

ACO Stratford-Perth County

More Than Bricks and Mortar

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September 2020

Stratford's Furniture Industry - Part Two

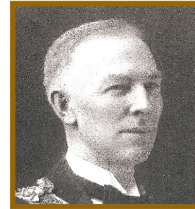
Newsletter Team: Carole Huband and Allan Tye

Farquharson-Gifford Manufacturing Company

155 Cobourg Street (1905)

Charles Farquharson - Furniture Manufacturer

After leaving school, Charles Farquharson spent his life in the furniture manufacturing business. He began as a bookkeeper with the **Porteous & McLagan** Company where he rose to the position of secretary-treasurer. Around 1913, he joined Frank Gifford, a furniture finisher from **McLagan's** and also a friend and neighbour, to form the Farquharson-Gifford Furniture Manufacturing Company on Douro Street.

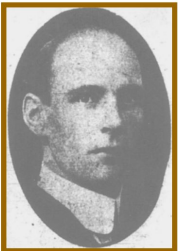


161 Cobourg Street (1906)

Frank M Gifford - Furniture Finisher/Manufacturer

After leaving school, Frank went to work for the McLagan Furniture Company learning the trade of furniture finishing. He spent nine years in the plant and then was promoted to the position of traveller, which in today's terms is a travelling salesman, for McLagan's and latterly worked for Gibbord Furniture in Napanee, Ontario.

In March 1913, Frank with his lifelong friend, Charles Farquharson, established the **Farquharson-Gifford Furniture Company** of Stratford. Frank and Charles grew up together, were teammates on the same hockey team, co-workers at **McLagan's** and purchased adjacent lots together on Cobourg Street in 1904 and lived beside each other on Cobourg between 1906-09. Frank was Secretary-Treasurer of the company and upon the untimely death of Charles Farquharson in 1931, assumed the presidency until he sold the business in 1951. Not only was he a successful industrialist, but also an avid citizen of Stratford. He was instrumental in attracting **Kroehler Manufacturing** and **Avalon Fabrics** to the city.

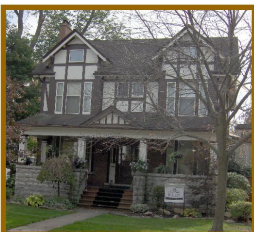


Globe-Wernicke Company Ltd.

313 Cobourg Street (1914)

R.H. McKenzie - Woodworker

R.H. worked at **Globe-Wernicke**, where he became a skilled woodworker, was promoted to a foreman's position, and continued working there until his death.



201 Water Street (1912)

Francis E. Mason - Furniture Manufacturer

In 1902 Francis' father, James, brought his family to Stratford because he had acquired the franchise to establish a **Globe-Wernicke** office furniture manufacturing business. By 1916 Frank (Francis) E. was the Secretary-Treasurer at **Globe-Wernicke** and he continued on as the Bookkeeper when city resident William Preston purchased the business in 1926 and it became known as **Preston Noelting Ltd.** and then later **Prestonia Stationery Ltd.**