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Maurett's

As Marmora prepares to celebrate the 175th anniversary of its founding, one company should be recognized for its part in Marmora's history.

Marmora has the proud distinction of having one of the few ^{125 year old} general stores ~~still~~ ^{125 year old} still in existence in Canada. It can be proud still that the business represents ~~three~~ ^{the work of} generations ~~four~~ of the ^{Pearce and} Maurett families.

The company was started originally in ¹⁸⁷¹ by Josiah William Pearce (1850 - 1938) as part of the retail portion of the Pearce Lumber Company which operated in Marmora from

The store was ^{first} located in what is now the Coach Light Restaurant on the west side of Forsyth St. and carried on business at that location until some time in 1916 when the BC Hubbell building was purchased.

Early in the 1900's, J. W. Pearce hired a young man named Frank Newton Maurett to work in his store. Born in Millbrook, southeast of Peterborough, Frank Maurett, arrived in Marmora with a pack on his back and looking for work.

Mr. Pearce hired Frank Maurett as a clerk for his store. The young man worked hard ~~and~~ and his value was recognized when Mr. Pearce offered him a partnership in the business.

In August 1908 young Frank Maureth married Josiah Pearce's youngest daughter, Jane Elmira.

Jane Maureth was an accomplished ^{artist} musician and soon became one of the village's most active leaders socially. She had trained to be a singer and was able to direct choirs for the presentation of cantatas and plays. She also was instrumental in the formation of a public library.

In her spare time she raised three bees, Donald Douglas and Jim and a daughter Dorothy.

His father, Josiah Pearce, was elected to Parliament in 1907. Due to his involvement in politics, Mr Pearce never rejoined the firm and subsequently sold his share to his son-in-law. The company name was changed to F. W. Maureth & Company to reflect the new ownership and that name continues until to-day.

Insertion →

After Mr ^{Frank} Maureth's death ~~on~~ Feb ~~1936~~ 1936 at the age of 59, his eldest son Donald Pearce carried on the business with partner Fred Shells until the early 1950's. Mr Shells was responsible for the undertaking portion of the business and when the partnership ~~was~~ ^{dissolved} ~~took~~ ^{up} in ^{the} early 1950's, Mr Shells established his own funeral service business on Bursthell Street.

That business was sold to Garnet Howd in 1956, then sold again in 1978 to the present owner John Mc Connell.

3.
The business was carried on by Donald ^{while} ~~and~~ his wife Alice raised two sons, Frank and William and daughter Anne.

Donald's early death at 59 in January 1968 was similar to his father's who also died at age 59.

Following Donald's death, his second son William Donald carried on the business for his mother until he purchased it in 1971.

This year, 1996, marks 125 years of continuous operation under four generations of the same family - first Job Pearce and then three generations of Margetta.

Over the years, the business has included the selling of clothing, footwear, groceries, paint and wallpaper, floor covering, toys, furniture and yard goods, as well as providing the citizens of Marmora with funeral service.

Early in the 1970's paint and wallpaper, floor covering, and yard goods were dropped and the upstairs turned into a storage area.

In 1990, ^{water} sports goods were added to their inventory so that today the business deals in clothing, footwear, water skis, wet suits, kneeboards, kayaks, and inflatable water products.

The Maerth family have always stocked excellent quality products for their customers and they continue to do so to-day.

Bill and Pat:

The people of Marmora thank you for 125 years of first rate service and salute you on your anniversary.

Will there be a fifth generation of Maerths running the store? Will one of Bill and Pat's sons, Andrew or David, want to take on the responsibility of carrying on, perhaps only time will tell.

Notes: The Marmora Herald and St Pauls ACW are grateful to Pat Maerth for preparing such excellent notes that made our job of writing this article so much easier.

We are ~~also grateful~~ ^{thank} to Jim Maerth for his ~~contributing~~ ^{contributions} of childhood memories of living in his parents home at 18 Mc Lull Street, one of Marmora's finest homes.

Lack of space at this time does not allow the printing of those memories but, hopefully, ~~can~~ ^{will} be possible ~~soon~~.

