

Grey County Furniture Industry

Place	Name	Address	Dates	Founders	Types	Items in Our Collection
Chesley (Bruce County)	<i>Krug Bros. Co. Ltd</i>	Moved to Chesley from Listowel in 1896. Celebrated their Centennial, then closed in 1987.		Krug Bros.	furniture manufacturing	grained oak wash stand, 1990.021.002 (post 1896), 1980 Souvenir doorstop (1983.007.001), washstand (1990.021.002 a-d)
Chesley (Bruce County)	<i>Krug Furniture Co.</i>					Glass ashtray advertising Krug Furniture Co. (2004.013.003)
Collingwood Township	<i>Adam Goodfellow</i>		c.1871		cabinet factory	
Collingwood Township	<i>Archibald McLean</i>				cabinet factory	
Collingwood Township	<i>George Green</i>	Heathcote	b.1885-d.1958			Staved-style baby walker (2010.041.001)
Collingwood Township	<i>David Fleming</i>	Ravenna	c. 1895			Shelved sideboard cupboard (2002.007.001)
Durham	<i>Durham Chair & Store Fixtures Co.</i>	North Garafraxa Road, Elgin St.	1956 - ?	J.C. Dilworth and Doug Johnson	restaurant, school, office and store fixtures	
Durham	<i>The Durham Furniture Co. Ltd. Durham Furniture Inc.</i>	450 Lambton St. W.	1899 - present: Co. Ltd. 1899 - 1954 and Inc. 1992 - present	Co. Ltd: Directors Dr. Jamieson, J.W. Crawford, Wm. Laidlaw, Norman McIntyre & Conrad Knapp and Lts. First Echo Group (Kitchener), Ont. Dev. Corp. and local investors	chairs, tables, dressers	Oak-finish dresser with mirror (Model No. 24), no date (1985.024.001); A History of the Town of Durham 1842-1994 , Pg. 136-139.
Durham	<i>George Kraise (Kriss-Kress)</i>	rear of Boyle's Old Stand, Upper Village	1865 - ?	George Kraise (Kriss - Kress), Ed Kress (son?)	cabinets, and coffins	Casey & Co. woodworking plane used by Ed Kress (2000.005.001)
Durham	<i>J. Shewell (Sheull)</i>	Opposite Orange Hall	1860s - before 1901	John Shewell (Sheull)	cabinet makers and coffins, chairs, bureaus, drawers, bedstands, frames, sofas, cradles	A History of the Town of Durham 1842-1994 , pg. 13.
Durham	<i>J. W. MacDonell</i>		c.1860		fine furniture	

Durham	<i>Kroehler Manufacturing Co. (subsidiary of K. Man. Co. - Naperville, Ill.)</i>		1955 - 1979		case goods	
Durham	<i>Kroehler Manufacturing Co. (1981: changed to Kroehler Furniture Co.)</i>		1979 - 1992	Stratham House Group of Toronto (1979-1983), O.G. Mead (1983)	fine furniture	
Durham	<i>William & Samuel Pinder</i>	Orchardville	1869			Spool bed, 1869 (2008.084.001)
Eugenia		Artemesia Township, Eugenia	1856 - 1901	Jacob Sloan	scrollwork for Eugenia United Church; sash, door and lath factory; wooden chest (e.g. Eugenia Lodge 1870)	
Euphrasia Township		Concession 11		William Milson		black-upholstered walnut rocking chair (1960.001.003), side chair and upholstered seat c.1875 (1959.002.047 and 048)
Hanover	<i>Ball's Furniture Factory</i>	Durham Road	1897 - 1952	R.G. Ball, Chris Hertel, and George Hallinger	oak and native woods, chairs, "case goods" (bedroom)	Home of My Youth , p. 193
Hanover	<i>Cabinet and Chair Factory</i>	County Line	1860 - before 1923	Thomas Crispin and G.W. Black	cabinet shop and general furniture	Home of My Youth , p.64
Hanover	<i>Disney and Devlin Sash and Door Factory</i>	Victoria St.	1888 - 1910	Robert Disney and Mr. Devlin	sash and doors, chairs	Home of My Youth , p.191
Hanover	<i>Hanover Furniture and Undertaking Co.</i>	7th Avenue?	1889 - 1910 (then Morlock Brothers)	Jacob Messinger (joint stock co.)	durable furniture, bedroom suites	
Hanover	<i>Hanover Kitchens (Canada) Ltd. (originally Hanover Wood Products)</i>		1952			Home of My Youth , p.232 (photo)
Hanover	<i>Hanover Specialty Co. - Knechtel Cabinet Creations</i>		1899 - 1968			Home of My Youth , p.209 (photo)
Hanover	<i>Knechtel Furniture Factory</i>	County Line, Main Street	1864 - 1980s?	Daniel Knechtel	homewood furniture, cedar chests	Home of My Youth , p.183-189

