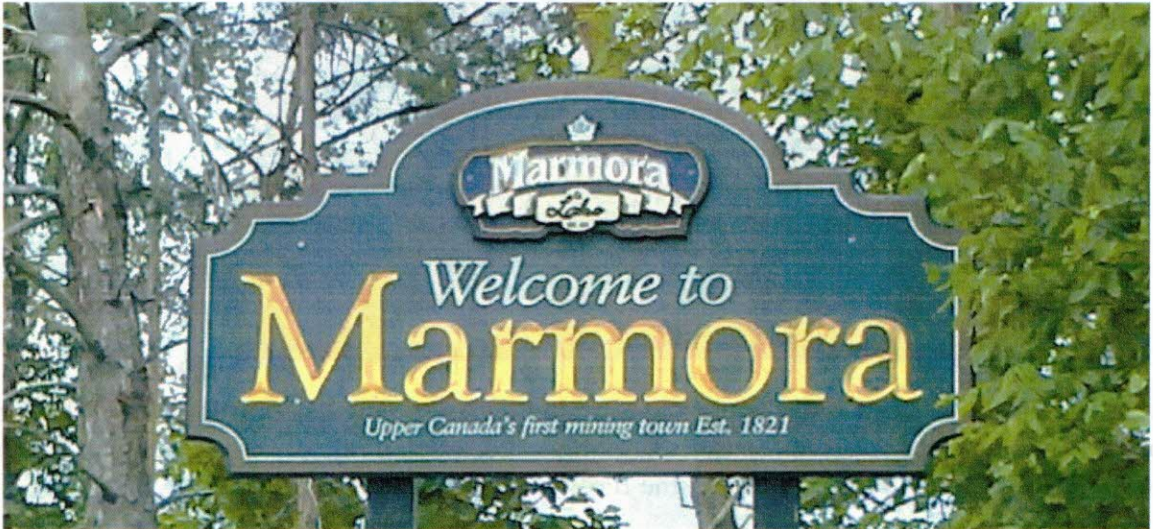


# Undertakers and Funeral homes of Marmora



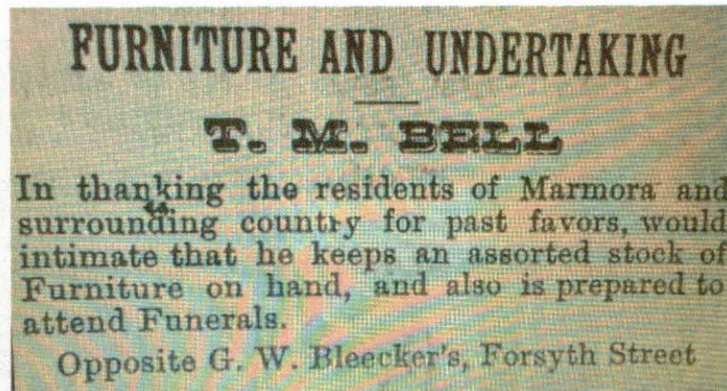
Marmora was the first village of importance in the central section of Hastings County. With the opening of the Marmora Iron Works in 1820 it created a thriving community, second only to Belleville for many years. By 1823, Marmora had a population of almost 200, Marmora's main interest and income continued to be the iron works, but by 1860 lumbering and farming gained importance. By 1864, there were 2 shoemakers, 1 tailor, 2 carriage makers, 1 tinsmith, 2 cabinet makers, 3 hotels, 2 church's and numerous merchants and cabinet makers during this time, that could have been in the funeral trade, but are **not documented** as such.

William Blakely carpenter 1857  
Robert Rollins carpenter 1857  
Lucas Toyon cabinet maker 1861  
Thomas Warren cabinet maker 1861  
John Pressly carpenter 1869 Madoc Street  
G.L. Houston carpenter 1869 Forsyth Street  
John McCollen carpenter 1869 McGill Street  
Charles McBracken carpenter 1880

The **first documented undertaker** in Marmora, is that of Lewis Tallion, who was plying his trade as cabinet maker and undertaker as early as 1858. By the mid 1860's, his son Jorome Tallion, was working alongside of his father in their shop on McGill Street



Another gentleman that was also a cabinet maker and undertaker was that of Thomas M. Bell. Thomas started his cabinet making and undertaking business as early as 1861 in Stirling, he then moved to Marmora in the early 1870's and continued his businesses here. His shop was also on McGill Street in 1879. It is very possible that Thomas Bell took over Lewis and Jorome Tallion's undertaking business in 1880 as they were both on McGill Street during this time.



