

CHATHAM
GENERAL DIRECTORY.

TOWNS AND VILLAGES
OF THE
COUNTY OF KENT.

CHATHAM,

The County Town of Kent is pleasantly, and in a commercial sense, advantageously situated on the River Thames, at the entrance of McGregor's Creek, and about eighteen miles eastward from where the river debouches into Lake St. Clair. The Thames is navigable to Chatham for the largest class of sailing craft, and several of the finest vessels on the inland waters have been built here. (See River Thames.)

The town was originally laid out by Governor Simcoe, who, on view of the great natural advantages, reserved six hundred acres for a town plot, but the actual settlement dates from about the year 1832, since which time it has steadily progressed, and now contains about nine thousand inhabitants.

Messrs. McCrae, Daniel Forsyth, and Mrs. Larke, were among the first settlers.

In 1855 the area of the town was augmented by the addition of lots one and two, second concession of the Township of Chatham; lot twenty-three, first concession, and lot twenty-four, second concession, of Raleigh, and lot twenty-four of Dover east. The principal port of the town is on the south side of the river.

Situated in the midst of a fine agricultural country, and possessing excellent facilities for transportation, Chatham is one of the best markets in Western Canada. Large quantities of farm produce of every description, staves, and square timber, are exported.