

A 3

## DELAWARE TOWNSHIP

Delaware Township is bounded on the north and west by the Thames River, which is also the western and northern boundary of the Oneida Reservation, on the south-west corner of this township. Elgin County's north line is its southern, and Westminster its eastern boundaries. The township, in its northern sections, is watered by Dingman's Creek, which enters the river at Delaware Village, and several small streams, all running toward the main river. Through the marshes in the east half of the south half are a few canals for drainage purposes. The Oneida country does not claim any natural drainage beyond what the Thames River affords.

In 1817 the Township of Delaware had eighteen inhabited houses, eighty inhabitants, one church building and school, one grist and two saw-mills. The population in 1888, based on assessors' returns, was 1,687. Heavy pine covered the banks of the river, but the lumbermen and loggers did not take many years to transfer the pine forest to Detroit and other towns.

The Longwoods road may be said to have existed in the closing years of the last century, when the first settlers of Delaware opened a trail to McGregor's Creek, or Chatham. In 1812 the road was improved by the troops, and further improved in 1813-4, so as to permit the transportation of artillery and military stores, as a continuation of the Commissioners' Road. The road from Five Stakes, or Talbotville, was also opened north through Westminster, and, in 1832, the