

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Presbytry agreed to the petition and another congregational meeting was held Aug. 21st. 1854, at which Rev. John Scott acted as chairman and Jno. McQueen as Secretary. An unanimous call was given Mr. Doak and the stipend was set at one hundred pounds.

On Mar. 12th. 1855, a lot was bought from Mr. Bryce Thomson for a church at forty pounds. In April of that same year the "St. Thomas Dispatch" carried this advertisement,

Tenders Wanted at Port Stanley  
Brick church 50'x37'  
Stone foundation

(signed) John McQueen

east

The land contained two-thirds of an acre- lots 32\ on Colborne St. and west on Frances St. However this church was never built on the lot mentioned as necessary money was not forthcoming.

For a time they used the Temperance Hall and then the church now used in 1947 was first rented, then bought from the Congregationalists.

Ill health caused Mr. Doak to resign in 1859 and up until 1869, ministers from near-by congregations took charge. About this time an organ was purchased by Mrs. Gunn. It was placed in a square pew at the left front of the church and was played by her, even in opposition to many members. Previous to this Mr. Emez Earnshaw was the presenter.

Ever since this time the Presbyterians have carried on, even after its ranks were thinned by church union in June, 1925.

In 1900, a gift from Isabella Hepburn Forsyth purchased new seats, a new organ and enlarged the church parlors.

Now in 1947, the Presbyterians by co-operation of work and a gift from the estate of the late Wm. Meek have an edifice to be proud of, in every respect.

**St. John's Church, Pt. Stanley,  
to be Re-Dedicated June 23**

PORT STANLEY, June 21.—A very pleasing event and one that will long be remembered in the history of the Church will take place Sunday in St. John's Presbyterian Church, here when re-dedication services will be held both in the morning and the evening. For many years the congregation had hoped to put a basement under the Church; now that hope is a reality. Early in the year the Church was moved to the south almost five feet and at the same time raised six feet and a cement foundation put in. The basement provides ample space for a large Sunday School room, also a kitchen, rest room and store room. The

church has been re-plastered and is finished in a buff shade while the light fixtures are an amber color. The old windows have been replaced with new memorial windows. The two large windows in the front of the church are in memory of the pioneers of the Church and the Rev. M. Courtney, one of the first pastors of the Church who was beloved by all who knew him. The north windows in memory of the "Hepburn Family," Wm. Eastwick, Miss Queenie Campbell and her mother and Robert Loder, who during their lifetime were active members of the Church. The south windows in memory of Miss Phyllis and Mary Thomson, Fred Morgan, Mrs. Mary Sterling and the Sweeny family, who also took an active part in the Church during

their lifetime. Miss Agnes Hepburn and Miss Gertrude McDonald were the committee in charge of the windows and work was carried out by the Edwards Bros. Glass Co., London. The electrical work throughout the Church was done by Garnet Speers, Port Stanley boy who just recently started in business after receiving his discharge from the Navy, while the plastering was done by T. Cameron, London. Clayton Palmer, St. Thomas had charge of the moving and raising of the church and C. Hopkins, Port Stanley was in charge of cement work. Painting of the Church interior as well as the exterior has been done by the men and women of the Church and the carpentry work was in charge of Mr. J. McCallum, Port Stanley. The services on Sunday will be held at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. A former pastor, Rev. Mr. Moffat of Knowlwood Park Presbyterian Church, London, will have charge of the morning service with Rev. K. C.

A beautiful baptismal font was presented in memory of Rev. Sewell (a former pastor) and his son, who lost his life, while serving overseas, by Mrs. Alex McLeod, McLennan assisting and the choir of Knox Church, Fingal, will render special music. In the evening a very outstanding speaker, Rev. H. S. Rodney of Knox Church, St. Thomas, will preach and the St. John's Church choir will be in charge of the music. The soloist will be William Whaley of St. Thomas. The pastor and members of the Church extend a cordial invitation to all their friends to come and enjoy these services with them on Sunday, June 23.

PORT STANLEY, June 25. — A large crowd of friends, adherents and members attended the re-dedication service held in the St. John's Presbyterian Church, Port Stanley, on Sunday morning and Sunday evening.

From 1870, the pastors were Revs. Baikie, Paradis, McConechy, Courtenay (after whom the church was named), Mackay, Scott, Eastman (father of Max Eastman), Sales, Jamieson, Lavis, Lisle, Moffat and McLennan.

Misses Phyllis and Mary Thomson are worthy of mention for their labours in the work of the church. Miss Thomson was organist for many years and Mrs. Alex Taylor presided at the organ for twenty-eight years.