Origins of F. N. Marrett & Co

Return to
~~Hubbell~~
Ruby
McGee

Originally Josiah Williams Pearce (1850-1938) started the retail outlet part of the Pearce company in 1871 in Macmore. The store was located in what is now the Coach Light Restaurant and carried on business at that location until sometime in 1916 when they purchased B. C. Hubbell's building where they still carry on business today.

Early in the 1900's Josiah Pearce hired Frank Newton Marrett to work in his store. On March 1st 1907 Mr Marrett became a partner in the business & in August 1908 married Josiah Pearce's daughter Jane Almira.

Josiah Pearce was elected to Parliament in 1907 and later was Bureau at the Ontario School for the Deaf (as it was known then) in Belleville. He died in Belleville in 1938.

Due to Mr. Pearce's involvement in politics he never rejoined the firm

subsequently sold his shares to his
in-law Frank N. Marrett who changed
the business name to F. N. Marrett & Co.
which it remains today.

After Frank Marrett's death in Feb
1936 his son Donald Pearce Marrett carried
on the business with partner Fred Wells
till the early 1950's when they discontinued
the partnership & Donald carried on the
company till his death in Jan. 1968.

Upon Donald's death his son
William Donald carried on the business
for his mother until he purchased it
in 1971.

1996 marks 125 years of continuous
business under 4 generations of the
same family - first the Pearces then
3 generations of Marretts.

Over the years the business has
included clothing, footwear, groceries
paint, wallpaper, floor coverings, toys
furniture & yards goods as well as
a funeral business that Fred Wells

operated for the ~~business~~ company.

During the early 1950's Fred Wells opened a separate funeral business & left F.N Malett & Co and in 1964 the grocery end of the business was discontinued.

Early in the 1970's paint, wallpaper floorcovering and yard goods were dropped and the upstairs selling area was turned into storage space.

In 1990 water sports were added to the inventory so that today the business deals in -clothing, footwear, water skis, wet suits, kneeboards, kayaks and inflatable water products.

Nancy - do you want to see this with the story about the Marmora date Feb 27/1936 Marmora

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OBITUARY

FRANK N. MARETT

One of Marmora's most prominent citizens for over twenty five years passed away early Tuesday morning in the person of Frank Newton Marett. For the past few years he had not been in the best of health and his own extensive business affairs, together with his responsibilities as head of the municipality, proved a severe strain. Last summer his condition became serious and in the fall he went to Toronto for hospital and special medical treatment. While there was a temporary improvement in his health and he returned to Marmora it was realized there was little hope of complete recovery.

The late F. N. Marett, who was in his 59th year, was born and spent his boyhood days in Millbrook. Then as a young man he came to Marmora, entering the store of Mr. J. W. Pearce as clerk. From the start he showed a special aptitude for the mercantile business and his record was one of continual progress until the depression became serious about five years ago. His ability and his popularity was such that when Mr. Pearce was elected to the Legislature he took the deceased into partnership with him. A few years later, when Mr. Pearce was appointed Bursar for the Ontario School for the Deaf at Belleville, the firm of F. N. Marett & Co. was formed and took over Mr. Pearce's interests. The members of the firm were F. N. Marett, W. C. Inkster and F. R. Wells. A few years later Mr Marett purchased Mr. Inkster's interest in the firm and the business was carried on by Mr. Marett and Mr. Wells. A couple of years ago Donald Marett, son of the deceased, became a member of the firm.

For some years the firm of F. N. Marett & Co. continued in the former Pearce Store on the west side of Forsythe street, opposite the present store. The business continued to grow and about twenty years ago Mr. Marett purchased the present store from Mr. B. C. Hubbell. The firm then added furniture, undertaking and other lines with marked success. Amongst Commercial Travellers Mr. Marett had the reputation of being an exceptionally shrewd buyer and much of his success was due to his ability to anticipate public demand and to get greatest value obtainable.

On the other hand his reputation for selling honest goods at a fair price, his attention to customers and the general manner of conducting the business constantly attracted new customers and made new friends.

The late F. N. Marett was always keenly interested in affairs pertaining to the village and gave long service as a member of the Council or Reeve. He first entered the Council about 1910 and with the exception of a few years was a member until 1930, when he was elected Reeve. He held that office until a few months ago when ill health forced him to retire and Mr. D. E. Bell was appointed acting Reeve. In municipal affairs he showed the same sound judgment as in his own business and his services were highly esteemed.

