



The Talbot Settlement Centennial Cairn

Re-Dedication Ceremony

2 p.m.

Sunday July 20, 2003

Pinafore Park,

St. Thomas.





Dear *Mayor VanBuren*

Please find enclosed an invitation to attend a special ceremony to re-dedicate the Talbot Settlement Centennial Cairn, in Pinafore Park, Elm Street, St. Thomas, Ontario.

The members of the joint planning committee for this event would ask that you consider the following items.

1. Please confirm your attendance or that of your selected representatives before July 15, 2003.
2. Please bring along a small vessel of water from your area, (one to two cups of water will be sufficient) which will be used in part of our ceremony.
3. We would encourage municipal representatives to please wear their official chain of office, as the counties, municipalities, and townships will be recognized during the event.
4. The event is to recognize the settlement's combined heritage and we would certainly be delighted to see as many people as possible in heritage outfits.

For those traveling in from outside of St. Thomas and Elgin County, from the west, you reach Pinafore Park, St. Thomas, by accessing Sunset Drive off #4 Highway, and then turning left at the lights on Elm Street. The park is just a minute or two from that point.

Coming from the east of St. Thomas, the park is most easily reached from #3 Highway (Talbot Street) to First Avenue. Please turn left at First Ave to reach Elm Street. Finally at Elm Street you turn right, go past the hospital and the Park is just a minute or two from that point on your left.

We thank you in advance for your attention to these considerations and look forward to meeting you on Sunday July 20, 2003 at this event.

Thank you on behalf of the combined Committees,
Sincerely,

Diana Player
Diana Player,
Cairn Project Co-ordinator 519-631-9194

The Talbot Settlement Society P.O. Box 20134 St. Tho

*Lynn Aene & Rien
Van Buren pouring water
from their area at the
Talbot Settlement Centennial
Cairn.*



CAIRN INFO SHEET.

A re-dedication ceremony of the Talbot Settlement 1903 Centennial Cairn at St. Thomas' Pinafore Park, in celebration of the 200th Anniversary of the founding of the Talbot Settlement, by Thomas Talbot in 1803.

Why: In May 1903, at the end of the week long Talbot Centennial Celebrations, this cairn was constructed as a memorial to all 29 townships and 6 counties that had formed the Talbot Settlement. Twenty-nine engraved stone blocks, set into the cairn, represent each one of the former townships. Other stones may be from the home areas.

The cairn, and the new compass walkway and gardens will be the centrepiece of a ceremony honouring all two hundred years of the settlement and the diverse history of the Talbot Settlement and its descendants. We are also planning to recognize the planting of 29 trees, each one native to the township it represents. In addition, we hope to offer an historic time line of characters to reflect the "Living History" of the Talbot Settlement's during the re-dedication ceremony.

We have extended invitations to all the original townships, as well as the current municipalities, that were once a part of the Talbot Settlement.

Where would this event take place?

The event would take place at the Cairn, in Pinafore Park, which is just north of the Main Pavilion. A casual reception is being organized to follow the event.

The Talbot Settlement Bi-Centennial Committee is co-ordinating this event and working with other community partners including the St. Thomas Environmental Services, Parks Division; Communities in Bloom, The Elgin Historical Society, local landscapers, St. Thomas Fantasy of Lights, and other community minded partners, to create a compass shaped walkway and perennial gardens around the Cairn.

Ontario Heritage has suggested it may be possible to place a local interpretive marker at the cairn, which would explain the cairn's history. Currently there is not a marker or sign to explain the cairn's significance.

It is the hope of the Bi-Centennial Committee and the other community partners that we will leave the re-dedicated Centennial Cairn as a reminder of the Centennial and the Bi-Centennial of the Talbot Settlement.





1803 Loyal We Remain 2003

Programme

Introduction and Welcome

Greetings:

Steve Peters M.P.P. Elgin-Middlesex-London
Warden John R. Wilson, County of Elgin
Mayor Peter Ostojic, City of St. Thomas
Mary Angela Tucker, Ontario Historical Society
Don Cosens, Elgin Historical Society
Bob Allen, St. Thomas Communities in Bloom

Recognition of our Community Partners.