Hanover	<i>Knechtel Kitchen Cabinet Ltd. (1911) (Spring Bed and Upholstery Factory, Knechtel Specialty Co., Hanover Specialty Co., Novelty Plant)</i>	County Line	1860 - before 1987	Crispin Black, joint stock company (H. Gruetzner, Knechtels et. al.)	kitchen cabinets dinette and breakfast room suites	Home of My Youth , p.194
Hanover	<i>Knechtels Ltd. Novelty Division</i>		1950 - 1960?			Home of My Youth , p.172 (photo)
Hanover	<i>Knechtel Furniture Co. Ltd.</i>					Metal paper file advertising The Knechtel Furn. Co. Ltd. (2007.038.037)
Hanover	<i>Kuehner Upholstery Co.</i>	Morlock Factory, McGraw Building (Main Street)	c.1920 - late 20th century	Bertram Kuehner	upholstered furniture	Home of My Youth , p.190, 193
Hanover	<i>Peppler Bros. Co. Ltd.</i>	Corner of Peel and Proctor Street, Hanover; c.1923 had factory in Neustadt	1911 - 1964 (conglomerate trade over from family)	Henry Peppler	general high grade furniture: living room furniture, secretaries, bookcases, console tables, chesterfield tables, Gateleg tables, sewing tables, smoking stands, cellarettes, etc. c.1923	Home of My Youth , p.191-193; Neustadt: The Story of An Ontario Village (1995 Edition) by Telfer Wegg, p.10, 33.
Hanover	<i>Sklar-Peppler</i>	14th Street	after 1987			Home of My Youth , p.232 (photo)
Hanover	<i>Spiesz Furniture Co.</i>	Proctor Street	1909 - 1956. In 1956 the company was taken over by Knechtel Furniture and continued until 1966.	Jared J. Spiez, et. al.	office furniture, cedar chests, novelties, bedroom suites and dining room	9-piece walnut dining room set (Model No. 295) (1979.063...). Acquired at Legate furniture in Owen Sound, 1935. Home of My Youth , p. 195-196 Our Yesterdays: A Pictorial History of Hanover, 1888 , p. 175-176 (this book says est. 1908).
Hanover	<i>C. Diebel Chair Co.</i>	Fire brigade was located at the rear of their building.	c. 1910	C. Diebel?	chairs	November 3-10, 1910, Hanover Post

Holland Township			c.1871 - ?	William Ralph	chairs	
Markdale	<i>Armstrong's Saw Mill (with a furniture factory in 1886)</i>			Mark Armstrong?		<u>Markdale: Crossroads of Grey</u> , p.110
Markdale	<i>George Grant and Company (Hill?)</i>		1885 - 1906		furniture, sash and doors	
Markdale	<i>Markdale Furniture Company</i>	re-used the former Armstrong Bros. factory	c.1890 - c.1905. In 1907 a new company formed called the Markdale Furniture Co.		manufacturing and selling furniture and other wooden products.	<u>Markdale: Crossroads of Grey</u> , p.110, 186, 175; <u>Markdale Photo</u> , p.690
Meaford	<i>Drummond's Cabinets</i>	access from Sykes Street; Gazetteer listed a <i>D. Drummond Cabinet Warehouse</i> at Seymour Street	c.1865	Robert Drummond	cabinets	<u>W.W. Smith Gazetteer and Directory of the County of Grey for 1865-6</u> , p. 157; <u>St. Vincent: A Beautiful Land</u> , p.302
Meaford	<i>Gilchrist Furniture (mid 1900s). Originally Colonial Shoe Company.</i>		1924 - 1982			
Meaford	<i>Luton and Knight</i>				upholstering, pictures, frames, etc.	
Meaford	<i>Meaford Novelty Works</i>		1905 - 1921		general furniture	
Meaford	<i>Robert Drummond</i>	Seymour Street, near bridge	c. 1865	Robert Drummond	cabinet maker and upholsterer	<u>W.W. Smith Gazetteer and Directory, 1865-1866</u>
Meaford	<i>G.T. Knight (first called Meaford Building and Manufacturing Company)</i>	Berry Street		G.T. Knight	blinds, furniture	
Meaford	<i>John Patton's Cabinet Shop</i>	Nelson Street, Meaford	c.1865		cabinet maker	<u>W.W. Smith Gazetteer and Directory of the County of Grey for 1865 - 1866</u>

