

# Thou Shalt Not Bear False Witness

## The Henry Brick Affair

On Monday May 15, 1905, *"the most enthusiastic meeting ever convened in Town Hall listened to the best proposition (as a couple of speakers expressed it) ever presented to the Town of Perth".* Every seat was filled, *"the gallery being occupied entirely by ladies".*<sup>1</sup>

As outlined by Mayor Charles James Foy (1867-1927) and Henry Walter Brick (1869-1933), Canadian manager of H. K. Wampole & Co., in exchange for a bonus of \$25,000 from the town, to be invested by the company in a lot, building and the expense of re-location, Wampole & Co. would make Perth their manufacturing and business headquarters for Canada and Newfoundland. The proposed laboratory and factory, it was promised, would bring 25 to 30 heads of family to Perth and employ 200 locally hired workers.

H. K. Wampole & Co. had begun in 1872 as a small druggists' supply business founded by chemist Henry Koch Wampole (1849-1908) on Fourth Street in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Wampole was a Pennsylvania native (probably born in Philadelphia), the son of James Wampole (1817-1854) and Leanna Koch (1828-1854). In 1875 he married Salome Smith (1854-1917) and became the father of two sons and a daughter.<sup>2</sup>

In 1878 Wampole was joined in his business by junior partners, Samuel Ross Campbell and Albert John Koch<sup>3</sup>, and later by George R. Wallace. As the company grew it relocated six times in pursuit of ever larger quarters, until by 1890s it occupied more than a city block fronting 424–432 Fairmount Avenue.



In 1891 Wampole & Co. established a branch plant in Montreal to serve Canada and ease access to the British market. The Montreal factory moved to Toronto in 1893 and, under the management of Charles E. Frosst (1867–1948), proved a huge success. From accommodation in a single room, by 1900 the company occupied an entire four-floor building. When Frosst left Wampole in 1899 to found his own company<sup>4</sup>, he was replaced as manager by Henry Brick.

Henry Walter Brick was born in 1869 at Leominster, Worcester County, Massachusetts, the son of Charles Augusta Brick (1839-1912), an 'ornamental painter', and Abby Allaka Pierce (1840-1896). By 1880, the Brick family had moved to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and in 1897 the city directory listed Henry Brick as a chemist living on 25<sup>th</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Perth Courier*, May 19, 1905.

<sup>2</sup> Henry Smith Wampole (1878-1921), Helen L. Wampole (b.1883), Albert Koch Wampole (1887-1951).

<sup>3</sup> Albert John Koch may have been a relative (brother?) to Henry K. Wampole's mother, Leanna Koch (1828-1854), but the connection has not been proven.

<sup>4</sup> Charles E. Frosst & Co. was acquired by Merck & Co. in 1965 to become Merck Frosst Canada Inc.

Street. In 1898 he went to work as a “*confidential assistant to Mr. H. K. Wampole*”.<sup>5</sup> In 1901, at Salem, New Jersey, Brick married Catherine Elizabeth Kelty (1875-1925). They became parents of one son, Eugene<sup>6</sup>, born in 1902.

The H. K. Wampole & Co. operation at Toronto continued to expand under Brick and soon employed 225 production employees plus 20 travelling salesmen. As the enterprise sought space for further expansion in 1904-1905, Brick faced a real estate market where prices had doubled and tripled in the aftermath of the great Toronto fire of April 1904.<sup>7</sup> As he explained to the town meeting at Perth, he

*... had almost settled on a property and had gone so far as to have plans prepared, when in an unexpected manner I got in touch with your Mayor. Your Mayor wrote me and asked, 'why not come to Perth? We will make it interesting for you'. I had a visit from your Mayor and Messrs. Kellock<sup>8</sup>, Pink<sup>9</sup>, Meighen<sup>10</sup>, Allan<sup>11</sup> and the Hon. Co. Matheson<sup>12</sup>. I came here last Monday, saw your town ... [and] we are willing to come here if you are willing to have us”<sup>13</sup>*

The phenomenon of manufacturers and other businesses offering to locate in small towns, bringing with them jobs and an expanded tax base in exchange for a ‘bonus’ or ‘subsidy’, was nothing new. At any given time through the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century most Ontario towns probably had at least one such offer in play. With few exceptions these were transparent scams and most of those few that were not, were trolling for a bonus so large that no small town like Perth could consider the offer. Moreover, less than a decade earlier, Perth had been drawn into approving a \$5,000 bonus to the ill-fated Lanark Electric Railway Company. A later proposal to provide the Winn Shoe Company of Milton, Ontario, an inducement of \$20,000 to move to Perth had also foundered. No municipal funds were lost to these schemes, but they were close calls, and the experience made everyone wary.<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> *Vancouver Daily World*, February 21, 1907.

<sup>6</sup> Eugene Brick, born 1902 at Toronto, married Mildred Edith Westfall (1907-1999) in 1934, died at Troy, New York, in 1962.

<sup>7</sup> The ‘Great Fire’ of April 19, 1904 destroyed 114 buildings, caused \$10,387,000 (\$373 million in 2025 dollars) in damage and put 5,000 people out of work at a time when the city had only 200,000 inhabitants.

<sup>8</sup> Perth native James Francis Kellock (1851-1942) was the son of Robert F. Kellock (1806-1883). A graduate of the Ontario College of Pharmacy, in 1880 he purchased a drug store at 43 Gore Street East from his older brother Dr. John D. Kellock (1835-1898) who had established the business in 1861. James Francis Kellock sold his store to William Shaw Robertson (1865-1940) in 1905, at the same time that Robertson purchased and closed the drug store of his father, Robert Farquhar Kellock (1879-1958), at 77 Foster Street. James Francis Kellock (1851-1942) then went to work for H. K. Wampole & Co. and later partnered with Henry Walter Brick to create the short-lived Dominion Pharmacal Co. Ltd. at Toronto in 1907.

<sup>9</sup> William James Pink (1843-1922), furniture factory owner, town councillor, Mayor of Perth 1887-1888.

<sup>10</sup> William Meighen (1835-1917), partner in ‘A. Meighen & Bros.’ merchant store, town councillor, Mayor of Perth 1885-1886.

