

GEORGE SLEEMAN
1841 - 1926

George Sleeman, according to his great-grandson, John, was a "successful, strong, caring, intelligent man with an iron fist". Born in St. David's, Ontario, he first went into business with his father, John, at "The Silvercreek Brewery" in 1860 when he was only 19. Shortly afterwards he married Miss Sarah Hill and successfully raised 12 children.

Throughout his life, George was involved in numerous community projects, including: President of the Leaf Baseball Club and a member of town council, serving as Reeve from 1877 to 1878 and mayor for five separate terms. He also brought the street car to Guelph in 1907 when he was chairman of the Guelph Street Railway Company. His house, now known as the Manor, was one of the first houses in Guelph to have electricity.

Mr. Sleeman's wife, Sarah, passed away on January 21, 1917, and he died on December 16th, 1926 at the age of 85. The last of the Sleeman children, Florence, passed away in 1974 at the age of 86.

In 1933 when the industry was booming, the brewery lost its licence for selling beer to the United States during Prohibition. The Sleeman Brewery did not get its license back until 1985. Harold Koch, an acquaintance of Mr. Sleeman said, "He had a mind that seemed to be always reaching out ahead to give some improvement to the structure and growth of his community."

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