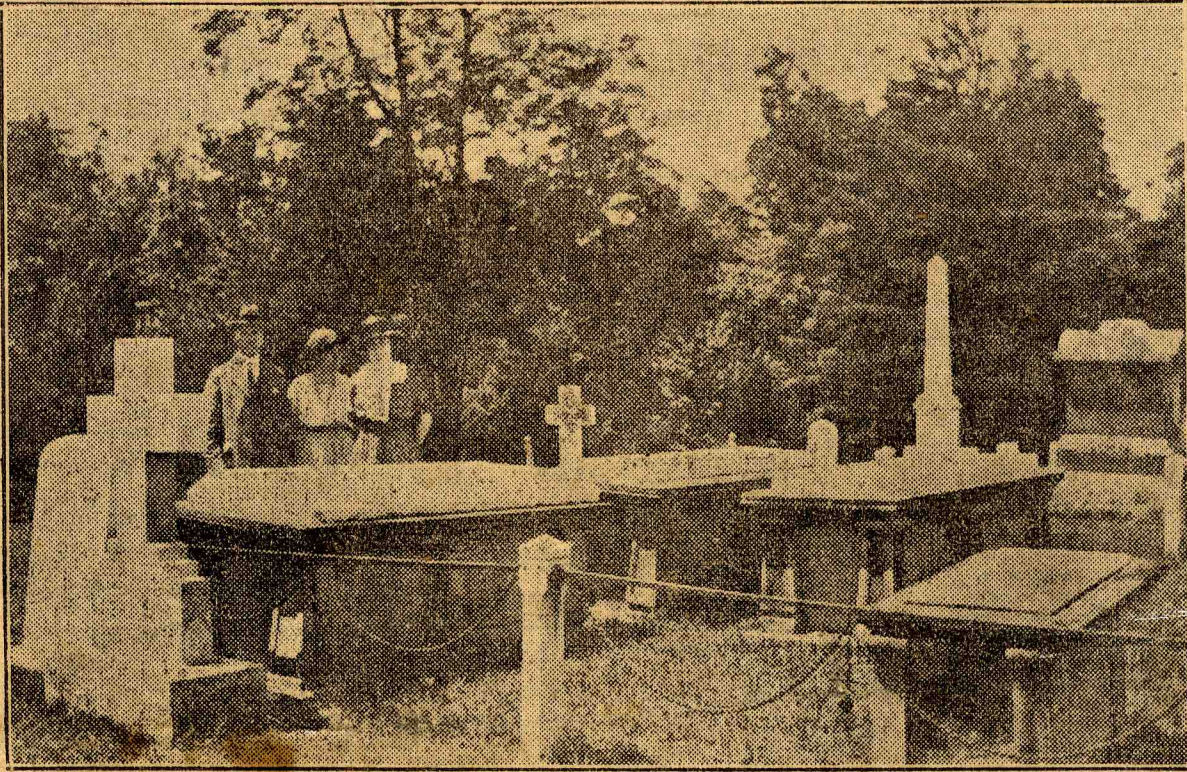
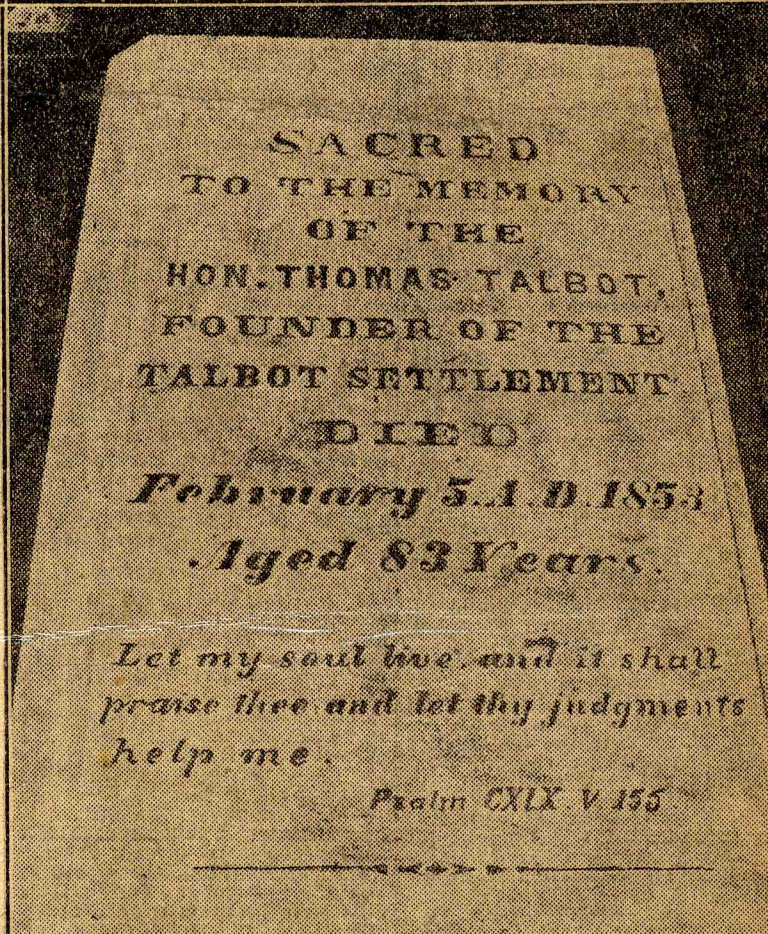