<sup>11</sup> James A. Allan (1842-1931), town councillor, Mayor of Perth 1897-1898.

<sup>12</sup> Arthur James Matheson (1845-1913), lawyer, Perth Mayor 1883-1884, Lieutenant Colonel of Militia, Conservative member of the Ontario Legislature 1898-1913, Provincial Treasurer 1905-1913.

<sup>13</sup> *Perth Courier*, May 19, 1905.

<sup>14</sup> The Winn Shoe Company scheme foundered on Provincial Government regulations governing bonuses/subsidies but was later restructured and in 1912 led to establishment of the Perth Shoe Company, a mainstay employer at Perth for many years. For more on the failed railway see *Electric Railway Dreams* elsewhere on this website <https://www.perthhs.org/documents/electric-railroad-dreams.pdf>

Wampole, however, was a well established and well-known company, manufacturing products found on the shelves of local drug stores and in the medicine cabinets of most Perth homes. Further, Mayor Foy assured the town hall meeting that,

*all their books are open for inspection [and] from my investigation of their business I have no hesitancy whatever in advising every ratepayer in town to vote to give H. K. Wampole & Co. of Philadelphia a bonus of \$25,000 to establish in Perth. They are asking nothing more or less than what it takes to build their building and establish here. They will pay in Perth \$60,000 per year in wages or in 20 years, \$1,200,000.*<sup>15</sup>

Councillor and Chairman of the Finance Committee Dr. John Robert Mitchell (1869-1906) also endorsed the bonus, telling the meeting that, as a dentist, he “*could say that their drugs were second to none manufactured on this continent*”.

When the Wampole proposal was formalized as a draft by-law<sup>16</sup> and put to the electors of Perth in a referendum on June 19<sup>th</sup> it was approved in a landslide vote of 570 to 5.<sup>17</sup> The coming of H. K. Wampole & Co. was embraced by the citizens of Perth with enthusiasm and optimism. As lawyer, entrepreneur, and former councillor and mayor John A. Stewart (1867-1922)<sup>18</sup> observed,

*... there was a general depression here. We had lost the car-shop industry<sup>19</sup> and there was a feeling that you could screw down the lid on the coffin. Depression hung heavy over the town ... Nothing has done more to quicken Perth than the coming of the Wampole company ... How the mere fact has acted as a tonic to this town!*<sup>20</sup>

### Wampole & Co. Arrives

The high hopes were soon rewarded. Within weeks of the by-law referendum, the former Militia Drill Shed<sup>21</sup> and an adjoining coal warehouse at the corner of Herriott and Sherbrooke Streets had been demolished and the site readied for construction of the new factory.<sup>22</sup> By mid August local contractor William Joseph Rabb (1862-1933)<sup>23</sup> had completed the foundation and basement and was raising the walls. As the factory went up floor by floor, a siding connecting it to the nearby CPR rail line was completed.

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<sup>15</sup> *Perth Courier*, May 19, 1905.

<sup>16</sup> Authorizing the borrowing by debenture of the \$20,000 required to finance the bonus.

<sup>17</sup> Provincial legislation required at two-thirds majority approval of bonus bylaws.

<sup>18</sup> John Alexander Stewart, lawyer, entrepreneur, Town Councillor 1897-1898, Mayor 1900-1901 and 1903-1904, Member of Parliament 1918-1922, Minister of Railways and Canals 1921-1922. See *Unfortunate Child* elsewhere on this website, <https://www.perthhs.org/documents/unfortunate-child2.pdf>

<sup>19</sup> The CPR car shops, that had at one point employed 250 men, closed in December 1904. See *The CPR Comes To Town* elsewhere on this website <https://www.perthhs.org/documents/CPR-comes-to-town.pdf>

<sup>20</sup> *Perth Courier*, December 29, 1905.

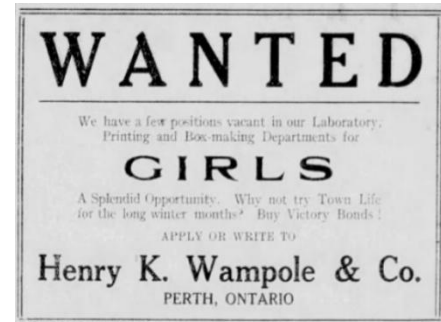
<sup>21</sup> Built in 1870 for militia drill purposes, the facility had also served for various community gatherings and in the winter months as a skating and hockey rink.

<sup>22</sup> The town also purchased several adjoining properties to create a site large enough for the factory.

<sup>23</sup> Rabb was also the general contractor who converted Victoria Hall into the Great War Memorial Hospital in 1922.

*The 140-foot stack of the Wampole factory is shooting rapidly into the air. The workmen at the top look very small from the ground. A force of employees from H. K. Wampole & Co. will be in town about November 1<sup>st</sup> to put in the steam pipe in the new building; they will rush the work".<sup>24</sup>*

The Majority of production workers at Wampole & Co. were, and always would be, female and in September the company hired the first of its 'girls' and sent them to the Toronto plant for job training. Preparations were also underway to address the challenge of moving 85 employees and their families from Toronto to the Perth.



*Mr. R. F. Kellock<sup>25</sup> of H. K. Wampole & Co., Toronto, was in town on Saturday and Monday looking up houses for the families of the company's employees who will be moving to Perth in a month or so. Seven have been secured. The majority of the families will not be here this winter on account of no suitable houses being ready for them. Building promises to be very brisk in Perth next year.<sup>26</sup>*

Housing its employees would prove an ongoing headache for Wampole. For many years it published regular advertisements in the *Courier* and *Expositor* newspapers urging householders prepared to accommodate boarders to register with the company. In 1915-1920 the company tackled the problem head-on and built 20 duplex houses along Drummond, Beckwith, Herriott and Colbourne Streets. In 1919 the company even opened a small branch-plant at Lanark to take advantage of available labor in the village following destruction of the Caldwell woolen mill by fire in 1917.



