

Galt, Guelph and Preston were quite healthy villages when New Hope was struggling along, and Lowell's four-horse stage had been running between Galt and Guelph for a number of years, but New Hope did not have a post office till 1849, when an office was opened in the building now occupied by Mr. Geo. Devitt, and which Mr. Hespeler had built for that purpose.

In 1849 Mr. Hespeler built a distillery in addition to his flour mill, and began the work which has ever since stood as a monument to his energy and enterprise. He cleared the forests, drained the swamps, built roads, and spent many thousands of dollars in necessary and lasting improvements. In 1850, Adam Shaw built a saw mill on the site of the old carriage works building, which same building was built a few years later by the late Robert Forbes, who rented it to Jonathan Schofield to be used as a woolen mill.

In 1858, the Great Western Railway was extended from Galt to Guelph, and Mr. Hespeler took advantage of the presence of the navvies to have a census taken, with the result that New Hope, or rather Hespeler, was incorporated as a village on July 12th of that year. The first Village Council being, Jacob Hespeler, reeve, and councillors Adam Shaw, Conrad Nohrhaug, David Rife and Chas. Karch.

In 1861, Mr. Hespeler built a woolen mill on the site of the present Brodie mill, and this he ran until 1870, when it was totally destroyed by fire. In 1862, Randall & Farr purchased the Oberholtzer saw mill and the Beck foundry, tore the old buildings down, and built a woolen mill, which they operated until 1873, when they sold out to Schofield & Forbes, Mr. Farr removing to Holyoke, where he died a few weeks ago.

In 1882, Mr. Schofield retired from the firm of Schofield & Forbes, and Mr. Forbes continued the business until his death, when The R. Forbes Co., Limited, was formed, and this firm has steadily increased their business and facilities until they now occupy their present large premises, photos of which will be found in this Souvenir.

In 1880, The Hespeler Manufacturing Company was formed, and bought out Mr. Hespeler's property, turned the grist mill into a woolen mill, and in '81 the ruins of the old woolen mill were cleared out and a new cotton mill was built, and this they operated until Messrs. Harvey & McQuestion took over the business, running it till '87, when the mills were closed down.

In 1889, Messrs. A. W. Brodie & Co. purchased the property; and Mr. Robt. T. Brodie retiring about four years ago, Mr. A. W. Brodie ran the business until early in the present year, when the Canada Woolen Mills Co., Limited, was formed, and this big mill went into the combine.

A. B. Jardine & Co. started here in a small way some thirty years ago, and the business has steadily grown, until they are now the largest manufacturers of blacksmiths' and boiler-makers' tools in Canada.