.

Highest Market Price Paid in Cash for Wheat.

SHERIFF & NEAL.

Advertisement from *Brussels Post* Feb. 5, 1880

put in the “new process machinery” and made other changes at once. The next year it was reported that Mr. Ross was making additional improvements to his mill: “Wm Ross, who owns the stone mill, being determined not to be behind, has also disposed of his engine, and had it replaced by a very fine new one made by Goldie & McCulloch of Galt. Both mills have again resumed work this week and we can boast of two good mills as are in the county.” (*Huron Expositor* Aug. 22, 1884) A *Brussels Post* article of 1893 described the mill: “This first-class mill is in a flourishing condition and is doing a large and successful business, which extends all over this section of the country. Mr. Ross has been established here for a number of years and has the advantage of a thorough knowledge of the milling business and for turning out a superior quality flour this mill is unsurpassed in the county. It is a fine substantial building, equipped with a full line of machinery of the improved full roller process. Special attention is given to custom work, farmers coming here for miles around to have their gristing done.” (*Brussels Post* Oct. 20, 1893) A new delivery wagon was purchased in 1894 to deliver flour in connection with the large local trade done by his mill.

Ross entered into partnership with WJ Climie for a short while. Early in 1896, however, Mr. Climie had to bow out. “Following the instructions of his physician, WJ Climie has withdrawn from the partnership in the flouring mill of Messrs. Ross & Climie, as the dust was threatening to cause lung trouble. Mr. and Mrs. Climie will move to Listowel where Mr. Climie will probably farm. We are sorry to see them leave town but suppose it can’t be helped. Mr. Ross will continue to run the mill business as of yore.” (*Brussels Post* Feb. 7, 1896)

By 1898 the firm was known as Wm Ross & Son. The son, Roderick K. Ross, assumed management of the business in February of 1900: “CHANGE OF

BUSINESS – By advertisement in another column it will be seen that RK Ross has assumed the management of the Ross Flouring Mill, Brussels. He is well acquainted with the business, having been associated with his father for years in the mill; is posted on the most approved methods; and we wish him success as he assumes control. Mr Ross, sr., is getting up in years but is still able to get about quite lively and his familiar figure will no doubt often be seen about the premises as of old. Read Mr Ross' advt. and see what he has to say to the public about his business." (*Brussels Post* Feb. 1, 1900) In July of that same year RK Ross built "an addition of 32 feet to the rear of his flour mill to be utilized for the storage of fuel, &c."

The Ross Flouring Mill, in operation for 22 years, was completely destroyed in the fire of May 1905 that started in the barns of the Queen's Hotel stables and was swept by high winds across Thomas Street and yet further north to the mill property. The building was destroyed as well as thousands of dollars worth of machinery and stock. It was hoped that Mr. Ross would rebuild but he decided against it. The property was sold to Walter Lowry who planned to fit it up for a stable to replace the one he lost to the fire.

Electric Light Works

By 1897, the part of the lot near the bridge was vacant. The village had a steam-powered electrical plant in operation at the woollen mill in 1890. On December 12, 1890 the Post reported: "Electric lights are now in the stores of Scarff & Ferguson, Mrs. Simms, GA Deadman, Ross Bros., JT Pepper, AR Smith, A Strachan, T. Fletcher, B. Gerry, Mrs. FC Rogers, George Thomson. The Queen's Hotel and The Central also have them. A Currie is testing incandescent in his butcher shop. More lights will be burning as soon as the globes, etc., come to hand. For a new movement it works very satisfactory."

BRUSSELS

FLOURING MILL

The Brussels Roller Mill, having recently been greatly improved by repairs and additions to the equipment, we are now manufacturing it.

Superior Grade of Family Flour

Which we are offering for sale or in Exchange for Good Wheat.

IN THE CHOPPING LINE

We are in a position to do work promptly and in the Very Best manner at Popular Prices.

MILL FEED

Of all kinds for sale and delivered to any part of the town Free of Charge. We solicit a trial Order or Grist and Guarantee Satisfaction in every particular.

ROSS & CLIMIE, MILL STREET, BRUSSELS

Advertisement from *Brussels Post* 1896

The electric lights did not burn, however, when the boiler had to be cleaned or when there were other problems. In June of 1897, a new purpose-built building was in the works: "The building for the use of the electric light plant will be proceeded with in a short time. It will stand on one of the vacant lots on Turnberry Street, near the iron bridge. Mr Green has placed his order for a new boiler and engine, 70 and 75 hp respectively. The Reliance Co. will supply the dynamos for arc and incandescent plants." The Post kept readers up-to-date on the progress of the building. On Thursday, October 7, 1897 the arc plant was ready and the Brussels Electric Light Company turned on the lights: "Feeling confident that everything was pretty nearly all right on went the belt and away whizzed the machinery and notwithstanding that everything was new it worked like clockwork to the pleasure of the people and the credit of Messrs. Green & Mainprice [Mainprize]. A charge was made in a pulley afterward that gave a

much greater brilliance to the light. Dark nights will now lose their terrors to our inhabitants." By November, the incandescent light plant was ready to run: "They will start the dynamo with from 350 to 400 lights, which number will probably be doubled, if not trebled, before many weeks elapse. Next week R. Mainprice, one of the firm, will move to Brussels from Wingham and take up his residence in the comfortable brick dwelling in connection with the Electric Light Works and manage the business here. Every businessman in the place, ranging in number from 50 to 52, will probably use the lights as the price is within reach of all. After all the store lights are installed there will be a very noticeable increase of light on Main Street." The following summer the company offered another service to the women of the village: "Ladies may be accommodated with hot or cold water baths at the Electric Light Works on any afternoon. Mrs. Mainprice will be in charge." A couple of area men came to the village to learn how to work with electricity. "Edward Mole, of Manchester, is apprenticed with R. Mainprice at the Electric Light Works to learn the science of handling the lightning. He will be here for a year." (*Post*, Nov. 11, 1898) Fred Marsh, of Grey Township, began his apprenticeship in February of 1899.

Problems with the dynamo meant that the lights would go out from time to time. But, it also meant that other innovations could be introduced. For example, an electric burglar alarm was attached to the safe of the Standard Bank. In 1900, Mr. Mainprize rearranged the electric lighting in the Town Hall to afford a better effect to the newly painted stage curtains.

Robert Mainprize sold the Brussels Electric Light Works to James and Robert Thuell in 1904. Most electricity was used for lighting, but special services were offered as well. The Thuell brothers would turn on the power plant on Wednesday afternoons for their female customers who wanted to do their

ironing with electric irons. The lights were kept running, more or less to the townspeople's satisfaction, into the 1920s. It wasn't just a matter of flipping the switch though: "Some business people advise The Post to stick a pin in "Bob" Thuell to get him to hustle the lights earlier on dark days. We will let them do their own prodding but Robert might take the hint in the meantime." (*Post*, Oct. 28, 1920)

The steam generator produced the electric power for the carbon-arc street lamps and for arc and incandescent lights in the stores and in some residences. The carbon-arc lamps still had to be trimmed every day. Ropes suspended the lamps, so that they could be lowered and raised for the work. William Thuell, who began work at his uncle's plant in 1913, recalled a "shocking" incident: "One of the ropes broke, and his uncle, fed-up with the rope breaking, strung the lamp up with wire clothesline. Bill was out trimming the lamps one night with a helper. The helper grabbed the clothesline and, because it wasn't insulated, had become electrified. The shock was so powerful that the man could not let go. Bill ran all the way to the steam plant to have to power shut off. By the time he got back, however, the helper had fallen and the current was broken. We didn't know much about electricity in those days!" (*Our Story*, p. 24)

In 1905, the Thuell Bros built a chopping mill immediately south of the Electric Light powerhouse. The contract was let to George Barkley for the erection of a cement building 20x40 feet, 25 feet high. Power was supplied from the engine of the electric light plant. An accident in 1910 in which the electric plant manager's wife was caught up in the drive shaft and killed, led the Thuell brothers to close the mill. Later, James Thuell sold his interest to his brother and moved to western Canada.

In 1924, the town council voted to bring the Hydro-Electric Power Commission of Ontario to town. In

1925, Robert Thuell became the new manager of the Family Theatre. Charles Pope purchased the Thuell property in 1928 and built the first gas station in the village. The first building was made of galvanized metal. The gas pumps were the glass-bowl type. At first, horse-drawn vehicles delivered Imperial Oil gasoline from Seaforth. Later, Shell gas was delivered by truck from Harriston.

In 1940, Pope sold to Anglo Petroleum Ltd. The tin shack was replaced by a service station with one bay, but the front part of that structure remains today. Harry McCutcheon leased the new service station in 1941. Harry also acted as an agent for Canadian Tire. In 1959, the owner, Albert Dinsmore, closed the service bay and created the restaurant and gas bar, a version of which is still in operation today.

Williams & Son Livery

William McKay bought a ¼ acre of Lot 6 along Mill Street in 1867. He mortgaged the property for \$100 in 1874, and perhaps operated a livery business. In 1890, Hugh Williams & Son had a livery business here. *The Post* reported in 1891: "Hugh Williams & Son talk of erecting a large brick livery barn on a lot near the bridge on Turnberry Street. The site is a first-class one for such a purpose." An 1893 article described it as a "popular and first-class livery establishment" in operation for a number of years. "They can offer to the public every convenience and accommodation in the livery line, their establishment



The Brussels Electric Light Works - From left: Tom Ritchie, Charles Pope, unidentified man, Dick Cardiff, Pete Scott, Mr. Black, Robert Thuell, and Mr. Leckie. Walter Lowry had the Sale Stables seen in the background left of the photo.

being equipped with fine vehicles, good horses, &c., so that the most suitable turn-outs are furnished at the shortest notice. Messrs. Williams & Son also do a large trade in all kinds of agricultural implements and are in the best position to meet the wants of the people in this line. Every intending purchaser should visit their carriage shops and see the bargains offered in fine rigs." By 1894, Williams & Son moved "to the building now used as an agricultural implement emporium by Messrs. Cardiff & Kirkby, opposite the Queen's Hotel stables, Thomas Street."

George Edwards purchased the buildings formerly occupied by Williams' livery. He fit them up for use as a planing mill and workshop. An engine house was built at the rear of the shops, 16x18 feet, and in it was placed a 16-horse power boiler and engine to run the machinery. In 1896, he installed machinery to enable him to manufacture cider, apple butter, etc. The cider mill and apple butter factory was temporarily converted, once the apple season was over, into a sawmill. *The Post* noted, in August 1900:

“George Edwards has placed a new outfit in his cider mill and apple butter factory, Brussels, by which last year’s capacity for work has been doubled and is now ready to take care of 200 barrels per day. He makes a specialty of apple butter and jellies and does the work while the customers wait. With the plentiful supply of apples and the small demand on the market Mr Edwards expects to have a busy season in his factory. Mill street, Brussels is the location.”



Williams Livery was converted into George Edwards Planing Mill in 1894. An engine house was built at the rear of the shops to house a 16-horse-power boiler and engine. Advertisements from *Brussels Post* – Right: March 16, 1894; below: 1897.

The Edwards property including plant and machinery was sold in 1909 to Walter Garside and William James. They operated the Brussels Fire Appliance & Machine Co.

Wm Ross, who owns the stone mill, being determined not to be behind, has also disposed of his engine, and had it replaced by a very fine new one made by Goldie & McCulloch of Galt. Both mills have again resumed work this week and we can boast of two good mills as are in the county.

Huron Expositor Aug. 22, 1884

Geo. Edwards
 Has put in an Apple Press in connection with his factory, Mill st., Brussels, and is prepared to make
 Cider,
 Apple Jelly
 and Apple Butter
 AT REASONABLE RATES.
 Bring Along Your Apples

CARRIAGE WORKS.
J. E. Brydges
 Successor to
 H. WILLIAMS & SON,
 Mill street, Brussels,
 Will keep in Stock and Make to Order
CARRIAGES
 Of the following styles:—
 Single and Double Buggies, Victorias,
 Village Carts, Dog Carts with Platform
 Gears, Ladies' Phaetons,
 Doctor's Phaetons, Lumber
 Wagons, &c., &c.
 Repairing and re-painting,
 Promptly attended to at
 Moderate Charges.
 Call and examine stock before
 purchasing elsewhere.
 SATISFACTION GUARANTEED.
 Agent for the Fleury Plows, and Repairs
 always on hand.
J. E. BRYDGES,
 Brussels

Lot 7 Stores

NM Livingstone, Strachan & Smith, FC Rogers

NM Livingstone owned this lot in 1866. An 1870 item in the *Huron Expositor* lists Livingstone as one of the leading merchants in the village, in “the mercantile line” and also in millinery. An addition was made, in 1872, to his storage room of a two-story frame structure, 30x40, which he intended to have completed ready for the wools season. (*Huron Expositor* May 10, 1872) In 1873 he had FW Terry build a 30 x 18 feet addition to his store. “NM Livingstone is adding quite an addition to his store. The storehouse adjoining the main building is being all shelved and countered. The walls between the buildings are to be taken out and arched. When completed this will add greatly to the appearance of the store.” (*Huron Expositor* May 22, 1873)

Livingstone sold part of his lot to William Armstrong in 1866. In February of 1872, the *Huron Expositor* announced: “Mr William Armstrong has now nearly completed a very handsome and commodious store to the north of his hotel, and adjoining Mr NM Livingstone’s. This store has been leased by Messrs. John E Smith, late of Blyth, and Mr Alexander Strachan, of Londesboro, who intend opening out therein a stock of general merchandise so soon as it is finished. Both these gentlemen are well and favourably known in the locality, and being clever business men will no doubt get their share of the trade of the place, which will no doubt be very largely increased so soon as our railway is completed.” Armstrong sold his part back to Livingstone in 1873.

In July of 1874 it was announced that Livingstone had sold out: “Mr NM Livingstone after a very successful business career of 13 years in Brussels, has disposed of his mercantile business to Mr. FC Rogers, of Delaware, Ont. By fair dealing and strict attention to business, Mr Livingstone has built up a large and lucrative trade, and we congratulate his successor on having secured a good position. As will be seen by announcement elsewhere in this issue the present stock has to be largely reduced by the 1st of October, and between this and that date goods will be sold at wholesale prices. When Mr Livingstone

N. M. LIVINGSTONE

Offers for sale the balance of

HIS STOCK OF TWEEDS AND FLANNELS

AT LAST YEAR'S PRICES, FOR CASH.

He invites inspection and comparison with any in the market.

N. M. LIVINGSTONE

OFFERS FOR SALE MUSCOVADO, REFINED, CRUSHED AND GROUND

LOAF SUGARS of the finest qualities, and at prices which cannot be beaten.

N. M. LIVINGSTONE offers the balance of his large stock of

GREEN AND BLACK TEAS AT GREATLY REDUCED PRICES.

Finest quality imported at \$1 per lb.

N. M. LIVINGSTONE offers for sale 30 lbs. Prunes for one dollar,

20 lbs. Currants for one dollar, 20 lbs. Rice for one dollar,

12 LBS. RAISINS FOR ONE DOLLAR.

N. M. Livingstone has just received a large lot of

COTTON GRAIN BAGS AND COTTON WARP,

CHEAP FOR CASH.

Wanted, any quantity of butter, eggs and wool.

240

“Livingstone is one of the leading merchants in the mercantile line.” *Huron Expositor* Aug. 8, 1872.

says a thing he means it, and consequently the people of Brussels and vicinity may look out for bargains such as is not usually given. Mr Livingstone has also sold his store premises to the same gentleman for \$4,100.”

Strachan & Smith moved their business down the street. They built a new store just south of Armstrong’s Hotel in 1875. It was a frame structure 28’x60’ and two stories high.

Frederick C. Rogers ran a dry goods store. An advertisement of 1877 featured “a large full stock direct from the English markets.” In 1877, Rogers had a second story of frame added to his large store.

Rogers served as Reeve of the village from 1881 to 1884. In 1881 he “ordered a 400 lb. bell from the foundry of WR Wilson, Brussels, to be placed on the hose tower at the town hall to be used as a town bell. The same is a present from Mr Rogers to the citizens of Brussels.” During the term of his Reeveship Rogers also built and carried on the Enterprise Salt Works.

In 1883, AR Morris, tailor, who had his shop over Rogers’ store moved to a new stand in Grant’s block, over the bank. WC Davis, formerly the head salesman in Reeve Roger’s store, resigned his position to take up that of commercial traveller for a London house. And, George Rogers resumed his old position in his uncle’s large dry goods store.

It seems that Mr. Rogers expanded his business in 1884: “Reeve Rogers is busily engaged having the shop formerly occupied by James Drewe as a hardware shop changed is that he can occupy it for his boots and shoes and groceries.”

Miss Filier managed Rogers’s millinery department in 1885. It was one of four millinery establishments in Brussels this year. Rogers had a telephone

installed, in his store and salt block, in April of 1885. Another innovation noted that year was a short line of hose to be attached to a pump in order to sprinkle the sidewalk and street in front of his store. Rogers also had photographer Frank Uren photograph his stores in October 1885.

By 1889, Lawyers Dickson & Hays had leased the vacant store belonging to FC Rogers and had it fitted up for law offices. Miss Green was the well-known milliner at the store.

Business was less than prosperous by early 1890 and Rogers was forced to sell his stock. *The Brussels Post* of February 7, 1890 reported: "The stock of FC Rogers, consisting of \$15,000 worth of dry goods, boots and shoes, clothing, hats and caps, millinery, groceries, etc., was purchased by W. Nightingale & Co., last Friday, in London, at 59½¢ on the dollar. The new proprietor is making a big push in the way of bargains. He has leased the store occupied by Rogers." In the course of the next two weeks, Mr. Rogers and his wife were able to make arrangements to resume business in another location. "It has been stated on good authority that arrangements are being made whereby FC Rogers and his good lady will resume business again. A brand new stock of spring and summer goods will be purchased and opened out in the store just vacated by WH Willis, Holmes Block, in the course of a month or so. Miss Green, who has suited the public for the past two years, has been re-engaged as the milliner. The public at large will be pleased to welcome Mr. and Mrs. Rogers once more back into the business circle and we are sure it will be an equal pleasure for them to wait upon those patronizing them." (*Brussels Post*, Feb. 21, 1890) Rogers called his new venture The Palace Store. In May, the two frame stores and storehouse of the Rogers estate were offered for sale by auction but did not sell.

Mrs. Rogers appears to have taken the lead in running the new store. An advertisement of Aug. 15,

THURSDAY, FRIDAY, & SATURDAY, APRIL
16, 17 & 18, 1886.

Miss Beam, of Toronto, will have
Charge of the Millinery Department.

GRAND OPENING DAY

New Garfield House, - - Corner of Turnberry and King Streets,
BRUSSELS, ONTARIO.

DOMINION HOUSE. DOMINION HOUSE.

MILLINERY

OPENING.

The Real Millinery Opening of the season will take place on
Thursday, April 23rd,
-AT-
F. C. ROGERS'
DOMINION HOUSE.

It is almost needless to say our Stock, as usual, is very complete with all the Leading Novelties.

Miss Piler has Charge of this Department,
having had many years experience in the Leading Houses in Canada, will be prepared to show some Elegant Patterns in HATS & BONNETS. Of course other Stores do the best they can but to have an idea of the Really First-Class Styles.

EVERY LADY SHOULD PAY US A VISIT
ON THE ABOVE NAMED DATE.

OUR DRESS GOODS DEPARTMENT
is well worthy of inspection. We have an Endless Variety to choose from, in fact our whole stock is the Largest, Cheapest and Most Complete ever shown in Brussels.

F. C. ROGERS,
The Noted Cheap Store.

FC Rogers had a large dry goods store at this location from 1874 to 1890. Ad *Brussels Post* 1886.

1890 reads: "Fall goods arriving everyday at Mrs. E. Rogers, the Palace Store, Brussels. We will have a splendid stock this fall more especially in millinery, mantles, dress goods, and velvets which will be all the rage the coming season. Remember we have sold no worn out, moth eaten goods to offer, our stock will be entirely new and fully complete by the end of the month." Miss Green continued in her position as milliner.

In August of 1890, William Roddick leased the large storehouse on Mill Street, in the rear of the store formerly occupied by FC Rogers, and had it fitted it up for a paint shop. A recent fire had destroyed his former shop.

Frederick C Rogers, the owner of Lot 7, died June 5, 1898. The June 10th *Brussels Post* stated: "Out of respect to the memory of the late FC Rogers the business places of Brussels were closed on Tuesday afternoon from 3:30 to 5 o'clock." His obituary noted that he had carried on an extensive and lucrative mercantile business, had served as Reeve for five years, acted as a school trustee and a warden in connection with the English Church. He was also a great lover of flowers.

By 1907, John Leckie had acquired Lot 7. Leckie sold the property to the Brussels Public Library Board in 1909.

Brussels Public Library

402 Turnberry Street, Brussels, Ont.
Built: 1909-1910

Brussels has the distinction of being one of the smaller communities to have a Carnegie library. Andrew Carnegie was a Scot who made his fortune in American steel. When he sold his company in 1901, he turned to charitable works, among them the funding of library buildings around the world. Between 1901 and 1915, 111 Ontario communities received library grants out of a total of 125 given in eight provinces of Canada. Five communities in Huron County received grants, Brussels being one of them.

John Leckie, the Reeve at the time, introduced the idea of a public library for Brussels in 1906. The village's library board received a Carnegie grant of \$7,000. After some initial controversy over the choice of a site, a lot at the corner of Turnberry and Mill Streets was purchased for \$375. The plans of a Stratford architect, Mr. Ireland, were accepted May 26, 1909 and by December 30th the building was complete enough to house a meeting of the library board. Brussels Public Library was opened on January 14, 1910.

Library service in Brussels has its origins, as do many libraries in Ontario, with the Mechanics' Institute libraries of the mid-1850s. The Mechanics' Institute Library & Reading Room in Brussels was incorporated in

1874. It was a subscription library that in 1880 cost the subscriber \$1.00 a year. A financial report for that year shows there were 28 subscribers and 572 volumes.

After the passage of the Free Libraries Act in 1882, many municipalities across Ontario provided public, but not always free, library services. However, not many libraries actually had a permanent building to call home. The Carnegie grant program gave communities the chance to apply for monies to build a library, provided they contributed an annual sum of 10% of the grant received toward support of the



The Brussels Post of December 8, 1910 boasted: "Brussels possesses the neatest and most modern library in five counties." Today, the library is still an important part of the community.

library, as well as a piece of land on which to build. James Bertram, Carnegie's private secretary, ran the

grant program and it was he who dealt with the voluminous correspondence from the various library boards.

The design of the libraries was not dictated by the Carnegie grant program, but many common elements appear, for example, an exposed basement, a centrally located main entrance, classically columned porticos and a symmetrical arrangement of windows. Brussels Public Library is one of only six in Ontario to have a corner entrance, a feature deemed extravagant by the frugal Mr. Bertram.

The Brussels Public Library has become a fixture in the community. Over the years it has provided space for activities other than library services. The Red Cross made its home in the basement during WWII. In addition to library service there were, and are, story-time programs and a community room used for a variety of public functions.

The Brussels Public Library is now a Level 2 Branch library of the Huron County Library system. Some of the modern services it provides are Internet access and an automated circulation service.

Unfortunately, Brussels Public Library is in peril. Current library standards require full accessibility; in this case, an elevator is needed. Also required is a minimum of 2,500 square feet of display space, 1,000 square feet more than the library has available now. So today, the municipal council is struggling with the financial quandary posed by these standards.

The American Hotel

410 Turnberry Street, Brussels, Ont.

Built: 1962

An interesting item in the December 6, 1900 issue of *The Post* talks about the very beginnings of a hotel on this site: “*Saw Brussels 44*

Years Ago – The Post had a call last Monday from John Taylor, of London South, who was here closing up the sale of his 100 acre farm, 5th line, Morris, to Samuel Burke. Mr Taylor came first to this locality in 1856, following the blaze through the bush from Goderich and took up the farm he has now sold. He had served 5 years in England as a Civil Engineer and along with Engineer Percival laid out Brussels, then Ainleyville. There was a shanty hotel here then, about where the American Hotel stands now. A couple of barrels with a board across served as the bar and the other accommodations were about on par. There were 2 beds, hotelkeeper McKenzie, wife and family occupying one and Mr Taylor and Mr Percival the other. Mr Ainley and Mr Halliday were here and a man named Evans kept a store near the river [possibly on Lot 6]. There was no bridge, a plank being used in its stead. Seaforth was a black ash swamp at this time.”

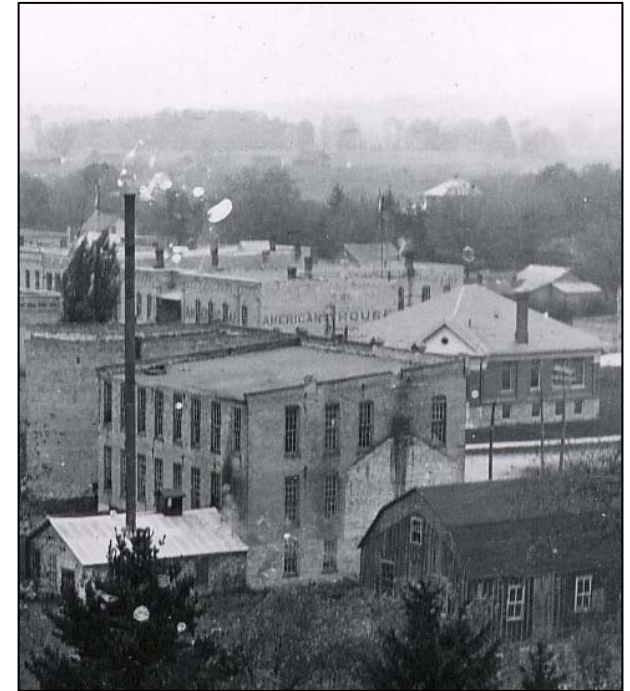
William Armstrong purchased this lot in 1860. He built a hotel that same year. Ten years later, it was one of five hotels in the village – the Commercial, Grey, Leonard’s, Hall’s and Armstrong’s.

By 1875, the name of the hotel had been changed to the North American Hotel, leased by John Parker, and owned by W. Armstrong. The hotel was totally destroyed by fire in March 29th of that year “on the evening of Monday last, between 9 and 10 o’clock.

The fire originated from a defect in one of the stovepipes. The furniture and liquors, which belonged to Mr. Parker, although removed, were damaged to the amount of about \$500. No insurance. Mr. Armstrong’s loss is calculated to be about \$3,000, of which \$2,000 is covered by insurance. Mr. Armstrong is making preparations to rebuild.”

Armstrong did begin rebuilding just a few weeks later. “Mr. Wm. Armstrong has commenced the rebuilding of his hotel, on the old site. It is to be of frame 63 feet front by 36 feet, three stories high, with a wing 24x36.” The contract was let to Peter Thomson, to be completed by early July. John Parker moved on to the Brussels House, which he bought and managed.

The new hotel was described as thus: “The new hotel now being erected in Brussels by Mr Wm Armstrong is one of the most handsome and commodious hotel buildings in the County. When completed it will afford the very best accommodation for a large number of guests. The building is three stories. In the first flat are the barroom, baggage rooms, sample rooms, dining rooms and kitchen. In the second flat are several large sitting rooms and bedrooms, and the third flat contains bedrooms. In each flat is a large and specious central hall leading across the building. From each of these halls on the second and third flats, are side halls running at right angles. The rooms are all airy and well lighted, and each flat has fine high ceilings. When completed the house will be a credit to the proprietor and an ornament to the



Part of a Bird's Eye View postcard, this photograph shows the American House next to the Library.


village. Mr Peter Thomson is the contractor, and the workmanship and planning of the building reflects the highest credit upon his skill as a mechanic and architect.” (*Huron Expositor*, July 16, 1875) It was slated to open in August and Mr. Armstrong would occupy it himself.

In 1883, Armstrong sold his hotel to Adam Koenig and Gustave Goebel. The new owners made changes to the American Hotel in 1885: “A number of improvements have been made in the internal arrangements of the American Hotel. The bar rooms changed to the front of the house, then there is a comfortable office nicely fitted up, and west of this is a sample room.” An addition was made in 1888: “The excavation is in progress for the foundation and cellar of the addition to the American Hotel. The building will be 20x24 feet, one storey high and

built of brick.” A fire escape was put up in 1889, an iron ladder on the north side of the building. Harry James was the bartender. A new roof and new eavestroughing was put on in 1890. Apparently the hotel did not have its own sample rooms for use by travelling salesmen, or did not have enough space. In 1891, the store formerly occupied by Messrs. Dickson & Hays as a law office was rented for use as sample rooms.

In November of 1890 the American Hotel again succumbed to fire. In their story about the fire, the *Brussels Post* noted that Mr. Koenig had recently fitted out the bedrooms of the hotel with new spring mattresses and had purchased a new coal stove. His cellars were stocked with a winter’s supply for the tables. It went on to say: “A commercial traveller staying at the American Hotel is said to have made a rush to get his trunks containing his samples out of danger before he adorned himself with the usual habiliments.”

On January 30, 1891 the *Post* reported: “The plans and specifications for the proposed American Hotel, to replace the one destroyed by fire, are now in the hand of A Koenig. The building will be white brick, two stories high and will occupy the whole frontage of the lot, an arch affording ingress to the yard, shed and stables. The main building will be 45x82 feet and the wing 32x60 feet. There will be 23 bedrooms, two parlors, four commercial rooms, one public sitting room, and a sitting room and office combined, the two latter having plate glass fronts. Halls 8 feet wide will run through the structure. There will be a space of about 2 feet left between the American Hotel and Mrs. Strachan’s block so as to admit light and air to the bedrooms in the former. A commodious verandah will run along the front and arrangements will be made to take in all baggage at the side entrance. A gravel roof will be put on. The contractors are to furnish all material and the work is expected to be completed by Aug. 1st.” D. Lowery



Canada's Hair Fashion Store

Glenn-Charles

Hair Goods

Our
MISS' GLENN
will be in Brussels

Wednesday, March 17

At the American Hotel

With a full line of Hair Goods including:

MEN'S	SWITCHES,	POMPADOURS
TOUPEES	BANGS.,	THE NEW MOTOR FRONTS
and WIGS	PARTINGS,	TRANSFORMATIONS, ETC.

We are pleased to Demonstrate our Goods.

GLENN-CHARLES 100 King Street West
Toronto

Ladies desirous of having Miss Glenn call at residence kindly leave address at Hotel.

Advertisement from *Brussels Post* March 11, 1915

The proprietors of the Queen's and American Hotels contributed \$20 each to the license Fund for violating the terms of the Crook's Act by having more than one bar in operation on July 13th.

Brussels Post July 24, 1891

of Brussels was awarded the contract for the stone and brickwork for \$3,000 and George Hughes of Mount Forest was awarded the carpenter work, roofing, painting and plumbing at \$3,000. The other tenders were for the woodwork and were Davidson & Leske, Mount Forest, \$3,418.42; William Ainley, Brussels, \$3,700 for the brickwork etc.; Anthony Backer, Seaforth, \$2,200; John Copp, Seaforth, \$3,350; Joseph Nagle, Benmiller, \$3,700; A McGregor, Wingham, \$3,986; Hall & Second of Brantford offered to take the whole contract for \$7,030. The new American Hotel would have five

windows and 56 doors. (*Brussels Post*, Feb. 13 and May 15, 1891) The newspaper kept its readers up-to-date on the progress of the hotel, printing tidbits about every detail of construction. Mr Koenig moved into the new American Hotel in September.

A large part of Mr Koenig’s business, and likely that of the other hotels, was commercial travellers. “There were no less than 75 commercial travellers put up at the American Hotel in this town last week. This is the largest number ever entertained by Mr. Koenig in six days since his advent to Brussels nine years ago.” (*Brussels Post*, Apr. 8, 1892)

John Ament, late of Ament Bros., purchased the American Hotel in 1898. He made a number of internal improvements: “Jno Ament is determined to keep the American Hotel in an up-to-date style. He has had the upstairs in the west wing papered throughout and has had linoleum placed upon the floor of the comfortable dining room.” In 1899 A Sample put up ingrain wallpaper in the barroom. A cash register was installed in 1900 and new wallpaper and paint.

In November of 1900 the American Hotel was again sold, to Samuel Beattie: “Tuesday of this week an agreement was signed between Jno Ament and Sam^l Beattie, whereby the latter purchases the American Hotel, furniture, &c., from the former, the purchase price being \$9000. Possession will be taken on Wednesday of next week. Will Clark, of London, a relative of Mrs Beattie’s, will assist in the management under the business name of Beattie & Clark. During the past year Mr Beattie had charge of the Middaugh House at Durham selling out a short time ago. Mr Ament will move to his comfortable residence near the GTR depot and may embark on some other occupation in town after he gets a little breathing spell. This sale will cancel John Putland’s engagement at the American and he will probably remove from Brussels to a wider field.”



The American House sign is still faintly visible on the north side of the hotel in the above photograph likely taken some time in the early 1920s. The Brussels Post photograph below shows the New American Hotel, built in 1950, as it appeared in 1872.



THE HOTELS AND SHOPS that sell liquor, on the Morris side of our village, will all be required to close on Monday next, the day of polling in the North Riding. The public houses on the Grey side will have the advantage that day, but the Morris side will have its turn the following Friday, the day for polling in the Centre Riding.

Huron Expositor Aug. 16, 1872

By 1905, the American Hotel was owned and operated by Henry James. He had a new cement stable, 44x85 feet, built. PJ McDonald and a staff of thirteen hands erected the building in 9¼ days. Upwards of 170 barrels afford increased accommodation. Carey roofs will be put on both barns. (*Brussels Post*, July 6, 1905) James ran the hotel until his death in 1920.

Walter Lowry purchased the hotel in 1922. The manager, in 1925, was A Kain: “*Installed New Beds - A Kain of the American Hotel this week installed 12 new Simmond’s walnut beds with slumber-king springs and Osterman mattress. The travelling public ought to enjoy a good night’s sleep.*” S Carter had a new office in the north end of the hotel in 1925. Lowry owned the hotel until 1944, but there were a number of different hotelkeepers during those years. John and Berva Rutledge had a lunchroom in the hotel in 1937.

The American Hotel became the New American Hotel in 1950 (*Brussels Post* ad of Dec. 20, 1950). Ann Baker was the owner from 1953 to 1977. By 1987 it had been renamed the Brussels Hotel and remained so until 1992 when it became the Brussels Country Inn. The advertisement below is from the Brussels Post June 1, 1972.

Smith Block

422 - 428 Turnberry Street, Brussels, Ont.
Built: 1891

The north part (60 sq ft) of Lot 9 was sold to William Armstrong in 1860 as part of his hotel property. The south part was sold to John Grewar in 1863. Grewar mortgaged the property for \$400 in 1868 then sold to GW Wright and GR Ross the following year. An article in the April 29, 1870 issue of *The Huron Expositor* listed Wright & Ross as one of the major mercantile establishments in the village.

In 1872, Wright & Ross put their stock and building up for sale: "Selling Out in Earnest – Messrs. Wright & Ross being determined to sell off the balance of their stock at once have resolved to commence an auction sale on Thursday, the 18th January. There is a considerable amount of stock of one kind or another yet on hand, and good bargains will no doubt be going. The next month the business was sold: "Messrs. Wright & Ross have sold the remainder of their stock and the premises lately occupied by them to one Mr Duncan lately from Australia. He intends to open out, in a few days, a complete stock of all kinds of wares. He will doubtless secure a share of the general prosperity of our merchants. It is reported that our friend, Mr Wright, is going to the southern States to recruit his health. If true, we hope he may turn again hale and hearty as of yore. It is said that it is the intention of Mr Ross to make a pleasure trip during the coming summer to the hills and dales of his native land. We wish him a pleasant time and are only sorry we cannot accompany him." The next week's issue of the newspaper reported that Mr Duncan had backed out of the deal. (*Huron Expositor*, Jan. 12, Feb. 2, 1872)

William Tufts leased the premises formerly occupied by Wright & Ross in March of 1872. In April he took Mr A Hamilton into partnership and they added a large stock of liquors to their already fine stock of groceries. The partnership only lasted a year, however: "Messrs. Tufts & Hambleton, grocers and butchers, have dissolved partnership. Mr. Tufts will in future carry on the grocery business, and Mr. Hambleton the butchering." Tufts entered into partnership with John McGregor, but that relationship lasted just one year as well. (*Huron Expositor*, July 18, 1873)

By May of 1875, Mr. Tufts had purchased the store and lot which he already occupied from Mr. George W. Wright, formerly of Brussels and now of Clinton, for \$1,500. In 1876, Tufts & Co. discontinued the sale of liquor and crockery, adding dry goods to their stock of groceries. And in 1877, they went out of business: "The stock-in-trade of Messrs. Tufts & Co. has been sold to Mr Logie, of Toronto, at 65 cents on the dollar cash. Mr Logie intends assorting up the stock and opening out in a few days a general dry goods and grocery stock. He intends to take up his residence in Brussels." Logie leased the 3rd new store in the newly built Graham Block: "It has a fine double front, has a ceiling 15 feet, and is 3 stories high." (*Huron Expositor* Apr. 6, Aug. 31, 1877)

Tufts property was assigned to James Knox in September of 1877. A *Huron Expositor* report of a fire in the Little Bros. bookstore on May 27, 1878 described the store as being "in the centre of a dense row of wooden buildings, and most of them of the very worst class." James Knox owned the south part

98 Strachan, Smith & Co. 98

SPRING 1880.

9th Year. 17th Semi-Annual Season.

Our Stock is to hand in most of the various branches of our Trade.

Boots & Shoes

Sessions, Cooper & Smith's celebrated Hand-made Boots and Shoes, still the choice, and at old prices, notwithstanding the advance in leather.

We secured a very large stock of

Scotch, Canadian and English

TWEEDS

Worsted Coatings and Black Broads,

Before the Great Advance in Woollen Goods,

and it affords us pleasure to announce that we will be able to supply our customers at even less than old prices.

Readymade Clothing.

Our stock was never as large, nor prices ever as low. Call and inspect. See our \$6 suits. CLOTHING MADE TO ORDER A. R. Morris is our cutter. Any further comment is unnecessary. See our \$12 suits.

Our Prints, Dress Goods, Black Lustres and Mourning Goods

are not surpassed in Canada. FACTORY COTTONS, DUCKS and DENIMS as cheap as ever.

HATS AND CAPS.

Our stock this season for extent, style and quality cannot be excelled.

GROCERIES, CROCKERY,

Patent Medicines and Hardware always on hand.

TERMS—Cash, or credit to responsible parties.

STRACHAN, SMITH & CO.

Brussels Post March 3, 1880

of Lot 9 and the north part of Lot 10 at the time. He lost a building to the fire. The story goes on to say that Little Bros. saved nothing from the fire which

spread south to Thomas Fletcher's store and home. Other merchants and tenants who suffered losses in the fire were George Davidson, saddler, John Tait, liquor dealer, John Parker of the Brussels House, James Mannell, lessee of the Brussels House, JW Carson, butcher, Dr. William Holmes, buildings; J. Alexander, Strachan & Smith, Thomas Leadbeater, stocks damaged by moving, and McKinney Bros. of the American Hotel, furniture damaged in moving.

William Armstrong sold part of the lot to Alexander Strachan and John C Smith in 1875. In July, Strachan & Smith "commenced the erection of their new store, just south of Armstrong's Hotel. It is a frame 28x60 and two stories high." Previously, Strachan & Smith were in business in a store north of Armstrong's Hotel.

In June of 1876, Alexander Strachan died: "This sad event took place at the residence of his mother, in Grey, on Monday morning last. About 18 months ago the deceased had contracted a severe cold, which ultimately turned into consumption. Being deeply engrossed in business, he allowed this insidious disease to grow until it secured so firm a hold of him as to be past all cure. Last fall he took a trip to the Pacific Slope in the hope that the warm and more congenial climate of that country might benefit him, but all in vain. He had waited too long, and a few weeks ago he returned to his home and his friends worse than he went away, and after lingering until Monday, departed this life. Mr Strachan, who was but 31 years of age, was a young man of considerable ability, of marked integrity, and of such gentleness and kindness of disposition, as to win the esteem and respect of all with whom he came in contact." (*Brussels Post*, June 9, 1876) Despite the untimely death of one of the partners, the business continued as Strachan & Smith. This March 19, 1880 ad announces: "Strachan, Smith & Co. – ninth year, 17th semi-annual season – Boots & Shoes, ready made clothing, groceries, crockery, patent medicines,



Strachan Bros.

Are now prepared to show their numerous Customers a large and Well-assorted Stock of Fall and Winter Goods.

DRESS GOODS
in Black and Colored Cashmeres, Henriettes, Crapes, Meltons, Wineys, Tartan Plaids, Satins, &c. all the leading Shades and Designs, with

TRIMMINGS TO MATCH.
A full line of Cloakings and Mantlings, Grey Flannels, magnificent value. White and Scarlet Flannels in all Prices. Prime Value in

Worsted Coatings, Worsted Suitings, Trouserings in Stripes and Canadian and Scotch Tweeds.

Suits made by Your Own Choice of Tailor and a
FIT GUARANTEED.
All Wool UNDERWEAR, a Large Stock, from the Coarsest to the Finest Goods.

See our Nobby Scarfs, Cashmere Mufflers, and
HATS, CAPS, ETC.

As usual a large assortment of **COOPER & SMITH'S**
BOOTS AND SHOES,
including Course and Fine makes in all Sizes.

GROCERIES, Fresh and Good.
Try Our 35c. Tea, Good Value for 50c.
BAZAAR PATTERNS
always on hand. Monthly Fashion Papers given Free. Call and get one and see the New Styles.

As space will not permit us to enumerate Articles and quote prices, we extend to one and all a Cordial Invitation to examine our Stock and compare Quality and Prices. We consider it a Pleasure to Show you through our Stock, Remember we will not be undersold.

STRACHAN BROS.



hardware; clothing made to order, AR Morris is our cutter."

Strachan Bros., general merchants, succeeded Strachan, Smith & Co. in 1881. An extensive article on the business interests of the town, published in the *Brussels Post* December 17, 1886, describes Strachan Bros.: "The business conducted by the above named gentlemen has been before the public for about fifteen years, and has met with a steady and increasing trade. Today the firm ranks among the first business men in Brussels, and their business certainly commands a large share of patronage.... The building is a very commodious establishment, about 90 feet long by 21 feet wide, besides a large storehouse at the rear. It is well stocked with a splendid assortment of goods. The different departments may be described as follows: On the right are the dress goods and trimming departments, both of which are well know for their excellence and the very high standard they maintain. Further down is a heavy stock of staples. On the left is a splendid stock of general groceries, also a fine display of crockery, glassware, boots and shoes that can hardly be surpassed, certainly not in Brussels. They are of the best American and Canadian manufacturers and at prices to suit customers. The stock also includes ready-made clothing of which there is a good selection, also hats and caps, &c. latter in furs as Persian lamb, seal, &c. This firm is one of the most popular in our town and well deserve their success."

Strachan Bros. dissolved their partnership in January of 1890. D. Strachan, the elder brother, retired. Alex Strachan continued business in the old stand.

The advertisement at left is from the *Brussels Post* 1889. They were in business from 1881 to 1890.

In the fire of November 1890, the fronts of both Strachan's and Skene's stores were pulled down to help stop the southward march of the fire. Mr. Strachan was able to save some of his stock and remove it to the Egg Emporium. On December 12th he offered "great bargains in goods damaged by the fire." By January 23, 1891 Strachan had "leased the commodious corner store in Dr. Graham's block for a term of years" and removed his stock.

The owner of the property, Barbara Strachan, set about rebuilding. Reporting on the new American Hotel *The Post* noted: "A space of about 2 feet was to be left "between the American Hotel and Mrs. Strachan's block so as to admit light and air to the bedrooms in the former." Excavation began in February 1891. The brickwork was completed by July. In August, Dr. McKelvey advertised "Rooms to rent over Mrs. Strachan's new block. Will be in readiness by Sept. 1st. Suitable for office, sewing rooms or dwellings." In October, J Irwin and N McBain of Atwood leased the northern store in Mrs. Strachan's new block and opened out a stock of Dry Goods, Groceries, Boots, Shoes etc. It was reported that: "Both gentlemen have had a number of years experience and are very highly esteemed in their own locality. Mr. McBain has been engaged in Listowel. The stand chosen by Irwin & McBain is one of the best in Brussels."

Both Mr. Koenig of the American Hotel and Mrs. Strachan had problems collecting on their insurance. The case was settled in July 1892: "When A. Koenig's hotel and Mrs. Strachan's stores were burned down in November 1889 [1890] they held insurance policies of \$1,000 and \$500 respectively, in the City Mutual Co. of London, Ont. Shortly after the fire the Company got into financial difficulty and the business went into liquidation. Last week Mr Koenig and Dr McKelvey went to London to endeavour to effect a settlement of their claims. They succeeded in doing so but had to take 50¢ on

the dollar. Gibbons & McNab are winding up business. Some policyholders only received 25¢ on the dollar." (*Brussels Post*, July 15, 1892)

Irwin & McBain had a "neat, gold-lettered sign placed at their store door" in December 1891. John McBain worked as a clerk in the store and it was reported: "Their pay as you buy system works well so Jim tells us."

CLOTHING.
See our \$4.50 Suits.
Special Bargains in Boots and Shoes before
Opening our Fall Goods.

Our New Dress Goods, Mantlings and
Readymade Mantles just in,
are Extra Value.

IRWIN & MCBAIN.

Irwin & McBain operated on a "strictly cash system" but did take "good butter, eggs and poultry in exchange for goods."

Perhaps the pay-as-you-go system worked for a time, but by August of 1893 Irwin & McBain had declared bankruptcy. Messrs. Ferguson & Halliday leased the store. James Irwin spoke of removing to Atwood, but remained in town and continued as a general merchant until 1896 when he again was forced to declare bankruptcy.

In an article promoting local business, *The Post* described Ferguson & Halliday as "the popular and flourishing Dry Goods establishment of the enterprising firm above named, who rank among the

most successful merchants of the county. It is now about 5 years since Messrs. Ferguson & Halliday commenced business here. The success they have met has been very gratifying, which is evidenced in the flourishing condition of their business, the large trade it enjoys and its popularity with the people. We have no hesitation in saying that the public find every advantage in dealing here which capable management can serve. The firm purchase their stock from the best markets and the store is always filled with a large and superior line of Dry Goods, mantles, clothing, &c." (*Brussels Post* Oct. 20, 1893)

Miss MacPherson, a milliner, moved to the millinery department in the store of Messrs. Ferguson & Halliday in November 1893. The walls of the millinery show room and workroom were papered and generally tidied up for spring. In August of 1894, Miss MacPherson severed her ties with Ferguson & Halliday and moved her stock of millinery back to her former stand in the Stretton block. Ferguson & Halliday then used the millinery room for a mantle showroom. (*Brussels Post* Nov. 10, 1893; Aug. 17, 1894; Apr. 3, 1896)

In July 1896, Ferguson & Halliday dissolved their partnership. "After a successful co-partnership in the Dry Goods business for 5 or 6 years, the firm of Ferguson & Halliday have agreed to dissolve, so next Tuesday begin a Dissolution sale of their fine and well-assorted stock, to continue for a month. Mr. Ferguson continues the business after the dissolution and Mr. Halliday will combine business and pleasure in a trip to the Pacific coast this Fall." (*Brussels Post* July 31, 1896)

John Ferguson appears to have continued in business at this location until 1905. In January 1905, it was announced in *The Post* that Mr. Ferguson would partner with DC Ross: "It is reported that Jno Ferguson and DC Ross will form a co-partnership and do business in the two stores in the Garfield

block before 1905 has taken its flight. They are both good businessmen in their respective lines.” (*Brussels Post* Jan. 12, 1905)

AR Smith, the other occupant of the Smith Block, started in business in 1878 or 1879. He may have been a partner in Strachan & Smith in the early years, leaving in 1881 when the business became Strachan Bros. In 1883, he built an addition to his store and secured the services of a city milliner. Miss Kate Ferguson was the milliner, succeeded by Miss Lack. She, and her fellow milliners from the village, attended the millinery openings in Toronto each season where “she made a personal selection of a full line of fall millinery consisting of all the novelties and leading styles of the season.” (*Brussels Post* Sept. 11, 1885) AR Smith was said to have “much the best” millinery in Brussels.

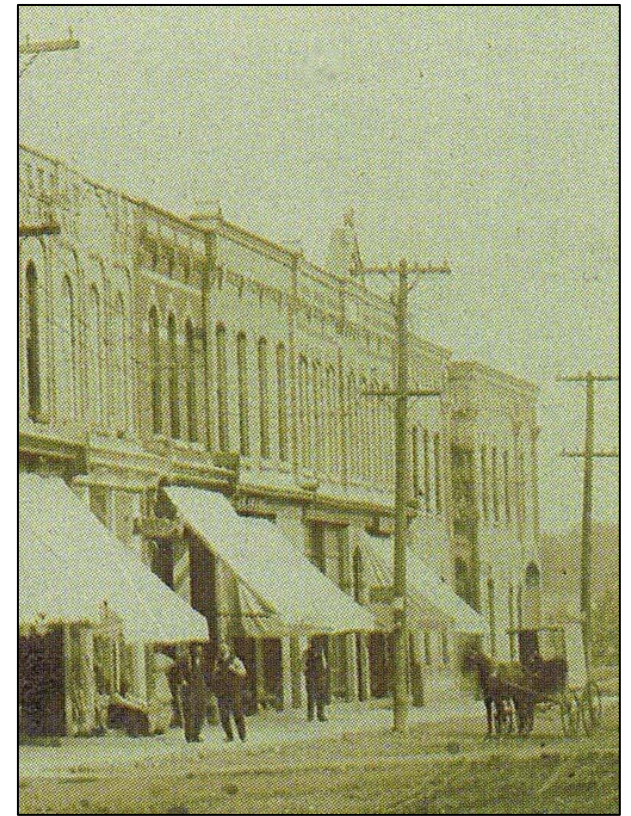
In their December 1886 profile of local businesses *The Post* had this to say: “AR Smith, Dry Goods and Clothing – The above named gentleman is too well and favourably known to the citizens of Brussels and surrounding country to require an introduction in this edition of *The Post*. He has been engaged in the Dry Goods and Clothing business for over eight years and his name has consequently become a household word throughout the community. Mr. Smith’s stock of goods is always found full and complete. Always alive to the interests of his patrons, the greatest attention is given to purchases in securing rare bargains at the lowest cash discounts. At one time we find him negotiating for a large stock in some of the eastern cities, taking advantage of the markets and at another time availing himself of the benefits of rates of purchasing in London or Toronto. Besides his business in this town Mr. Smith also conducts a similar business in Sunshine. Each department of his establishment evidences signs of progress and enterprise. It would be impossible within the limited space of this article, to give anything like a

description of his stock, so we will just call attention to a few of the leading departments. On the right side of the show room are the Dress Goods and Tweed Departments, both of which commend themselves to every purchaser. In the dress goods are some very elegant lines such as Jersey cloths, ottoman cords, bangle, also mantle cloths, colored and black silks, velvet and velveteens and a full line of trimmings. On the left is an immense assortment of ready-made clothing and overcoats, at all prices. The stock of boots and shoes, rubbers, overshoes, &c., is very large and complete. It contains some excellent lines in ladies’ fine wear. The Millinery Department, at the rear, is very attractive for its great assortment of stylish headgear of all kinds. This department is under the charge of Miss Lack, an acknowledged artiste. Mr. Smith is meeting with great success, as he deserves.”

In 1887, AR Smith called his store the Brussels Clothing House. He “engaged the services of another first-class salesman in the person of Alex Robertson” in September of 1888. Miss Brownlove was the milliner that year and the next. In 1890, Miss Ella Inman was engaged as saleslady and was said to be “competent for the position.”

The fire of November 1890 forced Smith to move his store into the Smale block “where he will keep a large and well assorted stock of ready-made clothing, tweeds, hats and caps, boots and shoes, gent’s furnishings, etc. Mr. Smith was a heavy loser by the fire but he has pluckily gone to work and is rushing off the small balance of goods saved from the fire and pushing the sale of the large new stock arriving.” (*Brussels Post* Dec. 12, 1890)

AR Smith moved to his new store in the newly built Smith block in October 1891. In December, Miss Hannah Ball rented rooms over Smith’s store and “placed a piano there for the purpose of making it convenient to her pupils and others desiring to take



All of the buildings pictured here were built in 1891 after fire destroyed the existing hotel and stores. From right: American Hotel, Smith Block, Strachan Block, Skene Block.

lessons. Miss Ball is pronounced to be a fine pianist by competent judges.” TA Hawkins, a music teacher, leased the rooms in September 1893.


The Post, in an October 20, 1893 story, described A. R. Smith’s: “The business has a phenomenally successful record and through periods of depression as well as prosperity it has always maintained the confidence and popularity of the public. While the long and uniform course of fair and upright dealing of this establishment has won the appreciation of the people, the advantages it has always offered to

the public has exerted a marked influence in drawing trade to the town. A merchant of experience and ability with purchasing facilities secured by high commercial standing, this establishment is fully up with city houses. The large and commodious store is splendidly equipped with a superior and extensive stock bought from the leading wholesale houses and direct from the manufacturer and embracing all kinds of staple and fancy Dry Goods, ladies' and gents' furnishings, carpets, ladies' cloaks and mantles, furs, clothing, boots, shoes, &c. Mr. Smith makes a specialty of readymade clothing and ordered work. Those who fail to inspect the stock on hand for this season's trade will be doing business an injustice."

In 1894, Smith entered into partnership with George N McLaren, who had been in Smith's employ for four years. "This combination will make a strong firm as both are practical men with modern ideas of managing business. Mr. Smith's mercantile career has been one of which any young man might be proud. Notwithstanding reverses by fire, he is in better shape today than ever. *The Post* predicts a prosperous future for Messrs. Smith and McLaren." (Feb. 16, 1894)

AR Smith made regular buying trips to Toronto, London and Hamilton to select dry goods, clothing, boots and shoes, gents' furnishings, etc., for the store. He also served a wide clientele, according to this ad of November, 1897: "SOUND JUDGMENT ON THE PART OF FIVE BROTHERS - Last Thursday evening, after tea, five stalwart men, who live near Blyth, drove over to Brussels, and purchased five overcoats from Smith & McLaren and went away well pleased with the bargains they got. Smith & McLaren can give many an instance where people from long distances buy their clothing from them, as they carry the largest assortment of clothing in the County. They also carry a fine stock of Dry-Goods, Boots & Shoes."


NOW - IS - THE - TIME



TO GET THAT FALL OVERCOAT.

Don't wait until Jack Frost gets all his freezing apparatus in shape and running—Until you have contracted Pneumonia. You can now have your pick from the hundreds of garments, comprising our new stock. The price won't bother you a bit. Here are a few sample bargains:—Men's Heavy Union Tweed Overcoats, strong linings, will wear well, sizes 36 to 42, for \$4.00, they are well worth \$5.00; Men's heavy all wool Frieze Ulsters, in fawn and brown, sizes 36 to 44, at \$7.00, they would be good value at \$9.00; Boys' Overcoats, all sizes, from \$2.00 to \$7.00.

EASE IN SHOES!



Ease and shoes do not always go together, as sundry corns and bunions loudly testify, but with our Woman's Dongola button or lace Boot the two are synonymous. Our stock of Boots and Shoes were bought before the big advance—We sell them all at the old prices. We have 15 pair of Boys' Long Boots, sizes 3 and 4 only, clearing price \$1.00 per pair.

Smith & McLaren.

Ad from *The Brussels Post* October 18, 1895. Smith & McLaren became partners in 1894 - " *The Post* predicts a prosperous future for Messrs. Smith and McLaren."

In January 1899, Smith & McLaren dissolved their partnership. Smith continued in business in the Smith Block store and McLaren moved to Midland.

AR Smith continued to do various things to distinguish his business. In August 1899, he became the agent for the new Ideal patterns. The *Brussels Post* of April 19, 1900 declared: "AR Smith's new awning is the 'loudest' thing in town." Smith sold his business at the close of 1900.

Late in 1905, George N. McLaren returned to take up business in Brussels again. "Fred McCracken and staff are busy painting and brightening up the store in the Smith block preparatory to the coming to town of Geo. N. McLaren who will be opening up a new stock of Dry Goods &c., in the course of a few weeks. Mr McLaren is well and favourably known and has had a wide experience so that he is well up in the ways and means of doing business. He has married since he was a resident of Brussels and will be moving Mrs McLaren and baby here too. The date of opening the stock will be announced in due course." (*Brussels Post* Oct. 5, 1905) McLaren was in business here, in the north store of the Smith Block, until his death in 1918.

In June 1915, Roy McKay leased the store in the Smith block, one door south of GN McLaren's, where he opened an up-to-date grocery and restaurant. In July he installed a telephone, No. 40x.

Photograph Galleries & Offices Above the Stores

A photograph gallery was fitted up in the upstairs of the southerly store when Mrs. Strachan's block was built and Lorne Hunter, photographer, moved in November 1891 from the Stretton block to a studio over AR Smith's store. Hunter advertised "aristotype work for Christmas" produced in his "Art Studio." (*Brussels Post* Dec. 18, 1891) Mr. Hunter moved to Toronto in April 1892 and CE Perry leased the

Reduced Prices
—FOR—
Photographs
—AT—
Perry's
BRUSSELS.
Cabinet Photos. \$1.50
PER DOZ.
Our Best Finished Cabinet
Photos, only \$1.50 per doz.
until further notice.
Gallery in Smith Block
C. E. PERRY.



Photograph taken by Harry Brewer (Huron County Museum Collection)
CE Perry ad *Brussels Post* 1893; GF Maitland *Post* December 8, 1910.

photo gallery. In 1895, Harry Brewer moved his photo gallery from the Stretton Block to the one in the Smith Block.