*Graphic published in the Perth Courier, December 1905*

Even before its new factory was operational, H. K. Wampole & Co. launched a program of good corporate citizenship that it would sustain for the next nine decades. At the Perth Fall Fair that September, cash prizes for the livestock exhibition were funded by Wampole and presented by General Manager Henry Brick in person. Year after year the company sponsored sports clubs, mainly baseball, hockey and bowling teams, was a leading contributor to the projects of

<sup>24</sup> *Perth Courier*, October 27, 1905.

<sup>25</sup> Perth native Robert Farquhar Kellock (1879-1958) was the son of James Francis Kellock (1851-1942). He owned a drug store at 77 Foster Street from 1899 until 1905 when it was purchased and closed by William Shaw Robertson (1865-1940) at the same time Robertson purchased the drug store of his son, Robert Farquhar Kellock (1879-1958), at 43 Gore Street East. Although inadequately documented, after selling his drug store Robert Farquhar Kellock appears to have briefly worked for H. K. Wampole & Co. at Winnipeg and Toronto, and later operated a drug store at Cornwall and worked at Toronto as an insurance agent.

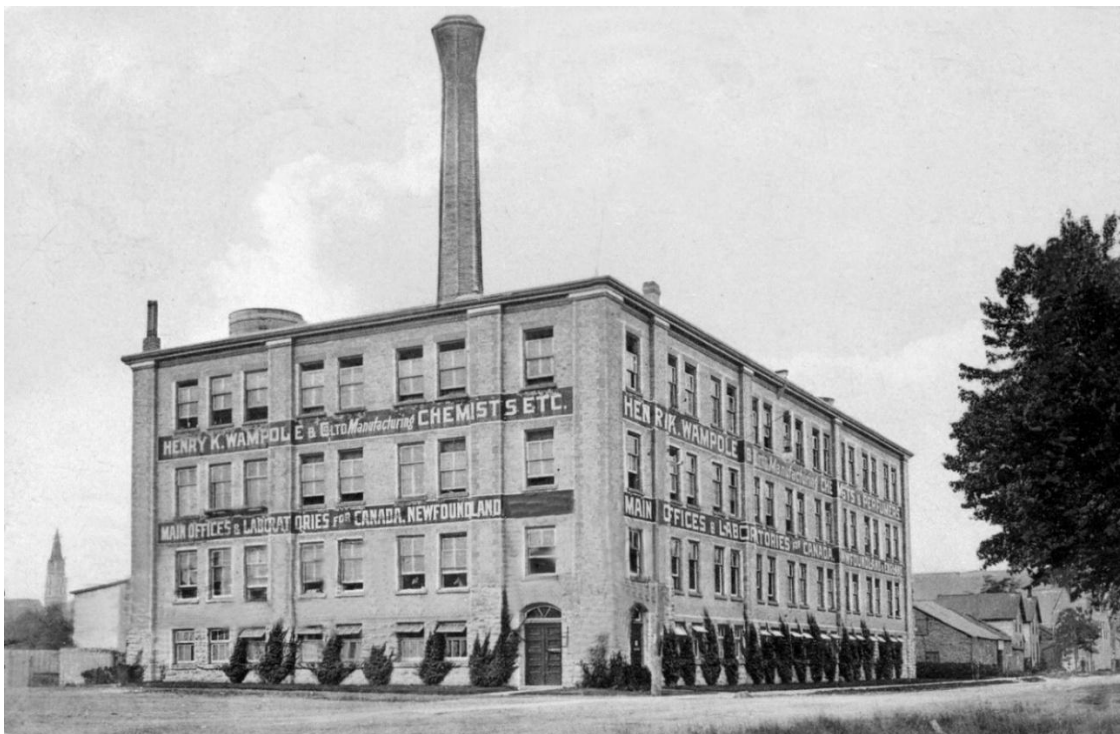
<sup>26</sup> *Perth Courier*, November 10, 1905.



local service clubs and Red Cross funding drives, an inaugural and regular donor to the Great War Memorial Hospital and supported of a wide range of other local causes and events.

In the first week of December 1905, just six months after passage of the bonus bylaw, the *Perth Courier* announced that “the tall chimney at the Wampole Factory is smoking and steam is up”.<sup>27</sup> A week later Wampole Manager Henry Brick cabled from Toronto:

*Freight all loaded on 25 cars. Will leave tonight at seven o'clock. Employees leave on special train tomorrow morning [Friday December 15<sup>th</sup>] at nine o'clock. Will arrive in Perth about two o'clock”.<sup>28</sup>*



*The Henry K. Wampole plant at the corner of Sherbrooke and Herriot Street, Perth, Ontario.*

The Wampole special, carrying 87 male employees “besides the female help”<sup>29</sup>, adding about 250 people to the population of Perth, was welcomed at the station by a delegation of prominent citizen led by Mayor Foy. Two days later the 20-strong Canada-wide Wampole sales team arrived by special car for its annual consultations.

On December 22 1905, Wampole Manager Henry Brick tendered a banquet at the Hick’s House Hotel for his male employees<sup>30</sup> as an expression of his appreciation for their efforts in so quickly and efficiently accomplishing the move from Toronto. Including a delegation of Perth’s leading businessmen and political figures, more than 100 men enjoyed a multi course repast “that

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<sup>27</sup> *Perth Courier*, December 8, 1905.

<sup>28</sup> *Perth Courier*, December 14, 1905.

<sup>29</sup> *Perth Courier*, December 8, 1905.

<sup>30</sup> In his remarks at the dinner Brick expressed regret “that he could not have the girls present [but] there simply was not room [but he would] give them a little spread, for they have worked just as hard as the boys” – *Perth Courier*, December 29, 1905.

*embraced all the toothsome delicacies in season". During the dinner "a gramophone in the charge of Fred Brick played popular airs"*<sup>31</sup> and following mutually back-slapping speeches by representatives of Wampole and the town, as the guests smoked their cigars, Fred Brick entertained with a slight-of-hand magic show. Magician Frederick Leon Brick (1864-1940) was a Wampole travelling salesman and Henry Brick's brother.

The move from Toronto interrupted production for less than a month and by early January 1906 the H. K. Wampole & Co. laboratory and factory at Perth was in full operation.

### Henry Brick Absconds

Six months later, on June 30, 1906, H. K. Wampole & Co. General Manager Henry Walter Brick, and a significant sum of company money, disappeared. Perth was cast into a state of stunned disbelief.