A timeline of the Talbot Settlement's history.

The placing of water by re-enactors
and by municipal officials.

The re-dedication of the cairn.
The official opening of the walkway and gardens.

Refreshments

The members of the Talbot Settlement 2003 Bi-Centennial Committee wish to thank everyone who participated in, or witnessed today's event. We sincerely hope that you have enjoyed your day and will take home memories of this "Living History" moment that you will share with future generations.

Remember we are living history everyday.



from left 1 Jim McINTYRE Mayor
of Southwold : 2 Brian Masschack
Archivist for Elgin County.
3 Mayor Rien Van Breukel of
Lutton & Lunenburg : 4 Warden
John Wilson - Mayor of Malahide.

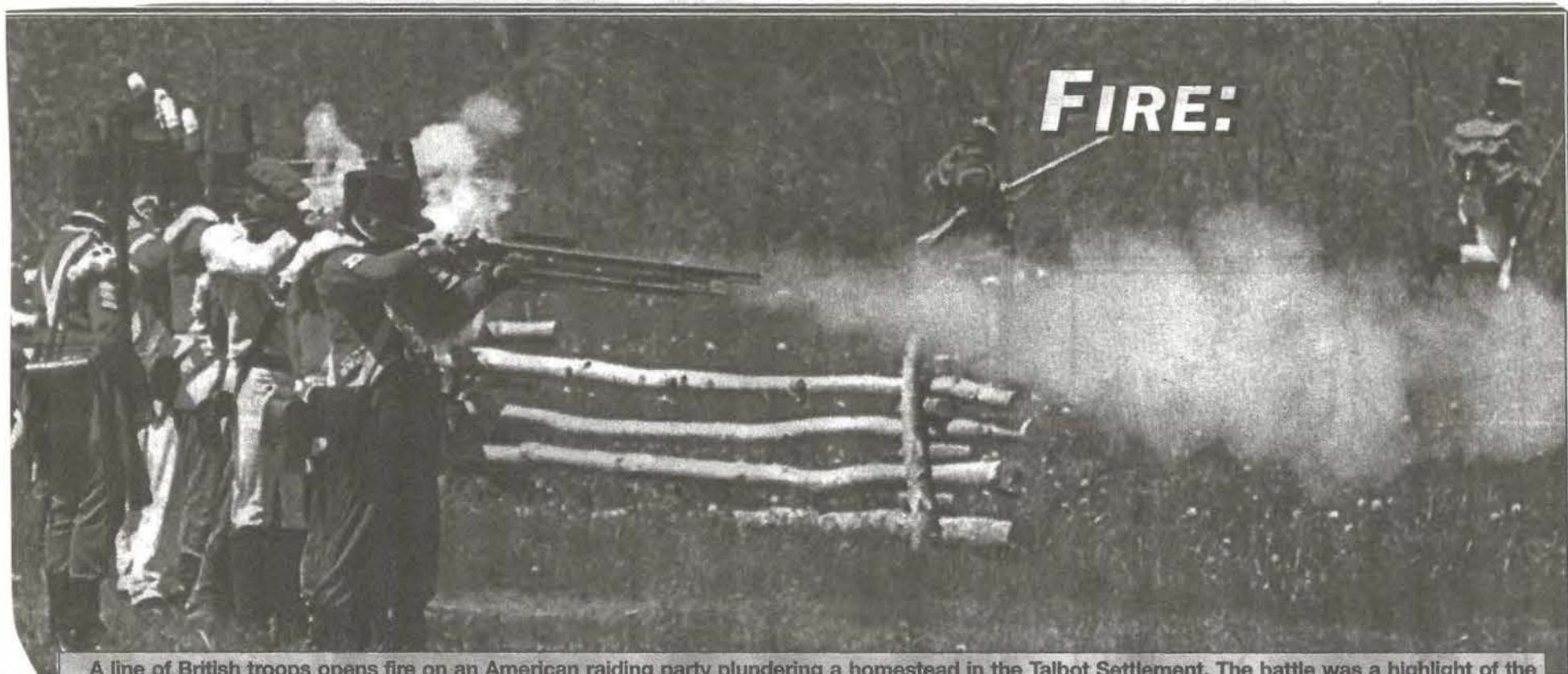
St. Thomas Times-Journal



Sun/Cloud, 22

Monday, May 30, 2005

\$1.00 (incl. GST)