The members of session, 1855 were, Alexander Young, Jno. McMillan (ministers) and Jno. McKillop (elder). In 1870, they were Messrs Strathee and Magill. In 1895, Mr. Jas Meek-clerk, Wm. Cattanaoh and Andrew Governlock and these were added, Messrs, Peglar, Jas Johnson and W.H. Meek. The present session, Messrs McCallum, D. Brown Farnbull and Wiley.

An Historic Tree-

March 1945

At the bend of Kettle Creek, you will find standing as if on guard, an old and stately Elm Tree. This tree is a patriarch of the primeval forest. It has cast its slanting shadows over the portage route of the red-skinned Indians and over the red-coated British soldiers as their feet resounded over the plank road on their march from the Port Stanley harbour to London. And now, in its great age, it watches the world go by over the same route which is now known as No 4-of the King's highway.

This tree has seen many suns rise over the eastern hilltops and many sunsets of prismatic beauty reflected on the creek's clear surface. It has seen the hills and valley arrayed in all the varying beauty of our Canadian seasons.

A century ago, it saw the beauty of God's hand enhanced as a silver spire arose among the tree tops. And here, beneath its shadow, the old patriarch has seen many generations laid to rest in the pioneer cemetery, surrounding the historic and picturesque Anglican Church in Port Stanley.



"It stands austere and proud, a kingly tree  
So like a monarch lost in reverie  
Of days far gone upon the scroll of time,  
Of men and things worked out in strange design.

Oft have I wished that God would grant the boon  
To hear its voice mayhap, and thus commune  
Of great events long dead in History  
That must be stored within its memory.

Serene and tall, this guardian of our town  
Wearing on regal head its ancient crown,  
May it be spared through countless years to come,  
Till God decides its guardianship is done."

"The Times Journal" St. Thomas and was written by  
Sgt. J. Walker.

---THE ANGLICAN CHURCH---

known as --Christ Church--

As soon as Col Bostwick settled in Port Stanley with his family, Rev. Chas Jas. Stewart the travelling missionary of the London Dist., conducted services here. By 1824, the citizens here were ministered to, by the Rev. Alex Mc. Intosh, who later became the first rector of St. Thomas. It was under his ministry that the first Confirmation service was held on Aug. 23rd. 1827 when 44 persons presented themselves for confirmation. Occasional services were held by Rev. Mark Burnham in the school house, Mr. Burnham coming down from St. Thomas during the years from 1829 to 1834 and again from 1837 to 1844.

In 1826, Col Bostwick donated one acre of land for a place of worship but it was not until 1844 that the building was planned. The building Committee consisted of Messrs Col. Jno. Bostwick, Wm. Hoadly, Ed. Crysler, Sam. Price, S.F. Holcombe, J.K. Woodward, and H. Treadwell. One-half the amount required for the building was raised in one week, twenty pounds of which was donated by Col. Thos. Talbot.

The church was constructed by Maj. John Ellison, and was completed and opened in June 1845. The rectors present at the official opening were Revs. Croyh of London, and Richard Flood of Delaware. At the opening service, the church was named on motion by Col. Bostwick and Jno. Waddel Sr. The name was, Christ Church.

1825  
St. Thomas  
Extract from the register of The Old Church, in the handwriting  
of the Rev. Alexander Mackintosh:  
"On Sunday the 19th of June the Sacrament of The Lord's Sup-  
per was administered in the Church of St. Thomas (for the first  
time) by the Hon'ble and Rev'd. Dr. Stewart, assisted by the Rev'd.  
A.M. Number of communicants, 12.  
-A. M."

# DEDICATE GROUND AT PORT STANLEY

## Gift to Christ Church to Be Used As Cemetery

PORT STANLEY, Aug. 8. — Ground to the north of Christ Church, here, which was donated to the congregation by McManus Peroleums, Ltd., and which will serve as an extension to the present cemetery that surrounds the historic church building, was consecrated Sunday by Rt. Rev. W. T. T. Hallam, assistant Bishop of the Anglican Diocese of Huron, and formerly Lord Bishop of Saskatoon.

The consecration ceremony took place on the new plot of ground immediately following the regular morning service, in the presence of the congregation, and with the rector, Rev. H. R. Rokey-Thomas, and the choir of the church assisting. Bishop Hallam also preached at the service in the church, and officiated at a celebration of Holy Communion which was held before the assembled congregation adjourned for the ceremony out o. doors.

Sunday's consecration ceremony was a feature that coincided with the last of three Sundays marking the 105th anniversary of the founding of the Christ Church congregation, and in his sermon delivered during the regular service Bishop Hallam spoke of the challenge facing the church at the present time, and declared that the past should be an inspiration for future service rather than an invitation to complacency. The Bishop paid special tribute to the work of the choir, and to its precentor, H. M. Ellison, and the organist, Mrs. W. Williamson, and he also complimented the sexton of the church, William Walker, for the attractive way in which the grounds were kept.