*H. W. Brick is missing and has decamped. The announcement came as a great shock not only to the town but to a large section of the business community of the province. He was a prominent man in Toronto before he came here. He was one of the last men one would look to do the thing he has done. Mr. Brick's disappearance naturally caused a sensation as he was prominent in local matters since his removal to Perth about the first of this year. Enquiries were made today at the company's laboratories, and the information given was that Mr. Brick was 'no longer in the employ of Henry K. Wampole & Co. in any capacity'.*



*Henry Walter Brick (1869-1933)*

*Rumor has it his peculations with the company run near the \$40,000 mark and various estimates are made of his dishonest dealings outside of the company. [He] left here Saturday morning for Toronto to spend Dominion Day. He appears to have left Toronto Saturday afternoon and has not been heard of. His wife and boy were in Toronto at the holiday and when the affair became known came to Perth. Sympathy for her and hers is strong, for in such cases it is the wife and children who suffer.*<sup>32</sup>

To say that Brick's sudden disappearance and subsequent sacking by Wampole "*caused a sensation*" was a gross understatement. With the company declining comment and Brick's whereabouts unknown, the rumor mill ran wild. In barber shops, hotel bars, on street corners and over back-yard fences the man so recently regarded as Perth's economic saviour, admired for his honorable and prompt fulfillment of promises made, was maligned, defamed, cursed and vilified.

It was widely claimed, and believed by most, that Brick had been embezzling Wampole funds from the day he joined the company seven years earlier. It was also said that he had been operating the Canadian business at Toronto and Perth at a loss. As the story made the rounds, the amount said to have been misappropriated grew from \$40,000 to \$140,000.

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<sup>31</sup> *Perth Courier*, December 29, 1905.

<sup>32</sup> *Perth Courier*, July 13, 1906.

It was whispered that the day before his departure Brick had even borrowed \$900 from one of his employees, print shop manager George M. Wheeler, a loss Wheeler could ill afford. Brick was also accused of leaving unpaid accounts with numerous Perth merchants, including a particularly large bill at the Hick's House Hotel. Other stories emerged that Brick lost money dabbling in stocks, engaged in 'unprofitable speculation', bet on horse races and 'ran with women'. It was also alleged that while secretary-treasurer of the Toronto Baseball Club<sup>33</sup> he had stolen \$3,000 of the club's funds.

In the days immediately following Brick's disappearance, the imminent collapse of H. K. Wampole & Co.'s Canadian operation and the shuttering of the Perth factory was generally anticipated. Nevertheless, production carried on, salaries were paid on time and the Wampole baseball team enjoyed a winning season. At the end of August, company partner George R. Wallace arrived from Philadelphia to fill Brick's abandoned post.



Just three weeks after Wallace arrived to steady the company's ship at Perth, however, Perth, Philadelphia, and the wider business world in both Canada and the United States were stunned again. Wampole & Co. founder Henry K. Wampole died by suicide.

*A body taken from the North [Hudson] River at Weehawken [New Jersey] on Thursday was identified Friday as that of Mr. Henry K. Wampole, head of the firm of Henry K. Wampole & Co., manufacturing chemists in Philadelphia, who escaped from his guardians at the New Trenton House, Cortland and Washington Streets [Jersey City] on Saturday night, September 8<sup>th</sup>.*

*Mr. Wampole was suffering from a mental trouble ... [He] left his office suffering from a nervous break-down two weeks ago Wednesday ... it was found necessary to confine him in a sanitarium.*

*The death of Mr. Wampole is one of the sad features of the premeditated villainy of callous and calculating cheats upon his company and friendship.<sup>34</sup>*

While being taken by his physician, Dr. W. S. Shimer, and a nurse from Philadelphia to a sanitarium in the Adirondacks of New York State, Wampole and his escorts had put up at the Jersey City hotel. While the nurse was answering a telephone call in the office, Wampole made his escape and drowned himself in the Hudson River. Quoting, in part, from a "*despatch dated September 10<sup>th</sup> from Philadelphia*" the *Perth Courier* added Wampole's death to the indictment of Henry W. Brick.

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<sup>33</sup> The Toronto Baseball Club was Toronto's first professional team, launching a franchise that became the Maple Leafs, playing in the International League (and its predecessor) continually for 72 years.

<sup>34</sup> *Perth Courier*, September 21, 1906.

*Mr. Wampole's condition is said to have been caused through worry over the disappearance of H. W. Brick ... who absconded with \$40,000 of the firm's money, and the mental worry of Mr. Wampole then became so great that it made a nervous wreck of him. The belief that his partners in the business would think him careless in the management of the firm's affairs caused Mr. Wampole's nervousness.*<sup>35</sup>

The *New York Times* also held Henry Brick responsible for the mental collapse and suicide of Henry K. Wampole.

*... the alleged defalcation of Harry W. Brick, whom he had trained in business in his office, and to whom he had intrusted a duplicate in Canada of his plant here, are said to have brought about the man's condition. The disappearance of this man fell on Wampole like a blow from a hammer.*<sup>36</sup>

Meanwhile, Henry Brick had not been heard of for more than two months, except for an unfounded and erroneous report in the *Hamilton Spectator* of September 26<sup>th</sup> to the effect that detectives in the employ of the Toronto General Trusts Company had arrested him in Japan and were bringing him back to Toronto to stand trial.

The suicide of Henry K. Wampole, combined with the continued absence of Henry Brick, severely shook confidence in Wampole & Co., forcing its executives to publicly address the events of the summer of 1906. In early October, at the Wampole Philadelphia headquarters, the leadership of the Canadian operation, interim General Manager George Wallace and company solicitor John A. Stewart, granted an interview to the *Philadelphia Free Press*. They “asserted that the business was running as smoothly and satisfactorily as before the Brick incident” and when asked about the company’s apparent lack of interest in tracking down Henry Brick, Wallace would say only “that owing to the death of Mr. Wampole we have been too fully occupied looking after the business to follow up the Brick case”.