A line of British troops opens fire on an American raiding party plundering a homestead in the Talbot Settlement. The battle was a highlight of the three-day War of 1812 re-enactment at Backus-Page House museum. SEE FLASHBACK, PAGE 3 (T-J photo by Ian McCallum)

The Chronicle

June 2, 2005 Established 1993 Volume 13 ~ Issue 22



Fun, games and heritage at Raids at Backus-Page House

Aldborough Public School students run away from the red lion, a game held May 27 during education day at the Backus-Page House Museum on Lakeview Line in Dutton/Dunwich. The Tyrconnell Heritage Society held its annual Raids on the Talbot Settlement re-enactment Saturday and Sunday. Milliner Linda Lee, left, adjusts a hat worn by sutler Tracy Gordon in one of the many displays and demonstrations featured in the three-day War of 1812 re-enactment. As a sutler, Gordon would have followed the army, selling provisions. See more pictures on page 9.

JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

May 28th 2005



PERIOD FIT:

Linda Lee fits Stevie Baran, a Grade 3 student at Dutton Public School, for a bonnet at the Backus Page House Friday. Baran was just one of about 1000 children from all over Elgin County who attended the re-enactments from the time period of 1812-1814. Today, approximately 300 re-enactors will portray the invasion by American soldiers in 1813. (T-J Photo by Nicole da Costa*) T. J.

June 2nd 2005







JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE AND IAN MCCALLUM/TIMES JOURNAL