Early in 1910 a new proprietor arrived: “GF Maitland, who bought the photographic business of HR Brewer, arrived in town this week and is having a number of improvements made in the studio. He will be ready to attend to the requirements of the people of Brussels and community on Thursday 17th inst. Mr Maitland is an artist of experience and merit and has been in business in Stratford for years. We welcome him to town and wish him success.” Maitland was in business for about five years. In December 1915, the photo gallery was re-opened: “Free Bros., have leased the Photo studio formerly in charge of Artist Maitland, Smith Block, Brussels, and Friday of this week will open it to the public. Good work guaranteed at reasonable rates, they say.” Free was in business here until 1918.

Dr. Alexander McKelvey had an office upstairs in the Smith Block from 1891 to 1895 when he sold his practice to a Dr. Proctor, a young gentleman from Niagara Falls. Dr McKelvey planned to move to New York City. The deal with Dr. Proctor may have fallen through or was changed to a more temporary arrangement; a notice in the *Brussels Post* of December 10, 1897 reported: “SOLD HIS PRACTICE

– This week Dr. McKelvey, who has been a successful practitioner in Brussels for the past 11 years, disposed of his practice and his residence to Dr. Snider, of Inwood, Lambton Co., who is to take immediate possession. Dr. McKelvey will visit the hospitals of New York and probably take a course in some of the best institutions in the Old Land before locating in any place. Mrs. McKelvey and family will continue to reside in Brussels in the meantime. Dr. Snider is a married man. While expressing regret over parting with old friends, we welcome Dr. and Mrs. Snider to Brussels.”

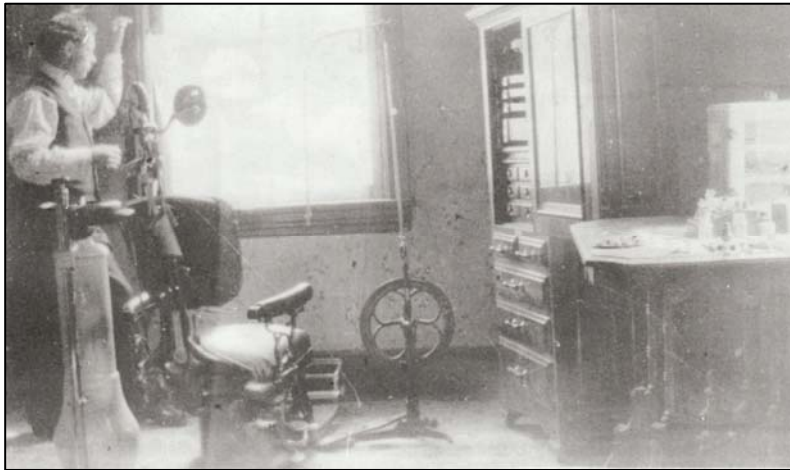
Dr. Alexander McKelvey died in 1912. His offices were taken over by Dr FT Bryans, MD. Fred Bryans was in practice here until 1918. In 1919, Dr. John White occupied the office and was here until 1927. Dr. WDS Jamieson replaced White in 1928 and practiced in Brussels until 1937.

Dr. Field, Dentist, had an office next to Brewer’s Photograph Gallery by 1905. In May 1910 he sold his practice: “It was a surprise to many to hear that Dr RP Field had disposed of his dental practice to Dr Hamilton, of Brussels, and will remove shortly to Owen Sound, where he will open an office. Dr Field has been a highly esteemed resident of the town for a good many years; is a good dentist and his removal, and that of Mrs Field, will be deeply regretted by many.”

Dr. Richard D Hamilton, Dentist, had an office here from 1910 to 1945. In 1925 he installed an electric motor in his dental office. “This will do away with the foot work in his ‘research work for nerves.’”

Robert Ferguson, a tailor, had a shop upstairs in the Smith Block from 1929-1931.

DC Ross, Tailor and Clothier, occupied the north store for a couple of years after McLaren (1918-1920). JT Wood leased the store in May 1920: “JT



Dr. Richard Hamilton is seen in his second floor dentistry office.
(Photo taken from *Our Story*, p. 78) McLaren ad *Post* Nov. 16, 1905.

Wood has leased the larger store in the McKelvey block lately vacated by DC Ross, and will use it as a store room for finished stock from the Excelsior Knitting Factory and also for packing goods for shipment to customers. It will make a good spot and help clear up the congestion at the factory.”
(*BrusselsPost* May 20, 1920)

Later Stores in the Smith Block

John Hart and James Girmoldby ran The Red Front Bargain Store in the north store of the Smith Block in 1920 to 1925. David Shapiero, Merchant, occupied this store from 1926 to 1928. William Dellow, Laborer, is listed as the tenant from 1929-1933.

In 1934 EJ McTavish started the Brussels General Store in the north store. He was in business here until 1940. The Walker Funeral Home was the next tenant in the north store. It was here from 1941 to 1945.

Dan McTavish ran The Farmers Club store in the south store of the Smith Block from 1921 to 1953. Moses Wineberg purchased the Smith Block from Catherine McKelvey in 1944. Wineberg’s business occupied the north store from 1945 to 1958. He sold one store to Robert Krogman of Brussels Home Furnishings and one store to Stanley E Rutledge in 1959. Krogman was in business until 1962. Rutledge was proprietor of Rutledge’s 5¢ to \$1 Store in the north store into the early 1970s.

Russell Knight had a business in the south store in 1969. Ray & Helen’s Family Centre replaced Knight in the south store in 1977 and was in business here until 1979. George of Brussels, a hair salon run by George Langlois, was here in 1980. Langlois owned

the store and it stood vacant during part of the 1980s. Patricia Langlois ran The Pantry and Country Ceramics in 1982. Anna’s Dress Shop was in the second store in 1980.

Brussels’ New Store
THE DAYLIGHT STORE
G. N. M’LAREN
Next Door to American Hotel

EVERYTHING New. Will be open for business on **Saturday, Nov. 18th, 1905.** With New Staples and Fancy Dry Goods; New Suits and Overcoats for Men and Boys; New Shirt Waists and Skirts for Ladies; New Furnishings for Ladies and Men; New Boots, Shoes and Rubbers. I have just returned from the best markets in Canada and have been fortunate in getting a number of clearing lines at less than regular values. Next week we will advertise a number of lines. For this week—**come**—We are sure you will be well satisfied with our prices.

We will be pleased to see all our old Friends and Customers and many new ones. We will give you the best service we can. We will use you the best we know how. We will appreciate your business.

See List of Prices Next Week.

Yours for Mutual Benefit,
G. N. McLAREN
Next Door to American Hotel. Store recently vacated by J. Ferguson & Co.

Broken Lines

— AT —
Clearing Prices

At the
Red Front Bargain Store

Ladies’ Hose

- | | |
|---|---|
| Ladies’ Lisle Hose in Black, Brown and White, Reg. 45c, to clear per pr. 39c | Ladies’ Art Silk Hose in Sand, Rust, Topaz, Golden Pheasant, Peach and Dawn. Sale pr.... 69c |
| Ladies’ Black Cotton Hose, good quality, just a few prs. left, while they last per pair..... 23c | Ladies’ Pure Thread Silk in Brown or Grey, to clear, per pair..... 50c |

Ladies’ Chappy Coats and Pullovers

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Latest Models and Styles | Kid Boot Pullovers .. Sale \$3 25 |
| | Brushed Wool Pullovers.... Sale 3 75 |
| | Ladies’ Chappy Coats..... Sale 3 95 |
| | Chappy Coats, Shawl Collars 3 95 |
| | Ladies’ Golf Models..... Sale 3 75 |
| | Ladies’ Brushed Wool Chappy, 4 50 |

Owen Sound Carpet & Furnishing Co.
JNO. H. HART Phone 100x JAS. GRIMOLDBY
Next door to the American Hotel

Hart & Grimoldby ran the Red Front Bargain Store in the Smith Block from 1920-1925. Ad from the *Brussels Post* 1920.

**A full line of
Feeds and Concentrates
to mix with your grain**

*Why pay big prices for your Mineral
When you can buy*

C.I.L. or Shur-gain for \$3.75

**Mitts, Sweaters, Overalls,
and Men's Wear**

**D. M. McTavish
FARMER'S STORE**

PHONE 46 BRUSSELS, ONT.

E. J. McTAVISH
Ready-to-Wear Drygoods

Share In These Super Values

A Special Purchase of
Men's Horskide Gloves and Mitts, lined and unlined
makes it possible for us to pass them on to you
AT PRE WAR PRICES

LADIES' KNITTED SUITS BY MONARCH
Colors: wine, green, rust, blue, and coral
Price \$4.95 \$5.95

Sweater Coats
a wide range of colors, styles and prices \$2.95, \$3.50, \$4.50

Our stock of all wool Work Sox is complete
in light and heavy weight from 30c to 59c

Men's Underwear--Turnbull's Combination; Shirts & Drawers
Fleece Lined Combinations, Shirts & Drawers

COME AND SEE OUR STOCK

Brussels General Store

*Your hair a drag?
Can't get an appointment ?*

Call GEORGE of BRUSSELS

Now four hairstylists to serve you
FOR THE LATEST IN HAIR FASHION
shag cut
shag perm

THE NEW CURLY LOOK and
the EVER POPULAR MINI PERM

PHONE 887-6751

Ads from the *Brussels Post*, from left: May 15, 1940;
November 13, 1940; May 17, 1972.

Skene Block

434 Turnberry Street, Brussels, Ont.

Built: 1891

Ellen Skene bought the south part of Lot 9 in 1892 from Margaret Wilson. John Skene had already begun the process of building on this part of the lot in 1891. The *Brussels Post* gave its readers step-by-step progress reports on the construction. Excavation began in February, tenders were let in March and construction began in earnest in May. The building was to be "30x60 feet with a commodious dwelling upstairs." Skene moved into the store in October: "JG Skene is moving into his new and commodious store next week. He has a very comfortable dwelling over the store." (*Brussels Post* Oct. 2, 1891) A gilt lettered sign was installed at the storefront.

In 1893, *The Post* published a profile of Skene's business: "In this article we will take for the subject of our sketch the popular establishment of the gentleman named, who ranks as one of the most successful merchants of the county. Mr. Skene's establishing in business here dates back about 10 years. During this period he has met with a degree of success which reflects great credit upon his ability and integrity as a merchant and which is evidenced in the flourishing condition of his business and its wide and general popularity. As headquarters for a large portion of the people of this community for their mercantile supplies the establishment is kept up with the times and offers every advantage to the public which capable, experienced management can secure. The principles of integrity adhered to accounts largely for the popularity of the business. A child is as safe purchasing here as is the most experienced shopper. Judging from the splendid

stock on hand the business is well prepared for this season's trade."

Mrs Skene, at some point, assumed responsibility for the store. She offered her stock of dry goods for sale, promising bargains in all lines, on March 4, 1909. No purchaser was recorded until Jane Thompson bought the property in 1920. She had occupied the store since 1918. Mrs Thompson had a grocery store here until 1944.

Other occupants of this store were the Legion from 1946 into the 1960s, J&K Shoes and Jeans in 1977, and part of the Oldfield Hardware store from 1985 to the present.

Brussels Post

Dec. 11, 1891

New gilt lettered signs have been placed at AR Smith's and JG Skene's store fronts. They look tip top.

Jan. 7, 1898

It seems a little cold blooded for JG Skene to begin advertising his new prints in January but JG is bound to be to the front.

Nov. 22, 1900

The chrysanthemum display in JG Skene's store window attracts considerable attention.

J. G. S.

New Dress Goods
In all the Latest Shades.

Dress Trimmings
In Jets and Braids, all new.

New Hosiery and Gloves
In all Shades and Sizes.

Ladies' and Gents' Underwear
Better and Cheaper than ever.

Staple Goods.
A full stock of Cottons, Cottonades, Shirts, Flannels, Flannelettes.

GROCERIES.
My stock is complete—Tea, Coffee, Spices and Canned Goods.
Will not be undersold.

J. G. Skene.

New Dress Goods,
New Tinsel Trimmings,
NEW LACES,

And 1000 yds. 32 in. Flannelette at 6 Cts. per yard.

J. G. Skene.

Brussels Post 1897 and 1896



Jane Thompson's general store as it was in 1915. The photo above was taken from the front of the store and shows, from left to right, John Oliver, Mrs. Whitie Lowry, Norm Thompson and Jane Thompson. The photo below was taken from the back of the store and shows Mrs. Thompson amid her wares. The photographs, courtesy of Frank Thompson, were taken from *Our Story*, p. 115.



THOMPSON'S

PHONE 70

WEEK-END SPECIALS

Soap Flake 4 lbs. for 25c		
Canadian Beauty Pastry Flour	6 pkgs	22c
Pacific Pastry Flour	6 pkgs	18c
Walker Fresh Soda	2 for	25c
Libby's Vegetable Soups	3 for	25c
Libby's Pork & Beans	3 for	25c
Comfort Soap	6 bars for	25c
Rice	3 lb for	25c
Pride-of-Valley Tomatoes	3 tins for	25c
Falcon Prepared Mustard	24-oz.	24c
Washing Soda	2 pkgs for	15c
Real Bargain Black Pepper	1 lb	20c
Gold Medal Coffee	1/2 lb	24c
Try Our Cooking Bran	2 lb	.9c
Pure Clover Honey	10 lb	90c
Miracle Washing Fluid	2 for	25c
Gold Medal Marmalade	32 oz.	21c

TRY OUR FRESH STOCK OF STRAWBERRIES
LETTUCE, TOMATOES, BANANAS & ORANGES

Ad from the *Brussels Post* June 21, 1939.

Little Bros. Block

438 Turnberry Street, Brussels, Ont.

Built: 1878

Thomas Knox owned part of Lot 10 in 1867 and acquired the rest in 1868. He is listed as one of the general store merchants in the village of Ainleyville in 1870. Thomas Hall, to whom Knox sold part of the lot in 1871, is listed in the same item as one of five hotelkeepers. “Mr Thomas Hall, of the Marksman’s Hotel, has been making quite an addition and sundry improvements to his hotel. He has put up an addition 18x30, and has repainted the exterior of the building.” (*Huron Expositor* Aug. 9, 1872)

In March 1874, Hall sold his hotel to a Mr Simpson from near Exeter, for \$2,500. Simpson had the hotel up for sale in July but did not dispose of it until 1875. “Mr Simpson has sold his hotel to Messrs Neil and Alexander McLaughlan for the sum of \$2,500.” (*Huron Expositor* Apr. 2, 1875)

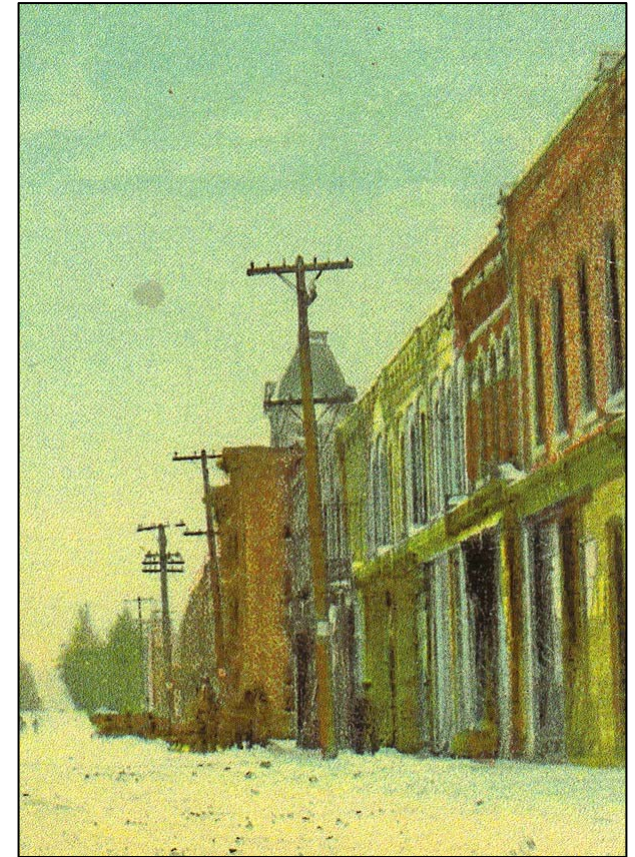
In May 1878 fire started in the rear of Little Bros Bookstore owned by James Knox. Little Bros lost \$2,000 in stock and were insured for just \$500. Thomas Fletcher and Little Bros quickly resumed business in the store just south of the American Hotel. James Knox sold 20 feet off his property to A Mills for \$550 and Mills re-sold to Little Bros for \$600. They “commenced the foundation for a brick store, two stories high and 20x30 feet.” Little Brothers, of the Dominion Telegraph office and bookstore, moved into their new brick store in December 1878.

Some time between 1880 when the Little brothers took out a second mortgage, and 1883, the Little

brothers ran into financial difficulty. Samuel M Laird assumed the mortgage and acquired the property. At this time the bookstore became a grocery store operated by John Grewar. By 1885, George Thomson had purchased the property and had the store renovated in preparation for taking over the space himself.

The Post described George Thomson’s grocery in 1886: “Mr. Thomson’s store is conspicuous for its decidedly neat, clean and attractive appearance. The aim is to keep on hand as fine an assortment of groceries, glassware, crockery, flour and feed, &c. as the markets afford. His line of confectionery is quite large and very fine. His bakery business is well known to the public for the general superior quality of everything manufactured. His specialties for the holiday season, as fruit, &c., are well selected. Mr. Thomson, we are informed, buys in all cases for cash and taking advantage of cash discounts is enabled to give to his customers bargains that cannot be beaten.” In September 1887 Thomson, baker and grocer, purchased “a fancy delivery wagon ... painted by Messrs. Smith & Ross.” New awnings were added in April 1888 and electric lights in December 1890.

In 1891 Thomson built a brick storehouse, 20x30 feet, to the rear of his store (*Brussels Post* Apr. 17, 1891) He advertised in 1898 for “a boy to learn the baking business.” WA Crich sold his own bakery business in Brussels in 1899 and went to work for Mr. Thomson. In 1905, Thomson hired Will Elliott, who had “recently been attending the Business College at Stratford,” to take up the grocery business



This picture shows the Little Bros store – the dark red brick building with white detailing built in 1878 – and the Holmes Block to the south (left) built in 1891.

and run the delivery van. (*Brussels Post* Apr. 6, 1905) Thomson ran a successful grocery for 39 years, here and earlier at another location in town, from 1883 until his sudden death in 1922.

The store remained a grocery for several years. Verne Huntley was in business here from 1922 to 1925. John Leitch had the store from 1926 to 1927. Lorne Eckmier took over in 1928 and was in business until 1950.

Eckmier sold the store to John and Gordon Krauter. They operated a plumbing business under the name C&G Krauter. Oldfield Pro Hardware expanded their store into the Little Bros. store in 1964.

THOMSON
 THE
GROCCER
 AND **BAKER,**
 IS OFFERING
 20 lbs. Granulated Sugar for \$1
 25 lbs. Good Yellow Sugar for \$1
 A large assortment of the Choicest
 Fruits of the Season.
 Our Teas and Coffees are too well known
 to need any Recommendation.
 The Largest Assortment of Glassware and Crockery ever
 shown in Brussels, consisting of
*Plain and Fancy China and Glassware,
 Decorated and Printed Tea and Dinner Sets,
 Decorated and Printed Toilet Sets.*

BAKERY DEPARTMENT.
 Fresh Bread and Cakes always on hand
 Wedding Cakes a Specialty.
 Any Orders left for Christmas Cakes will
 have our Prompt Attention.

Geo. Thomson,
 BRUSSELS.

SUPERIOR STORES
 SERVICE QUALITY

STANDARD PEAS
 3 tins 25c

Fly-Go in Bulk, bring your container
 New Sultana Raisins 2 lb 25c
 Aeroxon Fly Coils 4 for 10c
 Weston's Old Hickory Sodas 24 oz pkg 25c
 Unicorn Red Salmon 1 lb tin 23c
 Scap Chips in bulk 3 lb 25c
 Choice Golden Apricots per tin 15c
 Superior Baking Powder 1 lb tins 23c
 New Clover Honey per medium tin 45c
 Derby Cheese 1-2 lb pkgs 2 for 25c
 Bulk Cocoa 2 lb for 25c
 Pastry Flour per 24 lb bag 60c
 Puffed Wheat per pkg 8c
 Heavy White Jar Rubbers 4 doz 25c
 Christies Cakes Ass't each 10c 15c 20c 25c
 A complete assortment of Club House
 Spices per pkg 5c
 Have's Floor Wax 1 lb. tin 43c
 North Sea Tuna Fish per tin 15c
 Babbitts Cleaner per tin 5c
 Old Dutch Cleanser 3 tins 35c

Brussels | **L. W. Eckmier** | Thursday
 Phone 64 | | Friday
 | | Saturday

Advertisements from the *Brussels Post* - Geo. Thomson, 1893; Eckmier's Superior Store, 1935; C&G Krauter, October 11, 1950.

A healthier herd ... Increased PROFITS with a DURO Pump



FRESH CLEAN RUNNING WATER in your stables at the turn of a tap.
 Many prosperous farmers today have installed a DURO PUMPING SYSTEM ... especially designed to provide running water for the house ... barn ... stables ... chicken house ... truck garden and besides it's fire protection for all your buildings.
 Increased profits ... convenience ... saving in time and labour are advantages you can have with a DURO PUMP.
 See us for full information NOW.



EMCO FIXTURES AND FITTINGS

EMCO fixtures and fittings are designed for style and utility for modernizing your kitchen ... bathroom and laundry. **ECONOMICAL**, too! Come in and see how easily you can have modern conveniences and improve the value of your home.



SEE US TODAY!

FOR SALE BY
C. & G. Krauter Co.
 Brussels, Ont.

EMPIRE BRASS MFG. CO. LIMITED
 London - Hamilton - Toronto - Sudbury - Winnipeg - Vancouver
 and
METALS LIMITED
 Calgary - Edmonton - Vancouver EC-88

Holmes Block

440 – 450 Turnberry Street, Brussels, Ont.

Built: 1891

Dr William JR Holmes owned the south part of Lot 10 in 1878, having purchased it from McLaughlan in June 1876. He had just built a tenement block in the summer of 1877 that was destroyed in the fire of 1878. Holmes' loss to the fire amounted to \$1,200 in buildings, but he was insured for \$1,000. *The Huron Expositor* reported on June 28, 1878: "The owners of the land in the burnt district from the site of the Brussels House [Lot 11] to the building occupied by John Alexander on Turnberry Street, have decided to build a uniform brick block, two stories high with gravel roof. In the whole block there will be one hotel and six stores. The plans are now ready and tenders are asked for. The excavations for cellars are well underway. The block is to be known as the Phoenix Block. The street is to be widened six feet on that side in keeping with the block south." The Phoenix Block did not, however, arise as planned. Holmes built his own store block in 1878-79.

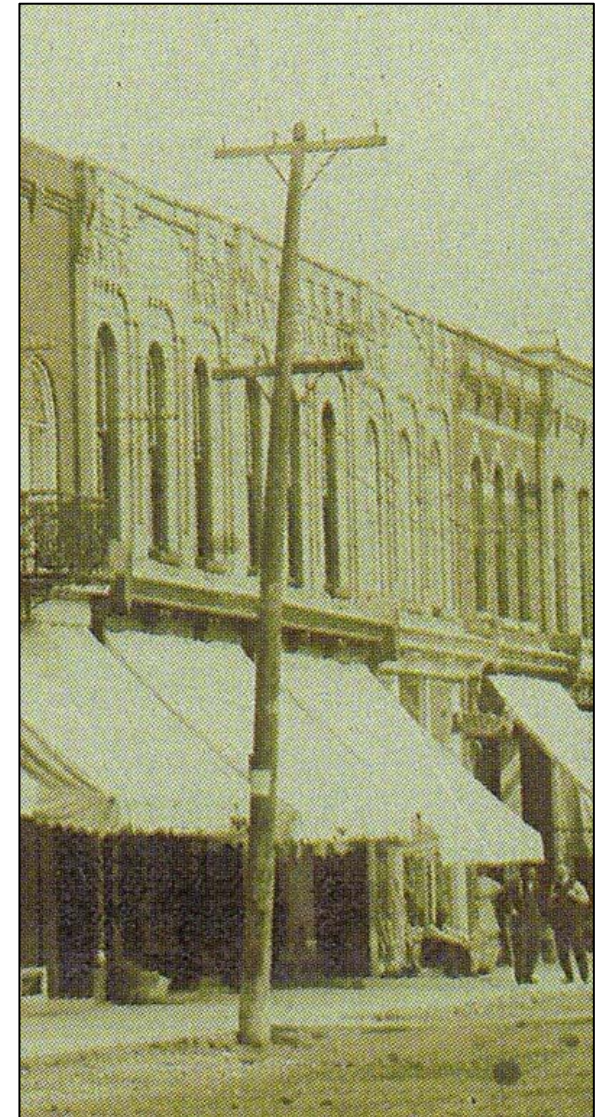
JA Garlick, Druggist & Stationer, was a tenant in the Holmes block in 1880 and Miss E Purvis, a dress and mantle maker, had a shop over his store. RW Tuck ran another store, a general store selling groceries, crockery, boots and shoes, and fancy and dry goods.

On the night of February 26, 1880 fire broke out again: "Shortly after 11 o'clock on Thursday night, smoke was discovered issuing from the store occupied by Mr. RW Tuck. Upon an entrance being gained it was found that some goods in the cellar

were on fire. The flames were fortunately suppressed before the upstairs caught. It is not known how the fire occurred, but it is supposed to have been purely accidental. Mr. Tuck, who is insured in the Aetna & Western, has been awarded \$450 by these companies for damage done to stock by fire and smoke. In consequence of the fire he will sell the greater part of his stock at prices before unheard of in Brussels." (*Brussels Post* Feb. 27, 1880)

Thomas and George Haycroft bought the north store in the Holmes Block from Dr. Holmes in 1885, but they were likely the tenants in this store in

JUST RECEIVED.		
A SUPPLY OF WELLS, RICHARDSON & Co's		
Perfected	BUTTER	COLOR.
Go to	Green's Angust Flower, the great Dyspeptic remedy. Boschese's German Syrup, for Coughs and Colds. Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption. Wilson's Compound Syrup of Wild Cherry. Fellow's Compound Syrup of Hypophosphites. Victoria Compound Syrup of Hypophosphites. Fowle's Original Pile and Humor Care. Vegetine the great Blood Purifier.	DRUG STORE
GARLICK'S	PURE DYE STUFFS.	
PETROLINE		
HAIR RESTORATIVE. Extracted from petroleum. A wonderful discovery for invigorating, renewing and preserving the hair.		
School Books and Copy Books, Blank Books, Note Papers and Envelopes, a large supply always on hand.		
J. A. GARLICK,		
DRUGGIST AND STATIONER, Holmes' Block, Brussels.		



The Holmes Block and Little Bros. Store with awnings out ready for business some time in the late 1890s - early 1900s. Garlick ad *Brussels Post* Jan. 30, 1880.

1880. Haycroft Bros. were hardware merchants and tinsmiths. They also sold Wood Cook and Wellington stoves and Wanzer Sewing Machines. In November 1886, Thomas Haycroft died at age 43.

FIVE GRADES
OF THE BEST
MACHINE OIL
CHEAP, AT
Haycroft Bros.,
DEALERS IN
Tinware!
STOVES,
LAMPS, CUTLERY, &c.,
Holmes' Block,
BRUSSELS.

Post June 11, 1880

He had come to Brussels with his family in 1855 and had lived in the village since then. The business carried on by the Haycroft brothers was continued with George Haycroft taking full charge of it.

James Turnbull purchased the interest of the late Thomas Haycroft in the store and tinware business. The firm was renamed Haycroft & Turnbull. Owing to George Haycroft's continued illness, the partnership was dissolved in February 1889 and Joseph Ballantyne became Turnbull's new partner. George Haycroft died later that month.

ER Grundy moved his Singer Sewing Machine business to Turnbull & Ballantyne's stove and tinware shop in April 1890. Intending purchasers could "inspect the famous New York Singer" and obtain the proper needles and oils. In September 1890, James Turnbull sold his interest in the business to Samuel Wilton and the firm's name changed, to Ballantyne & Wilton.

Ballantyne & Wilton "hung out a fancy new sign in the shape of a tea kettle. They keep things boiling inside in the matter of pushing work and selling goods." W. Roddick did "the decorating of the kettle ... in his usual tasty style." (*Brussels Post* Apr. 17 and 24, 1891) *The Post* reported on some of the work done by Ballantyne & Wilton, such as a new roof on

the north section of Dr. Graham's fine block in 1891, galvanized iron roofs on the Ament Bros. factory, dry kiln and sawmill in 1893, and 8,000 feet of eavestroughing installed in 1894.

A profile of local businesses printed in 1893 describes Ballantyne & Wilton Hardware: "An establishment where the public find every advantage in dealing is at the popular and well known stove, tinware and job work establishment of the enterprising firm above named. This is one of the pioneer business institutions of our town. It passed by purchase some 5 years ago into the hands of its present proprietors who rank among our most progressive young men. They have met with unqualified success and the store is known today as one of the best places in the county for the purchase of anything in the line carried. The firm buy from the leading manufacturers and are in the best

READY FOR THE
Fall and Winter Trade of 1890-91.

STOVES--We have one of the Nicest Assortments of Cook, Box, Parlor and Coal Stoves ever exhibited in Brussels, and they will be sold **AT REASONABLE PRICES.**

Our 'Tioga' Cook Stove Leads the Van.

LAMPS--A Large Stock of New Lamps and Lamp Goods to Hand. Special Attention called to our Handsome Range of HANGING LAMPS. They are Dandies.

Graniteware, Cutlery and Shelf Goods always in Stock.

OUR TINWARE IS FIRST-CLASS.
Goods not in stock Made Up at Short Notice.

NICE STOCK OF SILVERWARE ON HAND.
People can Save Money by trading with us.

Ballantyne & Wilton.
BRUSSELS, ONT.

Ballantyne & Wilton replaced Turnbull & Ballantyne in 1890. It was replaced by Wilton & Turnbull in 1895 when Ballantyne retired. Ads *Brussels Post* 1890 and 1895.

READY FOR BUSINESS

A Co-partnership has been formed between S. WILTON, of Brussels, and J. TURNBULL, of Mitchell, under the title of

WILTON & TURNBULL,

Who will carry on the Stove and Tinware Business in Brussels in the old stand of

Messrs. Ballantyne & Wilton.

They have a First-Class Stock of Dairy Cans, Milk Pails, Milk Pans, &c., Sap Buckets and Spiles.

STOVES OF the Best Manufacture and at Close Prices.
Graniteware, Shelf Goods, Whips, Brushes and a tip-top range of Cutlery always kept.

Coal Oil and Machine Oil of Purest Quality.
A Specialty made of Eve Troughing and Iron Roofing.

As both members of the firm are practical Tinsmiths they feel assured they can give satisfaction in every Department of their work.

The Patronage of the Public Solicited.

WILTON & TURNBULL,
BRUSSELS.

position to meet the wants of the people in their line. We note specially a fine display of stoves, ranges, furnaces, lamp goods, &c. All kinds of house furnishings in tinware and copperware, dairy supplies, &c. Special attention is given to all branches of job work as roofing, eavestroughing, furnace work, &c. The business is in a flourishing condition." (*Brussels Post* Oct. 20, 1893)

In February 1895, the firm of Ballantyne & Wilton, tinsmiths, dissolved by mutual consent. Mr Ballantyne retired. Mr Wilton continued business in the old stand forming a partnership with James Turnbull, of Mitchell. "Both are practical men, and the combination of forces should result in a successful future. Mr Turnbull was a former proprietor in the same store, so has an acquaintance extending over a number of years with the people of Brussels and vicinity. We have not learned what J Ballantyne purposes doing. He is a first-class tinsmith." (*Brussels Post* Mar. 8, 1895)

Messrs. Wilton & Turnbull rearranged their store in April of 1899, adding a stock of hardware to their tin and stove business. They did a good business installing McClary furnaces in the area, for example, in Ross & Halliday's store and two in Stretton's Queen's Hotel.



The men standing in Wilton & Gillespie's Hardware store are, from left, Sam Wilton, his son, John, and Will Gillespie. The photo was taken in 1914 or earlier.

In February 1905 Mr. Turnbull retired. According to *The Post* Mr Turnbull had been bothered with one of his limbs for several years and he thought outdoor work with less standing would suit him better, hence he was considering accepting the general agency for the Deering Co. in the sale of agricultural implements, &c. Will Gillespie, of Ripley, took Mr Turnbull's place in the firm. (Feb. 2, 1905) Wilton & Gillespie Hardware was in business here until 1945. Will Gillespie continued in business on his own until 1948 when he sold to Max Oldfield. (*See the story on Oldfield Hardware Store*)

Benjamin Gerry, of the Beaver Hardware store, moved his business into the centre store of the Holmes Block some time in the early 1880s, possibly in 1883. Peter McDonald, a former apprentice in Haycroft Bros., assumed the position of foreman in Gerry's tin shop here in June 1883. (*Huron Expositor* June 22, 1883) In 1886, Gerry purchased "the right, good will and fixtures of the Novelty Bath Works from Dr. Hutchinson and JH Crocker. The bath is a good one and there ought to be money in it." (*Brussels Post* Sept. 24, 1886)

In its "Brief Sketches of our Business Establishments" *The Post* described Gerry's Beaver Hardware store: "B GERRY - A good hardware establishment where the public can obtain its requirements of everything needed in this branch of mercantile industry is an important business in a town. In this respect Brussels is in advance of its size. In the establishment herein



described our citizens and the people of the surrounding country have all the advantages to be had in larger places. The proprietor, B. Gerry, is an experienced, enterprising hardware merchant and is in the best position to meet the wants of the public in his line. Able to buy to an advantage he purchases from the best markets and his commodious store is filled with an extensive and comprehensive stock,

embracing everything found in a first-class establishment. On the shelves are all kinds of builder's tools and materials. Miscellaneous lines, paints, oils, wire, glass, nails, cutlery, lamps, farmers' supplies, stoves, tinware, &c., always on hand. The business is widely and favourably known to the

Beaver *Benjamin Gerry* Hardware

In this department a full line of Builders' Hardware of all descriptions, Carpenters' Tools, Black and Bright Fence Wire, Barbed and Finest Wires, Truss and Buck Thorn Wires and fencing tools.

BICYCLES.

Have you seen the GENDRON Wheel? Our High Grade Wheels are the Highest Possible Grade and strictly up to the times in every detail. They are light; they are speedy; they are handsome; they are strong; they are the most perfect Wheel for the money. BICYCLE REPAIRS kept in stock—Steel Balls, Handles, Whistles, Oilers, Wrenches, Pant Clips, Rubber, Cement and Bicy-



Advertisement and portrait of Benjamin Gerry, above, are from *Brussels Post* 1895

people. Mr. Gerry ranks as one of the substantial business men in the country.” (*Brussels Post* Oct. 20, 1893)

Benjamin Gerry sold his hardware business to his sons in 1895. “BUSINESS CHANGE – The old and well-established Beaver Hardware store has changed hands. B. Gerry, who has been so successfully in command for many years has sold out to his sons, Noble and Nelson, who took possession last Monday under the firm name of N&N Gerry. Mr Gerry has not decided what course he will pursue (and he has no particular need to worry) but we hope he will continue some time in Brussels. While regretting his dropping out we welcome the ‘boys’ into the business circle in Brussels and wish them every success in their venture. Noble has been in the store nearly all his life and Nelson has been in charge of the tinware department for years, and both are well and favourably known. An extended notice of B Gerry may be read in another column.” (*Brussels Post* June 28, 1895)

In February 1899, the Gerry brothers dissolved their partnership. Noble F Gerry continued the hardware business. In January 1905, he took a new partner, Thomas Walker, and the firm name was changed to Walker & Gerry Hardware. “Mr Walker is a practical tinsmith and has been in Mr Gerry’s employ before so will be quite at home in the business. The change will allow Mr Gerry more time to personally oversee the various departments and push trade.” (*Brussels Post* Feb. 17, 1899; Jan. 12, 1905)

In 1920 George Weller bought the Gerry & Walker Hardware business in the centre store of the Holmes Block. The February 26, 1920 issue of *The Post* announced: “Report says that Messrs Gerry & Walker, Brussels, have disposed of their hardware business to a gentleman from Hamilton. Stock taking is proceeding now and possession will follow its completion. We understand Mr Gerry will likely

FAMOUS
**Feed
Boiler**
AND EVAPORATOR.



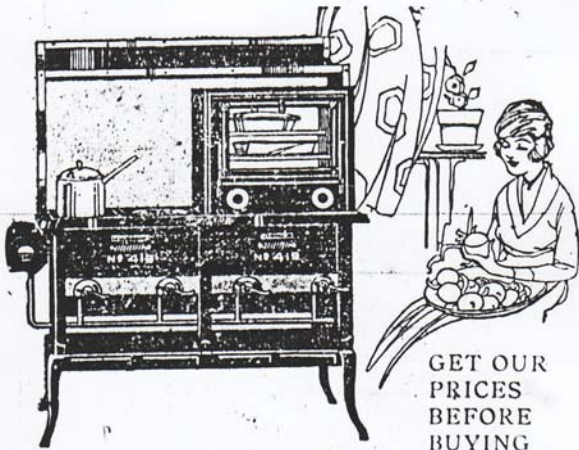
The boiler is made of steel, cast iron front, grates, fire box linings and smoke pipe plate, all other parts made of the best cast steel protected against warping. Flues arranged so that boiling can be done quicker and at much less cost for fuel than the old style furnace.

Price only \$16.00 Cash.

Leave your order at once with

GERRY BROS.

Ads from the *Brussels Post* above, January 20, 1899; below, May 27, 1920.



GET OUR
PRICES
BEFORE
BUYING

Geo. R. Weller
Successor to Gerry & Walker BRUSSELS

take a year’s vacation and Mr Walker, whose health has not been very rugged, will do some building up. Hope both will continue to reside in town. It is many a year since there was not a Gerry in the hardware business.”

Five years later Weller left for Essex where he had purchased a hardware business. *The Post* reported: “Mr Weller has been a resident of town for the past five years, and served two years on the Council Board; is Past President of the Business Men’s Association, and President of the Bowling Club. He has passed through the chairs of the Western Star Lodge, IOOF, and is also an enthusiastic member of the Blue and Chapter lodges of the AF&AM. Mrs Weller has been President of the Women’s Institute and a Sunday School teacher in the Methodist Sunday School.” Weller sold to Samuel F Davison of Galt. (*Brussels Post* Par. 29, May 27, 1925)

Dean Davison became a partner in the hardware business in 1937. Davison’s Hardware was in business here from 1925 to 1943. The next owners were the Gregg brothers, Elvin and Borden. Gregg’s Hardware was here for ten years from 1943 to 1953. In 1946, the Gregg brothers bought their store and the one to the south in the Holmes Block. The north store was sold to Leonard Machan in 1946 and the south store was sold to Hugh Pearson in 1948.

The centre store continued to house a hardware store. It was Machan’s Hardware by 1969. Machan owned both of the south stores at the time. He sold to Hoppe Home Hardware in 1971. Cousins Home Hardware succeeded Hoppe’s in 1977. In 1981 this two-store space was converted into a restaurant - the Golden Lantern from 1984 to 1987; Wissler’s Mother Restaurant from 1988 to 1991, and George’s Family Restaurant in 1997.

The south store of the Holmes Block had several different tenants in the early years. A Veal had his

furniture store here in the early 1880s, replaced by James Annett, a grocer, in 1885. William Coates, also a grocer, succeeded Annett in 1887-88. Ross & Halliday, men's clothiers, had a second store at this location in 1896. By 1899 it was again a grocery, which included a bakery, run by WA Crich. Charles Bartliff bought Crich's business in 1899 and he had a combined grocery, bakery and restaurant here until 1900. WA Grewar had a grocery and restaurant here in 1905 until he moved to the Garfield Block in 1925. Miss Belle Livingston had a dressmaking shop above Grewar's store in 1905. Maud Bryans, Optometrist, had offices above Grewar's store from 1915 to 1920.

In 1922, Downing Bros. Shoes became the tenant of the store and was in business here for several years. Two generations of the Downing family owned and operated the business until the store was sold to Hugh Pearson in 1948. Pearson also bought this section of the store block from Elvin Gregg in 1948. Pearson sold to Gordon Grant in 1958. Grant was the last to have a shoe store here. Leonard Machan's Hardware occupied both of the south stores in 1969.

Note: Land Registry Records state that Pearson bought the S 21'5" of S 42'10" owned by Gregg Bros. in 1948. Leonard Machan bought the N 21'5" of the S 42'10" in 1956. Other sources indicate that the Gerry Hardware store (which eventually became Gregg Bros. and then Machan's Hardware) was in the south store and Downing Bros. Shoes was in the centre store (see *Our Story*, pp. 121 and 133-34).


Veal's Furniture & Undertaking ad from *Brussels Post* 1880. Grewar occupied the same store as Veal in 1905. Downing Bros. shoe store was here in 1922 and was replaced by Pearson's Shoe Store in 1948. The ads at right are from *The Post*, above: December 8, 1910; below: August 2, 1950.

Read AND Remember.

Should you be so unfortunate as to require anything in the

UNDERTAKING

line, you will find my stock of

 **COFFINS**

CASKETS, SHROUDS, &c.,

complete, and of first quality.

I INTEND TO MAKE

Funeral Furnishings a Speciality,

and am determined to do

AWAY WITH THE LONG PRICES

usually charged by men who advertise that they have the only stock of Undertaking in town, knowing it to be utterly false. Why not save money in this particular line, as well as anything else? Why pay Ten Dollars more than a thing is worth?

OBSERVE.

I have secured a magnificent HEARSE—the best in the County of Harou— which will be furnished to funerals, with hat bands, sashes, gloves, &c., at ONE-HALF the usual price.

COMPARE THESE FIGURES.

Below I give you a few figures—the prices of full sized Coffins. Smaller ones will be cheaper.

USUAL PRICE CHARGED IN TOWN.	MY PRICE.
A No. 1, \$32.00.	\$20.00.
No. 2, 26.00.	15.00.
No. 3, 18.00.	10.00.

You will see by this that I mean business. Call and take a look at my stock and prices. That can do you no harm, any way.

Remember the Place.

VEAL'S

Cheap Furniture and Undertaking Show Rooms, BRUSSELS.

XMAS AT W. A. GREWAR'S

Confectionery and Fruit Store

Luscious and Juicy California Seedless Oranges
25c, 30c, 40c, and 50c per doz.

Malaga Grapes, Table Raisins, Bananas
New Figs, Nuts, Dates, Raisins, Currants

Our Confectionery is all New and Fresh
See our grand display of Tub Goods

PIPES Exclusive Gifts for men who smoke.
That's what I'll give—a pipe.

Candy for Christmas Giving Candy has long been the foundation gift for Christmas giving. The Christmas season is here again with all its perplexities as to what one should buy. Our stock of confectionery was never more replete with endless varieties, suitable for everyone, from the oldest persons down to the tiny wee tots. For stocking-filling and tree decorating our candy counters offer inviting and attractive items in candy and novelties.
Boxes from 5c to \$1.00. See them

Oysters Place your order early for them.
Cheese Good Old Cheese.
Mince Meat IN BULK.

W. A. GREWAR **Brussels**

Pearson's Shoe Store

Midsummer Sale

AUGUST 5th to 12th

14 Pr. of Men's Black and Brown Oxfords, old style .98c

40 Pr. of Men's Brown and Black Oxfords, Regular
\$5.50 to \$10.50 — on sale broken lines \$3.95

20 Pr. Boys Crepe Soles Reg. \$4.50 to \$5.50 \$3.95

20% off all Men's and Boys Sport Shirts and Dress Shirts and Stetson Hats During Sale.

200 Pr. Ladies Sandals, Sport Shoes, Oxfords, Loafers all makes and sizes, broken lines \$1.89

100 Pr. Misses' Shoes, Loafers, Sandals and Crepe Soles \$1.89

100 Pr. Children's Shoes, all kinds and colours \$1.49

50 Pr. Ladies Dress Shoes Reg. \$6.95 to \$10.50
on sale \$4.95

20% off all Ladies Nylon Stockings, Gloves and Blouses
During Sale Only. Sub-Standard's .79c

Brussels, Ont. Phone 11

SOLD BY

WILTON & GILLESPIE

HARDWARE MERCHANTS, Brussels

THE SHERWIN-WILLIAMS PAINT



COVERS THE EARTH



Is your Radio **FLAT** on its back?

By that we mean, does it sound terrible? If so, try new General Electric Radiotrons. Likely they will put your radio back on its feet again. At the same time, let us go over your set from A to Z. We'll give it a complete "Check Up" and restore its original pep.

Get a check up today. The cost is small. We are experts and use only guaranteed parts and General Electric Radiotrons.

Dean Davison
Brussels Phone 17

Let this popular **Thor** WASHER solve your laundry problem

IRON ANYTHING Easier, Faster, Better WITH THE NEW Thor AUTOMAGIC GLADIRON

IRON IN HALF THE TIME WITH HALF THE WORK

IT'S COMPLETELY NEW IT'S RADICALLY DIFFERENT COME IN AND TRY IT!

GREGG'S HARDWARE
Phone 17
Brussels

Features 9 Vano Sapor Agitator Provides fast, thorough and gentle washing action.

Massive Streamlined Wringer Springs to 3 positions... adjustable pressure... "Feather touch" release bar and rest lever.

Full 9 lb. Capacity Tub Shining porcelain or lustrous durable aluminum... easily cleaned... will not rust.

New All-Aluminum Tub Cover Light weight... rust proof... made in steel and brass.

Thor Deluxe Mechanism New feature... smoother, quieter operation... ensure lasting satisfaction.

ALL YOU WANT IN A WASHER WE'VE GOT BY A THOR

SALE SALE



ALUMINUM COOKING UTENSILS

Commencing Saturday June 17th

At the end of our Second Year of Business in the former Gillespie Store.

BUY NOW AT A GREAT SAVING

	REG.	SALE
HEAVY DOUBLE BOILERS	2.45	1.89
POTATOE POTS	2.60	1.99
CULLENDERS	1.50	1.05
SAUCE PANS	1.25	.99
SAUCE PANS	1.50	1.10
TEA KETTLES	2.50	1.90
TEA KETTLES	3.50	2.60
ROASTERS	3.25	2.50

Also many other articles to choose from Buy Now while the selection is complete.

For Guaranteed Satisfaction Shop at

The Brussels Hardware
Telephone 68 M. C. Oldfield

Sensational Paint Offer

From February 14th To March 4th

600 Quarts **49c**

Sovereign Paints Varnishes & Enamels Per Rep. Quart

The Product is Good "Price Sensational"

By special arrangement with manufacturer we are allowed to offer this amazing sale..

QUICK DRYING ENAMEL White, Ivory & Pale Green	FLAT WALL PAINT White, Ivory, Nile Green	GROUND COLOR Clear All-Use Varnish
PORCH & FLOOR ENAMEL Light Grey, Dark Grey, Yellow & Tan	HOUSE PAINTS White, Ivory, Light Green	VARNISH STAIN Light Oak Dark Oak
Medium Brown	Buff and Cream	

DAVISON'S HARDWARE
Phone 17 Brussels

Ads for the hardware stores are from the *Brussels Post*, clockwise from top left: Wilton & Gillespie July 13, 1905; Dean Davison Mar. 10, 1937; Gregg's Hardware Aug. 16, 1950; Brussels Hardware June 14, 1950; Machan Hardware Oct. 26, 1962; Hoppe Home Hardware June 28, 1972; and, Davison's Hardware Feb. 11, 1942.

HOPPE HARDWARE



CONGRATULATIONS
to
BRUSSELS
on their
100th BIRTHDAY

HOPPE HOME HARDWARE
BRUSSELS — Phone 887-6525

Benjamin Moore PAINTS

FINEST INTERIOR LATEX PAINT

REGAL WALL SATIN

- ☑ Goes on smooth as satin
- ☑ Dries in less than an hour
- ☑ Cleans up with soapy water
- ☑ No painty odor

ONLY \$8.30
PER GALLON

Machan Hardware
BRUSSELS ONT.

Oldfield Hardware Store

438 - 440 Turnberry Street, Brussels, Ont.

Built: Skene and Holmes Blocks 1891, Little Bros. Block 1878

In 1948, Max Oldfield, an Air Force wireless mechanic, purchased this building and hardware business from William Gillespie. Gillespie ran the hardware business for many years, since 1905. One feature of the store was the pot-bellied stove around which customers would gather for a visit. The marks from “the chopping of the wood” for the stove are all that remain now. The original Wilton and Gillespie storefront sign hangs in the store.

When Max Oldfield started in the hardware business in 1946, his store was in the old Royal Bank building across the street. He bought the first section of his present store, the north store in the Holmes Block, in 1948 from William Gillespie. He says he chose the hardware business because his work as a wireless mechanic spurred an interest in mechanics.

When Oldfield began, he had no more than \$5,000 in stock and only about 1,000 square feet of store space. In 1955, the front of the Gillespie section of the hardware store was renovated and a complete new storefront was installed. In 1964, Oldfield expanded the business and purchased the store next door from C&G Krauter Plumbing. The store grew again in 1979 with the purchase of the neighbouring building to the north that had housed J&K Shoes and Jeans.

At one time, traveling salesmen from one firm or another would visit the store. They handled the orders for merchandise. When long-distance telephone service arrived, orders were made over the

telephone and could take anywhere from 20 to 25 minutes. Now, all orders for merchandise are made on the computer.

Over the years the product lines on offer changed as well as the means of doing business. From the basic hardware-store stock offered in the early days, the business grew to include modern electrical appliances such as televisions and radios. At this time, the store became part of the Pro Hardware Group, and later Tru-Value. One advantage in belonging to such a group is being a part of a buying



Oldfield Hardware expanded from its original store in the north part of the Holmes Block north into the Little Bros. Block (the red brick building) in 1964 and then into the next store north, the Skene Block, in 1979.



Wilton & Gillespie, in business from 1905-1945, was one of a long line of hardware merchants in the Holmes Block store starting with the Haycroft Bros. in 1880.

group. About 90% of the goods are now purchased this way. Radio Shack was added in 1980. Today, computer equipment is for sale alongside the hardware basics that have been the mainstay of the business for years.

A natural addition for Mr. Oldfield to make was a television repair service. He was kept busy with television sales during the day and spent many evenings repairing television sets.

The base of the hardware business has always been the area's farmers and related businesses, as well as local industry. The store also sells fishing and hunting licenses and has a locksmith business. A Sears catalogue outlet is yet another service offered.

In 1995, Mr. Oldfield was given two Golden Hammer awards from manufacturers Stanley & Estwing, for 50 years in the business.

Fletcher Block

460 Turnberry Street, Brussels, Ont.

Built: 1878

James Leonard's hotel, on the southeast corner of Lot 11, was listed as one of five hotels operating in the village of Ainleyville in April 1870, although he did not purchase the lot on which it stood until June. He took out a mortgage for \$1,000 on the same date, June 20, 1870, perhaps to make improvements to his hotel.

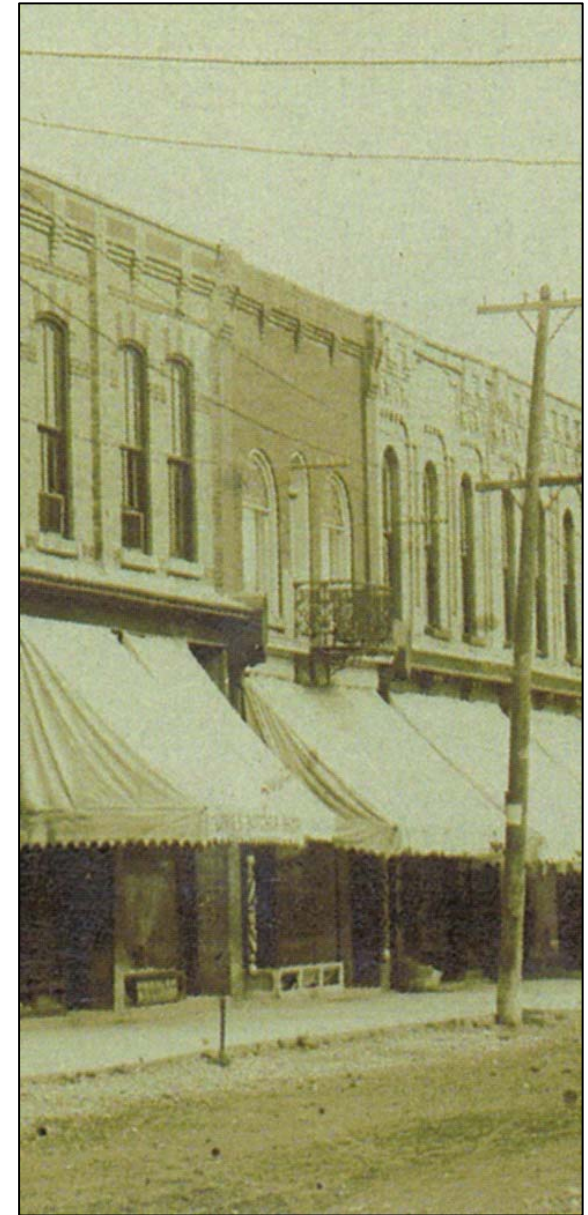
The property was assigned two years later and John Leckie became the new owner of the Brussels House. Later that year it was reported: "Mr Leckie is building an addition to his hotel, 26x40, two stories high, which when completed, will make one of the best hotels in the place and will have a frontage of 50 feet. It is rented to Mr J Martin, late of Goderich." (*Huron Expositor* Nov. 8, 1872)

Early in April of 1873, Leckie's hotel had a close call with fire: "The Brussels House, occupied by Mr. Isaac Martin, had a very narrow escape from being destroyed by fire on Tuesday morning last. About 3 o'clock in the morning Mr. Martin was aroused by the dog that is kept in the barroom making a noise at the door leading into the hall. He at once got up, and on opening the door, the flames were coming through the wall, alongside one of the windows. The alarm was soon given, and even at that still hour of the night a large number were soon on hand. By this time the flames had got up between the eaves. The cornice being very heavy, and presenting no light work, only prevented the roof taking fire. By this time a good supply of pails was on hand. A couple of ladders were placed against the wall, the siding

torn off, and with a good supply of water the fire was soon got under. It had also worked in between the ceiling and the first floor, and had burned holes through the floor and carpet in one of the bedrooms. If there had been any wind blowing at the time, or had the fire not been discovered when it was, there would have been very little hope of saving the building. There is no doubt but that the fire was the work of an incendiary. It was started in the wall outside and at the lower corner of one of the windows, off the side street, looking into the barroom. Large drops of coal oil were quite plainly to be seen on the siding just below the window." (*Huron Expositor* Apr. 4, 1873)

Later that month, Martin sold his lease to Mr. Richard Lasham, of Goderich. Little over a year later the hotel was sold to Thomas Hall: "Mr. Thomas Hall has purchased the hotel owned by Mr. Leckie and occupied by Mr. Lasham for the sum of \$4,000. This is a good property being one of the best business stands in the village." (*Huron Expositor* May 1, 1874) Hall assumed the lease from Lasham in August.

The hotel changed hands again, in May of 1875: "Mr. John Parker, formerly of Armstrong's Hotel, has purchased the Brussels House from Mr. Thomas Hall for \$5,000. Mr. Parker is a popular landlord, and will, no doubt, do a good business in his new stand." (*Huron Expositor* May 14, 1875) Parker re-sold to Hall in November but Hall was in business there for only 6 months when he again sold to Parker: "Thomas Hall has sold the Brussels House property to John Parker, Brussels. Mr Parker took



The Holmes Block to the north and the Laird & Richards Block to the south flank the Fletcher Block with its second-floor balcony. The centre doorway was bricked up, as you can see in the building as it is today.

possession on Wednesday last. This is the second time within 10 months that Mr Parker has owned the same property.” (*Huron Expositor* Apr. 7, 1876)

A fire that started in Thomas English’s carriage works over a block away to the southeast threatened Parker’s hotel in August of 1876. It was fortunate that a row of English poplar trees along Thomas Street [now King Street], north of Stretton’s Queen’s hotel, stopped the progress of the fire. In October, Parker sold a 10-foot frontage off his lot to Mr. Fletcher, a jeweller, who had lost his store to the fire. Mr Fletcher “commenced the erection of a store and dwelling.”

CHOICE
Jewelry & Watches
 PRESENTS.
T. FLETCHER

has just received for the holiday season a choice selection of the following goods: silver plated ware ladies' gem rings, ladies' gold chains, ladies' gold watches, ladies' setts in endless variety cuff buttons, shirt studs, bracelets, plain gold weddings, (18 carat,) scarf and emblem pins, jet jewelry, baby pins, cuff pins, beautifully designed, hair pins, gent's gold Alberts, plated Alberts from One Dollar upwards, clocks and spectacles in endless variety. Repairing of watches and clocks a specialty.

N.B.—I am giving special bargains in all grades of American watches. Give me a call and save money.

Also Issuer of Marriage Licenses

T. FLETCHER.

Thomas Fletcher was also a ticket agent for GT and CP railways in 1892 and sold spectacles, offering eye testing free of charge, in 1894. Ad: *Brussels Post* January 30, 1880.