John A Stewart (1867-1922)

Wallace, Stewart and partners Campbell and Koch were indeed “fully occupied”, trying to clean up the mess left by Henry K. Wampole. The company founder died intestate, leaving only \$80,000 in cash and \$150,000 in life insurance payable to his wife and children. The balance of his affairs were buried in the financial wasteland of a collapsed Ponzi scheme. Between \$500,000 and \$900,000 had been obtained by fraud from note holders, multiple banks, and his own companies.

*By a remarkable system of deception, Henry K. Wampole dragged his company to the very edge of bankruptcy, realized nearly \$750,000 on notes, and by other means robbed his business partners of at least \$500,000. He left papers representing several hundred thousand dollars in about 60 banks of this city and State, and some in New Jersey.*

<sup>35</sup> *Perth Courier*, September 14, 1906.

<sup>36</sup> *New York Times*, September 15, 1906.



*... Wampole made false statements of the financial standing of his company. Upon the strength of these statements, note brokers [found] a ready market for his paper. Two other concerns upon which Wampole's notes obtained money, are the Philadelphia Thread Company and the Irving Drug Company.*

*He would obtain money on one note to renew older ones, which were maturing. But the money market was tight at that time, and he had difficulty in obtaining the amounts which he desired so he swore to false statements.*

*George R. Wallace admitted that that firm had lost \$500,000 but said it would be able to pay every debt which Wampole had saddled upon it. The salvation of the concern is now in sight, it is believed; although the liabilities direct and contingent, are about \$900,000, its assets are said to be more than enough to meet all demands.*

*The most interested decided that a new company should be organized and application was made for a corporation charter. The capital of \$1,000,000 will be divided into one-half common and one half preferred stock.<sup>37</sup>*

No one seemed to know what Wampole had done with the missing money. His business partners and family all professed complete ignorance, all agreeing that he never speculated in stocks, never gambled and did not live extravagantly.

The company reorganization mentioned in the *Philadelphia Inquirer* story above created two new companies.



**Harry S. Wampole (1878-1921)**

In the United States, the wreckage of the Philadelphia company was pulled together by Henry K. Wampole's sons, Harry S. (1878-1921) and Albert K. (1887-1951), and reincorporated as the Harry S. Wampole Co. with headquarters and production facilities at Baltimore, Maryland.<sup>38</sup>

At the same time an independent Canadian entity was created. With capitalization of \$500,000, it would operate under the name of Henry K. Wampole & Co. Ltd., with headquarters at Perth, Ontario, and hold all rights to the Wampole name and product line in Canada and Newfoundland. Its corporate principals were Samuel Ross Campbell and Albert J. Koch, surviving partners of the old firm; John A. Stewart of Perth; George Burn (1847-1932), General Manager of the Bank of Ottawa<sup>39</sup>; and William Edward Danner (1860-1934) who replaced George R. Marshall as General Manager. Campbell was President and Stewart, Secretary-Treasurer.

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<sup>37</sup> *Philadelphia Inquirer*, October 19, 1906.

<sup>38</sup> In the 1920s the Harry S. Wampole Co. attempted to market its products in Canada under the name Wampole but in December 1924 a ruling of the Exchequer Court at Ottawa confirmed the Perth company's exclusive rights in Canada.

<sup>39</sup> Later Sir George Burn, President of the Canadian Bankers Association.

The Canadian company moved to recover what little it could from the absent Henry Brick. Lanark County Sheriff William McGarry (1833-1910) managed to seize a few of Brick's assets and in November 1906 auctioneer Thomas J. Devlin (1864-1937) realized \$100 from the sale of eight sets of his books. At about the same time Danner and Stewart persuaded Catherine Elizabeth Brick to surrender ownership of the home the Bricks were building on Drummond Street.<sup>40</sup> About six weeks before his disappearance, Henry Brick transferred title to the property to his wife, but it was encumbered by a mortgage and of little value to the creditors.

### Henry Brick Returns

In mid-February 1907, after an absence of more than seven months, Henry W. Brick suddenly resurfaced in Toronto. Loudly proclaiming his innocence, Brick declared the accusations of malfeasance against him, "*cruelly and atrociously false*". He told the press he was prepared to prove that he "*never misappropriated one dollar belonging to the Wampole Co., or to anyone else*".<sup>41</sup> Explaining his lengthy absence, he told the Toronto press that when he left Toronto at the end of June 1906, he had gone

*... to the Western States, where he had an attack of brain fever. He spent several months in a California hospital and for some time the doctors despaired of his recovery. He left the sanitarium a mental wreck, his condition bordering on softening of the brain and he has only recently been able to return to vindicate his good name.*<sup>42</sup>

Assuming there was an outstanding warrant for his arrest, Brick and his lawyer William Douglas promptly presented themselves at the office of Toronto Crown Attorney John W. S. Corley (1866-1932) but Corley told them he knew nothing of the matter. When the Provincial Detective's office confirmed there was no warrant, Brick moved on to the office of Deputy Attorney General John Robison Cartwright (1842-1919) at the Provincial Parliament buildings. Cartwright further assured Brick there was no record of a warrant, adding that if a theft took place at Perth "*the Perth authorities will be the first to move in the matter, if necessary*".<sup>43</sup>

When word reached Perth on February 15<sup>th</sup> that Brick had surfaced in Toronto, Wampole Co. Ltd. Secretary-Treasurer and solicitor John A. Stewart finally "*moved in the matter*" and secured an arrest warrant. Local Police Chief Morley D. White (1878-1918) then promptly sent a cable to Toronto Police Chief Henry James Grasett (1847-1930) requesting Brick's arrest and boarded the noon train. That evening, Brick was detained at the home of his brother, Frederick Leon Brick (1864-1940)<sup>44</sup> and the following day, he was back in Perth in the custody of Chief White.

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<sup>40</sup> Henry Brick would later claim his wife was 'tricked' into surrendering title.

<sup>41</sup> *Vancouver Daily World*, February 21, 1907.