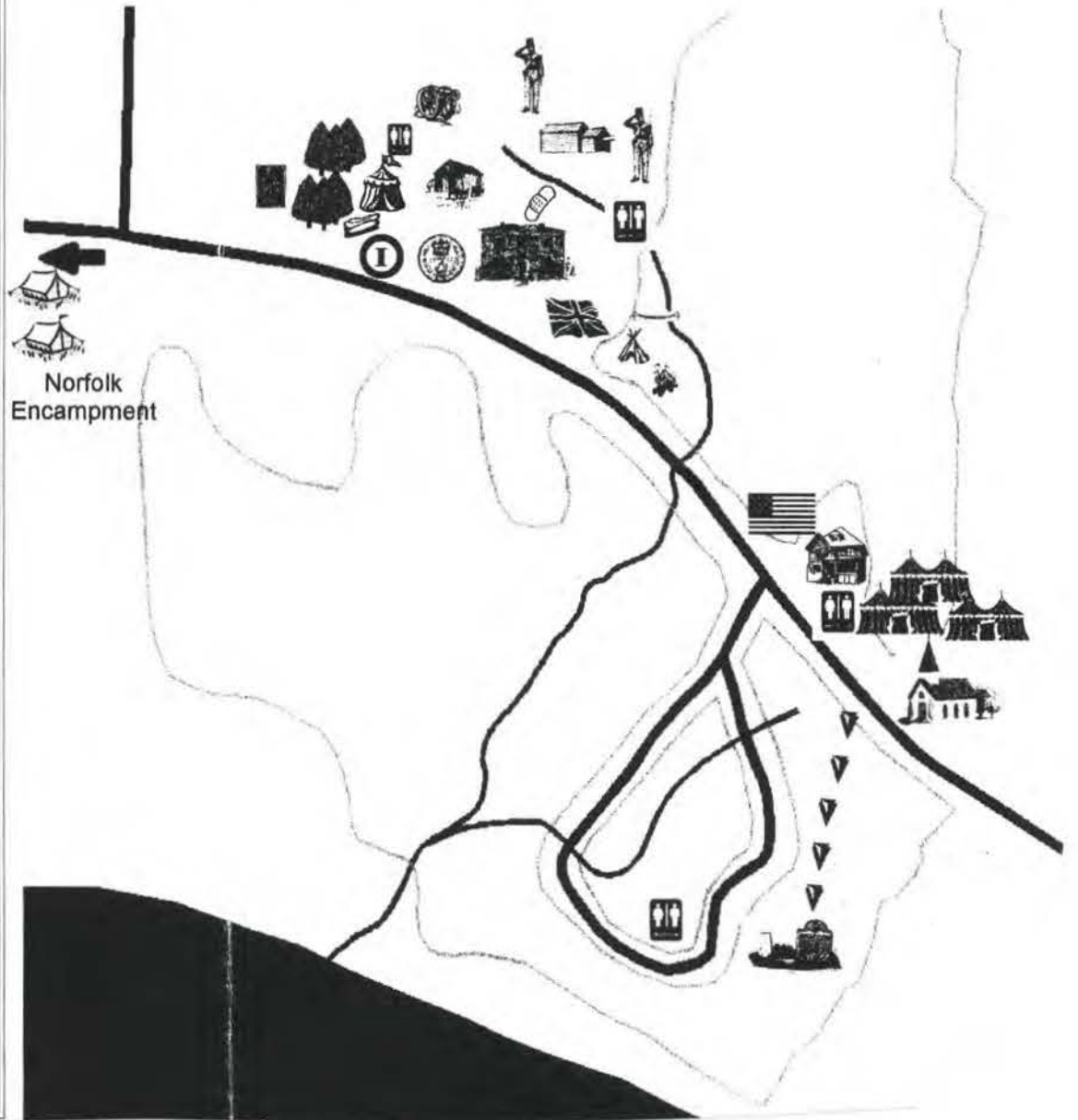
Reenactment

Above: Samantha McCullough, left, bugles with Kyle Brown Taylor Derbyshire and William Robb during education day at the Raids on the Talbot Settlement held at the Backus-Page May 27-29. Below: is a line of British troops opening fire on an American raiding party. The battle was the highlight of the three-day War of 1812 reenactment.

Legend

-  Food Tent
-  Voyagers and Native People
-  Sutlers' Row
(Merchants and Demonstrations)
-  Re-enactment Field
-  Historical Presentations
-  US Military Encampment
-  British Military Encampment
-  Royal Marine/Royal Navy Camp
-  St. Peter's Cemetary (Resting place
of Col. Thomas Talbot) Enter from
Lake View Line
-  Washrooms
-  Information & Beverage Tent
-  Emergency Services and
Command Center (Portable)
-  Food and Beverage Booth
-  St. Peter's Church {Fashion Show}
-  Handicapped Parking

Re-enactment Weekend at the Backus-Page House



**Raids on the
Talbot Settlement**

**Re-enactments
at the
Backus-Page House
Museum
May 28th & 29th, 2005**

*Step back in time at the
historic Backus-Page
House Museum for our
Re-enactment Weekend.
Smell the gun powder
and hear the cannon roar
as the War of 1812
unfolds before you.
Stroll down Sutlers' Row
and see what the
merchants have to offer.
Historical presentations
throughout the weekend.*



For more information
Phone: 762-3072
E-mail: jbbrownie@sympatico.ca
www.thekingcompany.com

JOHN E. PEARCE PARK CELEBRATES ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

The people and the weather both co-operated to make the 50th anniversary of John E. Pearce Park held on July 15, 2006, a delightful celebration.

Approximately 100 persons attended the ceremonies in the park, held near the bank of Lake

Erie. They were taxied there by tractor and wagon, a thrill for many city folk. Of those present, twenty eight were direct descendants of original settlers, John Pearce and Frances Patterson. Eighty-nine year old Reg Pearce and his wife Marion drove from their home in Calgary to attend the event. Reg's mother was Mary Jane Backus, daughter of Storey Backus, and granddaughter of Andrew Backus who built the Backus Page House.

