

THE OLD HALL

AND

THE NEW HALL



This hall stood on WALLACE St. EAST of CURRIE ROAD directly opposite the old school, on what WAS THEN CALLED "The Commons" WHERE ROVING GYPSIES would pitch their tents AND REST A FEW days. MUCH TO AMUSEMENT of the school CHILDREN ACROSS the way.

THE HALL WAS USED FOR MEETINGS of DUNWICH COUNCILLORS. OCCASIONALLY A COMPANY SELLING PATENT MEDICINES would put ON A FREE CONCERT AND display their MEDICINES AND ENTICE PEOPLE to buy. It, ALSO, WAS USED FOR public DANCES AND WAS the home of "YOUNG PEOPLES' LITERARY SOCIETY"

Wallacetown was an important village before Dutton was incorporated. So much so that on November 13, 1872, a bylaw was passed to establish a lock-up house in the Village of Wallacetown.

It had a lock-up OR JAIL IN RIGHT CORNER. [of photograph]

LATER, it WAS MOVED TO FAIR GROUNDS AND IS USED TO SERVE MEALS ON days of FAIR.

SOUTH DUNWICH COMMUNITY HALL ON THE CORNER of TALBOT St. AND GORDON St. ON THE lot WHERE the "M^r. BETH" RESIDENCE ONCE stood. It WAS built IN YEAR 1947

JANUARY 18th 1961

THE ADVANCE, DUTTON, ONT. — January

Pearce Park Property Among First Settled

The area on the shore of Lake Erie at Tyrconnell where the Pearce Provincial Park is situated, as well as the additional 30 acres which the Department of Lands and Forests has taken over to enlarge the spot, was among the earliest settled in this part of the province.

In 1808 Leslie Patterson and John Pearce came over from Pennsylvania and chose parts of Lots 10, 11 and 12 on Con. 10 of what is now Dunwich Township. In July of the following year, there came by small open boat from Erie, Penn., some 13 persons — Leslie Patterson, his wife, Lydia Backus Patterson and two children; John Pearce, his wife, Frances Patterson Pearce and three children; Mary Patterson Storey and three children. Leslie Patterson settled where Mrs. D. M. Littlejohn now lives, John Pearce where John S. Pearce now resides and Mrs. Storey on the south side of the road opposite Morley Page's present home.

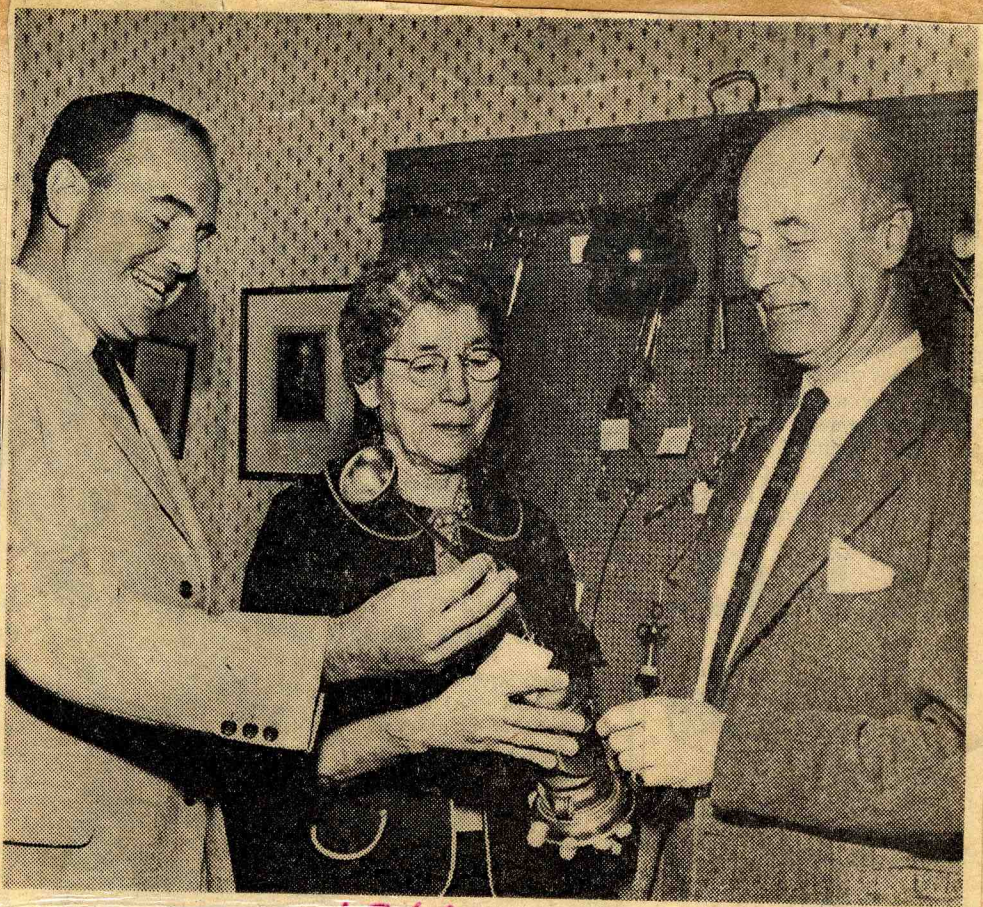
Mrs. Storey took up 70 acres from Col. Thomas Talbot. Being a widow, she was given special consideration and the price paid for the land was two barley corns. About the year 1820, Mrs. Storey gave ten acres of her farm to be set aside for a cemetery, church, rectory, garden, lawn and fields for use of a rector. This gift was registered in 1828, but the present St. Peter's Cemetery was being used in 1820 if not earlier.

