

BUSY ATWOOD.

ITS PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

THE FIRST LOG SHANTY ERECTED BY THE BLAIR FAMILY IN 1864.

REMINISCENCES OF EARLY SCENES IN ELMA CENTRE-NEWRY-GRAND TRUNK RAILWAY OPENED IN 1873-NEWRY STATION-ATWOOD RECEIVES ITS NAME IN 1881-ATWOOD IN 1890, ETC.

TIME works wonders. The onward march of this resistless conqueror has laid waste mighty kingdoms, gorgeous cities, and swept away like a mighty avalanche the work of centuries. Yes, her destructive hand has laid low the once happy, though rude, homes of the early settlers of our fair Canada, and scarcely anything is left to remind the rising generation of the toil, hardships, and privations endured by their forefathers, who, in their unflinching zeal, laborious work and indomitable perseverance felled the towering pine and giant oak, and thus hewed out of these timber homes for themselves and their posterity. And as one's thoughts run back in solemn reverie to those good primitive days and recall the happy memories of youth, when the forests were full of game and the brooks abounded with trout, we wonder, and with sorrowful heart we ask why has the relentless hand of Time obliterated forever those places and scenes around which hang so many fondly cherished hopes and sacred memories? Alas! Time has swept away the work of our fathers and mothers, who were rich in the wisdom of the fields and ripened in the hot suns and rough winds of more than three-score years and ten, and left only the tottering ruins of the old log house here and the cold, silent white stones on yonder hill.

THE FIRST SETTLER. A way back in the fifties, when Elma, the now banner township of Perth county, was the Queen's bush, with scarcely a sound to break the stillness which pervaded the dense forest during the day-time or the deep solitude of the night, save the sweet love songs of the birds, or the howling of hungry wolves in the thicket, one

WILLIAM BLAIR. with his family erected a log shanty upon the plot of ground which James Wilson's brick residence now stands. This was in the year 1864, and at about this period Mr. Blair erected a log tavern on the premises now occupied by R. Graham's hotel. There were no hotels in those days, at least they were not so designated, but were commonly called and known as taverns. The word hotel is a French word and of comparatively recent origin, and applies more to a superior house for the accommodation of strangers, travellers and tourists, while in France it even carries with it a more significant meaning, viz., a palace. But, in by-gone days it was chiefly understood as a place wherein the fatigued pedestrian could find shelter on a cold Canadian winter's night, or the weary settler might gather himself around the old bar-room stove and rest his cold limbs after a hard day's chopping. Generally speaking, the bar-room was the best room in the house, certainly the most frequented.

The Blair family owned the 100 acres upon which the east side of Atwood is now situated. The fifty acres nearest the G. T. R. was the property of John Blair and the other fifty was owned by his brother, W. M. Blair. At this time the toll-gate system was in full swing, one being erected somewhere near the present site of James Ferguson's shoe shop. In fact, his dwelling is the toll house remodelled. However, in 1873 the long tolerated nuisance was abolished and the necessary funds required to keep the roads in repair were raised by way of direct taxation.

IN 1880 NEWRY POST OFFICE WAS INSTITUTED. Previous to the granting of this boon to civilization the settlers received their mail from their far away friends at home through the Frowbridge office. The village at this time was far to be the future town of Listowel. But, upon petition to the Postmaster-General, an office was opened in the residence of Chas. Coulter, father of the well-to-do family still residing in this community. For long years the old gentleman faithfully discharged the duties pertaining to the office, until 1864, when Daniel Falconer, who established the first general store in Newry, in the house now occupied by the worthy Clerk of Elma, Thos. Fullarton, was appointed his successor, and who was for some time both postmaster and store-keeper. In 1873 Young Coulter, son of the veteran postmaster and at present one of Elma's township fathers, was given the keys of Her Majesty's mail, who removed the office into the new store of Alexander & Coulter, where it has since remained. Since 1889 the duties of the office have been discharged with general satisfaction by J. S. Gee. About 1856 Chas. Coulter erected the first and only hotel in the village. The house changed hands frequently down to 1870, when A. H. Wynn, the present obliging landlord, purchased the house and has conducted it up to the present time. Another of those indispensable necessities in a rural district—a blacksmith shop—was put up by John Morrison, sr., who looked after the wants of the public in his line for many years, and then handed the business over to his son and namesake, the present proprietor.

NEWRY CHEESE FACTORY. The dairying interests of the community also received the attention of this enterprising citizen, and he accordingly erected a factory in 1875, and which has been successfully controlled by the family up to the present. This factory has a large patronage and occupies a place amongst the best factories in the Province.

THE GRAND TRUNK RAILWAY.