In such pleasant surroundings, the consecration ceremony took place, with the members of the choir moving to all corners of the plot and singing Psalm 84. Later the rector of the church, Rev. H. R. Rokey-Thomas, read the instrument of consecration in which the Bishop of Huron, Rt. Rev. G. N. Luxton, requested his assistant to perform the act of dedication.

The plot of ground concerned covers the area of about two village lots, and since it was acquired by the congregation it has been raised to the level of adjacent ground, levelled off, and surrounded by a hedge of small evergreen trees. This is in keeping with the general beauty of the church grounds whose well-kept lawn are flanked by attractive blooms and shrubbery.

# Stately Elms at River Bend in Port Stanley Both Down

March 30th 48.

PORT STANLEY, March 29.—The large numbers of worshippers visiting Christ Church here for the Easter services were sorry to see one of Port Stanley's most famous landmarks lying on the ground. The giant native elm tree, nearly two centuries old, that has witnessed the devotions of Port Stanley members of the Church of England in historic Christ Church for 103 years, came crashing to the ground last Tuesday after discovery of a badly-decayed seam running nearly the entire length of the tree. Towering nearly 90 feet, it and its late sister had been two of the last known landmarks in the county.

Christ Church, erected in 1845 by Major John Ellison, also first reeve of the village, celebrated its centenary services three years ago and mention was made of the trees as

having been standing and of quite mature growth at that time. Colonel Thomas Talbot, in his memoirs, spoke of "the two trees at the bend of Kettle River." Later when the site was given to the Port Stanley congregation as a gift by Colonel John Bostwick for the erection of the church, the two colonels agreed that it was indeed a sacred and appropriate site.

Following the centennial services when the decayed streak at first appeared, William John Ellison, great-grandson of the builder, planted another elm close to the spot where this giant from the primeval forest stood. It is interesting to note that during the war the many Royal Canadian Air Force men stationed at Fingal came to know and recognize "the little white church with the two trees, by the river" —even from the air.

MARCH 30, 1948

## CHRIST CHURCH--(continued)

The steeple remains to-day as the builder made it, and the money for the bell, which still calls the villagers to worship, was raised by Mrs. Alma Price, wife of Sam. Price. It was purchased in Troy, N.Y. and weighs 400 lbs.

From 1855-56, Revs. Blackman and J.A. Preston were ministers but in 1856, Rev. J. Mockridge arrived and served until 1863. From 1863 to 1878 there were eleven incumbents, the longest to remain was Rev. Schulte from 1865-68.

The first Rectory was built on the corner of Warren and Carlow Rd. The second was purchased as the home on the corner of Smith and William St. The present Rectory on N. Colborne St. was built in 1915.

There are three beautiful Memorial windows in the church. The first, "The Good Shepherd" was given in memory of Hattie Arkel and Bessie Morley, who lost their lives in the waters of Lake Erie. The window depicting "The Assention" was a gift from the Mason family. The third window depicts "Our Lord with the Fishermen on the shore of Galilee". This window was given by Capt. Mark and Mrs. Berry in memory of their sons John and Joseph. The money for the other windows was raised by subscription.

The first organ was purchased in 1852. It was given to the Port Burwell church when another was purchased from "Christ Church London, in 1905. This organ was put in first class condition in 1922.

The choir moved down from the gallery to the chancel and the organ was placed in the nave below the chancel in 1884. The high box seats were replaced by the present oak pews in 1894.

During the years 1894-96, Christ Church was linked with St. John's, St. Thomas under Rev. Wm. Hinde, but in 1897, Rev. H. D. Steel became a resident clergyman, the following-1905, Canon Downie, Rev. Mark Turnbull--1915, Rev. J.R. Bythell, 1921-36, Rev. J.E. Merrick-1938, Rev. R.M. Buteel 1944; and Rev. A.E. Tavener- have been the clergymen.