<sup>42</sup> *Ibid.*

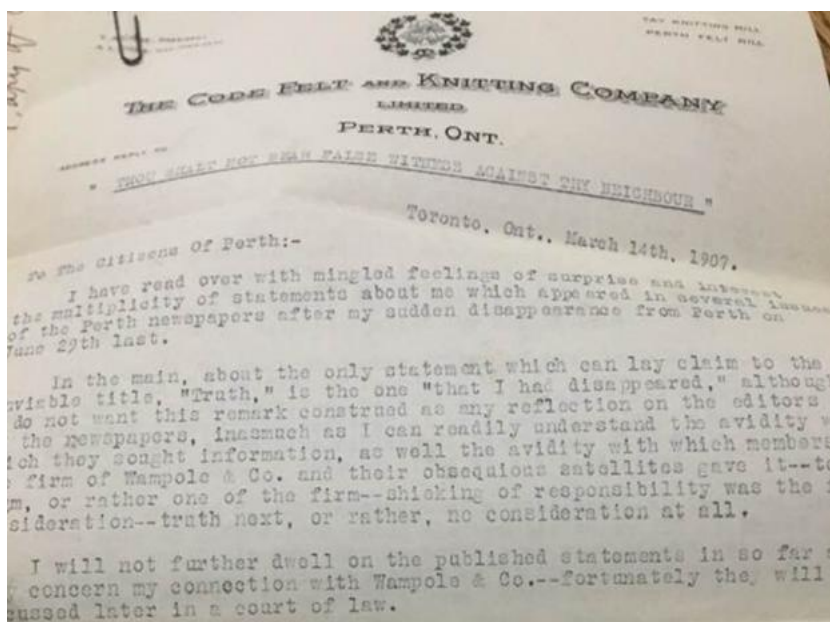
<sup>43</sup> *Perth Courier* February 15, 1907.

<sup>44</sup> A report of the arrest appearing in the *Toronto Star* edition of February 15, 1907, identifies his brother as F. S. Brick, but that is taken to be an error or typo. Henry Brick's only known brother was Frederick Leon Brick (1864-1929) who in 1907 was working as a Wampole travelling salesman. Frederick L. Brick first appears in the story when he staged an hour-long magic show at the December 1905 appreciation dinner at Perth. A later news item in the *Perth Courier* (June 5, 1908) mentions that Frederick Brick was "*preparing to go on the American stage as a magician*". However, he appears in the 1911 Canadian census as the manager of a

The charge preferred against Brick was a single count of theft relating to one \$3,875 cheque. He promptly waived his right of examination, consented to being committed for trial, was released on bail and returned to Toronto. From Toronto he issued a denial of all accusations against him in the form of a five-page typewritten letter datelined, "*Toronto, March 14, 1907*" and addressed to "*The Citizens of Perth*".

Brick swore that "*No individual ever entered a community with more desire to help than I did on taking up my residence in Perth [but that] no man was ever more unjustly or atrociously maligned*". Since his return to Toronto, he said, he had been "*gathering evidence to clear up the words the gossipers are spreading through the town of Perth*".

Brick's letter railed against Wampole executive William Danner, bookkeeper Thomas James Maher (1883-1937), Dr. Thomas William Beeman (1859-1920)<sup>45</sup>, Perth's newspaper editors, and an unnamed collective of other false accusers. Addressing Danner's comment that he would have to answer for the insanity and subsequent death of Henry K. Wampole, Brick assured him his "... *conscience was in no way troubled over [H. K.] Wampole's demise*".



Brick wrote that he "*did not leave Perth borrowing or attempting to borrow \$50, \$100 dollars or a million dollars*", nor did he "*leave town without paying my honest debts*". He swore that he "*did not dabble in stocks, place horse race bets or run with women and did not lose lots of money on poker games but did lose a small stake with friends in a private game*". He also said that he "*did not deceive or fool the people of Perth ... did not speak badly or gossip about the people of Perth [and] never took advantage or fooled any citizen or firm in Perth*". He also denied that over \$3,000 went missing from the Toronto Baseball Club accounts when he was its treasurer.

*Excerpt from the first page of Henry Brick's letter of March 15, 1907 to the 'Citizens of Perth', typed on the letterhead of the Code Felt and Knitting Co. (Courtesy Linda Seccaspina collection)*

The only hint in the March 1907 letter that may have alluded to a reason for his mysterious disappearance the previous June, was a single cryptic sentence: "*Suddenly a crash came, and I went away as per an arrangement with the late Henry K. Wampole*".

moving picture theatre in Toronto and in the 1920 U.S. Federal Census living in Stamford, Connecticut, where he worked in a furniture factory.

<sup>45</sup> Beeman was a Perth doctor who had been retained by Brick, on a part-time basis, in March 1906 "*to prosecute research work in therapeutics and pharmacy*" at Wampole. Brick was incensed by the allegedly insulting manner in which Beeman had treated his wife while she lived at the Hick's House Hotel during much of the time Brick was 'missing'.

In conclusion he wrote, *“To those citizens of Perth whose continued friendship to me has been and is an inspiration<sup>46</sup>, I can but return the thanks of a crushed and bleeding heart. To the others my advice is to purchase a tract or some authoritative essay on the commandment ‘Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor’.*

A month later, on April 19, 1907, Wampole & Co. filed additional charges against Brick covering another 176 counts of theft totalling \$143,911.20. Perth Police Magistrate Henry Taylor (1845-1926) immediately scheduled an investigative (preliminary) hearing for April 23<sup>rd</sup>.

When Police Court convened at about 11:00 a.m. that Tuesday morning the *“courtroom was filled with interested spectators”*. Over the course of a long day, John A. Stewart, appearing for Wampole & Co., Crown Attorney Edward George Malloch (1842-1915), and Toronto lawyers J. E. Jones and William Douglas representing Brick, examined mounds of documentation and nearly a dozen witnesses, many of them having made the trip from Toronto. The hearing did not go the way Wampole & Co. and most people in Perth had anticipated.