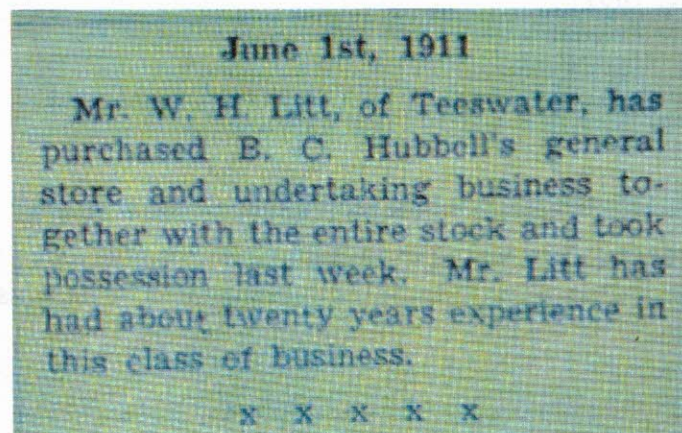
1889

Sometime during the late 1890's Thomas moved his shop to a new location at 14 Forsyth Street. Thomas Bell continued to serve Marmora until his sudden death in 1907 when Baldwin Hubbell (Thomas Bell's nephew) took over both the furniture and undertaking business.

Baldwin Chester Hubbell was born in 1864 in Stirling, he moved to Marmora in 1888, he was at first a merchant of dry goods, groceries, boots and shoes, then with the help of his uncle Thomas Bell got into the furniture and undertaking trade.

After his uncle's death in 1907, B.C. Hubbell built the HUBBELL BLOCK which they operated his general store, furniture store and undertaking business.

Baldwin continued to serve the community for only a few years, until 1911 when he sold both his mercantile and undertaking business to William Henry Litt. It appears that B.C. Hubbell continued working as an undertaker and embalmer into the 1920's for William Litt and later F. Marett. Baldwin Chester Hubbell died in 1936.



1911



William Henry Litt was born in 1867 in Teeswater, he was already in the undertaking business as early as 1890 in Teeswater. He moved to Marmora in 1911 and purchased both businesses from B.C. Hubbell.

After only a few years, William Litt sold both businesses to F.N. Marett in 1915 and again it appears that William Litt continued to work for F.N. Marett as a licensed embalmer up to 1932. William Henry Litt died in 1937.

In 1871, Josiah W. Pearce joined his brother T.P. Pearce to run the Pearce Company Store, which manufactured doors, blinds, sash and all kinds of lumber products.

In 1902 J.W. Pearce was elected Conservative member of the Legislature and hired F.N. Marett to help his brother T.P. Pearce to run the business.

In 1907 the local newspaper announced that Frank N. Marett went into partnership with T.P. Pearce forming the business Pearce & Marett at 13 Forsyth Street. One year later, in 1908, Frank married Josiah Pearce's daughter and expanded the 13 Forsyth Street location.



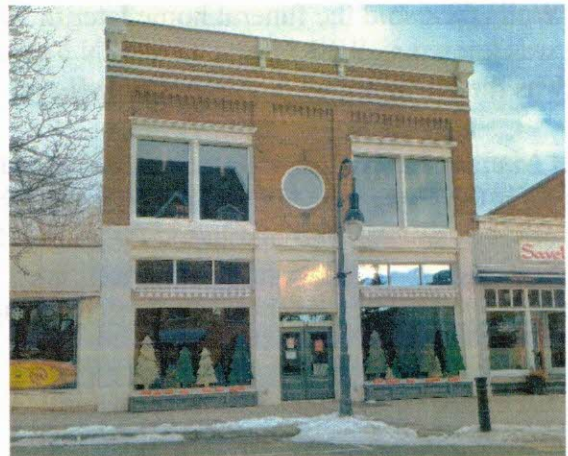
1907

In 1911, J.W. Pearce became head master at the Ontario School for the Deaf and moved to Belleville. Around this time (1911-12) it is believed that F.N. Marett started in the undertaking business while working with Pearce. In 1915 Frank Marett purchased the undertaking business of W.H. Litt

