

This Elias Smith, one of the founders of the town, was the father of John David Smith, the subject of this brief memoir, who was born in New York, in October, 1786. From 1797 to March, 1849, when he died, Mr. Smith was a resident of Port Hope, and was prominent as a business man, and in public life, for thirty or forty years. During most of this period he was a merchant and miller. He was a thorough-going, enterprising man. The writer was acquainted with him during his later years, and knows with what esteem he was regarded by his neighbors for his excellent character, and for what he had done for the town.

Mr. Smith was at one time president of the town board; was a magistrate a long period, and in 1828 was elected to the House of Assembly. He served one term, and parliamentary labors being distasteful to him, he refused to be a candidate for re-election.

EDWARD JACKSON,

HAMILTON.

THIS gentleman, the descendant of an old New England family, was born in Redding, Connecticut, on the 20th of April, 1799. His parents being without wealth, his education at school and as an apprentice was such as would enable him to earn his livelihood. His brilliant social qualities and engaging person rendered him a most agreeable companion, and won for him, while yet without fortune, the heart and hand of a young lady of more than ordinary talent, beauty, and social position, Miss Lydia Ann Sanford, of his native town. They were married in 1826 and at once turned westward to find a home in Niagara, Canada West. Here the loan of a hundred dollars furnished a stock for the commencement of his business, and by the end of the first year of his married life, in the establishment of his commercial character, and in the acquisition of a small capital of his own, he laid the foundations of his future prosperity. As the western peninsula of Ontario was now rapidly filling up with new settlements, he sought a more central point from which to push his trade, first in Ancaster, and finally, in 1830, in the incipient city of Hamilton. Here he gathered around him as apprentices in his trade a number of young men, who, under his careful commercial training, and the moral influences of his Christian home, grew up to be active partners in the extension of his business to various central points in Canada, and even as far west as Chicago. The aggregate wealth accumulated by some five or six of these early apprentices is probably now reckoned by millions, and bears highest testimony to the value of the training they received from their young master.

In 1832 he became a member of the Wesleyan Methodist church, and was appointed to the office of class-leader, which he honorably and efficiently discharged for forty years. In the next twenty-five years, by a life of unostentatious christian integrity and commercial industry, enterprise, and foresight, he won for himself not only a handsome fortune, but also the unusual