Special speaker was Al McGregor who outlined the local history of the past 200 years in a meaningful and entertaining manner. Mary Simpson of Glencoe sang two folk songs accompanying herself on guitar. The Rev. Anna Berwick, rector of St. Peters, re-dedicated the park. Dave Phillips, town crier of Dutton, in his colorful attire, cried the necessary announcements. Dignitaries were introduced by chairman Don Page. Local MPP Steve Peters spoke briefly, mentioning the help that the Ontario Trillium Foundation has granted to Tyrconnell Heritage Society.

Refreshments and a social time followed at Backus-Page House. Thanks to all who attended and helped make this event successful.

-Alice Paterson, Chairperson - John E. Pearce Park 50th Anniversary Committee



Dave Phillips-Town Crier, Al McGregor - Speaker, The Hon. Steve Peters -MPP, Leta West - THS President, Don Page - Master of Ceremonies, Laurence Grant - Curator, Backus-Page House



Descendants of John and Frances (Patterson) Pearce who came to Canada in 1809.

PIONEER ADVENTURE DAY CAMP 2006

Although it may have been one of the hottest weeks of the summer, day campers managed to keep cool by playing water games, or by an even more popular activity, playing in the mud. Other activities of the week included a scavenger hunt, baking apple pies, dressing up, and learning from guest presenters each day. Guest presenters included Stacie Littlejohn, Maxine Hendrick, Elaine Brown, Rev. Anna Berwick, Carol and



Patrick Mooney. Patrick Mooney who did a blacksmithing demonstration for the campers, also made a dinner triangle for the Backus-Page House during his visit. Student volunteers Anna DeBruyn, Chloe Steele, Rachel Cardol, Samantha and Sarah Hamelin kept up with the 15 energetic campers and were a wonderful help during the week. Camp supervisors Emily Dryfhout and Stephanie Lackey appreciated the help of the many volunteers involved with the week. Thank you to the members who brought in needed day camp supplies listed in our day camp wish list in the last newsletter.

FURNISHING THE BACKUS-PAGE HOUSE BY LAURENCE GRANT

One of the pleasures of working on the furnishing of the Backus-Page House results from following the well-researched plan prepared by members of the Interior Restoration Committee, consisting of Rosemary Leitch, Stacie Littlejohn and Marion Page. This plan has provided the basis for seeking, through donations and loans, appropriate furniture for the time frame approved by the Board of the Tyrconnell Heritage Society - that of 1850-1860. The Board chose this formative time period following the building of the House in 1850 in part because of the change in furniture styles that occurred later in the 19th century. Just as with our own homes, the goal has been to achieve some harmony of style.

The Pearce family has been generous with a number of donations and these include a bench settee, rope bed, arrow-back chairs and wardrobe. I've completed conservation work on the bench settee (a piece of furniture like a sofa and used for napping as well) and under-eaves bed (a bed with low corner posts often placed under the eaves in a storey and a half house). In cleaning and refinishing the bed, I discovered the name "EVA"

carved into the footboard. Alison Pearce has confirmed that this was likely Eva Pearce, great aunt to Elaine Brown. The bed



has been placed in the small bedroom at the top of the stairs, one thought likely to be used by hired staff. The settee is located in the birthing/parent room next to the kitchen. This room was likely to have been used to care for children and the elderly. The settee would provide a good place to take a nap during the day or a warm place near a fireplace for someone finding it difficult to climb the stairs.

For example, during the 1880s Andrew Backus and his wife Mary Jane, lived here with brother Stephen, and wife Elizabeth. Also in the house were Elizabeth's mother, Sarah Backus, an unmarried sister to Andrew and Stephen, and Andrew's son and his wife. The house thus had a number of occupants, including the need for a parent room. This information is derived from the 1881 census and provides some idea of how intensively the house was used.