In 1916, Marett went into a partnership with a gentleman named Wiggins to run the undertaking business while he concentrated his efforts on his other business interests. Frank purchased the former B.C. Hubbell building across the street at 14 Forsyth Street. He also took over Pearce's interests and renamed it F.N. Marett & Co. and started carrying furniture for the first time in the new location, as well as continuing with their undertaking business with Wiggins, and William Litt as embalmer.



F.N. Marrett & Co. 1920's



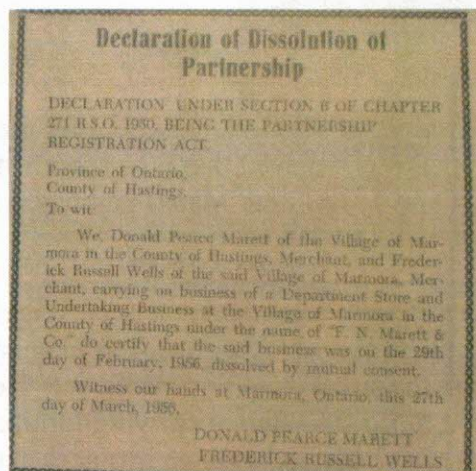
2021

By 1920 Frank Marett who was not a licensed undertaker had numerous licensed undertakers join the company to help out with the undertaking business\_ William E. McEachnie, W. Campbell Inkster and Fred R. Wells to name a few. W. E. McEachnie went on to purchase the P.M. Howard undertaking business in Hastings in 1924, W.C. Inkster went on to become Frank Marett's partner in the undertaking business around 1925.

In 1928 Frank Marett purchased their first motor hearse, by 1930 Marett had bought out Mr. Inkster and by early 1932, David Marett, Frank's son had joined the firm. With David and Fred Wells running the undertaking business, Frank could concentrate on running the store  
In 1932 Clifford E. Jones joined the firm as embalmer & funeral director as William Litt retired

In 1941 Marett expanded the upstairs of the store on Forsyth Street to include a funeral parlor. Sometime during the early 1940's, David Marett and Fred Wells went into a partnership regarding the funeral business.

Fred and David continued the partnership of the funeral home, until February 29 1956 when the partnership was dissolved and Fred Wells took over the ownership the funeral home.



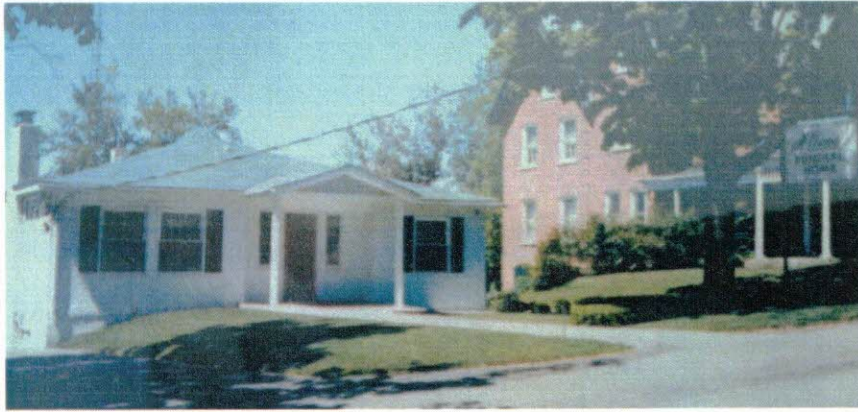
1956

Fred Wells then sold the funeral home later in 1956 to Garnet Howden until 1957 the funeral home was known as WELLS & HOWDEN Funeral home. Then later in late 1957 it was known simply as the HOWDEN FUNERAL HOME.

