

Residence of Mr + Mrs. Morley Page

The Morley Page Farm

(In 1808 Leslie Patterson and John Pearce crossed from Erie, Penn. to Upper Canada at Niagara in search of homes under the British Flag. They rounded the western end of Lake Ontario and proceeded as far as muddy York (Toronto) but did not find any land which appealed to them. What persuaded them to turn their faces westward is not known. Col. Talbot had established his homestead at Port Talbot some five years earlier. Quite possibly members of the Government at Newark, in the Niagara district and at York, may have talked to the newcomers, or, as it is known that Col. Talbot was in New York in 1807, he may have had some contact with some members of the family or with Govt. officials who were friends. At any rate, they proceeded westward along the north shore of Lake Erie to Port Talbot and chose the farms which were to be their homes for the remainder of their lives. On July 14, 1809, they returned in a flat bottomed boat with all their earthly possessions, and landed about the line between lots 11 and 12, Concession 10, Dunwich Township. In the party was Mrs. Mary Storey (whose husband died in Ireland) her son Walter, and two daughters Anne and Sarah. Mrs. Storey purchased the south half of the broken front of lot 11, Con. 10, and her son Walter bought the north half of said lot. Mary Storey died in July, 1842, and as her son Walter, his wife and child had predeceased her, all of Lot 11 which the Storey family purchased from Col. Talbot, (except ten acres which had been given by her for St. Peter's Church and cemetery) became the property of her first grandson, Andrew Backus, whose mother was Anne Storey, the wife of Stephen Backus.

*Patterson
Pearce
1809*

Upon the death of Andrew Backus in 1884, it became the property of his son Andrew Storey Backus, who in 1923 sold the south fifty acres to John E. Pearce, a great, great grandson of Mary Storey. The north 112 acres was sold at the same time to Robert Kennedy, a veteran of the Imperial Army of Great Britain, who purchased the property under the Soldier's Settlement Act. Consequently, (the farm not having been paid for) when Morley W. Page purchased said property in August, 1925, it was deeded to him direct from the crown.

The brick house on the farm was built in 1850 by Andrew Backus, the family enjoying their first meal in this house on the 13th of June, 1851. It required 72,000 brick to build it, the brick being made and burned on the farm and was the first brick house to be built in Dunwich Township. Of Georgian design, it contains 11 rooms and is constructed of virgin oak and black ash beams and joist. Three fireplaces, with black walnut mantles and panelling, are all hand work, with the living room finished completely with black walnut trim and doors. Floors are 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ " black ash and Georgian pine, tongued and grooved by hand.

The present owners, Mr. and Mrs. Morley Page, are each descendants of pioneer families and have a keen appreciation of the history of this old farm of the Talbot Settlement. Mr. Page's ancestors also purchased land in the Settlement from Col. Talbot which is still in possession of the Page Family.