*The evidence adduced was pretty dry, dealing with cheques which were intermingled and dovetailed. However, it was clearly shown that a system of high finance was practiced last May and June by the accused. Cheques were made out in favor of Toronto parties by Wampole & Co. per Brick. These parties were instructed by Brick to hand proceeds over to their [Wampole’s] Toronto agent, C. A. Leitch. Leitch got his instructions from Brick and put the money to Brick’s credit in the Toronto banks. It was then charged out by Brick to H. K. Wampole & Co., Philadelphia.<sup>47</sup>*

It was shown that cheques from Wampole & Co. customers paying their accounts, and from other sources, were endorsed by Brick in his capacity as Wampole General Manager and deposited in accounts held in Brick’s name at a number of different banks, without having been posted through the Wampole Perth accounts. Other cheques endorsed by Brick, without passing through the accounts of Wampole & Co., Perth, were credited directly to Philadelphia bank accounts held by Henry K. Wampole, Wampole & Co., the Philadelphia Thread Company, the Irving Drug Company, and Falcon Press, all companies owned by Henry K. Wampole. As the hearing proceeded, however, Brick’s legal team responded with documentation, witness testimony and other evidence showing that the value of each allegedly misappropriated cheque or transaction could be matched with a payment from Brick to Henry K. Wampole or one of his companies. None of the missing funds could be traced to the benefit of Henry W. Brick. Even Wampole print shop manager George M. Wheeler testified that, all reports to the contrary, Brick had never borrowed, nor asked to borrow, \$900 or any other amount of money from him.

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<sup>46</sup> No Brick supporters or defenders are named in the letter, or in any of the extensive news coverage of the Brick-Wampole affair. That Brick’s letter of March 14, 1907, is on the letterhead of the Code Felt and Knitting Company Ltd. of Perth, may however be a clue, or is at least curious. The Perth Felt Mill and the Tay Knitting Mill were owned by Thomas Alfred Code (1854-1937), President, and Allan Leslie Code (1896-1958), Vice President -- father and son. Thomas Code was also a town councilor for 15 years and served as Perth Mayor 1889-1890. In 1907 few businessmen (or other men) could type, so the letter might have been hand-written at Toronto and then typed later by a secretary at the Perth Felt Mill (on company letterhead). Were the Codes among the few whose *“continued friendship [was] an inspiration* to Brick? Or is the Code letterhead document only a copy of the original Brick letter?

<sup>47</sup> *Perth Courier*, April 26, 1907.



The core of Brick's defense, supported by the documentary evidence produced, was that he acted according to the instructions of Henry K. Wampole. By late afternoon the prosecution's case against Brick was in tatters. Magistrate Taylor adjourned the hearing for eight days to allow the prosecution time to consult Wampole & Co., headquarters, *"to ascertain whether the Philadelphia members desire to offer refutation of Mr. Brick's explanation of various matters"*.<sup>48</sup>

Philadelphia headquarters could not, or at least did not, offer any refutation of Brick's evidence. A month later the *Philadelphia Inquirer* reported,

*Perth, June 20 – Wampole Withdraws All Charges Against Former Manager - Mr. W. H. Brick, former manager of H. K. Wimpole & Co., manufacturing chemists, here, who has been charged with the misappropriation of large sums of money belonging to the said firm, appeared before his Honor Judge Senkler<sup>49</sup> today and was acquitted.*

At the hearing before Judge Senkler that morning, Crown Attorney Malloch and Wampole attorney Stewart told the court that *"all matters in dispute between the parties had been satisfactorily accounted for by Mr. Brick, and they would offer no evidence on behalf of the Crown in the matter"*.<sup>50</sup> Stewart refused to make any statement to the press, other than that the withdrawal of charges were in pursuance of an agreement between the Wampole Co. and Mr. Brick. So, the case against Henry W. Brick ended not with a bang, but a whimper.

As all the charges against Brick were withdrawn, the agreement was not introduced in Court and was never made public. Thus, many questions went publicly unanswered. It seems to have been proven beyond reasonable doubt, however, that Brick did not himself benefit from any funds stolen from Wampole & Co. or anyone else. Nevertheless, large sums of Wampole & Co. money were clearly misappropriated (and disappeared). The ultimate 'beneficiary' of this malfeasance was Henry K. Wampole, but at the very least Brick was an enabler or, more accurately perhaps, a co-conspirator. That puzzling sentence in his March 14<sup>th</sup> letter probably spoke to such a conspiracy: *"I went away as per an arrangement with the late Henry K. Wampole"*.

Brick's 'Nuremberg defense' of misplaced loyalty, that he was only following orders, hardly absolves him of very questionable conduct (and his transfer of the title of his house to his wife was never explained) but in the final analysis there was no evidence that he was the thief everyone believed him to be.

Henry W. Brick left Perth a free man and was next heard from in July when a number of local citizens received a prospectus for the Dominion Pharmacal Company Ltd. With an approved capitalization of \$100,000, its directors were Henry W. Brick (Toronto), President; H. W. Smith (Niagara Falls), Vice-President; James Francis Kellock (Perth)<sup>51</sup>, Secretary-Treasurer; R. H. Walton and J. W. Houston. Dominion Pharmacal proposed to manufacture *"many of the medicines in daily use by physicians, druggists and dentists and a full line of special preparations"*.<sup>52</sup>

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<sup>48</sup> *Perth Courier*, April 26, 1907.

<sup>49</sup> William Stevens Senkler (1838-1920), Lanark County Judge 1873-1914.

<sup>50</sup> *Perth Courier*, June 28, 1907.

<sup>51</sup> James Francis Kellock (1851-1942), former Perth Druggist and Wampole & Co. employee.

<sup>52</sup> *Kingston Weekly British Whig*, July 18, 1907.

If the *Perth Courier* can be taken as any indication, between April and July Perth seems to have reconsidered its condemnation of Henry Brick. In July 1906 the local newspaper had attacked Brick for his “dishonest dealings, speculations [and] absconding with \$40,000”, but commenting on the Dominion Pharmacal prospectus of July 1907 opined that “with Mr. Brick as Manager, with his ability and unlimited energy, and Mr. Kellock in charge of the office and finances, the success of the new company should be beyond doubt”<sup>53</sup>



Among Dominion Pharmacal's products was 'Brick's Tasteless Cod Liver Oil', surely a near relative to 'Wampole Tasteless Cod Liver Oil' ... “fully advertised in the big daily press and a full stock now on sale at Perth”.<sup>54</sup> One such ad explained that

*In Brick's Tasteless the grease is eliminated. It presents the valuable principles of Cod Liver Oil in a palatable form, combined with phosphorous in the form of the Compound Syrup of Hypophosphites, the nutritious Liquid Extract of Malt and the Bronchial Tonic and Sedative Fluid Extract of Wild Cherry Bark.*