Mr. Marett was also a director of Marmora Agricultural Society for many years and took part in or assisted financially nearly every organization for the welfare of the village. He was a Liberal in politics, though he took little active part in elections. He was a valued supporter and adherent of the Methodist Church now the United Church. He had also been a member of Marmora Lodge A. F. & A. M. No. 222 for about 30 years.

In August, 1908, the late F. N. Marett was married to Jane A. Pearce, younger daughter of Mr. J. W. Pearce now of Belleville, who survives him. To them were born three sons and one daughter — Donald, at home; Douglas, of Queen's University, Kingston; Dorothy, who is attending Ontario College of Education, Toronto, and James at home. He is also survived by three sisters, Mrs. J. Chambers, and Misses Lillian and Ethel, all of Toronto, and two brothers, Albert, Vancouver, and Fred, now residing in Texas.

While he never cared much for social events the late F. N. Marett took a keen interest in sports, before his health began to fail, and was very widely known and highly esteemed. Those who came to know him intimately in these years remember him as a man whose first interest was his family, generous and kindly and very fond of children. Anyone in trouble found him ready to help and few had any idea how much he gave to those in need.

The funeral will be held this afternoon service being conducted at his late residence. The Masonic burial service will be conducted at the cemetery.

MARMORA HERALD

27 FEB 1936

PAGE 1

Return to Recd

" On Friday, March 1st, 1907; Frank ^{Newton} ~~Newton~~ Marett, Mnanger of J.W Pearce's store entered into partnership with Mr Pearce. We predict for the new firm even greater success than has attended the store in the past "

REFERENCES; Marmora Herald - 7 March, 1907

" Pearce & Marett are enlarging the front of their store and adding 30 feet to the back shop "

REFERENCES; Marmora Herald - 13 February, 1908

On August, 1908, Frank Newton Marett married Jane ^{Almira} ~~Amira~~ Pearce, youngest daughter of J.W Pearce.

" Mr & Mrs F.N Marett returned from their wedding trip on Monday and are residing with the latter's father, Mr J.W Pearce, until their own home on Forsythe Street is ready for them "

REFERENCES; Marmora Herald - 3 September, 1908

" Pearce & Marett Co. have changed their win dow background by putting in wood panelling nicely stained in imitation mahogany. As this store has always paid special attention to its window dressings there will now be a distinct advance made "

REFERENCES; Marmora Herald - 11 March, 1909

" Mr J.W Pearce and daughter Bessie, left yesterday for ^{Toronto} ~~Toronto~~, where Mr Pearce will attend the opening of ~~Parliament~~ ^{Legislature} "

REFERENCES; Marmora Herald - 24 January, 1907

" The present session of the Ontario Legislature being over, Mr J.W Pearce, M.L.A, arrived home on Saturday"

REFERENCES; Marmora Herald - 25 April, 1907

" Miss Mary and Ada Pearce returned to Toronto on Tuesday after spending the summer in Marmora "

" F.N Marett & Co. are making alteration and improvements to their store. The room, formerly used by G.R Hartley as a jewellery store, is being made part of the store and a door has been cut from the main building into it. The balance of the room will be fitted up for ladies & children's wear ".

MARMORA HERALD - 2 MAY, 1929, PAGE 4

" F.N Marett & Co. have built an office in their store about seven feet above the level of the main floor, which is entered from the steps to the second floor. The work was done by Douglas Marett ".

MARMORA HERALD - 28 MARCH, 1935, PAGE 5

" F.N Marett & Co. are making further improvements to their store. One of the biggest changes to date was the installing of a furnace with automatic control early in the winter. It changed the store from conditions which ranged all the way from tropic to Arctic temperatures in different parts of the store in cold weather ".

MARMORA HERALD - 4 MARCH, 1937, PAGE 8

" F.N Marett & Co. are making considerable changes in their store arrangement. Part of the upstairs is being fitted up as an undertaking parlor. The room which is being vacated will be made part of Shannons' Drug Store, the partition being removed ".

MARMORA HERALD - 3 APRIL, 1941, PAGE 5

Mrs F.N. Malett ^{Edgemoor} (Jane)

- Daughter of Josiah Pearce

married Frank Malett - 1908

family -

			} in 1908?