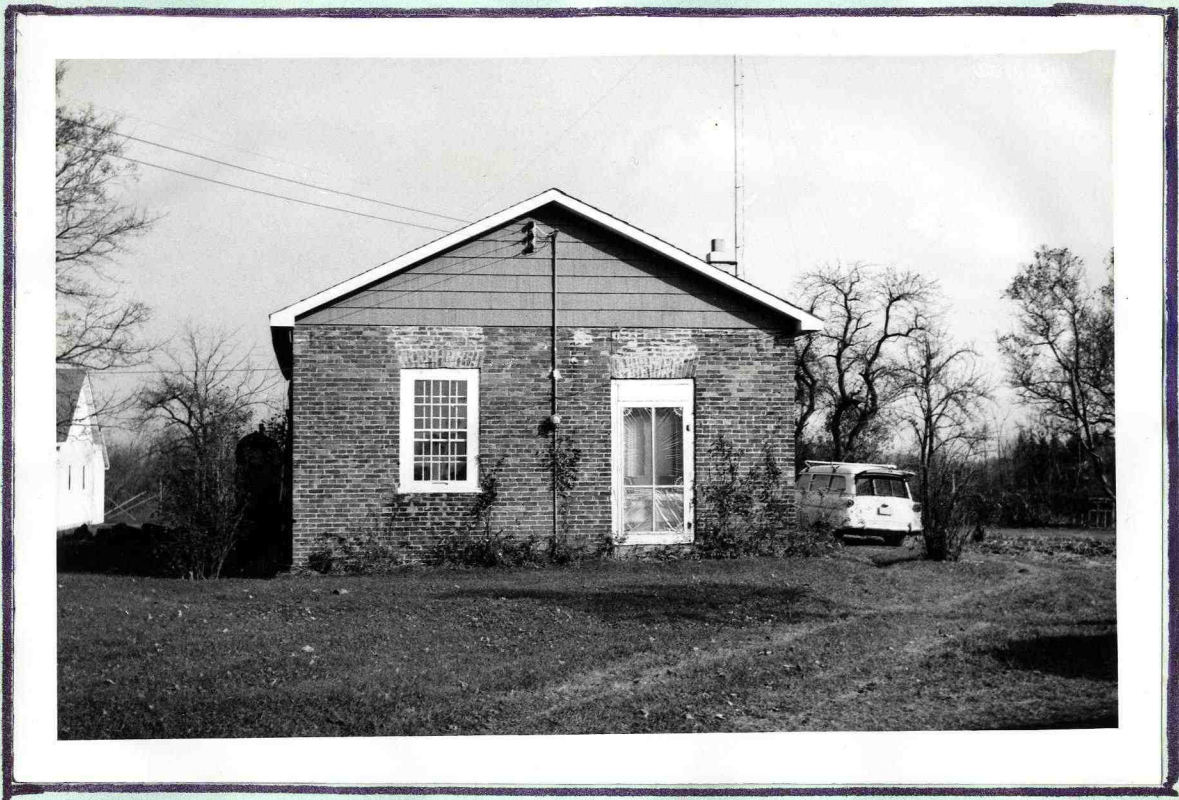
Residence of Mrs. Geo. Lidster



Residence of Mr. + Mrs J. Hentz



Residence of Mr. + Mrs. Tom Page



Residence of Mr. + Mrs. Robert Page



The Walters Home

This home was built by Mrs. Church and Tryphena Walters in the year 1913. After the death of Mrs. Church, Tryphena went to live in Glencoe, leaving this house vacant. In 1933, Douglas Walters purchased it from his aunt. Since that time a basement was dug and two large bedrooms were added. At the present (1979) Mrs. Douglas Walters lives in this home in Tyrconnell.

History of SS No. 2, Dunwich

(This was written in 1955 from records made by Walter Pearce)

The first school held in what was then called Little Ireland (Lake Road east of the hill) was held in Mr. John Pearce's house in 1822. Held for a term of 6 months and was taught by Thos. Gardiner. In 1824 John Miles Farlane kept school in his own house on Conc. 11, Lot 13, (now owned by Ford Bros.). As the school held by Farlane was at one side of the settlement, the people joined and erected a school house 18'x22' on Mr. Andrew Backus farm in 1824. It was frame, sills and sleepers laid in the ground, weather boarded on three sides and double planked on the other, shingled with home-made shingles. Board laid overhead for ceiling and no plaster, door of rough boards and three windows, a large fireplace at one end and a chimney which gave out its smoke to the scholars. Benches were made of slabs with a hole bored in each corner into which were inserted. Along the side in front of the bench was a large chestnut slab with legs for a desk. Along the end was a similar desk made of boards instead of slab. The teachers had a small desk and chair of their own. Paper was bought in stores by the quire. For a pencil to rule the paper, a lead bullet was pounded flat and sharpened. Pens were goose quills and ink from the bark of maple and copperas, and whiskey was added to keep it from freezing in winter. Slate pencils were made from the slate found in the ground and slates bought in the stores. First teacher was Alvro Ladd. Salary \$20.00 a month to which some objected as too large. School term was only 6 months.

As the population of Turconnell school increased, this school house became too small. It was thought to be more convenient on the west side of No. 9 hill so a large school 20'x25' was built on the present school property in 1864. It was farther from the road than the present school. It was well built and had seats and desks to accommodate two pupils. The first teacher here was Mr. John Thompson and the trustees in 1864 were Dougald Campbell, Wm. Harding, and John Pearce.

By 1881 the school had so increased that seventy five pupils were in attendance and one hundred and twenty were on the roll. An additional 18'x16' were added to the school and a partition put in to make a two-room school. The principal appointed was Mr. J.E. Ore, and Miss Jane Meyer was assistant. In a very few years the number of pupils greatly decreased.

In 1887 James Revell of this section taught here and in 1888 Archie Galbraith of SS #4 Dunwich taught.

In 1895 the trustees were Joshua Trother, John Allen, and Joseph Pearce.

In 1907 the present building of red brick was constructed with a seating capacity of 60 pupils.

The last teacher in the former school and the first teacher in the new school was Miss Isabel McIntyre of Wallacetown.

The school grounds were extended by half an acre.

Omit

about seventy five in attendance and about one hundred and twenty on the roll, that an addition of eighteen feet was added and a partition put in, dividing the school into two rooms, after which for a few years two teachers were engaged. This addition was later removed for as the town dwindled the number of scholars decreased.

Teachers in the school since 1855 when William Benson taught are:

- 1856-1857 Thomas L. Armstrong.
- 1858- Mathew O. Cole.
- 1859- E. A. Stafford.
- 1860- First Half E. A. Stafford.
- 1860- Second Half Daniel McColl.
- 1861- Daniel Galbraith.
- 1862 & 63 William Benson Jr.
- 1864- John Thompson.
- 1865- Malcom McCallum.
- 1866- Dougal McNeil.
- 1867- Edward Osborn.
- 1868- Walter Osborn.
- 1869- Edward Osborn.
- 1870- Alfred Marsh.
- 1871-1875 C. W. Stafford.
- 1876- Anson Vogler and Miss C. Roberts.
- 1877- Edward Osborn.
- 1878- D. L. Campbell.
- 1879- D. P. Graham.
- 1880- C. F. Grey.
- 1881- J. E. Ore, principal.
Miss Moryer, assistant.
- 1882- J. E. Ore, principal.
Miss B. Baker, assistant.
- 1883- H. A. McCallum (two months).
- 1883- B. Burges (four months).
- 1883- A. McKellar (six months).
- 1884- D. A. McKillop.
- 1885- C. W. Peets.
- 1886- C. W. Peets (3 months).
- 1886- Miss S. Walker (9 months).
- 1887- James Revell.
- 1888- Archibald Galbraith.
- 1889-1891 A. Patterson.
- 1892- James A. McIntyre (six months).
- 1892- A. Patterson (six months).
- 1893-1895 Miss Annie Geddes.
- 1895- Fred Beer (part of the year).
- 1896- Miss Jessie McColl.
- 1896-1897 Miss Rose McIntyre.
- 1897-1900 Missing