

There are now three giant oval-shaped culverts for new County Road # 45 bridge which provide the backbone of a span that crosses Kettle Creek. This is at a point on County Road # 45 one-half mile west of Highway 4 near the St. Thomas Psychiatric Hospital.

The uniqueness of the oval-shaped corrugated steel culverts is derived from the fact that they are 37 feet across, 26 feet seven inches high, and almost the length of a football field. When completed this span will have cost about \$200,000.

This project was designed by the County of Elgin with R. G. Moore, county engineer spearheading the operation with technical assistance provided by Armcø Drainage and Metal Products of Canada Ltd. These Super-Span Multi Plate culverts are the largest horizontally ellipsed pipes in the world. Many sight-seers and engineers have visited Elgin County to view this project. The cost will be shared by the province of Ontario and the County of Elgin - 80% Province - and 20% for the county.

THE ORIGIN OF THE CANADA COMPANY AND CLERGY RESERVE

John Galt was born in Argyshire, Scotland on May 2, 1779, and he was the inspiration behind the Canada Company. At the age of ten he moved to Greenock, where in that day a good library and more advanced culture were paramount. Thomas Carlyle described him as a hero, but in flattering terms "a long soople laddie who like all bairns grew fat and tall but had little smeeddum."

In England in 1813, John Galt married Elizabeth Tillock and 3 sons were born to the marriage. At this point it may be interesting to note that prior to 1807 the Philosophical Magazine published the essay "A Statistical Account of Upper Canada!"

When the War of 1812 was over and the peace treaty was signed in 1815, many Canadians who had suffered during the war felt they had a claim against the British Government. Many had had severe levies imposed on them by the American invaders as well as the British troops. By 1820 the Colonial Office had awarded compensation to 2,828 people and rejected 564 claims. The required amount of money to meet these claims was £229,000. Much of this was left in Galt's hands--a role he most thoroughly enjoyed. The Crown reserves were by status one-seventh of the land in all townships.

The Clergy Reserves remains in the hands of the Church of England which at that time was still regarded by many as the established church of Upper Canada. The Clergy Reserve also constituted one-seventh of each township.

The Crown lands had been used in various ways to reward faithful political servants, thus leaving many vast vacant areas retarding the settlement of more prosperous lands.

A meeting was called in the London tavern on July 30, at 2 p.m. and five men were appointed to form the Canada Company at a salary of \$1000. each and expenses for extra chores.

Chairman Chas. Bosanquet, secretary John Galt, commissioners Simon McGillivray, Lt. Col. Francis Cockburn and Sir John Harvey. The fifth independent commissioner was John Davidson, commissioner from Crown Lands of Lower Canada.

At a meeting in York on May 2, it was decided the Canada Company was entitled to 1,384,413 acres of Crown reserves and 829,430 acres of Clergy Reserve at the fair price of 356D per acre. With the mission accomplished and after a farewell dinner, the commissioners separated. Cockburn, Galt and Davidson left for New York on the sailing packet "Cartes" reaching Liverpool four weeks later on June 5th.

The Royal Charter incorporating the Canada Company was finally granted on August 19, 1826 and at long last after many tortuous and complicated negotiations, John Galt was in a position to see his dream come true.

.....written by Mrs. Russell Axford (1967).

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CENTENNIAL MEMOIRS

(1967)

In closing this volume of our "Tweedsmuir History", I feel a few memoirs of our Centennial year might prove interesting in later years. We can do little more than speculate on the years that lie ahead, but may we give thanks for the comforts and blessings that we have enjoyed in the past.

1967 will stand out in Canadian History as the centennial birthday of our Country; also for several first in our own community Elgin County.

Possibly of prime importance from a financial standpoint is the new modern Ford plant at Talbotville, supplying labour for many of our citizens and bringing to our city many ~~of our~~ splendid citizens from many cities, who would like to settle in our county, but as Nero fiddled while Rome burned our City Fathers were too busy with zoning laws and designs to build new homes, so London welcomes them with open arms and derives the benefits in business and taxes.