Jane was an accomplished singer
" part of St Pauls Anglican Church Choir
" - a member of Mesmor Thomons Institute
{ helped to establish the Public Library 1916

Thomons institute Charter 1916
Mrs Malett was a charter member

Eleanor Barker seems to think she had
taken a modelling course

burned.

The " Harper Building " was originally built by J.W Pearce in 1877 / 78. This is
the residence to the left of F.N Malett's clothing store.

and was the
first home of Mrs & Mrs Frank Malett,
a gift from her father M. Josiah Pearce

They left there and bought a larger
house at 18 McNeill St.

When he was 11

Frank H Mueth was born at Millbrook, Ont. He came to Marmora with only a pack on his back and got a job ^{clicking} with Josiah William Pearce at the present site of ^{Coastlight} Restaurant.

When Josiah W. Pearce was elected M.P. for Hastings County, young Frank H Mueth was offered a share in the store and ran it during Mr Pearce's absence.

Frank Mueth met and married Jane Edna Pearce and they had three sons, Donald, Douglas and James, and 1 daughter Dorothy? ^{J.W. Pearce's youngest daughter}

at the time of their marriage, Frank and Jane were given a ^{brick} house on the east side of the street ^(Gorsyth) by her father J.W. Pearce, (beside the ^{present} store)

house (125) is not right

Later on, ^{in 1922} the couple purchased a large red brick house at 18 McGill St. formerly built ^{for} by a Mr David Bentley and then owned by Canon Mountain Harris, rector of St Paul's Anglican Church.

Insert description of house in

Frank H Mueth moved his business across the street to its present location.

According to Jim Mueth, youngest son of FH Mueth the business was ^{then} more of a department store because it handled, groceries, clothing, (no hardware) furniture, wallpaper, ^{floor covering}. A sideline to the business, was a funeral service which was handled by a ^{Mr} Fred Shells, at that time funerals were held in the homes. Mr Shells later opened

~~Jim Mueth described some of his memories of that~~
his own funeral business at ^{Burwell St} ^{now under the ownership} of ^{Mr} Mc Connell since 1978 In between the years it was owned by ^{Samuel} ^{Tomlinson}

22

Mr F N. Mault died in 1936 and the business (2)
was taken over by his eldest son Donald.

* Mr Don Mault carried on the business
until his death in . It was during his years
that the grocery ^{and other} parts of the business were discontinued
and more emphasis was put on clothing for the
family. He and wife Alice had two sons Frank & William
and one daughter Ann

One of the services offered at the store was a
millinery department under the direction of Miss
Violet Deacon, a milliner. Miss Deacon also operated her
own business before or after her job with Mault's
upon Donald Mault's death in , his 2nd
son William stepped in to carry on the business which
has lasted years, ? of them in the same location.

Donald and wife Pat concentrate on buying
well made Canadian stock.

year? They had the misfortune to have their store
broken into three times within weeks. The thieves
made off with thousands of dollars worth of valuable
stock and none has been recovered. More stringent
has been installed so this can't happen again. safety equipment
The people of Marmora have been fortunate
to have had this 3 generation family business provide for
this needs, especially at this time of fierce competitive
marketing.

Mrs Jane Maerth took a very active part in community life. She was one of people who were responsible for starting Marmora Library and was ^{also} responsible for much of the ~~work~~ work that was done to provide the soldiers of IASST with socks, mitts and other needed articles? pg 18
Sketches

She had ~~been~~ great singing voice and had ^{of} ~~been~~ trained for opera. She directed young people for Church Concerts and cantatas etc - also plays?

Violet Deacon

Did she operate her own millinery shop before or after she worked for Maerth's - FN or Sm.

Fred Shells

How long did he work as Maerth's undertaker?

He set up his own business when?

1956 Garnet Howden bought the business

Marmora's oldest & genuine family business has
a record to be proud of.

Owners since 1971
The present owners, Clive & Norma
Peacock operate a successful antique business
during the summer months & spend the cold
weather in the south.

Mr Peacock gave up a career as ^{into} a
advertising executive to move to Marmora.

Does he regret it? Not at all!

