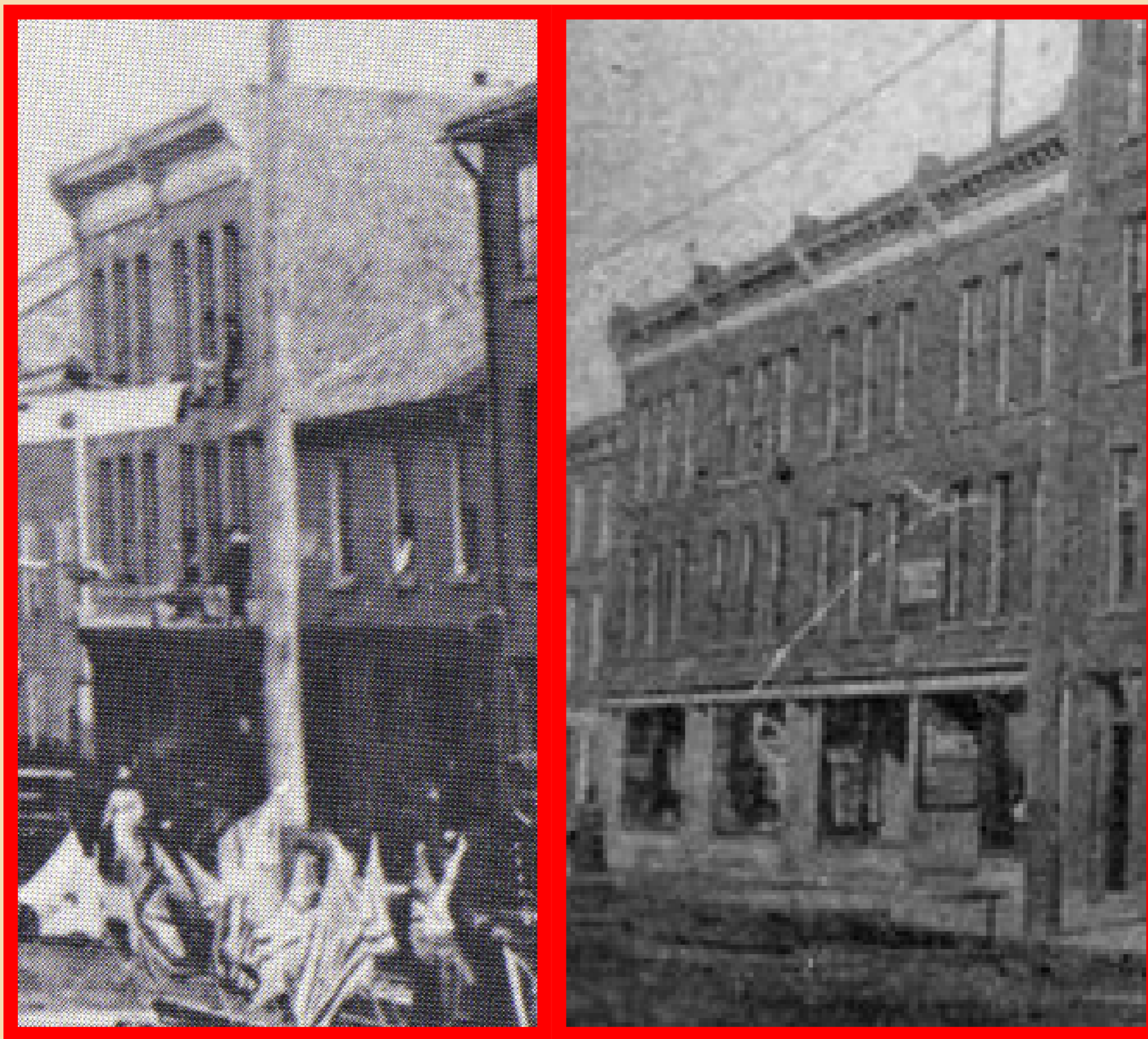




# "KNAPP-BROWN" BLOCK c1830 ??

5 - 17 King St. East



### DIRECTORY LISTINGS:

- 1885: This entire block of stores may have been vacant as building under re-construction ?? (??)
- 1886/1887: H.A. Knapp, butcher shop (??), Paul Derosia, grocer (??), vacant under re-construction ?? (??)
- 1890: G.E. Burke, second hand store (15\*), H.A. Knapp, butcher shop (11\*), Dennis Sullivan, flour & feed store (7/5\*),
- 1895: Barsalow & Whiehill, plumber (15\*), Armour & Cunningham, grocers (11\*), Water Works office (7\*),  
The Times, newspaper (5\*)
- 1900: Brown & Semple, plumber (15\*), vacant (11\*), Water Works office (7\*), The Times, newspaper (5\*)
- 1910/1911: Brown & Semple, plumber (15), Brockville House Furnishing (11), London Life Insurance (7),  
C.M. Buell, oysters / W.C. Waldren, upholsterer (5)
- 1913: Brown & Semple, plumber (15), vacant (11), London Life Insurance (7), W.C. Waldron, upholsterer (5)
- 1915: Brown & Semple, plumber (15), Brockville Co-Operative Society (11), London Life Ins. (7), Fred H. Kay, upholsterer (5)
- 1917: H.S. Brown, plumber (15), George Ross & Co., plumbers (11), London Life Insurance (7), Fred H. Kay, upholsterer (5)
- 1919: H.S. Brown, plumber (15), George Ross & Co., plumbers (11), London Life Insurance (7), Joseph McGuire (5)
- 1921: H.S. Brown, plumber (15), vacant (11), London Life Insurance (7), George Ross & Co., plumbers (5)
- 1924/1926: H.S. Brown, plumber (15), Dominion Store (11), London Life Insurance (7), George Ross & Co., plumbers (5)