The Lake Erie Pipe line, while not of much benefit at the present time is sure to be a boom to our county and city in the more prosperous days that most surely lie ahead for Elgin.

Another forward step was the splendid new Township Offices, a fine centennial gesture on the part of our Yarmouth Council. At this time our hearty congratulations go out to "John Wise" the youngest reeve ever to fill the office in Yarmouth. The best to John in future years as he follows in the footsteps of his revered Great grandfather.

Also the new band shell erected at Pinafore Park, what finer way to spend a warm Sunday afternoon, than listening to the music of the visiting artists, surrounded by the beautiful flowers while children enjoy the cool shade and their

swimming pool and swings. How loathe the apartment dwellers must be to leave this haven of comfort and beauty.

Then we must not forget our schools. As we say farwell to the old Collegiate so dear to the hearts of so many in the last three generations, we are filled with pride as we view Central Elgin, Parkside, Forest Park, St. Raphaels & St. Gabriels all recently added to our less modern yet beautiful halls of culture.

There have been several additions and repairs added to our St. Thomas Elgin General Hospital this year.

The new Heart Unit donated by the "Hospital Womans Auxiliary" viewed for the first time on Jan. 22nd, 1968.

The solarium erected on the top of the new wing, for the comfort of convalescents, a new theoraphy and pheodiatrics ward and playroom.

Let us not forget the monument erected to Ex-Premier Hepburn, also the biography written by a Jesuite Priest. Being priveleged to read the book, I was filled with amazement that a man who calls himself an author would waste time and so called talent on the biography of a man of whom he knew so little. "We loved him most who knew him best" and we have no need to view the political archives of either Toronto or Ottawa to confirm the fact he was a helpful neighbor, a true friend with the interest of Elgin County uppermost in his mind. We have but to look at our own Ontario Hospital second to none on the continent, to know what he has done for Elgin. How long after the pasturization of milk did we find the Adam Beck T.B. Hospital being emptied of its patients and being partially used for retardation etc.

How many boys of world war two still remember St. Thomas and T.T.S. as a home away from home in time of trouble? a far cry, our boys tell us from the bull pens in some other

cities. Let us give credit where credit is due. How wrong to judge any human being for a few miss deeds when we of Elgin know so much of the bright side.

We must not forget Expo really the crowning glory for all who were privileged to attend the worlds greatest fair.

Then too there were all the nice little social get to gethers. Church reunions that brought back old Sunday School pals from distant cities, school and museum teas that will linger long in our memory. We will remember 1967 as the year of the first heart-transplant. May scientists continue to discover many more saving methods.

There is much to be thankful for in this Centennial year and much to regret. Let us pray that 1968 may see the end of conflict between nations.

May we take "Friendship" as our slogan, remembering it helps the body as well as the soul. Let us compare it to a plant we must nourish. Emerson describes it in these words. "The ability to be a friend is not something we can accomplish with out effort, it takes a kind heart. A friend is some one with whom I may be sincere, before him I may think aloud."

^{GIVE}
we us love to sweeten life
With helpful service rendered others
Faith to truly trust in God
And count all men as brothers.

Mrs Russell Axford
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Curator of
Sveedsmun
History
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COLONEL MAHLON BURWELL
THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF A FORGOTTEN MAN
by Bill Windsor

In our day and age there is much controversy over Colonel Thomas Talbot's "claim to fame." Contrary to the opinion that Colonel Talbot was the backbone of the settlement. I would rather say here, that "he was simply, a label giving a name to an event".* I would like to propose that another man deserves the credit for the early development of our area. Colonel Burwell is not too well known around this area today. Unlike Colonel Talbot, he didn't impose his name on everything he did or every place he came to. Also, many of Colonel Burwell's personal diaries and notes have been moved out of this region to the National and Provincial Archives. Nearly all descendants of this great man have pulled up stakes and left. Perhaps the best reminder of Colonel Burwell is Port Burwell on Lake Erie. Colonel Burwell was directly responsible for the prosperity of this small community.