The Elgin County Museum has been very generous with loans and I've made several trips to the Museum's furniture storage areas with curator Ninette Gyrody. The intention has been to select furniture, that, to the best of one's knowledge, is likely to date from 1850-60 or prior. To date, the Elgin County Museum has loaned, to highlight a few pieces, dining room chairs made by the Metcalfe Furniture Company of Fingal, a low-post bed made by that same company, a number of interesting arrow-back and ladder-back chairs (a high chair was donated by J. E. Pearce on behalf of the E. S. Backus family of Wallacetown), a cradle, blanket chest and trundle bed. A trundle bed is intended for use by children and is rolled out from under an adult bed. The trundle bed was made by William Yeandle in 1886 for his first-born child. He and his wife Eva lived to the east of Richmond in Bayham Township. The bed is made very much in the style of a mid 19th century trundle. It rolls from under a low-post bed donated by Norman Morris (through his son David), grandson of House builder Robert Morris.

Thanks to the generosity of a number of donors, the Backus-Page House collection is growing and has been used in furnishing the museum. Apart from the donations mentioned above from the Pearce and Morris families, the late Mr. & Mrs. Anderson of St. Thomas donated a wardrobe/linen press and bannister-back chair once owned by Andrew Backus' father Stephen, Audrey Littlejohn a Windsor chair given by Thomas Talbot to Leslie Patterson, and a sofa. These are just a few of the donations that have come forward from a very supportive community.

Once the major furnishings are in place, I will begin a search for smaller items specified in the Interior Restoration Plan. These include clocks, china, glassware, kitchen items, framed materials, etc. The goal is to have the House reasonably furnished for re-opening next spring. There are still some outstanding items. I will list these below and would appreciate any leads on these items.

Small tables	Tables that may have been used as bed-side furniture, parlour work tables, candle table, etc.
Clocks	A case clock or mantle clock
Dressers (two)	For bedrooms
Bench	A kitchen or pantry bench that may have been used for pails
Dry Sink	An item of furniture used as a sink but without being plumbed in; water was brought to the sink in pails
Wood stove	An 1850-60 kitchen cook stove
China, glass, cutlery and other small items	Smaller items will be researched once the larger furnishings are in place

Travel Western Elgin's Open Trails



A car &
walking tour

with staffed
check points
at nature trails

Tour begins at the Backus-Page House Museum
May 27 9:30am - 11:30am 2007

(519)762-3072 tyrconnell@execulink.com \$10 per car



**Re-Live the Talbot Settlement
Schedule of Activities
May 26, 2007**

Ongoing all day:

- Sutler's Row: early 19th century merchants offering baked goods, candy and period merchandise
- Butter Making
- Game of Graces
- Quill Pen Writing
- Spinning
- Military Life
- Pioneer Gardening
- Fabric Dyeing
- Life of a Camp Follower
- Native Encampment



At specific times:

- Story Telling (Mary Storey) - 10:30, 1:00 & 2:30 [Backus-Page House parlour]
- Dueling Demonstration - at a quarter to and a quarter after the hour [front lawn]
- Artillery Demonstration - every half hour north of parking lot
- Sheep Shearing - on the hill beginning at 11:00 on the hour
- Pottery Making - on the hour in the barn
- Mini Militia - at a quarter to and a quarter after the hour [front lawn]
- Life of a British Soldier - on the half hour [front lawn]
- Col. Thomas Talbot - on the hour until 3:00 [Backus-Page House kitchen]
- Forest: Friend and Foe - 11:30 & 1:30 [meet at front museum gate]
- Pioneer Cemetery Talk - 12:00 & 2:00 [meet at front museum gate]



**Barbeque lunch available on the lawn.
Dessert served in the Carriage House behind
the Backus-Page House Museum.**

Many thanks to all our volunteers and supporters.