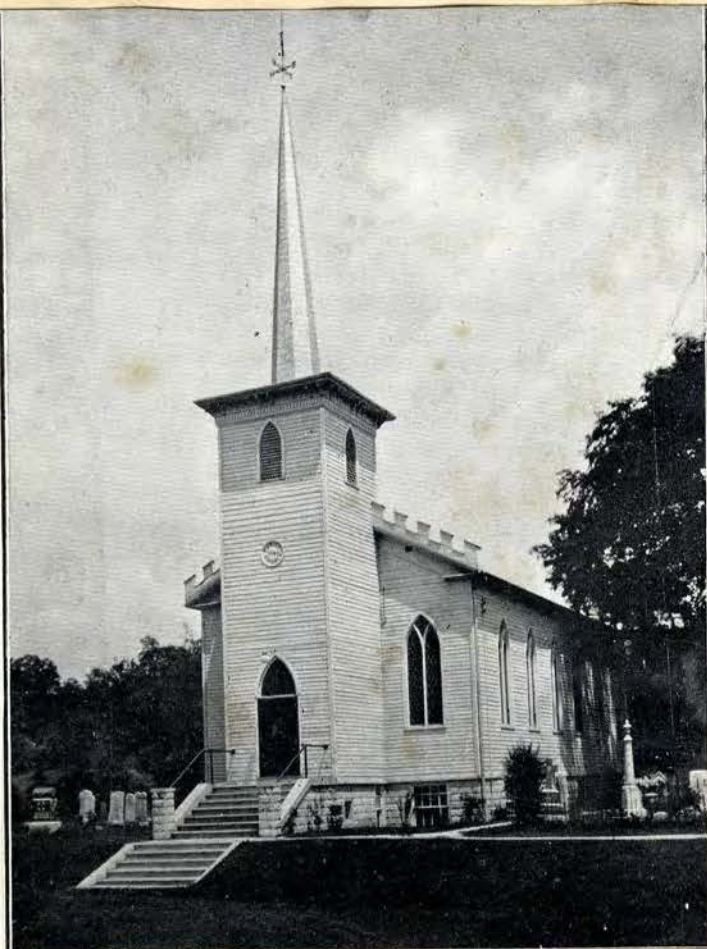
During 1921-22 the church was renovated and became more modern but retained all the charm of the original, the first church built in this village.

On Sunday, July 20th, 1945, an electric set of chimes was heard resounding from the tower of the Historic Christ Church which was on this Sunday celebrating its 100th anniversary. These were musical chimes placed there by Mr. and Mrs. E.C. Turnbull in memory of Mrs. Turnbull's father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Hawkins and her aunt, Miss. Kate Ellison, all devoted members of the church for many years. Each Sunday morning may be heard

reproductions of the glorious chimes of the great Cathedrals in England and the United States, as well as many of our best-loved hymns.

### Diocesan Flag Flown

PORT STANLEY (Staff) — For the first time, the colorful flag of the Anglican Diocese of Huron was flown at Port Stanley Sunday morning in front of Christ Church. A new flagpole has been erected in front of the edifice.



The picturesque little white church at the bend of Kettle Creek, Port Stanley, was erected in 1845 on the site donated by the late Colonel John Bostwick. Colonel Thomas Talbot was among the worshippers at the first service at which Rev. Benjamin Cronyn and Rev. R. Flood officiated.

July 15th 1949

## THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

As far back as 1852, mass was offered in the old Virgus homestead .(which became the home of Mrs Esery across from the Bostwick's first home)

Mass was later offered in Col. Bostwick's home, but in 1860, the Son's Hall was purchased and used as a place of Worship.



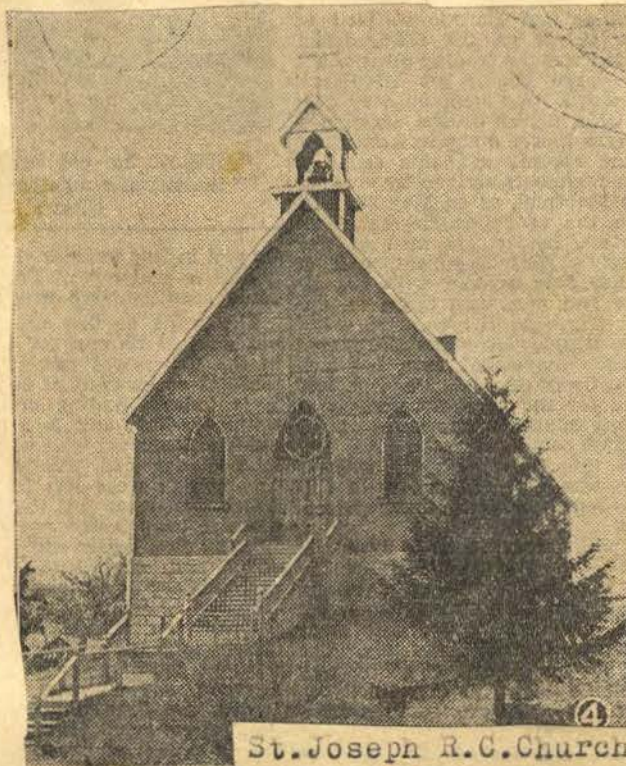
The picture shows the cross, rising above the Roman Catholic Church.

The priests who offered mass were, Fathers Fretchet, Zucher, (a Russian Priest), who served about nine years. then Father Flannery.

The first Church.

The residence of Bishop Jno. Walsh used in the summers at Port, is shown on another page.