Mr Peacock has ^{acquired} ~~experienced~~ her knowledge over the
of what ^{makes an item} ~~is~~ ^{valuable} over years by study, trading,
and attending auctions and yard sales. Her collection
attracts hundreds of interested buyers every year

F.N. MARETT & COMPANY

As Marmora prepares to celebrate the 175th anniversary of its founding, one company should be recognized for its part in Marmora's history.

Marmora has the proud distinction of having one of the few 125 year old general stores still in existence in Canada. We can be prouder still that the business represents the work of four generations of one family - the Pearce's and Marett's.

The company was started originally in 1871 by Josiah William Pearce (1850 - 1938) as part of the retail portion of the Pearce Lumber Company which operated in Marmora for many years.

The store was first located in what is now the Coachlight Restaurant on the west side of Forsyth Street and carried on business there until 1916 when the B.C. Hubbell building across the street was purchased.

Early in the 1900's, J.W. Pearce hired a young man named Frank Newton Marett to work in his store. Born in Millbrook, southwest of Peterborough, Frank Marett had arrived in Marmora with a pack on his back and looking for work.

The young man worked hard for his employer and his value was recognized when Mr. Pearce offered him a partnership in the business in 1907. Mr. Marett was made manager of the store while Mr. Pearce went off to fulfill his duties as the newly elected member of the Ontario Legislature.

When his term in office was completed, ^{in 1911} Mr. Pearce accepted a position as burser at the Ontario School for the Deaf (as it was known then) in Belleville. Due to his involvement in politics and the school, he never rejoined the the firm and subsequently sold his shares to his son-in-law. Mr. Marett had by then married Mr. Pearce's youngest daughter, Jane Almira, in August 1908. Mr. Pearce died in Belleville in 1938.

The name of the store was changed to F.N.Marett and Company to reflect the new ownership and that name continues until to-day.

While her husband was serving the needs of residents in Marmora Village, Marmora Township and Deloro Village, Jane Marett was busy raising three sons, Donald, Douglas and James and daughter Dorothy, while at the same time managing their home at 18 McGill Street and playing a large ~~part~~ role in the life of this community.

Obituary for Frank N Marett went to Marmora Herald.

Attached is an obituary for Frank N Marett's mother, Ann

~~The name of the store was changed to F.N. Marett & Company to reflect the new ownership and that name continues until to-day.~~

After Frank Marett's death in February 1936, his eldest son, Donald Pearce Marett, carried on the business with partners Frederick R. Wells and William C. Inkster. until the early 1950's when they discontinued the partnership. Mr. Donald Marett carried on the business while his wife Alice raised two sons, Frank and William and daughter Anne. Donald died in January 1968, also at the early age of 59. like his father.

Following his father's death, William Donald stepped in to continue the business for his mother until he purchased ^{it}_{th} in 1971.

This year, 1996, marks the 125 year of continuous business under four generation of the same family - first the Pearce's, then ~~xxxx~~ three generations of Marett's.

Over the years, the business has included clothing, footwear, groceries, paint, wallpaper, floor coverings, toys, furniture and yard goods as well as the funeral service that Fred Wells operated for the company.

During the early 1950's Fred Wells opened his own funeral business on Bursthall Street and continued on until he sold the business to Garnet Howden in 1956, then it was resold to the present owner, Jon McConnell, in 1978.

Early in the 1970's, the Marett store discontinued^d selling paint and wallpaper, floor covering and yard goods and the upstairs was turned into storage area.

In 1990 water sports were added to the inventory so that to-day the business deals in clothing, footwear, water skis, wet suits, kneeboards, kayaks and inflatable water products.

The Marett family have always stock^{ed} excellent quality products for their customers and they continue to do so to-day.

Will there be a fifth generation of Marett's running the store? Will one of Bill and Pat's sons, Andrew or David, want to take on the responsibility of continuing this long time tradition? ~~xxxxxxx~~ ⁰ ~~xxxxxxx~~ only time will tell.

Note: The Marmora Herald and St. Paul's A.C.W. are grateful to Pat Marett for preparing such excellent notes that made the job of writing this article so much easier. *

We also thank Jim Marett for contributing some childhood memories of living with his parents in the business community. Lack of space at this time does not allow the printing of those memories, but, hopefully, will be possible soon.

Our thanks also to Gerald Belanger for assisting with material from his large research collection.