Garnet Mansell Howden was born in 1915, he was licensed as a funeral director in 1938 and worked for the Comstock Funeral Home in Peterborough for some time. He then moved to Marmora in early 1956 and purchased the Marett Funeral home from Fred Wells in late 1956.

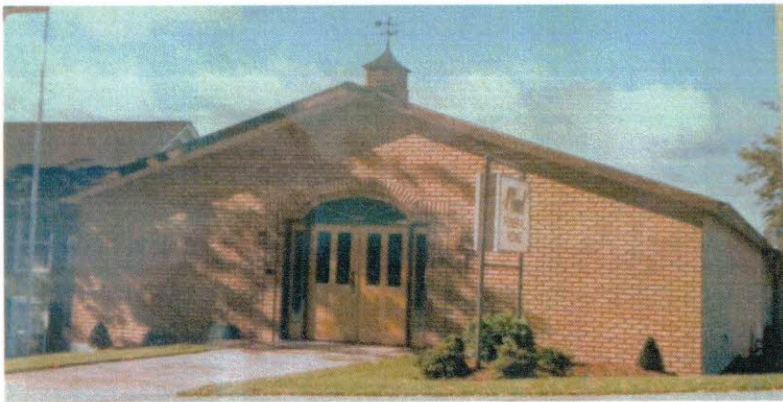
Garnet also operated an Ambulance service during the 1960's





The McConnell Funeral Home 1982

In the mid 1980's, construction began on renovation the Howden Funeral Home. By 1989 the work was completed.



1990





The Howden Funeral Home 1978

Garnet and his family served the community of Marmora for 22 years before selling the business to Steward McConnell of Tweed in 1978

Steward McConnell, who owned the McConnell funeral home in Tweed since 1971 purchased the Howden Funeral home from Garnet in 1978



1978

For about a year, it was still known as The Howden Funeral home as Garnet stayed on to help Jon McConnell,

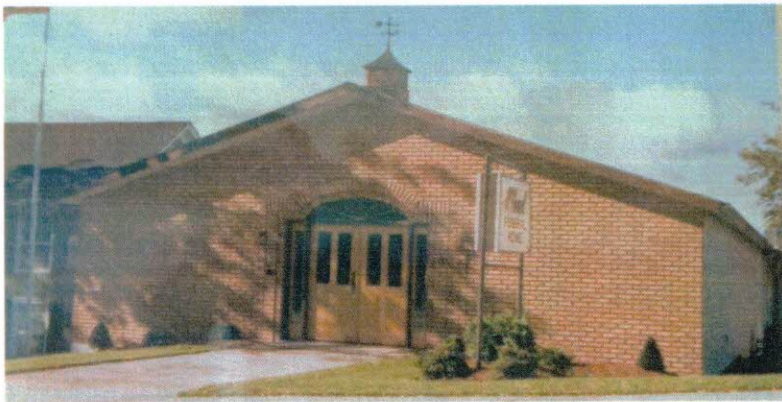
Jon McConnell, Steward's oldest son graduated from Humber College funeral Service program in 1976 and worked for the Russell-Mordon Funeral Home in Oakville before moving to Marmora.





The McConnell Funeral Home 1982

In the mid 1980's, construction began on renovation the Howden Funeral Home. By 1989 the work was completed.



1990



In 2000 the McConnell's purchased the property beside the funeral home and started building a new larger chapel, it was completed in 2002



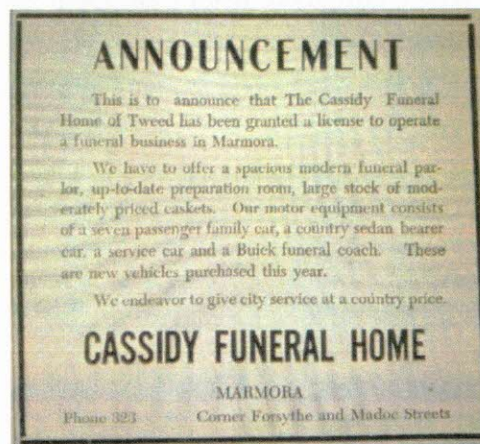
2005

The McConnells continued to serve Marmora and area for 43 years before selling all 3 locations (Tweed, Madoc and Marmora) to Rushnell Family Services in 2021.