The present church "St. Joseph", was built in 1912, on a height of land on North on George St.



List to this soft ringing bell!

St. Joseph R.C. Church

### The Catholic Church

The story of Ontario in the first chapters is supplied by the brave priests of the Recollet and Jesuit orders. Venturing into the wooded wilderness inhabited by savage tribesmen, facing incredible hardships and often hideous tortures, these missionaries of the Roman Catholic church brought Christianity and civilization. Long years before the British flag waved over the province, the Cross had been carried to the most distant frontiers. As early as 1670 Dollier and Galinee visited the site of Port Stanley while on a journey along Lake Erie. In the sixties the members of the Roman Catholic faith were an established group. St. Joseph's Church is opened throughout the summer months and is attended by hundreds of summer visitors.

Historic Record of Ministers

serving

- UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA -

Mr. Gould, who had been the pastor of the Methodist congregation since 1920, became the first pastor of the first United Church in the village.

The vote was taken on Church Union of the Presbyterian Church of Canada and the Methodist Church of Canada, on Jan 19th, 25. On June 10th, 25 after the deciding vote showed the majority of members of both churches were in favour, the new congregation, using the former Methodist edifice began their church with a charter membership, which included 106 Methodists and 31 Presbyterians.

Rev. J.M. Gould from 1925-- June 1926

Rev. Chas. Malcom- July 1st, 1926-- June 30th 1929  
During this pastorate, Union was disconnected and present charge constituted. (Pt. Stanley and Dexter)

Rev A.D. Boa-----July 1st, 1929- June 30 1936  
During Mr. Boa's pastorate, Dexter church was remodelled.

Rev. J.M. Haith-----July 1st, 1936-- June 30th, 1939  
During Mr. Haith's pastorate, the church was remodelled, front porch built and Hammond organ installed.

Rev. Geo. S. Hammond- July 1st, 1919 ----  
Dexter church has been painted since.  
Two additional elders, Lawrence Dimmick and Geo. Smith, were added to the session at Port.  
54 men and women served in the King's forces.  
There were 5 casualties, namely  
Harold Franklin--RCAF-- missing  
Lloyd Franklin--RCAF-- missing  
Ronald Harris--Army---killed  
James Smith---RCAF---missing.

THE METHODIST CHURCH

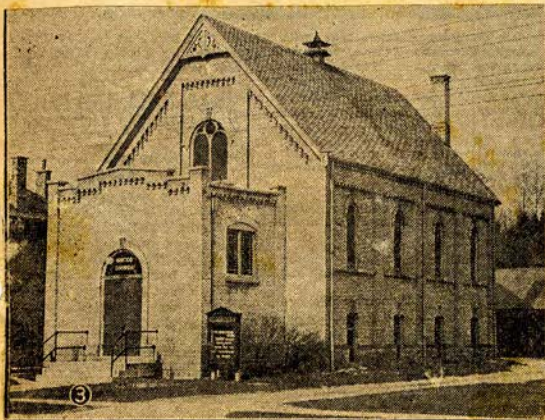
People of the Methodist faith were at first ministered to, by ministers of the St. Thomas circuit, according to records as early as 1836. The circuit comprised Lingal, Larmouth, Malahide, North Street and Southwold as well as Pt. Stanley and St. Thomas. The first ministers in charge Reverends Vandusen and Williston. In 1837, it was in the charges of Rev. Hawcett and Rev. Goodrich. In 1838, Rev. Jas. Norris and Rev. David Hardy followed. Up to this time there was a dearth of chapels.

Up to 1842, services in Port Stanley, had been held in the school house, every alternate Sunday, but in 1842, a frame church was built on the east bank of Kettle Creek. This edifice was later moved to Lot 8-on Colborne St.

In 1842, Revs Pollard, Bredin and Whiting who were stationed in St. Thomas, served Port Stanley, prior to 1854, but that year, Rev. Francis Chapman became the first resident minister. He preached here until his death in 1856 and was buried in Grovesend.

On Nov. 28th 1888, it was decided to build a new church. The building Committee was made up of, Messrs- F. Sheppard W. Glover, S. Glover, W. H. Gough, M. Payne and Chas. Bad.

The new church was begun the same year and was built at a cost of \$3,080. The corner-stone was laid, May 24th, 89, by Miss Bowman of London. The Union Band was present at the Dedication services, Aug 18th and Aug. 25th, 89.



THE METHODIST CHURCH ( continued )

Mr. Buffy was the architect of the church and Mr. James Ellison was the builder.

