

## Adelaide-Hunter-Hoodless

Adelaide Hunter was born on a farm near St. George, in Brant County, Ontario. She received her schooling in St. George. In year 1800 married Mr. John Hoodless of Hamilton.

Tragedy struck, when her first baby died at age of eighteen months. She felt that if she had known more of how to take care of a baby she might have saved him. Also, when it was discovered that the milk delivered to her home was not safe for babies, she felt she should have known that too. Out of her grief came the resolve to try to save other women from suffering like her own. So she headed a campaign for clean milk in her city, and she began her crusade for home economics education for girls. And for women whose school days were over she started the Womens' Institutes.

The first one organized in Ontario on 19<sup>th</sup> day of February 1897. Mrs. Hoodless met with Farmers Institute in the little village of Stoney Creek, where she was invited to speak, as she had the reputation as an entertaining speaker. And she heard the men discussing the health of farm animals. When her turn came to speak, she argued that the health of their families was more important than the health of their cattle. A public-spirited farmer was particularly moved by what Mrs. Hoodless said and asked if she would speak at another Farmers Institute meeting, when they would invite the women out to hear her. At that meeting Mrs. Hoodless suggested that the women have an organization of their own to study home making, just as the farmers study farming. She offered to meet with them to talk it over, and a meeting was arranged. Thirty five women promised to attend. When the night came one hundred and one women and one man crowded into the Hall at Stoney Creek on Feb. 19<sup>th</sup> 1897, the first Womens' Institute was organized and so started a movement that has spread pretty well around the world.

In 1889, she became interested in Hamilton Y.W.C.A. and furthered its efforts to teach girls better methods in household affairs. In 1900, she was one of a group that formed the National Council of Women. In 1901, she wrote to Sir Wm. McDonald with the result that he built and equipped the McDonald Institute at the Ontario Agricultural College at Guelph for training of girls in Home Economics, and Mrs. Hoodless was a lecturer there.

Mrs. Hoodless life was cut short at the age of 52 years when she dropped dead on the platform, while addressing the Federation of Womens' Clubs, Feb. 25<sup>th</sup> 1910 setting forth plans for the betterment of standards for women and the advance of their welfare.

Mrs. Jamieson writer of Colonel Talbot and his home at Port Talbot on July 10th 1837.

"This is the land of hope, of faith, ay, and of charity, for a man who hath not all three had better not come here; with them he may, by strength of his own right hand and trusting heart, achieve miracles; witness Colonel Talbot.

This remarkable man is now about sixty-five, perhaps more but he does not look so much. In spite of his rustic dress, his good-humored jovial, weather-beaten face, and the primitive simplicity not to say rudeness of his dwelling, he has in his features, air and deportment, that something which stamps him gentleman. And that something which thirty-four years of solitude has not effaced, he derives, I suppose from blood and birth, things of more consequence than we are apt to allow. He must have been very handsome when young; his resemblance now to our royal family, particularly to the king (William the Fourth) is so very striking as to be something next to identity."

"Colonel Talbot's life had been one of persevering heroic, self-devotion to the completion of a magnificent plan, laid down in the first instance, and followed up with; unflinching tenacity of purpose. For sixteen years he saw scarce a human being except a few boors and blacks employed in clearing and logging his land; he himself assumed the blanket-coat and axe, slept upon the bare earth, cooked three meals a day for the twenty woodsmen, cleaned his own boots, washed his own linen, milked his cows, churned the butter and made and baked the bread. In this latter branch of household economy he became very expert and still piques himself on it.

To all these heterogeneous functions of sowing and reaping, felling and planting, frying, boiling, washing, wringing, brewing and baking he added another even more extraordinary:—for many years he solemnized all the marriages in his district."

"He had built his house, like the eagle his eyry, on a bold high cliff overhanging the lake. On the east there is a precipitous descent into a wild woody ravine, along the bottom of which winds a gentle stream till it steals into the lake. This stream is in the winter a raging torrent. The storms and the gradual action of the waves have detached large portions of the cliff in front of the house, and with them huge trees."

