

1955.

TALBOTVILLE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

You are Cordially Invited to our Calendar Tea on
Wednesday, April 27th from 3 p. m. to 5 p. m. in the
Talbotville Church School Hall.

Novelties - Home Baking - Candy

Come and bring a friend

Wednesday, April 27th, 1955.

Talbotville W.I. Tea and Bazaar Wed. Apr. 27th, 1955: Nearly a Hundred Guests Are Entertained

TALBOTVILLE. — The members of the Talbotville Women's Institute Branch were at home to their many friends in the community and neighboring Institutes recently when they entertained to a Calendar Tea and Bazaar in the Church School Hall. Nearly one hundred guests were present from St. Thomas, London, Middlemarch, Payne's Mills, Boxall, River Road, North Yarmouth, South Yarmouth, Port Stanley, Lambeth, McBride's, Union, Fingal, Frome and Dutton, as well as many from the Talbotville community. At the door, welcoming the visitors were Mrs. Ralph Auckland, and Mrs. A. E. Thomas. Mrs. James R. Gunning and Mrs. James E. Travers invited callers to sign the register, and Mrs. John McCormick and Mrs. William Dodd Sr. invited to the tea-room.

Bright flowers, lighted candles and soft music gave a springtime atmosphere to the room for the happy event.

Tea was poured from a central tea table, attractively arranged with low bowl of spring flowers in pastel shades and candelabra with lighted tapers on hand-embroidered, cut-work, linen, table cloth kindly loaned by Mrs. John Catherall. Floral and table arrangements were in charge of Mrs. Harold Clarke, Mrs. Thelma Hunt and Mrs. Walter Goold.

Guests were served at small tea tables, and in keeping with the theme of a Calendar Tea, each table, was decorated to represent a certain month of the year, such as a Valentine Table for February; Maypole Table for May; Patriotic Table for July; and Thanksgiving Table for October; Christmas Table for December; and Bride's Table for June. Those in charge of arrangement of tea tables were Mrs. Thelma Hunt, Mrs. Elbern Gunning, Mrs. J. R. Auckland, Mrs. Fred Helkaa, Mrs. Ralph Auckland and Mrs. Gilbert McCallum. Quiet music was provided during the afternoon by Mrs. Ralph Auckland, pianist.

Those pouring tea during the afternoon were: Mrs. Gordon Lyle, Payne's Mills; Mrs. Herbert Jackson, Boxall; Mrs. Kenneth Campbell, River Road; Mrs. John McNiven, Middlemarch; Mrs. Fred Hill, North Yarmouth; Mrs. Walter Goold, Talbotville. Those assisting in serving the guests were: Mrs. Clarence Bawtenheimer, Mrs. Charles Chute, Mrs. Donald Stuart, Mrs. Elbern Gunning, Mrs. Gilbert McCallum, Mrs. Charles Pangborn. Also assisting were Mrs. Frank S. Auckland and Mrs. Harold Stuart.

The home baking and candy, table, always a busy spot, was served by Mrs. J. R. Auckland, Mrs. R. T. Wallis, Mrs. Walter L. Auckland and Mrs. John Catherall. Aprons were sold by Mrs. Lawrence Flashman, Mrs. Roy Turner and Mrs. William Chrysler and novelties by Mrs. William Dodd Jr. and Mrs. Ross Boothman. Mrs. Thelma Hunt and Mrs. Kathleen McKinnon sold plants, shrubs and perennials at the "Green Thumb" table and Mrs. Clifford Dobbie had charge of the "Touch and Take" table.

Women's Institute News Items

The annual Grandmother's meeting of the Talbotville Women's Institute will be held in the Church School Hall on Thursday afternoon, May 19. All grandmothers of the community are cordially invited to be guests, when a suitable program and entertainment will be given, under convenership of Mrs. J. Auckland, Mrs. G. McCallum and Mrs. Walter Auckland. Hostess will be Mrs. V. Carr. Roll call — "Grandmother's Favorite TV program.

The Girls 4-H-Club has been organized for Summer Garden Club work under leadership of Mrs. Donald Pyatt and Miss Leila Stuart. All girls of the community are welcome to join this interesting and instructive project.

Delegates will be appointed at next meeting to attend the West Elgin District annual W. I. convention in Dutton on Tuesday, June 7, morning and afternoon sessions.

Representatives from Talbotville W. I. who will also attend Conference of Branch Presidents of W. I. at O.A.C. Guelph, Ont. on May 11, 12, 13, will be Mrs. R. Auckland and Mrs. W. Goold.

Mrs. John McCormick and Mrs. Ralph Auckland represented Talbotville W. I. at the reception for Miss Gladys Elliott at Alma College on Friday evening.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 20, 1953

TALBOT SETTLEMENT

FOUNDED 150 YEARS AGO



HOW COLONEL TALBOT'S OLD HOME LOOKS TODAY

May 20th, 1955.