The resident ministers from 1888, until Church Union were, R.C. Parsons, R.D. Hamilton, E.W. Reid, W.R. Reid, (I.B. Aylesworth C.F. Clark) (Aylesworth-A.J. Langford) (Aylesworth-J.E. Millard) A.H. Going, I.J.P. Fallis, (J.W. Holmes and Robt. Hicks) (E.G. Powell and C.W. Coulter) Nat Macdonald, K.T. Beaton, (A.E. Lloyd and W.G. Connely) (A.E. Lloyd and A.R. Johnson) J.M. Keys, W.M. Kitley, H.W. McTavish, J.J. Durant, G.C. Gifford, J.N. Gould.

CAMP MEETINGS/

Camp Meetings were prevalent among certain denominations since the earliest settlement of Canada. No doubt God was revealed to the people through the beauties of the starry night as well as by the inspirational words of the speakers.

Other old records are worthy of note. Here is one: "In 1836, St. Thomas was made a circuit and separated from Westminster, but embraced Port Stanley, Fingal, Yarmouth, Malahide, North Street and Southwold. The first ministers in charge were the Reverends Conrad Vandusen and John K. Williston. In 1837, it was in the charges of the Reverends Thomas Fawcett and Charles B. Goodrich. In 1838, these were succeeded by the Reverends James Norris and David Hardie. The needs of chapel accommodation were pressing and this is an early minute recorded:

"At a Quarterly Meeting held at the Malahide Chapel on September 29, 1838, Rev. Ephraim Evans, chairman; Rev. James Norris, superintendent, and Rev. David Hardie, assistant, were present, when it was resolved that the following persons be appointed as a building committee for the purpose of erecting a chapel in the Village of St. Thomas, viz., Samuel Ferrin, William Peters, Israel Thayer, Samuel Fordham, and John Sutton."

Many noted divines have been connected with the pastorate of the church in the last century and a long list of Christian worthies have constituted the spiritual life of the church which has played an important part in the history and development of St. Thomas.

Among the ministers who had charge of the Circuit up to 1872 were Reverends Kennedy Creighton, S. C. Phillip, Sr., John Bredin, Richard Whiting, Edward H. Dewart, Francis Berry, William McCullough, William Ames, W. W. Clarke, Lewis Warner, and J. Herbert Starr. It was during Mr. Starr's pastorate in 1871 that active efforts were put forth to replace the old frame structure with a brick and stone building.

THE METHODISTS DID NOT HAVE A CHURCH IN THE SETTLEMENT BUT THE UNTIRING CIRCUIT RIDER STARTED WITH THE FIRST SETTLER AND FOLLOWED THE SOUND OF THE PIONEER'S AYE BACK INTO THE WILDERNESS. COYNE'S WAS A HALTING PLACE FOR THEM. HERE JOHN BAYTER AND ASABEL HURLBURT EXPOUNDED THE SCRIPTURES AND RESTED THEIR WEARY LIMBS. LATER JOHN AND WILLIAM RYERSON AND EPHRAIM EVANS FOUND HENRY COYNE'S LATCH-STRING ALWAYS HANGING OUT.  
PAGE 89, EARLY SETTLERS AND OTHER RECORDS OF COUNTY OF ELCIN (1911)

Death of Col. Thos. Talbot.

Col. Thos. Talbot passed away Feb. 6th. 1853. The memory of Col. Talbot is entitled to much credit and respect. He tore himself away from the gaities and frivolities of Dublin Castle and spent his life, transforming Elgin Co. from a wilderness to one that blossomed as a rose. He had sterling qualities and his word was as good as his bond as was shown in his dealing with homesteaders buying their land. He once stated to Mrs. Jamieson it is said, "Charlevoix wrote that this territory was the paradise of the Hurons, and I settled here that I might get to Paradise by hook or by crook."

On the banks of L. Erie west of Pt. Talbot, in the cemetery of St. Peter's Anglican Church, rests his remains. His tablet reads, "Sacred to the memory of the Hon. Thomas Talbot, founder of the Talbot Settlement, who died February 6th. 1853. Aged 83 yrs."



The grave of Colonel Thomas Talbot is in St. Peter's cemetery, a restful place of beauty overlooking the lake at Tyrconnell. The cemetery has the reputation of being one of the best groomed in Ontario. Hundreds of visitors visit this historic spot every year.

Other Items. 1853-

A case of 'tit for tat and butter for fat', as the old saying goes. Some criticism had been made to the St. Thomas Dispatch' in regard the handling of mail here. The reply sent in to the same paper stated, 'The stage arrives at 9 p.m. and the inhabitants get their correspondence immediately and letters and papers are delivered with cheerfulness.' signed-Geo. McPherson-Post Master.

No doubt the boys of seven or seventy, were interested in this advertisement,-

St. Thomas, Tuesday, June 21st. 1853

Jas. M. June & Co.

Hippodrome & Menagerie.