"His chateau is a long wooden building chiefly of rough logs, with a covered porch running along the south side. Here I found suspended, among sundry implements of husbandry, one of those ferocious animals of the feline kind, called here the American tiger, or panther. This one, which had been killed in it's attack on the fold or poultry yard was at least four feet in length, and glared on me from the rafters above ghostly and horrible.

"The interior of the house contains several comfortable lodging-rooms, and one really handsome one, the dining room. There is a large kitchen with a tremendously hospitable chimney, and underground are cellars for storing wine, milk and provisions. Around the house stands a vast variety of out-buildings of all imaginable shapes and sizes and disposed without the slightest regard to order of symmetry. One of these is the very log hut which the colonel erected when he first sat down in the bush four-and-thirty years ago, and which he is naturally unwilling to remove. Many of these out-buildings are to shelter the geese and poultry, of which he rears an innumerable quantity."

"Beyond these is the cliff, looking over the wide blue lake on which I have counted six schooners at a time with their white sails; on the left is Port Stanley. Behind the house lies an open tract of land, prettily broken and varied, where large flocks of sheep and cattle were feeding — the whole enclosed by beautiful and luxur-

iant woods through which runs the little creek above mentioned. "The farm consists of six-hundred acres—he has sixteen acres of orchard-ground, in which he has planted and reared with success all the common European fruits—apples, pears, plums and cherries, in abundance. But what delighted me beyond everything else was a garden of more than two acres, very neatly laid out and enclosed, and in which he evidently took exceeding pride and pleasure for it was the first thing he showed me after my arrival.



Cairn erected by the Historic Sites and Monument's Board of Canada to mark the Colonel Talbot estate.

## Recent Picture of Colonel Talbot Home



"Here will I roost!" Colonel Thomas Talbot is quoted as saying, on his arrival at Port Talbot in the spring of 1803, to start the Talbot Settlement. The above photograph is a picture of Colonel Talbot's second "Castle Malahide," built well over a century ago. It is in a high state of preservation and with the big estate is now owned by Milton Berry of Detroit, a native of Port Stanley. High above Lake Erie, Colonel Talbot's old home has a commanding view of the blue waters of the lake and the rugged shoreline. Mr. Berry acquired the estate from the late C. A. Pfeffer of Detroit.

### HONORED THEIR FOREBEARS

Descendants of the First Settlers Celebrate the Centennial of Their Landing  
*Advanced July 22, 1909*  
 Patterson—Backus—Pearce—Storey—  
 Descendants Picnic at Port Talbot

The descendants of the first settlers of the Township of Dunwich very fittingly celebrated the centennial of the landing of their forbears at a re-union on Wednesday of last week. On July 14, 1809, Col. Leslie Patterson, his wife (Lydia Backus), Mary Storey (Col. Patterson's widowed sister), her son and two daughters, and John Pearce (married to a sister of Col. Patterson) landed at Port Talbot after a rough journey in open boats from Fort Erie. After a short stay with Col. Talbot, the little party proceeded a few miles further west with all their earthly belongings in the little boats, and landed on the present Patterson homestead, and where two of the daughters of Col. Patterson still reside: Miss Hannah Patterson and Mrs. Arch. Duncan.

Of the early struggles and privations of these, the earliest pioneers, we can have only a very inadequate conception, but enough can be gleaned from the diaries, as read by Mr. Coyne, of the debt of gratitude their descendants owe to their indomitable energy and strength of character. And that their descendants have proved "worthy sons of worthy sires" is borne out by their success in every occupation which they have chosen, whether of tilling the land, in the professions or other walks of life.

Over two hundred of these descendants and their friends gathered at the historic home of Col. Talbot, where every arrangement had been made to make the day a gala one. The ladies had prepared a superabundance of good things to satisfy the inner man, after which the afternoon was spent in listening to speeches, recounting memories and renewing old friendships.