J. Mannell was the hotelkeeper of the Parker House in 1877. In September, he took out a livery stable license and started a livery service in connection with the hotel. He was the second licensed livery stable keeper in Brussels. (*Huron Expositor*, Sept. 21, 1877)

The Parker House was lost to fire in 1878. Parker’s loss was estimated at \$4,500; he was insured for \$2,800. James Mannell, the lessee, was insured for \$2,400. Parker then sold his property to George Ament and moved on to the Queen’s Hotel. Ament, it was reported, intended to erect “a good two-story brick building.” (*Huron Expositor*, July 19, 1878) Work on the new building progressed rapidly and Ament, grocer and baker, was able to occupy his new brick store on the south part of the lot in December.

Ament sold an additional 500 square feet of the lot to Thomas Fletcher who set about rebuilding. He had already moved into his new brick store on the north part of the lot in November of 1878. Belden’s 1879 *Historical Atlas of the County of Huron* declared Fletcher’s and Ament’s stores “among the best of the business buildings” in the village of Brussels. (*See the story about the Ament Block.*)

Andrew Currie, butcher, had a frame store “next door to Fletcher’s Jewellery Store.” He was in business here from 1885 until 1891. Currie’s store was demolished to make way for the Laird & Richards Block built in 1891.

Thomas Fletcher installed electric lights in his store in 1890 and in 1891 built an addition of two rooms to the rear of his store. In 1894 he had “new lights of glass and gilt signs” installed to improve his show windows. His second son, Reginald, took over the watch-making and jewellery business. Thomas Fletcher, who had “become an excellent telegraph operator,” concentrated solely on this occupation. (*Brussels Post* Mar. 9, 1894)

MEAT MARKET,
 MAIN STREET, BRUSSELS,
ANDREW CURRIE, PROPRIETOR.

Fresh and Salt Meats of the best quality always on hand and delivered to any part of the Village free of charge.

TERMS VERY FAVORABLE.

But Cattle Wanted
 For which the highest market price will be paid. I also make a specialty of buying Hides and Skins. Don't forget the place, next door to Fletcher's Jewellery Store.

A. CURRIE.

Andrew Currie, butcher, had a frame store “next door to Fletcher’s Jewellery Store.” He was in business here from 1885 until 1891. Ad *Brussels Post* 1890.

The Post reported an incident at Fletcher’s store on May 25, 1896: “During the rain storm on Monday evening lightning followed the telegraph wires into T Fletcher’s and set fire to the board to which they are attached in the telegraph office. The insulating was also burned off the wires. Mr. Fletcher was fortunately in at the time and with the aid of a mat beat out the fire before much headway was gained. The lightning was very close.” (*Brussels Post* May 29, 1896)

By 1899 Mrs. Fletcher also worked in the store, looking after the eye testing and sale of spectacles. “Mrs Fletcher, optician, has added another new instrument to be used for testing the eyes. It is said to be one of the best things on the market for the purpose. Mrs Fletcher is bound to have everything

the latest in her optical department so as to render the best service possible to her patrons." (*Brussels Post* Sept. 13, 1900)

In 1905 it was Mrs. Fletcher who offered the property for sale; she wished to sell it privately as she was leaving town. The Montreal Telegraph Co. agency was moved to the office of A Cousley. In January The Post reported: "The Optical outfit belonging to Mrs Fletcher has been purchased by Miss Teenie Sample who may be found at the office of A Cousley, ready to attend to the wants of the public in this line. Miss Sample is taking up the regular Optical course and will shortly write for her diploma. We wish her success. Mrs Fletcher will be at A Cousley's express office to attend to any person wanting to be fitted with glasses." The store and residence was sold in February to John Hewitt: "This week Mrs T Fletcher disposed of her store and residence attached to Jno Hewitt, tonsorial artist, for the sum of \$2150. He gets immediate possession and will have a tip-top shop and most comfortable home as Mrs Fletcher went to a considerable expense last year in enlarging, modernizing and improving the premises and only sold on account of removing from Brussels. Mr Hewitt has sold the residence he purchased from J Leckie, William street, to AC Dames who will be removing to it. Some say Ab intends to get married but when quizzed he wears that 'smile that won't come off' and answers in a problematic style that still leaves the questioner in doubt." (*Brussels Post* Jan. 19 and Feb. 23, 1905)

Hewitt moved from his former shop in the Stretton Block. He and his family occupied the apartments in connection with their new store. Two new barber signs were installed. Hewitt was in business here until 1925.

Hewitt's barbershop was taken over by William Mitchell who cut hair here until 1934 when the shop

was sold to John Cameron. William J Martin succeeded Cameron. Martin was in business here 10 years from 1946 to 1956. Cecil McFadden bought the property in 1957 and sold it 10 years later to Murray Lowe. Murray's Barber Shop opened in 1963 and was still in business today.

Good going Aug. 25 to 29.
 From Brussels and Return to
 MONTREAL, \$0.85
 KINGSTON, 0.85
 QUEBEC, 11.00
 Good to return to Sept. 10th.

Detroit International Fair
 Aug. 30, Single First-class Fare, good re-
 turning on Sept. 3rd.

Manitoba Excursions
 Sept. 6th to Points Advertised at Cur-
 rent Rates.
 For Tickets going and returning via G.
 T. and C. P. Rys. call on
T. FLETCHER,
 TOWN TICKET AGENT.
 All Baggage checked through without
 change of check.

Thomas Fletcher ads from *Brussels Post*, above: 1892; above right: 1893. Ad for Murray's Barber shop July 1, 1987.

THOS. FLETCHER,
*Practical Watchmaker
 and Jeweler.*


Thanking the public for past favors and support and wishing still to secure your patronage, we are opening out Full Lines in

GOLD AND SILVER WATCHES.

Silver Plated Ware
 from Established and Reliable Makers fully warranted by us.

*Clocks of the
 Latest Designs*

JEWELRY!
 WEDDING RINGS,
 LADIES GEM RINGS,
 BROOCHES,
 EARRINGS, &c.
 Also a Full Line of VIOLINS and
 Violin Strings, &c., in stock.
 N. B. - Issuer of Marriage Licenses.
T. Fletcher, - Brussels.



**Murray's
 Barber Shop**
*Happy to have been
 serving you for
 25 years*
 Turnberry S. Brussels 887-6223

Richards & Laird Block

470 - 480 Turnberry Street, Brussels, Ont.

Built: 1891



On August 28, 1891 *The Post* informed its readers that: "IC Richards, harness maker, has purchased a 14-foot frontage on the lot immediately north of the Egg Emporium from EW

Laird at \$30 per foot and will let the contract at once for a new shop 14 x 55 feet. The building will be two storeys and will have a plate glass front. Owing to Mr. Richards' intention of building this fall, Mr. Leckie will also put up two smaller buildings filling the balance of the lot up to T Fletcher's block. A Currie's frame butcher shop will be removed." It was Mr. Laird and not Leckie who, with Richards, built the 3-store block. "The contracts for the new stores of I [Isaac] C Richards and SW Laird were let Monday as follows – Excavating, stone and brickwork and plastering, Pugh & Cornish; carpenter work, Smith, Malcolm & Gibson; roofing, Watson Ainley; painting and glazing, W. Roddick. The work has been commenced and has to be completed by Nov. 1st." It was D. Lowry who ended up doing the excavation work and A. Lowry did the stonework on the foundation.

Richards vacated his store in the Graham block and moved into his new store in early December 1891. *The Post* reported on December 18: "The Laird and Richards brick block is now completed and tenanted. Mr. Laird's two stores are 13x40 feet each and are well finished having plate glass fronts etc. J Downing has moved his boot and shoe stock into the northerly store and A Currie, butcher, takes the other. Mr. Laird will use the upstairs for a dwelling. Mr. Richards building is 14x55 feet and makes a first-class harness shop. He has also plate glass. The

upstairs will be utilized for a Hall. The stone work was done by Alfred Lowry; the brick work by D Lowry; the roofing by Watson Ainley; the carpenter work by Smith, Malcolm & Gibson; and the painting by W Roddick. It is as neat a block for the money as there is in Brussels and its erection has added very materially to the appearance of the front street." In the next week's issue of the newspaper Richards advertised the hall to let over his new store, suitable for partitioning to suit offices, sewing rooms or dwellings."

Late in January 1896 Richards made a number of internal changes and improvements to his boot and shoe store and harness shop to facilitate the transaction of business. In the spring he began excavation for a 14x18 foot brick addition. DA Lowry did the brickwork and Robert Armstrong the carpentering. (*Brussels Post* Jan. 31 and Apr. 24, 1896)

The new addition was soon completed. In October 1896 Miss Mary Mories rented rooms over IC Richards' store for the use of her art pupils.

By the end of that year Richards had decided to sell his store and business. He struck a deal with one William Mose of Gorrie, a well-known former resident of Brussels. Richards was to take over a boot and shoe business in Goderich. However, the arrangement fell through and Richards remained in business at his Brussels store. (*Brussels Post* Dec. 11,



An Orange Day parade makes its way north along Turnberry Street on July 12, 1913 past the Queen's Hotel (building with tower at left of photo). At the corner of the next block north is the Ament Block, and next to it, the Richards & Laird Block. In 1913, the Ament Block was occupied by Mrs. Ballantyne's grocery and bakery. The three stores in the Richards & Laird Block were occupied by, from south to north, IC Richards shoe store, Miss Mary E Ross' millinery store, and James Ballantyne's grocery store.

1896 and Jan. 1, 1897) He did not sell the property until 1926.

In 1897, JM O'Connor moved his insurance office to the rooms over Richards' store. Miss Mories, of Wingham, resumed her class in oil painting on Friday afternoons in her studio over Richards' harness shop, in August 1899.

Brussels Post 1895

IC Richards sold his business in 1920 to Chapman Bros. "Richards & Co., while thanking the public for their generous patronage extended to them for nearly 30 years, would intimate that they have sold out their business to Chapman Bros., who will be in possession on Wednesday, Jan. 7th, and believe they can recommend the new firm to you as good

Later in 1899 Richards purchased the SW Laird block adjoining his own store to the north. "There are two shops in the new purchase and the location is a desirable one." (Brussels Post Nov. 30, 1899) Mr. Cameron, "another good harness maker" was hired in January 1900. Dr. Toole was the upstairs occupant and he had a light "put in the hallway in the Richards block to show the way to his office." (Brussels Post Nov. 1, 1900)

mechanics in their particular line – harness and shoes. Both are practical men and their motto will be 'Honorable Dealing and Reasonable Prices.' They will give particular attention to repairs in shoes, harness and collars." (Brussels Post Jan. 8, 1920)

IC Richards sold the 3-store block to Ernest and Rose Gammage in 1926. Gammage had a shoe store in Richards part of the Block from 1926 to 1934. In 1935, Harry B Allen moved his drug store from the Graham Block to the former Richards store. He was in business here until 1958. Pearl Jacklin had a hairdressing salon above Allen's store from 1932 to 1936. Irene Pease took over the hairdressing business and had a salon here in the late 1930s and early 1940s. Harry B Allen bought the store in 1947.

Allen sold the property to Lloyd Michel in 1959. The store appears to have been vacant for a time in the 1960s. Stuart Hayward bought the store from Michel and opened Hayward's Variety here in 1971. Young's Variety had replaced Hayward's by 1978 and Young also owned the store block by that time. The Brussels Variety was here in the 1980s and into the 1990s. Just for You Flowers was in business here in 1993 and expanded into the Ament Block to the south by 1994. The flower shop eventually moved solely into the Ament Block.

Mary E. Ross, a milliner, may have occupied the center store as early as 1899. She was still in business here in 1929. This space then became an insurance office. John Oliver was an agent here from 1930 to 1938. Claire Long occupied the store from about 1941 and into the 1950s. Henry Dent bought the two north stores from Rose Gammage in 1949. Mr. Robert Johnson, a merchant, had a business in the centre store from 1951 to at least 1953.

George Langlois of the George of Brussels hair-styling salon, started in business in Brussels in 1964. He had two other locations on Turnberry Street

Post July 20, 1905; below: Nov. 23, 1940.

Your
Nyal Drug Store
 doubles your SAVINGS
NYAL 2 for 1 SALE
 SAVE HALF ON DRUGS
 Toiletries, Home Remedies,
 Medicine Cabinet Necessities
 Wed., Thurs., Fri., & Sat. - Oct. 23, 24, 25, 26
Allen's Drug Store
 Phone Orders Given Careful Attention
 Phone 81 Brussels, Ont.

before moving into the centre store of the Richards & Laird Block. He was in business at this location by the late 1990s.

James Ballantyne moved from the Ament Block, opening his own grocery business in the north store of the Richards & Laird Block in 1900. His wife, Margaret, took over the business in 1923 and, when James died in 1924, she continued to run the grocery here until 1940.

Stewart Low, a merchant, may have occupied this store in the mid to late 1940s, between its days as Ballantyne's grocery and Dent's Shoe Repair. Dent's Shoe Repair was the tenant in the north store from 1949 to 1975. Rose Gammage sold the two-store section of the Richards & Laird Block to Henry Dent in 1949. The ad below is from *The Post* May 10, 1950.

Dent sold his property to James Cardiff in 1974. Dent continued to run the store for a few more years. Cardiff started his insurance business in the centre store in 1968, moving to the north store in 1975. The business became Cardiff & Mulvey Real Estate & Insurance in 1978. Partners Keith Mulvey and Doug Sholdice ran the firm in the late 1990s. In 2004, Sholdice was the sole owner and the business was called Sholdice Insurance.

Dent's Shoe Repair was in the north store of the Richards & Laird Block from 1949 to 1975. Ad from *Brussels Post* May 10, 1950. Mary E Ross had a millinery shop in the north store, perhaps as early as 1899. Ad from *Brussels Post* March 18, 1915. John Downing had a shoe store in the Laird Block in 1893. Toronto Millinery Parlors ad February 24, 1910.

Spring Millinery

A CORDIAL INVITATION is extended to the Ladies of Brussels and locality to visit our Spring Millinery Opening which will be held on

**Tuesday and Wednesday
March 23rd and 24th**

The latest and most Fashionable Goods will be on display and at prices that are in reach of all. Your patronage solicited.

M. E. ROSS, RICHARDS BLOCK

BOOTS & SHOES

We are showing us fine a range of Shoes as there is to be found in Brussels and at Prices that

CANNOT BE SURPASSED.

Our stock comprises all the Latest Styles of Men's, Women's and Children's Footwear - Rubbers, Overshoes, Felt Boots, Rubbers & Socks and Rubber Boots. In Long Boots we carry the

Largest Stock in Town.

Before purchasing elsewhere see the stock of

JNO. DOWNING,
LAIRD BLOCK, BRUSSELS.

STRIPS SEWED FREE OF CHARGE.

SPECIALS

For the rest of March

Men's good quality half soles \$1.75
Boys' good quality half soles 1.00

15% Discount on Winter Footwear
and Outstanding Accounts

*Please leave your dry cleaning in by
Monday noon, will be ready
Friday afternoon*

DENT'S SHOE REPAIR

The

Toronto Millinery Parlors

will be re-opened
on March 2nd

MISSES SANDERSON & CARR, having spent two weeks in Workrooms of the leading Millinery Wholesales of the City, are prepared to furnish the ladies of Brussels and vicinity with all the latest Styles.

PATTERN HATS

Will have in stock a number of Pattern Hats which include the very latest New York and Paris designs.

Announcement of Millinery Opening later.

Richards' Block **Brussels**

Ament Block

490 Turnberry Street, Brussels, Ont.

Built: 1878

George John Ament bought the larger part of Lot 11, not already sold to Fletcher, from John Parker after the fire of 1878. Ament, it was reported, intended to erect “a good two-story brick building.” (*Huron Expositor*, July 19, 1878) Work on the new building progressed rapidly and Ament, grocer and baker, was able to occupy his new brick store in December.

An advertisement in *The Post* on February 5, 1880 reads: “Central House – 92 foot frontage Turnberry Street, two stores, two dwellings, good bakery.” It likely refers to Ament’s property. John G Ament, the mortgage holder, became the owner by default in March 1880. By April 1880, Ament’s bakery had been replaced by the Lorne Bakery - “partnership in bakery in Ament’s Block – Brides cakes a specialty – RJ Ross & Fred Tang.” Ross & Tang added a “prettily painted” bread wagon to their business in May and started “delivering bread to all parts of the town as well as to outside points.” (*Brussels Post* Apr. 30 and May 7, 1880)

On May 28, 1880 *The Post* ran this advertisement: “STORE FOR RENT – A first-class brick store, on Main Street, opposite Queen’s Hotel, large, commodious and attractive. Possession given on 24th May, for particulars address JG Ament, Seaforth.” It is not certain who may have occupied the store at this time. It was not until December 1885 that the property was sold: “It is reported that Jas. Laird has purchased the brick block known as Ament’s block from AG Ament of Seaforth. The price paid is stated to be \$3,000.” (*Brussels Post* Dec. 11 1885)



Ballantyne’s Bakery and Grocery occupies the Ament Block in this photograph taken in the early 1900s. The Richards & Laird Block and the Fletcher Block are to the store blocks to the north.

The Land Registry record states that Samuel Laird bought the property from John G Ament in January of 1886.

Sam Laird spent some money to renovate the interior of his barbershop in 1886. “The barbershop of S. Laird has been enlarged by moving a partition and the walls have been beautified by a large collection of pictures.” (*Brussels Post* Sept. 17, 1886)

On March 27th 1889, John Roddick purchased part of Samuel Laird’s property and Hannah Ballantyne purchased a half interest. (Mrs. Ballantyne was John Roddick’s daughter.) *The Post* reported: “Mrs. William Ballantyne and Son have purchased the brick store corner of Turnberry and Thomas Streets, from SW Laird, paying \$1975 for it. It will suit the egg business well.” (Mar. 29, 1889) The Egg Emporium was moved from Grant’s Block across the street.

Mrs. Ballantyne & Son made regular shipments of carloads of eggs to various markets in the east. *The Post* had this to say about the importance of the egg business to the village: “The Brussels Egg Emporium is a boon to the farming community of this section. They have taken in about 90,000 dozen of eggs from baskets during the past season and the average price has been about 12¢ per dozen. The shipping has been to New York prior to the McKinley Bill passing. If we had an establishment that made a specialty of purchasing and handling butter, it would be another move in advance if the old barter system of doing business, Who has spunk enough to try it?” (Nov. 7, 1890)

In August 1891 John Roddick had a brick storehouse and woodshed erected at the rear of his store. The new building was 14x22 feet. In September, A. Currie removed his butcher shop into the south portion of the Egg Emporium.

The business continued to prosper. In 1893, Mrs. Ballantyne & Son made daily shipments of fresh eggs by express to Toronto from Brussels. In September of that year, James Ballantyne expanded the business by adding groceries: “Jas. Ballantyne proposes opening up a choice stock of family groceries in connection with the Egg Emporium of Mrs Ballantyne & Son. He will be ready for business next week when his advertisement will appear in *The Post*.” (*Brussels Post* Sept. 29, 1893)

Ballantyne's store, once a bakery, had a bakeshop and oven at the rear. In September 1894, a baker named Barclay has leased the bake shop. Messrs. Taylor & Smillie handled the bread in Brussels.

Robert Thomson ran the egg department of Ballantyne's store in 1896: "Butter and eggs – Having secured the Egg department of Jas. Ballantyne's business, I am prepared to pay the highest market cash price of good butter and fresh eggs at Ballantyne's side store door. Robert Thomson, Brussels" (*Brussels Post* Sept. 4, 1896)

James Ballantyne decided to open a bakery, using an oven at the rear of his store. With that object in view he hired William Grewar in October 1898 "and in the course of a week expects to be turning out bread and cakes." He also had electric lamps put in his

NEW GROCERY
IN
BRUSSELS.

The undersigned has purchased a New and Choice stock of Groceries, Comprising:

Teas, Coffees, Sugars, Spices, Tobaccos, Fruits, Soaps, Bottled and Canned Goods, Syrups, Vinegars, &c.,

And has opened them to the inspection of the Public in the Store known as the

BRUSSELS EGG EMPORIUM

Where an inspection of Goods and Prices is asked. Highest market price paid for good butter and cash for eggs as usual.

Jas. Ballantyne.

Brussels Post advertisement from 1893

grocery and bakery. Robert Thomson leased a store in the Dr. Graham's block for his "own emporium

for butter and eggs ... owing to his having to leave his present quarters which Jas Ballantyne will use for his bakery."

Mrs. Ballantyne took over the grocery recently occupied by her son in January 1900. She had the interior improved by paper and paint. The bread delivery cart, run in connection with here grocery and bakery, was replaced by a brand new van "neatly painted and outfitted and was turned out from the carriage works of John Wynn, of Brussels." (*Brussels Post* Apr. 12, 1900) Avon Elliott, who had been in the employ of James Ballantyne for some time, took a situation in the hardware store of Messrs. Gerry & Walker in 1905. Roy McDonald succeeded him at the Ballantyne grocery.

James Ballantyne continued to operate his store, selling groceries, fruit, confectionery, crockery, etc., until 1923. His widow, Margaret, carried on in business until 1940, assisted by her son and co-owner, Archie Ballantyne, from 1931 to 1940.

Ballantyne's Bakery and Grocery in the Ament Block appears to have been in business here until about 1917. The 1918 occupant listed in the Assessment Record is Ben Walker, an undertaker, and in 1919, John R Fraser, a tailor.

YOUR COMMERCE BRANCH

Keystone of Main Street

The towns of Canada are pleasant places. Our town has a character all its own ... but any Canadian feels at home here.

There's our bank, for instance ... a branch of The Commerce. You'll find one in most towns. And there's our bank manager. He's a professional man. He's learned from many towns like ours. So he knows how to give the kind of service that comes only with long acquaintance.

Yes, our Canadian towns are pleasant places ... and the men and women at your Commerce branch are good people to know.

The Canadian Bank of Commerce
"The Commerce"



Lorne H. Bouchard, A.R.C.A.

189-30A

The Bank of Commerce replaced the Bank of Nova Scotia in the Ament Block in 1933. The CIBC was in business at this location until 1993. *Brussels Post* advertisement November 11, 1950.

The Ament Block was sold to the Bank of Nova Scotia in 1918. The Bank moved from its location further south (Stretton Block, Lot 13). Another bank, the Bank of Commerce, succeeded the Bank of Nova Scotia in 1933. It was here until a new building was built adjoining the EMA grocery in 1993. Just for You Flowers moved to this location in 1994 and was still in business here in 2004. George of Brussels hair salon is in business here today.

NEW LEDGER KEEPER – KH Baker, of Belmont, is the new ledger keeper at the Bank of Nova Scotia. We welcome the young gentleman to town.

Brussels Post Apr. 29, 1925

Queen's Hotel

Turnberry Street, Brussels, Ont.

Built: 1878 Demolished: 1986

James Stretton owned the lot in 1860. He mortgaged the property in 1860 and again in 1867 for \$1,300. He may have built one of the five hotels listed for the village of Brussels in 1870. (*Huron Expositor* Apr. 29, 1870) A map of the burnt area resulting from the fire of 1876 shows Stretton's Hotel took up a large part of the lot. The hotel stables were built to the back of the lot and extended past the stone building to the south of Stretton's block.

Stretton may have been the hotelkeeper in the 1860s or he may have leased it to an independent hotelkeeper as he did in later years. In 1872, the hotel was let: "Dr. Bailey, late of Seaforth, has rented Stretton's hotel for the term of years. He took possession on the 1st of Nov." (*Huron Expositor* Nov. 8, 1872)

In a series of items titled "Progress of Brussels," the *Huron Expositor* noted that: "James Stretton has had a fine building put up near his hotel on Turnberry street. It is a two-story one, 52x24 feet. A portion of the upper floor is at present used as a photographic gallery, and when the lower part is finished, Mr. Stretton will let it as a hardware store. There is a good opening here for this class of store. Mr. McAllister is the builder." (*Huron Expositor* Dec. 26, 1873) It was a frame building. Mr GA Page, a photographer from Strathroy, leased the second story of the building.

In its December 18, 1874 issue the *Huron Expositor* reported that: "Mr. Snyder from Listowel has

opened a new furniture store in Stretton's block." Mr. Oremus of Seaforth opened a barbershop in Stretton's block in April 1875. In September, there was news of a new tenant: "Mr A Hood of Wroxeter has rented the store adjoining the Queen's Hotel, Brussels, from James Stretton, for three years. Mr Hood will occupy the store about the 1st of October." (*Huron Expositor* Sept. 10, 1875) Hood ran a general store selling dry goods and groceries. R Frank Uren, photographer, was the new tenant of the gallery on the second floor. The building project was summed up in this report of October 29, 1875: "Our enterprising townsman Mr Stretton has nearly completed the handsome block which has occupied the attention of builders and painters so long, and he



The main façade of the Queen's Hotel with its two projecting wings and handsome piazza, the centre being topped by a lofty and highly ornamental rectangular tower, surmounted by a cupola whose top is protected by a handsome iron railing.

has secured responsible tenants for those stores already finished, and is receiving numerous applications for the stores not yet completed. This block is an ornament to the town."

In January 1876 another newcomer arrived: "Mr James Marnell, a shoemaker, from the village of Hollerd, in the township of Maryborough, has rented the shop in Stretton's block, adjoining A Hood's. He will have a new stock opened out in about two weeks." (*Huron Expositor* Jan. 7, 1876)

All of Stretton's fine new buildings were destroyed in the fire that occurred in August of 1876. "Mr. Stretton had just finished painting and otherwise adorning his premises, in which he took great pride, as well he might, as he undoubtedly possessed the neatest block of buildings in Brussels.... The fire raged unceasingly from about half-past 10 in the evening until about half-past 4 in the morning when the walls of Stretton's hotel fell in." James Stretton's loss was estimated at \$12,000; he was insured for just \$2,000. His tenants also suffered losses: J. Mannell, shoemaker, loss \$500, no insurance; A. Hood, merchant, loss \$3,000, insurance \$2,000; W. Oremus, barber, loss \$100, no insurance; U.F. Uren, photographer, loss \$100, no insurance. (*Huron Expositor* Aug. 25, 1876)

Stretton set about rebuilding, and on a grander scale than before. He mortgaged his property for \$5,000 in 1877 and for \$2,000 in 1878. The new structure was to be of brick: "Mr McNaughton has just finished burning his first kiln of bricks of this season at

his yard. The kiln contains 150,000. He has also a second kiln of the same quantity, nearly, ready for the fire. Of these 300,000 there are 250,000 for Mr Stretton's new hotel." (*Huron Expositor* June 29, 1877) The actual brickwork commenced in July 1877. By October it was reported that: "Mr Stretton is putting a large cupola on his new hotel on which, on Monday last, was placed a flag-pole, and from the top of which is now floating the Union Jack." (*Huron Expositor* Oct. 5, 1877)

The new Queen's Hotel was leased in February 1878 to "WH Matthews, of London, Ont., for three years, at an annual rental of \$1,000. The hotel is to be ready about the middle of March. Mr Stretton is to have the use of the hotel for one week after it is completed, that he may have an opportunity of welcoming his many friends to his new house." This arrangement fell through, however, when Mathews absconded. Moorehead & Co. of London issued a writ of attachment against Matthews. John Parker, having recently lost his Brussels House to fire, became the new hotelkeeper at the Queen's.

Belden's 1879 *Illustrated Historical Atlas of the County of Huron* described the new hotel: "The Queen's Hotel is one of the finest buildings we have ever seen in a place of corresponding size. The main façade shows a chief front and two projecting wings, the interval being filled by a handsome piazza of equal height with the main building, which is three stories and basement; the centre being topped by a lofty and highly ornamental rectangular tower, surmounted by a cupola whose top is protected by a handsome iron railing, the architecture of the rectangle being broken at intervals by gables and dormers, which add to the general effect, making it as a whole one of the finest commercial buildings anywhere to be found."

In May 1880 there was a change in hotel management: "Mr. A Roe, of Toronto, has rented the Queen's Hotel from Mrs Parker and bought out her stock. Mr Roe, who is almost a stranger here, is well acquainted with the travelling public, and is known to them as a first-class hotel keeper and as one who always keeps a first-class hotel." This change was occasioned by the death of the former proprietor, John Parker, in April. It was reported that Jimmy Turnbull had also severed his connection with the hotel. Mr. Roe had a large gong put on the



Thomas Street side of the building, to act as a call to the hostler, hotel boy, etc.

In May 1883 Roe moved on to the Queen's Hotel in Wingham. His lease on the Brussels Queen's Hotel expired in July. James Stretton then leased the hotel to T O'Neal, formerly of Arthur. Mr O'Neal

purchased the furniture from Mr A Roe. O'Neil stayed only one year and in February 1884, the Queen's was again leased, this time to RW Tuck, a former general merchant of the village. Things got a little rowdy one night late in 1884: "Last week RW Tuck of the Queen's Hotel had some eight festive young men up for malicious injury to property and using profane language. It cost them in the neighbourhood of \$80 fines and costs. This should be a warning to them and others who practice such pranks." (*Huron Expositor* Nov. 14, 1884)

The Stretton brothers, James and William, took over management of the hotel in May 1885. The *Brussels Post* reported: "Stretton Bros. intend taking possession of Queen's today (Friday) and are thoroughly refining the house with new furniture etc. William Stretton is to be home this week from Lake Superior country and will invest his means in the business. The boys count on running a first-class house in every particular and bespeak the patronage of the travelling public."

The barroom of the hotel was completely renovated in September 1886. A new floor was installed and the partition back of the bar was taken out making the room at the rear into part of the barroom.

SH Laird moved his barbershop from the Post Office block to the Queen's Hotel shop in July 1887. In April 1888 he renovated: "The tonsorial parlor of SH Laird, Queen's Hotel block, has received a thorough renovation and with its new paper, paint etc. looks as neat as a new pin. Many of the city shops could take a pattern from our barbers and improve thereby." (*Brussels Post* Apr. 13, 1888)

A fire escape ladder was put in position at the Queen's Hotel in 1889. Warrick, the local Veterinary

Surgeon, moved his office from IC Richards' harness shop to the room formerly occupied by James Jones, jeweller, in the Queen's Hotel block.

The proprietors of the hotels received regular citations for violations under the Scott Act, or the Canada Temperance Act. The Act forbade the selling and drinking of intoxicating beverages, and, in particular, selling liquor to minors and selling liquor on a Sunday. More often than not, the hotel proprietors paid the fine and carried on with business. Hotels also could not sell liquor on election days: "The proprietor of the Central Hotel paid \$20 at costs this week for selling liquor on Municipal election day. The proprietor of the Queen's was up on a similar charge but as there was no evidence the case was dismissed." (*Brussels Post* Jan. 18, 1885) In 1890 the proprietors of the Queen's Hotel were fined \$10 for allowing persons to gamble on the premises.

Fire threatened the hotel again in January 1891. The *Brussels Post* reported on the serious fire: "Last Sunday evening at about 6:15 o'clock, fire was discovered in the stables belonging to the Queen's Hotel. Notwithstanding that the alarm was sounded and the fire engine soon taken to the river the flames spread so rapidly that the building was almost consumed before water was thrown. To make matters worse the fire commenced in the part of the building where Capt. Stretton's horses and cows were tied and despite efforts to rescue them five horses and four cows quickly fell a prey to the flames. One horse was got out but was so seriously burned that it was found necessary to kill it owing to the way it was burned. Had the fire been confined to the barn and shed, as it was hoped, it would not have been so bad but such was not the case. The frame addition to the rear of the Queen's caught and the fire soon worked its way under the roof where it was impossible almost to get at it either inside or out. When it showed itself inside the two lines of

hose were brought to play on it after some delay and the devouring element got under control. Not, however, until the roof and a large portion of the upper flat of the north wing of the large building was badly wrecked. The furniture and fittings had been removed and some of it very badly damaged. It was feared at one time that the whole structure would be destroyed but the night was calm and the deluge of water on the floors favored the extinguishing. How the fire originated is not known but the general impression is that it was purely accidental, perhaps from a match, cigar stub or the like, but it is only supposition, as far as we know. On Tuesday, Dr. Hea, Inspector of the Western Assurance Co., paid his official visit and on Wednesday a settlement was arrived at. The Hotel was insured for \$7,000 and on this amount \$892 was allowed to put the building in repair; \$475 was paid for the barn and \$5.10 for damage to the adjoining house. There was no insurance on the furniture or contents of the barn so that Capt. Stretton's loss is the serious one. The repairs will be attended to at once and the barn rebuilt as soon as possible. The Fire Brigade came in for considerable adverse criticism as to hose and management of the same in playing on the fire. As the fire bell rang as people were getting ready for church the services were thinly attended. Some were withdrawn entirely."

Messrs. Smith & Malcolm quickly made the necessary repairs to the hotel. A new timber barn, 40x60 foot with 16 feet long posts and with a 15x60 foot lean-to, was built. By March the Stretton brothers had their hotel back in ship shape again.

In May 1891, AJ Cousins, of Mitchell, leased the Queen's Hotel from Capt. Stretton, for a term of five years, and purchased the furniture, etc. in the house. "The building is receiving a thorough overhauling and fitting up. The new proprietor comes well recommended as a reliable businessman and will put the Queen's Hotel in the front rank of

popular hostelrys in Huron County. Capt. Stretton and family continue to reside in Brussels, living in the house west of the hotel." (*Brussels Post* May 8, 1891) Frank White, a former Brusselite, was the bartender. "A very neat and convenient office" was "fitted up in the Queen's Hotel for the accommodation of the travelling public." R. Williams ran a new free bus between the Queen's Hotel and the railway station. Two billiard tables were placed in the south room of the hotel in



HAIR GOODS.

PROF. DORENWEND, of Toronto, the leading Hair Goods manufacturer begs to announce that his representative will be at the

Queen's Hotel, Brussels, Friday and Saturday, March 17th and 18th

with a full line of his celebrated Hair Goods for both Ladies and Gentlemen, comprising WIGS, TOUPEES, BANGS, WAVES, SWITCHES &c. These Goods are made on scientific principles and so closely is Nature copied that their detection is impossible. Call and see them and be convinced. It costs nothing to try them. Remember at

QUEEN'S HOTEL, BRUSSELS.

On Friday and Saturday, March 17 and 18.

Fashionable haircutting was a service offered at the Queen's Hotel, as well as medical services offered by traveling doctors. Ad from *Brussels Post* 1893

October, but the billiard room run by Mr. Senior, had no connection with the hotel.

Cousins did not last in the business a year and the hotel was again leased, for a term of five years, to John Martin of Wingham. "Mr. Martin ran the Brunswick House for some time in Wingham but

has lately been in the boot and shoe business. The furniture is to be valued on Friday of this week. Mr Cousins talks of going to the Northwest.” (*Brussels Post* Mar. 25, 1892) The arrangement with Martin fell through and it was later reported that “James O’Leary, who has been in connection with The Commercial Hotel, Seaforth, for the past four years, leased the Queen’s Hotel in this place from Capt. Stretton for five years and he also purchased the furniture, carpets, etc. Mr. O’Leary is a young man, unmarried, and Miss O’Leary, his sister, will be installed as housekeeper. He comes highly recommended by those who know him.” (*Brussels Post* Apr. 15, 1892) A number of improvements and alterations were then made, principally in connection with the barroom. Scott Bros. of Seaforth placed a square Steinway piano in the hotel.

On the 1st of May 1897 O’Leary’s lease expired. *The Post* reported that: “James and Frank Stretton have taken possession of the Queen’s Hotel this week as successors to James O’Leary, who has been the lessee for the past five years. The furniture was valued on Tuesday by Messrs. Leatherdale, of town, and Hamilton, of Atwood. WR Stretton, whom we stated would be associated with ‘Jimmie’, as he is familiarly called, will continue as engineer on the CPR where he has spent the past 15 years. He expects to leave for Schrieber next week. Mr. O’Leary will spend a portion of this season looking after his race horses, and he may take a trip to the gold fields unless he strikes a mine before the Summer circuit is over nearer than the Pacific coast.” (*Brussels Post* Apr. 15, 1897) They set about making improvements to the interior and exterior of the hotel. The balconies were renewed “to insure greater safety to guests who may wish to enjoy the out-door breezes and sights.” New furnaces were put in and an addition built on the stables. “Stretton Bros. are building a new brick veneer stable in the space between the hotel and their present stable, Thomas street. The new building is 20x60 feet and

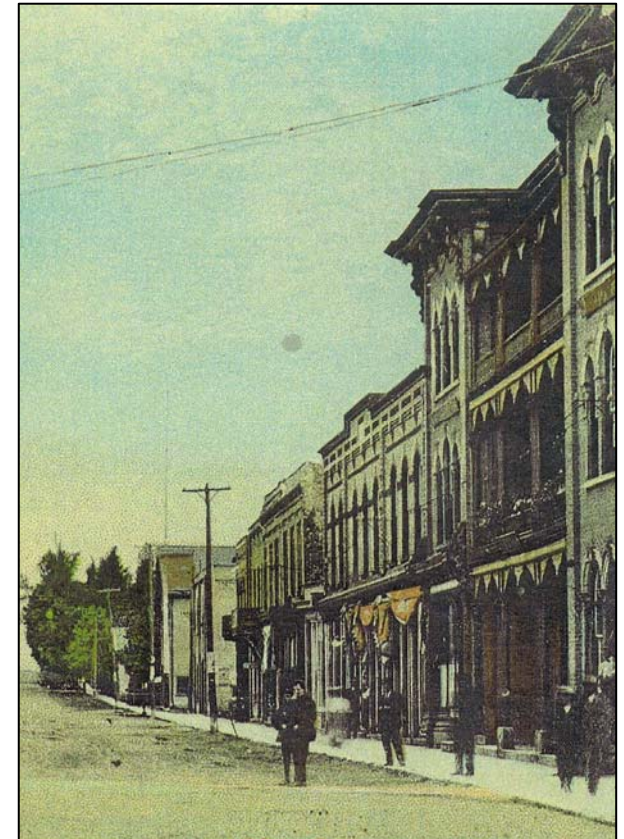
will have a felt and gravel roof.” (*Brussels Post* Oct. 22, 1897)

William Stretton sold the Queen’s Hotel to Joseph Querin in July 1902. Querin managed the hotel himself. In October 1920 Querin sold the large barn belonging to the hotel to ST Plum & Son who intended to re-open it for the convenience of the travelling public for feeding and stabling horses. Querin had found it too much work to manage both hotel and stables on his own and had closed it. Plum also “purchased the bus and gray team associated with it for many years from Anderson Bros. ... Sam Parr will continue to drive and carry the mail to and from the GTR. It is expected the transfer of the mail carrying contract will be made at an early date from Anderson Bros. to Mr Plum. The new folk will look after it all right.” Mr. Plum continued to run his blacksmith shop. “Improvements are being made in the stables purchased in the way of office, change in stalls, &c. and a livery will be run in connection 3 horses being bought during the past week.”

Querin sold the hotel to George Tate in 1921 who quickly sold to James E. Smith and Edward Dixon. Dixon was sole owner by 1923 and he sold to Samuel T. Plum in October 1923.

In March 1925, ST Plum & Son brightened the hotel by stringing 14 lights along the second verandah. In 1928 Plum leased the hotel to Earl Maxwell Somers.

Stanley and Margaret Rutledge ran a Pool Room in the hotel from 1938 to 1945. After 1945, Maggie Rutledge continued the business until 1954. The Pool Room was in the south wing in the front room with the large window. This room had once been a sample showroom set aside for commercial travellers as a place to show their wares. The room had a separate exterior entrance for those customers who did not want to enter the hotel itself. When the hotel was demolished in 1986, this section of the



The Queen’s Hotel and the Stretton Block to the south are seen in this early coloured postcard.


building was preserved and is now part of the streetscape at the Huron County Museum, Goderich.

There were many other lessees of the hotel through the years: MN McDonald in 1930, CH Stubbart from 1931 to 1933, Maude and Harry Kirby from 1935 to 1945 and Maude and Betty Kirby from 1945 to 1953. Albert Buller was the hotel owner starting in 1955. David Brittain took over in 1969. Simmer Hotels owned the Queen’s from 1977 to 1979. The hotel was demolished in 1982 and the grocery store was built in its place.

Capt. Stretton Block

540 - 560 Turnberry Street, Brussels, Ont.

Built: 1890

 amuel Smale, a merchant tailor, bought the southeast part of Lot 13 from John McKenzie in 1869. He built a brick shop, and in 1872, a two-story 20x30 foot stone addition to the brick store. In October 1872, the *Huron Expositor* reported on the construction: "Mr James Mitchell, stone mason, of Grey, has just completed the stone work of Smale's new shop, the building is 24 x 30 two stories high. This building when completed will be quite an addition to our village, and a credit to Mr Mitchell whose reputation as a stone mason is as well known." (*Huron Expositor* May 10 and Oct. 25, 1872)

The *Huron Expositor*, in an article headed "Progress of Brussels," reported that: "Smale's two story store was completed this year. The building is well finished; size. 30x24 feet. The masonry was done by James Mitchell, the carpentry by McCormick & Morries.... Over Smale's tailoring shop an additional story was built, 36x12 feet.... James Stretton has had a fine building put up near his hotel on Turnberry street. It is a two story one, 52x24 feet. A portion of the upper floor is at present used as a photographic gallery, and when the lower part is finished Mr. Stretton will let it as a hardware store. There is a good opening here for this class of store. Mr McAllister is the builder." (Dec. 26, 1873) John McCracken owned the property between Stretton and Smale in 1873 but it remained vacant.

GA Page, a photographer from Strathroy, leased the second story of Stretton's new store in April 1873. William Stewart bought Page's photography business

one year later. The newspaper did not report on a tenant for the lower part of Stretton's store.

Smale's store was rented to CR Cooper in 1874: "CR Cooper has removed his News Depot to the new building second door south of Stretton's Hotel." (*Huron Expositor* June 12, 1874) CR Cooper & Co. added a stock of jewellery to their line of business and secured the services of a watchmaker in October. In December of that year Messrs. Moore & Campbell, photographers from Seaforth, "opened a branch gallery in the rooms recently occupied by Mr. Wm. Stewart, next door to CR Cooper & Co.'s news depot and jewelry store." A Mr. Snyder from Listowel opened a new furniture store in Stretton's block about the same time. (*Huron Expositor* Dec. 18, 1874)

In 1875, Mr. W Oremus of Seaforth opened a new barbershop in Stretton's block. Mr. A Hood of Wroxeter rented the store adjoining the Queen's Hotel, for three years, and occupied it the 1st of October. The Dominion Telegraph office moved into CR Cooper's bookstore in May. Mr. Somerville, formerly of Seaforth, was placed in charge of this office. "Mr Somerville is a first-class operator, and is a thoroughly reliable and trustworthy young man, and we are sure that he will very soon become a favorite among the business men of Brussels." (*Huron Expositor* Apr. 2, May 7, Sept. 10, 1875)

Stretton sold a little less than half of his Lot 13 property to John Duncan in April 1874. Duncan and his partner, George Davidson, had had a harness shop a little further south before they dissolved their

partnership and Duncan built a store on his new property in 1875.

The fire of August 1876 destroyed all of the buildings on the west side of Turnberry Street between Thomas and Market Streets. Stretton's hotel and the stores owned by John Duncan and Samuel Smale, were all burnt. James Stretton's loss was estimated at \$12,000; he was insured for \$2,000. The following is a list of some of the other losses suffered: John Duncan, saddler, loss \$2,000, insurance \$750; A Hood, merchant, loss \$3,000, insurance \$2,000; W Oremus, barber, \$100, no insurance; UF Uren, photographer, loss \$100, no insurance; Dominion Telegraph office, loss \$100, no insurance. No mention is made of CR Cooper; it is likely that Mr. Fletcher, a jeweller who is said to have

Giving up Business

The Great Clearing Sale is still going on at

The Broadway House

An immense pile of goods has been sold during the last two months. This can be attributed to the fact that we are selling

Cheaper Than Any Other House,

although goods are continually on the rise. We are selling them at the old figures, and having bought most of our goods when prices were at the lowest ebb, we are in a position to offer goods from 10 to 15 per cent.

Lower Than Present Wholesale Prices,

which is a fact not to be lost sight of, and a chance to save money seldom met with. No deception with us.

WE DO AS WE ADVERTISE

Special inducements given in Readymade Clothing and Buffalo Robes.

TERMS CASH.

N.B.—The Tailoring Department in full blast as usual. We would gently hint to those of our customers whose notes and accounts still remain unpaid, that unless settled on or before the 1st March next ensuing they will pass into other hands for collection. As usual, we do as we advertise.

SAMUEL SMALE,

Tailor, Clothier and General Outfitter.

Brussels Post February 14, 1880

WJ Fairfield, a young man of thirty, died of consumption in April 1891, shortly after he had sold his photography business to one of his apprentices, Lorne Hunter. By November, Walter Burgess had leased the photo gallery in Stretton's block. He was also a pupil of the late WJ Fairfield and A. Bauslaugh of Seaforth. He formed a partnership with RA Buchanan, a crayon artist.

The partnership between Burgess and Buchanan was dissolved by mutual consent in January 1892.

Burgess carried on the business for a while then sold to HJ Strong. On Tuesday, June 7th, Strong held a 'Baby Day' – he offered to photograph all babies two years old and under free of charge and present each mother with one timely finished cabinet photo. They began to arrive at his studio about 8 o'clock in the morning, and kept increasing in number as the day advanced, until when closing time came Mr. Strong had photographed no less than 64 babies.

In 1894, Strong had his studio fitted for large work and a printing room was built. In July, Strong disposed of his studio to HR Brewer but stayed on as manager for several months. *The Post* informed its readers that: "Several very good views of Main Street on July 2nd, when the Foresters demonstration was in progress, adorn HR Brewer's photo exhibit at his studio." (Aug. 3, 1894) In July 1896 Brewer photographed the interior of James Fox's drug store. While trying to take a flash photograph at the residence of John Hill in February 1897, Harry

Brewer met with an accident: "in the act of taking a flash light picture ... his left hand received the force of the explosive and the result was a badly shattered forefinger on his left hand and the splitting open of his thumb. Mr. Hill drove Mr. Brewer to Brussels and a physician was speedily sought, who removed the first and second joints of the injured finger and bound up the hand. Mr. Brewer, although somewhat incapacitated, is attending to the duties of his studio as usual. It was a fortunate thing that the results of the accident were not more serious."



Photographs taken by, at left, WW Burgess, and right, Harry Brewer. Courtesy of Huron County Museum (74.13.12 and 86.71.4)

Edward Hart of Orillia leased the photo gallery in the Stretton block in 1899. He made improvements in the studio and "he says business is good." (*Brussels Post* Feb. 22, 1900)

John Hewitt made some improvements and renovations to his "tonsorial parlor" in July 1894. Someone playing a joke on Hewitt placed this advertisement in his window while he was away to dinner one night: "Barber wanted to take possession of this shop. Low wages. No Irish need apply. Present proprietor going West, but not alone." (*Brussels Post* Sept. 4, 1896) After a long stretch of 14 years in business here, Hewitt moved his barbershop to "the premises lately purchased from Mrs Fletcher." (*Brussels Post* Mar. 9, 1905)

Thomas Hall was in business only a short while when he passed away in February 1892. In his obituary, *The Post* noted that he had been a resident of Brussels for 30 years and "had a rough exterior at times and was his own worst enemy, but he had redeeming traits of character that sometimes gave evidence of better things."

In June 1897, Stretton was entangled in some legal problems concerning the construction of his brick block. The action was "brought by FS Scott as assignee of the firm of Smith, Malcolm & Gibson, who some time ago recovered a judgment against James Stretton, Sr., for debt and costs amounting to the sum of \$923.83. Before this judgment was recovered but when the action was pending, namely in September, the defendant, Jas. Stretton, executed a mortgage in favour of his son, WR

Stretton, for the alleged consideration of \$5000.00, and on the 17th of the same month executed an absolute deed of most of his property in favour of the same party, for the alleged consideration of

\$7000.00, and again in February 1896, executed in favour of the same party a deed of the balance. The plaintiff brought the present action to have it declared that these conveyances were fraudulent as against the plaintiff and other creditors. Judgment was given in favour of the plaintiff, holding that these deeds, though absolute in form, were simply mortgages, and directing a reference to the Master at Goderich to ascertain and report the amount actually advanced by the defendant, WR Stretton, to or for his father. Further directions and costs were reserved until after the report of the Master is made." (*Brussels Post* June 4, 1897)

The one-story frame store between the Stretton and Smale Blocks was burnt in 1898, causing some minor damage to the brick buildings. *The Post* reported: "A settlement has been arrived at by SB Smale and Capt. Stretton for damages to brick blocks by recent burning of the frame building located between the brick. The former gets \$38.00 and the latter \$18.50. These figures are expected to cover the cost of necessary repairs as adjudged by local appraisers." (August 26, 1898)

The Misses Ross leased the store in the Stretton block formerly occupied by the Standard Bank. They opened out a new stock of millinery and millinery goods in September 1898. "Miss Ross has had a wide experience in city and town and will be glad to have a call from the ladies. In connection with the store Miss Ross' sister will conduct a fashionable dress and mantle making department where she expects to demonstrate her ability to please her customers feeling assured that she will be able to fill the bill. Miss Ross has worked in some of the best shops in both Canada and the United States." (*Brussels Post* Sept. 16, 1898)

In May 1899 the headquarters for Walter Lowry's egg gathering business was in one of the stores of the Stretton Block. He sold his eggs to a firm in

Wingham. Frank Roche made the collecting trips to the country. Dr. DF Smith engaged office rooms upstairs in the Stretton block in November 1899 to afford more satisfactory accommodation. "Office hours 9 to 12 am, and 7 to 10 pm. Specialist work, such as for eye, ear, throat, &c., in the office at his residence, Elizabeth street, from 2 to 6 pm. All medicines will be dispensed personally by the Dr. or under his direct supervision."

CH Dodds and JJ Habkirk opened "a high-class tailoring establishment" in the store lately vacated by John Hewitt in March 1905. "They will keep a choice stock of goods and guarantee satisfaction." Miss Ardell of Gorrie took up a situation in the tailoring shop. An addition was also made to the building: "An addition of 20 or 22 feet will be made to the shops now occupied by Frank Stretton and Messrs Dodds & Habkirk, Stretton block. It will be cement and one story high. The gravel is being hauled now for it and work will be proceed with at an early date. (*Brussels Post* Aug. 24, 1905) Frank Stretton was a jeweller and optician. He had a store here until 1935.

The Misses Habkirk had a millinery store in the Stretton Block in 1905. In 1910, their former store was leased to JH Kerney, Express agent and Division Court Clerk. New fittings were put in to create an office.

According to the Tax Assessment Records, John Wright operated the Express Office from 1918 to 1921. WP Fraser had a tailor shop in one of the stores from 1911 to 1920. The Bank of Nova Scotia occupied the third store from 1918 to 1920. Dr James Anderson, Veterinary Surgeon, moved his office from the Stretton Block, where he had been since 1921, to his home in 1925.

WH Bell had a restaurant in the north store in 1919 and 1920. By the end of 1920, Wilfred E Willis had

**HIGH CLASS
TAILORING**

A partnership has been formed by the undersigned for carrying on a High Class Tailoring Business in the

Stretton Block, Brussels.

Shop will be open Saturday, March 25th, when our full new stock will be on display.
Before ordering your Spring Suit see our choice goods.
SATISFACTION GUARANTEED.

Dodds & Habkirk
MERCHANT TAILORS
C. H. Dodds J. J. Habkirk

To the Front as Usual

Our Reputation for Taste in Millinery grows with the years and our Hats enjoy a prestige to-day that places them in the front rank. Styles to suit all at Prices to suit all Pockets.

Misses Habkirk

Brussels Post advertisements, above: March 23, 1905; below: October 5, 1905.

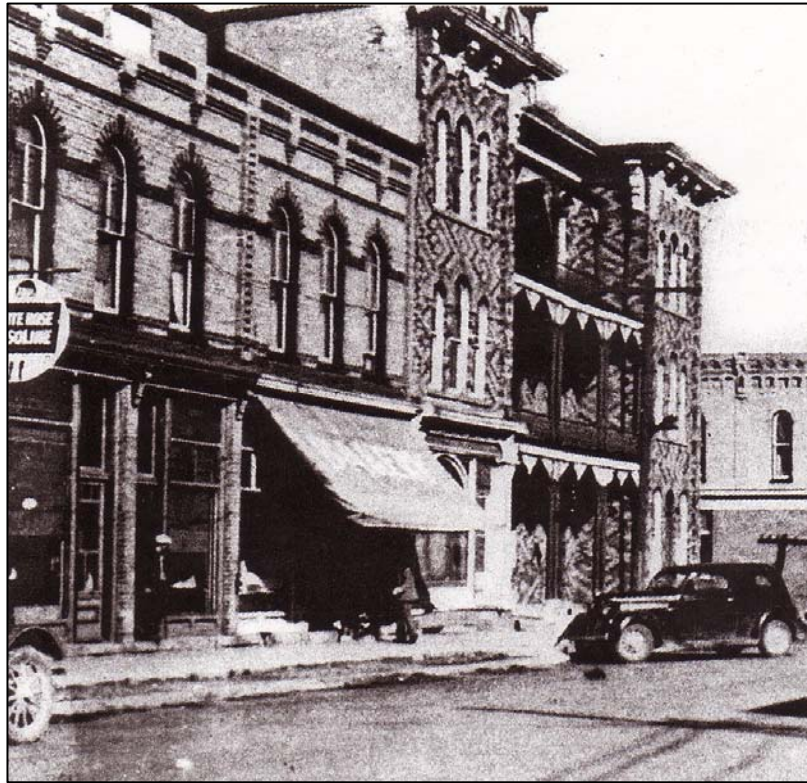
made arrangements to move The Palace Bakery from the Garfield Block, where he had opened at the first of the year, to the north store of the Stretton Block. He was baking breads and

confectionery here until 1956. The store continued to house a bakery for many years. George Stephenson had Stephenson's Bakery here until 1980. Todd's Bakery opened in 1980.

Roy McKay had a grocery in the third store from 1919-1923. The Mercantile Sales Co. was briefly a tenant of this store in 1925. Sam Carter had a gas station here for two years, 1928 and 1929. Woodrow & Bowler (Alex Woodrow and Harry Bowler), Poultry Merchants, had a business in one of the stores, likely the south store, from 1933 to 1940. Margaret Rutledge ran a lunchroom here in the 1960s to 1972.

Frank Stretton had his jewellery store in the centre store from 1923 to 1947. Herbert J Stretton took over the business in 1947 and was here until 1976. The store was vacant off and on; Country Ceramics was one tenant during those years, here from 1980 to 1983. In 1989, the Brussels Chiropractic Clinic opened with Dr. James Mason and Chris TenPas providing the chiropractic and reflexology services. A succession of law offices was housed in the Stretton Block starting with Elmer D Bell from 1928 to 1945. His offices were taken over by Crawford & Hetherington (1946-55), and later partnerships. Crawford Mill & Davies bought the McCracken Block store in 1876 and moved their offices there. Goodall & Campbell, lawyers, took over the offices in the Stretton block from 1977 to 1985.

WF Stretton was a long-time tenant of the centre store in the Stretton Block as was Willis in the north store. Wm P Fraser had a tailor shop in the Block from 1911 to 1920. *Brussels Post* ads, top right Jan. 5, 1911; bottom from left, Aug. 10, 1905 and Dec. 16, 1920.



In this photograph taken in 1928 or 1929, you can see "Bakery" on the awning of WE Willis' Palace Bakery. In the south store is the gas station operated by Sam Carter with its White Rose Gasoline sign. The centre store was Stretton's jewellery store in business here from 1923 to 1976. The Queen's Hotel is to the north of the Stretton Block.

Change of Business

THE undersigned having purchased the stock and tailoring business of C. H. Dodds will continue to carry it on in the same premises, Stretton Block, Brussels. He will keep an up-to-date line of Tweeds, Worsteds, Partings, Vestings and all other goods kept in a first-class Tailoring establishment.

Being a practical Tailor of many years' experience he is prepared to guarantee satisfaction as to style and manufacture to all customers.

Call and see our goods before placing your order.

Wm. P. Fraser
Merchant Tailor Brussels

21 JEWELLED.

W.F. Stretton

Sign of the Golden Clock.

WATCHES

W. F. STRETTON

can supply you with any grade of Watch you require and at the lowest price.

JEWELRY

You can rely on any piece you purchase from us to be just as we represent it.

REPAIRING

If your Watch is not satisfactory after my repairing all you require is to return it and get your money.

The **Palace Bakery**

The Best Christmas Loaf

Comes from the Palace Bakery. Of course its just as good any other time as at Christmas time, but it seems to taste even better on the great holiday. Serve it on your table and delight your guests. The price is now 12 cents a loaf.

Phone 32x

W. E. WILLIS

Smale Block

566 Turnberry Street, Brussels, Ont.

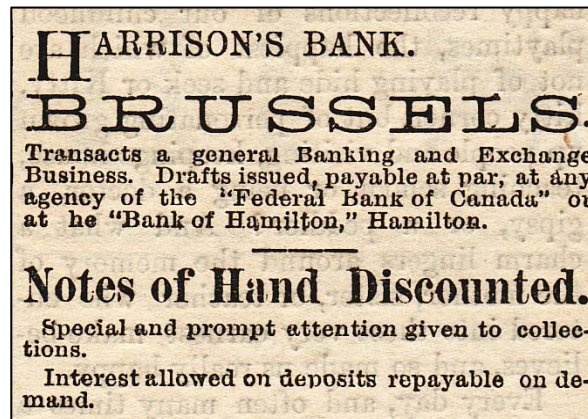
Built: 1877

Samuel Smale, a native of Cornwall, England, came to Canada with his mother and sister, first to Toronto where he met his wife, and then to Brussels in 1860. For many years he followed his trade as a tailor. “The stone store, bank, dwelling, and Hall in the rear, erected by Mr. Smale on Turnberry Street were destroyed in the big fire which took place on Aug. 20th, 1876, when about half of Brussels was burned. He replaced them by the stores known as Smale’s block.” (*Brussels Post* Sept. 21, 1894)

Mr. Smale had purchased a part of Lot 14 in 1867 and part of Lot 13 in 1869. In May 1872, he built a 20x30 foot stone addition to his brick shop. In October 1872, it was reported that: “Mr James Mitchell, stone mason, of Grey, has just completed the stone work of Smale’s new shop, the building is 24x30 two stories high. This building when completed will be quite an addition to our village, and a credit to Mr Mitchell whose reputation as a stone mason is well known.” McCormick & Morries did the carpentry work. In an 1873 article on the “Progress of Brussels” it was said that Smale’s store had been completed and an additional story, 36x12 feet, added to his tailoring shop (*Huron Expositor* May 10, Oct. 25, 1872; Dec. 26, 1873) Smale called his tailoring business The Broadway House.

