

**Rochester Lithographing and Printing Company, Columbian Raspberry.
Published in nursery catalogue by E.D. Smith Helderleigh Nurseries, Winona, Ont.
(c.1890) Archives & Special Collections 10th Floor Stacks; FC 3168 W5 Z638 1890**

Researched by Amber Cairns



This beautiful drawing of a lady attending her Columbian Raspberry was taken from a book called *E.D. Smith Helderleigh Nurseries, Winona, Ont.* This item is located in Brock University's Archives & Special Collections (10th Floor-Stacks), FC 3168 W5 Z638 1890. It is filled with colourful images of the fruits and plants grown by E.D. Smith Nurseries.

The Columbian Raspberry was considered the greatest "raspberry in existence." It can grow ten to sixteen feet and handle temperatures as low as negative 28 degrees Celsius. The fruit is often an inch in diameter and three-fourths of an inch in length. It has a mix of dark red and purple colours. In the first season in 1889, there were 48 quarts at the rate of 2,720 quarts to the acre (Thompson, 1-2).

The mild climate of the Niagara Region favours the extensive cultivation of tender fruits and grapes. Near Lake Ontario to the north of Niagara Escarpment is where most of the tender fruit in production is concentrated. Snowfall tends to be light to moderate intensity, bordering a narrow area along Lake Erie and Lake Ontario. (Gayler, 111-112). The light snowfall was great for E.D. Smith Gardens in Winona. The coldest temperatures are in January and the warmest in July, averaging about -4.7 and 21.4 degrees Celsius. (Gayler, 114).

E.D Smith & Sons Limited is a major Canadian food processor famous for its jams, jellies, pie, fillings, and various products. The story begins with Silas Smith, a United Empire Loyalist from

Pennsylvania, who was given a deed of land for 600 acres, 400 on the mountain and 200 below, in Winona in 1792 (Industrial Hamilton, 1).

In 1853, Ernest D'Israeli Smith, the great-grandson of Silas, was born. He was originally going to be an engineer but took an interest in farming like his father. E.D. Smith began growing fruit on a section of the old family farm on the mountain given by his father in 1858. At first, he tested growing small fruits. He grew five acres of raspberries, blackberries, gooseberries, and more. Then he officially started fruit farming on a larger scale, moving to 85 acres. In 1882, frustrated with shippers taking a part of his profit, E.D. Smith began transporting his fruit directly to wholesalers. This marked the beginning of the company, which carries Ernest's name. He soon began buying and shipping other farmer's fruit as well (E.D. Smith and Sons Ltd. 1982, 1).

E.D. Smith took great pride in his fruits and plants. The nurseries and garden guides were designed for the average everyday homeowner and gardener. These books are filled with amazing information about where and how the plants grow, and how to maintain them, which plants are great for weddings, parties and more!

“YOUR HOME is your great source of health and happiness. You Furnish the inside with pleasing charm-the outside is of equal importance. That is why home owners are giving more thought and attention each year to planting of E.D Smith & Sons’ shrubs, Evergreens, Roses, Trees, Berry Bushes, Grape Vines.” (E.D Smith Reference Guide, 1, code: FC 3168 W5 Z638 1944.).

- **E.D Smith**

In the 1890s and early 1900s there was a surplus of fruit. E.D. Smith decided that some of this loss could be avoided by turning surplus fruit into jam. This was when he built a machine in the “Fruit House” on the farm to preserve the fruit. E.D. Smith’s was the first pure jam ever produced in Canada. The family business reached new heights with Armand Armstrong Smith, E.D Smith’s eldest son, establishing the first jam factory. The factory was completed in 1905 and went into full-scale jam production. In 1914, the demand for jam had reached high proportions. E.D. Smith sent Armand to England to establish a factory. However, the British stopped all foodstuffs leaving the British Isles during World War 1. This was a huge burden on the Winona plant, but it didn’t stop them from selling to other areas. (*E.D. Smith & Sons, Limited*, 1882- 1972, 1, code: FC 3168 W5 Z627 1972.)

References and Further Reading

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