

## Enterprising Elmira.

### The Village of Elmira.

**E**LMIRA as known to-day and as depicted in this book, leaves few traces of the fine hardwood forests and verdant cedar swamps, which, less than three quarters of a century ago, together with the hills and valleys, the brooks, streams and ponds, served to make up the natural landscape. The axe of the pioneer woodman and its seething ally, the kindled fire, have long overthrown and devoured the giants of the forest which stood on the spot where this fine village now stands. Odd specimens of these fine trees, are still to be found amongst the wooded reserves, which prudent farmers have spared, although the bulk of what we now are pleased to designate woods, is made up of smaller trees which in the young days of Elmira were but striplings.

To-day these few woods or groves, which are still to be found within the bounds of the village corporation, although comparatively naked and tame, are beauty spots which should be reverently held from destruction.

True, there are, within easy distance, more pretentious woods which have yielded less to the influence of civilization, and these lend a beauty to the landscape, which is admired by all. These woods are the one thing, above all others, that stamps the district surrounding Elmira, as the domicile of a thrifty, careful, thoughtful people, who, although they have fine houses, large barns, excellent stables, good fences, herds of cattle, stalls of horses and flocks of sheep and swine to testify to their standing within the front ranks of the best agriculturists in the world, have not allowed their greed to totally rob the future of its natural beauty and their progeny of building and burning material.

Amongst these plots of forest and their denuded counter plots, there settled early in the past century, a number of those hardy, sinewy, rough and ready pioneers who, as it were, knocked off the the rough corners of savagery and opened the paths of the wilderness to civilization.

Amongst these were the Mackies, the Halfpennys, Mr. Gas, the Seatons, the Bristows, the Isenhouers, Mr. Streeter, the Kemings, the Thompsons, the Thomases, the Johnsons, the Gurlings, Mr. Peterson, Mr. Ed. Bayne, the Walkers, Mr. Sauder, Jonas Winger, and others. Most of these were either English or Irish. Amongst the first Germans, who came to this neighborhood were the Oswalds, the Esches, the Stofflers, the Treisingers, the Brauns and Shudewitzes. This was late in the former half and early in the latter half of the nineteenth century.

The "blazed" pathways had already given way to a cleared highway, which had been extended from Preston and Hespeler (New Hope) through Berlin and Waterloo, to the northern part of the Township of Woolwich, up towards Arthur. Crossing this, running east and west, was another road. This, afterwards, became the Guelph-Elmira gravel road - subsidized by the Government, graded and gravelled so thoroughly that it still holds its reputation as one of the best gravel roads in the country.

In these early times, certainly, it was different. By aid of corduroy logging, brush wood heaps, improvised bridges and a wonderful amount of patience and endurance, it was possible to transport the products of the soil, sent as they were, southward to Preston and Hespeler, even to Dundas and Hamilton, there to be transported further by rail or boat, and to bring back the stern necessities and the scanty luxuries of a primitive existence.

It was then Bristow, who farm now of Joseph Ernst, first limit of Elmira open a store, tavern, and a also became his office Bristow's or wich.

A year or post-office ferred to

Hotel, which had been built in the meantime, and which stood under the name of "The Anglo-American Hotel" on the site at present occupied by the Zilliox House, until five years ago, when it, together with the old Union Hotel, was destroyed by fire.

Mr. Christmann who had emigrated from Germany, was a blacksmith by trade and had previously erected a small shop on the spot where now stands the brick smithy of Mr. David Hollinger. He was energetic and enterprising and did a good business. In a long, low frame building, which stood on the site at present occupied by Klinek's Jewelry Store - a portion of this building is still standing on the adjacent lot - Mr. Bristow continued to keep store and Mr. Adam Zilliox kept an Hotel. The embryo Village, which then consisted of this building and one or two others, received a new name. It was named



The Anglo-American Hotel.

that a Mr. lived on the occupied by Mr. on the south- the corpora- undertook to a shoe shop, a potashery, He postmaster, ing known as West Wool-

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