This block probably followed the same type of history as some of the buildings between Market and Broad. They started out as two stories sloped roof buildings, perhaps around the 1820s or 1830s. They were later renovated/rebuilt into three story block style buildings. Like many of the King St. buildings, they most likely the same buildings with a third story added and new front. The two picture above caught this in progress. The first pic shows the renovated easterly side with the old style western side. The second pic shows the completed renovation, a double three-story block with four storefronts. This block would not have a long life, tho, as it would be demolished to make way for the Manitonna Hotel in 1929.

**Hirim A. Knapp** had been a pork packer in 1885. He opened his butcher shop here around 1886. Knapp lived on Market St. (now Victoria St.), a house now demolished.

**Barsalow & Whiehill** were a plumbing business for a brief time in the mid 1890s. **Brown & Semple**, run by Henry Brown and John Semple, were another competing plumbing business and existed at the same time on Buell St. When Barsalow & Whiehill vacated this spot c1897, Brown & Semple took it over. By 1916, Semple had left the business, and it became simply **H.S. Brown Co.**. He continued for many years, until the building was torn down about 1928. At that point, Brown moved his business to the Halladay Block, 181 King St. W. A devastating fire in that building in late 1948 led the business to move to 228 King W. However, with the move, it had a new manager, J.N. Fleming, while still keeping the H.S. Brown Co. name. The company survived until the end of the 1950s.

**W.C. Waldren**, upholsterer, went in #5 c1911. Waldren lived at [7 Orchard St.](#) **Fred H. Kay** took over about 1914 with his upholstering business, but also had pictures, picture frames, phonographs and records. Kay lived at [32 Bennett St.](#) at this time. Around 1918, he moved the business to the "Sheridan-Power" Block at 6 King St. E. where he will stay for more than two more decades.

**Armour & Cunningham**, grocers, were Robert Armour and Henry Cunningham, both living at [56 Pearl St. E. \(#112/1896\)](#) 112 Pearl E. It appears they were younger guys starting out, renting off of Andrew Armour (who may have been Robert's father) in whose name the house was in. The Armours were a grocery family, as Samuel Armour had a grocery store a few doors down on the corner of Pearl and Park. Armour & Cunningham did not last long as partners, in the mid 1890s. By the turn of the century, Henry Cunningham was a grocer on his own. Robert Armour was a clerk working for Cunningham as his store. Cunningham had taken over Samuel Armour's [Pearl St. E.](#) store. This business closed some time in the first decade of the 1900s, and Cunningham is not found in Brockville by 1911. However, at this time, Robert Armour is back in business, and he is directly across the street from where Cunningham was, at [61 Pearl St. E.](#) This brown block 3 unit structure would have been most definitely built by Armour as it is a post millennium/Edwardian building. Armour lived at this time in the building, third door to the right. ....

..... Did a partnership go sour and turn into a rivalry? Did Armour knock Cunningham out of business, from across the street? **OR** Were they friends to the end, with Cunningham deciding to leave the city and Armour purchasing the business, but building a new structure across the street? **What a strange see-saw of events.** .....

..... Robert Armour continued as a grocer here until the end of the 1920s. At that time he left the grocery business and the store was acquired by John Belfoi, another former King St. grocer. Armour began the new decade going into the cleaning business, **Armour's Quality Cleaners**, "Cleaning, Dyeing, Pressing", at 30 Stewart Blvd. Robert continued living in the Pearl St. building, as he owned it, but moved upstairs. Going into the 1940s, the cleaning business had ended and Robert was a clerk at the Wartime Prices & Trade Bd, and by 1946, he was a salesman working for McKay Chemical Co., still living at the Pearl E. building, with wife Dorothy.

The **Dominion** grocery store chain first came to Brockville on the corner of King/Perth and moved here in the early 1920s, their second of four King St. locations.

## OTHER VIEWS



This block from an aerial view, 1920. The western double block is one piece, but the eastern double block has different roofing, indicating different ownership.

## ADVERTISING



Fred H. Kay, upholsterer, pictures, 1917;

## THE REPLACEMENTS

### MANITONNA HOTEL 1929 - c1995



The eastern half of the new Manitonna Hotel replaced the "Knapp" Block in 1929. The western portion replaced the old Queens Hotel / Weatherhead Block.

### THE WEDGEWOOD 2009



The Wedgewood Retirement Residence replaced the Manitonna and, before, the "Knapp" Block in 2009 (middle part of the Wedgewood).