The only tenant in Mr. Smale’s new store mentioned in the newspaper was Nelson Moore. “NEW GROCERY – Mr. Nelson Moore has opened a new grocery one door south of Smale’s clothing establishment. Mr. Moore is a thorough business

man, and, no doubt, he will receive a liberal share of patronage.” (*Huron Expositor* June 4, 1875) The bank mentioned in Smale’s obituary was likely Harrison’s Bank. John Harrison, banker, suffered a loss of \$200 in the 1876 fire. The Oddfellows’ hall is also listed as suffering a loss of \$65, insured for \$150.



Brussels Post advertisement April 16, 1880 – the bank moved to the Grant Block in 1880.

Smale began rebuilding right after the fire and had a new building closed in by September of 1876. A year later it was reported that Smale’s neighbour, William H McCracken, had erected a two-story brick building. “S. Smale also commenced the erection of a similar building to that of Mr. McCracken’s and adjoining it on the north. When completed the two will make a fine appearance.” (*Huron Expositor* Aug. 3, 1877)

Samuel Smale, “Tailor, Clothier & General Outfitter,” had gone out of business in 1880.

However, an advertisement of May 18, 1883 announced that: “S Smale, of the Old Broadway House, cannot be idle, so is busy erecting a commodious tailor shop on the corner of Catherine and Elizabeth streets, when he will again be prepared to see his old friends.”

Samuel Smale’s two-store building was deeded to two of his sons, Dickson A and Henry R Smale, in 1884. Smale Bros. had a merchant tailor shop at that time, probably since 1880. In August of 1884, their business was sold to Ross Bros.: “CHANGE OF BUSINESS – Ross Bros. have bought out the stock and trade of Smale Bros., merchants and tailors, and leased the same premises. What the Smale brothers are going to do is not known, but we trust they will not leave our village as they have been good citizens.” (*Huron Expositor* Aug. 22, 1884) Ross Bros. called their store the Broadway House. They were in business here until 1889 when they moved across the street to a store in the Leckie Block. (*Brussels Post* Apr. 15, 1887 and Apr. 26, 1889)

In May 1882, Smale built an addition to the north side of his store. (He had taken out a \$2,400 mortgage on his property in 1881.) It was a one-story frame building. The new store was to be leased for use as a general store. (*Huron Expositor* May 12, 1882) No tenant was recorded in the newspaper.

In 1885, one of the likely tenants of the one-story store to the north was Smale’s son, Samuel B, a druggist. Report of a robbery at SB Smale’s store on May 8th of that year noted his loss of “two silver watches, 3-ounce silver case, two cigar cases, one gold pen holder, two gold pencils, ladies’ gold chains, cuff buttons, etc.” In November, A Veal, a furniture dealer, occupied the store SB Smale had recently vacated. In August 1886, SB Smale left the village to take up a position at Johnston’s drug store in Amherstberg. (*Brussels Post* Aug. 20, 1886)

Joseph Laird opened a new barbershop, likely in the frame part of Smale's Block, in November 1889. He and his family moved to Brussels from Hamilton.

NEW SPRING GOODS

Just Received

AT THE

Broadway House

-000000-

Having just received the Largest and Best Selected Stock of Tweeds ever shown in Brussels, we are now prepared to sell

AT VERY LOW PRICES.

Our Stock is composed of

Scotch & Canadian Tweeds

Velvet finished Suitings, French Worsteds, Serges, Also an Immense Stock of

Striped and Checked Pantings

Always on Hand. Our Stock of Furnishings, such as Ties, Linen & Celluloid Collars, Linen & Celluloid Cuffs, Linen and Silk Handkerchiefs, Pat Napa Buck Gloves, Kid Gloves, Woolen and Cotton Hose, Braces, Cuff Buttons, Collar Buttons, Breast Pins, Armlets and Garters, &c., always on hand and at Low Prices.

We intend making the Hat and Cap trade a Specialty this Season, as we have a Large Stock of All Shapes and Latest Styles. Our stock being Large we intend running them off at

Prices to Suit the Times.

We Lead & Others Follow.

-000000-

Our Tailoring Department

is too well known to need any special mention. We guarantee Satisfaction every time.

ROSS BROS.,

Smale's Old Stand.

Ross Bros. took over Smale's Broadway House in 1884 until 1889. *Brussels Post* advertisement 1884.

In December 1889, Mrs. DA Smale opened her corset factory in Smale's Block: "Mrs. Smale desires to inform the ladies generally that she has commenced the manufacture of the 'Improved Constitutional Corset' recommended for health, comfort, style, fit, elegance and durability. Large size corsets a specialty. 'Good work, combined with practical knowledge of the business,' my motto. Factory – Smale's Block – Entrance – Hall door. A call solicited. Mrs. D. Smale." (*Brussels Post* Nov. 29 and Dec. 13, 1889)

Mrs. DA Smale and her husband had been in the corset-making business since 1885. A *Brussels Post* ad of Dec. 18, 1885 noted that: "He [Dickson A Smale] is going into the corset manufacture extensively and will be able to attend to the wants of the public in this respect. DA has also put in a neat and cheap stock of Fancy Goods that will be sold at prices that will astonish you. Mrs. Smale is fully up to the corset business and is sure to give satisfaction."

According to the advertisements Smale's 'Constitutional Corset' was widely sold. *The Post* reported in June 1887 that: "Miss Annie Lucas, who is travelling for the Constitutional Corset Works, of Brussels, sold over 230 pairs on a recent trip up in the Georgian Bay and Muskoka district. The 'Constitutional' takes wherever it is shown. The young gentleman who gets Miss Lucas will do well but there's a person in Exeter towers above all others." However, manufacture of the corset was stopped some time between 1887 and 1889 when Mrs. Smale resumed business. (*Brussels Post* Sept. 6, 1889)

In 1890, AR Smith opened out in the Smale block "where he will keep a large and well assorted stock of ready-made clothing, tweeds, hats and caps, boots and shoes, gent's furnishings, etc. Mr. Smith was a heavy loser by the fire [north starting at the American Hotel] but he has pluckily gone to work

A NEW INDUSTRY.

Constitutional Corset Works.

The Subscriber begs to inform the ladies of Brussels and vicinity that he has commenced the manufacture of the above Corset in the shop lately occupied by John Shaud. The Manufacturing Department will be under the personal attention of Mrs. D. A. SMALE, whose experience as a Corset Cutter, during the past 8 years in Canada and the States, is a guarantee that she is an artist in her profession. Ladies come and leave your measure for a pair of our "Constitutional" Corsets if you wish to enjoy Comfort and Health. Children's Waists made to order.

As our shop is larger than we require for manufacturing purposes we have added a select stock of

Fancy Goods, Plushes, Berlin and other wools, Gloves, Hosiery, and all Goods suitable for fancy work. Work in Arasene and Kensington painting suitable for Xmas presents in large variety. Lessons in above work also given.

A visit to our shop cordially extended to every lady and we have no hesitation in saying that when you see goods and hear our prices you will say we have the cheapest goods in Brussels.

Ladies Hand Satchels at prices that knock all others in the Shade. If you cannot remember all this advertisement just keep in mind these three little words

WE SELL CHEAP.

D. A. SMALE,
Constitutional Corset Works.

Brussels Post Dec. 8, 1885

and is rushing off the small balance of goods saved from the fire and pushing the sale of the large new stock arriving." (*Brussels Post* Dec. 12, 1890) He was here until September 1891.

Mrs. DA Smale moved her corset-making shop into the store vacated by William Blashill in February 1891. It was just a temporary move as she was back in the rooms above AR Smith's store by June of that year. She took over the space formerly occupied by the Foresters' Lodge.

Miss Hoare, a milliner, opened a store in the Smale Block in April 1891. *The Post* announced: "MILLINERY – Last week the new millinery rooms, lately opened by Miss Hoare in Smale's block, were formally opened and a large number of ladies called and inspected the display of Spring and Summer millinery. The leading shapes exhibited are Golande, Barnhardt, Now Then, Lisette and the Rameau,

while the new shades are Levande Kupper, Almond & Pearl Grey. Tinsel ribbon will evidently be largely worn. The show of flowers and feathers is also large, and of such a quantity as to command the attention of purchasers. There was also a display of millinery goods, lace, etc. The season is somewhat backward owing to the cold rainy weather but Miss Hoare has made a number of sales and booked orders so that the outlook is of a promising character." Miss Hoare's millinery shop was one of the stores featured in *The Post's* 1893 article on local businesses.

Miss E Roddick, a milliner and dressmaker who had been in business in Brussels since 1880, purchased

Miss Hoare's millinery stock in October 1894 and continued in the same stand. In November, she formed a partnership with Miss Annie Smith, an experienced milliner. "They will continue business in the Smale block, two doors south of the Standard Bank, where they will be pleased to meet old and new customers." (*Brussels Post* Nov. 9, 1894)

Miss Roddick moved her business into a store in the Graham Block in August 1898 after she was routed by a fire in the attic of the

frame part of the Smale Block. John Davis, shoemaker, occupied the second store in the Smale Block at the time, adjoining Samuel Walker's butcher shop. Miss Roddick returned to her store in October after Samuel B Smale had made the necessary repairs. (*Brussels Post* Aug. 3 and Oct. 7, 1898) She was still in the millinery business here in 1900.

In September 1891, the furniture and undertaking department of the firm of Smith, Malcolm & Gibson moved down town to Smale's Block into the store vacated by AR Smith. D Hogg and GA Hood, both in the employ of the firm, would manage the store. In December, the partnership was dissolved and Mr. Malcolm took up the furniture part of the business, assuming charge of the store already established. David Hogg also continued to work in the store.

Hogg purchased the furniture part of the business from Malcolm in 1892. He leased a store in the McCaughey block and moved premises in 1894. His store in the Smale Block was taken over by Lorne Hunter of Fordwich, who had a hardware and tinware business. In April 1894, A Hingston took on management of the tinsmith department. (*Brussels Post* Feb. 23, Mar. 9, Apr. 27, 1894)

A year later, Joseph Ballantyne opened a tinshop over Hunter's store. In December, the Hunter stock was sold to Gerry Bros. and AM McKay & Co., other hardware businesses in town. *The Post* stated that: "Mr Hunter did a fairly good business since starting but three hardware stores in Brussels were too many, and the above arrangement will count one out. Mr Hunter's time is fully occupied in his office so he was unable to attend personally to the store. It was in charge of his son Lorne." (*Brussels Post* Apr. 6 and Dec. 20, 1895)

In April 1896, Samuel Walker opened a butcher shop in the store vacated by Hunter, next door to WH McCracken's grocery. He was in business here until May 1899 when he closed up his shop "owing

to the difficulty of working the farm and looking after the shop" at the same time.

It appears that Samuel B Smale at some point returned to Brussels and resumed his drug store business in the frame part of the Smale Block. A report in the March 15, 1900 issue of *The Post* stated that the drug stock under Smale's management was sold to a Listowel man and

NEW

Tin Shop.

JOS. BALLANTYNE,
PRACTICAL TINSMITH.

Wishes to inform the Public that he has opened a shop

Over Hunter's Hardware Store

Where he will be prepared to supply all kinds of Work in that line.

EAVETROUGHING AND ROOFING Promptly Attended to

The Best Makes of

Furnaces

Supplied and Properly put in.

All Made-up Work can be had in the Hardware Store.

All Material and Workmanship Guaranteed.

JOS. BALLANTYNE,
BRUSSELS.

FALL Millinery

Misses Roddick & Smith.

The Fall Openings have taken place and we are now ready for business. The universal verdict by the Ladies is that our Millinery cannot be surpassed for Beauty and Style.

We have the correct Styles at Low Prices and will be pleased to have the pleasure of supplying your Fall and Winter Headware.

If you have not called on us do so now.

Misses Roddick & Smith,
BRUSSELS.

Brussels Post Aug. 4, 1895

Of Interest to the Public.

Having purchased the Furniture Business of Messrs. Smith, Malcolm & Gibson, Brussels, I desire to notify the public generally that I will keep a first-class stock of

FURNITURE

Of the newest designs, and will sell at close prices. Special attention given to repairing.

A NICE RANGE OF CHILDREN'S CARRIAGES.

UNDERTAKING!

I will keep a well selected stock of Caskets, Coffins, &c. of all first-class Hearse. My personal attention will be given to all orders. Prices reasonable and best notice. A large stock of ready-made always on hand.

A call is solicited from the people of Brussels and surrounding country. Satisfaction guaranteed.

DAVID HOGG.
SMALE'S BLOCK, BRUSSELS.

Hogg was a manager for the Smith Malcolm Gibson & furniture making business in 1891. In

Mr. Smale would move to that town to run the business there. SB Smale is listed in the Tax Assessment Records as a druggist in business here until 1925.

After Samuel Walker had his butcher shop in the brick part of the Smale Block, JG Jones had a poultry business here for one year. The block was put up for sale in 1900: "The Smale block of stores, Turnberry street, Brussels, and the brick residence on Elizabeth street, will be offered for sale on Wednesday, April 11th, at the American Hotel in this place. See advt in this issue. A Hunter will be the auctioneer." (*Brussels Post* Mar. 22, 1900) There is no report of the block having been sold at this time.

Fred McCracken had wallpaper and decorating store in the Smale Block from 1905 to 1915 (see ad at right). Miss Howe of Howe & Co., who sold fabrics, had vacated the store in 1905. Dickson and Henry Smale still owned the property, Part Lots 13 and 14, until 1927 when it was sold to Alexander Anderson. No other store tenants are mentioned in the newspaper for the period 1900 to 1927. Samuel B Smale, the druggist, is listed in Tax Assessment records as an owner, and perhaps a store occupant, from 1918 to 1925. The north half of the Smale Block, as well as McCracken's Block and Farrow's former Post Office Block, were destroyed by fire at some point (see the photograph of Cities Service gas station in the story about Beattie's Livery). All that remained is the south section of Smale's Block.

Anderson had a Dodge car dealership next to William J McCracken's grocery which occupied the south store of the Smale Block. He was in business until 1951. The property was then sold to Orville Elliott. Elliott sold to Thomas Garniss in 1974. Garniss had a repair shop here until the late 1980s.

Bevan Elliott took over McCracken's grocery in 1944. He purchased the property in 1945. Elliott's Economy Store was in business here until 1966.

In 1967, Elliott sold his business to Evelyn Jarvis. Jarvis continued to operate a grocery at this location until 1976. The property was then sold to the law firm of Crawford Mill & Davies.

As noted, John Davis had his shoe shop next to Samuel Walker's butcher shop in 1898. William Oakley, also a shoemaker, had a business in the Smale Block from 1918-1919. The space was then used as a Pool Room, first by Robert Fraser in 1921 and then by EG Plum in the late 1920s to early 1930s.

After Joseph Laird had his barbershop in the one-story part of the Smale Block, Samuel B Smale may have occupied it again for use as a drug store. A Dr. Gibson had an office here in 1893. There are no other tenants mentioned except for Thang Lee who briefly operated a Chinese Laundry at this location in 1927.

Wall Paper

This is the season of the year for using Wall Paper. Our stock is new, classy and moderate in price, ranging from 6c to 15c per roll. Better grades sold from sample book at whatever price desired.

Floglaze

Is the very thing you need for painting, either inside or outside work. Various colors and the price only 60c per quart.

Paper Hanging and Decorating a Specialty.

Painting attended to in all its branches and satisfaction assured.

Call phone 42 and your needs will be supplied.

Fred. McCracken

Smale Block - BRUSSELS

Grocery Specials

Chocolate Marshmallow Cookies	per lb	15c
Electric Light Bulbs	2 for	25c
Mixed Peel	per lb	25c
Livingston Rolled Oats	20 lb bag	80c
White Sultana Raisins	per lb	18c
Pineapple Marmalade	2 lb	29c
Post Bran Flakes	per pkg	10c
Libby's Pork & Beans	2 tins	19c
Imperial Corn Beef Loaf	per tin	17c
Dumart's Snow White Shortening	2 lb	25c

Elliott's Economy Store

Once Tried - Always Satisfied

Phone 55 We Deliver Brussels

Brussels Post advertisements, above: November 13, 1940; below: January 17, 1940; left: April 29, 1915.

DRIVE **BUY**

and enjoy the comforts and benefit by its dependability

.....
YOU GET BOTH FROM A DODGE

DODGE TRUCK

(116-inch Wheelbase) HALF-TON PICK-UP

NOW ON DISPLAY

AT

ANDERSON'S GARAGE

McCracken Block

570 Turnberry Street, Brussels, Ont.
Built: 1877

William H McCracken bought the south part of the north half of Lot 14 in 1870. McCracken was one of the village's early merchants. He is listed as the proprietor of one of the general stores in Ainleyville in 1870 (*Huron Expositor* Apr. 29, 1870)

McCracken suffered a loss valued at \$4,000 in the 1876 fire and was insured for \$2,000. He immediately began rebuilding on his part of the lot south of Smale's. A year later it was reported that William H McCracken, had erected a two-story brick building adjoining Smale's block to the south.

By August of 1877, McCracken was able to move into his new store: "A NEW BUILDING – Wm H McCracken intends removing into his new brick store on Monday next. This building has been pushed forward very rapidly and is a fine, substantial edifice 25x60 feet, and 2 stories high, with flat roof covered with felt and gravel. There is also a cellar the full size of the building with seven feet walls. We congratulate Mr. McCracken upon the completion of so fine a building." (*Huron Expositor* Aug. 3, 1877)

McCracken ran the Bee Hive grocery and was an issuer of marriage licenses.

In 1883, he sold part of his business to Fred Pelton: "F Pelton has sold out his boot and shoe business to Thomas McCulloch formerly of Wroxeter, and Mr Pelton has again resumed business on the opposite side of the street having bought the shop formerly occupied as an ice cream saloon from WH McCracken." (*Brussels Post* Nov. 9, 1883)



In this photograph, part of a coloured postcard taken before 1898, you can see the Stretton Block south of the Queen's Hotel, Smale's one-story building erected in 1882, and the Smale & McCracken Blocks built in 1877. Thomas Farrow built the next block to the south, for use as a post office, in 1893. A brightly coloured omnibus stands in front just up from Beatties Livery. Ad above: *Brussels Post* 1893.

The "Bee Hive" Grocery.

This old, reliable institution is still in the van of progress and is well prepared to enter to the wants of the public at this Season. A Fine Stock of

DINNER AND TEA SETS

In Stone and China. They are dandies. Elegant dishes in English Stoneware selling Cheap. Also Glassware, &c.

Teas, Coffees, Spices, Fruits,
Sugars, Canned Goods, &c. &c.

Fresh, Nice and sold at Close Prices.

Highest Price paid for Butter, Eggs and Poultry.

W. H. McCracken.
THE HUSTLING GROCER.

McCracken may have gone out of business for a time but was again selling groceries by 1887. At the end of 1896, William John, William H's son, had taken over the grocery business and store. "WILL J MCCRACKEN was in London on Wednesday purchasing a new stock of groceries for his store. He expects to have them opened out, in the store recently vacated by his father, for Saturday of this week." (*Brussels Post* Dec. 4, 1896) WJ McCracken and J Crich bought the confectionery and fruit business of William Wilton in 1897. (*Brussels Post* Feb. 19, 1897)

WH McCracken is still listed in the newspaper as in the grocery business in 1910. He died in 1913 at age 72. The McCracken Block and Farrow's Post Office Block to the south were destroyed by fire, perhaps some time after 1910 and before 1925 (see the Smale Block story). As Gerald Gibson remembered, there were six horseshoe rinks at this site in the mid-to-late 1920s where on Saturday nights players displayed their skill in lively games of horseshoe pitching. (*Our Story*, p. 121)

Post Office

586 Turnberry Street, Brussels, Ont.
Built: 1935

The Dingle Post Office opened in the village of Ainleyville in April 1856. William Grant was the first postmaster, serving from 1856 to May 1870. JR Grant took over and served a 20-year term as postmaster. On January 31, 1873 the Post Office name was changed: "CHANGING THE POST OFFICE NAME – At the Council meeting on Monday evening, it was resolved to petition the Postmaster General to change the name of Dingle Post Office to Brussels. The crowded state of our columns will not permit further record of the proceedings."

The Post Office was in Grant's drug store on the northeast side of the main street. In 1875, more room was needed: "EXTENSION OF PREMISES – Owing to the increase in business in the drug line and Post Office department, the ever-obliging Post Master at Brussels has found his present building too small for the accommodation of his customers. He has therefore enlarged his quarters, turning the old log building next door to the drug store into the Post Office. The building, which has been highly finished with undressed, lumber presents quite a grinding appearance. Strangers passing through will have no difficulty in finding the office if they enter the most dilapidated looking building in Brussels." (*Huron Expositor* Jan. 26, 1875) The Post Office moved three doors further north in 1878 and in 1880 the dilapidated building was replaced by a new Post Office in the Grant Block.

Thomas and Elizabeth Farrow bought the south part of Lot 14 from William McCracken in 1893.

Farrow was the postmaster at the time. In 1891, the Post Office was moved from the Grant Block to a store south of McCracken's grocery. "POST OFFICE – The Post Office removed on Monday evening from the old site, corner of Turnberry and Mill streets, to the store recently purchased by postmaster Farrow, situate on the west side of Turnberry Street south of WH McCracken's grocery. The fixtures of the old office all are in use and to this will be added another new set of lock boxes similar to the ones put in by Mr. Farrow last year. A stationery desk for writing has been placed in the portion allotted to the public. The interior is being newly painted and the front window lettered. It appears to be very awkward to go to the new office after being accustomed to travel in the opposite direction for so many years. A number of postal

cards were found under the floor of the drop box, having found their way there in some inexplicable manner during the years 1886 and 1888. *The Post* suggests to Postmaster Farrow the propriety of allowing drawer and lock box holders the privilege of entering the office for a half hour after the wicket closes in connection with the general delivery. It would be a great convenience to persons who have boxes – without increasing the duties of the postmaster or his deputy. This is done in many of the towns now and appears to work well." (*Brussels Post* Aug. 7, 1891)

The Post Office extended its hours in 1891: "Post Office is now kept open until 7:30 pm for the convenience of the public who have drawers and lock boxes. If you want to share in the advantage, get a drawer or lock box." (*Brussels Post* Oct. 2, 1891)

Farrow also bought a vacant lot on Turnberry Street from McCracken later in August and there was talk of his erecting a store next season. (*Brussels Post* Aug. 28, 1891) A new store was built, but not until 1893.



An early postcard photograph of the Post Office built in 1935.

A new brick block was built, "to be used by Postmaster Farrow for a post office," in 1893. It was likely the store block reported by *The Post* in August 1891 to be built by Beattie Bros. north of their livery barn. D Lowry and his assistants started work on the block in May. The new Post Office building was plastered and the floor laid in July. (*Brussels Post* Aug. 28, 1891, May 12, July 7, 1893)

The upper floor of the new Post Office block was described in a 1905 ad: "TO

RENT – 5 nice well finished rooms beside pantry and hall over the Post office to rent by the year. A nice balcony connected with the large parlor, cool and nice for the summer afternoons. Wood shed, clothes line wheel, hard and soft water. Rent \$4.00 per month.” Miss MA Parly also had rooms over the Post Office were she did dressmaking in 1905. (*Brussels Post* May 18, Jan. 5, 1905)

Farrow was also a ticket agent: “Postmaster Farrow has been re-appointed CPR ticket agent at Brussels in connection with the re-opening of the Company’s office in town.” (*Brussels Post* Feb. 11, 1898) The *Brussels Post* advertisement below is dated 1895.

EARLIER
(BY 15 MINUTES)
CANADIAN PACIFIC RY.
WEEKLY
TOURIST
CAR
TO THE
Pacific Coast
LEAVES TORONTO AT
12.05
FRIDAY NOON.
T. FARROW,
AGENT, BRUSSELS.

In 1914, the Farrow property became the property of the Crown. There was talk of a new Post Office building in 1920: “NOTHING DOING – As far as the proposal to erect the new Post office building in Brussels at the present time “there’s nothing doing.” This is the information from Ottawa despite the fact that the site was

purchased years ago and the appropriation voted. The government says there are no funds and consequently not withstanding the fact that the present building is anything but adequate or even comfortable the public will have to wait. (*Brussels Post* May 6, 1920) The Post was still angling for a new Post Office in 1925: “WORK STARTED – Work was

commenced at the vacant lot next Post office to have the grounds levelled so that it would be in good shape next year for grass and flower beds. A new post office on the site would look better.” (Sept. 9, 1925)

The present-day Post Office was built in 1935. Interior renovations were made to the building in 1973-1974.

Thomas Farrow was postmaster until 1911. Findlay Scott took over and was postmaster until his death in 1921. Scott’s son, Walter, became the interim or acting postmaster, a situation that, due to political squabbling, lasted for 19 years. William Harris Bell served as postmaster from 1929 to 1933 when Fred Hunter took over the duties. Harold Kerney became postmaster in 1945 and continued until his death in 1958. Later postmasters were Pearl Kokesch 1958-1977, Muriel Garniss 1977-1984 (she had been a Post Office employee since 1957), and Elizabeth Sholdice who became postmaster in 1984.

The post was delivered by stage in the early days. The local livery businesses competed for the contract to carry the mail. In 1891, Beattie Bros. was awarded one of the contracts: “Beattie Bros. have been awarded the contract of carrying the mail between Brussels Post Office and the depot and return. Tenders are now asked for the conveyance of the mail from Seaforth to Wroxeter.” (*Brussels Post* June 12, 1891) In 1899, Richard Williams purchased the Seaforth Stage and took over the contract to carry the mail. John Beattie had the contract for carrying Her Majesty’s mail to and from Brussels GTR for another term. George Robb had the Brussels to Wroxeter run: “Geo Robb, who has carried the mail from Brussels to Wroxeter for the past 2½ years has been awarded the contract for the next term of 4 years. There were 4 tenders. Mr Robb made a record for himself last winter by never missing a day on account of snow storms or

blockades, no easy matter in drifts such as there were last season.” (*Brussels Post* Mar. 3, Apr. 28, Aug. 4, 1899)

George Muldoon bought the Beattie Livery Stable in 1903. He later sold the livery and mail business to Hugh Ramsay in 1906 and became a cattle drover.

In 1915, it was Anderson Bros. livery that had the mail contract. “Anderson Bros. have received a renewal of their mail carrying contract between Brussels post office and the Grand Trunk depot at a slightly advanced figure, but yet much too low to prove very remunerative. They meet 4 trains each day and look after the work in good style and with a large measure of agreeability. Contract runs for 4 years.” (*Brussels Post* Apr. 22, 1915) In October 1920, the mailcarrying contract was transferred from Anderson Bros. to ES Plum: “BOUGHT THE BUS – Last week ES Plum purchased the bus and gray team associated with it for many years from Anderson Bros. and its headquarters is now at the Queen’s Hotel stables, now owned by Plum & Son. Sam Parr will continue to drive and carry the mail to and from the GTR. It is expected the transfer of the mail carrying contract will be made at an early date from Anderson Bros. to Mr Plum. The new folk will look after it all right.” (*Brussels Post* Oct. 28, 1920)

Horsepower was replaced by automotive power in 1920: “A car has been purchased by D Denmand, Rural Mail Carrier, who will make delivery of mail matter on both Nos. 4 and 5 routes, Morris, with his bus wagon. The additional speed of gasoline over horse flesh will enable him to do this for a good portion of the year.” (*Brussels Post* Apr. 8, 1920) Earl Somers covered the RR #5 Morris Township route for 49 years starting in 1928. He used a 1922 Star and later a 1930 Model A Ford to deliver mail reverting to the old tried-and-true method of delivery by horse and cutter in the snowy winter months.

Beattie Bros. Livery

590 Turnberry Street, Brussels, Ont.

Built: 1891

James Stretton owned Lot 15 in 1860. The lot had passed through a number of owners when James Laird purchased it from William Laird in 1869. Laird built the Commercial Hotel here in 1870. It is William Laird who is listed as the owner of the hotel in 1874: "HOTEL – Robert A. Hays has rented the Commercial Hotel, lately occupied by Wm. Annett, from Wm. Laird, and is having the house thoroughly renovated." Annett was the hotelkeeper listed in an 1872 notice in the paper. (*Huron Expositor* Apr. 10, 1874; Aug. 30, 1872)

In 1875 James Laird took over as proprietor of the hotel when Hays moved to Seaforth. (*Huron Expositor* Apr. 2, 1875) Laird's hotel succumbed to the flames in the fire of 1876: "A few minutes later the large hotel of James Laird, with its barn, stables, hall and sheds, on the west side of Turnberry street, fell a prey to the flames. This then connected the whole of the wooden block to the centre of the village, including Stretton's hotel." Laird had just finished construction of a large new stable on Saturday night before the outbreak of fire on the Sunday evening. His loss was estimated at \$3,000 and he was not insured. (*Huron Expositor* Aug. 25, 1876) Laird, along with other property owners in the burnt area, immediately began to rebuild. He had a new building closed in by September 1st.

James Laird Sr. sold Lot 15 to Samuel Beattie in 1890. Beattie Bros. began construction of a new livery barn in April 1891. "The brickwork of Beattie Bros. new livery barn is being pushed along by John

Pugh and his assistants this week." Watson Ainley had the tar and gravel roof on by August. The contract for carrying the mail between the Post Office and the depot, and return, was awarded to Beattie Bros. in June. They put a "fine new omnibus on the road" in July. Rumour had it that Beattie Bros. would also build two stores north of their livery barn in 1892. (*Brussels Post* May 22, June 12,

July 10, Aug. 14 and 28, 1891) As you can see in the photograph below, the store block was eventually built. The lot between was part of Cochrane's marble works.

A reported from the post was given a tour of the new livery stables in October 1891: "FINE LIVERY BARN – On Wednesday afternoon a member of *The Post* staff looked through Beattie Bros.' new brick livery barn and pronounces it one of the best he ever saw outside of the big establishments of the city. The building is a two storey brick 42x98 feet with 12 foot ceilings. There is a driving floor of 42x50 feet. In this part is a comfortable office, bedroom and harness room. The stable is 42x48 feet and is filled



The Beattie Bros. Livery barn is clearly seen at the left of this photograph. The photograph may have been taken between 1906 and 1908 when Hugh Ramsay was the owner.

up with 16 stalls, two of them being box stalls. Hay and oats are fed in a most convenient manner. The whole interior is plastered and is roomy and well ventilated. An arc electric light illuminates the whole downstairs. On the second flat is a large store room for buggies and cutters according to the season and a door and hoist arranged for the purpose of taking them up or letting them down. On this floor is also a mammoth oat bin with a capacity for 350 bushels and a 50-barrel tank for soft water to be used in washing rigs by a handy arrangement of hose. The hay and straw are stored in the westerly part of the second storey. The stone work was built by George Robb; the brickwork by Pugh & Cornish; the roofing by Watson Ainley; the carpenter work by Dan McNaughton & Sons; and the painting and glazing by Thompson & Grimoldby – and the work has been well done throughout. Beattie Bros. keep from 9 to 12 horses and a tip-top outfit of wheeled rigs, cutters, sleighs etc. They also own and run the bus to all trains and carry the mail to and from the depot.” (*Brussels Post* Oct. 9, 1891)

In December 1893 it was reported that Beattie Bros. had secured the services of a veterinary surgeon. “It is stated that a Mr. Moore, a Veterinary Surgeon, has decided to locate in Brussels and will open an office at Beattie Bros. livery barn. Mr. Moore is a brother to James Moore, teacher at Shine’s school, and has been for the past two years at Chatham. He’s a married man.” (*Brussels Post* Dec. 29, 1893)

Beattie sold the south part of his lot to Alice Cochrane in 1894. *The Post* reported in the May 11 issue: “Messrs. Cochrane & Johnston have secured the vacant lot between their shop and the Beattie livery barn and will utilize it for rough stone dressing. The high board fence in front has been removed and a wire one substituted.”

In February 1896, it was reported that Sam Beattie was going into the hotel business in Paisley. The

newspapers source was either misinformed or Mr. Beattie could not decide where to alight. In May the report was that he would take a prospecting trip west and then that he had purchased an interest in a livery business in Clinton. At any rate, Same Beattie left Brussels and John Beattie stayed on to manage the Beattie Bros. livery business. (*Brussels Post* Feb. 14, Mar. 13, May 8, 1896)

A new bus was purchased in 1896 and a new black carriage team was “added to the Beattie livery outfit, making 12 horses in all.” A mishap befell the new bus that winter: “BEATTIE BROS. bus team ran away from the station on Tuesday. The bus, which was thrown on its side in front of the Revere House, was slightly damaged. The horses fell to the ground and were caught by Harry James before they could get started again.” (*Brussels Post* July 10, Oct. 2, Dec. 4, 1896)

Two other incidents with runaway horses were reported in 1898. “Beattie Bros.’ bus team ran away in the station yard on Tuesday evening with a load of trunks. Joe Ardell was driving at the time and was thrown off in front of the wagon which passed over his right arm injuring it so as to lay him off work for a few days. He was lucky to get off without being seriously hurt. The trunks were scattered along the road and the wagon somewhat damaged. (*Brussels Post* July 8, 1898) “ACCIDENT – Last Monday forenoon Beatties’ bus team was hitched to the baggage van and some baggage was being placed on it at the Queen’s Hotel. The horses took it into their heads to run away and with two little lads, Roy Roach and Cleve Denbow aboard, started off. Cleve decided that he would be safer on the ground so jumped off but Roy remained on the rig until it collided with a telegraph pole near the Town Hall, when he was unceremoniously pitched off. It was feared that he was seriously injured but after the shock the young lad was very little the worse for his escapade. We are not guessing when we state that no

horse should be left on the street untied and secondly that the young lads who often ride backward and forward on these conveyances should be kept on terra firma in future. Human life is too dear to assume the risks taken in instance like the one recorded in this item.” (*Brussels Post* Oct. 14, 1898)

Beattie sold the livery business to George Muldoon in 1903. Muldoon had a new omnibus on the road in 1905: “A DANDY JOB – This week Geo Muldoon has his ‘bus on the regular route to the depot looking as spic and span as when first hitched to. It has been in the Ewan & Co. paint and trimming shop for some weeks and came out a credit to the shop. It is painted a bright yellow with green panels, striped with black, red and brown. On one panel is a landscape copied from a Quebec scene and on the other side a capital representation of Golden Gate, California. It is handscrollled in gold, 10 books of gold leaf being used. ‘Old Union Bus’ is the legend along the top, done in green, aluminium and yellow colors. On the entrance door is the portrait of a maiden about to partake of a cup of Red Feather Tea. Wheels have new rims, riveted between the spokes and new wide tires. Sash is grained and glass is extra weight for windows. In interior the cushioning is car plush of fine texture with linoleum on the floor, while landscapes, marine scenes and a mirror brighten up the panels. The varnish used came from W Harling & Son, of Merton, Surrey, England, which is in itself a guarantee of its excellence. The painting and the artistic work was the handiwork of WC Smith, of this town, whose ability in this class of painting is not excelled in city establishments and he has been warmly complimented on this turn out. In many cases busses have been sent to Bellville at high expense to be refitted but Ewan & Co have proved their ability to do this work in such a style and at lesser expense that should ensure them a large share of this class of trade. Take a good look at Muldoon bus and you will

then be disposed to speak commendatory words of the Ewan & Co establishment, as all work is done with the same care and ability.” (*Brussels Post* July 27, 1905)

Anderson Bros., James and Alex Anderson, bought the livery in 1913. James was a Veterinary Surgeon, “successor to MH Moore, office at Anderson Bros. Livery stable. Telephone 29.” Anderson Bros. also took over the mail-carrying route: “Anderson Bros. have received a renewal of their mail carrying contract between Brussels post office and the Grand Trunk depot at a slightly advanced figure, but yet much too low to prove very remunerative. They meet 4 trains each day and look after the work in good style and with a large measure of agreeability. Contract runs for 4 years.” And, improvements were made to the building; “a fly proof storage room for manure, etc. as requisitioned by the new Board of Health law.” (*Brussels Post* Jan. 7, Apr. 22, May 27, 1915)

The livery barn was sold to DM Scott in 1920 and converted into a garage. “BOUGHT ANDERSON’S LIVERY BARN – This week Anderson Bros. disposed of their large brick Livery barn to DM Scott, the Ford car local agent, who will transform it into a modern garage, sale room and repair shop. Building is well located and will suit the purpose fine. This sale will probably clear out the livery stable business, which has long been maintained on the site. We have not learned of the Anderson Bros. plans but hope they will not think of removing from town.” Scott had the stalls removed and had a partition separating the driving floor from the stable taken down. A door was cut into the workshop wide enough to permit a car to be taken in and out. The upper floor was to be used as a shop for painting and upholstery, and for storage. (*Brussels Post* Oct. 21, Nov. 25, 1920)

Five years later Scott sold the business to McIntyre & Cudmore: “WILL MAKE CHANGES – McIntyre & Cudmore, Ford agents in Brussels, are making many changes at their garage. The office will be changed to the opposite side and new plate glass front put in for their show room. Other changes will be made in the garage.” (*Brussels Post* Nov. 11, 1925)

Bowman & Pascoe operated the garage in 1931 and 1932. McIntyre & Cudmore sold to Moses Zurbigg in 1938 and he in turn sold to Cities Service Oil Co. Ltd. in 1939. Gordon Sanderson worked in the garage from 1938 to 1945. Emerson Nurse was an agent with the garage in the early 1940s. Lloyd Aitcheson worked as a mechanic at the garage in 1942. Lloyd Sanderson was the manager in 1946 and Thomas Freely in 1947.

Cities Service sold to George Bridge in 1961. In 1966 a dealership was set up with Ford Motor Co. to sell Ford cars and trucks. That same year a devastating fire almost destroyed the entire business. The building was rebuilt. Bridge Motors moved to Wingham in 1978 and in 1979, the property in Brussels was sold to McCutcheon Motors. It is now Brussels Auto Collision & Restoration.



Cities Service gas station occupies the former Beattie Bros. livery barn still intact in this photograph taken some time after 1939. The corner of the Post Office is just visible to the north. The McCracken Block is the only part of that section of the brick store blocks still remaining. Emerson Nurse ran the Cities Service Station in the early 1940s. Ad *Brussels Post* February 11, 1942.



Town Hall

Turnberry Street, Brussels, Ont.

Built: 1875 Demolished: 1962

John Somersett bought Lots 16, 17, 33 and 34 in 1870 from John Mitchell. "Mr. Somersett, late of Barrie, has purchased the property of Mr. Mitchell, of London, thus completing the Somersett block...."

The Misses Wynn have opened a new millinery establishment next door to the London House, Somerett block." (*Huron Expositor* Apr. 29, 1870) John Somersett had purchased Lot 18 in October 1869.

A Market House with Town Hall was planned for the village in 1874. Before this the village had a log building on the Market Square. "MARKET, TOWN HALL, &C. – At a meeting of the Council, held on Wednesday evening last, the following resolution was passed: "That the money due this corporation by the Government on account of division of surplus fund, be expended during the present season in building a Market House with Town Hall and the necessary offices, &c., and that the necessary by-laws be prepared and passed at the next meeting of Council. (*Huron Expositor* May 1, 1874) The property was purchased from James Laird in 1875 (Laird had purchased from Somersett in 1875)

The contract for building the Town Hall was let in May 1875. "THE MARKET BUILDING – At the last meeting of the Brussels Council, the contract for erecting the new market building was awarded to Mr John Cormack for \$2,485. This, of course, does not include extras." Work progressed rapidly and the new building was expected to open at the end of September. (*Huron Expositor* May 21, Aug. 20, 1875)

A celebration was held on October 22, 1875 to mark the opening of the Town Hall: "THE NEW TOWN HALL – The new town hall is to be opened by a grand concert, to be given under the auspices of the Western Star Lodge, 149, Brussels, on Friday, Oct. 22. The best of talent has been engaged for the occasion. The hall is to be all seated with chairs, and heated with hot air. The building is nearly completed. The hall is 34 x 73, and will be among one of the best in the County." (*Huron Expositor* Oct. 1, 1875)



The Brussels Town Hall once stood where the Legion is now. It was built in 1875 and demolished in 1962.

It was fortunate that the Town Hall escaped with some damage in the fire of 1876. "During this time the tailor shop and dwelling of D. Ross, south of

Wynn's wagon shop, had fallen prey to the fire, and with the greatest exertions the town hall west of Ross', was saved, it having taken fire three times." (*Huron Expositor* Aug. 25, 1876)

The market part of the Town Hall had four butcher's stalls. "BUTCHERS' STALLS – The four butchers' stalls in the market house have all been rented. The Council are having them all completely finished with ice boxes, counters, and necessary fittings. They are rented two at \$25 and two at \$20 each. They will be occupied on the first of the coming week." (*Huron Expositor* Mar. 3, 1876)

William Blashill, Butcher, had a shop in the market in 1880. (*Brussels Post* Jan. 30, 1880) A. Currie may have been one of the butchers with a stall in the new market. In May 1883, the Expositor reported his removal to a new location: "REMOVAL – A Currie has moved his butcher shop from the town hall to his new stand next door to Fletcher's jewellery shop. As for position and size of shop it seems to be a good change." (*Huron Expositor* May 24, 1883)

Belden's 1879 *Historical Atlas of Huron County* listed the Town Hall among the village's assets. "The assets of the village may be stated at \$14,000; including fire apparatus, \$5,000; Town Hall and grounds, \$4,000; and School and grounds (estimated), 5,000. The Town Hall was chiefly built by the village's share of the Municipal Loan Fund Surplus, which amounted (including interest) to \$3,166. The building is a handsome one, containing public hall, lock-up with two cells, clerk's office, fire hall, band room, butchers' stalls, &c., &c."

FS Scott, Conveyancer and Insurance broker, had an office in the Town Hall in 1880. Next to the Town Hall, T Parsons had a rope making shop: "ROPE & TWINE – Mr. T Parsons carries on the business of rope and twine making on Main Street, near the Town Hall. He is said to make good wares, but

complains that the merchants do not give him a fair show....” (*Brussels Post* Jan. 30, June 25, 1880)

In 1881, a new bell was ordered for placement at the Town Hall. “Mr Rogers, Reeve, has ordered a 400 lb. bell from the foundry of WR Wilson, Brussels, to be placed on the hose tower at the town hall to be used as a town bell. The same is a present from Mr Rogers to the citizens of Brussels.” (*Huron Expositor* July 15, 1881) The bell was rung four times a day as well as to call worshippers to Sunday service and to raise the fire alarm. It was once one of the regular sounds heard in the village. The bell now installed at the fire hall.

The Town Hall underwent renovations in 1886. A new handrail was installed. (*Brussels Post* July 30, Sept. 10, 1886) Further work was necessary by 1895: “The lower floor of the Town Hall has sagged about an inch under or alongside the hallway leading to the cells. The floor will be lifted and the joisting jacked up and properly secured.” (*Brussels Post* Dec. 6, 1895) The interior was in need of renovation, according to *The Post*, in 1897. Tenders were let at the end of the following year: “Tenders are wanted for repairing plaster in Town Hall, kalsomining the walls and ceiling, and frosting the lower half of the windows around the stage. The lowest tenders will be received up to Tuesday, Nov. 15th at 1 o’clock. Any other information may be obtained from WH Kerr, Geo Thomson, R Leatherdale, Property Committee.” DA Lowry was awarded the contract of repairing the plastering, kalsomining the walls and ceiling, and frosting the windows on the stage. His tender was \$30.00. (*Brussels Post* Nov. 11, 18, 1898)

In cadescent lighting was installed in 1898: “An incandescent chandelier containing 5 lights and overshadowed by a glass reflector was put into the Town Hall last week to light up the stage. R Mainprice did the work and it works all right. A ‘dimmer’ will be put on so that the light can be reduced if occasion demands without turning off the current altogether.” (*Brussels Post* Nov. 25, 1898)

The Town Hall was the site of many community events like political rallies, dances, and both amateur and travelling theatre productions, and the “talkies” movies. The Division Court was also held here: “A new enclosed desk and an upholstered armchair

have been placed in the Town Hall, Brussels, for the comfort and convenience of Judge Doyle while in attendance at Division Courts. These were placed there at the Judge’s request but at the expense of the corporation. The latter receives an annual fee from Grey and Morris townships to assist in defraying expenses of holding the Court here.” (*Brussels Post* Oct. 19, 1894) Visiting lecturers also took to the stage: “Phrenological lecture in the Town Hall every evening this week by Prof. Taggart.” (*Brussels Post* Aug. 7, 1896)

William C Smith painted a drop curtain for the Town Hall stage in 1900. “Wm C Smith is painting a scenic drop curtain, in distemper, for the front of the stage in the Town Hall. Wing scenes are also being prepared. Mr Smith has quite a taste for this class of work and handles the brush with effect. He should develop the talent.” *The Post* reported on the results: “LOOKS FIRST CLASS – WC Smith has completed the drop curtain, back curtain and wing scenes for the stage at the Town Hall and the work looks very nice indeed. The front scene presents a landscape with old castle, while above it are a couple of Union Jacks and a Maple Leaf, with the words ‘The Maple Leaf Forever.’ Mr Mainprice is rearranging the electric lighting so that better effect will be afforded. The curtains cost \$35.00 but toward that sum there was \$17.77, the surplus from the concert series held last year. Some attention will also be paid to the board walls at the stage and possibly an extension made to the platform.” (*Brussels Post* Feb. 22, Mar. 8, 1900)

The Town Hall was renovated more than once, but by 1962 was considered beyond repair. It was demolished and the property was sold to the Brussels Legion Branch 218.

“Don't Deceive Your Wife”
A Rattling Good Farce
in Three Parts
Presented by Members of
St. John's Church, Brussels
at the
Workman's Hall - Walton
Monday, February 23rd
at 8 p. m.
Also at the
Opera House - Brussels
Tuesday, February 24th
at 8 p. m.
Don't Miss It!
Everybody Welcome
Adults 35c Children 20c

Oratorical Contest
Under the auspices
of the
**Agricultural Short Course
Literary Society**
Will be held in the
Opera Hall, Brussels
Thursday Ev'g, Feb. 19th
at 8 o'clock p. m.
This will be an opportunity for the
people of the community to see
some of the work of the young
people taking the Courses in Agri-
culture and Home Economics.
Besides the public speaking there
will be a short Musical Program.
Everybody Come Collection at the Door

Advertisements from the Brussels Post February 18, 1905.

Thomas Watson, Blacksmith

Turnberry Street, Brussels, Ont.

Thomas Smale bought Lot 312 on the southeast corner of Turnberry Street, by the bridge, in 1860. He took out mortgages in 1860 and 1863 for \$1,000.

Thomas Watson bought the property in 1871.

Watson built on his property in 1872. "Building operations are going on very lively at present. Mr. T. Watson, blacksmith, is putting up a fine large frame workshop on his new premises, 30x60." He removed to his new shop by the bridge in June. "[It] which is quite an improvement in that corner of the village." (*Huron Expositor* May 10, June 7, 1872)

Thomas Watson sold his north part of the lot to James Watson in 1880. By this time he and James were in business as carriage makers. "BIG SIGN – Messrs. T & J Watson, carriage makers, have a sign on their shop measuring 8 X 33 feet." (*Brussels Post* June 25, 1880) Thomas Watson also sold farm machinery in 1885: "T. Watson received a car load of mowers Wednesday from the well-known Massey Works, Toronto. This indicates a good trade to be done in this line this spring." (*Brussels Post* June 5, 1885)

Silas Jackson leased Watson's blacksmith shop in 1890. "We understand that Silas Jackson has rented the blacksmith business at the bridge and commenced operations on Tuesday of this week. Mr. Jackson is well known in this locality and will no doubt receive a share of the patronage of the public. This fills up the six blacksmith shops in Brussels.

They should be able to attend to everything in their line." (*Brussels Post* Feb. 21, 1890)

In 1891, Jackson and other blacksmiths in the area were involved in a patent-rights scam. "V. Taylor was arrested at Teeswater this week owing to the passing of notes in which Silas Jackson of Brussels, EJ Williams of Cranbrook and other blacksmiths are interested. This man sold patent rights for iron harrows to Mr. Jackson for Grey and Morris townships and then went to Cranbrook and Belgrave and sold the township rights again. Taylor was committed to Goderich jail." (*Post* Aug. 28, 1891)

Silas Jackson purchased the north part of Lot 312 in 1892. "Last week Silas Jackson purchased the large blacksmith shop at the bridge from Thomas Watson of Belleville, formerly of Brussels, for the sum of \$1,000. We are pleased to note that Mr. Jackson's business is prospering so well." Jackson had the office built in the southwest corner of his blacksmith shop taken out in order to increase the room and light to the rest of the shop. (*Brussels Post* Nov. 4, Oct. 14, 1892)

Early in 1893, Jackson expanded the business to include carriage making. "A new carriage shop has been opened in connection with Silas Jackson's shop at the bridge, Brussels. Mr. McGuire is the wood worker and is ready to wait on the public." (*Brussels Post* Jan. 20, 1893)

In 1896, Jackson had a stone wall built under his



In this early coloured photograph taken looking south toward the main street, you can see the buildings that once stood near the bridge.

blacksmith shop. H Atwood did the work. Messrs Lowry & McKay built a stone wall under the front part of the shop. "A stone wall will be put under the front of SH Jackson's shop and the space between it and the roadway filled in so as to be ready for the new pavement. This will make a very necessary improvement as the timbers holding up the side of the roadway are about done through decay." (*Brussels Post* June 19, 1896; July 7, Sept. 28, 1899)

Jackson was in business here until 1910 when he sold his property to Sarah Holmes. Silas H Jackson died in Vancouver in 1925: "The sad news was received here last Monday of the demise of Silas H Jackson, recently of Moose Jaw, who was a resident of Brussels for a good many years. He was a blacksmith by trade and engaged in business here some time before removing to the West 15 or 20 years ago." (*Brussels Post* Jan. 7, 1925)

The south part of Thomas Watson's lot, plus use of the roadway, was sold to John Curtis in 1873. Curtis took out a \$400 mortgage but it is not known what business he was in. He sold his property to Thomas Kerr at the end of 1875.

Kerr sold his property to Donald McCormack in 1881. McCormack sold to Alex Bruce in 1882. There was a shop on the site for years, but no reports of the businesses occupying the building were made in the newspapers. The only mention is of an incident at Bruce's shop: "Some boys damaged a window in A. Bruce's shop on Thursday night of last week by throwing snowballs. Their names are known." (*Brussels Post* Apr. 3, 1885)

Sarah Holmes, the owner of the north part of the lot, bought the remainder of the lot from Ann Bruce in 1911. John Hy Galbraith purchased the property in 1916. Galbraith had the agency for the Ford automobile and had a garage on this site. He was also a horse buyer and made use of the stables on the property. Galbraith sold his property to JT Wood, the owner of the woollen mill next door, in 1918.

Ready for Business !

I wish to intimate to the public generally that I have leased the blacksmith shop at the bridge (old stables) and am now in a position to attend to all kinds of blacksmithing in a workmanlike manner and on very reasonable terms. **HORSE-SHOEING A SPECIALTY.** A share of the patronage of the public is solicited. It will be my aim to give the best of satisfaction.

32-1
SILAS H. JACKSON.

Jackson leased the blacksmith shop formerly leased by Mr. Plum. Ad *Post* 1890.

Wilson's Foundry & Howe's Woolen Mill

Turnberry Street, Brussels, Ont.

John Dolson bought part of Lot 313 in 1872. "GOING UP – Mr John Dolson has bought the corner lot, opposite the Dominion House, without any buildings, for \$520. Railroad prices – property beginning to change hands and go up." In August, Dolson commenced building a new frame store, 24x36 feet and two stories high. The store and dwelling were completed on the outside by November, but finishing had to await the coming of spring. (*Huron Expositor* Mar. 15, Aug. 23, Nov. 1, 1872) In July 1873, Dolson moved into his newly completed store. "John Dolson, grocer, has just removed into his fine new shop on the corner of Turnberry and Mill Streets." In a series of items titled "Progress of Brussels" the Expositor described Dolson's store. "It is situated at the corner of Mill and Turnberry streets, and presents a very good appearance. Size, 42x24 feet; J. Cormack, builder." Also mentioned in the same story was "McCallum's shoe shop, near the bridge, 30x18 feet. Robert Armstrong, builder." Dolson had leased part of his property to McCallum in 1873. (*Huron Expositor* July 18, Dec. 26, 1873)

In 1876, Dolson announced the sale of his property. "SALE – John Dolson, grocer, is about selling out his business and real estate. The whole is to be sold by public auction on the 4th of May next." Mr. G Stevens of Grey purchased the store and dwelling a year later. (*Huron Expositor* Apr. 14, 1876; Apr. 13, 1877) Land Registry records state that Edwin Leonard bought Dolson's property in April 1877 and mortgaged it on the same date for \$2,600. It

appears that Leonard may have built a substantial building, perhaps a store block, on the site.

A. Veal, a furniture dealer occupied the store before 1885. The July 24, 1885 issue of *The Post* reported: "CHANGE OF BUSINESS – A. Veal has sold out his furniture business to R. Malcolm who will take possession about the 1st of August. Mr. Malcolm is an efficient workman and has filled the position of foreman in Bennett's factory for some years. He will no doubt do a good business. Mr. Veal will continue to reside in town for the present at least." Malcolm had "leased the new brick store from WR Wilson, we understand, and will shortly remove his stock to the new premises." It was described as "a very neat and commodious place" where Malcolm would also live, upstairs in the same building. (*Brussels Post* Aug. 28, Sept. 25, 1885)

Malcolm billed himself as "The People's Undertaker & Funeral Director – Artistic Furniture – Wilson's Block, next door to Woolen Mill, residence upstairs." He had a new hearse on the road in May of 1886. (*Brussels Post* May 21, 1886; Sept. 2, 1887) One of Malcolm's artistic efforts was described in the Sept. 9, 1887 Post: "R. Malcolm, furniture dealer, made two neat and substantial tilting shaving chairs and stools for SH Laird. They were trimmed with pink plush and showed to good advantage."

In January 1888, Malcolm entered into an arrangement with Smith Bros. furniture manufacturers. They took charge of the furniture department of the new factory and Malcolm's shop was kept for use as a show room. In April, James

Broadfoot leased the brick store from WR Wilson and had it fitted out for a restaurant. Malcolm removed his stock of furniture, undertaking, etc., to the new factory. (*Brussels Post* Jan. 27, Apr. 6, 1888)

Read AND Remember.

Should you be so unfortunate as to require anything in the

UNDERTAKING

line, you will find my stock of

COFFINS

CASKETS, SHROUDS, &c.,

complete, and of first quality.

I INTEND TO MAKE

Funeral Furnishings a Speciality,

and am determined to do

AWAY WITH THE LONG PRICES

usually charged by men who advertise that they have the only stock of Undertaking in town, knowing it to be utterly false. Why not save money in this particular line, as well as anything else? Why pay Ten Dollars more than a thing is worth?

OBSERVE.

I have secured a magnificent HEARSE—the best in the County of Huron—which will be furnished to funerals, with hat bands, sashes, gloves, &c., at ONE-HALF the usual price.

COMPARE THESE FIGURES.

Below I give you a few figures—the prices of full sized Coffins. Smaller ones will be cheaper.

USUAL PRICE CHARGED IN TOWN.	MY PRICE.
A No. 1, \$32.00.	\$20.00.
No. 2, 26.00.	15.00.
No. 3, 18.00.	10.00.

You will see by this that I mean business. Call and take a look at my stock and prices. That can do you no harm, any way.

Remember the Place.

VEAL'S

Cheap Furniture and Undertaking Show

Rooms, BRUSSELS.

Brussels Post Feb. 5, 1880

Broadfoot opened his restaurant at the end of April 1888. "The Economy Restaurant" – This is the name of a restaurant opened in WR Wilson's brick store by James M. Broadfoot. He will have meals ready at almost every hour in the day or evening at 20¢ a meal. By reading his advertisement it will be seen that he is prepared to take lady or gentlemen boarders." (*Brussels Post* Apr. 20, 1888)

READY FOR BUSINESS!

As my Goods were Saved from the Fire in such Excellent Condition I am enabled to Resume Business AT ONCE.

YOU WILL FIND ME IN

WILSON'S BRICK BLOCK,

Ready to Serve the Public, as in the Past.

Call at the New Premises,
Bargains are to be Offered.

J. G. SKENE,

Brussels Post 1890

was sold to James Young. The December 20, 1900 *Post* stated: "It is said that the *Herald* office will be moved to the Peter Ferguson store, corner Turnberry and Mill streets, the upper part being utilized for a residence." In 1909, the Brussels Morris & Grey Municipal Telephone System bought Ferguson's property for \$1,000. Young's property became part of the Telephone System's property in 1930.

New plate glass windows were put in Wilson's Block in March 1890. In August, Wilson replaced the plate glass with a four-light sash in each window. (*Brussels Post* Mar. 28, Aug. 8, 1890) JG Skene had his store in the Wilson Block in 1890. It was at this location until Skene built a store in 1891.

