Belmont Township

Belmont township was first surveyed in 1823. The first actual resident was a Mr. Feddick who moved here with his family but they were so alarmed at the howling of wolves that 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 a still 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. Jeheil 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 apened in Belmont, at the place now known as Old Havelock. P. Pearce was appointed Past Master.

The farmers of Belmont had no reason to complain of want of success as many of them succeeded admirably.

In the eastern part of the township iron ore was found in abundance at the Blairton iron mine on lots 7 & 8 of the first concession. This mine was aperated first by the Cobourg, Peterboro & Marmora Mining and Railway Co. It produced large quantities of ore. The yield at one time being as much as 500 tons a day, but either from practical knowledge or some other cause was found unprofitable.

The Cordova Gold Mining Company Started operations about 1900.

Roads were built and maintained by pathmasters, every ratepayer was assigned so many days statute labor, according to his assessmant. He toak his team of horses and labored under the direction of the pathmaster, road buiding. Sometimes the pathmaster did not have the faintest idea about road building, so the roads were not always what they should have been.

The Railway firm collapsed and as so many other things fizzled out.

Churches and Cheese Factories were built at several locations in the township. The Cheese Factories have all