-----  
 Grecian and Modern Games-Georgeous Triumpnal Pageant  
 Magnificent Chariots

-----  
 Splendid Cars, Superb Horses, Costly Trappings

.....  
 Living Wild Animals

.....  
 Admission--25¢

Soldiers of to-day in 1945, will be able to compare the 'toasts' given by them with those given by the Rifle Brigade, of London in 1853. Many of them were veterans of the battle of Waterloo.

- 1-The Queen and Prince Albert.
- 2-The Prince of Wales and the Royal Family.
- 3-The Memory of the Duke of Wellington.
- 4-The Memory of Lord Nelson.
- 5-The Governor General.
- 6-Col. Chester-Commander of the Garrison.

This little poem is very apt. This was the time when treasured locks of hair were put in lockets, brooches or rings, and railroads were being built across our country.



Items of News from, 'St. Thomas Dispatch.'

poem-

Don Biddy, my darlint  
Here's a lock of my hair  
And if there's a snarl in it,  
Devil a bit ab I care.

I'm going off Biddy  
To work on the track,  
You can take it and kape it  
Until I get back.  
If you like.

May 5/55-Napoleon and Eugenie visit London, Eng. and are guests of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert.

June 4th/55-at Selborne, Pt. Stanley-by Rev. Wm. Doak-Jno. Tait Esq. to Elizabeth Pearson of Stomill, Scotland.

June 12/55-All newspapers after July 1st. will pass free of postage.

July 12th/55-Gray's Elegy was sold for £100 and the fly-leaf with Wm Shakespear's signature brought 100 guineas.

Aug./55 The first mention of a narse for hire at the livery stable of Mr. D. Drake.

Nov. 15/55-At Christ Church, Pt. Stanley--by Rev. Jas. Preston M.A., Henry Arkell to Mary, eldest daughter of the late Wm. Burgess.

Apr. 10/55-A letter from the seat of the Crimean war to a friend contained this quotation--"But the d--- Russians sally out like out-throats and assassins under cover of night. This letter was headed-Sastopol, Apr. 15/55.

In one old paper, a reference is made to Germany, viz.-"Iable moving is all the go in the land of Philosophy and Nationism. If they would cultivate sense and truth more, and stupidity and falsehood less, we should like them better."

Sept./55-In email Stage is still advertised--  
For St. Thomas and Pt. Stanley via FOUR Stakes-at 8 a.m. and 4 p.m.  
For St. Thomas, Huff's, Union arriving at Pt. Stanley 1 1/2 p.m.  
Leaves Port at 8 o'clock and 2 1/2 p.m. Distance-20 miles. through fare, 5s.  
Jno. Kelly, Proprietor.

June 19/55-Two men came across from Cleveland on the Telegraph and passed five and ten dollar bills which were forged. It was a good job that the guilty could not be found.

An Auctioneer advertises "I. W. Michael, ever ready, always sober. 1856.

1850-An agitation for mail to be carried over the L&P.S.R.  
Dr. Fowler advertises artificial teeth.

1850-the Victoria Cross was first given to heroes of the Crimean war.

WHERE COLONEL TALBOT MADE HIS HOME



HISTORIC Port Talbot where Colonel Talbot, founder of the Talbot Settlement landed in 1803. In the above picture is shown the Colonel's old home, still well preserved.

# To Become Absorbed By Pt. Stanley

*Few in the present generation are aware of the fact that a little more than a mile upstream from the present village of Port Stanley there once existed a thriving little community known as Selborne. Practically no traces remain of this settlement which the writer described in a previous instalment. The story, concluded herewith, tells of the gradual decline of this early hamlet.*

By Leslie R. Gray

Thomas Daniels purchased half an acre in 1834 and James Meek bought a slightly larger lot. In 1835 William Mason bought a quarter acre on which to build his woolen-mill. In 1837 Andrew McKenzie bought a small lot next to David Anderson's tavern, but in 1840 sold it to James Turville who kept a general store there. This was near the main corner of the village and was situated at the north-east corner of lot 16, second range north of the lake road, and took in the road allowance between Yarmouth and Southwold Townships, as the road at this point took a different course. In 1837 John Meek also purchased a quarter acre lot in the village.

Others with property in or near Selborne were: Thomas Hutchison, William Meek, William Burgess and his wife Martha, Adolphus Urlin, Hugh Stevens, William H. Allworth, William Burnside, Samuel Farr, and William Forsyth.

The children of the pioneer Captain Joseph Smith all lived in the vicinity. At Joseph's death the lots were divided among his children. William Smith was the only surviving son, but it is believed that another son Charles, who predeceased the father, married Louisa Zavitz, the daughter of Jesse Zavitz and left two children, Charles Joseph Smith, and Mary Josephine Smith. The Captain's daughters were Eliza, who married Robert Thompson; Jane, wife of James Begg; Sarah, Mrs. John W. Winemute; and Mary, wife of Bryce Thompson.