Rev. Mr. Moorhouse presided and addresses were given by Rev. Mr. Elliott, who paid a tribute to the early pioneers—their zeal piety and industry; F. B. Holtby, St. Thomas; William Pearce, Calgary; Dr. McTavish, Blenheim; Dr. Lumley, St. Thomas; and J. H. Coyne, of St. Thomas, who as president of the Elgin Historical Society, is doing much to preserve the early history of the county.

### The First Settlers

In 1800 Leslie Patterson and sisters left Fermanagh, Ireland, for Erie, Penn. There they met Joseph Backus and family from Vermont, and John Pearce from Rhode Island. In 1809 Leslie Patterson (who had married Lydia Backus), his widowed sister, Mary Storey, her son and two daughters, and John Pearce, married to Fanny Patterson, left Pennsylvania for Canada, and on July 14, 1809, landed about 5 miles west of Port Talbot, where lay the land purchased the year before from Col. Talbot. Hither Stephen Backus soon followed and married Anne Storey. After untold hardships, privations and toil, they lived to change the unbroken forest into the beautiful farms still occupied by some of their descendants. In the midst stands the church, for over 75 years open for Divine service and close by the landing place is the graveyard, their last resting place.

first to come in after the war were Singleton and Thomas Gardiner, in 1816, and Henry Coyne, their brother-in-law, in 1817. These new settlers differed in political views to those of Tyrconnell, but that did not interfere with their friendship. The speaker had always heard his father speak well of the Pattersons, Pearces, Storeys and Backuses, and of the esteem in which they were held by the community.

The speaker produced the original diary carried by Col. Talbot from 1794 to 1811, together with the accounts for the construction of the original log huts in 1804-5 by James Whitton, of Niagara, and his assistant, James Newlands; the accounts of Talbot's domestics, and original lists of Dunwich and Aldboro settlers, all in the colonel's neat and legible handwriting. These documents, the property of the Macbeth estate, contain much that is interesting and new. A note of the date of Talbot's birth, July 19, 1771, gives his name as Thomas Hans. Until the recent discovery of the diary, it was not known that he had any other name than Thomas. One important entry is as follows: "Sunday, May 22, 1803, took possession of Dunwich." This date must be an error, for the Talbot anniversary was always held on the 21st. He was accompanied by four employees, of whom Wm. Powers was one. Who were the others?

### Then and Now

Mr. Coyne thanked the committee for the invitation to be present. From his earliest years the names of Patterson, Pearce, Storey and Backus had been familiar to him. After George Crane, who took up land in 1806, the four families named had been the first to settle in the county of Elgin on the Lake Erie shore. But Mr. Crane had come in as an employe of Col. Talbot, and not for the special purpose of settling, and therefore the four families were, in a sense, the first real Talbot settlers. Then the war came on, and all immigration ceased. After its close the five families were, perhaps, the only residents of the township of Dunwich, except Col. Talbot himself. Among the

gathered from the diary on his way from England to Port Talbot, it states that he hired three men: Pat Whealon, at New York, April 6, 1703, at \$11 per month; Geo. Crane at York (now Toronto,) May 6, 1803, at \$9 per month, and Samuel Rogers at Niagara, May 11, 1803, at \$9 per month. It was Geo. Crane who, on leaving Talbot's service at the end of 1806, and marrying, was the first to take up land in the Talbot settlement. The account book shows, contrary to the accepted belief, that Talbot had female servants in his employment down to 1809, after which date the colonel's accounts have not been preserved.

Talbot  
 Settlement  
 AND WAR OF 1812  
 READ IN  
 HISTORICAL  
 ATLAS OF  
 ELGIN COUNTY  
 1877

### DUNWICH ASSESSMENT

On January 26, 1805, the Court of Quarter Sessions meeting at Charlotteville, ordered the Township of Dunwich to be included in the next year's assessment with that of Delaware. On March 26 in that same year, the application of Thomas Noland for a license to keep a house of public entertainment at Port Talbot was allowed.

TAKEN FROM [COPY]  
 COLONEL TALBOT'S  
 DIARY