

Early Mayors – *George Randall, 1832-1908*



George Randall was born in Chesterfield, New Hampshire on April 16, 1832. In 1854 he came to Canada with his brother and uncle, Marshall Farr, who possessed contracts to build stations on the Grand Trunk Railway west of Guelph. With the death of Farr in 1857, Randall and his brother took over the contracts.

Upon completion of these commitments, Randall became involved in several manufacturing businesses including the Granite Mills and Waterloo Distillery (Seagram's) established in 1857. He purchased a sawmill in Hespeler in 1863 and built a woollen mill on the site. In 1884, he established a wholesale grocery and liquor warehouse with William Roos on Queen Street in Berlin (Kitchener).

Randall's community involvement included serving as a manager of the Berlin Quadrille Society in 1861 and as a director of the Waterloo Mutual Fire Insurance Co. from 1875-1908, the last 18 years as president.

He was also the first chairman of the Berlin-Waterloo Hospital Board in 1893, a charter member of the Waterloo Horticultural Society and a member of the board of the Berlin high school.



GEO. RANDALL & CO.,
GENERAL MERCHANTS
MILLERS
—AND—
DISTILLERS,
King Street, - - Waterloo, Ontario.

Having served as the magistrate for the village of Waterloo from 1870-1873, Randall became reeve of the newly established town in 1876, completing two terms on council before being elected mayor in 1878. While in office, an official map of the new town was commissioned, concerns over chemical dumping in Beaver Creek by local businesses were addressed, and the town's volunteer fire brigades were outfitted with new uniforms.