

Township Sketches.

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TOWNSHIP OF CHATHAM.

The Township of CHATHAM is bounded on the east by the Township of Camden, on the north by Dawn, on the west by Dover, and on the south by the River Thames.

The soil in this Township is of an excellent quality, consisting chiefly of a black muck or loam, about 6 inches deep under which there is between two and three feet of a dark yellow clay which, when tilled, produces abundant crops. I think I may safely assert that there is not a thousand acres of land in this Township unfit for tillage, or on which an industrious emigrant may not make a comfortable living. The only exceptions, and which I count an advantage, are wild meadow lands, to the amount of a few hundred acres, and from which the settler may procure abundant provender for his stock before he can provide for them from his homestead. These wild meadows abound in grass, and furnish pasturage a month earlier than the adjoining lands, for which reason I esteem them more valuable. These may also be made, at a very trifling expense, to yield an abundant crop of tame grass, which always commands a good price at home or abroad.

TIMBER. The timber consists chiefly of oak, ash, white and black walnut, and the most superior hard maple, (an object of interest to the settler) together with all the varieties common to the District. The reader may form a tolerably fair estimate of the soil from the timber it produces.

WATER. The banks of the river which waters the end of this Township have a great number of never failing springs, as clear as crystal, and which are of a superior quality. In the interior an abundance of good water can be had by digging from 20 to 30 feet, and no emigrant need be deterred from settling in our healthy Township through dread of want of water, or that of the very best kind.

MILL SEATS. This Township has none of those noble privileges, although we have mills convenient enough; one at the east end of the Township, owned by Mr. Christopher Arnold, and one at the village of Chatham, owned by Duncan M'Gregor Esq.

RIVERS. The only river is the Thames, which bounds the Township on the south, and is navigable by sloops and schooners. The facilities of water transport for all our productions is not one of the least of our many advantages. The river also abounds in the spring and fall with fish of the very best quality, which are taken in immense numbers.

PRODUCE. No part of the Provinces can vie with the Western District in amount or quality of produce, and no part of the District can compete with Chatham and other Townships lying on the Thames, for wheat, rye, corn, barley, &c. Wheat is the staple of this part of the District, but it raises to perfection any other crop that will grow in any of the Provinces.

MINERALS. No search, that I know of, has ever yet been made for minerals; but it is more than probable that such a search would neither be fruitless nor unprofitable.

To conclude: This Township is pleasantly situated on a navigable and beautiful river. It has all the advantages of water transportation. Mills within a short distance—stores, where the mechanic and farmer can procure every thing necessary, and at moderate prices—pure water—a fertile soil, and a salubrious climate; a ready market for every article of produce—but yet it wants—what good reader! *It wants to be known; it wants settlers.* It will scarcely be credited that while other parts of this western continent are filling up with Emigrants from all parts of the world—while the swamp and the sand hill are exhausting the energies and sapping the lives of so many industrious and persevering Emigrants, Townships such as Chatham and others on the Thames are almost unknown and unnoticed. It will be scarcely credited that men of information and enterprise should voluntarily bury themselves in the depths of tractless forests, remote from the dwellings of man, and deprived of means of intercourse or a market, when in Townships like the above they might enjoy all the pleasures of society, ready modes of conveyance, and a good market for every product of their labour.

Nor will it be willingly credited that all the energies of our government have been devoted to the settlement of the comparatively barren hills of the lower Province to the neglect of this important and delightful portion of the Colonies. Yet such has been the fact. But a brighter day begins to dawn upon our Western District. Its resources are beginning to be known and val-

ued, and I hope to live to see the day when our now almost barren "wildernesses shall bud and blossom like the rose," when the advantages of this District made known by the Canadian Emigrant shall attract the attention of enterprising industrious and persevering settlers, and when every lot in our own favoured and favourite Township shall present to the delighted eye the happy dwellings of the prosperous and contented farmer.

I am with best wishes

sincerely your well wisher

JAMES EVERETT.

Township Chatham }

County Kent. }

March 7, 1832.