Rushnell Family Services continues to service Marmora and area under the McConnell Funeral Home name (2023)

There was one other funeral Service in town that made a great impact in Marmora and that was Cassidy's Funeral Home.

In 1954, Charles Cassidy and his son Cartha who owned Cassidy's Funeral Home in Tweed decided to expand and start a second location in Marmora. Their chosen location was at the corner of Forsyth and Madoc Streets at the back of the old Sweet's bakery. With a side entrance near the rear of the building



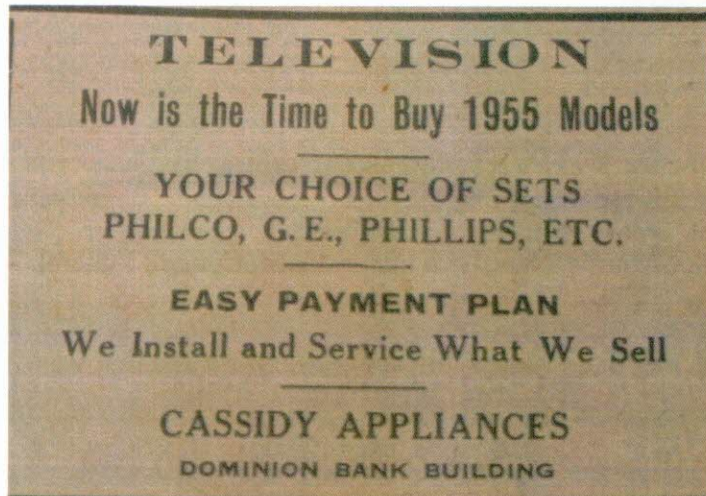
August 19, 1954





1955

Their other location for their furniture and appliance store was further south on Forsyth Street in the Dominion Bank Building at the corner of Forsyth Street and Hwy 7.



1954

Charles was not a licensed funeral director so they had to hire a licensed funeral director to run the funeral business. In 1955 they hired Reg Outingdyke from Campbellford. Reg worked for many years with the Bennett Funeral home.

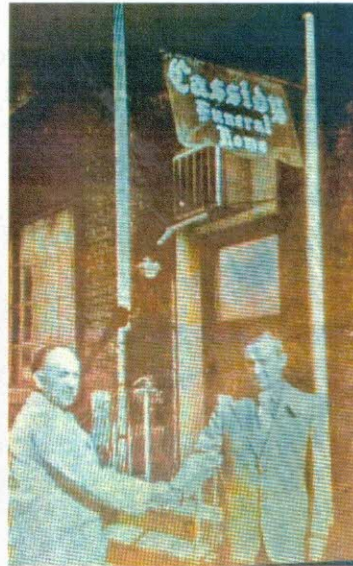


Thomas Cassidy (Cartha's Brother) also was involved in starting up the new location, while Reg Outingdyke ran the funeral business, Thomas ran the furniture and appliance store.

In 1959, Thomas who had taken control of the Marmora operation, purchased the old William Sweet Bake Shop located at 1 Forsyth Street.

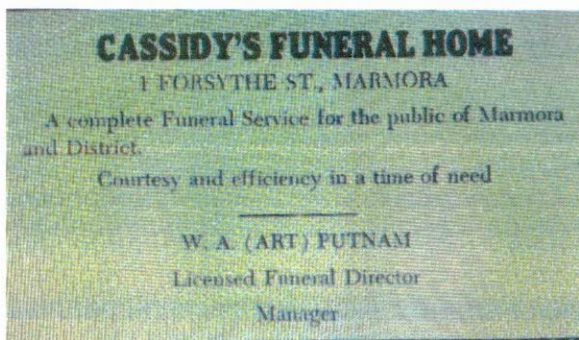
With the funeral business already in operation in the rear of the building, Thomas moved the furniture and appliance business, to its new location, at 1 Forsyth Street, at the front of the building.