Meaford	<i>Meaford Manufacturing Company - Furniture Factory</i>		1902			
Meaford	<i>The Wheelbarrow Company - Juvenile Furniture, Harris Furniture, then Bovell Bros., then Milan Furniture</i>	St. Vincent Street; Harris Furniture later moved to Owen Sound	1874 - ?	James Cleland	international market kitchen cabinets	
Melancthon Township	<i>George Redick</i>	Melancthon Township (Part of Dufferin County since 1881)	1871			
Neustadt	<i>Fischer and Jucksch</i>	Neustadt	1871 - 1882			<u>Normanby Reflections: A History of Normanby Township Vol I, p. 262</u>
Neustadt	<i>Grey Furniture Company - called Modern Planned Kitchens after WWII, later called Hanover Kitchens</i>	north side of Queen Street	early 1952	local syndicate (joint stock company)	variety of wooden products, gramophones	<u>Normanby Reflections Vol II, p.283, 284</u>
Neustadt	<i>Huff and Fischer</i>	Neustadt	1861 - ?	Henry Hoff and Andreas (Andrew) Fischer	cabinet making	<u>Normanby Reflections Vol I, p.262</u>
Neustadt	<i>Neustadt Manufacturing Company (called Peppler's from 1919)</i>	West side of Hanover Road, North of Queen Street	1901 - 1919, Peppler's from 1910-1930s		chairs first, variety later	<u>Normanby Reflections Vol. I, p. 262</u>
Neustadt	<i>Neustadt Manufacturing Company, Chromelite Lamps Company Ltd.</i>		1964 - 1968			<u>Normanby Reflections Vol I, p.262</u>
Normanby Township			c.1861	Francis, Joseph and Edward Basley (Edward later in Mount Forest).	cabinet makers	<u>Normanby Reflections</u>

Owen Sound	<i>Andrew Gray Upholstery</i>			Andrew Gray		
Owen Sound	<i>Chatwin and Comely Cabinet Factory (later Breckinridge and Wilson, 1881)</i>	On Sydenham River near mill dam. Ware rooms on Poulett Street.	1862 - 1881	Thomas G. Chatwin and David Comely	bedstands, chairs, sofas, lounges, tables, bureaus, cupboards, washstands, cabinets, coffins, had furniture ware rooms	Gazetteer and Directory of the County of Grey for 1865-6 , Advertised in 1862 editions of the Owen Sound Sun Times
Owen Sound	<i>Breckinridge and Wilson c. 1875-1879</i>		1875 - 1879	Robert Breckinridge and William Wilson	furniture and undertaking	
Owen Sound	<i>R. Breckinridge & Son</i>	1893	1865-1930	Robert Breckinridge's business burned down in 1865. When he died in May 1910, his son R.A. Breckinridge took over the furniture business, selling it in 1930 to John A. Thompson.		
Owen Sound	<i>Breckinridge and Wylie</i>	1883		Robert Breckinridge and Mr. Wylie	cabinet maker	map showing location of <i>Breckinridge and Wylie</i> (1990.058.001); 1871 Census
Owen Sound	<i>Galbraith and Company</i>	13th Street and Main	c.1916		wooden items	
Owen Sound	<i>Harris Furniture & Chair Company</i>	14th Street West; formerly in Meaford	c.1937 - 1954	F.W. Harris	cribs, chairs	child's crib with cartoon lamb decoration made c.1943 (2003.017.001)
Owen Sound	<i>John Chisholm</i>	Bay St. (2nd Ave. E North of 10th)	c.1858	John Chisholm	cabinet and chair maker who patented his own type of bedstead.	
Owen Sound	<i>National Table Company</i>	1882 3rd Avenue East	c.1898 - c.1929, 1938 - 1960	William Hamilton Merrit Sr.	library furniture, quality bedroom, dining room and radio. Later, tux and HiFi cabinets	Renewal of a Canadian Port: Owen Sound on the Georgian Bay, 1993 , by Melba Croft, p.11

