

Early History of Brownsville

BROWNSVILLE (continued) *from Book 1*

One of the foremost of the early Pioneers when nearing the Brownsville settlement from the south, passing through what was known then as the Cat-fish swamp, their little belongings in a wagon drawn by a yoke of oxen, his wife and small children walking behind, upon seeing the oxen plunge and nearly mire, exclaimed to her husband, "Branton where are you taking us?" Encouragingly he said "Elizabeth this is Jordan, Canaan is just ahead."

Brownsville to-day is recognized as the centre of one of the most fertile tracts of land in Western Ontario, especially rich in pasturage and in the production of coarser grain and corn. This was early recognized by the Pioneers and hence provision was made for milk products which as time passed became the chief thought and main source of revenue.

The idea of co-operation in cheese manufacture had its origin in Brownsville. A cheese factory was built in 1867. The next year a branch factory was erected in North Bayham, and two years later another branch was started in Campbell-Town (Tillsonburg) and after a few years an amalgamation was formed with the Culloden factory. ^{own} ~~From~~ factories under one management with an output of 600 tons of cheese a year, this result contributed to an increased prosperity to the farmers thus served, and was reflected in improved homes and farms and increased comforts of farm life. The leaven of enterprise still lingered and community spirit still prevailed. The first frame church was ¹⁸⁵⁰ ~~surplanted~~ by a brick church in 1885. The first brick school after being enlarged and remodelled several times was in 1912 discarded and a new ¹⁸⁵⁵ ~~sight~~ secured and a three roomed school erected. Again in 1924 this was enlarged by the addition of two rooms (to make provision for our Continuation School) with modern improvements, such as play-rooms, drinking fountains, steam heating, electric light, etc. Upon the walls of our school rooms are to be seen Portraits of Victoria "The Good", Lake Louise and other Western scenes of that matchless scenic land. Sir Adam Beck, the former boy of Baden, the great en-lightener of the age, and Ontario's practical benefactor to rural commu-

author unknown