The Dominion Pharmacal Company, however, never gained traction and was liquidated<sup>55</sup> just six months later (January 1908), reportedly “due to the extravagance of the late management”.<sup>56</sup>

Brick left Canada shortly after the collapse of Dominion Pharmacal, moving to Dallas, Texas, where he worked as a salesman for a paint company. By 1915 he was living in Brooklyn, New York, employed as the sales manager of a perfumery. Within a few years Brick moved to Rochester, New York, where he appears in the 1918 city directory as a ‘chemist’. His wife, Catherine Kelty-Brick died in 1925 and in 1929 he was remarried to Gladys Ruth Poulan (1889-1972). Henry Walter Brick died, aged 64, at Cleveland, Ohio, on June 1, 1933 and was buried at Livonia, Livingston County, New York.<sup>57</sup>

<sup>53</sup> *Perth Courier*, July 5, 1907.

<sup>54</sup> *Perth Courier*, October 11, 1907.

<sup>55</sup> Although a company operating under the name Dominion Pharmacal, located in Montreal, still produces pharmaceuticals today (2025).

<sup>56</sup> *Perth Courier*, January 17, 1908.

<sup>57</sup> 30 miles south of Rochester.

## The Danner Years

William Edward Danner Sr., a founding partner of Henry K. Wampole & Co. Ltd. in Canada, became managing director at Perth in 1906. Under Danner and his inheritors, the business went from strength to strength.

In 1912 Wampole & Co. Ltd. formed a joint venture with the Andrew Jergens Company of Cincinnati, Ohio, creating the Canadian firm Andrew Jergens Co. Ltd., to manufacture soap, skin preparations and cosmetics at Perth. A large two-storey plant was built at the corner of Herriott and Sherbrooke Streets adjoining the Wampole facility. In 1939, as production expanded, three floors were added.<sup>58</sup>

Wampole expanded its own factory in 1916 with a new three-storey brick building (116 ft X 60 ft) east of its main building and a smaller warehouse (60 ft X 100 ft) on the same property. In 1931 a one-storey brick annex was built to better accommodate the company's box factory.<sup>59</sup>

Over the years, the Wampole plant at Perth, the company's sole production facility, turned out a wide range of patent medicines and other health related products: Cod Liver Oil, Formoloid Antiseptic Solution, Formoloid Magnesia, Milk of Magnesia, Woodbury's Dental Cream, Formoloid Tooth Paste, Creo-Terpin Compound, Tonga Salicylatus, Beef Iron & Wine, Renaltone, Hypophosphites Compound, Syrup White Pine Compound, Aromatic Cascara, Borophlogine, Hydrogen Peroxide, Bismuth Hydrate, Maltese Cough Drops, Wampole Cough Drops, After Dinner Mints, Horehouse Drops, Mixed Fruit Tablets, Peppermint Lozenges, and more.<sup>60</sup>

In addition to cosmetics produced by the Jergen's operation, Wampole itself produced, Woodbury's Facial Cream, Almond Lotion, Camphor Ice, Vanishing Cream and Witch Hazel Cream.

The Herriot Street factory complex (excepting the Jergens building) was mostly demolished in 1963 when the Company moved to a modern manufacturing facility on Dufferin Street (Highway-7).<sup>61</sup> Two of the early buildings have survived, however, as part of the Herriott Street Business Court Complex, housing stores, offices and apartments. The main building of the complex was formerly the 1916 warehouse while the smaller annex was the 1931 box factory.

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<sup>58</sup> In 1988 KOA Corporation of America and Japan bought the plant, but in 1993 sold it to the Perth Soap Company (Shandex), manufacturer of private label products. Shandex closed in 2023.

<sup>59</sup> Surviving as part of the Herriott Street Business Court Complex. The main building of the complex is a former Wampole warehouse now housing stores, offices and apartments. The single-story brick annex was the Wampole box factory.

<sup>60</sup> Over the first decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century one of the company's products was 'Wampole's Vaginal Cones – Anodyne Astringent Deodorant'. Each 10-gram cone of these vaginal suppositories contained one gram of picric acid (not itemized on the packaging), an element that could serve as an effective spermicide. (Picric Acid is a toxic compound used as an explosive during World War I.)

<sup>61</sup> The Wampole plant on Dufferin Street (Highway-7), opposite the Perth Mews Mall, was demolished in 2014 and the site is now (2025) occupied by a General Motors dealership.

In 1913, William Edward Danner Sr. and John A. Stewart bought out their partners, Campbell, Koch and Burn. Following Stewart's death in 1922 Danner acquired his shares and Wampole became a family-owned enterprise.<sup>62</sup> For nearly two decades following his death in 1934, management of the company was in the hands of a trust. In 1952, however, his grandson William Edward Danner Jr. (1928-2020), at age 24, took over responsibility for running the family business.<sup>63</sup> He invested heavily in modern equipment, updated management practices and, in 1962, built the new plant on Dufferin Street. In 1980 he also opened a Wampole office in Toronto.



*William Edward Danner Jr. (1928-2020)*

In 1991 Wampole & Co. Ltd. was sold to the French company Rhone Poulenc Roer and in 1994 the business was moved to Montreal. Wampole is now a division of JAMP Pharma producing a wide range of vitamins and supplements to meet everyday needs.

- *Ron W. Shaw, with research assistance from Linda Seccaspina (2025)*

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<sup>62</sup> William Edward Danner Sr. was born in Pennsylvania in 1860. He married Mary Alice Snodgrass (1867-1951) in 1885, and they had five children – Elsie (1883-1959), Milvin (b.1884), Elsie (b.1889), Harry (1890-1969), and Edward Leslie (1902-1954). W. E. Danner died at Perth in 1934.

<sup>63</sup> William Edward Danner Jr. was born at Perth in 1928, the son of Edward Leslie Danner (1902-1954) and Harriet Helen McNeely (1900-1975) and grandson of William Edward Danner Sr. (1860-1934). He married Doreen V. A. Waite (1944-2016) and became stepfather to Christine O'Donohue. He died at Perth in 2020.