In February 1892, Wilson sold his store to Peter Ferguson. (*Brussels Post* Feb. 5, 1892) Another part of Wilson's property

WR Wilson died in December 1893. In April 1897, his widow leased the stable. "WALTER LOWRY has leased the large stable on Mill Street East from Mrs. WR Wilson, and intends converting it into a livery barn, which will make three in town. He has been engaged in the business for the past year on a small scale, but proposes to branch out now a little more." (*Brussels Post* Apr. 30, 1897)

Wilson's Foundry

William R Wilson bought part of Lot 313 from John N Knechtel in October 1874. Wilson had a foundry on Mill Street at the time. "THE FOUNDRY - Mr Wilson, of the Dingel Foundry, is doing a good business this season. His establishment is now busily employed in getting up agricultural implements for the coming summer's trade. Mr Wilson is also getting in a considerable amount of new machinery, and otherwise increasing his facilities for tuning out good work, and the general accommodation of his customers." (*Huron Expositor* Feb. 23, 1872)

In their 1873 article on the "Progress of Brussels" the *Huron Expositor* gave a lengthy description of the Brussels Foundry. "This establishment is situated on Mill street, not far from Turnberry street. It at present consists of three separate buildings, the blacksmith's shop, the machine shop and the paint shop. The size of the blacksmith's shop is 45x24 feet; the centre building, or machine shop, is 60x30 feet, and the paint shop is 28x20 feet. Mr. Wilson intends next year to connect the centre building with the paint shop; the new building will then be the machine shop. The new building will be 45x30 feet; an addition of 30 feet

will also be made to the moulding shop. The engine is an 8 horse power one, with a 15 horse power boiler. The work done at Mr. Wilson's shop is varied, including the manufacture of agricultural implements (especially plows), blacksmithing, horse-shoeing and general jobbing. Mr. Wilson's plows were most successful at the recent Grey plowing match. He manufactures both iron and wooden plows. In the machine shop we observed a lathe, fitted with a self-centring chuck and a vertical drill – a first-class machine. A large grindstone is worked by belting connected with the shafting. A polishing pulley, or emery wheel for polishing iron, is also here. The machines in this department are all intended for working in iron. The moulding shop is 30 feet square; when the addition mentioned above is done to it, the apartment will be a large one – 60x30 feet. On the flooring above the moulding shop the patterns are kept. The foundry has a 'melt' about once a week, when an average of 52 boxes are cast. Above the machine shop is the woodworking department. We observed a vertical saw, for cutting curves and fancy patterns, and also a circular saw.

BRUSSELS FOUNDRY.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

TO GRANGERS, FARMERS, AND OTHERS.

\$25 WILL purchase a first-class Bulky Bala; \$35 will purchase a first-class Lead Boiler with Cast Ends; \$22.50 will purchase a first-class Gang Plow, wrought iron frame; \$22.50 will purchase a first-class Gang Plow, cast iron frame; \$18 will purchase a good General Purpose Plow, wrought Iron beam; \$10 will purchase a good Plow, wood beam, all improved steel moulds; \$4 will purchase a good Souther or Horse Rod.

ALL OTHER IMPLEMENTS IN PROPORTION AT THE BRUSSELS FOUNDRY.

ORDERS BY MAIL PROMPTLY ATTENDED TO.

JOBGING of Every Description Done with NEATNESS and on the SHORTEST NOTICE.

WM. R. WILSON & SON, BRUSSELS.

Huron Expositor April 20, 1877

Attached to the latter is an ingenious contrivance for boring wood. There are three forges in the blacksmith's shop, and a large amount of work of different descriptions is done here. Mr. Wilson, who is a thoroughly practical man, intends going into the manufacture of agricultural implements next year on a large scale. He is already doing an extensive business in supplying the demand for his implements and attending to repairing and general jobbing work. To keep pace with his fast increasing business, he must have enlarged appliances for doing work. Mr. Wilson is about to make some very important improvements in the way of new buildings and more machinery. To make success sure, a partner will be needed. There is, therefore, a good opening here for a man of experience and capital. But whether a partner be forthcoming or not, extensive improvements will be made in the coming spring, and it is our sincere wish that Mr. Wilson may meet with the success to which his energy and ability so well entitle him." (*Huron Expositor* Dec. 12, 1873)

In 1875, Wilson, whose previous foundry was likely lost to fire, built a new foundry on the Lot 313 property he had just purchased. "NEW FOUNDRY – Mr. WR Wilson has commenced building of a new foundry." (*Huron Expositor* June 11, 1875)

In 1881, Reeve Rogers "ordered a 400 lb. bell from the foundry of WR Wilson, Brussels, to be placed on the hose tower at the town hall to be used as a town bell. The same is a present from Mr Rogers to the citizens of Brussels." (*Huron Expositor* July 15, 1881) A January 12, 1883 item in the *Expositor* mentioned Wilson's foundry: "WR Wilson's Foundry and machine shop is owned and operated by the above gentleman, whose reputation as a work man is as widely known as his celebrated ploughs. He also makes horse mowers, land rollers, straw and root cutters, road scrapers and iron harrows. Just at present there are only four hands employed."

IMPORTANT TO FARMERS.
 The subscriber begs to intimate to the farming community and others that he has a
Large and Varied
 assortment of Agricultural Implements, got up under his own personal inspection, guaranteed to give general satisfaction, and at prices that defy competition. As we make
P O I N T S !
 second to none in the Dominion to suit most of the Ploughs in general use. It is certainly in the interests of the farmer to encourage Home Manufacture. A large assortment of **STEEL MOULDS** to suit any plow on hand very low.
SCOTCH DIAMOND HARROWS!
 a specialty. **TWO EXCELLENT LUMBER WAGONS VERY CHEAP.** Repairing of all kinds done promptly and satisfaction guaranteed.
 We invite inspection at the Brussels Foundry.
W. R. WILSON.

Brussels Post January 30, 1880

Wilson sold the part of his property to George Howe in 1885. Howe's woollen mill, located at the southwest corner of Elizabeth and Catherine Streets, was destroyed by a fire that started in a stable. "It is the worst fire the village has had for some time, as both the village, and the owner are very heavy losers and it is doubtful if the mill will be re-built, at all events for some time. Mr. Howe the owner will lose heavily. The property was worth \$8,000, and was only insured for half that amount." (*Huron Expositor* Dec. 14, 1883) A meeting was held in February 1884 to discuss whether assistance would be given to Mr Howe in rebuilding the mill. In March, AL Gibson and David Ross were given the task of examining Howe's financial affairs "preparatory to submitting a by-law loaning him \$5,000 to assist him in rebuilding the woollen mill." Work did begin on a new mill in June: "George Howe has commenced work

on the new woollen mill. He has leased the Wingham mill to accommodate his customers until the new one is ready to run." (*Huron Expositor* Feb. 15, Mar. 28, June 27, 1884)

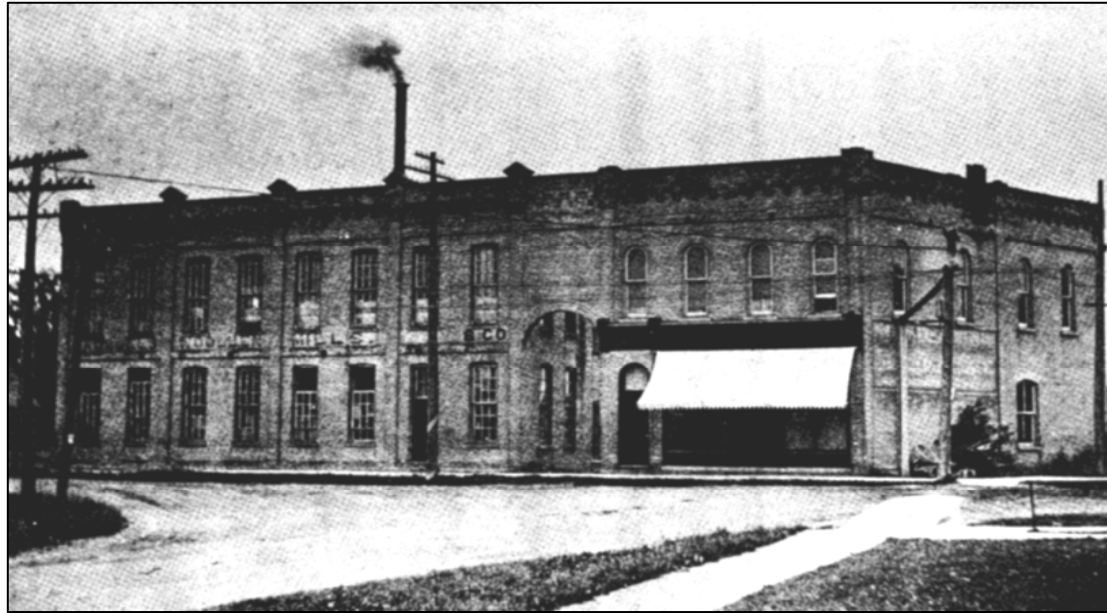
In August 1884 it was reported that: "Mr Wilson has commenced to build a two-story brick block on the corner of Mill and Turnberry streets, formerly occupied by E Leavens. It and the new woollen mill will make a fine block on a hole that was always an eyesore in the village." Leavens had had a grocery and provisions store since 1880. (*Huron Expositor* Aug. 22, 1884)

The woollen mill had difficulty getting back on track and was still struggling in 1885. A special meeting of the Council was held in June "to endeavour to push the Howe woollen mill along." In July a new engine arrived for Howe's woollen and by August was up and running. "The new Wheelock engine, manufactured by Goldie & McCulluch of Galt, is now in superb running order at Howe's woollen mill. It has the celebrated Monolith attachment and all the latest improvements. The engine does its work in a most satisfactory manner. DA Smale has things fixed up in very tasty style about the engine." (*Brussels Post* June 5, July 24, Aug. 14, 1885)

In 1888, JD Ronald purchased the Brussels Woollen Mill was by JD Ronald for Mrs. George Howe. "The price paid was \$20 over the claims held. We hope the mill will be boomed so that it may become one of our leading industries." By 1889, it appeared to be prospering again. "Messrs. Howe & Co., Brussels woollen mill, have just made a large purchase between 3,000 and 4,000 pounds of wool from Port Burwell. It is the finest light fleece wool ever imported into this town. They will keep the mill humming for several months at blankets, woollen goods, tweeds etc. for next fall's use. The goods will be of very superior quality." (*Brussels Post* Mar. 23, 1888; Mar. 29, 1889)

A fire destroyed Wilson's foundry on August 7, 1891. "About 12:30 o'clock last Friday night the fire alarm was rung and the cry borne along that Wilson's foundry was on fire. It proved too true and the flames had got such headway that it was an utter impossibility to save either building or its contents and vigorous efforts were successfully made to stay the onward progress of the fire. The town engine was taken to the river at the flax mill and worked magnificently, throwing two streams of water for hours, one of which saved the residence of Robt. Wilson when I was thought to be doomed. The other branch played on the west side of the fire and together with the work done by the Hook and Ladder Co., in pulling down the house in which Jas. Cooper lived, the brick blocks on Turnberry Street were put out of danger. An engine from the Ronald works rendered effective service and deluged the rear of the burning building and saved the outbuildings, cordwood, &c. from destruction. The fire raged with great fury and the foundry and its adjuncts was soon a mass of smouldering ruins. Nobody appears to know how the fire originated but the general opinion appears to be that it was in the neighbourhood of the furnace. Mr. Wilson estimates his loss at \$8,000, and he has an insurance of \$2,500 in the Gore Mutual Insurance Co. The burned buildings consisted of a two story foundry 130x60 feet, with office, moulding shop, dry kiln, blacksmith shop 24x60 feet, and a dwelling house. In addition to the tools of shop and foundry, there was a planing machine and a lot of wood working tools destroyed. Also 40 plows about ready for the painters. In the office were valuable papers

and accounts but they could not be reached.... It is a very heavy loss to Mr. Wilson, more so as his health is not in a condition to admit of him pushing business as in the past. The fire will also be a direct loss to Brussels as there is no present probability of the foundry being rebuilt." (*Brussels Post* Aug. 14, 1891)



The Woolen Mill sign is still faintly visible between the first and second floors of the building. Wilson's brick store is the section shaded by the large awning.

The Howe Woollen Mill was again in financial difficulties by 1893. "On Thursday afternoon of last week, JD Ronald, who held a chattel mortgage against machinery in the Howe woollen factory, had the bailiff take possession and as a result the factory was closed down. It is unfortunate that it is so as Brussels is not overloaded with industries. There was no electric light on Thursday and Friday night owing to the trouble. As to what settlement or arrangement will be arrived at is not at present known but it is to be hoped something will be speedily done so as to get the machinery again in motion." (*Brussels Post*

Apr. 14, 1893) An auction sale was held in February 1894 and the Howe property was sold in May. "FACTORY SOLD – On Tuesday of this week the village Council disposed of the woollen factory to Howe & Co., of this place, for the sum of \$3,000. It is expected that the factory will be put in first-class shape for this season's trade and the firm is now

prepared to handle a large quantity of wool. We hope the business arrangements and plans involved in connection therewith will eventuate in a hustling business being brought into Brussels to co-operate with the trade already carried on in the factory." (*Brussels Post* Feb. 23, May 25, 1894)

Howe & Co. added more machinery to the woollen factory in June 1894 and prepared to hustle work through the summer. In November, Mary H Howe advertised her own knitting services: "KNITTING – Mary H. Howe, of the firm of Howe & Co., is prepared to take in knitting, or knit to order, socks, stockings, cardigan jackets, etc.

Will exchange goods for wool. Store, one door south of the Woollen Mill, Brussels. Give us a call." (*Brussels Post* June 8, Nov. 2, 1894)

In 1898, a new industry was to be tried at the Howe factory. "THE CARPET FACTORY – Last Friday a canvas was made of the town and 33 subscribers, of \$10.00 each, obtained as a loan to the proposed Carpet factory coming here from Elora. A meeting of those interested in the matter was held in the Council Chamber on Saturday evening, when WH Kerr was chosen Chairman and Postmaster Farrow

*Oily Tongued Agents will try to
draw Attention from this
Notice,*

NEVER MIND!

Call and Judge for Yourself all who
are in want of the following :

Our Single Furrow Plows sell
from \$12.00 to \$14.00.

We draw Special Attention to our
Two Furrow Plows, which
sell from \$10 to \$13.

Straw Cutters, \$40.

6 Knife Pulpers, \$14.

PLOW POINTS

Of All Makes. The following are
~~some of them~~ :—Verity, Wilkin-
son, Gopp, Advance and Smith's
Falls, Kept Constantly on Hand
at 40c. per Point.

Gang Points, ~~25c.~~ each.

Second-hand Horse Powers of
different makes Cheap.

Large Planer, Moulding Machine and
Band Saw for sale.

W. R. WILSON,

Brussels Foundry.

Advertisement in *Brussels Post* 1890

Secretary. After discussing the situation B Gerry and WF Vanstone were appointed as a delegation to visit Elora on Monday and report the result on Tuesday at 9 am. It was agreed that the money collected be banked by Mr. Kerr to the credit of the Committee until its further disposal. The gentlemen referred to made the visit and reported, but no further action was taken, ten days being granted for righting certain matters that were obstacles in further progress. A vote of thanks was passed to Messrs. Gerry and Vanstone and their expenses ordered to be paid out of the monies collected." The venture did not go ahead, however, and the factory was sold: "THE HOWE FACTORY SOLD – On Wednesday of this week Bainton Bros., of Blyth, closed a bargain with Howe & Co. for the large brick woollen factory in this place. They take immediate possession. These gentlemen are tanners and glove manufacturers but in addition will operate the woollen mill, carding rolls, spinning yarns, &c. We extend a cordial welcome to them and wish them every success. Mr. Howe and family, who have been residents of Brussels for the past 15 years, will remove from town in the course of a month or so and may go back to their old home at Hespeler. Mr. Howe has a most estimable family and we will be sorry to see them remove." (*Brussels Post* Mar. 25, Apr. 2 and 22, 1898)

Howe & Co. moved to the Smale Block and continued to sell "fine tweeds and overcoatings." It wasn't until 1905 that Howe & Co. went out of business. "REMOVING FROM BRUSSELS – Owing to our intention of closing out our stock of blankets, yarns, tweeds, flannels, knitted goods, &c., special bargains will be given for the next two weeks so as to save removal. A call will convince you of the bargains to be obtained. Miss Howe, who has been in charge, will remove to Wroxeter, where Howe & Co. have the woollen factory. Howe & Co., Smale block, Brussels." (*Brussels Post* Sept. 30, 1898; Jan. 12, 1905)

Excelsior Knitting Factory

The firm of Lockbridge Bros. owned the woollen mill property in 1903. They defaulted on their mortgages and the property was sold to Jonathan T Wood in 1904. Wood started a knitting factory in the mill. "JT Wood, the hustling proprietor of the knitting factory and woollen mill here, has now 16 hands on his staff with orders already in hand for several months running and good prospects for a heavy increase. He has the factory in good shape and figures that considerable addition will have to be made to the number of his employees. This is the kind of news *The Post* finds pleasure in chronicling regarding our local industries and we hope the boom will continue in all our mills, factories, &c." A telephone was placed in the knitting factory in April. In June, Woods advertised for wool: "22 CENTS FOR WOOL – JT Wood, proprietor of the Excelsior Knitting Mills, Brussels, is prepared to pay 22 cents per pound, cash for any quantity of good wool delivered at his mills. Splendid stock of choice goods consisting of tweeds, flannels, flannelettes, cotton shirtings, cottonades, brought in from the best mills, and blankets, yarns and sheetings, made in our own mill of choice stock, to give in exchange for wool. An advance of 2 cents per pound, allowed for wool in trade. Now is the time to market your wool. Strictly fair dealing our principle. Come and see us before going elsewhere." (*Brussels Post* Feb. 16, June 13, 1905)

Wood constructed a building for an acetylene lighting plant in 1909. Because he had the new building, his insurance rates at the knitting factory were reduced. However, use of acetylene almost cost Wood and H. Drage their lives one evening in late 1909. The men had returned to the mill late on November 25th and entered the building carrying a lantern. Unknown to them the acetylene from the generator had leaked and filled the building. The ensuing explosion destroyed the machine and

injured Wood and Drage. Wood was badly burned and it was feared he would lose an eye. Drage was less severely injured. (*Our Story*, p. 99)

In May 1910, Wood had the factory refitted with new machinery. "REFITTED – JT Wood has been busy refitting the machinery of the Excelsior Knitting Factory so as to be in a better position to compete with the larger mills a. He has thoroughly modernized a set of cards thereby reducing labor, increasing production and bettering quality, making from lowest to best grade. The average number of employees runs close to 20 making it a valuable acquisition to Brussels. They turn out good work and a lot of it." (*Brussels Post* May 19, 1910)

Business was booming at the knitting factory in 1915. "JT Wood is receiving more orders at the Excelsior Knitting Factory than he can turn out in the desired time An Increased staff seems to be the only way out." (*Brussels Post* Nov. 18, 1915)

In 1920, JT Wood leased the larger store in the McKelvey Block, recently vacated by DC Ross, for use as a storeroom for finished stock from the Excelsior Knitting Factory. He also used it for packing goods for shipment to customers. (*Brussels Post* May 20, 1920)

Some time before 1925, the knitting factory stopped production. When JT Wood closed the mill Ament Industries used the building as a paint shop until 1928. Wood's widow sold the property to Walter Lowry in 1929. Lowry operated a Hudson Essex automobile dealership.

During the 1930s, Harry Walker built racing sulkies on the second floor. Joe Kelly ran the British American Gas Pump from a room at the south end of the building from 1932 to 1943. The upper floor of the mill was connected by a long wooden ramp to a red barn near the river. Gordon Sanderson

operated a car repair business in the barn in 1935-36. George McCutcheon and Jack Rice purchased the main mill building in 1946. They ran Riverside Motors, the forerunner of JL McCutcheon Motors, at this location in to the late 1950s. The old woollen mill building was demolished in 1967 to make way for a new medical/dental centre.

As noted, the Brussels, Morris & Grey Municipal Telephone System purchased Wilson's brick store adjoining the woollen mill in 1909. Young's property became part of the Telephone System's property in 1930. A new building to house the telephone system was built directly behind the old one in 1957. The municipal clerk's office occupied the old building.

BETTER NEWS
FOR THE
FARMER.

Brussels Woolen Mill
.....WANTS TO GET.....

50,000 POUNDS OF WOOL
In Exchange for Goods.

The Highest Market Price will be Allowed.

We have a Fine Assortment of
Tweeds, Cottons, Flannels, Prints,
Cashmeres, Blankets, Sheet-
ing, Knitted Goods,
Yarns, &c.

All Wool left with us for manufacturing, whether rolls or otherwise, will have our prompt attention.

Satisfaction - Guaranteed.
HOWE & Co.,
BRUSSELS.

steady
as she goes!

UP THE HILLS

AROUND THE CURVES

DOWN THE STRAIGHTAWAY

No Car in the Low-Priced Field
Equals Chevrolet for
Steadiness, Stability and Smoothness

There's an easy way to prove the above statement. It doesn't cost a cent and it's lots of fun. Take a demonstration drive in a Chevrolet. You'll find that most of your old ideas about low-cost motoring will be completely changed. If you're curious, your salesman will tell you about the many, many new features that make Chevrolet's ride so superior. But without being told a thing, you will know instantly that Chevrolet has given a tremendous break to the man who wants "lots of car" at a low, low price. Call your local dealer today. Tell him you want to take a "Pleasure Drive" demonstration in a Chevrolet.

for the sweetest ride in your life, ROAD TEST—STREET TEST—HILL TEST

motoramic
Chevrolet

Only Chevrolet offers you the choice of a V8 or 6 in All models and All drives

A Steady, Mile-Long Ride
Chevrolet Bel Air Sport Coupe

The relaxing, mile-eating way Chevrolet goes ahead as legal highway speeds is substantiated in a car that's priced as low. For it's far more fun—Pleasure Drive—in Chevrolet today.

Riverside Motors - Brussels, Ont.

Brussels Post ad at left: 1892; above: June 15, 1955

Grant Block

401 – 415 Turnberry Street, Brussels, Ont.

Built: 1891

In 1859, William Grant purchased Lot 98 on Turnberry Street. He took out a substantial mortgage of \$2,000 in 1866 and had a store block built. Grant was the first postmaster of the Dingle Post Office, serving the village of Ainleyville for 14 years, between 1856 and 1870. John R. Grant took over as postmaster in 1870 and the property was sold to him in 1872.

In January 1873, after the village of Ainleyville was incorporated as a town and its name changed to Brussels, the Post Office name was also changed. “At the Council meeting on Monday evening, it was resolved to petition the Postmaster General to change the name of Dingle Post Office to Brussels.” (*Huron Expositor* Jan. 31, 1873) Ainleyville and Dingle were the past, Brussels the future.

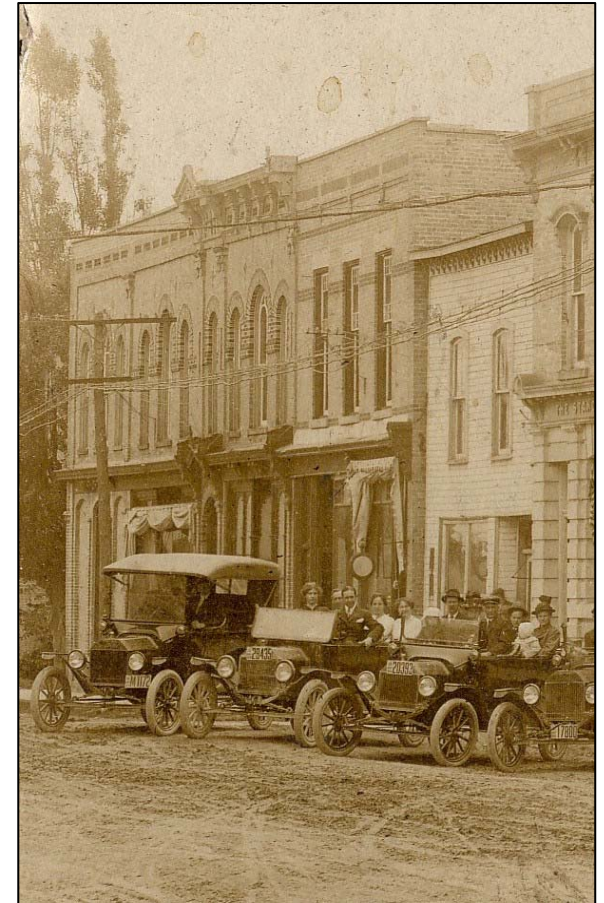
An addition was made to the existing Post Office building in 1875. *The Huron Expositor* reported: “Owing to the increase in business in the drug line and Post Office department, the ever-obliging Post Master at Brussels has found his present building too small for the accommodation of his customers. He has therefore enlarged his quarters, turning the old log building next door to the drug store into the Post office. The building, which has been highly finished with undressed, lumber presents quite a grinding appearance. Strangers passing through will have no difficulty in finding the office if they enter the most dilapidated looking building in Brussels.” (Jan. 26, 1875) In February the Montreal Telegraph Co. office was moved from John R Grant’s drug store to the Post Office adjoining.

When the block was burned in June of 1878, *The Huron Expositor* reported that fire “was discovered in the rear of JR Grant’s block in which there are six places of business, four being unoccupied. The others were occupied by D Scott & Son as general store, and by Grant as post office and telegraph office. The fire was first seen in rear of the shop lately used as a drug store. The buildings being old and inflammable, were unfortunately in best burning condition. The fire spread very rapidly to Scott’s on one side, and the post office on the other.” (*Huron Expositor* June 21, 1878)

A new Post Office building was built in 1879-80. *The Brussels Post* of March 5, 1880 reported on the new Post Office: “It is a quarter of a century since the old log house that stood on the site of the present Post Office Block was put up. At that time this section of country was a howling wilderness. After serving as a store for a score of years, and later still as a post office, it succumbed to the flames in 1878, with some other old buildings adjoining. / On the 23rd of May, 1879, Mr. JR Grant, postmaster, owner of the property, turned the first sod for the foundation of the stately buildings which were to succeed those destroyed by fire, and on the 24th of December the post office was removed to its present handsome quarters.”

The building was white brick ornamented with coloured brick arches. It had a frontage of 70 feet on Turnberry Street and some 60 feet on Mill Street. “On the ground floor are Harrison’s Bank, 19x40; Drewe & Sons store, 21x60; and the Post Office, 22x40. The ceiling is 14 feet high and looks

exceedingly well in imitation of walnut and ash.” The Post Office itself was described as “the most comfortable in the district, being large and well lighted. The space above the letter boxes has been utilized by Mr. Grant as an advertising medium, and, indeed, every available foot of wall where the ‘crowd’ waits is at the service of advertisers. There is a cheerful look about the office, and Mr. Grant declares that he actually hates to leave the place at



Part of a larger photograph of the east side of Turnberry Street, this picture shows the Grant and Blashill Blocks and the lone frame building, the Gerry Building, to the south.

nights, so snug and cheery does he find it." The upper rooms, not yet finished, were to be fit up for use as offices and dwelling space. There were three stairs leading up, one at the front and two at the rear. D Prior did the brickwork, Lawson & Ainley the carpentry, and EB Sutherland the shop work. The architect was Mr. JG Proctor of Wingham.


Drewe & Co. was a "splendidly furnished and commodious grocery store" that also sold liquor. (*Huron Expositor* July 2, 1880) It seems that Drewe & Co. had replaced John Welsh, butcher, who advertised in the January 30, 1880 issue of *The Post* as having a "commodious shop adjoining the Post Office." Drewe & Co. sold their business to Thomson & Black in October 1883, but they removed to the stand adjoining the Graham block in November. William Blashill moved into the shop recently left by Thomson & Black. (*Huron Expositor*, Nov. 16, 1883)

HARRISON'S BANK.
BRUSSELS.
 Transacts a general Banking and Exchange Business. Drafts issued, payable at par, at any agency of the "Federal Bank of Canada" or at the "Bank of Hamilton," Hamilton.

Notes of Hand Discounted.
 Special and prompt attention given to collections.
 Interest allowed on deposits repayable on demand.

In May 1883, AR Morris, a tailor, occupied the shop over Harrison's Bank. CH Maddaugh took over the business from WH Morris in April 1885. HL Jackson, a jeweller and watchmaker, occupied the south store in January 1885. In 1886, he hung out a sign in the shape of a horse with a bronze watch.

TAILORING.



C. H. Maddaugh
 begs leave to notify the people of Brussels and surrounding country that he has opened a shop in GRANT'S BLOCK, formerly occupied by W. H. Morris, where he will be pleased to attend to the wants of all favoring him with their orders. The best of satisfaction guaranteed.

Advertisements from the *Brussels Post* - Above: 1885; Left: April 16, 1880.

The Grant Block was sold to Samuel G McCaughey in December 1884. It continued to be referred to as Grant's Block or the Post Office block. McCaughey mortgaged the property for \$3,100 in 1886, it seems to finance improvements made to the Post Office in 1887. "Postmaster Grant is making a number of improvements in the post office conspicuous among them will be 20 additional lock drawers for the accommodation of the public. This will make 60 drawers in the office." (*Brussels Post* Apr. 29, 1887)

In November 1886, Joseph Laird moved his barbershop to the "Oriental" in Grant's Block. Lawyer WB Dickson was also a tenant in one of the


offices above. (*Brussels Post* Nov. 3, 1886, Jan. 7, 1887) Another tenant of the Grant Block in 1887 was the Egg Emporium run by John Roddick. Mrs. William Ballantyne & Son, Roddick's daughter, took over the business in April 1888. In March of 1889 Mrs. William Ballantyne and Son purchased SW Laird's brick store at the corner of Turnberry and Thomas Streets and moved their egg business there.

Grant & Co. operated The Golden Padlock, a hardware store in part of Grant's Block by 1886. On May 7, 1886 *The Post* reported that: "Grant & Co. have improved the appearance of their store by having all the sample boxes and shelves painted over, etc. A new sign bearing the words Grant & Co. ornaments the front."

Grant & Co. disposed of their hardware business to Adam M McKay & Co. in April 1887. "Mr. Grant left for Toronto last Tuesday and Mr. Fear will remove as soon as he winds up outstanding accounts. The retiring firm state that they have done a very satisfactory trade during past year. The gentlemen who now take the helm are well known to the people of this locality and as they both are steady going and level headed we expect they will keep the ship off the rocks. We wish them success." (*Brussels Post* Apr. 22, 1887) AM McKay & Co. called their hardware store The Padlock Hardware Store. McKay appears to have moved his hardware store not long after buying out Grant & Co. Later references to McKay & Co. indicate that his business was further south at what was once called the Yeo Block.

In January 1887, GA Beer had a custom tailoring shop in the Post Office block over Laird's Butcher shop. Dr. Hutchinson had an office over the Post Office. He was only here a few short months, moving to his former office at J. Hargreave's drug store.

CAUTION! CAUTION!



A dealer in Brussels is advertising and offering for sale a MISERABLE Imitation of the

GENUINE BUCK THORN FENCE WIRE,

of which I am the SOLE AGENT in BRUSSELS, and the Public are cautioned against purchasing the spurious article. The parties in Canada who are placing this WRETCHED Imitation on the market are now being sued for ten thousand dollars damages. The Genuine Buck Thorn Fence, the BEST and CHEAPEST fence in the world, can ONLY be purchased at the "GOLDEN PADLOCK."

I am also Agent for the Ontario Barb Fence Company, who make the best Barb Wire in Canada.

In 1887 Adam McKay & Co.'s "The Padlock" succeeded Grant & Co.'s Golden Padlock hardware store. The above advertisement is dated 1885.

James Caton ran the Red Flag store next to the Post Office in April 1888. In March of 1889, Scarff & Ferguson, dry goods merchants of Stratford, opened a branch store in the Post Office block. "It is expected that a plate glass front will be put in the store and other improvements will be made. Mr. Ferguson is well known to a great many people in this locality having lived here a number of years. He has had a thorough business training and understands the dry goods trade thoroughly. The Brussels branch will be under management of John Ferguson and George Halliday, young men well and favourably known to all." (*Brussels Post* Mar. 29, 1889) Scarff & Ferguson were here until 1891 when they discontinued their Brussels branch. Ferguson and Halliday formed their own firm.

In May 1889, Mrs. Alexander moved her millinery rooms and residence into the rooms above the Post Office. Changes were in store for the Post Office as well. At the end of the month, postmaster John R

Grant resigned his position of 20 years. Thomas Farrow took over as postmaster.

The Post Office itself was moved in August 1891 to a store recently purchased by the new postmaster Farrow, on the west side of Turnberry Street south of WH McCracken's grocery. (*Brussels Post* Apr. 7, 1891)

The rooms above the former Post Office were let in September 1891 for use as an art studio. "The ladies interested in art have rented the large room over the former post office for a studio and will be doing the artistic and beautiful there." (*Brussels Post* Sept. 25, 1891)

Jacob Eamer leased the grocery in what was now called the McCaughey Block in January 1894. He had the store renovated for his use. Eamer sold his business only two months later to Taylor & Smillie. Mr. Eamer was said to be in poor health and planned a vacation in hopes that it would help him recuperate. Taylor & Smillie planned to sell boots and shoes as well as groceries. Taylor & Smillie did not stay at this location much longer than Eamer had; they moved to a store in the Graham Block in June 1894.

Miss Stewart opened a dressmaking shop over Taylor & Smillie's grocery at the end of March 1894. She had both town and city experience to recommend her.

As noted, Ferguson & Halliday replaced Scarff & Ferguson in the dry goods business in one of the McCaughey Block stores in 1891. In their profile on local businesses published in 1893, The Post described Ferguson & Halliday's dry goods business as "one of the popular and flourishing Dry Goods establishments.... It is now about 5 years since Messrs. Ferguson & Halliday commenced business

here [as Scarff & Ferguson]... The firm purchase their stock from the best markets and the store is always filled with a large and superior line of Dry Goods, mantles, clothing, &c." (Oct. 20, 1893)

Ferguson & Halliday were in business here until 1894 when their store was taken over by David Hogg, furniture dealer. "An arch was cut between the store and the former post office so as to increase the accommodation for the new tenant, (*Brussels Post* Feb. 23, 1894)

In the spring of 1896, DG Hogg, furniture dealer and undertaker, found it necessary to make an assignment. John Walker leased the premises and opened a new furniture store in November. He also purchased the hearse and undertaking supplies from Hogg and planned to carry on that branch of the business. The firm was known as Cardiff & Walker in 1897.

TAYLOR & SMILLIE 

Opposite the American Hotel, Brussels,

Having bought the stock of J. Eamer at a Big Discount are prepared to supply

GROCERIES, CROCKERY, GLASSWARE AND SEEDS.

At a Big Reduction on Usual Prices.

The Whole Stock Must Go

 Before removing to our new premises in Dr. Graham's Block.

TERMS, CASH ONLY.

TAYLOR & SMILLIE.

Brussels Post 1894

FEW WORDS
 BUT
GREAT VALUES
 AT
FERGUSON & HALLIDAY'S.

Advertisements from the *Brussels Post* February 10, 1893, above; Cardiff & Walker 1897.

Walker was in business here until 1900. In October 1900, Walker moved his furniture and undertaking business down the street into the new store built by John Leckie.

In March 1905, William Henry Kerr, publisher of *The Brussels Post*, bought the McCaughey Block. In July the newspaper business was moved into the north part of the block. "To move a newspaper plant from one office to another, including power press and engine, and issue the usual weekly edition is not an easy task and yet that is what *The Post* did and in genuine hot weather too. D McNaughton bossed the removal of the heavy machinery and by rollers and planks and Councillor Thomson's 'trolley' saved.... This was our second move in 25 years and we hope it will be another quarter a century before we are asked to try it again." (*Brussels Post* July 20, 1905)

WH Kerr assumed ownership of *The Post* in 1880. The business stayed in the Kerr family until 1932 when Kerr's son, John Leslie, died. Roy Kennedy, son of AR Kennedy, the former editor of the

NEW
Furniture Store!
 The undersigned has opened out a Large and well Assorted Stock of
New Furniture
 IN THE BRICK BLOCK
 Opposite the American Hotel, Brussels,
 Where may be found the latest and best Styles in
 Parlor and Bedroom Suites,
 Sideboards, Tables, Lounges,
 Sofas, Chairs, Mattresses, &c.
 Picture Framing promptly attended to. Curtain Poles and Window Blinds supplied.
Satisfaction Guaranteed. Give me a call.
JNO. WALKER.
Undertaking Department!

 In connection with the store a well ordered Undertaking Department will be kept where a large stock of Caskets, Coffins and Undertakers' Supplies will always be found at Moderate Charges.
First-class Hearse, Chivalry and Arterial Embalming
CARDIFF & WALKER.

Stratford Beacon, purchased *The Brussels Post* in 1933. For the next forty years the Kennedy family published the newspaper. Roy Kennedy's brother, Hugh, worked at *The Post* for a time as did his wife,

Evelyn. She continued as the Brussels correspondent after the newspaper was purchased by McLean Bros. Publishing Ltd. of Seaforth, and absorbed by *The Huron Expositor*, in 1973.

Some of the tenants of the stores in later years were Fletcher Sparling, a farm implements dealer and machine agent, who had a business here from 1925 to 1931; John Rowland, a baker, from 1935-36; and Coleman's Restaurant, from 1940-42. The town clerk's office was located in the Grant Block in the late 1940s. There was a harness and shoe repair shop in one of the stores for several years, starting with Nathan Chapman and Oliver Doll in 1945. Arnold Stephens was the saddler in 1947-49. Jacobs Saddlery & Shoe Repair, with Clarence Pegelow as harness maker, was in business for almost 30 years from 1950 to 1979. Edward Rutledge had a grocery store in one of the store spaces in 1953 to 1956. McCutcheon Groceries was here from the 1960s to the early 1980s. The Independent Order of Oddfellows & Rebekahs had lodge rooms above *The Post* offices from 1977 to 1985. The Block now houses Cinnamon Jim's Café and the Big Suds Laundry.

We hope the proper authorities will look after a crowd of young boys who, almost every night, make the night air ring with their yells in returning from the Salvation Army meetings. This 'cowboy' style of running the town should be sat down on, with a good deal of emphasis too. We hope our constable will keep their weather eye open and nab some of them. Do the leaders of the Army meetings ever try to curb this style of proceeding on the street?

Brussels Post Feb. 27, 1885

REMOVED!

MRS. A. E. SIMMS

Has Removed to the Store Vacated by
H. L. Jackson, Postoffice Block, and
calls the attention of the public
to her Stock of

CANDIES, FRUITS, CONFECTIONERY,
FANCY GOODS AND SMALL WARES.

FRESH OYSTERS, ALWAYS ON HAND.
GIVE ME A CALL.

17-8 MRS. A. E. SIMMS.

Advertisements from *Brussels Post*, above: 1890;
centre: April 1880; Right top: August 17, 1955; right
bottom: July 1, 1942.

"Ye ho, we go,
Across the sea."


McGILLICUDDY BROS.

AGENTS FOR THE

ALLAN LINE,

—AND—

STATE LINE



Of Ocean Steamships.

Cabin and steerage passages for any point in
Great Britain can be procured at this office at
lowest rates, via Halifax or New York. Vessels
sail on Saturday and Thursday respectively.

McGillicuddy Bros.

CONUNDRUM – A Brussels lady asked *The Post* what was the
difference between a Yankee, a rooster, and an old maid? We
gave it up, and she volunteered the following information which
the public will kindly distribute: - A Yankee sings "Yankee-
doodle-do"; a rooster says "Cock-a-doodle-do"; and an old maid
whispers "Any dude will do."

Brussels Post July 13, 1898

**How Can You Go Wrong
With Values Like These?**

Miss Canada Fandy		
Tomato Juice 48 oz.		27c
Carnation Milk	13c — 2 for	25c
2 Fruit Marmalade 24 oz.		28c
Kounty Kist Peas 15 oz.	12c — 2 for	23c
Dew Kist Corn 15 oz.	13c — 2 for	25c
Mixed Sockeye Salmom		15c tin

You will find other values just as great as these at

THE RUTLEDGE GROCERY

Not just to-day or to-morrow, but Every Day of the year.

PHONE 7 WE DELIVER

We Are Proud of You

*We Join With All Canada
In Saluting The Men Of
Our Armed Forces*

Coleman's Restaurant

Blashill Block

421 Turnberry Street, Brussels, Ont.

Built: 1890

AM McKay's hardware store was located in the south store in the McCaughey Block. At that time there was a vacant lot between it and Leckie's Block to the south. In the summer of 1889, McKay & Co. planned construction of a new store on this site. "The building will be put up by Smith & Malcolm and will be occupied by them for a furniture show room and finishing establishment. It is a splendid site. Work will commence shortly. (*Brussels Post* July 26, 1889)

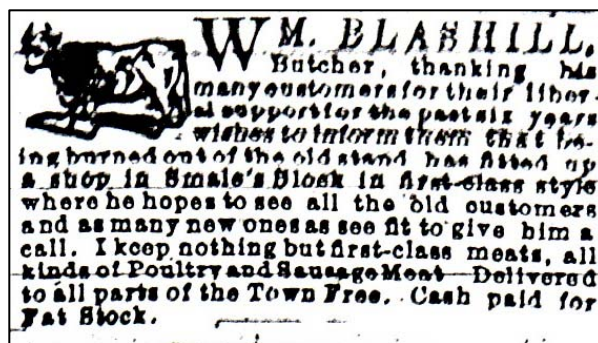
McKay sold the property to William Blashill in 1890. It seems that McKay did not build in 1889 as planned. It was not until the spring of 1890 that William Blashill began building a new store block on this site. Excavation started in April, the plate glass was installed in December, and Blashill moved his butcher into the new store early the next year. He installed a crank meat chopper, manufactured by Stewart & Hulton, Paris, for the manufacture of sausage and built a brick smoke house at the rear of his block for curing hams. Bishop Ward installed a refrigerator "built on an improved plan" in April 1891.

The second store in Blashill's Block was leased to HL Jackson, jeweller, who moved one door south from his old stand in November 1890. His business was described in *The Post's* 1893 profile of local businesses: "One of the most enterprising of our business young men is the gentleman above mentioned, whose popular and first-class jewellery

establishment should occupy a prominent place in our review. Mr. Jackson was established in business here about 9 years ago. He commands a full share of the trade and possesses facilities for meeting the wants of the people which makes his store a most advantageous place to deal, if you require watches, clocks, jewellery, musical instruments, &c." (*Brussels Post* Oct. 20, 1893) Herbert L Jackson was still in business here until 1939.

In the same business profile of 1893, William Blashill's butcher shop is described as "one of the oldest established butchers of the county ... Fair and upright dealing, close attention to business and handling the best meats is the basis on which his business has succeeded."

The Foresters' Lodge had rooms above Blashill's butcher shop. In 1899, Blashill had the Hall kalsomined and frescoed "and it looks very neat in its new spring suit." Electric lights were installed in June of that year.



Advertisement from the *Brussels Post* 1885

William Blashill advertised his property for sale in the October 11, 1900 issue of *The Post*.

"BUSINESS FOR SALE – By advertisement in another column it will be seen that Wm Blashill offers his butchering business, brick block, residence, slaughter house, &c., for sale as he wishes to retire from business. It is a good opening for somebody as he has everything in good shape. Mr Blashill will sell the whole en bloc or divide the properties to suit the buyer, as he is desirous of disposing of his business and taking a rest for a while or seeking a change of employment. He is an old businessman being here 25 or 30 years."

William Heffron bought Blashill's butchering business in 1900. The business changed hands again in 1905: "William Baeker purchased the butchering business of Wm Heffron and will take possession next Monday, we understand. The purchaser is an old Brussels boy, son of the late George Baeker, who has worked for years at the trade, chiefly in the Western States will have a good idea of the necessities of the business. We wish him success. It is said Mr Heffron will return to Blyth where his brothers reside. He has attended closely to his work while a resident of Brussels and we hope he will continue to prosper." (*Brussels Post* Feb. 2, 1905) Cleve Baeker, also a butcher, worked with his brother in the business. He ran the delivery cart.

Improvements were made to the Baeker Bros. butcher shop in 1910. "A modern refrigerator system has been introduced which will save labor and give better results in the proper caring of meats in the warm weather. The boys will have an up-to-date place when improvements are completed." (*Brussels Post* Feb. 17, 1910)

In 1915, the Baeker brothers bought the Currie slaughterhouse, 5th line, Morris Township. They also renovated the stores in the Baeker Block further south, next to the Central Hotel. The butcher

business was moved into the space formerly occupied by WM Sinclair's law office and JG Jone's jewellery store. (*Brussels Post* Apr. 15, May 6, 1915)



The Blashill Block with Baeker Bros. Meat Market and HL Jackson's jewellery store. The Gerry Building with Wright's express office is to the south, and the Leckie Block with its new front to the Standard Bank.

Dan McDonald bought the former Baeker Bros. butcher shop. He was in business here until 1920. Donald sold to Howard Bolger: "Last week DB McDonald disposed of the Butcher Shop business to Howard Bolger, Walton, who will get possession in the course of a month or so. Mr McDonald's health is none too robust at times. He has built up a good business and his successor will no doubt pay the same close individual attention in looking after it.

People will be sorry to see Mr and Mrs McDonald and family remove from Brussels. Mr Bolger has sold his 100 acre farm in McKillop township and holds an auction sale of farm stock, implements, &c., on the 27th inst. Mrs Bolger's health has been none of the best but we hope the recent operation will lead to permanent improvement." Bolger fitted out his car with a box to serve the purpose of a delivery van for meats to outside points. In November, Bolger and his fellow butchers the Baeker Bros., announced a change in their services: "NO MORNING DELIVERY – Starting with next Monday the local butchers have decided to cut off the delivery of meats in the forenoons. Delivery will be made, however, from 4 to 6 pm each day. This means, practically, if you wish your meat delivered you will have to order a day ahead to have it for dinner. To reduce expenses and in an endeavor to condense the orders, is the reason for the change. Now a horse and rig is kept out the whole forenoon often covering the same ground many times. See the notice from Baeker Bros. and H. Bolger." (*Brussels Post* Jan. 20, Apr. 22, and Nov. 18, 1920)

New

Butcher Shop

The undersigned have taken over the butcher shop recently occupied by Howard Bolger, and will open up for business next Monday with a full supply of fresh and cured meats. A share of the patronage is solicited from the people of Brussels and locality.

Bell & Currie


Phone 60x Orders promptly delivered

In March of 1925, Bolger sold his butcher shop and slaughterhouse, as well as his household effects, at auction. He planned on moving to Flint, Michigan, where he had secured a position.

William H Bell and John Currie, both of town, formed a partnership in the butchering business and opened up in the shop recently vacated by Bolger. Their telephone number was 69x and delivery "to any part of town" was promised. (*Brussels Post* Apr. 1, 1925)

George Weiss replaced William Bell in the butcher shop in 1930. He was in business here until 1934. Walter Lowry owned the property by this time, having purchased it from William and John Baeker in 1927.

The south store in the Blashill Block continued to be a jewellery store for some time. James Harvey McLellan had a jewellery store here in the early 1940s. William G Leach's jewellery store was here in the early 1950s. Leach bought Frank Smith's store in the Leckie Block in 1953. McCutcheon Groceries was here in the 1960s to 1985.



Every WALTHAM Watch movement is guaranteed by the manufacturers against any defect in material or construction. This guarantee is without time limit, and holds true the world over.

I 2,000,000

WALTHAM WATCHES

now in use

We have a large assortment of WALTHAM Watches in Gold, Gold Filled, Silver and Nickel Cases.

**HIGH
GRADE
GOODS
AT
CLOSE
PRICES.**

H.L. Jackson
JEWELLER.

Brussels Post ads, above: October 5, 1905; left: April 1, 1925.



This photograph shows the Blashill Block, at far left, with Baeker Bros. Butcher Shop and HL Jackson, Jeweller. The Gerry Building is the frame building. The Standard Bank had moved out of the Leckie Block by the time this picture was taken in the late 1920s. The store block with the curved pediment is the second Leckie Block, the gap between it and the original Leckie Block now filled in. Barber's poles mark the north shop of the second Leckie Block, possibly Elliott's Barbershop. The addition made in 1900 is to the north of the barbershop. The next blocks in order south are Drewe, Shiel, Long, Dennis and Garfield Blocks. The Graham Block is seen at the far right, at the start of the next block.

Store Name's

first suggestion

FOR FALL BRIDES

1847

ROGERS BROS.

BARAQA'S FINEST SILVERPLATE

26 pc. Service **\$44⁷⁵**
Cabinet included

Imagine your table set with 1847 Rogers Bros. Silverplate - the silverplate which has been the choice of Canada's brides for over a century. Better still - set it to impress... They will see expert craftsmanship in every piece - high school ornamentation, deep cut designs found usually only in sterling silver.

OPEN ALL ACCOUNT

W. G. LEACH

Jeweller Brussels

WG Leach, Jeweller ad from *Brussels Post* August 2, 1950.

Gerry Building

425 Turnberry Street, Brussels, Ont.

John Grant sold the south part of Lot 98 to Robert Martin in 1883. There was likely a frame store on the site at this time, but who the merchant may have been is unknown. William Roddick, a sign and house painter and decorator, had his business here in 1893. *The Post* reported in February 3, 1893 that: "A large glass front has been placed in W Roddick's shop, Turnberry Street. The partitions inside will be removed and racks arranged for his stock of wall papers, etc. ordered." Roddick purchased the property in 1894.

In January 1894, William Roddick and Walter Wake formed a business partnership as painters etc. "They should make a strong team as both are skilful brush wielders." (*Brussels Post* Jan. 19, 1894) The next year a contract was let for a brick store to take the place of the frame building used by Roddick & Wake for their wallpaper business. The second story was to be fitted up for a hall. The work was never done, however, and the frame store remained the sole such structure left on the main street. (*Brussels Post* Feb. 22, 1895)

Fire threatened Roddick's store in March 1895. *The Post* reported in the March 22 issue: "An incipient fire in W Roddick's wall paper store was speedily put out on Wednesday morning before very much damage was done. The cause of the fire was a defective chimney and as the trouble was between the ceiling of the upstairs and roof, the destroying element had been burning for some time before it was discovered. The fire engine was taken to the

river but although its services were not required the machine was run for half an hour to see what condition it was in. Some packing was found necessary which was attended to."

Messrs. Roddick & Wake put a brand new wagon on the road in connection with their painting business in August of 1895. James Walker of Brussels made the wagon. "The rig is finished in light colors, the body grained and trimmed in brown, and looks quite gay." (*Brussels Post* Aug. 30, 1895)

William Roddick "entered into rest" on November 6, 1895. According to his obituary he had been in



This group of men, posed with paint cans, rolls of wallpaper and other objects representative of their trade, may have been employees of Roddick & Wake's. Photo courtesy of Huron County Museum.

failing health for the past year. He was born in Hamilton, County of Northumberland, and had moved to Brussels 25 years before his death. "For a good many years he followed the painter's trade and was widely known in this section. Deceased was a big hearted, obliging man who made friends wherever he went.... [He] took an active part in musical circles, being a member of the town band for years; an active worker in the orchestra of the Methodist Sunday School in which school he was faithful teacher for many years, and he was ever ready to lend a hand to any deserving project." (*Brussels Post* Nov. 8, 1895)

In January 1896, the horses, harness and rigs belonging to the estate of the late William Roddick were offered for sale by public auction. Messrs. Deadman & McCall purchased the stock of wallpaper for sale in their store. The frame building was sold to Benjamin Gerry at the nominal bid of \$100. He held a mortgage on the property. It was reported that Gerry would make some improvements to the building "so as to put it in shape for renting." (*Brussels Post* May 15, 1896)

Walter J Wake, the partner of the late William Roddick, decided to continue the business under his own name. "He will attend to house, sign, carriage and ornamental painting and decorating, as formerly. We wish Mr Wake every success, as he is a tip-top workman and a steady, industrious young man who deserves to succeed. He will retain the paint shop on King Street." (*Brussels Post* Jan. 3, 1896) By March it was reported he had "accepted a position as paperhanger and house painter with a firm in Penatanguishene and will leave for that town on Saturday of

this week. Mr. Wake has found the confinement of the shop telling on his health and will try a season on the above-mentioned lines. He is a first-class painter. His removal from Brussels will be felt in the church choir and orchestra of the Methodist Sabbath school. In the latter he played the clarinet for several years with great acceptance. We wish him every success." (*Brussels Post* Mar. 20, 1896)

D Frain, a harness maker, occupied the shop for a while. In November of 1897, AE Scott moved his Brussels Laundry from the Leckie block where it was located and into the Gerry shop, lately vacated by Frain. "During the winter months the laundry work will only be turned out once a week instead of twice." (*Brussels Post* Nov. 19, 1897)

By January 1899, the Brussels Laundry had been replaced by RN Barrett's barbershop. "The new tonsorial parlor of RN Barrett has been fitted up with a dress of paint and wall paper." (*Brussels Post* Jan. 27, 1899) In the spring of 1900 Barrett installed new chairs: "RN Barrett has ordered two new tilting and revolving chairs of the latest design and is having the furniture of his tonsorial parlor painted and grained to correspond with the new outfit." In addition to new tilting and revolving leather-upholstered chairs, RN Barrett put in a marble-topped washstand, water taps, &c., in his barbershop. (*Brussels Post* May 24 and June 21, 1900)

By 1910, Samuel Carter was the tenant of the store and Miss Bertha Armstrong, Teacher of Piano, had a studio above. Carter's Music Store sold phonographs as well as the Frictionless Empire Cream Separator. In 1915, Carter took over the Ford automobile agency from JH Galbraith and moved down the street. The Ontario Clothing Company moved into the frame store Carter vacated, in July of 1915.

Late in 1920, Samuel Carter, after a year's holiday, returned to Brussels and resumed business in his

ARE YOU GOING TO

Paint Your House

OR DO ANY

Papering this Spring ?

If so, now is the time to consult us. The **LARGEST, CHEAPEST and BEST** assortment stock in the County, to hand comprising the following :

BIRGE & SONS

~~CELEBRATED~~ — ~~PROCESS~~ — ~~GILTS~~ —
BRONZES, SINTILARE, AND IN
GRAINS, with gorgeous friezes and ceilings to match.

Also the Handsomest stock of window shades ever shown in the County.

Nothing but the purest Leads and Oils that can be found in the market used in all our work. Farmers and others buying old rigs to paint come and see us at once. Satisfaction guaranteed.

RODDICK & WAKE,

House, Sign, Carriage and Decorative Painters.

P. S. Thinking all old customers for their favors during the past twenty years I have been in business I solicit a continuance of the same and the patronage of the people generally for the new firm.

W. RODDICK.

William Roddick and Walter Wake were partners, House, Sign, Carriage & Decorative Painters. The above ad is from the *Brussels Post* March 23, 1894. Ad at right: *Brussels Post* December 1, 1910.

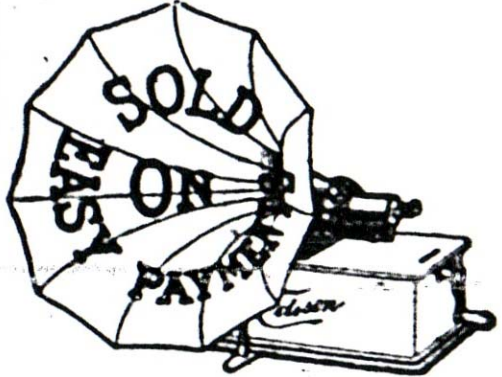
former store in the Gerry building next door north of Standard Bank. It was just a temporary arrangement however: "After the new year he will take possession of the store now occupied by the Bakery, W Willis moving to the Stretton block. Mr Carter will handle pianos, victrolas, Singer Sewing Machines, cream separators and the Gray Dart car. His health is considerably improved by his vacation." (*Brussels Post* Dec. 9, 1920)

John Wright, an Express Agent, occupied the store in the 1920s through to the early 1940s. He owned the property by 1922. Wright also collected baggage at the train station.

IF YOU WANT AN A 1

Phonograph

AT A LOW FIGURE



CALL ON

S. Carter, Brussels

No nicer Gift can be made

Leckie Block

435-441 Turnberry Street, Brussels, Ont.

Built: 1876

William James Stretton owned the north part of Lot 99 in 1863 and he took out a mortgage for \$1,300. It is likely that a frame store was built at the time. By 1868, John Leckie owned this property as well as the rest of the lot. In 1872 the *Huron Expositor* reported: "The old established stands in the village of Livingstone and Leckie are doing as large a business as ever, and are preparing for extra large spring stocks." (Mar. 15, 1872) John Stewart was for many years head clerk and bookkeeper in Leckie's store.

Leckie planned to start a cheese factory in 1874 "provided the necessary encouragement is held out by the farmers. We certainly think they stand in their own light if they don't take the matter in hand. From the number of factories in all parts of the country, we should judge that the farmers patronizing them are satisfied that it pays them well." (*Huron Expositor* Mar. 22, 1873)

Leckie also bought and sold grain. In the summer of 1873, he built storehouses for his grain business. (*Huron Expositor* Oct. 17, 1873) As there was no prospect of the Southern Branch of the Wellington, Grey & Bruce Railway opening that summer, Leckie started "to team 14,000 bushels of grain to Seaforth. It is generally reported that the company is bankrupt, and until the road is sold under the hammer, there is very little chance of it being of any service to this section of country. If the above rumor is true, we hope it may soon be sold, and the difficulty removed." (*Huron Expositor* July 10, 1874)

In March 1875, Leckie "shipped 30 cars of wheat from Brussels Station, via Great Western and North Shore Railroads to New York, and thence by National Line of Steamers direct to Liverpool. He has also shipped 4 cars of tan bark, peas, &c., to other points, making in all 34 cars during this week. Mr. Leckie deserves great credit for the strenuous exertions he is constantly making to advance the interests of our town, and we have no doubt that his efforts will be duly appreciated, both at home and abroad." In April of the same year, Leckie advertised the whole of his property in Brussels and vicinity for sale, "also his stock of store goods and the good will of his mercantile business." (*Huron Expositor* Mar. 26 and Apr. 2, 1875)

LECKIE'S BANK,
BRUSSELS, ONT.