In 1873 the surveyors drove down the stakes for a railway. The proposed line ran within the limits of the prosperous village of Newry, but for obvious reasons it was subsequently removed half a mile further north, the route the Company finally agreed upon, and in 1877 the first railway locomotive steamed through the township of Elma. The removal of the track half a mile to the north sounded the death knell to the village of Newry, and from the time the first passenger coach glided through this township up to the present hour this historic village has given way stubbornly, but surely, to her northern rival—Atwood—known at this period as Elma Centre and subsequently Newry Station; the latter name was designated by the G. T. R. and the former by the old residents.

This brings us up to the most eventful period in the history of the village.

NEWRY STATION.

The opening of the Grand Trunk Railway and the location of a station necessitated a name being given the same, and with this thought uppermost in the minds of the officials of the Co. Newry Station was accordingly lettered on the signboard over the station house. A petition was gotten up by the villagers and forwarded to the Postoffice Department, much against the wishes of the people of the rival village at the south, and was favorably received by the Postmaster-General, and shortly afterwards letters were passed through and addressed to Newry Station. Donald Gordon was officially appointed postmaster. Everything moved along satisfactorily until the fall of 1881, when the postoffice question again agitated the minds of the people, and many resolved to have the name changed, from the fact that the two villages, Newry and Newry Station, were so closely related to each other, as regards name, that letters were continually going astray. This was not due to any lack of duty, or the result of negligence on the part of Mr. Gordon, but because of the similarity in the names of the two respective places. A meeting was accordingly announced to be held in the old Presbyterian church (they used as both a public school house and the subject fully discussed with the hope that a more suitable name would be suggested and finally adopted. Of course favorite names were settled upon by many of the residents, some of whom having fresh and sacred memories of their old home across the Atlantic naturally desired to christen the new village after their families. However, one evening a young lady, Miss Eliza Gray, was visiting at her uncle's, Wm. Dunn, and as the much debated question was going the rounds of the family circle Miss Gray suggested Atwood as a very pretty name for the village. Mr. Dunn coincided with her, and at the meeting held at the above mentioned place Mr. Dunn after many other motions were put to the meeting, rose and made a motion to the effect that Atwood be unanimously agreed upon as a suitable name to substitute Newry Station. The names, Lady Bank, Dunedin, Renwick, etc. (the latter was suggested in honor of Rev. Root, Renwick, pastor of the Presbyterian church at this period) were pretty fully commented upon by all present, after which Atwood was brought up for consideration, and upon a vote being taken the motion was sustained unanimously. Hence the name, Atwood.

ATWOOD IN 1881.

This was in the year 1881. At this date there was only one frame store, 18x24, in the place, which was situated on the property of the old log hotel and later R. L. Graham's hotel. The business was conducted by Simon Fraser. In 1881 a brick mill was erected by Hill & Boush now the property of Wm. Corrie. Dunn & Wood put up a saw mill in the same year. In 1880 they dissolved partnership, Mr. Dunn having sole control of the business from that date up to the present. General stores were opened by Messrs. Irwin (1875); Carson, (1876); Mader (1877); etc. The first school was opened in the old Presbyterian church, already referred to, in 1875. Miss Radcliffe, teacher. The dilapidated building proved to be unsuitable for further service as a church and that strong and by this time wealthy body resolved to build a new edifice, and as a reward of their thrift in the affairs of secular life and zeal in religious life, the handsome brick structure on the 8th con. Elma, north of the village, was erected in 1877, at a cost of \$7,000. The year following the Baptists felt their need of a comfortable and commodious place of worship and accordingly built a frame church, which is in every respect a credit to the denomination. In 1882 the old Methodist church, erected in 1871, and which stood near the Elma Cheese Co's factory about a mile north of the village, was replaced by a new brick edifice on the corner of John and King streets. An addition of 38 feet will be added shortly to the new building, which is evidence of the rapid growth and increase in numbers of this division of the Church of Christ. The Episcopalians kept pace with the onward march of progress displayed on every side in this newly created place, by putting up a neat frame church on Main street. Corrie's brick hotel was erected in 1878, and R. Graham's was built to replace the one

destroyed by fire in 1885. The hotel destroyed stood on the property now occupied by Wm. Steven's residence and was erected in 1860 by Robinson Hamilton.

ATWOOD IN 1890.

Having faithfully, though necessarily briefly, narrated the striking incidents connected with the past we now come down to the busy scenes of the present.

Atwood is situated in the centre of the township of Elma, county of Perth. It is surrounded by a rich agricultural country, and possesses every modern convenience as regards railway facilities, good market, churches, schools, etc. It claims to have a population of about 700 souls. The fact of its not being incorporated lessens taxation greatly. This is regarded a decided advantage over many neighboring towns and villages, which are over-burdened with heavy corporation debts.

