

5 – Mr. Drysdale and Mr. Bonthron



Historic HENSALL



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Two families whose names are linked in the history of Hensall businesses are those of Drysdale and Bonthron. Robert Bonthron came to Hensall from Rodgerville in 1876 and was the village's first merchant. In 1914 Robert's son Jim and Mark Drysdale would open a hardware, plumbing, heating and furniture business, on the north side of King Street. Mr. Bonthron would also work as an assistant to the village's first undertaker.

In 1942, each family would expand their respective interests and the businesses would diverge. The Drysdale's, Mark, his wife Ella and their sons Robert and John had a thriving hardware, plumbing and heating business that also offered appliances, china, crystal and giftware. The Drysdale sons would open a large appliance business on the south side of King in 1980.

Jim Bonthron and his son Harold would have a successful furniture business and both the Drysdale and Bonthron enterprises would draw customers from a wide area offering people a valid alternative to going to the bigger centres.

Jim, Harold and Harold's son Bevan would train as undertakers and funerals would be held in a room at the Bonthron home with a funeral chapel being built beside the furniture store eventually.

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