Looking at Kettle Creek today it is difficult to believe that in those early days lake boats threaded their way through its many windings to an extensive dock at Selborne, which served the various industries of the village. The river must surely have been wider and deeper, and the one and a half mile sail from Port Stanley must have been delightful, with low pleasant fields running down to the water's edge, and wooded hills of great beauty almost surrounding this fertile valley.

But all was not beauty at Selborne. Where a slight odor of sulphur water is sometimes noticed today, there was a sulphur spring of some extent. The idea of establishing a health spa at Selborne was considered,

to take advantage of the healing powers of these waters. This was never developed. Instead it may be that the unpleasant sulphur odour may have had something to do with the inhabitants of the village moving from this spot.

James Westland was more interested in the business features of Selborne than in its beauty. After striving for about two years to establish a general store in Morpeth he heard of an opportunity in Selborne, no doubt through his wife's relatives the Zavitzes and Minors, whom they frequently visited. Although he does not say so in his diary, he apparently rented a store from James Turville, who at an earlier date was described in land records as a merchant with an acre or so of land near Selborne's main corner.

Westland was closely associated with the Turvilles, and his first diary gives an account of an early tragedy at Selborne. Once again his entries are disappointingly brief, as he says only:

1850—March 21, Fishing to Firth's pond; Turville's child died today. March 23, Turville's child buried; March 26, Vaccinated J.T.W. (his two year old son); March 27, Turville's Richard died. Dr. Moore here, J.T. taken sick. March 28, Attended funeral, very sick, took pills at night; March 29, Rather better; April 2, J.T. died; April 4, J. Turville buried.

What a long two weeks of agony is compressed into those few short words. This plague—the word vaccinated would indicate smallpox—wiped out half of this family of six within these few days. T. G. Turville, a great-grandson of James (the J. Turville mentioned above), who resides a short distance north of old Selborne, says that family tradition blames the plague on one of the lake vessels bringing the disease into port.

Business in Selborne in 1851, as shown by census records in the Canadian Archives, indicates no great prosperity, although the number of industries makes it appear to have been a thriving village. Richard Turville's mill, nearby, valued at £1,000, capable of grinding twenty barrels a day, was recorded as making an annual profit of £125. Samuel Mason's woolen factory of £2,000 value produced only £100 annually. John Waddell's distillery was vacant for want of capital to carry it on.

Port Stanley in the meantime was developing rapidly. Because of the excellent dock facilities at the harbor mouth, the Selborne docks soon fell into disuse. A serious flood in 1855 which changed the course of the river may have affected its navigability

and cut Selborne's shipping trade seriously. That Port Stanley was a major port is shown by its export figure of £50,000 in 1849. About 1850 Capt. Joseph Smith subdivided part of the 2,200-acre tract he had purchased from Mahlon Burwell in 1822, hopefully marking it off into village lots which were divided among his children. Part of this property was in the village of Selborne, but the subdivision was given the name of Port Stanley North. The South part, from the present Warren Street north about two blocks, developed into home sites, but most of the property, on both banks of the river, is still farm land. Port Stanley's natural location was so superior to Selborne's that the business section of the latter soon disappeared completely. The Northern section of Selborne reverted to farm land and the southern part was soon absorbed in growing Port Stanley.

Business in Selborne had already started on the down grade by the time Westland opened his store. In 1850, as Spring advanced, sales did not improve as he had expected. He went out looking for customers and on May 9th, recorded, 'Went to harbor, no encouragement there for business.' Much of his time was spent planting vegetables and flowers, or fishing for bass in the nearby creek.

The vacation trade that came to Port Stanley probably passed Selborne by, for on July 6th, when summer business today would be at its height, the diary shows Westland packing to move everything to London. On July 10th he writes, 'Engaged Cattaraugus for one load.' July 11th, 'Left Selborne with two loads of goods, scorching hot. Arrived in London before dark.' July 12th, 'Unloaded C's load and left for Selborne again with J. Waddell, Slept at Turvilles'.

London proved to be an inhospitable town, for after he had unpacked his goods, put his new store in order, and was preparing to open for business, his creditors descended on him and forced him into bankruptcy before he had a chance to display his wares.

His last mention of Selborne was in October 1850 when he returned to dig some of the potatoes he had hopefully planted in the Spring. His entries read:

1850—October 3, Stayed at Mrs. Turville's, very kind; Oct. 4, Started home at 4 a.m. Balky horse. Got home about 11; Oct. 5, Went to work at Lawson and Burgess.

So ends James Westland's Selborne venture. No doubt others experienced similar discouragement, for by 1855 the village was practically deserted, and later on, ploughed fields replaced the village streets.