In the year 1810, Stephen Backus came from Pennsylvania and married Mrs. Storey's daughter, Anne. They settled on Lot 13 where Mrs. George Lidster now lives. On January 1st, 1812, their first son, Andrew, grandfather of John E. Pearce, was born, who later became owner of the Storey property consisting of Lot 11 on both sides of travelled road between Port Talbot and Tyrconnell. Upon his death in 1885 this land was bequeathed to his son, Andrew Storey Backus, who sold the north side, now Morley Page's, to Robert Kennedy of Leskinferre Gorey, Co. Wexford, Ireland, who only owned it between two and three years when he returned to Ireland. Mr. Kennedy died quite suddenly of a heart attack this last October.

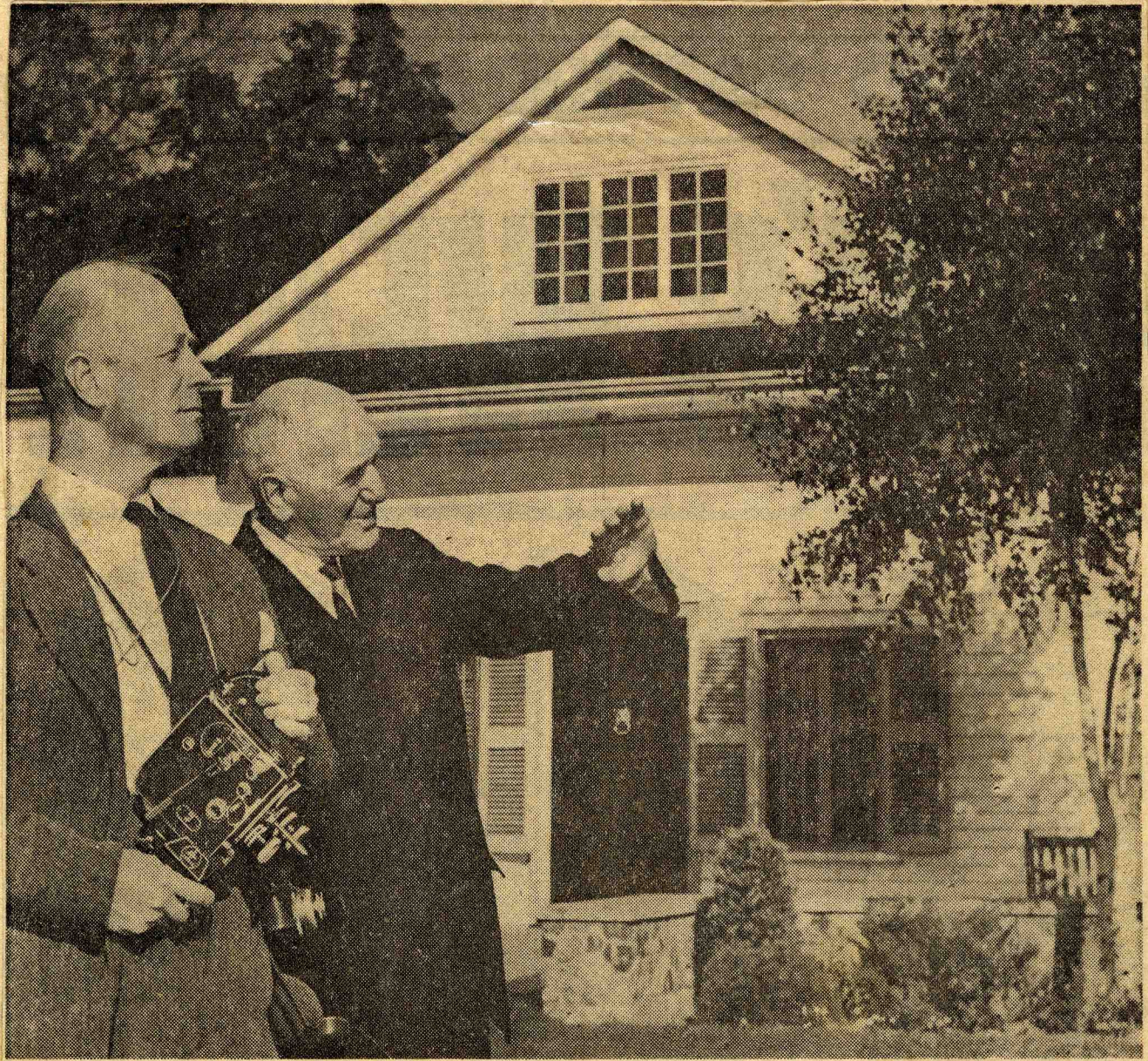
In June, 1925, John E. Pearce bought the original grant of 70 acres from Col. Talbot to Mrs. Storey except the 10 acres which she deeded to Right Rev. Charles Stewart, Bishop of Quebec. In 1925, the wooded part and ravine were given to the Province of Ontario under Lands and Forests Dept. which in 1960 also purchased a field from St. Peter's Church consisting of about three acres lying adjacent to the Park south of St. Peter's Church.