1803.

COLONEL THOMAS TALBOT

1853.

Born in Dublin, Ireland in 1771.
Founder of Talbot Settlement,
May 21st, 1803. - Feb. 6th, 1853.

History of Elgin County Closely Linked With Colonel Talbot

THE FREE PRESS CANNOT tell the entire story of Elgin County from memory because the first days of settlement in Elgin were before the London paper commenced its leadership. Neither can the paper recall the spectacular activities of Col. Thomas Talbot, who settled the area. But for 100 years The Free Press has recorded the progress, the trials and the problems of the people of the Lake Erie county.

The history of Elgin cannot be divorced from the life of its founder, whose influence was felt over all the territory now known as Middlesex and Elgin counties.

Talbot was born in Dublin in 1771, the same year in which the poet Sir Walter Scott was born. While Scott endeavored to capture the adventure and romance of Scotland, Talbot aspired to the adventure and romance in a new wilderness across the sea.

He came from a long line of aristocrats, was colonel in the 24th British Regiment in Quebec

when he was 19, saw service in Holland and Gibraltar during a brief but outstanding military career, and in 1791, after the Constitutional Act and the appointment of John Graves Simcoe as governor of Upper Canada, he returned to the wild land for which he had a great fond-

ness and became personal secretary to the governor.

In Dunwich Township Talbot received a grant of 5,000 acres, and on May 21, 1803, he landed at a place later known as Port Talbot. He personally chopped down the first tree.

The agreement he had made with the governor was that he was to receive 200 acres of land for every family he could settle, 150 to be retained for himself and 50 to go to the settler. His intention was to invite the Welsh and Scotch, people who had arrived at New York in 1801, to settle the area and to cultivate hemp for which the township was well adapted.

Talbot was a shrewd colonizer,

and ruled his territory by equity. Of his own share of the land he sold many acres of land at \$25 for 100 acres. Of the settlers he required that they build a house and clear 10 acres of land in order to hold their grants. He also insisted that each settler open the road in front of his land. At Port Talbot a chart was kept on which Talbot penciled in or erased the names of the grantees, according to the manner in which they performed their obligations.

Roads Vital

Roads were vital to Talbot, and the intricate communication system which now exists in the county capital of St. Thomas indicates that his instructions were carried out.

This was the beginning of Elgin County.

Port Talbot struggled through the early days. The nearest store was at Long Point, 60 miles to the east, but stores were eventually opened at St. Thomas. By 1837 Talbot had settled 50,000 people on 650,000 acres of land, of which 98,700 acres were cleared.

Name Changed

The county changed its names and boundaries many times. The eastern townships of South Dorchester, Malahide and Bayham were once part of Norfolk County. The (four) other townships were included in a county

named Suffolk. These townships later became part of Middlesex, but in 1853 the district was completely separated and was named Elgin, after Lord Elgin, who settled the Rebellion Losses Bill in 1849.

From "the finest forest in the world," the county has become a prosperous agricultural district, favored with a mild climate on Lake Erie and in close proximity with London. History has altered the course of growth on many occasions, and among those settlements which, once intended to be towns and cities, were passed by in the march of time is Sparta. One hundred years ago, Sparta was a much busier community than St. Thomas, but with the appearance of the railroads all trade and commerce became centred in St. Thomas.

Corinth, Dutton, Eden, Port

Burwell, Rodney, Shedden, Springfield, Vienna, Wallacetown and Iona Station all helped in the building of a lovely county.

St. Thomas, geographically the heart of the county, is just 15 miles from London and 120 miles from Toronto. It is the terminal for six railroads, the Canadian Pacific, the Canadian National, Michigan Central, Wabash, Pere Marquette and the London and Port Stanley Railway. There is a packing house in the city, lithographing plants, shoe factories, butter and cheese dairies, and it is a produce terminal for the surrounding agricultural lands.

Summer Resort

Port Stanley is the summer resort for the inland counties, and it is a notable fishing place. Aylmer, on Catfish Creek, was once known as Troy, but in 1837

became Aylmer in honor of Lord Aylmer, governor-general. Aylmer has become famous across the nation for canned farming produce.

The pristine beauty of Elgin County has not been changed by modern times, by industries, electricity and natural gas. Even the original occupations remain — farming, fishing and fur farming. The many streams which run through the county and the long Thames River, which forms the northwest boundary of the county, resembles in many ways the land from which the first settlers first came.

Thomas Talbot was buried at Tyrconnell, on the shores of Lake Erie which he loved. Around his grave has grown a prosperous district which has all the fine highways he visioned. His old estate, now consisting of 674 acres in Dunwich Township, remains as an inspiration to the people who themselves have reached their true heritage.

Suffolk County { 1. Aldborough
2. Dunwich
3. Southwold
4. Yarmouth