

The Hault Manufacturing Company 1887-1892

Ellis Furniture Company, 1893-1925

James A. Cole Furniture Company, 1927-1945

The Ingersoll Casket Company, 1932-1981



**1887**

Three partners incorporate the Hault Manufacturing Company and locate their business in Ingersoll, lured by a municipal bonus (\$16,000, ten-year exemption from municipal taxes). The owners are William Hault, senior partner (1832-1893) of Toronto; Dr. George F. Clark, homeopathic physician, of Aylmer, and Mrs. Henry B. Clark, wife of Henry B. Clark, commercial traveller, Toronto. Dr. George F. Clark and Henry B. Clark were sons of Moses Clark of Ingersoll. The partners located their factory on the east side of Thames Street South, opposite the Central School (replaced by Victory Memorial School in 1921).

**1888**

Alfred Henry Ellis (1846-1924) of Ingersoll sells his Ellis Hardware business and buys Dr. George F. Clark's interest in the Hault Manufacturing Company.

**1891**

William Hault and Alfred Ellis buy Mrs. H.B. Clark's interest in the Hault Manufacturing Company. Hault and Ellis are now the sole owners.

**1893**

William Hault dies. Ellis buys the Hault family interest and renames the business to the Ellis Furniture Company.

**1916**

Alfred Ellis retires and certain of his children manage the company.

**1925**

Alfred Ellis dies and the Ellis Furniture Company is shuttered.

**1927**

James A. Cole buys the property, assisted by an illegal town bonus. The business is renamed to the James A. Cole Furniture Company.

**1929**

Cole purchases the old Waterhouse Woollen Mill on Carrols Pond and operates it as Plant Number 2 of the James A. Cole Furniture Company.

**1932**

Cole establishes a subsidiary, the Ingersoll Casket Company, which produces luxury coffins for the funeral market.

**1937**

Cole abandons the Carroll's Pond plant, giving ownership to the Town which held a mortgage on the property.

**1940**

James A. Cole dies. His widow, Mrs. Marian E. (Johnston) Cole (1887-1968) runs the company during the Second World War years.

**1946**

Norman E. Horton of Detroit buys the business, which comprises the James A. Cole Furniture Company and its subsidiary, the Ingersoll Casket Company.

**1958**

Horton retires. Edward J. Davies, Toronto, buys the business and renames it to Reinforced Fibreglass Products Limited (he adds fibreglass to the construction materials for coffins)

**1978**

Hugh Ponting of Ingersoll buys the business, returning it to the name, The Ingersoll Casket Company.

**1981**

Ponting shuts the Casket Company. The plant is demolished.

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