

## History of Belmont Twp. ①

Belmont Township was first surveyed in 1823. The first actual resident was a Mr. Fiddick who moved here with his family but they were so alarmed at the howling of wolves, they soon moved to a different part of the country. The first settler to whom a patent of land was issued was Robert Stewart. Belmont made rapid progress and by 1842 the number of householders was 33, and in 1852 they numbered 41 while by 1866 there were 185. There was still a more striking progress shown in the rapid increase of school houses, mostly of a superior kind. The first sawmill in Belmont was built by Mr. Jehiel Breckenridge which was later destroyed by fire. Mr. Breckenridge then erected a sawmill and grist mill on North River near Belmont Lake. Within a few years a post office named Havelock was opened in Belmont at the place now known as Old Havelock. P. Pearce was appointed Post Master. The farmers of Belmont Twp. had no reason to complain of want of success as many of them succeeded admirably. In the Eastern part of the Twp. iron ore was found in abundance in the Blairton iron mine on lots 7 & 8 of the 1<sup>st</sup> concession. This mine was operated first by the Cobourg, Peterboro & Marmora Mining & Railway Co. It produced large quantities of ore. The yield at one time was as much 500 tons a day but either from practical knowledge