

Ovid

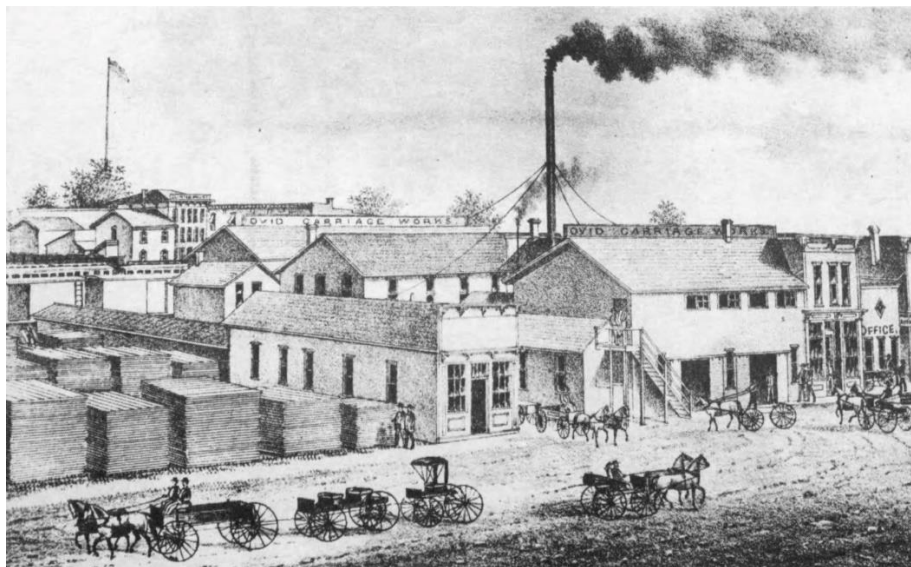
The first settlers in the area were the Barker, Dennison, and Swarthout families who arrived here in 1836. It was given the name Ovid for Ovid, New York where some of the early settlers came from. The town of Ovid wasn't established until the railroad created a station here.

B. O. Williams had built a sawmill in Middlebury about a mile east and wanted it to be where the railroad station would be built. H. G. Higham, railroad engineer, wanted to join Williams in developing the town. When Williams refused, Higham moved the depot a mile west to land he owned and the village of Ovid grew around it becoming a village in 1869.



Ovid Depot

Businesses, houses, and factories quickly grew. A major early factory was the Ovid Carriage Works, later known as the Scofield Buggy Company, which began in 1877. The carriage factory had up to 250 workers during the late 1800's.



Ovid Carriage Works

In the early 1900's the automobile arrived and the factory closed. People wanted cars instead of buggies. Every September Ovid celebrates Ovid Carriage Days.

After the Ovid Carriage Works closed, Vaughan Seed Company took over the building in 1913. Vaughan Seeds was famous for growing and selling gladiolus bulbs grown in the Ovid area. Beginning in 1939 a Gladiolus Festival was held in Ovid for several years.



Vaughan Seed Company



Ovid early 1900's



Ovid early 1900's

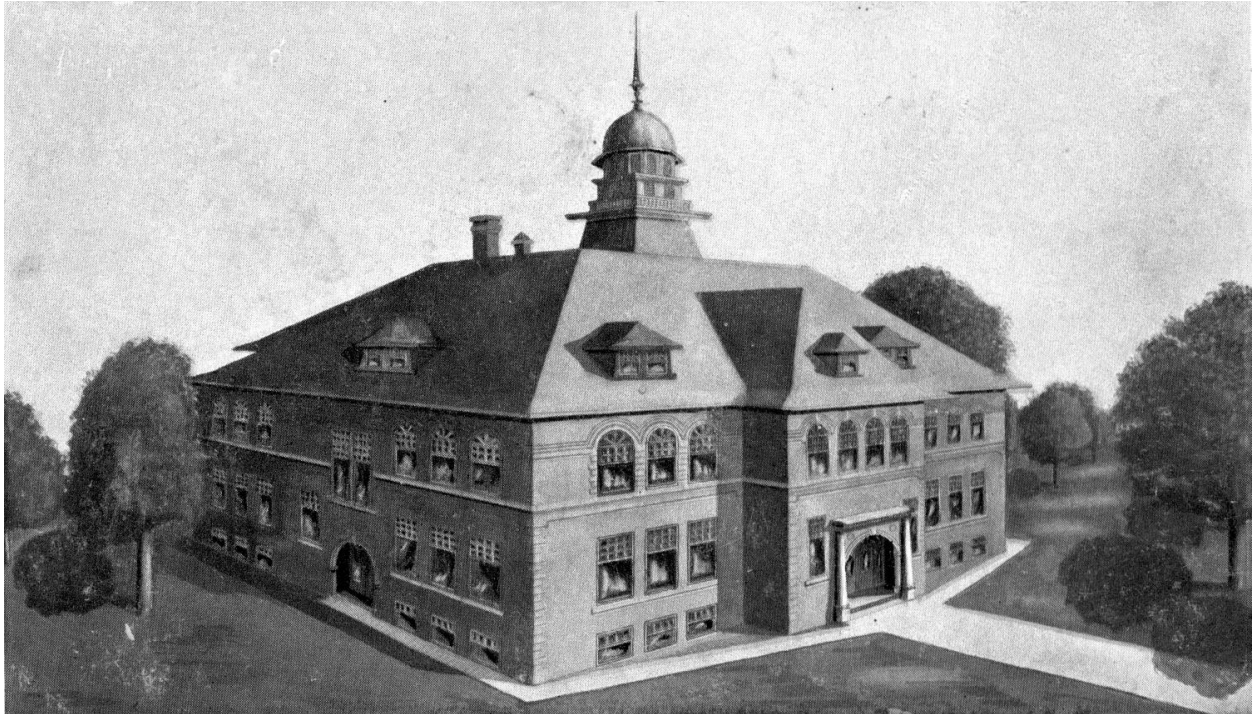
Milk and milk products have also been an important industry in Ovid. Ovid had an early cheese factory. The first dairy plant began in 1921 funded by author James Oliver Curwood. It was later sold to the Arctic Company and then Detroit Creamery Company.

The Detroit Creamery Company closed the milk plant in Elsie and moved all of the milk operations to Ovid. Today it is owned by Michigan Milk Producers and is the largest in Michigan. It processes milk, butter, and other milk products.

The First Congregational Church of Ovid was built in 1872 on the corner of High and Park streets. In 1899 it was moved by oxen to Main Street and enlarged. The building was used by the merged Congregationalists and Methodists until 1972.



The first Ovid school was a wood frame building built in 1866. It was replaced with a brick school in 1871. That building burned down in 1906. The third building opened in 1907 and burned in 1925. The fourth building was used until closing in 1990. Ovid joined with Elsie in 1965 to form Ovid-Elsie schools.



Ovid's Third School