



View of Elmira taken between 1900 and 1904

W. J. Wickett, Mel Cook, G. Gardner, Livi Wildfong, Andrew Cryderman, Frank Crawford, Albert Losey, Charles Schuyler, Mel Moore, Horace Billinger, Charles Brown, Aaron Stork, Ernest Pettifor, J. Mills, James Palmer, Hiram Rusnell and Cade Bronson.

There have been many changes in Elmira in the past 100 years -- but one thing doesn't change: each generation. No matter what country the original settlers came from, their descendants, and many others who have come to Elmira since then, are friendly, helpful, fine neighbors and are proud of each other. We don't always agree on everything, but we all agree that we love living in Elmira, in Otsego County, and in Northern Michigan.

Today we have an excellent state highway through Elmira, and the Otsego County Road Commission takes very good care of our streets and roads every day of the year. We have a grade school in Elmira. We have one church, one store, one tavern and a postoffice. We have a rural mail carrier, Walter Cremeans. His father, Jasper Cremeans, when he returned from World War I, was also the rural mail carrier for many years, and in the wintertime sometimes used a team of mules to deliver the mail.

Most Elmirans are not known outside their township, although almost without exception all of us love and respect our neighbors. Some, however, have become well known. M.R. Keyworth was an outstanding teacher. He came to Elmira when he was 17 and taught first in the Rodger School. Then he became superintendent of the Elmira school. He married an Elmira girl, Ora Moore. He was elected State Superintendent of Public Instruction, but was killed in an automobile accident a few days before he was to take

office. Dr. John R. Rodger, an outstanding and well known doctor, grew up in the vicinity of Elmira. His sister, Esca, who also grew up near Elmira, has written a book about Elmira titled "Year of Bitterness."

Elmira has the third largest International Harvester farm equipment dealer in all of Michigan, owned and operated by three generations of the Frank Zaremba family, the first came to Elmira more than half a century ago. Ernest Pettifor, a potato grower, fifty years ago with the help of his family, had a potato exhibit at an international show in Canada and took the Sweepstakes first prize. His son Walter, a veteran of World War I and his wife Mary, live near Elmira. Another family, three sons and the father plus the father and mother and wives and third generation children, working together have a very outstanding dairy farm -- the Darrell and Ethel Fleming family. The Thomas and Joyce Theisen family also have a very fine dairy farm. The Roy Kelso family have a riding stable where many visitors have enjoyed riding horses through the countryside.

Elmira has several very well known seed potato growing families -- Walter and Pauline Burdo and their son Kenneth and his wife Jacqueline, Arthur and Alice Estelle and their son Edwin and his wife Judith, Leo and Ann Makarewicz and family, Casmer and Dorothy Polus and their son Larry and his wife Donna, Joseph and Mary Ciszewski and their family, Louis and Mary Francis and their family.

Many Elmirans have served in World War I, World War II, the Korean and Vietnam Conflicts. They believed, as most of us in this country do, that everyone in this One World has the inalienable right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Our Country will