In August 1960, after renovations to the rear of the building, Cassidy's opened their new funeral home with Art Putnam as acting funeral director,



1960

August 25, 1960



1962

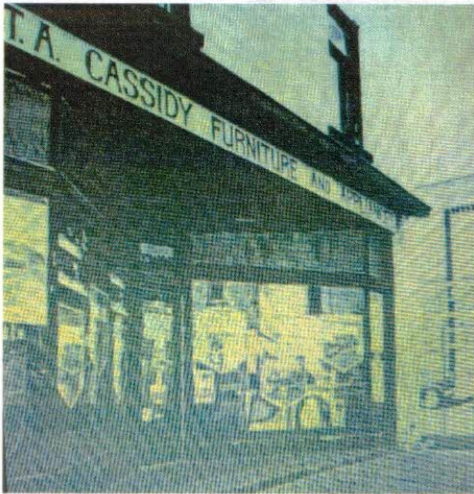
W. A. Putnam was born in Wooler and worked at funeral homes in Toronto and Trenton before coming to Marmora. Another licensed funeral director that worked for Cassidy's in the mid 1960's was that of George B. Barnes of Colborne, George owned the Barnes funeral home in Colborne from 1949 to 1964



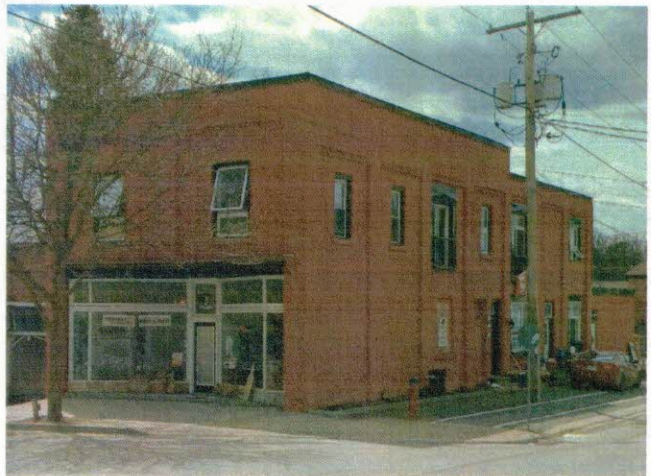


During the 1960's, Cassidy's also operated an ambulance service in the area.

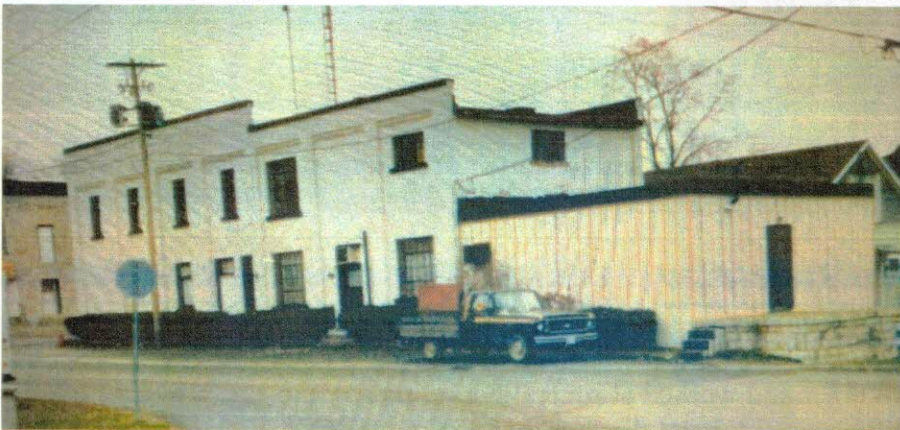
In 1972, work began on renovating the funeral home again, by adding a large addition to the rear of the building, adding a new larger chapel, two new rooms, a new wider side entrance and a new prep room in the basement. On April 11, 1973 the new Cassidy Funeral home was opened to the public, with T.A. Cassidy Furniture and Appliance store.