As announced in last week's issue, the Dept. now has taken over the balance of Lot 11, Con. 10 from J. E. Pearce and the park will extend from the line between

Lot 10, owned by John S. Pearce, to Lot 12 owned by Alistair Littlejohn, excepting a little more than half an acre owned by Louis Marcus.



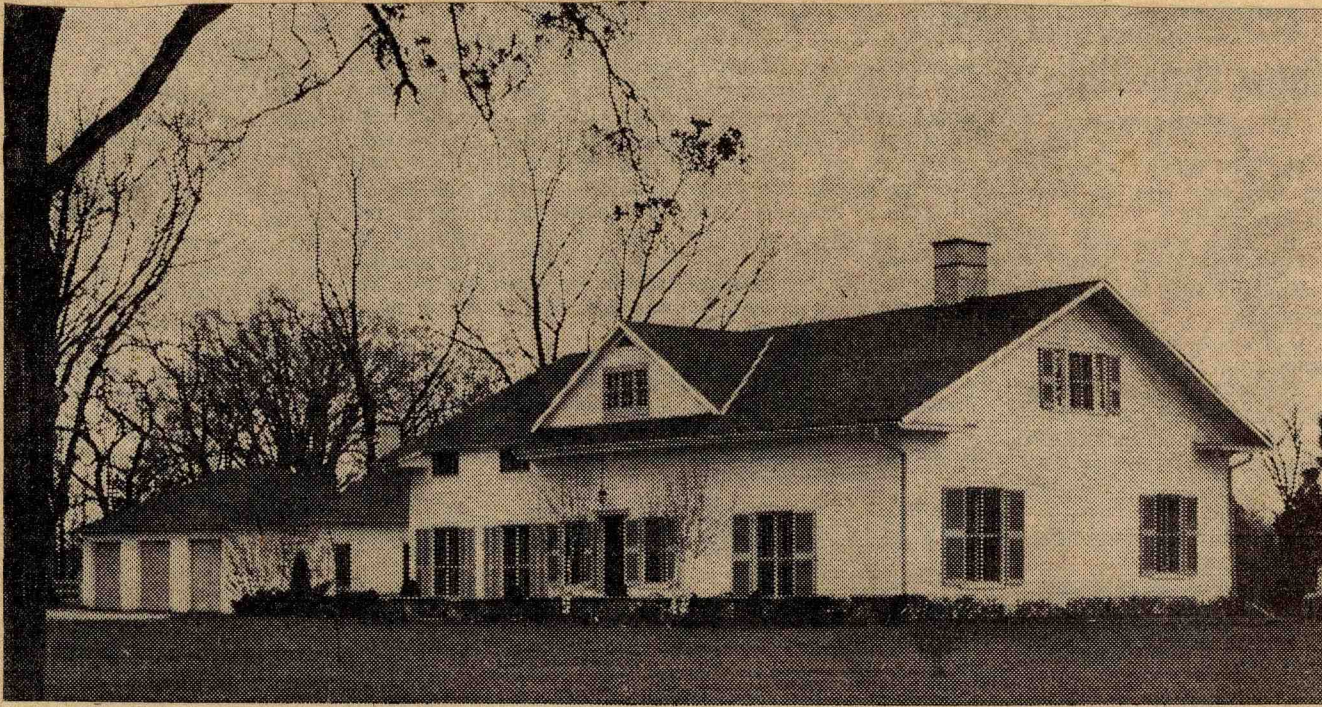
1965 — Free Press St. Thomas Bureau
TALBOT DESCENDANT — The seventh Baron of Talbot de Malahide, a descendant of Elgin pioneer Col. Thomas Talbot, visited the Talbot Room of the Elgin County Pioneer Museum yesterday during a tour of his ancestor's settlement and surrounding area. Shown during the tour of the museum are, the Baron, right, museum curator Mrs. Murray Wilson, and John Ker, of the Talbot Estate. The Baron's home is Malahide Castle, Ireland.