<p>Owen Sound</p>	<p><i>North American Bent Chair Company (NABCO)</i></p>	<p>1st Ave W., 126 14th Street W.</p>	<p>1898 - 1945</p>	<p>John George Hay</p>	<p>bent canes, perforated seat chairs, bentwood chairs, dining room furniture (side board and kitchen chairs)</p>	<p>ornate wickerwork chair (1999.031.002); kitchen chairs c.1923 (2000.010.001-2); round-seated armless rocking chair (2004.002.001); wickerwork bassinet (1991.031.001); several hoop-backed NABCO dining chairs, Model 640 (2008.011....); Upholstery Tacks box shipped to NABCO (2009.024.001); blond finish dining room set, Model No.1923 (1930s-1945 style) (2010.092...)</p>
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Owen Sound	<i>North American Furniture Co. Ltd.</i>	2nd Avenue and 14th Street W	1910 - c.1939	H.B. Smith	chairs, dining room suites, bedroom suites, library tables	price guide booklet (no illustrations), May 1917. Note: early pieces may not be labelled. In the 1920s a printed paper label with a striped chair logo was used. 3/4 size bedstead (2009.045.001 a-e).
Owen Sound	<i>The Owen Sound Chair Company Ltd.</i>	Corner of 2nd Ave and 14th Street W	1912 - c.1937-9	Horace Smith and Mr. Kilbourn	living room, dining room, office, children's and Windsor chairs. Used a metal label on underside of windsor chairs that shows the two types of Windsor Chairs and the word "Windsors." Inside a circle below was: "The Owen Sound Chair Co. Limited Owen Sound	can see layout of the factory building in the fire insurance maps; May 1917 price guide booklet (no illustrations).
Owen Sound	<i>Owen Sound Furniture Company (Legate Furniture Company)</i>		1922	retailer only?		Advertising yardstick for Kroehler Chesterfields, sold at O.S.'s Legate Furniture store (2010.027.032)
Owen Sound	<i>RCA Victor of Canada</i>	former location of NABCO (14th St. W and 2nd Ave. W) until 1975. Later, at East Bay Shore Road	1945 - 1979		wooden cabinets for radios and TVs	
Owen Sound	<i>Spencer Brothers' Cabinet Factory</i>	Scrope Street & Poulett Street	c.1862 - ?	David Spencer and Walter Spencer	cabinet makers, also sold "cabinet furniture at Toronto prices": bureaus, sofas, couches, bedstands, chairs, cupboards, etc. (1862)	<u>Owen Sound Sun Times</u> , 29 August 1862 (1992.057.11); <u>W.W. Smith Gazetteer and Directory of the County of Grey for 1865 - 1866</u>
Owen Sound	<i>Owen Sound Chair Factory</i>	Water Street East - "Sign of the Rocking Chair"	c.1862	H.W. Wright	variety of chairs, cupboards, bedsteads, stands, bureaus, tables	advertisements in <u>Owen Sound Sun Times</u> , June 27, 1862, p.4 (1992.057.101); August 24, 1862, p.1 (1992.057.011); Nov. 28 1862, p.4 (1992.057.013)