History and Nature Weekend

BACKUS-PAGE HOUSE

Saturday May 26 & Sunday May 27 ²⁰⁰⁷

<p style="text-align: center;">Saturday May 26</p> <p style="text-align: center;">RELIVE THE TALBOT SETTLEMENT</p> <p style="text-align: center;">10am to 4pm</p> <p>Re-enactors in period costume present life in the early days of the Talbot Settlement. Pioneer Activities. War of 1812 demonstrations and merchants.</p> <p>FOOD & REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE Adults \$6; Children 6-12 \$2 Family Rate \$15 Child under 6 FREE</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Sunday May 27</p> <p style="text-align: center;">TRAVEL WESTERN ELGIN'S OPEN TRAILS</p> <p>A car and walking tour with staffed check points and nature trails. Tour begins at the Backus-Page House between 9:30 and 11:30am</p> <p style="text-align: center;">\$10 per car for tour package</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Family outing brought to you by MPoWER and West Elgin Nature Club</i></p>
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For Information Contact tyrconnell@execulink.com or Call 519-762-3072

May 26/2007
CANNON

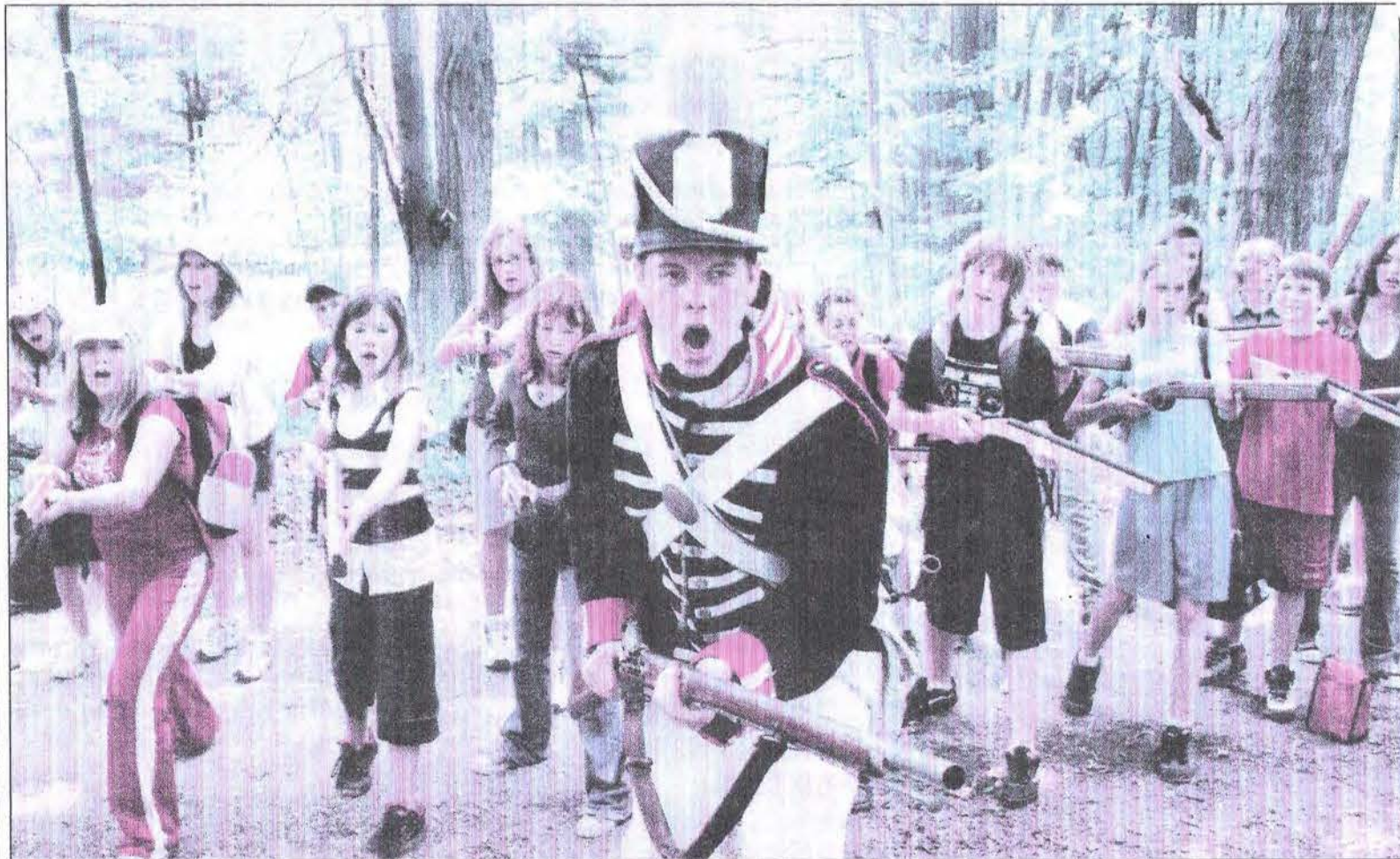
GO BOOM!