VISITS ANCESTOR'S HOME — Lord Talbot of Malahide the great-great-nephew of Col. Thomas Talbot, the famous colonizer of Southwestern Ontario, visited the Talbot homestead at Port Talbot yesterday. This is his first trip to Canada and he enjoyed photographing the estate with his movie camera. Here Lord Talbot, left, views the lake with his host F. I. Ker, the present owner.

Lord Talbot Tours Ancestor's 'Settlement'

Talbot Settlement Anniversary



ELGIN'S MALAHIDE CASTLE—A number of changes have been made in the large white house formerly owned and occupied by Col. Talbot. Actually it is a composite of two houses, one part having 10-foot high ceilings, the other 13

foot, and was joined in 1848. When Mr. Ker took possession he had a dormer window cut in the upper front of the house, as may be seen in the photo. The garage to the left in the picture was built in 1954 with timbers from the Colonel's old blacksmith shop being used. — (T.-J. Photo.)

Important Ceremonies At Tyrconnell

We hope many of our readers are planning to attend the Talbot Settlement Anniversary held at Pearce Park Sunday, May 21, at 2.30 p.m.

Through the generosity of Mr. and Mrs. John Ker, owner of the Talbot Estates, the public will have an opportunity to tour through Colonel Talbot's old home,—preceding the ceremonies from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. and following the ceremonies from 4 p.m.-6 p.m. Members of the nearby Women's Institutes under the chairmanship of Mrs. Duncan Galbraith, president of the West Elgin District, will be stationed in the various rooms for public information. Following the services tea will be served by these same groups on the patio of the old home, for a nominal charge.

Fearce Park the scene of the opening exercises at 2.30 p.m., is one of the newer, small provincial parks and is noted for its wonderful stand of virgin trees. Following an historical talk here, honoring the Pioneers of the Talbot Settlement, the audience will walk over to the grounds of St. Peter's Church, Tyrconnell, where a plaque, erected by the Archaeological and Historic Sites Board of Ontario will be unveiled, honoring the late Ellis Wellwood Sifton, V. C. Ellis Sifton was one of the few Canadians to be awarded the Victoria Cross, in the First World War for "conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty."

The audience will then cross the road to St. Peter's cemetery for dedication services at the newly restored grave of Colonel Talbot.

If the weather is unfavorable the celebrations will take place in the St. Peter's Church.

This whole Tyrconnell district is one of the most historic as well as one of the most attractive in south-western Ontario. The plans that have been made should make Sunday afternoon an important and memorable occasion.