Owen Sound	<i>Kennedy Furniture Factory</i>	3rd Ave. East (building later occupied by Northern Business College)	c.1881	James C. Kennedy, assisted by brother Robert Pollock Kennedy	sash and doors	photograph of James and R.P. Kennedy, and workman outside their factory (1984.022.088). Photo of workmen of Kennedy Furniture Factory, Sept. 1881 (1984.022.295 and 1984.022.296).
Owen Sound	<i>Wilson Bros. Later, A. Wilson Furniture and Undertaking Business (at 20-22 Poulett Street c.1902)</i>	Poulett Street (2nd Ave. E) c. 1902	est. 1857	Co-owned by William, James M. and John M. Wilson	specialized in upholstery work. Two hearses for their undertaking work c.1887. Alma Wilson (Mrs. William Wilson) sold hallstands, settees, chairs, mirrors and tables c.1902	advertising mirror for A. Wilson Furniture and undertaking (1961.01.003)
Owen Sound			c. 1894 (est. 1884)	George A. Ross	cabinet maker	unmarked Doll Dresser (1987.031.012)
Owen Sound		Poulett St. (2nd Ave. East)	1870	F.F. Julien	cabinet maker and upholsterer	<u>Owen Sound Times</u> , June 27, 1879 editor (1993.010.001)
Owen Sound		factory west of Sydenham River, opposite <i>Kennedy's Foundry</i> and <i>Harrison's Woollen Factory</i> (Now Owen Sound Mill Dam area). Ware room on Poulett Street (2nd Ave.)	1879	J.B. Smith	cabinet maker and undertaker.	
Owen Sound	<i>Heap's Furniture Factory</i>	Patterson Street (8th St. W)	late 19th century?	Mr. Heap	commodes and clothes driers	photograph of exterior of <i>Heap's Furniture Factory</i> in the 19th century (1955.011.002)

Owen Sound			1871	Buell Wilcox	cabinet maker	1871 census
Owen Sound	<i>Abraham Creighton</i>		1881-1896		cabinet maker	
Owen Sound	<i>T.M. Williams</i>	2nd Ave. W	1957-c.1960	Tom Williams, Ross Henderson, Mel Johnston	children's furniture	
Owen Sound	<i>A.J. Creighton (son of Abraham Creighton)</i>	Poulett Street	c. 1882	A.J. Creighton	furniture dealer	
Owen Sound	Foundry on the east side, near the <i>Empire Stove and Furnace works</i>		foundry existed before c.1941	Colin G. Cashore (b. 1885 - d. 1957)	nutcrackers, not sure how many pieces made, no maker's mark.	Cast brass parlour stand, tiered with Art Nouveau looking fancy design 1977.030.002
Owen Sound	<i>Frontier Furniture</i>		1993 - ?	Alvin Vokes and son Michael	solid oak and pine furniture (30 items) including: dressers, bedside tables, dining room tables, and armoires (built about 20 armoires a day)	article in the <i>Sun Times</i> , (February 6, 1995, p.4) saying: "Family Furniture Business Comes Full Circle".
Owen Sound	<i>Owen Sound Specialty Co. Ltd</i>		patented March 28th, 1911		ironing table (wooden, with cast iron fittings)	Everett's "Perfect" ironing table (1974.024.001ab & 1974.056.001ab) . An illustration in the 1911 <i>OWEN SOUND ON THE GEORGIAN BAY</i> book (Cole & Robertson), in the section "Owen Sound-made items", provides an example. .
Owen Sound	<i>Frederick Bracey</i>		c. 1910		furniture maker	Phonograph cabinet (1989.018.001)
Owen Sound	<i>Andrew Horn</i>		c. 1865		cabinet maker	<u>W.W. Smith Gazetteer</u> 1865-1866
Proton	<i>Charles Clarke (English Settler)</i>	Ventry area	Settled in 1857	Charles Clarke	chairs	Two primitive chairs made between 1857-1858 (1989.009.001 & 1989.009.002)
St. Vincent	<i>Gilbert P. McIntosh</i>		c.1855		cabinet maker	
Sydenham Township, Annan				William P. and James P. Telford	parlour style tables, swinging mirror	white ash china cabinet made by Mr. James Telford (1965.020.011); bird's eye maple Deed Box (lap desk) (1996.034.004); photographs of furniture made by William P. Telford (1909.001)
Thornbury	<i>Adam Goodfellow</i>		c.1871-before 1896	Adam Goodfellow	cabinet factory	