Notes and Bills discounted.
Exchange bought and sold.
Drafts issued payable at par all agencies of
the Merchants Bank of Canada.
The highest rate of interest allowed on Deposits.
Collections made on reasonable terms.
Money to loan on Real Estate, on terms to suit borrowers.
Mortgages bought and sold. Insurance, &c.

JOHN LECKIE,
Manager and Proprietor.

LECKIE'S BANK - Our enterprising townsman, Mr. John Leckie, has opened a private bank in the premises formerly occupied by the Exchange Bank. March 5, 1880. Ad: *Brussels Post* March 5, 1880.

Messrs. Benson & Meyer, of Seaforth, lawyers, opened a branch law office in Brussels, one door north of Mr Leckie's store. In February Leckie sold his stock of store goods and leased his store premises to Messrs John K Smith of Durham, and John Stewart of Clifford. "The new proprietors take possession on the first of April. Both gentlemen are shrewd, pushing business men, and will no doubt well sustain the good reputation the establishment enjoyed for so many years under the old management." (*Huron Expositor* Jan. 21 and Feb. 11, 1876)

Leckie owned a second store and planned to remove the frame building on the south side of it, in the spring, and build a large brick building suitable for a bank and an office. In July 1876, he started excavation for his new brick block. The building was to be 40x50 and two stories high. In September it was reported that men representing the Bank of Montreal had come to town "to make a report as to the advisability of establishing an agency of that Bank in Brussels this fall" and filed a favourable report. (*Huron Expositor* Mar. 17 and July 21, 1876)

The Bank of Montreal did not open a branch in Brussels, but the Exchange Bank did, in 1878. "The Exchange Bank of Canada have decided to open a branch in Brussels. They have rented an office in the Queen's Hotel. John Leckie has been appointed manager for the agency. The office is to be opened for business by the 15th inst. This will be a want supplied to the businessmen of Brussels and vicinity which has been long felt." (*Huron Expositor* Aug. 2, 1878)

AJ McColl, Barrister, late of the firm of Squier & McColl, returned to Brussels after an absence of six months, and opened an office in Leckie's block, where he intended carrying on the practice of his profession. (*Huron Expositor* Aug. 3, 1877) McColl's office was taken over by the law firm of Malcolmson

& Wade, Barristers, in January 1880. Gifford Elliott had a law office in the block and offered "Money to Loan." CR Cooper, Conveyancer, Insurance and Land Agent, also with Money to lend on real estate, had an office in Leckie's Block. In March, Cooper moved his office to the front rooms "where the conveniences are greater than in his old office."

Mr Garlick, a druggist, leased the other half of Leckie's new building. (*Huron Expositor* Sept. 29, 1876) He appears to have moved to the Graham Block at some point before 1880. In January 1880, Dr. Graham announced that he would be taking over the stand formerly occupied by Mr. Garlick in the Graham Block.

McIntosh & McTaggart Bank

The McIntosh & McTaggart Bank moved from another location in town to Leckie's Block in June 1885. Andrew Cousley took the position of assistant in D. McKinnon's stead. (*Brussels Post* June 5, 1885)

Improvements were made to the building in 1891. In May, a new hardwood ceiling was put in McIntosh & McTaggart's bank as the plaster was badly broken. A fire across the street necessitated further work: "This week the painters are improving the front of Leckie's block occupied by McIntosh & McTaggart's bank, and GA Deadman's drug store. This was rendered doubly necessary after the blistering done by the fire across the street last fall." (*Brussels Post* May 29 and June 26, 1891)

By April 1892, the McIntosh & McTaggart bank was in financial trouble. *The Huron Expositor* of April 1, 1892 reported: "A BAD SMASH - A great deal of excitement was occasioned here on Tuesday last on its becoming known that the private bank of Messrs. McIntosh & McTaggart had closed its doors and suspended payment. It seems that for a week previous there had been a run on the bank by

BANKING.

McINTOSH & McTAGGART,

BANKERS, BRUSSELS,

Transact a General Banking Business

NOTES DISCOUNTED.

Canadian and United States Drafts bought and sold.

Interest allowed on Deposits.

Collections made on favorable terms.

Canadian Agents - MERCHANT'S BANK OF CANADA.

New York Agents - IMPORTERS AND TRADERS NATIONAL BANK.

depositors and that having paid out over thirty thousand dollars and having exhausted his available means and being unable to get aid, Mr. McIntosh, the senior proprietor, became discouraged and rather than remain and face his irate creditors, he quietly took his departure. At any rate, Mr. McIntosh left on Friday last and has not yet returned. He told his assistant that he was going to London and would be back on Monday. Instead of returning however, he sent a letter saying that he had decided not to come back and that his partner would be along in a few days and wind up the business. ... The Bank has been in operation here for about fifteen years and enjoyed, to a high degree, the public confidence, and was supposed to be thoroughly sound financially. Mr. McIntosh, also, was held in high esteem, and was looked upon as a shrewd, careful, honest business man, and his standing in the community may be judged from the fact that only last January he was elected Reeve of the village for the first time, by acclamation. The depositors are principally residents of the village and surrounding country. It is supposed Mr. McIntosh is in

the States, and unless things are much worse than any one here supposes, he would act wisely to return and look after the winding up of the business himself." An item in the next week's newspaper said it was thought the worry and care of the business had deranged Mr. McIntosh's mind. Mr. McTaggart, who was in Alabama at the time, did return to Brussels and worked with Mr. A. Cousley, the manager in charge. A statement was published in *The Post*: "The financial statement prepared by Dr. McTaggart for presentation to the creditors and depositors showed a surplus of assets over liabilities after all doubtful paper was taken out and the expectation is that every depositor will receive dollar for dollar, as soon as the amounts can be collected in. Mr. McIntosh, who was in the States for a little time, has returned to London and Dr. McTaggart met him there last Saturday. A number of Brusselites conversed with Mr. McIntosh over the telephone line and it is expected he may return to town to assist in closing up the business, although he has not yet said he will do so. In the meantime, Dr. McTaggart and Mr. Cousley are getting matters in business shape." (Apr. 15, 1892) It was not until June 1894 that the bank was officially wound up.

Dr. Gillies and Clark H Smith, bankers from Teeswater, opened a bank in May 1892, in the

GILLIES & SMITH, BANKERS,

BRUSSELS,

Transact a General Banking Business. Drafts Bought and Sold on all points in Canada, United States and Great-Britain.

FARMERS' NOTES DISCOUNTED.

BALD NOTES AND MORTGAGES A SPECIALTY.

SAVINGS BANK DEPARTMENT.

Interest Allowed on One Dollar and Upwards at Current Rates. Interest Compounded Twice a Year, Being Added to the Principal at the end of the Months of October and April. Special Arrangements made for Time Deposits.

We effect to write Insurance in old English or Canadian Companies, or in Mutual Companies as may be desired.

AGENTS FOR CANADA AND UNITED STATES: THE CANADIAN BANK OF COMMERCE.

building formerly occupied by the McIntosh & McTaggart Bank. Andrew Cousley was installed as manager. "The firm propose loaning money, cash farmers' sale notes, collect notes and accounts, write insurance and do general banking business. Mr. Smith has had years of experience in connection with a chartered bank." (*Brussels Post* May 27, 1892) In the February 9, 1894 edition of *The Post* Gillies & Smith's Bank announced: "DIVIDEND – Next Monday a 20% dividend in connection with the McIntosh & McTaggart estate will be paid at Gillies & Smith's banking establishment. All interested are asked to call."

The lease held by the Gillies & Smith, Bankers, expired at the end of November 1895 and they did not renew. It was later announced that Andrew Cousley would "open an office in town for the purpose of money loaning, selling farm and village property, collecting accounts, &c. Mr Cousley will no doubt do well as he is well and favourably known and all business transactions entrusted to him will be carefully and satisfactorily attended to. Until the 23rd he will be in charge of Messrs Gillies & Smith's private bank." (*Brussels Post* Nov.15, 1895)

The Standard Bank informed the public in the May 7, 1897 issue of *The Post* that it would "remove in the course of a few weeks from the Stretton block to the Leckie block, to the premises formerly occupied by Messrs. McIntosh & McTaggart." The apartments over the Bank were renovated and set to rights prior to the removal of the Standard Bank to its new location.

Readers of *The Post* were kept informed of staff changes and other goings-on at the bank. Mr. JA Stewart, who presided over the Brussels Branch of the Standard Bank for four years, received a promotion to the Head Office, Discount Department, in May of 1898. Mr. Brent, at Stouffville, succeeded him in the Brussels branch. In



The Standard Bank, at the far left of the picture, before the alterations to the Leckie Block that gave it the distinctive appearance it has today.

September, new Bell telephones were installed and Will J Stewart, who had occupied a position at the Standard Bank here for the past 5 years, was promoted to Bradford where he would become teller and accountant. "Will, as he is commonly called, is a smart, well educated, gentlemanly young man and stands a good chance of working to the top. He will be missed here by the Foot Ball and Tennis clubs in both of which he took a lively interest. Mr Stewart expects to leave in a few days. Mr Duncan, of Brighton, will take Mr Stewart's place in the Bank here." (*Brussels Post* May 20, Sept. 22 & 30, 1898)

In 1899, a steel teller's cage was added, as well as new desks and other alterations "that will add to the security, convenience and general convenience of the public. The Standard Bank is one of the reliable institutions of he country, and the Brussels Branch is

well looked after by Messrs. Gordon, McLellan and Duncan." An electric burglar alarm was attached to the safe of the Standard Bank in November. (*Brussels Post* Feb. 10, Nov. 16, 1899)

The room over the Standard Bank, used as an armory by Volunteer Co. No. 5, was fitted up for a parlor, adjoining the sleeping apartment of Teller McClellan and Junior Hamilton, in January 1900. An attempt was made the night of June 20th to gain entrance to the Standard Bank. "The front and back doors were tried but the intruders were frightened away by Messrs McLennan and Hamilton, who sleep over the bank by discharging their revolvers. Two suspicious looking characters were seen round town the day previous." (*Brussels Post* June 21, 1900)

By 1905, EG Eggleston, the teller at the bank for the past three years, had moved to Blenheim. K. Fraser succeeded Eggleston, coming to Brussels from Blenheim. WM Sinclair was the solicitor for the bank and AB Macdonald, also a Barrister and Solicitor, occupied rooms over the bank. AH Monteith took over McDonald's office in 1910. JF Rowland was the Bank Manager at the time.

Major renovations were made to the exterior and interior of the Standard Bank in 1909-10. The bank moved out temporarily until the work was finished in March of 1910. The Post reported on the changes: "BACK TO REFITTED PREMISES – The Standard Bank staff is once more back to their former stand in the Leckie block attending to business under greatly improved office conditions. A new front of cut stone was put in and, with fine

plate glass windows and door, presents a very neat and substantial appearance. In the interior a complete new outfit has replaced the former arrangements. There is a metallic ceiling with oak beam divisions, walls papered and burlaped, floor



Staff pose outside the newly renovated Standard Bank. The photograph was likely taken just after they had moved back into the bank in March 1910.



This photograph of the interior of the bank in 1905 shows employees standing in front of the decorative, and protective, tellers' cages.

covered with cork matting. The woodwork and furniture is oak, well polished and the partitions are part glass. Manager's office is in the front reaching it after passing the vestibule. Then comes the Ledger Keeper's apartment, Teller, Discounts and Collector's stations and private office and telephone and store room. An oak stationery cabinet will be a great convenience. There are two oak customers' desks and an oak settee. The arrangement of electric lighting is modern and excellent. Teller's cage is mounted with two frosted globes over the incandescents. Taking the alterations all in all a neat, substantial and very nice job has been done and the plan of the office is convenient and businesslike. Present efficient staff consists of JF Rowland, Manager, who has been here for the past 3 years, Ledger Keeper Pye, Teller Hawkshaw and Junior, Scott. The Standard located here years ago under favourable auspices and quickly secured a large patronage which has largely increased in the passing years. First agent here was GP Scholfield, who has since been promoted to general management head office Toronto." (Mar. 3, 1910)

The Standard Bank was still in business in the 1920s. In March 1920, Roy Burton, the well-known teller in the bank, was promoted to a position with the same bank at Calgary. Mr Dawson of Orono filled the post vacated by Burton. In June, WE Henderson replaced Miss Nellie Fox, who had resigned as the Ledger Keeper at the bank. Herbert J Sullivan was the bank clerk in 1924-1925. Frank R Smith, the druggist who occupied the store in the same building, bought the store block in September 1925 from Nesbitt Hamilton. Dr. Charles Rammage, a dentist, had an office over the bank in 1927 to 1929.

The Standard Bank amalgamated with The Canadian Bank of Commerce in 1928. The Bank of Commerce stayed at this location until 1931 and then moved to the corner of Turnberry and Thomas streets where the Bank of Nova Scotia was originally located.

William J Stewart was the proprietor of the Brussels Dairy Bar in the bank part of the Leckie Block from 1939 to 1944. William Leach bought the former bank part from Frank Smith in 1953. Leach's Jewellery store was here until 1972. Frank Smith's Drug store still occupied the store part of the block at this time.

GA Deadman's Medical Hall & Book Emporium

GA Deadman's Medical Hall & Book Emporium was the store in the Leckie Block in 1880. He sold cards, toys, fancy goods as well as being a druggist, bookseller and fancy goods dealer. In May of 1885 Mr. Nash of Belleville, who had an experience of eight years in the drug business, came to Brussels to assist Deadman in his drug store. Charles Dutton, who had been employed in GA Deadman's Drug store for several years by January of 1889, left for Detroit to take up "a remunerative position with the firm of John Davis & Co., wholesale manufacturer of essences, extracts." In October Deadman advertised: "Wanted, a person either male or female, with a good education to learn the Drug Book and Fancy goods business. Apply to GA Deadman."

Deadman was one of several businesses to install electric lights in their stores in December 1890. Early in 1891, he purchased a milkshake machine from Adam Good, adding Jersey milkshakes drinks to his goods for sale. Deadman was also becoming known for his apiary which was featured in the newspaper in 1894 and 1897.

In August 1893 George Rogers took a position in Deadman's store, replacing AJ McCall who was studying at the College of Pharmacy, Toronto. When he had finished his studies in October, McCall joined Deadman in the drug business. "Mr McCall is well acquainted with the store as he served his apprenticeship in it, and has a large circle of friends in this locality. He has been in business in Toronto for some time.... The new firm will be known as Deadman & McCall." (*Brussels Post* Oct. 4, 1895)

Deadman added optical testing to the list of services he offered in his store. In February 1895 he graduated from the Optical Institute. "He is getting the best in the way of appliances for testing. His trial test case alone cost \$90 wholesale, there being none better in Canada. He intends to spare no expense necessary for the perfect fitting of spectacles, for



correcting the various defects of vision." (*Brussels Post* Feb. 22, 1895) Deadman completed an advanced course in optics in August. Dr Hamill, of Toronto, a specialist on diseases of the eye, agreed to assist him in those cases that may required special treatment.

A National cash register was placed in GA Deadman's Drug Store in March 1895. In May, he and James Fox were appointed postage stamp vendors for Brussels. "The commission is ridiculously small. To make 1 cent they have to sell \$1.00 worth of stamps. It will be a convenience to the public however." (*Brussels Post* May 24, 1895)

A. COUSLEY,
Real Estate & Loan
Agent, - Brussels.

Money to Loan on Farm Security at the Lowest Rate of Interest.

Money Lended on Notes and good Notes Discounted. Sale Notes a Specialty.

Fire & Life Insurance Written.

Special Attention given to CONVEYANCING.

A. COUSLEY,
Office over Deadman & McCall's Store. BRUSSELS.

A Cousley opened a general agency office over Deadman & McCall's store in November 1895. He would attend to money loaning, insurance, farm sales, conveyancing, &c. Cousley was also an assistant in McIntosh & McTaggart's bank which had recently moved into the Leckie Block.

By 1885 EE Wade, formerly of the law offices of Malcolmson & Wade, had vacated his office space. Dr. McNaughton moved into these rooms. The law firm was Wade & Sinclair, Barristers, in 1887.

The law office of Messrs. Dickson & Hays replaced EE Wade in Leckie's Block, over McIntosh & McTaggart's bank, in January 1891. In June 1893, the law office formerly occupied by WB Dickson was leased to GF Blair, of Garrow & Proudfoot's office, Goderich. Mr Blair had recently passed his final examinations and would move to town to take up the practice of his profession.

Deadman & McCall became agents for the sale of bicycles in 1896. In May they started renovations to enlarge their drug store. The stonework was completed in June, the brickwork and a new floor and front completed in July. A fine large dispense case and table were placed in the rear of the store.

Deadman & McCall dissolved their partnership in March 1897. Mr. McCall purchased a drug business

in Chatham while Mr. Deadman continued with his drug business in town.

In January 1905, FR Smith was the Druggist and Stationer in the store formerly occupied by GA Deadman. He had a telephone installed to connect the drug store to his residence. A Dr. Ovens from London made regular visits to Brussels and used Smith's drug store as his base while here: "Dr. Ovens, MD, Surgeon, Occulist, Specialist in Diseases of Eye, Ear and Nose treated and glasses fitted properly. Will be at Smith's Drug store,

NO EXCUSE !
now for destroying your eyesight by using a poor pair of

as the celebrated
SPECTACLES
—OR—
Lazarus & Morris
have been REDUCED IN PRICE.

I have accepted the exclusive agency in this place for these well-known spectacles. My objection to receiving the agency hitherto has been their rather high price, but this difficulty is now removed. The superiority of these spectacles over the ordinary glasses worn is well known, there being no glimmering, wavering of the sight, dizziness or other unpleasant sensations, but on the contrary they are soothing and pleasant. It is also claimed for them that they preserve as well as assist the sight. Call and examine.

G. A. Deadman,
Medical Hall and Book Emporium.

Brussels Post Jan. 30, 1880; photograph of Deadman, above right 1895

Brussels, on Tuesday, Sept. 19th Hours 8 am to 1:30 pm.” (*Brussels Post* Mar. 23, Aug. 3, 1905)

Dr Tom T McRae, Physician, Surgeon and Accoucheur, had an office over Smith’s Drug Store in 1910. He had a new Taylor fireproof safe placed in his office in August of that year. (*Brussels Post* Aug. 25, 1910) Dr. McRae married Frank Smith’s sister, Kate, and they eventually bought the Dunedin house where he also had his office.

Frank R Smith bought the Leckie Block, including the Standard Bank and the store he occupied, in September 1925. Smith’s drug store was advertised as “The Rexall Store” in the 1920s and later years. In August 1925, the provincial licensing board responsible for drug regulation placed a ban on many of the patent medicines heretofore sold in drug stores and by doctors. *The Post* published this

notice in their August 26th issue: “PLACED UNDER BAN – Sale of fully 100 patent medicines has been placed under the ban in Ontario by the provincial board of license commissioners acting in conjunction with federal authorities. The medicines and remedies are those containing a high percentage of alcohol and not sufficiently medicated to prevent their use as beverages. Their sale by druggists and other vendors has been declared illegal under the Proprietary and Patent Medicine Act. List containing the names of the medicines have been sent to all license inspectors and vendors and henceforth they may neither be sold nor kept in stock. In each case tests were made to ascertain the alcoholic strength and the degree of medication.” Smith and other local druggists, as well as their counterparts across the province, would have had to jettison all such medicines in their stores.

Smith’s Rexall Drug Store was still in business here in the 1960s. In 1968, Smith sold his property to Noreen Eder who opened Eder’s Variety which was at this location until 1977. The Quality Used Furniture store occupied this store in 1997. The current occupants are the Solace on Turnberry spa and CfARE (Centre for Applied Renewable Energy).

COLD, cough, coffin is what philosophers term “a logical sequence.” One is very liable to follow the other; but by curing the cold with a dose of Ayer’s Cherry Pectoral, the cough will be stopped and the coffin not needed – just at present.

Brussels Post July 10, 1891



The interior of FR Smith’s drug store. Advertisement at right is from the *Brussels Post*, at left: Dec. 23, 1920.

A Happy Christmas Thought

A Kodak

2a Brownie Camera	Vest Pocket Autographic Kodak
\$4.90	\$4.90

Holiday Films Developed and Printed.

Luxury Tax Abolished

Take Advantage of the Lower Prices on Ivory and Ebony Toilet Ware

We have a splendid assortment of these goods and with the Luxury Tax deducted the lower prices are, certainly an inducement to purchase them for Christmas Gifts.

Decorations for the Christmas Tree—Tinsel, Tinsel Ornaments, Red Bells, Garlands, Red Herold Rope, Christmas Tags and Seals, White Tissue Paper, &c.

F. R. SMITH

The Rexall Store Druggist and Stationer

Leckie Block 2

449 Turnberry Street, Brussels, Ont.

Built: 1884

John Leckie built a brick store south of his bank block, likely in 1884, the year he took out a mortgage for \$8,000. Perhaps Leckie himself was the first occupant of the store (an advertisement for DC Ross' store refers to Leckie's Old Stand). It is not until April of 1889, however, that a report is made in the newspaper with regard to Leckie's store. "There is some talk of a new plate glass front being put on the store owned by Jno. Leckie, next door south to GA Deadman's. It would be a big improvement." And, in a later issue: "The brick store belonging to Jno. Leckie has been leased to Ross Bros. The whole front will be torn out, stairway removed and plate glass windows will be put in. The verandah will be consigned to the wood pile." The store was to be remodelled for use by the new tenants. "Work will commence in a few days in connection with the re-modelling of the Leckie store. The Ross Bros. and Miss Ross will occupy the two stores when the work is completed." In July, Miss Nellie Ross moved her stock of fancy goods into the newly fitted up premises in the Leckie Block. "She has one of the neatest shops in town and will no doubt do an increasing trade." (*Brussels Post* Apr. 5, 26, June 7, July 26, 1889)

Additional building projects were planned for the summer of 1889. "Material is being hauled for the new brick store to be built between McKay & Co.'s hardware store and the Leckie Block lately improved. The building will be put up by Smith & Malcolm and will be occupied by them for a furniture show room and finishing establishment. It

is a splendid site. Work will commence shortly." (*Brussels Post* July 26, 1889) It does not appear that this building was ever completed.

The Ross brothers were clothiers and tailors. DC Ross travelled to New York in 1889 where he studied a new system of cutting at the well-known Mitchell's Cutting School, 839 Broadway and received a diploma for his proficiency. "In this world-famed establishment there were 45 or 50 persons in attendance and six instructors were kept busy in explaining the various systems taught or correcting mistakes made by the students. In addition to this a staff is busy all the time in the preparation of paper patterns, books on cutting and fitting, and fashion plates. Mr. Ross says it is a busy place to go but worth a good deal to a practical man." (*Brussels Post* Aug. 9, 1889)

In April 1891, J & D Ross dissolved partnership as tailors, clothiers. James Ross retired from the firm. DC Ross continued

the business on his own and, in 1893, *The Post* reported that: "Business keeps booming along at DC Ross' tailoring establishment where ten hands are kept busy all the time manufacturing stylish clothing at a low price. Call in and see the large stock and leave your order." (*Brussels Post* July 21, 1893)

In July 1894, DC Ross purchased the tailoring and Gents' Furnishings business of Schafer Bros., at Wroxeter, and placed his brother, Robert Ross, there as manager. At the end of 1896, DC Ross and George Halliday formed a co-partnership and bought "a large bankrupt stock of readymade clothing, gents' furnishings, hats, caps, etc., at a low rate on the dollar, and are now busy placing the goods in the vacant store in the Holmes block, next door to Gerry Bros., and will open up on Saturday of this week. The store has been newly papered and



William James Cardiff drives his team of mules at the head of a parade heading north on Turnberry Street on June 22, 1898. The Leckie Building, with vacant lots on either side, frames his head. The Standard Bank and GA Deadman's drug store were the occupants of the Leckie Block to the north. AM McKay's hardware store occupied the red brick block to the south. DC Ross, Clothier, and Miss Ross, Fancy Goods Store, were early occupants of the Leckie Building.

the ceiling oiled and presents a very tidy appearance. Messrs. Ross & Halliday are well acquainted with the business and will make a strong team in pushing the trade and doing business. Mr. Ross will continue his store in the Leckie Block in the meantime and will be assisted by his brother, Robert Ross, who has closed up his shop in Wroxeter to take a position here. The new firm say they are in a position to make bargains fairly hum. We wish them success.” (*Brussels Post* Dec. 11, 1896)

The Post reported in October 1895 that John Leckie would build on the vacant lots north and south of the DC Ross store the next spring. “The localities are tip-top and as Mr Leckie owns both blocks adjoining, the building would not be very expensive.” (Oct. 4, 1895) Again, in March 1896, it

LAUGH, and the world laughs with you ;
 WEEP, and you weep alone.
 DRESS WELL, and hundreds greet you ;
 LOOK SHABBY, and your credit's gone.

Everybody who buys our goods is pleased. If people weep over bad purchases it is because they failed to heed the advice of our advertisement.

CLEARING SALE FOR 30 DAYS!

Fall Goods are arriving and we want to hustle off the balance of our Summer stock. Consequently we have special bargains for you in Stylish Tweeds, Handmade Straw and Felt Hats, Waterproofs, White and Colored Shirts, Underwear, Socks, Neckwear, &c., while this sale continues.

Satisfaction Guaranteed in all our Work.

Cloth Cut Free of Charge if Purchased from us.

The Value of a Dollar is generally put down at 100 Cents but those who patronize our Clearing Sale may secure Bargains and feel assured they are getting the value of

200 CENTS FOR \$1.

Everything a Gent requires in the Clothing Line kept by us except Boots.

Remember the next 30 days for Genuine Bargains in all the lines carried by

D. C. ROSS,
 Fashionable Tailor and Outfitter,
 BRUSSELS

It won't cost you a cent to call and get our prices and see the goods.

Brussels Post 1893

was reported that Leckie proposed building in the vacant space between Deadman & McCall’s drug store and Miss Ross’ store, fitting it up for an office. The drug store was to be enlarged by a brick extension to the rear. The brickwork was well advanced by July and the new store was leased to Mrs. E Rogers in August. (*Brussels Post* Mar. 27 and June 3, and Aug. 14, 1896)

Mrs. E Rogers moved her millinery shop in September 1896 to a store in the Leckie block specially fitted up for a millinery show room. Miss Dunbar, of Guelph, was engaged as milliner for the coming season. Miss Dunbar was re-engaged to work for Mrs. Rogers each of the next three seasons. Mr. Rogers died in 1898 and Mrs. Rogers moved her home into rooms in the Leckie Block. She was still in the millinery business here in 1900 when Miss Lawrence of Guelph was hired to take Miss Dunbar’s place for the coming season.

By January 1897, DC Ross, finding it inconvenient to manage both stores, gave up the store in the Leckie Block. In March, A Cousley leased the store for use as a bicycle wareroom. He had “a repairer engaged for a short time and any one desiring to get their wheels put right should send them in at once.” At the end of the year Cousley purchased the bankrupt stock of gents’ furnishings, hats, caps, etc., from E Downing, of Goderich, at a low rate on the dollar, and opened out in the Leckie block. (*Brussels Post* Mar 26 and Dec. 31, 1897)

AE Scott, who had recently removed his laundry from Brussels to Wingham, came back to town in May of 1897 and resumed business in the apartments in the Leckie Block, over A Cousley’s Bicycle Emporium. “During the past season A Cousley disposed of no less than 36 bicycles, a good season’s trade. He has the business down fine.” (*Brussels Post* Oct. 5, 1899) Cousely kept up his loan agency, bicycle sales, and ran an Express office.

Millinery
 —AND—
Mantle Opening

MRS. E. ROGERS

Begs to announce that her Millinery and Mantle Openings will take place on

Thursday, Friday and Saturday,

OCT. 1, 2 & 3,

When will be shown all the newest and leading Styles for the coming season.

MISS DUNBAR,

Who has had much experience in some of the leading establishments has been engaged for the Fall Season and we feel confident that every lady placing her orders with us will receive entire satisfaction both as regards Style and Workmanship.

E. ROGERS.
 BRUSSELS, Sept. 23rd, 1896.

Brussels Post 1896

Miss Annie Ross purchased the Fancy Goods business run for several years by her sister, Miss Nellie Ross, in December 1897. By September 1898 the Misses Ross had moved their millinery, dress and mantle making establishment into the store in the

Stretton block formerly occupied by the Standard Bank. "Miss Ross has had a wide experience in city and town and will be glad to have a call from the ladies. In connection with the store Miss Ross' sister will conduct a fashionable dress and mantle making department where she expects to demonstrate her ability to please her customers feeling assured that she will be able to fill the bill. Miss Ross has worked in some of the best shops in both Canada and the United States." (*Brussels Post* Sept. 16, 1898) Miss Kate McCallum and Miss Sarah Jamieson opened a dressmaking shop in the Leckie block in February 1898, in the space vacated by the Misses Ross. (*Brussels Post* Feb. 18, 1898)

Cousley's Bicycle Emporium had electric lights installed in 1900. "Electric light was installed last week in A Cousley's Bicycle depot and Express office. He has fitted up a compartment for the latter business, placing his safe, desk, etc. therein. Mr Mainprice gives very good satisfaction with the light, and it is now generally in use by the business places." (*Brussels Post* Feb. 1, 1900)

In July 1900, *The Post* reported another building project between McKay's hardware store and Cousley's bicycle emporium: "NEW BLOCK - As stated by *The Post* last week Jno Leckie intends erecting a brick block on Turnberry street. It will be 20 1/2 x 70 feet and 2 stories. There will be a space of about 3 feet 6 inches left between the new building and the present Leckie block, although the front wall will close the gap. The brick wall of AM McKay & Co's hardware store will be utilized. Mr Leckie is asking for tenders for the stone and brick work and for the excavating for the cellar. A plate glass front will be out in. Jno Walker will be the tenant and the building will be ready for occupation next fall. The wooden wall in the rear of the brick store occupied by A Cousley will be tar papered and covered with sheet iron to render it fire proof." (*Brussels Post* July 5, 1900)

**BICYCLE
EMPORIUM**

MAIN ST. BRUSSELS

BRANTFORD, { RED BIRD,
BLACK BIRD,
RUBY RIM.

WOODSTOCK --NEW BARNES.

WINDSOR --E. & D.

TORONTO --CLEVELAND.

GODERICH, { HURON,
COMMON SENSE.

Repairs and parts always on hand.
Bike wheels doctored and a cure guar-
anteed.
Call and see our fine display of wheels.

A. COUSLEY.

Brussels Post 1897

DA Lowry was awarded the contract for the new block. Workmen began excavating for the cellar in July and the new building was to be pushed ahead as rapidly as possible so as to be ready for occupation in the fall. The brickwork was well on toward completion by late August. By October the first coat

of plaster was on and the plate glass, 114 x 135 inches and the largest plate in Brussels, was installed. The new tenant, John Walker, had his furniture business moved in by the end of November: "The store front in Jno Walker's new furniture store, Leckie block, looks quite gay. It makes a fine shop and adds greatly to the front street." (*Brussels Post* July 19 & 26, Aug. 30, Oct. 11 & 25, Nov. 22, 1900) Walker operated a funeral business along with his furniture store.

Walker had the furniture store and undertaking business here until 1905. In February of that year he left Brussels. "This week Jno Walker has gone to Teeswater where he has leased the Vendome hotel, a well-known hostelry of that town, for a term of years, from WP Varson, owner of the same. Mr Walker has spent his life in this locality, moving from his farm to Brussels eleven years ago and for nearly five years was engaged in the furniture and undertaking business in town, selling out to Moore Bros last year. He is a sharp, shrewd, civil man who has a way all his own of getting along with the public. Mr Walker has not disposed of his comfortable residence, Elizabeth street, but will lease it. Mrs Walker and children will probably remove to Teeswater next week as will Alex Walker, brother to the proprietor. Teeswater has quite a number of former Brusselites now among them being Reeve Ferguson, S Askin, W Habkrik, T Friendship and Principal Strachan." (*Brussels Post* Feb. 16, 1905)

The Montreal Telegraph Co. in Brussels was transferred from Mrs Fletcher's store to Andrew Cousley's office in January 1905. He was to be the new agent and operator. Miss Teenie Sample purchased Mrs Fletcher's optical outfit and was to be "found at the office of A Cousley, ready to attend to the wants of the public in this line. Miss Sample had attended a regular Optical course and would shortly write for her diploma.



Brussels Post Mar. 23, 1905

the Canadian Express Co. Agency, Fourth Division Court Clerkship and other minor offices held by Cousley. At first, William Henry, the GTR station agent, was appointed to take over the express agencies, but owing to the need to maintain the downtown office was unable to do so. In September JW Kerney took on the Canadian Express business at his shop.

In July 1910 a notice in the newspaper announced that John Elliott's barbershop in the Leckie block had "passed into possession of Chas. Rintoul of Wingham. The former is leaving for Winnipeg where he has a situation. We wish both young men success. Mr Rintoul sold out in Wingham to the late John Ritchie." Only one month later Elliott was back in town. He re-purchased the barbershop he had recently sold and resumed operations in his old

In May of 1905 it was announced in *The Post* that Cousley, a well-known resident of Brussels for the past 25 years, would move to Winnipeg where he proposed trying his hand at Life Insurance. His removal led to new appointments as agent of the Montreal Telegraph Co. Office,

stand. "The trip westward did him good." (*Brussels Post* July 14, Aug. 25, 1910)

Barrister Sinclair moved his law office to the Leckie Block in 1915 "where very neat and comfortable quarters are arranged." (*Brussels Post* May 6, 1915) He had his office here until 1934.

In April 1920, Miss Maude Bryans leased the building in the Leckie block, one door south of WM Sinclair's law office, and would carry on her profession as an eyesight specialist. (*Brussels Post* Apr. 22, 1920) In 1929 and 1930, Robert Ferguson had his tailor shop here.

Charles Lowrie purchased the south part of the Leckie Building in 1928. The north part, occupied by John Elliott's barbershop, became Ira McLean's barbershop in the 1930s. Ira McLean was the property owner in 1935, but Fleming Black assumed ownership in 1937. Black sold to Jacob Fisscher in 1941. It was in the 1940s that this section of the Leckie Building was converted into a restaurant, first managed by Doris McDonald. Alec Coleman owned the property in 1945 and he had a restaurant here in the 1950s. John Hanna purchased the building in 1961 and operated Hanna's Restaurant here until 1969. The restaurant changed hands and names in the 1970s. *The Post* reported in 1972:

"PURCHASE RESTAURANT – The restaurant operated by Mr and Mrs Carl Graber for the past year has been sold to Mr and Mrs James Small who take possession on April 10th. Mrs and Mrs Small, who have been residing on the 5th concession of Morris Township since November of last year, are from Waterloo. Mr and Mrs Graber will be missed by the young people of the village with whom they maintained a pleasant association which will also remain a happy memory for the Grabers, who appreciate the patronage of their customers during



This picture shows the Leckie Block to the north with its distinctive cut-stone face. The centre section is the second Leckie Block, the centre part of which was likely built in 1884, and the smaller part to the north built in 1896. This building was destroyed by fire in 1983. The plain building to the south (right of picture) is the 3rd section built by Leckie in 1900. In this picture you can see the store here at the time was Walker & Black's Furniture & Undertaking. Samuel Carter also had his Ford agency here.

OLYMPIA RESTAURANT	
Brussels	Phone 887-6914
ALL DAY Friday Special	Reg. 1.90
FISH & CHIPS	99¢
Saturday	
COLD PLATE	\$3.00
Variety of Cold Meats	
Potato Salads & Lettuce, Celery, Crackers & Cole Slaw	
Sunday Special	
PORK TENDERLOIN	\$3.50
Soup or Juice Tea or Coffee	

Brussels Post June 1, 1972

neighbouring Turnberry Upholstery to the north. The buildings were later demolished.

John Walker's Furniture & Undertaking became Walker & Black's in about 1909. *The Post* reported in their March 4, 1909 issue: "EWAN & CO.'S CARRIAGE WORKS – Tuesday of this week The Post scribe took a look through the Ewan & Co. Carriage Works which is all ago getting ready of the spring and summer trade. A new winter hearse, up-to-date in all its parts, has just been completed for Messrs Walker & Black, of town, and a black Maria was sent to Wingham the other day to Jas Walker's undertaking establishment. Several carioles are also ordered from liverymen in neighbouring towns, proving that Brussels can do the work and quote the price that secures the trade. This firm will build two buggies the early demand and the first lot is now well advanced so as to be ready for use when winter

their year in the restaurant business. Mr and Mrs Graber will continue to live in Brussels."

The Olympia Restaurant replaced Small's restaurant in 1976, and was owned by William and Diamado Protopapas. In October 1983, fire destroyed the restaurant and the

is past. Ewan & Co. take a back seat from no one and guarantee their output to be equal to the best. With the greatly enlarged and modern premises they are better prepared than ever to cater to the needs of the public either in new work or general repairs, re-painting, &c. If you have a notion of a new buggy rubber or steel tires, Stanhope, piano or other style, with the latest improvement in tops, cushions, hubs, &c, call Ewan & Co.'s factory before you purchase and thereby save money and get A1 satisfaction."

In March 1910, Walker & Black bought out R Leatherdale & Son, furniture dealers and undertakers. The purchasers planned to keep the two stores in operation in the meantime. Later in the month they announced that the stock would be reduced to the capacity of one store and that RW Ross, formerly of Leatherdale's, had joined in partnership with Walker & Black. (*Brussels Post* Mar. 17 & 31, 1910) The photograph above, taken in about 1916, shows the Walker & Black Furniture & Undertaking store with Sam Carter's Ford agency as part of it. In 1921 or 1922, Walker & Black moved south, still on the east side of the main street, to Long's Block.

Nesbitt Hamilton owned the south part of the Leckie Building which had housed Walker & Black's, from 1923 to 1927. He also owned the original 1884 part of the Leckie Building, all of which was sold to Charles Lowrie in 1928. The Assessment Records list Lowrie as the occupant from 1929 to 1935. Ian McDonald had a business in one of the Lowrie-owned stores in 1936-1937. McDonald supplied Jersey milk chocolate for sale by W Willis, the American Hotel, Archer Grewar, The Lunch Room and William Proctor's. William Earngey replaced McDonald and was here from 1938 to 1942. Joseph Thuell, an electrician, may have been the tenant of this store in 1944 and 1945. Donna Cudmore was possibly the merchant in this store in the 1950s. Mae Bryans is listed as a merchant in 1955. John Emby's

The Village Shop may have been here in the late 1960s and Heuther's Produce in the south part. The remaining part now houses B&H Mechanical.



Men up a pole in front of the Leckie Block 2. "Ross" marks the north store in the Leckie Block. DC Ross may have moved here after his partnership with Ferguson dissolved in 1909. Barbers poles mark Elliott's shop in the south store. Note the angle of the addition to the south of Leckie Block 2 made in 1900. John Walker was the tenant of the new store. The Drewe Block is next and then the Shiel Block.

Drewe Block

453 Turnberry Street, Brussels, Ont.
Built: 1884

William Fishleigh and Ben Gerry, hardware merchants, owned the north half of this lot in 1868. They built a frame store on the site some time between 1868 and 1872. In November 1872, they completed a new addition to their store for use as a furniture show room. They also had the whole front of their store painted.

The partnership between Fishleigh & Gerry was dissolved in February 1876. Mr. Fishleigh retired and Mr. Gerry continued in the hardware business for many more years at this and other locations in town.

In 1878, William Tufts opened out a grocery in Gerry's block. In September it was reported that: "James Drewe, hardware merchant, has just completed an addition to the rear of his shop and is now carrying a large stock of shelf and heavy hardware." (*Huron Expositor* Sept. 13, 1878) Drewe called his store "The Padlock" and advertised himself as an importer and dealer in hardware.

Gerry sold his property to James W Yeo in 1879. Yeo took out a mortgage for \$800, perhaps to build a new frame store. Dr. Peters opened a fish, fruit and provision store in Frederick Davison's old stand in Yeo's Block in March 1880. Peters' ad of June 4, 1880 informs us he was next door to Webster's Hardware Store.

Two years later the property changed hands again. Yeo sold to Isaac Rogerson in 1882 and Rogerson sold to Peter Thomson in 1883.

Lots 100 and 101 were subdivided under the Struthers Survey of 1884. Each lot had three sections, labelled A through F starting with Part A at the southernmost limit of Lot 101. A fire in 1883 had destroyed the frame stores along this section of Turnberry Street. New owners of the properties started to rebuild, erecting new brick blocks as well as frame stores, in 1884.

Drewe Block

Thomson sold the north part of Lot 100 (Part F) to James Drewe in March 1884. He mortgaged the property for \$4,000 in June 1884 and for \$2,000 in October. The August 1, 1884 edition of *The Post* reported: "Mr Drewe has commenced the brick work on his new shop." It is the red brick building with the triangular date stone and the date "1884." Drewe called his new business the Golden Mammoth Hardware Store.

There were frame stores on one or both sides of Drewe's brick block at this time. In the March 14, 1884 issue of *The Post* it was reported that: "Reeve Rogers is busily engaged having the shop formerly occupied by James Drewe as a hardware shop changed so that he can occupy it for his boots and shoes and groceries." Next door to Drewe, in 1885, was WJ Jackson's hardware store where he sold stoves, furniture, and the 'Davis' Sewing Machine.

James Drewe died in March of 1885. Who occupied Drewe's former store between 1885 and 1887 is not known. By 1888, AM McKay & Co. had moved The

Padlock Hardware Store into Drewe's store (his former store was known as the Golden Padlock). Report of a "new brick store to be built between McKay & Co.'s hardware store and the Leckie Block lately improved" in the July 26, 1889 issue of *The Post* indicates that McKay was definitely at this location by then.

An ad in the April 12, 1889 issue of *The Post* reports that Miss Sample had a dress-making shop above the store: "Miss Sample, Dressmaking – upstairs, one door north of Walter Jackson's hardware store." In March 1890, Jackson's hardware store was sold: "The stock of tinware, shelf goods, etc., belonging formerly to Walter Jackson was sold last week to Thomas Ferguson. We understand that he proposes forming a co-partnership with a Mr. Gibson, of Brampton, and they intend opening up business in Brussels as soon as they can get things in shape." (*Post* Mar. 28, 1890)

Peters'
FRUIT STORE

is already Noted.

Everything in Season	at PETERS'.
Cucumbers	at PETERS'.
Cabbage plants	at PETERS'.
Cauliflowers	at PETERS'.
Rhubarb	at PETERS'.
Field and Garden seeds	at PETERS'.
Bolognas, prime	at PETERS'.
Canned fruit	at PETERS'.
Biscuits	at PETERS'.

I sell Christie & Co's celebrated biscuits. This firm make 850 different kinds, and are noted for the excellency of their goods.

All fruit will be sold at

BOTTOM PRICES,

Leave your orders at

PETERS'

Next door to Webster's Hardware Store.



Teams drawing logs travel north on Turnberry Street past the Drewe Block (photo left). To the south are the Shiel, Long, Dennis and Garfield Blocks. The photograph was taken before Leckie built on the lot to the north in 1900. The hardware store in the Drewe Block is likely AM McKay & Co.

prominent place in the mercantile interests of our town. It would be difficult to find a hardware establishment better adapted to the wants of the people than this one. During the time they have been established here, now about 7 years, have demonstrated their ability to conduct a first-class hardware store in a manner which has won a well deserved popularity. A visit here reveals a large and well selected stock, embracing everything usually included in farmers' and blacksmiths' supplies, miscellaneous lines, paints, glass, pails, wire, cutlery &c. The business is in a flourishing condition."

There was a vacant lot between McKay & Co.'s red brick building and Leckie's building to the north for ten years. In July 1896, McKay had a large sign painted on the north side of his hardware store. In 1897, McKay added bicycles to his stock: "MISS ANNIE Slemmon purchased a "Stormer" bicycle from AM McKay & Co." (*Brussels Post* Apr. 30, 1897) In 1898, AM McKay & Co. sold twelve bicycles and 10 tons of binding twine. The store received a new tar, felt and gravel roof and a new coat of paint in 1899.

The Family Theatre

The Family Theatre was located in what had been AM McKay's Hardware Store by 1915. *The Post* reported in their May 6, 1915 issue: "RM Sinclair's Family Theatre front has been polished up in a dress of white. Signs above the doorway and alongside the

windows set off the place. WC Smith was the artist. A row of electric lamps was placed along the front."

In August 1915 the theatre management announced "One a Week" shows to run all that month. "At the request of many patrons of the Family Theatre I have decided to put on a first-class show once a week during the present month.... Keep these dates open for the movies and everybody come. Yours for good wholesome motion pictures." (*Brussels Post* Aug. 5, 1915)

The theatre closed for a time and re-opened in September 1920. "PICTURE THEATRE TO RE-OPEN – The Picture Show building has been leased by Messrs. Brown & McRobb, of town, and will be re-opened in the near future and a high class range of reels put on. We understand Wroxeter will be visited each week with the pictures. Watch out for the advt. of what's doing." (*Brussels Post* Sept. 23, 1920)

Tax Assessment Records show Fred S Brown was the proprietor of the Moving Pictures business in 1921. The manager in 1923 was William C King and the projectionist was William Smith. Music from a Victrola was played during the love scenes, the same tune being used for every picture. (*Our Story*, p. 119)

In January 1925, McKinnon & Murcar were the owners. They were embroiled in a dispute over the hydro bill and the theatre did not run at least part of that month. In February it was announced that the theatre would re-open: "The Family Theatre re-opened last Saturday evening with a good crowd in attendance. The proprietors are generating their own power for light." (*Brussels Post* Jan. 7 & 28, Feb. 18, 1925) It seems to have been an on-again off-again business though. A report in the May 6th issue of *The Post* stated that the theatre expected to be open again on Friday evening. Later that month the theatre came under new management; Robert Thuell was the new proprietor.

In May 1890, Messrs. Ferguson & Gibson sold the store to William Roddick for use as a paint shop. Roddick was a sign painter who adorned the awnings and signs of many of the local businesses. Roddick was in the store only a few months when it was destroyed by fire. *The Post* reported on August 22, 1890 that: "William Roddick has leased the large store house, Mill Street, in the rear of the store formerly occupied by FC Rogers and has fitted it up for a paint shop. His former shop was destroyed by the recent fire."

In its profile of local businesses published in October 1893, *The Post* described AM McKay & Co. "Among the establishments of our town which transact a large annual volume of business we would mention the flourishing hardware establishment of AM McKay & Co., which business occupies a



Part of a larger photograph taken in about 1916, this shows the Family Theatre in Drewe's red brick block, between Walker & Black's Furniture & Undertaking and the Laundry. Ad *Brussels Post* Jan. 14, 1915.

As noted in the advertisement at left, the Family Theatre had also moved location. It was now next door of its former spot in the Drewe Block.

Thuell and Smith expanded the business in July 1925 to include shows in Blyth. "WILL RUN PICTURES AT BLYTH – Messrs Thuell and WC Smith have made arrangements with Blyth Municipal Council whereby they will run pictures in the Memorial Hall, in conjunction with the Family Theatre here. Blyth citizens may rest assured that good, clean pictures will be shown by these men." (*Brussels Post* July 22, 1925)

Special Announcement

Commencing Next Week

AND UNTIL FURTHER
NOTICE THIS

Family Theatre

WILL BE OPEN
ONLY

Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday Evenings

In case a feature is run other than on above
nights due notice will be given.

'The Million Dollar Mystery'

See It Tuesday, Jan. 19th

Show will start in future at 8 p. m.
Govern yourself accordingly.

COMING SATURDAY, JAN. 23

"The Mystery of the Poison Pool"

In 5 Reels. This is a Special at Regular
Prices. Read full announcement next
week.

David Alkin Rann's Furniture Store and Funeral Service was in business for many years in the former Drewe Block. Rann moved the funeral part of his business to a different location in 1940. After 38 years in business Rann sold to Max Watts in 1969. Watts had The House of Max furniture store. It now houses the 5 Rs Thrift Shop.

— REPAIRED and RECOVERED —

Chesterfields and Occasional Chairs
Also Rebuild Mattresses

Pick-up and Delivered

Stratford Upholstering Co.

43 Brunshwick Street Stratford, Ont.

Enquire at —

D. A. RANN

Furniture and Funeral Service
Phone 36 or 85 Brussels, Ont.

Brussels Post advertisements, above: February 8, 1950; below: July 15, 1971.

"HOUSE of MAX"

FURNISHINGS — INTERIORS

M. L. WATT'S FUNERAL HOME

PHONE: 887-6336 or 887-6585 BRUSSELS, ONT.

Shiel Block

461 Turnberry Street, Brussels, Ont.

Built: 1885

Dr. William JR Holmes bought the south half of Lot 100 from Mark Cardiff in 1875. Peter Thomson sold the south part of the north half of the lot to Mary Shiel in 1886 and she also bought Holmes' south part in 1887. She took out two mortgages on the same date she purchased the property from Holmes, one for \$1,000 and the other for \$1,050.

According to *The Post* a Mrs. JW Strong purchased the vacant lot, between Mrs. Long's brick block to the south and James Drewe's, from Dr. Holmes in February 1885. She had a brick building erected on the site early in the spring. "The site is an excellent one and with a neat building it will give the east side of the street a finished appearance." (*Brussels Post* Feb. 6, 1885) It seems that the report in *The Post* was wrong and that it was actually Mrs. Mary Shiel who had the brick block built in 1885. Further reports on construction of the building name Mrs. Shiel as the property owner. "The bricklayers expect to commence work at Mrs. Shiel's brick block the first of next week. The brick work on the block of Mrs. Shiel is now complete. The floors are laid in Mrs. Shiel's new block, the lathing nearly finished and they will soon be pushed to completion. We understand they are well spoken of." (*Brussels Post* Apr. 24, June 5, Aug. 28, 1 885)

John Alexander, "The Lion," leased the centre store in Mrs. Shiel's new block in October 1885. "This week the Lion drops his eye winkers, flops his mane, draws his tongue inside his ivory snappers, closes his

lips and bids farewell to the old den. My experience and change of position in it has been so strange it would make quite a marvellous little book. Although little of a charm attaches me to the old lair still it is not without charms to those who have made fortunes in it. Retired clerks etc. who can buy it out and stock it full. It is charming no doubt. Thanking everyone for their generous support during the past 8 years, we cordially invite all to come and see us in our new stand, Shiel's block, and we will give such inducements as were never before offered. Ladies are kindly requested to come to my winter opening, Saturday, November 7th." (*Post* Oct. 30, 1885)



A parade makes its way south on Turnberry Street past the Shiel Block at far left, and the Long, Dennis and Garfield Blocks. The three-story Graham Block stands out at the start of the next street.

John Grewar moved his stock of groceries into a store in Mrs. Shiel's new block in November 1885. "This fills up all vacancies in the block of buildings between King and Mill streets." (*Brussels Post* Nov. 27, 1885) Grewar seems to have been in business here, and later at another location in town, until he had to make an assignment in 1895 and his property was sold.

Miss Gauley had a millinery store in the Shiel Block in the 1890s before Miss MacPherson, who leased the space in March 1893. "Miss MacPherson had charge of one of the best millinery establishments in Toronto for the past nine years. Millinery opening on Thursday and Saturday of next week." Miss MacPherson had her millinery show room enlarged "so as to give increased accommodation to the ladies in purchasing visits. She has a well-arranged display of the most fashionable goods at close prices." (*Brussels Post* Mar. 24 and Apr. 21, 1893) The

millinery store was likely in the north store once occupied by Grewar's grocery.

JA McNaughton, Physician, Surgeon and Accoucher, had an office upstairs in the Shiel Block in January 1887. Mrs. Alexander, who by this time owned "The Lion's" dry goods store, vacated the store in 1888 and it was leased to Edward Dunford. Dunford was a merchant tailor who sold fabrics and gents' furnishings. (*Brussels Post* Jan. 7, 1887; Sept. 28, 1888; Jan. 4, 1889)

Dunford added a stock of hats to his tailoring establishment in 1895. That

ANNUAL COST PRICE SALE

BARGAINS! BARGAINS!

Now is the time to secure a first class Suit of Clothes or Overcoat made to Order at Cost Price.

FOR THE NEXT THIRTY DAYS

I will offer the whole of my Stock, Consisting of Scotch, English and Canadian Tweeds, in a great variety, also a large selection of Imported Worsted Coatings, in Black, blue and Brown Shades, and a good range of Worsted Pantings of all shades

Different Shades of Blue Serges for Suitings.

A Few lines of Beaver and Melton Overcoatings which we will clear out for

LESS - THAN - COST

Rather than Carry Over till Next Fall.

Now is the time to secure a Bargain in Overcoats or Suits.

Over Two Thousand Dollars Worth of Brand New Goods to Select from.

DON'T MISS THIS CHANCE

To secure an outfit for yourself as the Cost Price only lasts 30 Days from date.

I would like all Overdue Accounts settled during this Month as I have payments to meet which necessitates me asking all to settle This Month, and oblige.

E. C. Dunford.
BRUSSELS, Feb. 12th, 1892.

same year Miss R Holmes opened a dress and mantle making shop in the rooms over EC Dunford's tailor shop. (*Brussels Post* May 3, 1895)

In 1896, Dunford had the interior of his store greatly improved by the paperhanger and painter. The partition dividing the shop was removed and the whole space devoted to showing his stock of

cloths, gents' furnishings, etc. The workshop was removed upstairs. (*Brussels Post* Mar. 20, 1896) Miss Minnie Moore resumed her work as mantle maker and could be found in rooms over EC Dunford's tailor shop.

EC Dunford became Dunford & Son in 1900. "We have pleasure in announcing that EC Dunford, the well known Tailor, Clothier, &c, of Brussels, has taken his son, Lorne, into partnership, the firm name now standing EC Dunford & Son. The latter has been closely associated with the business for several years and is consequently well acquainted with all the details. Their change of advt. calling attention to new spring suitings, hats and caps, gents' furnishings &c, came to hand too late for this issue but will appear next week. *The Post* wishes the new firm success and believes the combination is a good one and quite the proper thing to do." (Mar. 29, 1900) EC Dunford, the "Leading House of Men's Dress Requisites" was still in business in 1924 but by 1918 had moved a block south.

A Laundry occupied the north store in about 1916 as can be seen in a photograph of that part of the main street taken about that time (*see the story about the Family Theatre in Dreve Block*). Miss Ella Inman had a millinery store, likely in the north part of the Sheil Block by 1918. According to her obituary published in the February 18, 1925 issue of *The Post*, Miss Inman came to Brussels with her family in 1872. She spent a number of years in Chicago and returned to town to take charge of the millinery business of her sister, Edith Inman, whose health had failed. "The subject of this notice was a shrewd business woman and made good use of the training she had received." Edith's millinery store was in the Holmes Block when Ella took charge of it, but Tax Assessment Records indicate that she had changed the location by 1918.

Miss Inman sold her business, in 1921 to Miss Carrie Hingston, also a milliner. Miss Hingston had her

shop here from 1921 to 1944. RA Reid, Optometrist, had an office above Miss Hingston's Millinery Parlor in about 1937 to 1940.


Spring Millinery

INSTEAD of having any special day or days for an Opening we will follow the custom of past season, and, as our new goods are now ready, invite the ladies of Brussels and community to call and see the new styles, get our prices and secure the up-to-date Millinery.

This season our showing of the new Millinery modes representing the genius of the leading Millinery Artists, is well worth seeing. It is attractive, stylish and distinctive. Both Ladies' and Children's wear.

Miss Wilson is with us again this season.
Cordial invitation extended.

Phone 208 **Miss Inman** Brussels



Reid's Glasses Satisfy

You are sure of perfect eye comfort with Reid's glasses.

Modern, advanced methods of eye examination, newest styles and very moderate prices prevail here always.

Have Your eyes examined examined by

R. A. REID., R. O.

EYESIGHT SPECIALIST AT MISS HINGSTON'S STORE
WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON 2.00 to 5.00 P. M. PHONE 51

Brussels Post – Dunford 1892, Inman March 25, 1920, Reid, May 5, 1940.

Long Block

469 Turnberry Street, Brussels, Ont.

Built: 1884

Thomas Leadbeater owned Lot 101 in 1860. He seems to have had a store on part of the lot by 1863, which was replaced by a new two-story building in late 1872. “Building operations are going on lively for so late in the season. Mr. Leadbeater, of the township of Grey, is building a fine two-story store and dwelling 24 x 60. It will be quite an addition in the shop line when completed.” (*Huron Expositor* Nov. 1, 1872) By March of 1873 the store was said to be near completion but Leadbeater did not move in until the following year. “Mr. Leadbeater, of Cranbrook, opened out an extensive general store in his new building in Brussels.” (*Huron Expositor* Mar. 22, 1873; Sept. 18, 1874)

Leadbeater’s block marked the northeast limit of the 1876 fire that burnt all the buildings between King and Market Streets to the south. Earlier in the year, Leadbeater’s premises had a narrow escape from fire: “Miss McKenzie, dressmaker, who has rooms above Leadbeater’s shop, in arranging some bedding placed a tick against a stove pipe which passes through the room. The tick took fire and, had it not been for the timely assistance from the Post printing office, which is on the same flat, there is no knowing what the damages might have been.” (*Huron Expositor* Feb. 4, 1876) Thomas Leadbeater was still in business here in 1882.