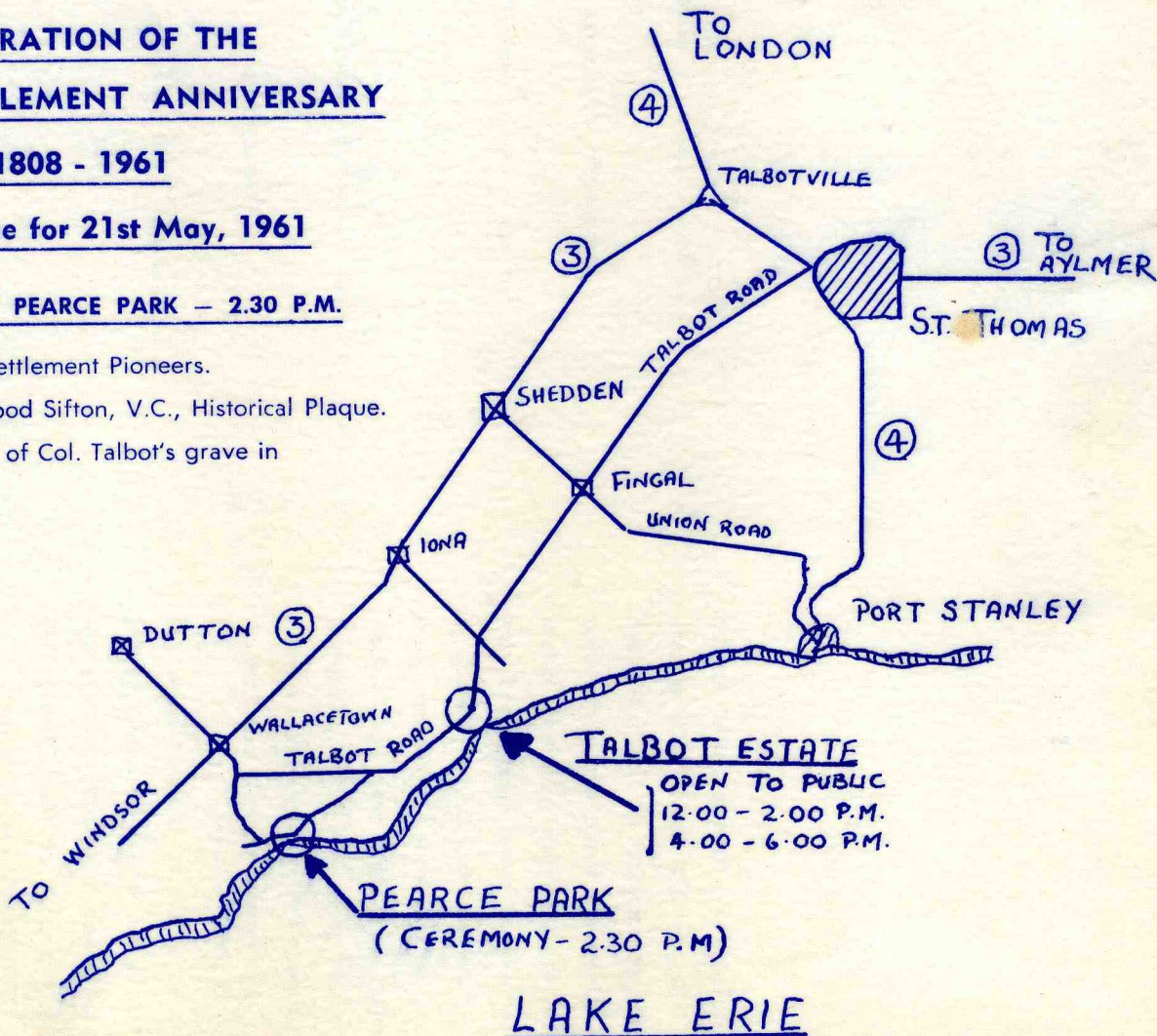
CELEBRATION OF THE TALBOT SETTLEMENT ANNIVERSARY

1808 - 1961

Programme for 21st May, 1961

CEREMONY AT PEARCE PARK — 2.30 P.M.

- A Tribute to the Talbot Settlement Pioneers.
- Unveiling of Ellis Wellwood Sifton, V.C., Historical Plaque.
- Dedication of Restoration of Col. Talbot's grave in St. Peter's Cemetery.



LAKE ERIE