Following is a list of the business men of Atwood:

Donald Gordon, postmaster.
Robert Knox, G. T. R. agent.
Robert Anderson, grain buyer.
Wm. Dunn, Atwood saw and planing mills.
Wm. Corrie, Atwood roller mills.
R. S. Pelton, editor and proprietor of THE BEE.
Robert Morrison, President; Wm. Lochhead, Secretary, Ontario Farmers' Flax Manufacturing Co.
William Lochhead, Secretary, Elma Cheese Co.
James Irwin, general store and tailor shop.
J. Voeger, Elma House.
J. L. Mader, general store.
Lemuel Pelton & Son, Atwood Pump Works.
R. Graham, Pacific Hotel.
J. Klump, butcher.
Jas. Ferguson, shoemaker.
Henry Hoar, blacksmith shop.
Wm. Marshall, Excelsior Painting Co.
E. Hill, butcher.
Wm. Moran, carriage shop.
D. Murray, blacksmith shop.
John Hawkshaw, butcher.
Mrs. Fox, shoemaker.
Mrs. M. Harvey, general store.
Miss Donaldson, dressmaker.
A. Campbell, harness shop.
R. B. Hamilton, bakery.
Mrs. Johnson, fancy goods store.
Miss Hunt, dressmaker.
J. R. Hamilton, M. D.
R. M. Ballantyne, tailor shop.
J. Johnson, watchmaker and jeweller.
J. A. Roe, V. S.
Thos. Fullarton, Clerk of Elma, issuer of marriage licenses, conveyancer, etc.
Wm. Forrest, furniture dealer and undertaker.
Stark & Wherry, tea merchants.
Wm. Thistle, Atwood livery stable.
James Wilson, J. P.
S. H. Harding, Principal of Public School.
R. Brooks & Co., hardware.
Samuel Forrest, drayman.
R. May, repair shop.
J. S. Hamilton, grocery.
Robert Brown, drayman.
Joseph McKoy, stage driver.
Jno. B. Hamilton, President; Jno. Morrison, Secretary, Elma Agricultural Society.
M. E. Neads, Atwood drug store.
C. O. F. R. M. Ballantyne, C. R.

NEW BUILDINGS OF 1890. Building operations have been decidedly brisk during the present year, belying the oft heard predictions of the croakers, (of which every community has a share) that Atwood had reached the top of the tree; that now—and now—and now—each time the prediction was heard—Atwood must begin to go back. The first and perhaps the most important of the new buildings of 1890, is the school house, which was completed in August and which is in keeping with the reputation of the village for enterprise and is a credit to the section. Our space will not permit of any extended description of it or any of the other new buildings, but will have to content ourselves with a list of the owners and the buildings that have been erected, viz.,

The new hardware store erected by John Rogers, on Main street, next the Postoffice, is a very handsome structure of white brick and adds materially to the appearance of the street.
Among the new dwellings erected is a brick house at the north end of the village, by H. Hoar.
Brick dwelling on Main street, by W. R. Erskine.
Brick cottage south of the G. T. R., by Jas. Irwin.
Brick dwelling on Main street, by R. Stevens.
Brick dwelling on Main street, by Geo. Danbrook.
Brick dwelling on Main street, by J. Pelton.
Brick cottage on John street, by Wm. Danbrook.
Frame dwelling, by Wm. H. Wilson.
Frame dwelling, by Jas. Stewart.
Frame dwelling, by Wm. Stewart.
Frame dwelling, by Wm. McNeeland.
Fire Hall.
Butcher shop, by Wm. Hawkshaw.

An last, but not least in size, appearance, nor the benefit it is likely to be to the village is the least, the NEW AGRICULTURAL HALL. For a number of years the site of the Society's grounds was a bone of contention between the rival villages—Newry and Atwood. But in 1889 a compromise was agreed to, and the present site, convenient to both villages, was selected and during the present year the new hall was erected. All parties united to make the fall show, what it has proven to be, the best in the Society's history. The villagers and the farmers are united in an endeavor to make the Elma Agricultural Society second to none in the county. In this respect we might add, that the feeling of animosity between town and country, which characterizes so many localities, has here been almost obliterated; that in joint stock business such as the Flax Co. and in the Agricultural Society they have come to consider that their interests are identical—what helps one cannot but benefit the other. That this mutual good-will may ever continue is the wish of THE BEE.

INDUSTRIES OF ATWOOD.