In July 1882, Mr Struthers, of London, rented the large frame store in Leadbeater’s block. “He having a new front put in which will ad greatly to its

appearance. He intends opening out a large stock of dry goods.” (*Huron Expositor* July 7, 1882)

RC Struthers owned the Lot by 1883. In November, he sold part of the lot to Mrs. Elizabeth Long and part to Henry Dennis. Both Long and Dennis expressed intentions of building on their sties in the spring. (*Huron Expositor* Nov. 16, 1883) The third part of the lot Struthers retained for himself.

Lots 100 and 101 were subdivided under the Struthers Survey of 1884. Each lot had three sections, labelled A through F starting with Part A at the southernmost limit of Lot 101. A fire in 1883 had destroyed the frame stores along this section of Turnberry Street. The new owners of the properties started to rebuild, erecting brick blocks, in 1884.

Mrs. Long, Furniture & Undertaking

Mrs. Long’s shop was drawing near completion in the summer of 1884. By 1885, she had opened a furniture store and undertaking business. “Real oil paintings, rattan work, handmade furniture to order, and the celebrated Karn organ” were sold in her spacious showroom. Determined to distinguish her business from that of her competitors, she purchased a white hearse: “NEW WHITE HEARSE – Mrs. Long is determined that Brussels shall keep pace with not only the surrounding towns in the furniture and undertaking business but even with the cities. To prove this we state that she has ordered a new white hearse, valued at \$600, with plate glass, and everything got up in the very latest design. It will arrive in about a month. As far as we know, Guelph

is the nearest place possessing anything of this kind. As the most of our readers are aware Mrs. Long had a very good hearse all along and will keep it still but this last expenditure proves her desire and intention of pushing the business right along. She deserves to succeed.” (*Brussels Post* Jan. 2 and 30, 1885) Richard Leatherdale was the manager at Mrs. Long’s Furniture Emporium in 1885.

Mrs. Long had the more traditional black hearse in 1886. It was reported that: “Mrs. Long’s black hearse has just come from the paint shop after being in the painter’s hands from July 18th. It received 30 coats of paint and now looks as good as new. William Smith did the work in his usual artistic style.” (*Brussels Post* Oct. 1, 1886)

Mrs. Long was still in business in January 1887 (there is no further mention of Mrs. Long in the newspaper after this date). Richard Leatherdale, the store’s manager, seems to have taken over her business some time that year.

In February 1887, R. Leatherdale shipped a large load of furniture to Winnipeg. In August, he advertised that he had taken on the local agency for crayon portraits and had a “nicely executed one of himself on exhibition in his shop window.” (*Brussels Post* Feb. 11 and Aug. 19, 1887)

R. Leatherdale’s employed eight men in the manufacture of furniture at his business in Sunshine in 1888. *The Post* reported on February 24th that: “R. Leatherdale had no less than seven funerals in seven days last week.” The business in Brussels was now called the Brussels Furniture Emporium.

In March 1889, Leatherdale introduced new machinery into his shop: “R. Leatherdale, furniture manufacturer and dealer, is determined to keep up with the times. To do this and save time and labor he has recently purchased a shaping machine with


attachments for moulding, beading, fluting, grooving, etc. Also a combination machine including rip, cross cut and scroll saws, boring, dadoe, jointer and other attachments. These very handy and well arranged machines are manufactured by the Barnes Co. of Rockford, Illinois, US. They run by foot power but do their work as neat and clean as could be desired." Determined to keep up with the times, according to *The Post*, Leatherdale, invested in a pair of black robes for his horses to be used in connection with funeral occasions. (*Brussels Post* Mar. 8 and July 19, 1889) Leatherdale also sold Raymond sewing machines and continued to ship furniture to Manitoba, sending "a quantity of furniture consisting of parlor and bedroom suites, etc. to A. Drew of Winnipeg" in September.

In 1890, Leatherdale advertised a specialty of upholstery: "Having served an apprenticeship in this line he thoroughly understands his work." (*Brussels Post* Dec. 12, 1890)

The undertaking part of Leatherdale's business was sometimes a very busy one. In March 1892, he "attended seven funerals in five days, la grippe being responsible in the majority of deaths." A special engraving machine was purchased in June 1893, used to letter the silver plates for coffins and caskets. "The work done by the machine equals that turned out by the best city establishments." (*Brussels Post* June 9, 1893)

Leatherdale was one of the businesses profiled in *The Post's* feature article of October 20, 1893. "In the purchase of household furniture our citizens and the people of the surrounding country have superior advantages at the large and splendidly equipped warehouses of the gentleman above named. In our description of this establishment we may say at the outset it is one of the best places to buy furniture in this or surrounding counties. The long and successful experience of the proprietor in the

FURNITURE EMPORIUM.

FALL 1885.  FALL 1885.

In thanking our numerous customers for the patronage of the past year we have pleasure in stating that our stock of

FURNITURE,

consisting of Parlor and Bedroom Suites, Sideboards, Tables, Bedsteads, Lounges, Chairs, Sofas, Rattan Furniture, &c.,

Was Never More Complete.


—A LARGE ASSORTMENT OF—

BEAUTIFUL PAINTINGS

and Pictures to choose from. All Kinds of MOULDINGS for Frames kept on hand and made up on short notice. We are continually at work on

HAND-MADE FURNITURE

and we are prepared to fill all orders in a thoroughly workmanlike manner. Repairing attended to with Promptness.

Undertaking.  Undertaking.

We have a Large and Elaborate Stock of Caskets, Coffins, and Undertaker's Furnishings on hand and ask those requiring anything in this line to call and see our goods. Two First-Class Hearses kept in connection with the establishment.

Rich. Leatherdale, Mrs. E. Long.
Manager.

Richard Leatherdale was the manager at Mrs. E. Long's Furniture Emporium in 1885. He took over the business some time in 1887. Advertisement *Brussels Post* 1885.

furniture business stands him in good stead. A visit to the store and an inspection of the stock and prices will show the advantages offered. In the first place Mr. Leatherdale buys from the leading manufacturers for cash to an advantage. The variety of the stock affords a selection that will suit every taste and means from the finest to the common makes of all kinds for the parlor, dining room, bedroom and kitchen. Mr. Leatherdale gives special attention to his undertaking department. He is one of the most successful undertakers of Western Ontario and is a skilled embalmer, a competent funeral director and keeps on hand a full line of caskets and all kinds of funeral supplies. He also does a large trade in organs and pianos and purchasers can save travelling agents' profits every time by patronizing him. He does a nice trade in carpets."

Alterations were made to Leatherdale's store in 1894. A space intended for an extra doorway was enclosed and the floor of his northerly show window increased thereby. (*Brussels Post* Mar. 23, 1894) His black carriage team was awarded first prize at Wroxeter Fall Fair in October of that year.

Leatherdale added services and tried out new things to keep his business lively. In January 1895, he added the sale of goose feathers to the list and had \$200 worth ready for shipment to a firm in Montreal. An icehouse was fitted up in March and would "store 20 to 40 loads to accommodate a number of the townspeople who desire this cooling commodity next summer." A new furniture wagon, bearing the name of the owner on the side of the box, was called into service in September. (*Brussels Post* Jan. 11, Mar. 1, Sept. 6, 1895)

Brussels Furniture Emporium added a folding casket car to the outfit of its undertaking department. It was used in church aisles or in the home when the casket was moved from one location to another.

(*Brussels Post* June 10, 1898) And, the piano and organ branch of his business was said to be booming.

A winter hearse was added to the business in March 1899. It could be transformed into an undertaker's delivery wagon in five minutes. Another hearse was overhauled, new wheels put on and a new dress of paint, new drapes, etc., "so that it looks about as good as new. WC Smith did the brush wielding." (*Brussels Post* Mar. 17 and Nov. 9, 1899)

The business was R Leatherdale & Sons by 1905. They purchased a mechanical device for lowering caskets into the grave in connection with their undertaking department. "It was used for the first time this week and does the work very nicely by the movement of a lever and with variation of speed to suit the occasion." (*Brussels Post* May 18, 1905) The undertaking business of George Cardiff, hearse, &c. was purchased in November.

In the March 17, 1910 issue *The Post* announced "LEATHERDALE & SON SELL THEIR LARGE STOCK – Last week R Leatherdale & Son, furniture dealers, undertakers, &c., disposed of their business here to Messrs Walker & Black who have been carrying on the same line of trade. Stock taking will commence next week. The purchasers will keep the two stores in operation in the meantime. Mr Leatherdale has been in the business circle of Brussels for over 30 years and has built up a large trade. The junior member of the firm leaves shortly for Winnipeg but the elder will continue to reside in Brussels taking a well-deserved rest." The next week, Walker & Black announced that they would offer special inducements for the next 30 days in hopes of reducing their stock to the capacity of one store. They also reported that RW Ross had been taken into partnership with them.

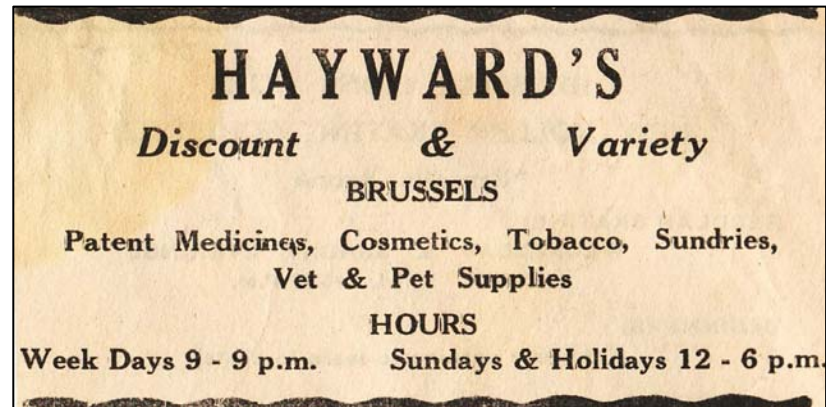
Leatherdale sold his business but he still owned this part of Lot 101 until 1921. He sold the property, of Walker & Black, on September 10, 1921.

Walker & Black had moved their furniture and undertaking business from the store in the Drewe Block, to their new store further south in the Long Block, by 1923. Walker & Black were in business here until 1941.

Ernest Cardiff was an agent, perhaps for farm implements, from 1928 to 1930. He had an office or store in this block. Adrian Hogg had a Massey-Harris dealership in part of the store block in the early 1930s. The original Long Block store became part of the stores occupied by Export Packers in 1941 and into the 1950s. Herbert Sage had a business here in the 1960s to 1971. Hayward's Variety was one of the stores here from 1971 to 1977. Master Plastic Co. owned the property in the late 1970s and early 1980s.

SOME IDEA of the bad conditions of the road between Brussels and Seaforth may be imagined when we state that it took the funeral procession of the late Mrs. Thomson last Sabbath four hours to cover the distance. The pitch holes are very bad. A number of cutters and the hearse suffered damages on the journey.

Brussels Post Mar. 6, 1896



Brussels Post July 15, 1971

Dennis Block

475 Turnberry Street, Brussels, Ont.

Built: 1884

Henry, or Harry, Dennis had this brick block built in the summer of 1884, at the same time Mrs. Long was building the adjoining block to the north. He moved into his new brick store, under the Sign of the Scotch Collar, in January 1885. Dennis was a harness maker who sold and repaired harness, and sold buffalo robes, trunks, valises, etc.

In March 1889, *The Post* reported that: "Harry Dennis, the well-known harness maker in Brussels, has sent no less than 12 sets of harness to Manitoba and the North West this winter, with intending settlers. He has also done a big trade in trunks and valises." (Mar. 15, 1889)

Dennis installed a distinctive new sign in January 1891. "H. Dennis, harness maker, who is ever on the alert for the latest novelties in his line, has purchased a tip-top sign in the shape of a horse's head. With the bridal upon it nothing could answer his purpose better." (*Brussels Post* Jan. 30, 1891) In September of that year he advertised for an apprentice interested in learning the harness making trade.

Dennis disposed of his harness business in September 1896 to John Donaldson, of Seaforth. Mr. Dennis moved to Chatham where he continued his business on a larger scale.

Donaldson ran a successful business under the Sign of the Horse's Head. *The Post* reported in its April 3, 1900 issue: "BUSY SEASON – John Donaldson, the well-known harness maker, of Brussels, has had to

increase his shop staff to keep pace with orders. He has secured the services of WJ Dowding, a harness and collar maker of wide experience, who arrived this week. Mr Donaldson, during the past 6 months, has turned out no less than 65 sets of single and double harness and with present prospects hopes to make the output for the next half year, a century. He has also done a big business in trunks and valises, having disposed of 90 of them." Donaldson was still in business here in 1905.

George C Manners is listed in Tax Assessment Records as the tenant of the store in 1918, and may have had his shop here before that time. However, a notice in *The Post* indicates that Manners had a harness shop in the Leckie Block in 1915. Henry Dennis sold his part of Lot 101 to George C Manners in 1923.

When George Manners died in 1932 at the age of 76, the store was taken over by David Shedden. *The Post* reported: "OPENS NEW SHOP – Mr. D Shedden has now opened his new harness and shoe repair shop in the store formerly occupied by

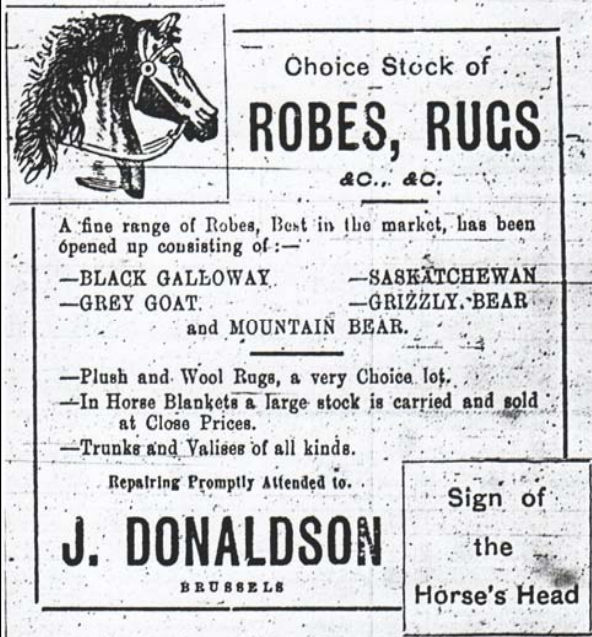
**Fall .
and . .
Winter.**

I have a fine, new and well selected stock of

Robes
Horse Blankets,
Light and Heavy Har-
ness, Collars, &c.

Trunks and Bags
at Low Prices.

H. DENNIS.



Choice Stock of
ROBES, RUGS
&c., &c.

A fine range of Robes, Best in the market, has been opened up consisting of:—

- BLACK GALLOWAY.
- GREY GOAT.
- SASKATCHEWAN
- GRIZZLY-BEAR
- and MOUNTAIN BEAR.

—Plush and Wool Rugs, a very Choice lot.
—In Horse Blankets a large stock is carried and sold at Close Prices.
—Trunks and Valises of all kinds.

Repairing Promptly Attended to.

J. DONALDSON
BRUSSELS

Sign of
the
Horse's Head


Above: *Brussels Post* January, 19, 1905; at left: 1895; below: December 9, 1920.

His first lesson

WHEN the colt is first tied he tests his strength against that of the Halter. Our Special

Griffith

colt halter will hold him. He will be tied to stay and learn no bad habits. These halters are made of the choicest materials throughout and may be adjusted readily to take care of growth. It will be a pleasure to have you look over our choice stock of halters and harness.



The "Classic Colt" and the "Sturdy" are favorites everywhere. They are both Griffith Halters.

G. C. MANNERS · Brussels
C. W. BENNETT · Walton

the late Geo. C. Manners. (Oct. 24, 1932) Shedden had a shop here until 1937.

Tax Assessment records list Nathan Chapman as having a Shoe Repair shop from 1925 to 1936 and it is likely he was located in the Dennis Block, perhaps sharing the shop with D. Shedden.

Sylvester Fox, an agent, may have had a store here from 1940 to 1945. Doris McDonald owned the White Star Bakery which was here by 1946. The bakery became the Scotch Thistle Grill some time in the 1960s and was here into the 1970s. McDonald was still the owner of the store in 1985 when it was vacant. Little Darling's Hair Studio was the occupant here in 1992.



Advertisements from the *Brussels Post*, above: August 21, 1935; right: January 10, 1940.



Garfield Block

485 – 495 Turnberry Street, Brussels, Ont.

Built: 1889

Robert C Struthers bought the south half of Lot 101 (Part A) in July 1884. He mortgaged the property for \$3,000. *The Huron Expositor* informed its readers that: “RC Struthers, of London, was in town last week looking after the building of a new brick store on the corner opposite Graham’s block. It is to be a two-storey building and 85 feet long. 1884 is going to raise Brussels with fine brick blocks out of the ashes of 1883. (Mar. 21, 1884)

The Garfield block was near completion by August 1884 and Struthers & Powell moved into their new shop in October. They ran a dry goods and millinery business called the Garfield House. G Ball, a dentist, moved to his new rooms over the store in November.

Miss Beam, filled the position of milliner for the Garfield House in 1885. In August of that year, a change of business was announced: “The new Garfield House has come into possession of GA Powell, who will carry on the business. The store is well known and has become one of the fixtures of Brussels. Mr. Powell needs no recommendation as the success of the business in the past is due to his ability to manage the dry goods trade.” (*Brussels Post* Aug. 28, 1885) In September, Miss Pretty of London arrived in town to take the position of milliner for the fall season. “Miss Pretty is thoroughly posted in her work, having been with the well-known firm of WA and F Trebilcock of London for three years, and this itself is a guarantee that the ladies of Brussels and Huron will be able to secure city

millinery at Garfield House prices. Opening days Thursday, Friday, and Saturday of next week. A hearty welcome to all.” (*Brussels Post* Sept. 18, 1885)

The Post Publishing House moved into the north store of the Garfield Block in July 1885. “This week we have moved the plant of *The Post* to the Garfield Block, next door to Struther’s & Powell’s. People who are acquainted with a printing office, especially where there is a power press, engine, etc., will have some idea of the work we went through this week, more particularly when our paper is issued at its usual time.” (*Brussels Post* July 31, 1885) In their August 7th issue of *The Post* they described their

GOODS THAT MUST GO

Fur Trimmings, Hosiery, Dress Goods, Dress Trimmings, Silks, Velveteens, Cloth
Mantles, Mantle Cloths, Shawls, Grey & White Blankets, Carpets, Lace
Curtains, Wool Goods, Overcoats, Underclothing,
Knitted Top Shirts, &c., &c.

LADIES THIS IS A GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY,

so Come Early in the Day before the rush begins and Get First Choice. These Goods must and will be Sold, as we must have the room for our Large Spring Importations now on the road.

We are determined to make this the Most Successful Clearing Sale that has ever taken place in the Town of Brussels, if Prices will do it. On account of our New Store not being completed at the proper time, and not being able to move until two months of the Fall Trade was over we have on our shelves more Winter Goods than we want to carry over, and therefore we are going to Clear them Out at Your Own Prices, so come Early and come O ten.

COME ONE, COME ALL

and Share in the BARGAINS that are Bargains when you get them home.

NINE O'CLOCK. PUBLIC NOTICE.

The New Garfield House will be Kept Open Every Night, starting from To-Night, and during all the Summer Months until 9 O'Clock, and if the Rush Demands it, we will keep open till Ten.

RESPECTFULLY YOURS,

STRUTHERS & POWELL.

new offices: “OUR NEW PREMISES – We are getting fairly settled now and have time to look around us to see where we are. Our office is in the Garfield Block lately erected by RC Struthers of London. There is a plate glass front and all the modern improvements. The building is 22x65’ and has a cellar the full size of the building, where our engine is. The front office is arranged with a sanctum to the left and shelving and a counter to the right. This latter will be utilized for a stock of stationery, school books, etc. to arrive this month. The fittings of the office were prepared by the Bennett Mf. Co. William Roddick has supplied us with neatly painted window blinds, and we are no preparing to wait upon the public as in days of old.”

Miss Pretty returned to Garfield House for the fall millinery season of 1886. EA Martin, LDS, replaced G Ball as the dentist occupying an office above. An article in the December 17, 1886 issue of *The Post* offered a glance at the town and its leading businesses. GA Powell, Dry Goods, Millinery,

Furnishings, &c. was described as: “Among the mercantile establishments of Brussels ... that has long since been recognized as taking a leading position. Probably no business institution in the town has done more to advance the mercantile interest and attract trade to Brussels than has this progressive and enterprising business.... The building is one of the most handsome in Brussels, and the general arrangement of the stock shows the result of taste and experience. A very attractive feature of the store is the large plate glass front which exhibits a display of goods that is beautiful to behold. The elegant British plate mirror, which adorns the millinery department and which cost over \$100, is rarely seen in towns the size of Brussels.... On the

left side of the store, arranged in beautiful harmony, are the boots and shoes, which are of the famous McPherson manufacture, of Hamilton. Further down come the tweeds, furnishings and staples. On the right are the groceries, haberdashery and dress goods and at the rear is the millinery department.... The millinery department is really a model of artistic taste and spender... Mr. Powell succeeded the firm of Struthers & Powell one year ago and is meeting with splendid success."

W. Nightingale & Co. took over the Garfield House in early 1887. An advertisement of April 22, 1887 lists Nightingale as the tenant of the corner store. Also in 1887, the town decided to try a sample stone street crossing between the Garfield Block and Dr. Graham's Block. "We believe these crossings will give satisfaction and outwear a dozen plank ones." (*Brussels Post* Aug. 26, 1887)

Nightingale tried to sell the business in 1890, but was unsuccessful. He decided to remain for another year and "will push business as usual at the old stand, Garfield House." (*Brussels Post* Jan. 9, 1891)

Nightingale did leave the business in January 1893. AA Rose of Strathroy leased the large store in the Garfield House block from RC Struthers, of London, and opened up a large stock of dry goods. Rose wasn't in business long. In August 1893, a new tenant, HE Maddock, announced that he was closing the store in the Garfield Block by October 1st. HE Maddock & Co. had a store in Newmarket where the balance of their goods was moved. "It is said a young gentleman from London will open up a dry goods store in the Garfield block as soon as its present occupants vacate it." The young gentleman from London was J. Gould of J Gould & Co. They too had a dry goods store here. (*Brussels Post* Oct. 5 and 24, 1894)

By the start of 1896, AJ Davis was the occupant of the Garfield House. He had moved his stock from Watford where he had another store.

The store was vacant in May 1897 when a fire was discovered in M Richardson's tailor shop above. "When Mr. Currie got upstairs he found the floor and wall in the little jog in the hallway leading to the tailor shop on fire, but the incipient blaze was nipped in the bud and by the application of pails of water and the ripping off of a portion of the wainscoting, what threatened to endanger the whole block was got out. The fire engine was taken to the river and soon had water on the scene, but it was not necessary and the engine was returned to the Hall. \$50 or thereabouts will cover the damage which consisted of burning two holes in the floor, a badly charred door and the demolishing of a portion of two partitions. How the fire occurred at that time and in that place is wrapped in mystery, and to add to it was the finding of a portion of a coat saturated with coal oil in the hall where the fire began.... An effort is being made to ferret out the incendiary, and if nabbed the said party will be saved the trouble of fire building for a few years. (*Brussels Post* May 14, 1897)

The Garfield House did have a new tenant by December 1897. Messrs. Ruttan & Fitzpatrick moved their stock of goods from Harriston and combined it with the stock on the shelves and counters already there.

Robert Mainprize placed 13 incandescent lamps in the store opened out by Mr Campbell in the Garfield Block late in October 1900. The new store was called "The Scotch Warehouse," and was opened by the new proprietor, Mr Campbell, and his assistants Miss McLean, of Listowel, and Ross Beattie. It carried a general stock of dry goods, groceries, boots and shoes, readymade clothing, crockery, and glassware. Mr Campbell had been a traveller for a

wholesale house for some years so had seen all sides of business life. Miss Jamieson moved her dressmaking shop to rooms upstairs in the Garfield block. (*Brussels Post* Nov 1, 8, and Dec. 27, 1900)

DC Ross purchased the Garfield House block from RC Struthers in January 1905 for the sum of \$4,000. The two stores cost over \$7,000 to build them. The partnership between Ross and C Dodds, as clothiers and gents' outfitters, was dissolved. Dodds took a

Dissolution Sale

THE partnership existing between D. C. Ross & C. Dodds as Clothiers, Gents' Furnishers, &c., Brussels, will be dissolved and a Dissolution Sale will be held to reduce their large stock, commencing on

Monday, January 16

Wait for the undoubted Bargains, you may as well save money in as anybody else.

Watch for our advertisement next week with fuller particulars.

Ross & Dodds
Clothiers and Outfitters.

course in cutting and went into partnership with JJ Habkirk in March and they opened a "high-class" tailoring establishment in the Stretton Block. Ross planned on moving to the Garfield Block store. (*Brussels Post* Jan. 5, 12, Feb. 2, and Mar. 23, 1905)

Ross formed a new co-partnership with John Ferguson and would "do business in the two stores in the Garfield block before 1905 has taken its flight." Workmen were hired to make changes to the Garfield Block desired by J Ferguson & Co and DC Ross before their occupation of the stores. The plate glass front was taken out and larger glass substituted for part of it. A cement walk was put in to the doorway and the shelving widened. An archway was cut between the two stores. It was expected that the building would be ready about September 1st. (*Brussels Post* July 27, 1905)

In September 1905, Miss Eastman was hired to take charge of their dressmaking department; the shop was to be open about Sept 18th. Miss Eastman had practical experience in the best shops in Chicago and Detroit. Three or four sewing girls were wanted. Miss Possie Mitchell was one of the women hired to assist Miss Eastman. (*Brussels Post* No. 30, 1905)

Ferguson and Ross also installed an acetylene plant to be utilized in lighting their premises. A brick building would be built at the rear of the block for the generator. By the end of October "Messrs Ferguson and Ross have had the electric light installed in their stores and have splendidly lighted premises now, including the show windows." (*Brussels Post* Sept. 28, Nov. 2, 1905)

A large advertisement in the December 16, 1909 issue of *The Post* announced a dissolution sale for Ferguson & Ross. Both Ross and Ferguson continued in the dry goods and clothing business in their respective stores in the Garfield Block.

Ferguson owned the north store and Ross the south store in 1910.

John Ferguson was in business at his Garfield Block store until succeeded by HA Loffree in 1930. Albert Wood took over the store from Loffree in 1936 and was here until 1944.

By 1920, after 35 years in business, Mr. Ross, whose health had not been very robust of late, sold his stock of dry goods, clothing, groceries, etc., and rented his store. *The Post* reported in the January 29th issue: "It is said WE Willis of Teeswater has rented the store in the Garfield Block belonging to DC Ross and will shortly open a bakery. Brussels has been without such a business for the past year and so but many believe a well managed business and a respectable output should do a good trade. Instead of building an old fashioned oven as in days gone by a portable one is now manufactured that fills the bill to a nicety." Willis did open a bakery in town, but not at this location.

At the end of 1925, WA Grewar moved his restaurant to the store he had recently purchased from DC Ross. He made improvements to the interior and opened Grewar's Confectionery and Fruit Store. (*Brussels Post* Dec. 9, 1925) John Rowland ran the bakery here from 1938 to 1956. What had been Grewar's Groceteria in the 1950s became Grewar's Superior Market in the 1960s. The grocery was still in business here throughout the 1970s. Archer Grewar was the proprietor of the store from 1935 on.

Hackbart's Department Store replaced Grewar's in 1973 and was here until 1977. The next business here was the Stewart Pharmacy which became the Brussels Pharmacy in 1990. The north part of the store was occupied by Young's Clothing and Footwear from 1986. The Masonic Lodge was, for many years, above the Garfield Block stores.

The Palace Bakery

Wishes to announce that the price of Bread has been reduced and may now be obtained at 18c for a single loaf or 2 for 25c.

A Nice Range of Cakes, Pies and other Bakery Outputs

ALWAYS ON HAND.
YOUR PATRONAGE IS APPRECIATED.

Phone 32X **W. E. WILLIS**
GARFIELD BLOCK, BRUSSELS

"LOFFREE'S"

**ADD A NEW SERVICE
IN A TOWN DELIVERY**
3 Times A Day,
10.30 a.m. 2 p.m. 5 p.m.
Telephone Your Orders and
We will Deliver the Goods.

**GREAT CLEAR AWAY
SALE!**

Starts February 16, at 9 a.m.
with such Items as Listed Below and
Hundreds more laid out
for your Inspection.

Corsets, Odd Lines & sizes, pr. 29c
Children's Stockings, pr. 15c & 19c
Men's Lisle, Silk & Wool and All
Wool Sox, mill flaws in some 19c
Regular Stock of Ladies Fall Weight
Vests, Short & No Sleeve Styles 48c
Fall Weight Bloomers, pr. 39c
Ley Ley's Hand Soap, 4 cakes 25c
Breakfast Tea, Yellow pkg., lb. 29c
Men's Military Grey Shirts 79c
Men's Striped or Plain Work
Trousers \$1.79

H. A. Loffree
SUCCESSOR TO J. FERGUSON & CO.

Advertisements from the *Brussels Post*, 1st above: Nov. 11, 1920; 2nd: Feb. 15, 1933.

NOTICE

I HAVE STARTED A

GENERAL DELIVERY

FROM THE
FOLLOWING STORES

CLUB STORE, Phone 46

BALLANTYNE'S GROCERY

Phone 7

WILLIS BAKERY, Phone 32x

LOFFREE'S LOWER PRICE

STORE, Phone 24

BRUSSELS BAKERY

Phone 113x

3 DELIVERYS A DAY

10.30 a. m., 2 p. m., 5 p. m.

It would be appreciated if you
would use your phones and take
advantage of this service.

VAN HOPPER

BRUSSELS.

WHEN BUYING BREAD

Don't Forget Your

HOME BAKER

He Deserves Your Patronage

We Have a Full Line of:-
CAKES — PASTRIES — BUNS
— On Hand at All Times

Special For Saturday — Cream Puffs
A TASTY TREAT FOR ALL

ROWLAND'S BAKERY

Phone 113X

Brussels, Ont.

A. WOOD

- Men's Tweed Leisure Jackets \$13.95
- Boys' Corduroy Leisure Jackets \$8.75
- Men's Sport Shirts \$2.50
- Boys' Bathing Trunks95c up
- Bathing Caps 35c — 50c
- Girls' Alpine Slack Suits 8—14 years, \$6.75
- Infants' Pure Wool Sweaters,
pink or white \$1.59 up
- Drapery Material, wine shade 1.79—\$2.29
- Chintzes and Floral Draperies 35c — \$2.29
- Received a few more Frill Curtains \$3.59

**Buy where you get a
Square Deal the Year Round**

STOP 'N SHOP.



25c



37c



33c

VALENTINE DAY — FEBRUARY 14th
Give Her A Fresh Box of
Nielson's Chocolates

GREWAR'S - GROCETERIA

Phone 5

Brussels, Ont.

Advertisements from the *Brussels Post*, left: February 15,
1933; centre above: February 28, 1940; centre below:
June 5, 1946; right: February 8, 1950.

Graham Block

503 – 521 Turnberry Street, Brussels, Ont.

Built: 1877

James I Evans was the first owner of Lot 102 in 1859. He took out a mortgage for \$1,100 at the time, perhaps to build a store on the site. The property was ceded to the mortgage holder, Adam Hope, in 1863. Elizabeth and Adam Reid bought the Lot in 1864. They assumed the existing mortgage and increased it to \$1,200.

The first hint we have of the occupant of the store is an item in the *Huron Expositor* April 20, 1870. A correspondent wrote about “the large and flourishing village of Ainleyville.... In the mercantile line the business is done, principally, by Messrs. Leckie, Livingstone, Muir, Wright and Ross.” It was reported in the August 8, 1874 issue that: “Isaac Martin, late of Brussels House, has purchased the whole of the Fralick property in Brussels, consisting of the premises occupied by A Muir, on Turnberry street, and the two vacant lots in rear. We have not learned the price paid.” A Muir was still the occupant of the store in April 1874 when Martin sold the premises to John Grewar.

Grewar was a general merchant who also sold liquor in his store. He mortgaged the property for \$1,260 in 1873, perhaps to make improvements to the existing building or to build another store. At the time of the fire in 1876 that destroyed Grewar’s Block, John Alexander had a store here and Thomas Tate had a liquor store. Grewar, also listed as a merchant as well as the property owner, lost \$4,500 and was insured for \$1,000. Tate (or Tait) suffered a

loss of \$100 and had no insurance. Alexander lost property valued at \$200 and was not insured.

Just before the fire, in April 1876, Grewar sold part of his property to William Glynn. “The property is a vacant portion and has a frontage of 17 feet. It was sold for \$510 or \$30 per foot frontage.” (*Huron Expositor* Apr. 14, 1876) The Land Registry record for this lot does not list Glynn as having purchased part of the lot but does list Noble Glass as the purchaser in 1878. After the fire of 1876, Grewar sold the larger north part of the lot to Dr. William Graham.

Graham Block

In September 1876, Dr. Graham began excavation for what was planned as two-story brick building. *The Huron Expositor* reported in their June 1, 1877 issue that: “The contract for plastering required on Dr Graham’s new brick stores was awarded to Ballantyne & Ross for \$300 – theirs being the lowest tender. The highest was \$600. The contractors do all the work and furnish the material except lath and sand. The buildings are three stories high. The third story in the corner building is to be finished for an Oddfellows’ Hall, which has been leased by Western Star Lodge for a term of five years.” The brickwork was underway by

July and the “new store in the course of erection on the corner of Turnberry and King streets, opposite Stretton’s new hotel” was leased to “two gentlemen from Galt, as a dry goods merchant and general store. It is to be ready for occupation by the first of September.” (*Huron Expositor* July 13, 1877) The new merchants were later identified as Messrs. Wilcox & Forsyth. They would occupy the corner store. In August, it was reported that the third store had been leased to John Logie, a merchant “now in Tufts & Co.’s old stand... It has a fine double front, has a ceiling 15 feet, and is 3 stories high.” (*Huron Expositor* Aug. 31, 1877) A blacksmith shop was built at the rear of the store in December 1877.

By 1880, Graham was advertising his new drug store in Graham’s Block. “We understand Dr. Graham has made arrangements to open a new drug store in the stand formerly occupied by M. Garlick.” He also moved his residence and office in connection with the store. (*Brussels Post* Jan. 30, Feb. 13, 1877) Alexander Hunter, Clerk of Fourth Division Court County of Huron, Conveyancer, Notary Public, Loan and Insurance Agent, had an office in



Graham's Block in 1880. In April, Mrs. Tufts opened a new millinery store in Mr. Logie's old stand, Graham's Block. The block was not fully occupied at the time, however. An ad appeared in the May 28th issue of *The Post* for a first-class brick store to rent, "large, commodious and attractive." Waddell & Son, harness makers, removed to Graham's Block in September 1880.

New Drug Store
—IN—
GRAHAM'S BLOCK
Just opened out with a full assortment of Pure Drugs, Chemicals, Perfumery, Dyes, Patent Medicines and Stationery. All new, bought in the best markets in Canada.
Unadulterated Wines and Brandies,
for medicinal purposes only. "Teaberry," the new dentifrice.
REMOVAL.
After this date my office and residence will be in connection with the Drug Store, where patients may be attended to as formerly.
WILLIAM GRAHAM.

Brussels Post February 27, 1880

In August 1883, Dr. Graham took a four-week vacation to Europe. Dr. Hutchinson, of Bluevale, took over his practice and his drug business was sold to a party from Paisley. In April 1884, Dr. GL Ball, who had lately passed his final examination as dentist, opened an office over the shop formerly occupied by JW Ames, in Graham's Block. (*Huron Expositor* Aug. 10, 1883; Apr. 4, 1884)

An advertisement in the May 29, 1885 *Brussels Post* reads: "At 'The Drug Store' in Graham's Block, every patent medicine, and all good and pure medicines for man or beast are always in stock." In September 1886 it was announced that S. Ostrander, of Wingham, would open out a stock of boots and shoes in Dr. Graham's block in the near future. R. Sparling rented the cellar under Ostrander's store and intended "to purchase and pack all the eggs he

can get hold of and work up the local trade."

Ostrander added ready-made clothing and a hat and cap department to his stock in October. Just 10 months later Ostrander announced his removal to Tillsonburg where he had received a good offer of a business opening. (*Brussels Post* Sept. 10, 1886; Apr. 15, 1887)

In September 1887, the corner store was leased to James Jones and R. Barrett. A partition was built to divide the space into a jewellery store and "a tonsorial artist's department." (*Brussels Post* Sept. 16, 1887) By January of 1888, IC Richards had a harness and repair shop in a store in the Graham Block and was in business here until 1892. Dr. Graham still had an office and residence in the block until October 1888 when he moved to a new residence opposite Melville Church, William Street.

In June 1889, Jones went to Seaforth where he opened a watch making and jewellery store and also took charge of the Town band as teacher and leader. His shop at Brussels was to be kept open as usual "and Mr. Jones will probably be here once a week to oversee operations." Jones was said to be a first-class musician and an excellent cornet player. This new venture lasted until October when Jones closed the branch store in Seaforth so he could devote more of his attention to his business in Brussels.

J. Hargreaves, who had a dry goods and drug store in Graham's Block, disposed of his business to a Mr. Pepper of Hamilton in 1889. "Mr. Hargreaves will be leaving for Toronto, where he has a brother already established in business, in the course of a few weeks. We regret the removal of our townsman who has proved in numberless ways in the past five years his qualifications as a first class citizen. Mr. Pepper is very highly spoken of and has had an excellent business training. Mrs. and the Misses Hargreaves will not, we believe, be leaving Brussels at present so the town will still have a claim on this

Go to **Jones** JEWELER
And see his Large Stock of Ladies' and Gents'
GOLD, GOLD-FILLED AND SILVER **Watches**
And all Kinds of Jewelry for Xmas Trade, which will be sold at Very Low Prices.
Watches as Low as \$3.50
Suitable for Presents. Good Collection of Bang Pins.

Huron Expositor 1895

much-respected family. The change in matters will necessitate the election of a Trustee to take Mr. Hargreaves seat at the School Board. If the very common role of electing the candidate who secured the next highest number of votes is followed Mr. Hargreaves' mantle will fall on JJ Gilpin. This would save the necessity of an election." (*Brussels Post* Feb. 1, 1889) In their February 22 issue *The Post* reported: "Mr. Pepper comes very highly recommended both as a successful businessman and one of worth in the social circle. He will prove a worthy successor to our friend Hargreaves we have no doubt." To attract custom to his store Pepper placed a water fountain in the drug store window "catching the eye of the passer-by" and put a red globe in his street lamp. Electric lights were installed in 1890.

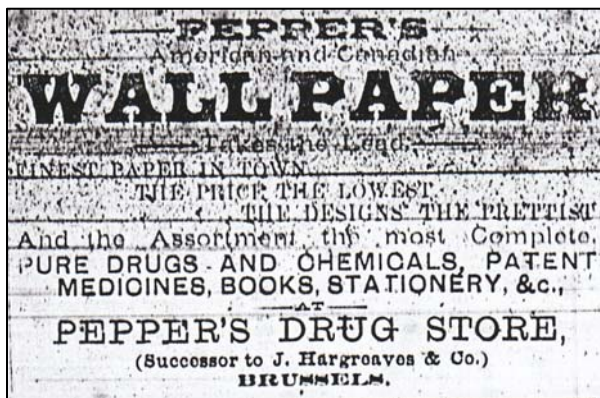


A bottle from "J Hargreaves & Co. Druggists Brussels" in the Huron County Museum's collection.

JD Warrick, Veterinary Surgeon, opened an office in IC Richards harness shop in the Graham Block in April 1889. "As may be seen by his card in another column, [Warwick is] ready to look after and prescribe for the ailments of horses, cattle, &c. In the recent examinations at the Veterinary Collage Mr. Warrick was awarded a \$30 prize. He is now ready for business." Warwick was barely moved in, if that, when it was announced he had removed his office to the room formerly occupied by James Jones, jeweller, in the Queen's Hotel block. (*Brussels Post* Apr. 5 and 26, 1889)

James Jones moved into the southern store of the Vanstone Block in 1891. It is likely that RN Barrett had also moved the location of his barbershop by this time. Alexander Strachan "leased the commodious corner store in Dr. Graham's block for a term of years and will remove his stock in the course of a month or so. A plate glass front is talked of we believe." He installed a large stock of dry goods, groceries, etc. "The shop looks first class. It is a splendid stand for business." In JT Pepper's drug store there was a new employee; Thomas Knechtel articed himself with Pepper to take up the study of drugs. Messrs. Ballantyne & Wilton put a new roof on the northern section of the block in April of that year. (*Brussels Post* Jan. 23, Mar. 13, Feb. 6, Apr. 24, 1891)

JT Pepper's drug store received "an overhauling in the way of papering, painting and new moulding" in March 1894. In May Pepper bought the drug store of JJ Hall, deceased, at Woodstock. His business in Brussels was to continue as usual, however, in June it was reported that Pepper and his family had removed to Woodstock. "The drug business belonging to Mr. Pepper in town will be continued, and will be in charge of Stanley Jackson, a licensed chemist, of Woodstock, assisted by J McRae." Another business change was announced in July: "This week James Fox, the well-known Wroxeter



Brussels Pot advertisements, above: April 12, 1889; below: April 6, 1895.



druggist, purchased the drug business of JT Pepper, Graham block, Brussels, and has taken possession. Mr. Fox is a gentleman well posted in all the departments of his work and we trust his brightest anticipations will be realized. Mrs. Fox and son will move to town shortly." Readers of *The Post* learned

the sad news of Mr. Jackson's death in October: "The residents of Brussels were greatly surprised to hear that Stanley Jackson, who clerked for JT Pepper's in this place, had died on Sabbath, at his home in Woodstock. He took typhoid fever about two months ago and afterwards congestion of the lungs which caused his death. Deceased was a stout, hearty young man 23 years of age." (*Brussels Post* Mar. 16, May 11, June 8, Oct. 12, 1894)

George and Adam Good had "The New Cheap Store" in the third store of the Graham Block in 1891 until their lease expired in June 1894. Messrs. Taylor & Smillie moved their grocery to the Graham block, in the store where Good Bros. had their boots and shoes, at the end of July 1894. A gilt lettered sign was placed in the window to announce the new business. (*Brussels Post* June 29, July 27, 1894)

Dr. Graham had a telephone connection made between his residence and Fox's drug store in October 1894. Fox was the local agent for Bell Telephone and was planning to open a local exchange if enough subscribers could be enlisted. "If 12 subscribers are obtained, the work will go on. They secured the names of 6 or 7, we understand, while Mr. Richmond [the Bell representative] was here. He will be back shortly to complete the canvas." (*Brussels Post* Oct. 12, 1894) The local exchange was installed in December: "Next week telephone men will put in a local exchange in Brussels. Ten or a dozen instruments will be placed and others are likely to be added soon. The central will remain at the drug store of J Fox, Graham block." Instruments were placed in the Ament Bros. factory, the GTR depot, JD Ronald's factory, the American Hotel, Williams' livery, Beattie Bros., and WM Sinclair's residence. (*Brussels Post* Dec. 21 & 28, 1894)

In 1896, Fox added a stock of wallpapers to his

business. The drug store was connected by telephone to his residence early in 1897 and a large English bevel plate mirror, 36x40, was placed in front of the dispensing table making a very noticeable improvement "and every customer can now take Bobbie Burns advice and 'see oursel's as ithers see us'." (*Brussels Post* Jan. 15, 1897) TP Smith, a scientific eye specialist, made a regular yearly visit to Brussels and consulted with clients at Fox's drug store.

In January 1896, Mrs. FC Rogers leased the store in Dr. Graham's block recently vacated by James Smillie, grocer, and moved her stock of millinery, mantles, etc. (*Brussels Post* Jan. 24, 1896) Mrs. Rogers moved to the new store in the Leckie Block in September of that year. JH Kearney opened a grocery store in this space in 1897. He moved into the space in October.

Miss Roddick opened out her millinery stock in the Graham block in August 1898, but it was just a temporary measure since she had been routed by fire from her store in Smale's Block to which she returned in September. Also in October 1898, Robert Thomson "leased one of the stores in Dr Graham's block for an emporium for butter and eggs owing to his having to leave his present quarters which James Ballantyne will use for his bakery." (*Brussels Post* Oct. 28, 1898)

A new floor was put in Fox's drug store as well as a new plate glass front in 1899. In November 1900, some changes were made to the telephone exchange in Fox's store. "This week the telephone men were here making the necessary changes in the central office at Jas Fox's drug store. A dandy new cabinet, well finished and lighted has been put in and now stands in the rear of the store instead of in the back room as formerly. This will add to the convenience of both the public and Mr Fox." (*Brussels Post* Nov. 13, 1900)

Fox's Drug Store

The *Penlar* Store

WEEKLY STORE NEWS

<p>Flashlights and Batteries</p> <p>We make it a point to keep our stock renewed frequently so you can depend on our Batter being in good shape.</p> <hr/> <p>We have Agarol The New Mineral Oil in two sizes— 75c and \$1.50 This is a very fine product.</p> <hr/> <p>Penlar Cod Liver Extract Our very Best Builder and Tonic. TRY IT!</p>	<div style="text-align: center;">  <h2 style="margin: 0;">New Wall Paper</h2> <p>WE naturally think that when we open out our new stock of Paper each season that it is just about right. Anyway this is what we think of this season's display and we would like you to drop in and take a stroll through the pictures.</p> <p>There are some very pretty ones and the prices are a bit lower than last year.</p> <hr style="border: none; border-top: 1px dashed black;"/> <h2 style="margin: 0;">Formaldehyde</h2> <p>40 p. c. Solution</p> <p>LOOKS more like seedling now and we are prepared to do our part in the process. We realize that the BEST is always the cheapest and you can depend on our Formaldehyde as the VERY BEST that can be bought.</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> </div>	<p>Are you going to dye some</p> <h2 style="margin: 0;">Dyeing?</h2> <p>We have all the different kinds of Dyes</p> <p>DIAMOND DYOLA SUNSET BITS Always Fresh</p> <hr/> <p>Seasonable Drugs</p> <p>MOTH BALLS CHLORIDE OF LIME COPPERAS GILLETTS' LYE</p> <hr/> <p>Blue Grass Condition Powders for Horses</p> <p>is our old reliable 25c per pkge.</p>
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FOX'S DRUG STORE

"Careful Prescription Dispensers"

DOWN TOWN C. N. R. TICKET AGENT DRUGGIST and STATIONER

Brussels Post April 8, 1925

Graham added a 2-story brick addition of 20 square feet to the rear of the store occupied by A Strachan and put in a plate glass front in August 1900. AJ Lowry built the stone foundation and Pugh & Lowry built the brick walls. The brickwork was complete by October. (*Brussels Post* Aug. 2, 30, Oct. 11, 1900)

Strachan opened a dressmaking department in connection with his business in May 1905. Miss McArter, who had been in Toronto for some time, would be in charge and "pleased to be favored with the patronage of the ladies of Brussels and locality." Strachan also put in an acetylene plant with which he generated light for his dry goods store instead of using electric light. (*Brussels Post* Sept. 7, 1905)

In 1905, Dr Graham had an office fitted up for himself, "in first-class style," in the Graham block. By 1910 Dr. and Mrs. Graham said goodbye to their many friends in Brussels and moved to Toronto where they had purchased a residence. (*Brussels Post* July 21, 1910)

The GNW Telegraph office was removed to Fox's drug store in June 1905. Mr. Fox was the operator in charge.

Fox's Drug & Stationery store became "The Penlar Store" by 1915. In 1920, Fox leased a store in Toronto and placed Stewart Fox, who had graduated the previous spring, in charge of it. (*Brussels Post* July 15, 1920) Fox continued in business at the Brussels store was here until 1927.

Harry Allen, a druggist, took over the drug store in the Graham Block and was in business from 1928 to 1931.

The corner store in the Graham Block was still A Strachan's dry goods in 1910. Miss Carrie Hingston was in charge of the dressmaking department at that time. Some time between 1910 and 1918, Strachan sold his business to EC Dunford, who had a men's clothing store. In 1923, Fred Hunter took over the store and had a dry goods business here until 1931. Clara and Mina Hunter had a Variety/Novelty Store here in 1925-26.

Herb Sullivan, an Agent, may have had a business in

the corner store from 1931 to 1935. In November 1935 the 5¢ to \$1.00 Store moved in and was in business here for 56 years. Elizabeth and Christena Dickson were the proprietors of the store in 1935 and they purchased this section of the Graham Block in 1949. They kept a large stock of ladies and children's clothing, men's work clothes, linens and sewing needs, dishes and giftware. Christena Dickson died in 1969 but Elizabeth continued in business until her death in 1976. Dickson's niece and her husband, Luella and Jack Mitchell, carried on the business until 1991. The store was sold to Dave Boynton and leased to the 5R's Thrift Shop.

MacDonald & Russell's Red Band Store, a grocery, occupied the centre store in the Graham Block in 1936. Lewis Russell continued the grocery on his own until 1944. The Swift Canadian Co., a produce store, appears to have been part of the grocery store in the early 1940s. Stewart Lowe had the grocery after Russell. It was known as Lowe's Red & White in the 1960s. He was in business until 1973 when it became Hilt's Food Market.

The third store of the Graham Block was occupied by Downing Bros. shoe store by 1918 until 1921. Joseph Schwadron appears to have been the merchant here in the 1920s. The Brussels General Store run by EJ McTavish was at this location in the early 1930s. Thomas William Mitchell had a barbershop here from 1943, replacing J Rutledge. Mitchell sold in 1949 to Emil Brunneski, also a barber. Robert Walker was the barber from 1953 and into the 1960s. It became Hall's Barbershop & Pool Room some time in the 1960s and was still in business in 1979. The long run of barbershops at this

location ended when Frank Thompson opened Thompson's Meat Market in 1980. Thompson's Meat Market became Stroop's Meat Market in 1986 and eventually was replaced by Your Choice Meats, the business at this location in 1997.

Anniversary Sale Friday & Saturday November 15th & 16th

Instead of issuing Sale Bills this year we are offering a straight discount of 10% on all purchases of \$1.00 or over for two days only.

STOCK UP ON—

Cottons, Towels, Flannelette Blankets, Underwear
Hosiery, Dresses, Sweaters and Etc.

Brussels 5c to \$1.00 Store Misses Dickson

Red Band Store



2 lbs. 23c

Quaker Corn Flakes 2 pkgs	15c	Wash Boards zinc 39c glass ...	59c
Mont Royal Matches 3 boxes	21c	Christies Cream Cookies per lb	19c
Choice Quality Tomatoes 3 tins	25c	Red Band Jelly Powder 6 pkgs	25c
Clark's Pork & Beans 3 tins	25c	Coloured or Plain Serviettes 2 (100)	25c
Quaker Puffed Wheat 2 pkgs	19c	Good Broom	19c
Heinz Cooked Spaghetti 2 tins	22c	Oxydol, large	23c
London House Tea 1/4 lb pkg	33c	Cottage Rolls	per lb 32c
Hemphill's Wheat Berries 5 lb bag ..	19c	Macaroni & Cheese Loaf, per lb ..	25c
Christies Premium Sodas, plain or salted	19c	Sausage	per lb 25c

LEWIS A. RUSSELL, BRUSSELS

BARBER SHOP

Now Under New Management

formerly run by J. Rutledge

1st Door South of Swift's



Your Patronage Will Be Appreciated

T. W. Mitchell!

Announcement! Grand Opening Red & White Food Market S. Lowe's

Thursday, Sept. 29 - 8 a.m.

Free Draw on Kroehler Rocker
All Nylon - \$70.00 Value.

30 Bags - Groceries to be Given Away Absolutely Free.

Advertisements from *Brussels Post*, left top: Nov. 13, 1940; left below: Sept. 27, 1939; above top, May 15, 1940; above bottom: Sept. 21, 1955.

Come Early 106

See Hand Bills for Special Prizes
For This Gala Event.

JR Smith Block

541 Turnberry Street, Brussels, Ont.

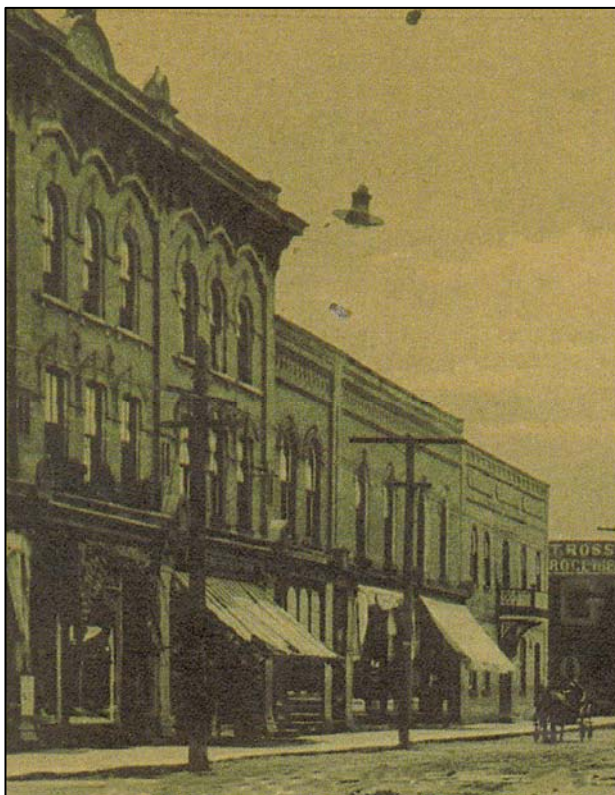
Built: 1883

Just before the fire, in April 1876, Grewar sold part of his property to William Glynn. “The property is a vacant portion and has a frontage of 17 feet. It was sold for \$510 or \$30 per foot frontage.” (*Huron Expositor* Apr. 14, 1876) The Land Registry record for this lot does not list Glynn as having purchased part of the lot but does list Noble Glass as the purchaser in 1878. Glass appears to have considered building on the site, having taken out a mortgage for \$700, but he sold within months to Mary Smith.

Mary’s husband, John R Smith, was in partnership with John Stewart. In 1876, they had purchased the stock of store goods and leased the store premises of John Leckie. (*Huron Expositor* Feb. 11, Apr. 7 & 14 1876) JR Smith appears to have gone into business for himself by 1878 as he is listed as one of the property owners who suffered losses in the fire of 1879. The fire began in Good & Co.’s dry goods store, one of the tenants of Fishleigh’s Block to the south. Both buildings on either side suffered damage. The damage to JR Smith’s building was covered by insurance. Possible tenants of Smith’s store may have been CL Buchanan, a grocer whose loss on stock was \$500, insured for \$300, or Wright & McCurdy, shoemakers, loss \$200, no insurance. (*Huron Expositor* Apr. 18, 1879)

Smith may have re-built some time between 1879 and 1883, constructing the brick block still here today. It is likely that it was not built until 1883 as the first notice of any tenant appears in the

November 16, 1883 *Huron Expositor*: “P Thomson & Black have moved to the stand adjoining Graham block.” They were in business for about a year when A Good bought their bankrupt stock “at 75 cents on the dollar... If Mr Good keeps on he will soon occupy the one side of the street.”



The lower floor windows of the Smith Block are visible behind the awning of the third store in Graham's Block to the north. Mrs. Kirk's Fancy Goods store or Wilson's grocery may have been the tenant.

In May 1885, Mrs. Kirk was the occupant in Thomson & Black’s old stand opposite the Queen’s Hotel. She had a confectionery where she sold “ice cream and summer drinks ... biscuits and first-class cigars always on hand.” (*Brussels Post* May 15, 1885) Mrs. Kirk’s business changed over the years. In 1889 she advertised as a dry goods store selling “hoods, caps, jackets, mufflers, leggings, &c., Berlin and Zephyr wools 8¢ per oz.” and in 1890 the focus was on fancy goods. The Misses McNaughton, dressmakers, had occupied the rooms above before 1890, which were now for rent. (*Brussels Post* Jan. 4, 1889; July 25, 1890)

Mrs. Kirk advertised “First-class oysters on Saturday and during the season in bulk or by the dish, cooked or raw” in October 1891. She still had the fancy goods part of the business in 1898. By 1905, she was again advertising ice cream, “also a good lunch for 10 cents.” (*Brussels Post* Oct. 28, 1898; June 1, 1905) In April 1894, JR Smith, who had a hardware store at another location in town, had the brick front of the store he owned, occupied by Mrs. JYS Kirk, overhauled and the upper portion re-built.

Samuel C Wilson had a grocery and confectionery in the Smith Block by 1910. In 1920, he bought the confectionery and ice cream business of HA Edwards, of Goderich. (*Brussels Post* Sept. 23, 1920)

William Proctor was the next to have a grocery and confectionery store here. He was in business for many years, until 1950. A new plate glass window was installed in November 1925. In 1936, he sold Ian McDonald’s Jersey milk chocolate.

Jehovah’s Kingdom Hall was here in the 1960s. Smith’s Coffee Shop opened its doors in the early 1970s and was here until 1980. MPP Murray Cardiff’s constituency office was here in the early 1980s. It is now home to The Citizen.

Keep Your Eye Right Here
FOR THE
FIRST
Announcement
OF THE
PARLOR SHOE STORE.

Our Stock having arrived and is now arranged we are prepared to show to the people of Brussels and Surrounding Community a full line of

NEW SPRING GOODS
AT
ROCK BOTTOM PRICES

Remember these Goods are all NEW and bought from the
Best Manufacturers in the Trade.
Call and inspect our Goods and compare Prices.

PARLOR SHOE STORE.
W. SCHOSBERG,
MANAGER.
Two Doors South of Pepper's Drug Store.

