

Elmira on the 22nd of February 1853. On this day there was born a child to Mr. and Mrs. Henry Martin. The child was named Clara and is now wife of Mr. Sebastian Schwalm, of Guelph. Mr. and Mrs. Martin are at present living at Glenallan, Ont.

The first white child born in Elmira was Mr. Walter Bristow, whose birth occurred in a small log house, which stood where now stands the exhibition building of the Woolwich Agricultural Society, Mr. Bristow now lives near Spruce Grove, Alberta. Mrs. John Stork, of Elmira, is the oldest person yet living at Elmira, who was born here.

The first house built in Elmira, was a small frame building which still stands in the rear of Dunke's block, serving as a ware-house,



The Oldest Dwelling House in Elmira.

ed a business centre and this Elmira soon commenced to be. The influx of residents was greater than the dwelling accommodation and a series of brick buildings were rapidly erected. Amongst these were St. Paul's Lutheran parsonage, Mrs. Koerber's, Mr. Conrad Hahn's residences and the Ontario House. The brick used in the erection of these were manufactured by Mr. John Ruppel. Mechanics and tradesmen made their appearance and soon the young town grew and earned the name which we thus late give it - "Enterprising Elmira." It easily outdistanced its competitors in becoming the centre of attraction for the settlers of a large tract of country, whose success at farming had created a demand for a market for their produce as well as an opening for mercantile enterprise. Elmira became an important centre for the traffic which the increasing settlers' trade demanded. Tired horses with mud laden wagons brought in the supplies from Dundas, Hamilton, Preston and later Berlin. Messrs. Winger & Weaver - Peter Winger and Samuel Weaver - commenced business as merchants and later as woollen manufacturers. Mr. Isaac Wenger, a tailor, formed a partnership with Mr. John Ruppel. They erected the Elmira House, now remodelled and known as Dunke's Block and did a large business there. Later they dissolved partnership and each carried on business for himself. Mr. Wenger in the old stand and Mr. Ruppel in a frame building that stood where now the post office is situated. The Woollen factory did a large trade, and added a "mulley" saw to its machinery. The Elmira Flouring Mills were erected and the village enjoyed a steady growth. A sash and door factory was started by Mr. Hiram Martin and two asheries were in operation. Mr. Wm. Wachsmuth, Mr. Jas. Nicol, Mr. Joshua Bowman and others came and start-

while the oldest house, yet serving for a dwelling, stands opposite the O'Donnell House and is occupied by Mrs. D. C. Luckhardt.

The oldest brick house was erected in 1856. It now belongs to Mr. John R. Ruppel, whose father, Mr. Casper Ruppel, built it.



Residence of John R. Ruppel.

It is still well preserved and attractive in appearance.

At the beginning of the last half of the 19th century Elmira began to experience a decided improvement. The number of inhabitants increased. There came the Ruppels, John, Casper and Charles, Geo. Baetz, Adam and Charles Klinek, Chr. Welmes, John D. Reising, A. Jennings, Nicolas Weitzel and many others.

The opening country surrounding, demand-



Postmaster J. Ruppel, a resident for 50 years.



Charles Klinek, Forty-nine years a resident of Elmira.