Ken Fisher, left, covers his ears as Louise Simcoe lights the powder to fire a three-pound naval gun on a cliff in John Pearce Park on Friday. Professional re-enactors were on hand to mark the War of 1812 on the first day of Relive the Talbot Settlement, a two-day celebration organized by the Backus-Page house. The event continues today. Call 519-762-3072. (T-J photo by Kyle Rea)



The Chronicle

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Hizzah!!

JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Jonathan Herb from St. Thomas plays an American soldier from the U.S. 17th regiment as he leads West Elgin Senior Elementary School students through a mini-militia demonstration. About 500 Grade 3 and Grade 7 and 8 students from schools across the region were at Education Day at the Backus-Page House and John E. Pearce Park at Tyrconnell May 25. See more photos on page 9 from Education Day and the rest of the Living History and Nature Weekend.



WAR OF 1812: *May 28th 2007*

Dressed as a British soldier, re-enactor Tom Morris stands at attention during a War of 1812 re-enactment at Relive the Talbot Settlement at the Backus-Page House. More coverage on page 4. (T-J photo by Kyle Rea)



Looking back to 1812

By KYLE REA

TIMES-JOURNAL STAFF

TYRCONNELL — A glimpse at the life of early pioneers in Elgin county was on display at the Backus-Page House on the weekend during Relive the Talbot Settlement.

Dressed in period clothing and speaking with period mannerisms, dozens of re-enactors set up shop at the historic house, which dates to 1850, offering demonstrations on blacksmithing, pottery, rug-making and Victorian-era games, among many other activities.

The goal was to show how Elgin county's early ancestors lived, explained Don Page, who helped organize the event.

"They'll take away an education of what it was like to live in the early 1800s. They'll also take away some information about War of 1812, since this area was invaded by the Americans," he said, noting that a War of 1812 re-enactment, with a cannon, period costumes and re-created weapons, was staged in the area of John E. Pearce Provincial Park.

On Friday, the site hosted Education and Pioneer Days, offering 500

Grade 3 and Grade 7/8 students from Elgin county as well as Strathroy, Woodstock and Tillsonburg children, a chance to check out pioneer lifestyles.

Page said one feature of the day for older students was the War of 1812 re-enactment. They were taught how to march by a group of re-enactors playing American soldiers. They were given wooden rifles and marched through the forest before being "ambushed" by another group of re-enactors, playing British troops.

Children were also taken to St. Peter's Anglican Church, dating to 1827 and one of the oldest churches in Elgin county, and to the nearby cemetery where Col. Thomas Talbot is buried.

This year's Relive the Talbot Settlement is the fourth such celebration for the museum, operated by the Tyrconnell Heritage Society.

Not only did Page have a role to play in the weekend's activities, his family bought the historic property and home back in the early 1900s from the Backus family — hence the Backus-Page name.

"My uncle purchased it and used it for farming," he said.



Patrick Mooney demonstrates traditional blacksmithing during Relive the Talbot Settlement held on the weekend at the Backus-Page House. (T-J photo by Kyle Rea)