Are You Ready? **Xmas is Coming** We Are

Try S. C. WILSON

With your next Grocery order. Our goods are fresh and we can supply you with all kinds of Christmas Groceries, Peels, Seeded Raisins, Currants, Icing Sugar, Spices, Etc.

Lemons, Bananas, Almeria Grapes
Figs, Dates, Prunes, Peaches

Oranges The first Naval Oranges of the season are here and are sweet and juicy. Expect a big shipment in a few days and prices are low.

Candies At the Candy Counter you will find the largest and best assortment of Candies in Brussels. Try our Chocolates and see our large assortment of Christmas Bon Bons ranging in price from 5c to \$2.00 and over. Always a full line of Fry's, Webb's and Nasmith's celebrated Chocolates on hand.

HOT DRINKS	HOT SOUPS	Fresh Oysters
COFFEE, COCOA	OYSTERS	and
BEEF TEA	TOMATO	Good Quality

Thanking our friends for their liberal patronage during the past year we wish all a Merry Holiday Season.

'PHONE 73
Special Attention to 'Phone Orders. **S. C. Wilson**

Brussels Post left: 1892; above: December 15, 1910.

May 18, 1905

First-class ice cream at Mrs Kirk's commencing Saturday next. A good Lunch. Give us a trial.

Mar. 18, 1920

A plate glass window in SC Wilson's grocery came to grief from the strong wind of Tuesday. It was hardly cracked before.

Sept. 30, 1925

IMPROVEMENTS – The two stores occupied by Baeker Bros and Wm Proctor are being brightened up with the painter's brush.

Vanstone Block

565 Turnberry Street, Brussels, Ont.

Built: 1884

The north half of Lot 103 was purchased by James Stretton in 1861. He sold to Richard Moorehouse in 1863.

Moorehouse in turn sold to Mary Anderson in 1875. Anderson and her husband, Thomas, mortgaged the property for \$300 in 1876. Thomas was a shoemaker and he was the tenant of the store when it was destroyed in the fire of 1876. His loss was valued at \$1,200 but he had no insurance. The Andersons re-mortgaged for \$400 in 1877 but sold their property for \$600 to William AB Fishleigh in May of that same year.

Fishleigh took out a \$2,000 mortgage in September 1877. Fishleigh's store block had two stores and a hall above. "The Masons are to have a Hall, 19x51, with reception rooms in addition, over William Fishleigh's new buildings, adjoining Graham's block." (*Huron Expositor* Sept. 7, 1877)

Fishleigh's Block was the victim of fire in April 1879. "A fire broke out on Thursday morning in Good & Co.'s dry goods store in Fishleigh's block, at a little before 5 am. The whole building, along with its contents, were destroyed. There were three tenants in the building, who all lost heavy. The fire company were early on the spot, and with great exertions, kept the fire within the one building. Both buildings on either side were slightly damaged. The heavy losers are Good & Co. and W. Fishleigh. The following are the losses: Good & Co. loss \$10,000, insurance \$5,000; Wm. Fishleigh, loss \$3,500, insurance \$2,000; John Tait, loss \$700, insurance \$300; Masonic Lodge, loss \$500, no insurance; P.

Moore, damage on hotel, covered by insurance; JR Smith, damage on building, covered by insurance; CL Buchanan, grocer, loss on stock \$500, insurance \$300; F. Frey, loss on furniture \$300, covered by insurance; Wright & McCurdy, shoemakers, loss \$200, no insurance. The fire started in Good's store. The Ronald steamer did most excellent work, and was the means of saving both buildings on either side and in the rear." (*Huron Expositor* April 18, 1879)

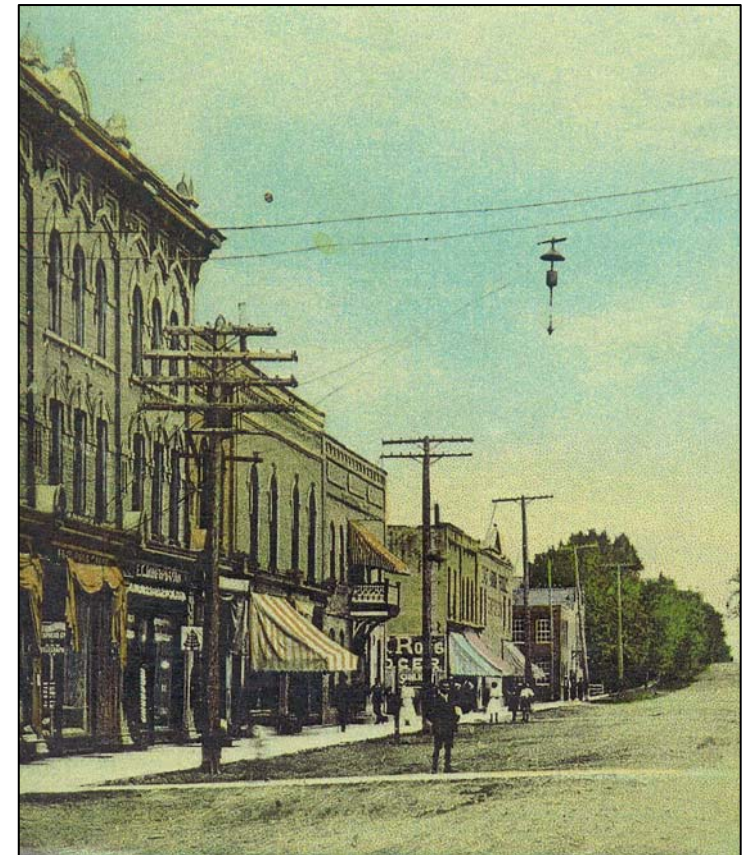
The property was sold to William M Gartshore in October 1879. Gartshore took out a mortgage for \$1,300 in March 1880 but did not rebuild on this site. Gartshore sold the property to William F Vanstone in March 1883. *The Huron Expositor* reported in their November 16, 1883 issue: "Mr Vanstone intends building the old Fishleigh block this fall, which will close up the ugly fire hole that has existed for a long time."

Vanstone began construction in May 1884. "Wm Vanstone has commenced operations on his new brick block adjoining the Central Hotel. It is to be two storeys in height, the lower flat to be occupied, when completed, by Adam Good as a shoe factory and wholesale and retail warehouse for boots, shoes and leather. The other shop by Ross Brothers as a tailoring establishment. The upper flat will be occupied as a Masonic Hall." (*Huron Expositor* May 23, 1884)

In August 1884 Adam Good & Co.

announced their move to the new store: "Adam Good & Co. move into their new store on the first of September, they will have one of the finest shoe stores in Canada, occupying, as it does, the entire Vanstone Block." Ross Bros., however, bought the stock and trade of Smale Bros., merchants and tailors, and instead of moving to the Vanstone Block moved into the store previously occupied by Smale Bros. (*Huron Expositor* Aug. 8 & 22, 1884)

In 1885, Adam Good & Co. added groceries to their boots and shoes business and called it "The Toronto Grocery." They also had an ice cream business and



The yellow striped awning shades the north store of the Vanstone Block.

had a beautiful parlor fitted up: "They are going to make ice cream just the same as it is made in the finest parlors in Toronto." In October, P. Ritchie, the foreman in Good's boot and shoe shop, leased a farm of Robert Menzies of Grey Township but continued to work for Good. (*Huron Expositor* May 22, Oct. 30, 1885)

A new sign identified Good's boot and shoe store in 1886. "The red boot hung out by A Good at his Boot & Shoe store is no baby affair. It is 13' high with a leg 5½' long and a foot 10' from heel to toe. The iron in connection with it weighed 118 pounds. It would suit some of the Wingham girls' feet nicely." (*Huron Expositor* Oct. 1, 1886)

The Masonic Hall moved out of their premises above Good's store in 1887. The room was advertised for rent as a lodge or office.

Adam Good's business seemed to be thriving in 1888. In January he "placed orders with seven different shoe factories amounting to 1800 pairs." In March, he announced his intention of entering the egg business and would pay cash for any quantity of eggs delivered at his store. In May Good decided to give up his ice cream business due to the early closing by-law requiring him to close his store at 7 pm. He also disposed of his custom shoemaking business to his foreman, Peter Ritchie. Good still sold ready-made shoes and boots but wanted to pay more attention to the grocery part of his business. (*Huron Expositor* Jan. 1, Mar. 23, May 25, Sept. 14, 1888)

Good noticed a problem with theft from his store in October 1888. "For some time past Adam Good, general merchant, has missed from his store large quantities of hats, boots, shoes, groceries and other matters, and although constantly on the alert was unable to ascertain where the "leakage" came in. His suspicions, however, being aroused in a certain

HAT & CAP
DEPARTMENT,

We beg to advise our customers and the public generally that we have gone extensively into the Hat and Cap trade, and are now receiving our stock of spring and summer styles in Canadian, English and American styles in Men's, Youths' and Boys' Hard and Soft Fur and Wool Felt Hats,


Tweed, Cloth and Silk Caps.

Our specialties for the season will be

Boots, Shoes, Hats, Caps, Groceries.

OUR MOTTO—Large Sales and Small Profits.

GEO. GOOD & CO.



The Patent Gordian Seam.
No More Ripping of Back Seams of Boots and Shoes.

The **GORDIAN SEAM** does not add to the cost of the Shoe. The **GORDIAN SEAM** is neater and stronger than any other in use. The **GORDIAN SEAM** is guaranteed to outwear any other part of the shoe.
The **GORDIAN SEAM** can be found on none but Boots and Shoes manufactured by us, none but our firm having the right to use it.
N.B.—Anyone infringing on this Patent will be prosecuted according to law.

GUARANTEE—For the last four years we have been using the **GORDIAN SEAM** on back straps of our Boots and Shoes, and have not yet heard that the Seam ever ripped, broke or gave way, and we are so thoroughly convinced of its extraordinary merits that we hereby guarantee it; binding ourselves to exchange every pair returned where the **GORDIAN SEAM** fails to outwear the Shoe.

FOGARTY & BRO., No. 245 St. Lawrence Street, MONTREAL.
Sole Proprietors of the Gordian Seam for the Dominion of Canada.

Beware of imitations. Every pair with the real **GORDIAN SEAM** must bear the Patent mark on the soles.

We are now receiving our stock of Spring and Summer

BOOTS & SHOES

manufactured under the above patent. We believe they are the best goods ever sold in Brussels, and as we will sell them as cheap as common goods, it will be to the advantage of customers to try them. Samples of the work in the different processes of manufacture on view at our store.

GEO. GOOD & Co.,
Dealers in Reliable Boots & Shoes.

direction, on Wednesday morning he secreted himself in his store before the hour for opening and there became an "unobserved observer" of what took place. WT Hunter was the first caller and obtained from a boy, named McCullough, then in Mr. Good's store (and as both supposed alone there at the time) two pairs of overshoes and departed without the usual formality of paying for them. Samuel Beattie, livery stable keeper, next appeared and obtained a felt hat upon the same advantageous terms. Mr. Good subsequently revealed his presence to the boy and demanded an explanation, who confessed that this business had been going on for some time with no other remuneration than trifling sums given to the boy "to put in his own pocket" and "for himself" of which he was on no account to tell his employer. Legal advice was procured which resulted in informations being laid before A. Hunter, JP, against both men, charging them with receiving stolen goods, knowing them to be stolen, and by 3 o'clock in the afternoon they were both in the clutches of the law. The trial proceeded at 5 pm the same day and resulted in both Hunter and Beattie being fully committed to take their trial, and as we write they are on their way to Goderich in charge of constables Scott and Ainlay. EE Wade acted as Mr. Good's legal advisor and RS Hays for the prisoners." (*Huron Expositor* Oct. 12, 1888)

Good's business faltered in 1890 and he was "compelled to make an assignment owing to the stringency of the times and dullness of trade." Miss A. Vanstone bought the boot, shoe and grocery stock amounting to over \$1,000 at 55¢ on the dollar. She re-sold it to George Good, of Seaforth. By January 1891, George Good was in business in the Brussels store and occupied one store instead of two as in the past, retaining the northern shop in the Vanstone Block. (*Huron Expositor* May 23, June 13 & 20, 1890; Jan. 23, 1891)

James Jones and WM Sinclair took up quarters in the

southern store in the Vanstone block in February 1891. A partition was “run through it for the accommodation of these two gentlemen.”

In March 1891, the Vanstone property, consisting of flour and saw mills, stores, houses, land, etc. was offered for sale by public auction. George Good received a legal notice in May to quit the store he was occupying. Good Bros. moved into a store in the Graham Block.

Sale of the Vanstone property was not final until September 1894. William F Stewart and Robert Graham, of the National Roller Mills, purchased the property from the British Canadian Loan & Investment Co., Toronto, the late owners. The stores on Turnberry Street were occupied by James McAlpine as a restaurant and by James Jones, jeweller, and William M Sinclair, solicitor. (*Brussels Post* Sept. 7, 1894) Graham sold his share of the store property to Stewart in April 1896.

McAlpine had a new soda fountain installed in his restaurant in May 1895 and made a number of improvements to the restaurant “that will add greatly to the convenience and comfort of both buyers and sellers.” (*Brussels Post* May 24, Aug. 23, 1895) The changes didn’t bring the desired increase in business and McAlpine was “compelled to make an assignment for the benefit of his creditors” in January 1896.

The new proprietor of the restaurant was WH Pelton of Wingham. He purchased the restaurant stock, had the interior of the store papered, and added a large stock of confectionery, fruits, oysters, etc. Ice cream was one of the luxuries on call at Pelton’s restaurant. In August Pelton had a new dray built by James Walker. One of the plate glass windows in Pelton’s restaurant was broken: “A boy was pushed through one of the side lights, 46x60, of

WH Pelton’s restaurant on Monday evening. (*Brussels Post* Feb. 7, Apr. 17, Aug. 14, Oct. 23, 1896)

Pelton, as did McAlpine before him, was forced to make an assignment in January 1897. “At a meeting of the creditors of WH Pelton, held in Barrister Blair’ office last Friday afternoon, his assets were reported at \$300 and his liabilities at \$900. It was decided to continue the sale of the stock at cost and all goods remaining to be sold by public auction on Feb. 4th. Since this meeting assignee Scott has disposed of the business to Jos. McKay [McKoy] at Atwood, at 45¢ on the dollar, possession to be given next week.” (*Brussels Post* Jan. 29, 1897)

Mr. McKoy, the new proprietor, was reported to be moving his family from Atwood to Brussels. A later report noted that McKoy had removed the stock from Pelton’s restaurant to Atwood. The store vacated by Pelton was then leased to Messrs. Kearney & McCracken who opened a grocery store. (*Brussels Post* Mar. 19, 1897) “MESSRS. KERNEY & MCCRACKEN have a tip-top stock of groceries and appear to be rapidly drawing a large share of public patronage. Their stand is the one recently vacated by WH Pelton.” (*Brussels Post* Apr. 16, 1897)

By September 1897 Kerney & McCracken, grocers and restaurateurs, had “assigned to A Hunter.” The grocery stock was offered for sale by tender and EA Treleaven, of Dungannon, was the purchaser at 65 cents on the dollar. He planned to open out in the old stand at once. “Mr. Treleaven is an unmarried man and purposes making his home in Brussels. We welcome him to town.” (*Brussels Post* Sept. 3, 10, 24 1897) Just seven months later J. Kerney was back in the grocery business in the Stewart Block. “The painter’s brush tidied everything up in neat style and the shop looks gay.” (*Brussels Post* Apr. 29, 1898) New Bell telephones were installed in JH Kerney’s grocery and Baeker & Vanstone’s office next door.

Restaurant!

We have purchased a new Soda Fountain and will be able to supply all kinds of Refreshing Drinks.

First-class Ice Cream
By the Dish or Quart.

Fresh Oysters
Received, the Daintiest of the Season.

CALL IN. **W. H. PELTON,**
PROPRIETOR

THE City Grocery

KERNEY & M'CRACKEN

CASH

FOR

EGGS.

Kerney & McCracken.

Brussels Post advertisements, top: 1896; bottom: 1897.

Alfred Baeker purchased the Stewart brick block from WF Stewart in January 1905, the price being reported at \$1700. "It is a cheap property if this figure is right as it is all tenanted. Mr Baeker is blossoming into quite a real estate dealer." (*Brussels Post* Jan. 12, 1905)

William M Sinclair, Barrister & Solicitor, was one of the long-term tenants of the block. He had an office here until 1915, as did James Jones' jewellery store. They moved when Baeker Bros. decided to move their butcher shop to this location. Improvements and alterations were made to the stores. "DANDY SHOP – The newly fitted up premises of Baeker Bros., for their meat market in the Baeker block, reflects credit on the enterprise of the firm and assures their customers of a more efficient service than ever. Store is 19 feet wide and 50 feet long and is well lighted with the plate glass front and also well ventilated. A commodious Eureka refrigerator with opalite panels has been installed a well as a counter with marble top and opalite front. Miss Jessie Cunningham is ensconced in a neat panelled office with glass surroundings in which is a desk, telephone, cash drawer, books, etc. Shop is painted in light color and along the base of the walls is burlap that can be washed in keeping the premises sanitary. 10 electric lamps are installed, run by a small motor. A new awning has been put up by the well-known Raymann Bros., of London. W Bell is now in charge of the daily trips taken to the outside routes and Roy McKay is in charge of town delivery. The firm has built a new cement building, according to modern Board of Health plans on the 2 acres purchased in Morris township, for slaughter house purposes. A drilled well has also been put down. Baeker Bros have been 12 years in business in Brussels and are in better shape now than ever to cater to the requirements of the public. Few city shops are as well fitted up as Baeker Bros stand and we wish them the success their optimism figures

on." (*Brussels Post* May 27, 1915) Baeker Bros. Butcher Shop was in business here until the 1950s.

William Bell had a restaurant in the block in 1921. William Proctor's grocery and restaurant occupied the north store of the block from 1924 to 1945. The White Star Bakery was in the old Proctor store in 1950 to 1953, operated by Thomas and Margaret Davidson. Ruby Hanna owned the north part of Lot 103 by 1955. There was a bakery still here in the 1960s. Thompson & Stephenson's Butcher Shop was one of the occupants in part of the 1960s through to the 1980s.

**KERNEY'S GROCERY
AND RESTAURANT.**

Have removed Two Doors South to the Stewart Block, where I have opened out a Full and Well Assorted line of

GROCERIES.

Will also keep ICE CREAM, SUMMER DRINKS, and the Choice of FRUITS, in Season.

**Restaurant will be open for the
QUEENS BIRTHDAY.**

Thanking the Public for past favors, I solicit a Continuance of Patronage, as I am Here to do Business.

Terms Strictly Cash.

J. W. KERNEY,
Grocery and Restaurant.

Brussels Post advertisements, left: May 20, 1898; top right: December 16, 1920; bottom right: February 11, 1942.

Oysters!

They're in Again - Get Them at Bell's

Great for toning up the evening meal!
Lunches served at all hours.
Ice Cream and Hot and Cold Drinks also our lines.
Neilson's Chocolates a Specialty.

Bell's first-class Restaurant
MAIN STREET BRUSSELS



**Good For
All Kinds of
Baking**

1 Lb. for 19c
- AT -
Baeker Bros.

Phone 6 Butcher Shop Brussels

Every merchant should be around his counters, to meet his trade and see that they are waited upon and take a hand himself if he can. Nothing pleases a customer more than to have some attention shown by the proprietor of the store.

Brussels Post Nov. 21, 1890

Central Hotel

Turnberry Street, Brussels, Ont.

Built: 1871-75

M

artin Moore bought the south half of Lot 103 and the north part of Lot 104 from Joseph Lennox in May 1871. Moore built

the Mansion House hotel on the site. In 1875 he built an addition to the hotel and thoroughly refit the existing hotel.

The hotel was destroyed in the fire of 1876. Moore's loss was valued at \$3,000 and he was insured for \$1,200. He commenced rebuilding immediately: "Building operations are quite brisk in the burnt district. J Laird, M Moore and S Smale have their new buildings closed in...." (*Huron Expositor* Sept. 1, 1876) Patrick Moore owned the property by this time and it was he who took out the mortgages to finance the rebuilding in 1877.

In August 1877, Patrick Moore leased his new hotel to Mr. McCutcheon of Wingham. "It is a fine new brick, which is being built by Mr. Kelly, on the site of the one formerly owned by Mr. Martin Moore. Mr. McCutcheon comes well recommended, and will occupy the house about the 1st of October next." (*Huron Expositor* Aug. 17, 1877)

Moore's hotel suffered some damage in the 1879 fire that destroyed stores in the block to the north. Fortunately his insurance covered the cost.

The property changed hands again in 1883. Mrs Martin Moore sold the Central Hotel "to a gentleman from the East for \$5,100." The gentleman was A Mickus who also bought WF

Hunter's blacksmith shop. He put the hotel up for sale in September. (*Huron Expositor* Jan. 12, Aug. 17, 1883)

The proprietor and owner of the Central Hotel in 1885 was Terry O'Neal. In January, O'Neal "paid \$20 at costs this week for selling liquor on Municipal election day." A good-sized addition was built on the stable in April "and will have ample accommodation for the travelling public." (*Huron Expositor* Jan. 18, Apr. 17, 1885) O'Neal built a large addition of 27x35' to his barn in July 1886, again to accommodate the travelling public.

Christopher Zilliax of Listowel took possession of the Central Hotel in June 1889. Zilliax installed electric lights in December 1890.



The well-maintained Central Hotel - note the back addition with separate door.

In June 1894, JJ Gilpin, a local sales agent for farm implements, organized an impromptu parade: "Quite a display of farming implements consisting of binders, mowers and rakes, passed on our street on Wednesday morning. They were loaded on farmers' wagons at the depot, and forming a procession, proceeded to the Central Hotel where the farmers were hospitably entertained to dinner. The line of wagons reached from the bridge nearly to the post office. The implements are manufactured by Frost & Wood, of Smith's Falls." Farmers were advised to give Mr Gilpin a call before making a purchase. (*Brussels Post* June 8, 1894)

A brick addition was built on the hotel in 1896. "It will be 17x30 feet, two stories high and will be utilized for bedrooms upstairs and a kitchen downstairs. The roof of the main building will be elevated at the rear so as to take the water down along the partition instead of off the eave. Watson Ainley has the whole contract, which is to be completed as early as possible. Alex. McKay is doing the stone mason work. The addition will allow Mr.

Zilliax to increase the size of his dining room by the space now allotted to the kitchen." (*Brussels Post* Apr. 24, 1896)

Zilliax kept up his improvements to the hotel, "giving the Central a thorough overhauling in the way of new paper, paint, etc." in May 1897. In November of that year a new call board with a clock, and surrounded by advertisements, was installed. Exterior and interior improvements were made at the Central Hotel again in 1899.

Zilliax sold the hotel to George Brown in 1902. Brown sold to William Emigh and James Gordon McDonald in 1907. Their partnership, as proprietors of the Central Hotel, was dissolved in March 1910 and McDonald continued to manage the hotel. Emigh planned a prospecting trip to the West. (*Brussels Post* Mar. 24, 1910)



Christopher Zilliax was the manager of the Central Hotel when this photograph was taken in the late 1890s.

When Gordon McDonald sold the Central Hotel to Samuel Carter in 1919 its days as “accommodation for the traveling public” were over. Carter used the building as a garage and wareroom for the Ford cars he sold. In January 1920, Carter “gave up the local Ford agency on account of his intended absence from Brussels for some months, considerable speculation has been indulged in as to whom his successor would be. The matter has been set to rest

by the appointment of DM Scott, of Niles, Mich., a former resident of Brussels. He will have his headquarters at Frank Davidson’s garage and will no doubt push the Ford as he has had a wide experience in meeting the public for a number of years.” The business was sold to Earl Cunningham in September 1920. “Earl Cunningham has bought the garage of S Carter and is now in possession. He went to Stirling about a year ago but when the opportunity came secured the business here. He invites the patronage of the public in his advt. Mrs Cunningham and baby will be here shortly.” Cunningham bought the property from Carter in 1924 for \$4,000. Frank Woods was the local Ford agent in 1925 when “a carload of new Fords were put into the warerooms of Earl Cunningham.” (*Brussels Post* Jan 15, Sept. 23, 1920; Feb. 25, 1925)

Cunningham operated the garage here until 1932. Lorne Turvey was a mechanic here from 1927 to 1932, and R McMillan worked as a mechanic here in 1931. Note the photograph in the story about the Beatties Bros. Livery showing Cities Service gas station. Notice the changes that have been made to the front of the former Central Hotel at the right of the picture.

Harry Champion owned the property in 1935. He ran Champion’s Garage until 1945. Robert Campbell was the mechanic in 1936 and O Whitfield was the agent selling Chevrolet cars in 1937.

In 1946 the garage was sold to John Hyde. He ran the Sunoco Gas Station here. Hyde’s executors sold to George W Stephenson in 1968 and Stephenson sold to the Liquor Control Board in 1974. The old hotel building was demolished in 1973 to make room for the Liquor Control Board store. The hotel’s stables to the southeast, built in 1902, still stand.

The proprietor of the Central Hotel paid \$20 at costs this week for selling liquor on Municipal election day. The proprietor of the Queen’s was up on a similar charge but as there was no evidence the case was dismissed.

Brussels Post Jan. 18, 1885

A new pump and line of hose at the Central Hotel afford additional amusement to the boys.

Brussels Post July 24, 1885

The American, Central and Queen’s Hotels look fine in their new dress of paint. Our hotel-keepers mean to have their hotels looking tasty.

Brussels Post July 9, 1886

Two drunken itinerant umbrella menders created a little excitement on the street last Saturday by demolishing a window in the barroom of the Central Hotel. Constables Scott and Ainley conveyed them to the “cooler” where they spent a few hours.

Brussels Post Apr. 10, 1891

Zilliax Block

Turnberry Street, Brussels, Ont.

Built: 1891

Robert W Ross owned Lots 104 and 105 in 1863. That year he took out a mortgage on the property for \$750. The property was sold to George Ross in 1864. Ross is listed in an 1870 *Huron Expositor* item as one of the principle businesses in Ainleyville “in the mercantile line” along with Leckie, Livingstone, Muir and Wright. (April 29, 1870) When George Ross died in 1872, the property was sold to Martin Moore.

Moore owned the Mansion House hotel to the north, as well as several small shops on the lot to the south. In July 1873, James W Johnston, a butcher from near Varna, and a Mr. Elliott of Goderich township, “leased a piece of ground from Martin Moore, adjoining his hotel, for a term of years, on which they will erect a shop. They intend to go into the pork buying and packing business during the coming winter.” (*Huron Expositor* July 18, 1873)

All of the stores along the east side of Turnberry Street between Market and King Streets were destroyed in the fire of August 1876. There was a block of small frame stores built on Moore’s property. R. Elliott, butcher, lost \$200 in property and was not insured. The saddler William Knechtel, another possible store owner here, lost property valued at \$200 and was uninsured. Martin Moore started to rebuild right away, but sold his property to Patrick Kelly, who sold to Patrick Moore, in 1877. Patrick Moore continued with the rebuilding projects.

In November 1878, Patrick Moore sold part of his lot adjoining the hotel to John Stacey of Brussels. Stacey sold the land back to Alice and Martin Moore in 1879. All of the lot was part of the Central Hotel property until 1891.

In 1891, Christopher Zilliax built the brick building seen in photographs of this section of Turnberry Street. “Christopher Zilliax, of the Central Hotel, has let the contract for a two-storey brick building. It will be 18x42 feet with plate glass front and tar and gravel roof. D. Lowry has the stone and brickwork, lathing and plastering at \$425. The carpenter work is not yet let. Contract is to be completed by Oct. 1st. Mr. Zilliax purchased half the brick wall from Jas. McGinnis, successor to George Baeker, and makes use of the same. James Ross has leased the new store for a grocery and will open out as soon as it is ready. The site is a good one.” (*Brussels Post* Aug. 21, 1891)

Ross had his store ready for occupancy in early October 1891. “YELLOW FRONT – James T. Ross has opened out a brand new stock of groceries etc. in his new yellow front grocery and he is now prepared to wait on the public in the lines he carries. He has the neatest and brightest looking grocery in town. Call in and see him.” (*Brussels Post* Oct. 23, 1891)

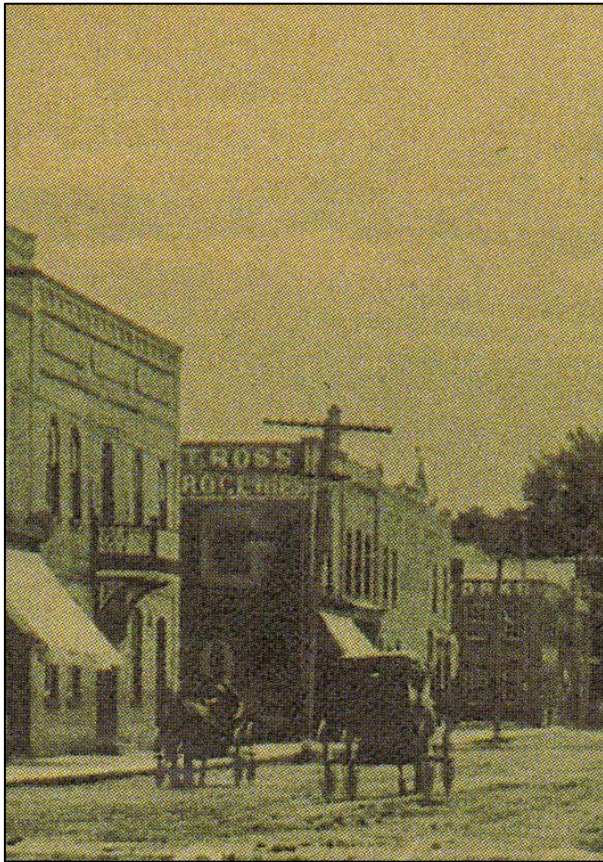
James Ross’ grocery was one of the stores described in a story about local businesses

published by *The Brussels Post* in their October 20, 1893 issue. “This is a model grocery store doing a full share of the grocery trade of the town and conducted in a manner which guarantees every possible advantage in dealing here. The success Mr. Ross has met in his 2 years here in this business shows what capable, careful management will accomplish. Those who appreciate the choicest and best in the grocery line, fair and courteous treatment, will find all that can be desired here. Mr. Ross is agent for the Canadian Express Co. and one of our enterprising, successful business men.”

TA Hawkins had a musical studio in rooms over JT Ross’ grocery in 1896. “TA HAWKINS has removed from the Smith block to the apartments over JT Ross’ grocery, where he has now everything arranged in apple pie order. Some folks say he intends getting --- but it may only be a rumor so we won’t repeat it.” (*Brussels Post* Feb. 21, May 1, 1896)



In this picture you can see the store block north of the East Huron Produce Emporium. The Central Hotel is across the lane.



"[J]T. Ross Grocer" identifies the north store across from the Central Hotel. The same store, but with a different sign painted on the side, is seen in the photograph in the previous story about the Vanstone Block.

Ross tried different things to attract customers to his store from playing a phonograph to displaying live alligators in the window. "A phonograph at JT Ross' grocery affords considerable amusement to customers and visitors." And: "JT Ross' grocery window is the centre of attraction this week on account of two live alligators being accommodated with quarters there. R. Watt brought these Southerners from Chatham where they have been enjoying Ontario air for the past year." (*Brussels Post* Sept. 22, 1898)

In 1899, Ross added a peddling wagon to his business. Additional shelving was put in place in the summer of 1900 to accommodate the new line of crockery he was adding to his stock. (*Brussels Post* Apr. 28, 1899; Aug. 16, 1900)

Dr. Hamilton occupied the rooms above Ross' store in 1910, as a dental office. By 1915, JT Ross purchased the store, which he had tenanted for many years, from Gordon McDonald. (*Brussels Post* Feb. 17, 1910; Oct. 14, 1915) Ross was still in business as a grocer in 1935. He was the owner of the property until 1945 when it was sold to Robert J McLaughlin and Jean Thomson of the firm Huron East Produce.

A \$ SAVED IS A \$ GAINED.

If you want value for your money go to

J. T. Ross' Grocery

There you will find a prime stock of

Selected Teas, Pure Coffees and Spices, Foreign and Domestic Fruits, Canned Goods, Fancy Biscuits, Confectionery, &c.

My **Tobaccoes** cannot be beaten.
Wooden Ware, Crockery and Soaps.

Leave your Christmas order for
Groceries, Fruits and Confectionery.

Oysters, Fresh and Salt Water Herrings just to hand. Try them.

J. T. ROSS.

James Ross opened his Yellow Front store in 1891. "He has the neatest and brightest looking grocery in town. Call in and see him."

Tecumseh House

Turnberry Street, Brussels, Ont.

Built: 1876

George Ross owned Lot 105 in 1864. He sold the property to James Lynn in 1872. "James Lynn, Morris, has erected a fine store on the corner of Turnberry and Market streets. It is a two-story building and will make a first class store. The show windows are of good size. The dimensions of the structure are 50x24 feet; P. Thompson, builder." (*Huron Expositor* Dec. 26, 1873)

Lynn sold the northwest corner of the lot to George Baeker in 1874. In August 1876, fire destroyed four acres of the business part of Ainleyville from Market to Thomas and King Streets, including Baeker's store and James Lynn's store block. It started in the paint shop of Thomas English's carriage factory on Market Street and soon spread to the woodworker's shop below and then west to English's large blacksmith shop. "This building, once on fire, formed the connecting link with the whole of the business part of town. J. Lynn's stables and storehouse were the next to succumb. Adjoining these were the stores of James Lynn, merchant, three in number, the harness shop owned by Mr. George Baker and occupied by Mr. Ward, and the tailor shop of R. Nott." The fire spread south, across Market Street to W.T. Hunter's blacksmith shop, wagon shop and dwelling, to John Wynn's blacksmith and wagon shop, and to the tailor shop and dwelling of D. Ross. "At the same time the fire was fast extending north on Turnberry Street to the hotel of M. Moore, and the whole exertions of the crowd were directed in trying to check the fire in its northerly course." On the east side of Turnberry the fire was stopped after burning the large store owned

by John Grewar at the north end of the block. (*Huron Expositor* Aug. 25, 1876)

Baeker's loss was valued at \$1,000; he was insured for \$800. James Lynn's loss was \$5,000 and he was insured for \$2,500. Lynn sold his property to William Vanstone in September 1876. George Baeker began to rebuild: "IMPROVEMENTS – Building operations are quite brisk in the burnt district. G Baeker has commenced the erection of a brick building 24x50 feet, with iron roof." (*Huron Expositor* Sept. 1, 1876) Baeker started a grocery business in his new brick store in 1877.

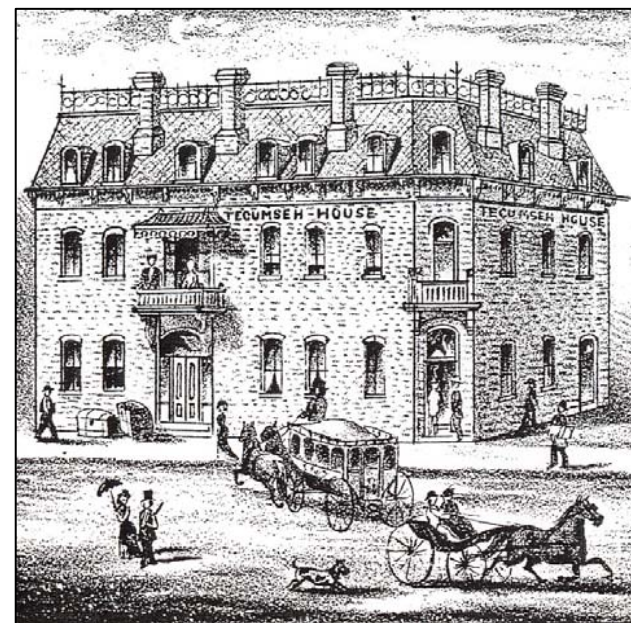
William Vanstone built a hotel on his property. "Wm Vanstone has commenced the erection of a brick hotel on the corner of Turnberry and Mill [should be Market] streets, on the property he lately purchased from James Lynn." The new hotel was pushed forward rapidly, to be ready for occupancy in December. In May a large driving house in connection with the hotel was completed. In June, Vanstone's hotel was leased to William Martin of Goderich. The new proprietor was to occupy it at once and the hotel would open by the 10th of July. (*Huron Expositor* Sept. 15, Oct. 20, May 11, June 22, 1876) The hotel was called the Tecumseh House.

In the September 21, 1877 issue of *The Huron Expositor* it was reported that: "Mr. Robert Nott, tailor, has also removed into his new shop opposite the Tecumseh House. He has also taken a partner into the business with him. The articles of partnership were executed on Tuesday last and were

made for life." Before the fire in 1876, Nott had a tailor shop in George Baeker's store so it is likely that his new shop was also in Baeker's new store north of Vanstone's hotel.

WJ McCutcheon was the hotelkeeper in May 1878 when he disposed of his hotel business to Mr Frey of Listowel. Mr McCutcheon returned to Wingham where he had purchased McKay's hotel. The hotel suffered some damage in the 1879 fire that burnt Fishleigh's Block to the north. Frey's loss on furniture removed during the fire was estimated at \$300 and was covered by insurance. (*Huron Expositor* May 3, Apr. 18, 1879)

Mr John Campbell was the host of the Tecumseh House in 1883. In May of that year he left town to assume the position of hotelkeeper for the Commercial Hotel in Seaforth. "His friends in



An etching of the Tecumseh House as seen in *The New Historical Atlas of Huron County* published by Belden in 1879.

Brussels, and they are not a few, are sorry to hear that he is leaving but trust that he may succeed in this new venture.” (*Huron Expositor* May 18, 1883)

Frey was listed as the applicant for a hotel license in April 1884. By August 1884, the Tecumseh House hotel was no more. A fire that started in the building occupied by McCulloch’s shoe shop and Dunford’s tailor shop “soon caught on to O’Neil’s stables and Baeker’s shop, thence to the Tecumseh House stables, and lastly to the hotel itself before water came, and then it would not throw into the third story window of the hotel.” The loss to Frey was estimated at \$7,000 and he was insured with Northern and Western for \$4,600. A later report noted: “Frey has been busy lately clearing off the rubbish where the old Tecumseh hotel stood, but whether he will build or not, we cannot say. If the Scott Act should be defeated, he will build a first-class brick block.” In December it was announced that: “Frey is now in full blast with a Temperance House on the old Tecumseh stand.” (*Huron Expositor* Apr. 25, July 4, Aug. 22, Dec. 26, 1884)

George Baeker, the long-time owner of the property to the north of the Tecumseh Hotel, had a grocery store and also sold liquor. Two doors north, in 1880, was JR Brownscombe’s Boots & Shoes at the sign of the Big Boot. (*Huron Expositor* Jan. 30, 1880)

In 1885, George Baeker “received the appointment under the Scott Act for the sale of liquors.” He made alterations in his store to accommodate this addition to his stock, selling his large stock of crockery and glassware at cost to make room. (*Brussels Post* Apr. 17, 1885)

James Blashill, a shoemaker late of Cranbrook, opened a shop next door to George Baeker’s Grocery in June 1888.

By February 1890, Blashill had removed from and back to his former stand in Baeker’s block.

—) GO TO (—
GEO. BAEKER'S
— FOR ALL KINDS OF —
G R O C E R I E S .
He has Just Received a Large Stock of Fine
NEW RAISINS AND CURRANTS,
CANDIED PEELS AND NUTS,
AND ALL KINDS OF CANNED GOODS.
Geo. Baeker's is the Place to get the Cheapest
and Best Teas, Sugars and General Groceries.
ALSO ALL KINDS OF CROCKERY FOR SALE.
Produce of all kinds taken in Exchange for Goods.
GEO. BAEKER.

Brussels Post advertisement above: 1890; below: February 5, 1880.

Baeker made arrangements to sell his business in 1891 to James McGinnis. McGinnis was reported to have taken possession of the store and groceries

Boots and Shoes
made to order in the
Latest Styles,
and of the very best material.
SEWED WORK & SPECIALTY
Please give me a call. Two doors north of
the Tecumseh House, sign of the Big Boot.
J. R. BROWNSCOMBE.

purchased from George Baeker and planned to buy pork in the winter season and go into pork packing. However, he could not arrange his affairs and re-conveyed the building and stock of groceries to Baeker. “His short

experience cost him several 100 dollars. Mr. Baeker is once more holding the fort in the old stand. He is improving the store by having the front re-built in line with C. Zilliax’s new store.” (*Brussels Post* Aug. 28, Sept. 18, 1891)

Baeker was successful in selling his business in 1892. “Last week Jacob Eamer purchased the grocery business of George Baeker and will continue it in the same stand. Mr. Eamer is a steady going, level headed young man and will do well no doubt. Mr. Baeker has been in business for the past 16 years and has held his own notwithstanding the keen competition, by close attention to his work and the practice of economy. He and WF Vanstone are now engaged in the grain and pork business.” (*Brussels Post* Dec. 16, 1892) Eamer was in business here until 1894.

Baeker & Vanstone opened a flour and feed store in the store in 1894. In February 1900, Alf Baeker went on the road as buyer for the firm of Baeker & Vanstone. John Currie took his place at the storehouse. Mr Vanstone spent the biggest part of his time looking after the shipping and selling at Toronto. (*Brussels Post* Feb. 8, 1900)

In 1905, Robert Thomson made a successful “application for tax exemption for Cold Storage plant on Lot 105. Teams have commenced to haul gravel and the contract for the cement structure, 43x50 feet, will be let this week and pushed ahead out of the way of the cold weather. The erection of a building on this corner, which has stood vacant since the Tecumseh House was burned years ago, will be considerable of an improvement to the town.” (*Brussels Post* Sept. 28, 1905) Thomson had been engaged in the egg business since 1896 and had a store for butter and eggs in the Graham Block in 1898. Thomson’s new business was called the East Huron Produce Emporium. (*See the photograph in the previous story about the Zilliax Block.*)

Thomson not only served the local market but also shipped produce to Europe. "FOWL TO OLD COUNTRY – On Monday Robt Thomson shipped a car load of dressed poultry to the Old Country. The market there is a good one and Mr Thomson expects to get a permanent market there. This is the first time that poultry has ever been shipped from Brussels to the Old Land." Thomson's success allowed him to enlarge his private office at his plant in April. (*Brussels Post* Feb. 18, Apr. 15, 1925) The East Huron Produce Emporium was still in business, under different ownership, until 1985.



Chicken pluckers pose at the back of the East Huron Produce Emporium. The photograph is from T. Muir Thomson's album in the collection of the Huron County Museum.
Photo courtesy of the Huron County Museum.

APPLES
OF ALL KINDS
For
EATING and COOKING

*A delicious healthful food
for dessert or lunth*

**McIntosh, Spys, Snows
and Tolman Sweets**
Also-good cooking apples
at 75c per hamper
FOR SALE AT
**East Huron
Produce Emporium**
Phone 66 Brussels



Ewan Carriage Works

Turnberry Street, Brussels, Ont.

Built: 1876

John Wynn owned the west half of Lot 106 in 1869. He sold the south part of his property to David Ross in 1870. John Bailey owned the east half of Lot 106 in 1871. Bailey sold to James Terry in 1874 and Terry sold to William Hunter in 1875. Both Bailey and Terry had built on their property.

WT Hunter's blacksmith shop, wagon shop and dwelling, and John Wynn's blacksmith and wagon shop, stood on this site in 1876 when fire destroyed 33 buildings northward along both sides of Turnberry Street to Stretton's hotel and Grewar's store block. David Ross also lost his tailor shop and dwelling on the southwest corner of this lot. WT Hunter suffered a loss of \$1,500 in property and was insured for only \$500. Wynn's loss was estimated at \$1,000 and he carried no insurance. Ross, a merchant tailor, had a substantial loss of \$2,000 and was insured for \$1,000. (*Huron Expositor* Aug. 25, 1876)

By September, William T Hunter had the foundation nearly completed for a brick blacksmith shop. John Wynn had the timber ready for a new building. Construction of a blacksmith shop adjoining his wagon shop was begun in October.

Hunter lost his shop to a second fire on January 1878. The fire started in Bruce Simpson's wagon shop in the rear of Hunter's blacksmith shop. Hunter again rebuilt: "REBUILDING – WT Hunter, whose blacksmith shop was destroyed by fire on 7th January last, has the frame of his new shop up and

closed in. He has rebuilt on the old site." George Love, the owner of the David Ross property by this time, had "the material upon the ground for his agricultural implement warehouse. It will also be erected on the old site." (*Huron Expositor* Feb. 1, 1878)

Hunter sold his shop to A Mickus of the Central Hotel in 1883 for \$1,700. CW Holland leased the wood shop in connection with Hunter's former blacksmith shop in October of that year.

Daniel Ewan leased WT Hunter's stand in March 1885. "Having practiced for years and risen to the highest position in the leading horse-shoeing



An Orange Day parade passes by the East Huron Produce Emporium and D. Ewan's Carriage Works on July 12th. In 1890 Ewan had a sign painted on his shop – "It is one of those kind that 'he that runs may read.' "

establishment of Graham, Edinburgh, Scotland. Also having passed with honors through the Royal Veterinary School of IS Smith, London, England where hundreds of crippled horses passed our hands daily, I can safely guarantee to cure contracted feet or interfering shoes. New work and repairing of all kinds done on reasonable terms, and workmanship that will please. By giving me a call I fell satisfied I would secure your trade." (*Brussels Post* Mar. 19, 1885) Ewan was at this location until August 1887 when he leased the front shop of the carriage shop of Walker & Humphries.

As well as selling agricultural implements George Love sold sewing machines. In 1886, he had "a dandy new sewing machine wagon on the road.... He is doing a very large business in the sewing machine line." In 1888, he formed a co-partnership with RG Wilson in the implement business. The firm was to be known as Geo. Love & Co. (*Brussels Post* May 21, 1886; Feb. 3, 1888)

George Love & Co. did "a rushing business in straw cutters and grain grinders" in 1889. A furniture showroom was added to the business in April of that year. They handled furniture manufactured by Smith & Malcolm and also took charge of the undertaking department and hearse. (*Brussels Post* Feb. 1, Apr. 26, 1889) "Furniture must be a good business as George Love & Co. soon got a dandy black team to hitch to their new hearse." (*Brussels Post* June 28, 1889)

A dispute between Love and R Leatherdale, another local furniture and undertaking businessman, was played out in the pages of *The Post*. "FOR R. LEATHERDALE – George Love is not going to Manitoba, as

has been reported. Business will be carried on as usual, and he is not going to have fence around park removed for fear of spiting everybody. I think it would speak worse if I paid everybody with 10 on the dollar not to spite the Raymond Sewing Machine. If R. Leatherdale wants any more information he can ask A. Veal, who told him that he knew what would send a furniture dealer to penitentiary. Go to George Love & Co. for your furniture. Prices down! Down! Down!” Leatherdale’s reply: “George Love said last week that he is not going to make the Council move the park fence. It is not because he did not try, for he sent a letter to the Council notifying them to that effect, and then went to one of our lawyers and got advice on it. Because I sell the Raymond sewing machine at the same profit as furniture he says it is for spite. I would like to know what he means if it is not spite, the fence does not hurt him. R. Leatherdale.” (Sept. 6 & 13, 1889)

At the end of 1889, Love had dissolved his partnership with Wilson. JJ Gilpin took over the business. “As he has been engaged in this line for a number of years and is well acquainted through the country, he will no doubt do a good business.” (*Brussels Post* Dec. 6, 1889)

James MacIntosh leased the Hunter blacksmith shop in 1890 and opened up for business in general blacksmithing. He gave up his business on Market Street by October and went to work for D. Ewan. Messrs. Cochrane & Johnston of the Brussels Marble Works moved two doors south into the shop formerly occupied by George Love. Cochrane & Johnston did business at this location until 1892 when they leased the shop on Thomas Street, formerly used as the Budget office, for their marble cutting business. (*Brussels Post* Feb. 21, Oct. 31, 1890; Mar. 25, 1892)

Early in 1892, Daniel Ewan purchased the WT Hunter blacksmith shop and moved his carriage-

WILL BE AT THE
AMERICAN HOTEL, BRUSSELS,
 —on—
Wednesday, May 11, '92.

JAS. WALKER,
 —Manufacturer of—
Buggies, Carriages, &c.,
OPPOSITE TOWN HALL,
BRUSSELS.

*Our Work will satisfy you and
 our Prices will please.*

Whiteman Pea Harvester “considered by many to be the leading pea harvester of the day. It can be attached to any mower without drilling the bar and as Daniel has a thorough knowledge of this line of business farmers can depend upon getting the best of satisfaction.” (*Brussels Post* July 1, 1892)

Walker purchased the shop he occupied from RG Wilson in 1894. He made improvements to add a paint shop and showroom. JJ Gilpin continued his implement emporium in the same building. (*Brussels Post* Mar. 9, 1894) In June a severe windstorm blew out the whole front of Ewan’s blacksmith shop. He had the front of his shop veneered with white brick to repair the damage and had a large sign painted on the front. (*Brussels Post* June 29, Sept. 28, 1894)

making business there. James Walker, carriage maker, also changed shops having leased the stone and brick building next to Ewan, opposite the Town Hall. “Want of room for their rapidly increasing business is given as the principal reason for moving.” They made a number of noticeable improvements in the buildings. (*Brussels Post* Jan. 29, Feb. 5, 1892) In July 1892 Ewan became the agent for the

James Walker made improvements to his large frame shop, putting in a new front and improving the internal arrangement. “The improvements will not only add to the appearance but give considerable more room both to himself and JJ Gilpin. Work will be done as quickly as weather will permit.” (*Brussels Post* Feb. 22, 1895)

By 1899, Ewan was in partnership with Mr. Innes. In February Ewan & Innes “received a stock of open buggies and wagons suitable for parties going west. Prices are right.” By April it was reported that: “Messrs. Ewan & Innes, the well-known carriage makers of Brussels, have already disposed of 16 buggies, 5 road carts and 8 other wheeled conveyances this season. They have a fine stock of home make and best factory buggies in their show rooms that intending purchasers should see before buying elsewhere. Nobody asked to buy if they can do better elsewhere but visit their show rooms before deciding.” (*Brussels Post* Feb. 10, Apr. 28, 1899)

The partnership between Daniel Ewan and Walter Innes, as carriage makers, was dissolved in September 1900. Ewan continued with the business and bought the frame shop from Innes, now owning the whole premises. Walter Innes purchased the general store business of Robert A Johnston, of Jamestown, and also the building. (*Brussels Post* Sept. 20 & 27, 1900)

Ewan’s carriage business was still going strong in 1905. “Ewan & Co. are getting 40 buggies ready for next season and 8 lumber wagons. They parted with all their cutters and 15 sets of sleighs during the winter and are now making a push to be ready for the wheeling days. The machinery utilized greatly aids in facilitating the work.” The Carriage Works was enlarged: “The intention is to erect a building that will enclose the space from the present stone shop to Market street north and then east to the

blacksmith shop. If this proposal is carried out it would make a fine shop. Larger motive power would be substituted for the present engine and an increased output of wheeled rigs and cutters arranged for." (*Brussels Post* Mar. 2, July 6, 1905)

JJ Gilpin moved from his shop where he had been located for years in the Ewan & Co building opposite the Town Hall, to the vacant store in The Post Block. He used the store for an implement and sewing machine saleroom. (*Brussels Post* July 20, 1905)

In the July 27, 1905 issue, *The Post* described one of Ewan & Co.'s vehicles: "A DANDY JOB – This week Geo Muldoon has his 'bus on the regular route to the depot looking as spic and span as when first hitched to. It has been in the Ewan & Co. paint and trimming shop for some weeks and came out a credit to the shop. It is painted a bright yellow with green panels, striped with black, red and brown. On one panel is a landscape copied from a Quebec scene and on the other side a capital representation of Golden Gate, California. It is handscrolled in gold, 10 books of gold leaf being used. "Old Union Bus" is the legend along the top, done in green, aluminum and yellow colors. On the entrance door is the portrait of a maiden about to partake of a cup of Red Feather Tea. Wheels have new rims, riveted between the spokes and new wide tires. Sash is grained and glass is extra weight for windows. In interior the cushioning is car plush of fine texture with linoleum on the floor, while landscapes, marine scenes and a mirror brighten up the panels. The varnish used came from W Harling & Son, of Merton, Surrey, England, which is

in itself a guarantee of its excellence. The painting and the artistic work was the handiwork of WC Smith, of this town, whose ability in this class of painting is not excelled in city establishments and he has been warmly complimented on this turn out. In many cases busses have been sent to Bellville at high expense to be refitted but Ewan & Co have proved their ability to do this work in such a style and at lesser expense that should ensure them a large share of this class of trade. Take a good look at Muldoon bus and you will then be disposed to speak commendatory words of the Ewan & Co establishment, as all work is done with the same care and ability."

A March 4, 1909 item in *The Post* describes a visit to Ewan & Co.'s Carriage Works: "Tuesday of this week *The Post* scribe took a look through the Ewan & Co. Carriage Works which is all ago getting ready for the spring and summer trade. A new winter hearse, up-to-date in all its parts, has just been completed for Messrs Walker & Black, of town, and a black Maria was sent to Wingham the other day to Jas Walker's undertaking establishment. Several carioles are also ordered from liverymen in neighbouring towns, proving that Brussels can do the work and quote the price that secures the trade. This firm will build two buggies to meet the early

demand and the first lot is now well advanced so as to be ready for use when winter is past. Ewan & Co. take a back seat from no one and guarantee their output to be equal to the best. With the greatly enlarged and modern premises they are better prepared than ever to cater to the needs of the public either in new work or general repairs, re-painting, &c. If you have a notion of a new buggy rubber or steel tires, Stanhope, piano or other style, with the latest improvement in tops, cushions, hubs, &c, call Ewan & Co.'s factory before you purchase and thereby save money and get A1 satisfaction."

In 1910 Ewan's Carriage Factory sent carioles and pleasure wagons to Lucknow, Dungannon, Wroxeter, Gorrie, and Fordwich. Ewan himself purchased one of the new-fangled double-seated autos - "This is the introduction of the "honk" machine to town." The new machine proved less than satisfactory and he sold it next month to a party in Bayfield, saying he would invest in a Ford runabout instead. (*Brussels Post* Apr. 21, July 28, Aug. 25, 1910)

**Notice
TO THE
Public**

The undersigned wishes to intimate to the public generally that he has leased the

Blacksmith Shop
From Mr. Jno. Wynn, Brussels,
and is now prepared to attend to Blacksmith work in all its branches in a Workmanlike manner.

First-class Horse Shoer

Having worked in a number of large shops in both the United States and Canada.

The Public Invited to give me a call. Satisfaction guaranteed.

Prices to suit the times.

George Trimble,
BLACKSMITH, BRUSSELS.

Blacksmithing!

Having purchased

J. WYNN'S
Blacksmith Shop and intending to make Brussels my home I feel satisfied I can give good satisfaction in Horse-shoeing and all other branches of the business in the Blacksmithing line. I will be pleased to see all who will see fit to patronize me with their work and will always try to be liberal and fair with my customers.

J. H. Wismer
Shop in connection with Jno. Wynn's Carriage Works, Brussels.

Brussels Post advertisements, left 1896, right 1897.

Ewan was still in business in 1920, but by 1925 the carpenter shop was leased to Allan Lamont and by 1928 he had leased his blacksmith shop to Thomas Ritchie. Thomas Moore succeeded Ritchie and he worked in the blacksmith trade into the late 1930s. The Supertest Oil garage was here in the 1940s. Riverside Motors owned the property in the 1950s. By the 1960s Riverside Motors had been replaced by McCutcheon Motors as owners of this property.

CUTTERS
— AND —
SLEIGHS

A Record Breaker

18 Cutters and 6 Sets of Sleighs sold in one week.

Our Cutters are all made of the same material as those which have taken first prize this last 5 years at our local shows against all competitors. They are the BEST and take no second place for Material and Workmanship.

Our Sleighs are nearly all Oak and have a first-class record for easy draft and good tracking. They can't be beat.

Please call early and get your choice of our dandy Cutters.

We already have our stock of wheels for the coming year. They are the highest grade and intending purchasers of Buggies for next year are invited to examine our goods before the paint brush is on them as everything is the best that can be bought.

EWAN & CO.
Leading Manufacturers.



This coloured photographic postcard of Turnberry Street looking north shows an example of the carriage makers art sitting just up from Beattie Bros. Livery (not in the photo).

A DANDY JOB – This week Geo Muldoon has his ‘bus on the regular route to the depot looking as spic and span as when first hitched to. It has been in the Ewan & Co. paint and trimming shop for some weeks and came out a credit to the shop. It is painted a bright yellow with green panels, striped with black, red and brown. On one panel is a landscape copied from a Quebec scene and on the other side a capital representation of Golden Gate, California. It is handscrolled in gold, 10 books of gold leaf being used. “Old Union Bus” is the legend along the top, done in green, aluminum and yellow colors. On the entrance door is the portrait of a maiden about to partake of a cup of Red Feather Tea. Wheels have new rims, riveted between the spokes and new wide tires. Sash is grained and glass is extra weight for windows. In interior the cushioning is car plush of fine texture with linoleum on the floor, while landscapes, marine scenes and a mirror brighten up the panels. The varnish used came from W Harling & Son, of Merton, Surrey, England, which is in itself a guarantee of its excellence. The painting and the artistic work was the handiwork of WC Smith, of this town, whose ability in this class of painting is not excelled in city establishments and he has been warmly complimented on this turn out. In many cases busses have been sent to Bellville at high expense to be refitted but Ewan & Co have proved their ability to do this work in such a style and at lesser expense that should ensure them a large share of this class of trade. Take a good look at Muldoon bus and you will then be disposed to speak commendatory words of the Ewan & Co establishment, as all work is done with the same care and ability.

Brussels Post July 27, 1905



Huron
Chamber of Commerce
East