

WILLIAM HENRY ANDERSON
Anderson & Langstaff Department Store
Kemptville, Ontario

ITEM #1

Extracts from Kemptville Past and Present, 1903, J. Carr Anderson, page 78, in the context of 'Anderson & Langstaff, General Merchandise':

“This is one of the largest and most important mercantile establishments in Kemptville and is well and favourably known throughout the entire locality tributary to it.

The location, Prescott St., opposite Asa, is one of the oldest on the south side, having been occupied first by Thomas Baldwin about 1850 as a cabinet shop and later as a general store. His son Henry, succeeded to the business and carried on a general store for many years. Thomas Christie and Thomas and the late William Blackburn, under the name of Christie & Blackburn, conducted a general store for some time. About 40 years ago the late Andrew Blackburn took over the business and under the name of A. Blackburn and A. Blackburn & Co., conducted a very large and successful business for 20 years. The original building was destroyed in the great fire of 1872 and was replaced by the present magnificent brick building which in Mr. Blackburn's time served as a store and residence but which is now all utilized for commercial purposes.

About twenty-one years ago Mr. Anderson, then a young man, entered the firm as an employee. Having all the elements of a successful salesman, he gradually ascended the rungs of the ladder until he stood at the head of the list and became so well known as a successful salesman that when the firm of Andrew Blackburn & Co., gave up business, Mr. Anderson was selected as the successor.

In 1897 the business of the firm had increased so largely that Mr. Anderson was compelled to look for a partner who would divide his responsibility and assist him in managing his constantly increasing business. This he found in the person of Mr. Langstaff, who had for many years been manager for T.A. Kidd who conducted a similar business in Burritts Rapids.....

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William H. Anderson, the senior partner of the firm of Anderson & Langstaff, , is a native of Oxford Mills where he spent his early youth “

ITEM #2

The issue of September 19, 1918 of the Kemptville Weekly Advance carried William Henry Anderson's obituary. These are selections from it:

“Born near Patterson's Corners in 1861, W.H. Anderson soon moved with his parents to Oxford Mills, where he spent his boyhood days, until at the age of fifteen he apprenticed with Murdock Gair at Oxford Mills and commenced a mercantile career, which was destined to reach its zenith in the presidency and head of the Anderson Langstaff Company, the largest concern of its kind in Eastern Ontario, apart from the cities. After serving Mr. Gair for five years he came to Kemptville in the capacity of clerk in the Blackburn store, which he eventually bought and ran in his own name until he formed a partnership with Mr. Albert Langstaff and a few years later converted the institution into the present joint stock company, of which he was the conspicuous head until his untimely end.

In the thirty-seven years during which he resided in Kemptville, he made a host of friends and when one contemplates for a moment the many institutions and progressive movements with which he was at various times identified, commercial enterprises, Village Council, Board of Education, Good Roads Association, Local Postmaster, Dominion Concrete Company, War Charities, Building operations, Employment of labor,

Besides his widow he is survived by his daughter, Mrs. D.J. Cowan of Port Arthur; his two sons, W. Garnet, barrister, of Vancouver; and Stanley G., junior member of the local firm; his mother and two sisters, Miss Lucy and Miss Jessie of Kemptville; his three brothers, Sexton, of Chalala, Wash.; James of Moston, Wis.; and Charles P., the Right Reverend Bishop of Chicago.”

ITEM #3

William H. Anderson was a son of Henry Anderson, a 10-year old emigrant from England about 1838 and his wife, Maria Sexton. The Kemptville Weekly Advance of March 19, 1903 carried his obituary. Selections from it follow:

“One of the best known residents of Oxford township died on Monday last, in the person of Henry Anderson. He had reached the advanced age of 78 at the time of his demise.

The remains were conveyed to his late residence at Oxford Mills and the funeral is being held there this Thursday morning. The service takes place in St. John's church at 10 o'clock interment to be made in the Oxford Mills cemetery.

The late Henry Anderson was an Englishman by birth, emigrating to Canada when only ten years old. For some five or six years he was employed in the Cossitt works at Smith's Falls and afterwards took up farming which he was actively engaged in until a few years ago, when he disposed of his farm near Oxford Mills. He was a devout member of the Anglican church.

Deceased is survived by a widow and six children: Miss Lucy A. Anderson of town; J. Sexton Anderson of Seattle; W.H. Anderson (ex-Counties Commissioner) of town; the Right Rev. Charles Palmerson Anderson of Chicago; James Anderson who is a commercial traveller with headquarters at Baltimore; and Miss Jessie Anderson of Chicago.”