There is much more to building a successful settlement than simply giving out land to pioneers. Talbot expected his settlers to clear their respective land grants in a maximum period of five years.

I believe Colonel Burwell was the workhorse of this settlement. Unlike his personal friend

* E. H. Carr, "The Anatomy of History":
Toronto, Dent, 1967

Colonel Talbot, Burwell was responsible for much of the surveying of this region. He was a Member of Parliament for several areas, Registrar of Deeds and Official Documents, Postmaster and Mail Clerk, Master of the Masonic Lodge, Branch No. 30 of Niagara, the financier of builder of a Church, Justice of the Peace and General Adviser to Colonel Talbot.

BURWELL THE SURVEYOR

Colonel Burwell is best known for his surveying career. Upon moving here in 1806, he became a great friend of Colonel Talbot. Since Burwell had taken a course in Land Measurement in Grade School, he was qualified for the position of Deputy Surveyor. With a helping hand from Colonel Talbot, in 1809, he was instructed to proceed without loss of time and as soon as the season would permit to lay out a road across Southwold, Yarmouth, and Bayham Townships. This road was to be one chain in width, with lots abutting this road of 25 chains in width. At every fifth lot a side road was to be laid out at 660 with the main road. This road was later known as the Front Street or, as we know it today, The Talbot Road.

After the completion of the above road, Colonel Talbot requested Colonel Burwell to lay out his five thousand acre land grant into lots. This land grant now comprises most of Dunwich Township.

Burwell resumed his surveying duties in 1816 when he was ordered by Ridout to lay out another

road stretching from Westminster Township in Middlesex County to Kettle Creek Village, presently known as St. Thomas. Due to political arguments between Colonel Burwell, and Surveyor General, Ridout, Burwell acted on his own authority when he surveyed the road. He started at the Township line of Westminster and carried this road two hundred chains southward to what is known today as Talbotville Royal. From this point he carried it westward to a point known today as Eagle. At that time this road was known as the Back Street, but today is a major part of No. 3 Highway.

From this time on Colonel Burwell did works scattered throughout Southwestern Ontario. He has surveyed land plots in our own Township of Yarmouth, Middlesex County, Lampton County, Gray County, Essex County, and the Township of London. Each time Burwell surveyed a plot, he received as payment for his work 1% (percent) of the land he surveyed. At the end of his career, he had accumulated as much as ten thousand acres of land scattered throughout large tract of land. The Ontario Government of that time turned down his request and the land was eventually willed to friends and family.

WAR OF 1812

During the war of 1812, Colonel Burwell did much to help in defending this region. In the early part of this war, Canada played a defensive roll. Burwell helped to organize a small band of volunteers and through this action he received the

title of Colonel which he carried throughout his life.

On the 16th day of August, 1814, Colonel Burwell was lying on his back recovering from a fever, when his home was entered by a small band of Indians under the command of Chief Montour and Captain John Walker of the United States Militia. Colonel Burwell and other members of the Militia were taken captive while their homes were plundered and burned. The small band, along with the captives, continued on westward towards to Sandwich and Detroit. While the other captives were imprisoned at Detroit, Colonel Burwell started on a long journey to a political prisoners' camp on Southern Ohio. This journey ending in Chillicothe took the better part of the month. Burwell was given the freedom of the City. During his stay there he had much time to think. This is where many other large projects originated. He stayed at Chillicothe for a period of six months, until his release. After this time he returned home.

BURWELL'S NEW HOME AND REGISTRY OFFICE

When Colonel Burwell arrived back on the Talbot Settlement, he found his home and many of his buildings burned to the ground. A massive rebuilding program confronted him. With the help of his wife and his oldest sons he built a home, a cooper shop, a blacksmith's shop, a grist mill, and the most important of all, a new Registry Office for the County of Middlesex (at that time Middlesex