

fruits. Grapes are grown to perfection in this County. The Erie View Vineyard, at Buckhorn, covering some fifty acres, produces some fine specimens. Fine samples of butter are produced. Cheese likewise is receiving the attention of some of the farmers, with every prospect of success, as it is the opinion of parties well able to judge that a considerable portion of the land is well adapted for dairy purposes. A considerable trade has hitherto been done with the States in cattle and sheep, as the grazing lands of the County are well adapted for raising all kinds of stock.

The climate is milder than the eastern part of Canada, and the north-eastern or north-western part of the United States; and as the land is gradually cleared up and drained, its salubrity is improved.

As this work is chiefly designed as a record of statistical and general information, we deem it superfluous to enter at any length into a history of Kent, although many interesting events have transpired within its limits. Here, on the 5th of October, 1813, was fought the battle between the British and Indian forces under General Proctor, and the celebrated Indian Chief, Tecumseth, and the American army under General Harrison. Its early settlement, and the efforts made to civilize and Christianize the Indians who settled in this section, as early as 1729; also the perseverance and energy of its first settlers, along with the march of improvement, affords ample material to render an historic sketch, both interesting and instructive. An impetus was given to the progress of the County on the completion of the Great Western Railway, which, along with the roads that intersect the County in every direction, opened communication with the County town, and afforded a cheap and expeditious means of transporting the industrial and agricultural productions of the County, and enhanced the value of property to a great extent. At the commencement of the settlement of the County, lots of 200 acres, situated on the banks of the Thames, were sold for \$100; in 1804, they sold for \$500. Since that time, the price of property has been rapidly increasing. The development of the rich agricultural resources of the County was the means of starting many now thriving villages, which contain their share of manufacturers, merchants, mechanics, &c. A description of the Town of Chatham and the Villages of the County will be found in other parts of this work.

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