

PREFACE

It was the suggestion of the Provincial Historical Association regarding the compiling of local histories that caused the Thorold and Beavertams Historical Society to put forth this work, although the members had long felt that the Township possessed a history of its own well worth recording.

Considerable space has been devoted to the Town of Thorold and to the Villages of Allanburgh, Port Robinson and St. Johns West, which lie wholly within the Township; while briefer mention has been made of Fonthill, which lies partly within Pelham. As only a small portion of Welland is on the south side of the Chippawa Creek, and since the town is considered as separate from the Township for all municipal purposes, its history has not been included in this work. It is hoped, however, that both these places will receive due attention when the Townships of Crowland and Pelham record their annals.

The information has been gathered chiefly from the descendants of the early settlers, although, wherever possible, documentary evidence has also been obtained to verify any statements made. In such a work it is impossible to prevent errors from creeping in, for, in the absence of written records on many points, even the best authorities differ greatly.

The writer takes this opportunity of thanking those who have so kindly furnished assistance in procuring information. It would be impossible to mention the names of all those within the Township who have aided the work in this way, but special thanks are due to Mrs. James Munro, Historian of the Society, who has given much valuable help; to A. W. Reavley, Esq., B. A., Principal of Thorold High School, who has written the chapter on Geology, Archaeology and Topography; and to A. Sutherland, Esq., who has furnished the history of the fire company. Through the kindness of many