The two leading factors in the prosperity of a village or town are the amount of business it can draw from the surrounding country and its own industries to give employment to its people. In the first Atwood has been successful beyond many similarly situated villages, while in the latter if we have not come up to the expectations of some of our enthusiasts we are fairly well represented. However, notwithstanding this fact we need more industries if

THE FUTURE OF ATWOOD is to be as bright and progressive as in the past. We would strongly urge upon the people of Atwood and vicinity to immediately inaugurate some practicable scheme whereby we might stand on a better commercial footing with the outside world. We do not purpose suggesting any plan to adopt in this respect, but leave it with those who have the real interests of the place at heart.

THE CHURCHES.

While the commercial interests of our rapidly growing village are represented by the religious and philanthropic institutions of the place are likewise of such a character as to reflect the highest credit on the morality of the community. Good churches and good schools are a sure index of the thrift and enterprise of any people. Education based upon sound moral principles is the safe-guard of society. We are proud to say, among other things, that our people are a church-going people, and the four beautiful edifices in our midst testify to this fact. Following is a list of the officers of each denomination:

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.
Pastor, Rev. A. Henderson, M. A.; Elders, James Dickson, John Bell, Wm. Dunn, Wm. Lochhead, Andrew Laidlaw; S. S. Superintendent, William Dunn.

METHODIST CHURCH.
Pastor, Rev. D. Rogers; S. S. Superintendent, J. W. McBain.

ENGLISH CHURCH.
Incumbent, Rev. E. St. Yates; church wardens, Jas. Longmire and Jas. Irwin; S. S. Superintendent, Jas. Irwin; Lay delegate to Synod, R. K. Hall.

BAPTIST CHURCH.
Pastor, Rev. D. Dack, (Listowel); S. S. Superintendent, Wm. Forrest.

In conclusion we sincerely thank those to whom we applied for information bearing on the subject, we are about concluding, and any errors respecting dates and other technical points that may appear in connection therewith we trust will be overlooked by the critical.

We remain,
Yours faithfully,
THE EDITOR.

BEST OFFER YET!

\$1 SECURES THE BEE FROM NOW TO JAN 1, 1892.

House, Sign, and Ornamental Painting.

The undersigned begs to inform the citizens of Atwood and surrounding country that he is in a position to do all kinds of painting in first-class style, and at lowest rates. All orders entrusted to the same will receive prompt attention.

REFERENCES:—Mr. McBain, Mr. R. Forrest, Mrs. Harvey.

WM. RODDICK, Painter, Brussels.

Goldsmith's Hall



Listowel, - Ont.

Is very busy receiving New Goods for the HOLIDAY Trade, which I can sell very cheap. Having made grand improvements in my store by again enlarging it to handle a larger stock. Come along and see for yourself the grand display of Watches, Clocks and Jewelry. In Silverware don't be surprised to see the finest stock ever seen in Listowel, of American and Canadian manufacture, which I will sell cheaper than ever, and sure to please the most exacting buyer. You are invited to come and look through.

J. H. GUNTHER, Watch Specialist, Goldsmith's Hall, Main St., Listowel. Two Doors East of Post Office.

THOMPSON BROS.,

CORNER STORE, Listowel, - Ont.

Leading Dry Goods House.

MILLINERY-

A SPECIALTY.

Boots and Shoes,

Hats and Caps,

GROCERIES.

TWEEDS AND

Cents Furnishings.

HAWKSHAW'S

Meat Market,

ATWOOD.

The undersigned begs to thank the Public for the liberal patronage accorded him in the past, and solicits a continuance of the same.

A choice stock of

All Kinds of Meats

Kept on hand. Meat delivered to any part of the town Free.

Leave your orders at the Atwood Meat Market, one door north of THE BEE office.

Wm. Hawkshaw.

First - Class

GOODS

At Reasonable Prices

Our stock of Goods for

FALL TRADE

Is Now Complete.

Boots & Shoes.

Ladies and Gents Underwear, Dry Goods and

CROCERIES,

Crockery and Glassware, &c. These goods cannot be beaten for Quality. Examine our stock before purchasing elsewhere.

Mrs. M. Harvey.

H. F. BUCK

Furniture Emporium,

WALLACE STREET,

LISTOWEL.

I wish to intimate to the people of Atwood and vicinity that I have on hand a most complete stock of all lines of Furniture.

BEDROOM SUITES,

SIDEBOARDS,

EXTENSION TABLES,

SPRINGS & MATTRESSES,

AND PARLOR SUITES.

All goods best of their class. I am bound to sell them. Call and get prices.

THE LARGEST STOCK OF

MOULDINGS

For Picture Framing in Town.

UNDERTAKING

A Specialty. Full lines funeral goods always on hand.

1-3m H. F. BUCK, Wallace St.