1970



2023



The rear of the building showing the addition built in 1972-3



Words cannot express our thanks to the People of Marmora & Area for giving us wonderful support in the Funeral Business.

After 36 years in business, the Funeral & Furniture & Appliances were getting too much to handle. Consequently, we had to dispose of the Funeral Business.

We will continue to carry on in the Furniture, Appliances, Radio & T.V. business as usual.

Anyone having prepaid funerals with us will be notified in a few days advising as to what they wish to do - transfer them to McConnell Funeral Home or the funeral home of their choice. T.A. CASSIDY

1990

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**CASSIDY'S**  
**FURNITURE and**  
**FUNERAL SERVICE**

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**MARMORA**      **TWEED**  
**Phone 323**      **Phone 68**

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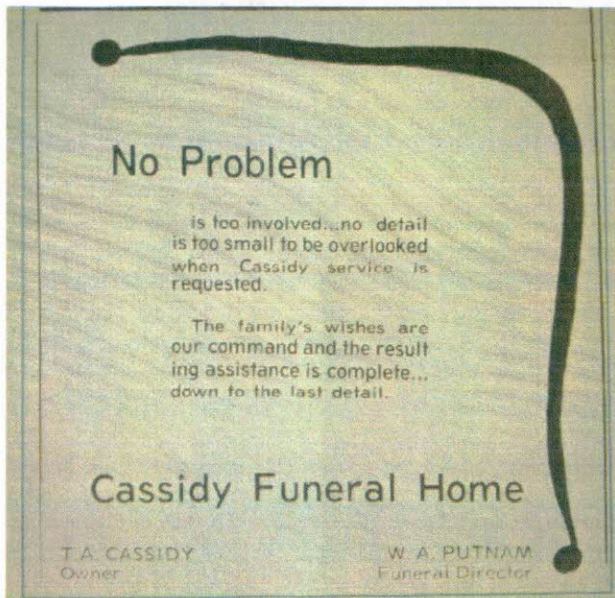
1955





2023

The middle side door was the entrance to the chapel



1974

Tom Cassidy continued to serve the community and area for many years until 1990, when the McConnell Funeral Home that was located 1 street over on Bristel, purchased the funeral business. Tom continued with the furniture and appliance store until 1998, when the business was closed.

By 1879, the Prince Edward County Railway was running from Picton to Trenton connecting Prince Edward County with the rest of eastern Ontario. In 1881, the name was changed to The Central Ontario Railway. In 1884 the line was extended north from Trenton Junction to Eldorado to service a number of towns and mines including Frankford, Springbrook Bonarlaw and Marmora, At Bonarlaw Junction the line ran north to Marmora then later in 1889 the line was extended to Coe Hill, the station was located 2 miles north-east of town. This opened up the town of Marmora to receive goods and supplies including funeral supplies from all over Ontario including Toronto. The line was abandoned in 1965



Marmora's Station first train in 1884



Bonarlaw Junction Station



Marmora's Station relocated mid 1980's



# Undertakers and Funeral homes of Marmora

Lewis Tallion cabinet maker/ undertaker 1858 - 1880  
Thomas M. Bell cabinet maker/undertaker 1880 – 1907 (died)  
Baldwin Chester Hubbell 1907 - 1911  
W.H. Litt 1911 - 1915  
Frank N. Marett 1915 - 1932  
Wiggins & F.N. Marett 1916 – 1918-19  
Marett Funeral Services 1932 – 1956 (David Marett and Fred Wells)  
Marett Funeral Home (Fred Wells Owner) 9 Burstall St - 1956  
Garnet Howden F.H. 1956 - 1978  
McConnell F.H. 1978 – 2021  
Rushnell Family Services Dec 1, 2021 – Present

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Cassidy F.H. 1954 – 1990  
Purchased by McConnell F.H. in 1990

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## *Thanks to:*

Wayne VanVolkenburg  
Brian Cassidy  
Janice Deline (Howden)  
Douglas Howden  
Steward McConnell  
Jon McConnell  
Marmora Historical Foundation  
Marmora Public Library  
Belleville Public Library and Archives

