

What the History of Kent Means to the New Settler.

Kent County was first settled about the year 1785—over a century and a quarter ago. Originally including the entire territory of Sunny Southwestern Ontario, the Western District received its first corporate existence in 1792, the year of Upper Canada's first Parliament. In 1795 the townsite of the present city of Chatham was surveyed. In 1803 Lord Selkirk established at Baldoon, near what is now the thriving town of Wallaceburg, his famous Scotch settlement.

In the War of 1812, foraging parties from Detroit ravaged the scattered settlements, giving to the prosperity of this district its first set-back. Later, in the autumn of 1813, occurred the disastrous retreat from Malden, when Tecumseh, ally of the British and probably the most celebrated Indian of all history, fell fighting at Moraviantown, on the Thames. A few years ago a commemorative boulder was erected to mark the battlefield.

In the ensuing century of peace, Kent's history has been one of steady progress and prosperity. In 1850 municipal powers were given, not merely to the county, but to the component townships. Population increased, new farming possibilities were discovered, the little hamlets of earlier years grew into thriving towns and villages, the trading post at Chatham became an important commercial centre. The first railroad, built in 1857, gave a tremendous stimulus to Kent's development.

To the incoming settler, these commonplace facts from Kent's history are significant. The newcomer



Raising Gunboat Sunk in 1812.

is not venturing into any raw, rough country where hardships await him; the way has been cleared by many generations of courageous pioneers. Kent's fertility has been proven, and a part at least of its opportunities are definitely known. The man who brings his money, his brains and his best energies to Kent is not speculating in uncertainties; he is investing in a security whose value one hundred and twenty-five years of history have fully proven.



Kent's Fertility Has been Proven.