



### John K. Lemp 1860 - 1938

John K. left his mark through his exceptional skills, largely self taught. The stately family home he built in the late 1800s at 218 Woodstock Street North in Tavistock was and remains a jewel of craftsmanship. An outstanding mechanic, in 1908 John K. built Tavistock's first horseless carriage (gasoline engine car). He is perhaps best remembered for his distinctive grandfather clocks, one of which has a permanent home at the Canadian Museum of History, Gatineau (Ottawa).



### John Lemp 1884 - 1957

To state that John's talents and contributions were wide-ranging would be an understatement. Pharmacist, Ophthalmologist, member of the original Tavistock Library Board, Co-founder of the Tavistock Band, Village Council, Men's Club & Board of Trade, Rotary Club, Perth and Oxford Advisory Board For The Blind, active in his church and more. John was the last of a series of local photographers. The Lemp Studio Collection exists thanks to the guardianship by John and his son Len of over 4,000 glass negatives dating back to the late 1800s.

# ALL THINGS LEMP

John K. Lemp and his son John contributed in large measure to our community's history.

## And now, a question. Why is the grandfather clock leaning?

John K. paid great attention to detail. This clock was destined for a family member living in an older home in Brockville. John K. took precise measurements of the room where it would reside. At time of transport he included shims to insert under the base on the left side. The shims were needed to keep the clock level and working. Those same shims were included with this clock when it was purchased by our Historical Society. Why are the shims on the right side at the museum? Clearly not to keep it level but definitely to keep it in good running order. Tick tock ... tick tock.

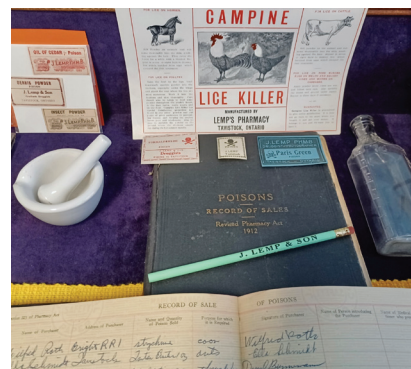
We'll talk more about this room and the hallway display later. Now, on to the back room for "All Things Lemp". This guide highlights only a very few of the many items in the exhibit. If you have questions, just ask.



John Lemp was our local druggist for 52 years, operating out of his store at 16 Hope Street West in Tavistock.



Coloured bottles were favoured for display. Bottles fashioned in distinct shapes or having a distinct feel (like raised ridges) were used to hold poison. Why? When reaching for a bottle at night in the days before electricity you wanted to ensure you were grabbing your bottle of tonic and not a bottle of poison.



# The Lemp Camera...



A prized piece in the Historical Society's collection is "The Lemp Camera." This camera and others used by a series of local photographers took photos of our ancestors, our businesses, our houses, special events in the community and even our prize animals. Glass negatives dating to 1890 captured the early photos. As technology evolved so did the type of camera. The Lemp Studio Collection features over 2,700 print copies.



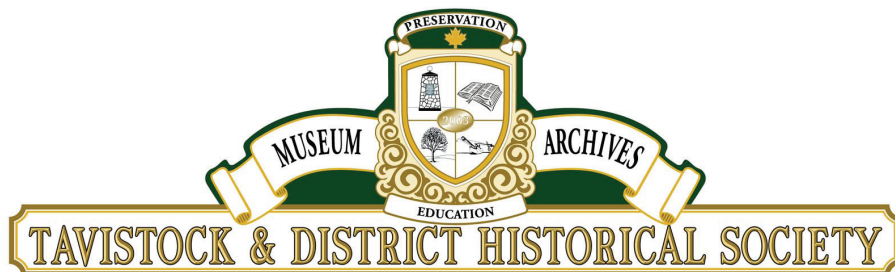
It was almost one-stop shopping at Lemp's Pharmacy. An ad in the 1929 Tavistock Gazette called "Choose Good Gifts" suggested a mouthorgan, a metal lady's compact and white gold spectacles as Christmas presents. The ad stated "We test eyes."

## Number please.

The Bell Telephone central office for the village, first located in the Glasgow Warehouse, moved to the rear of John Lemp's Drug Store in 1911. In the early years the Lemp family provided 24-hour service. In 1934 the telephone office relocated to new larger quarters at 12 Hope Street West (now Hair Trends). The operators placed calls, rang the fire siren when needed and kept tabs on the local people. For many years Tavistock's only public telephone booth was located inside the office. In 1961 the system switched to dial and the days of friendly personal service were no more.



Better still, come back some day and spend some time. We're open the third Saturday of every month from 1-4 or by appointment.



37 Maria Street, Box 280, Tavistock, Ontario, Canada N0B 2R0

## And now ...

as you wind your way back to the front room stop, tap your toes and hum a bit at the music display.



This little vignette is a tribute to Tavistock's marching bands and Tavistock's Entertainer Extraordinaire - Fred Funk. You can read all about Fred on our website at [tavistockhistory.ca](http://tavistockhistory.ca). Check the Features section, page 3.



Back in the front room browse a bit and enjoy our display our Tavistock memorabilia and our extensive collection of records on everything from obituaries to Veterans to schools to family histories and so much more.

We are always open on our website at [www.tavistockhistory.ca](http://www.tavistockhistory.ca)