Thornbury	<i>Heuser and Company</i>				blinds, mantles, shelving, office fixtures, church and school furniture	
Thornbury	<i>G.W Gilchrist Co. Ltd., Gilchrist School Furniture Factory</i>	East Bank of Beaver River	established 1952 demolished 1999		tubular and plastic furniture, school furniture	School desk (2008.013.001)
Thornbury	<i>Isaac Nelson Hurd and Sons</i>	Thornbury	c.1851 - ?		cabinet makers	
Thornbury	<i>Thomas Idle Furniture</i>	Clarksburg	1878 - ?	Thomas Idle	Newel post, stair and railing, cabinet making	
Williamsford					cabinet maker	bonnet chest from the 19th century (1968.004.001)

The Grey Roots museum collection has more furniture items as well, but they are either un-marked, or originate from other areas of Ontario. We have a barber's chair from Toronto, a lovely spoonbacked Victorian lady's chair, Agnes Macphail's Stratford, Ontario made living room set, various Ontario-made school desks, etc. so if a researcher has a particular sort of furniture item they are interested in, you might want to ask the collections staff to show them what we have in our database

Furniture Makers

Place	Name	Address	Dates	Types	Items in Our Collection
Meaford	R. Helstrop			furniture, undertaker, furniture store	advertisement for R. Helstrop in <u>The Meaford Monitor</u> , June 12, 1903 (1999.025.002); <u>Pictorial Meaford</u>
Sarawak Township	William Lee	Concession 1, Lot 29	sometime before 1896 (b. 1832-d. 1896)	cabinet maker, formerly worked at John Chisholm's in Owen Sound	walnut bureau dresser built by William Lee in the 1860s or 1870s (1990.007.001); 1871 census
Owen Sound	John George Francis (O.S. postmaster & town councillor)		1850s (Mr. Francis d. Sept. 25, 1880)	dining tables	dining table constructed in 1853 (1985.001.001)
Normanby Township	Friedrich K. Ploethner	Concession 8, Lot 6	sometime between 1854 and 1883	cabinet maker and jacquard weaver, various items of furniture	article by Michael Bird in the <u>Canadian Collector</u> , May/June, 1980 p.28-32 shows examples of his work (1980.212.078)
Normanby Township	Joseph Schoen				wood and metal quilting frame made by Mr. Schoen (1999.014.001)
Meaford	Henry Bird	Gravel Road North	c. 1865	cabinet maker	<u>W.W. Smith Gazetteer and Directory, 1865-1866</u>
Grey County Directories	Mark Baker	Concession 10, Lot 6	(b. 1822-d. 1904)		kitchen cupboard with painted finish made by Mark Baker in the 19th century (1985.036.001)

General References

Name	Date	Details	Accession Number	Location
<u>Canadian Book of Furniture</u>	1923	some Owen Sound advertisements with illustrations. One page shows a plain-looking kitchen chair by NABCO of which we have two examples	1969.072.008 (advertisements); 2000.010.001 or 2000.010.002 (NABCO chairs)	Reference Library (advertisements); Grey County Museum Collection (NABCO chairs)
"Magazine of Industry"	1911	Owen Sound Factories	PF126S1F2I3	Jim Davidson Collection
Wolfe Carpet Company	1910	general correspondence (one item)	1968.056.070	Grey County Museum Collection
R. Breckenridge and Son	1909	general correspondence (one item)	1968.056.065	Grey County Museum Collection
Furniture Manufacturing		various newspaper clippings		Historical Research Files
Furniture History		various newspaper clippings		Historical Research Files
<u>Furniture Making in Grey-Bruce</u>		Excerpts from thesis written by Jennifer Trant		Dorothy Telford Collection
Grey County Directories	various dates			Owen Sound Directories Collection, Jim Davidson Collection
<u>A Century of Excellence: Krug Bros. & Co. Furniture Manufacturers</u>	2001	Furniture manufacturing companies in 1942, 1987, 2001		Archives Reference Library