COLONEL TALBOT'S TOMB



—Photo by George F. Macdonald, Windsor. Printed by courtesy of Dr. J. H. Coyne.
COLONEL THOMAS TALBOT'S LAST RESTING PLACE

Well-kept cemeteries are unfortunately, an exception in Ontario, especially in the rural districts, and the burial ground of St. Peter's Anglican church at Tyrconnell is one of the outstanding exceptions. In this beautiful spot, overlooking Lake Erie, lie the remains of Colonel Thomas Talbot, the historic figure who came to Canada in 1803 and founded the Talbot settlement. Colonel Talbot died in February, 1853, in his 82nd year. In the above picture his tomb is shown at the left of the picture, in the enclosure. At the centre of the picture are the tombs of Mr. and Mrs. George Macbeth, and at the extreme right that of Louise Anne Airey.



—Photo by courtesy of Dr. J. H. Coyne.
INSCRIPTION ON THE TOMB OF COLONEL THOMAS TALBOT.

Fingal, was born in Corfu, Greece.

On the brow of the hill here also, stands a row of stones to the memory of George and Catherine Macbeth and their family, relatives also of Judge Macbeth, of London.

Was Colonel's General Factotum.

In this cemetery too is the grave of the faithful Jeffrey Hunter, for many years valet and general factotum of Colonel Talbot, and that of Jane, his wife, marked by two stone tables side by side at the edge of the hill. The late Mr. William Hunter, of Wallacetown, their son, was also buried here in 1914.

The name of George Crane, a discharged English soldier and the first man to take up land in this district after Colonel Talbot, is also graven here in stone. He settled at Plum Point, where his son Anthony lived after him, the Crane homestead passing out of the family only a very few years ago.

The next earliest settlers were

Colonel Leslie Patterson, Mrs. Storey, John Pearce and Stephen Backus, who found their way to this part of the country in 1809 and 1810, sturdy settlers, whose descendants still carry on their loyal work in the county.

In the Patterson plot, there is buried the head of the family, Colonel Patterson, who died in 1852, Lydia, his wife, 1870, and their daughters and son. Several of the former are still remembered by the present generation—charming gentlewomen of another age. Miss Hannah Patterson died in 1913, only a few weeks before her one hundredth birthday. Her sister Lydia was Mrs. Archibald Duncan, who died about the same time, and their niece, Miss Alice Patterson, who long presided over the dignified old Colonial house, near the church, also lies here in the plot she tended so carefully until her death only two years ago.

Here also are monuments to members of the Pearce family, those other earliest settlers. There is William Pearce, born in Pennsylvania in 1805 and John Pearce, 1818-1905; the latter still remembered as the master of the fine old Pearce homestead on the Lake Shore Road. His wife was Eliza

Moorhouse, whose family has given many clergymen to the ministry in both the Anglican and the Methodist church.

Other stones bear the name of Backus, marking the graves of the descendants of Stephen Backus, who came to this district in 1810, and whose homestead is still one of the most beautiful old places on the Lake Shore Road.

Here, too, is the name of Sifton, the earliest settlers bearing this name being Charles and John Sifton, who, with thirty other settlers, came out from Tipperary with Richard Talbot, the latter a countryman but not a relative of Colonel Talbot.

On another monument is the name of Docker, one of whose descendants now lives just north of the old church on the Glebe Farm, which was Colonel Talbot's contribution to the church.

Acted as Cicerone.

Bobier is another revered name found in this old cemetery and members of the family are still leaders in the settlement once known as "Little Ireland." Mrs. Jamieson, an English woman, in her interesting book on her travels through Canada, speaks very highly of the first settler of this name, John Bobier, who frequently acted as cicerone during her visit to the Talbot settlement.

The Coyne's, too, forefathers of Dr. J. H. Coyne and John P. Coyne, of St. Thomas, were prominent members of this community, whose names are engraved in stone in this historic God's Acre. Henry Coyne and Anna, his wife, grandfather and grandmother of Dr. J. H. Coyne, of this city, at one time residents of Coyne's Corners, the nearby settlement which bears their name, are buried here.

And Joseph Mitchell and his wife, parents of the late John Mitchell, of Iona, are laid to rest in this peaceful spot. Crowell Willson, a member of parliament for many years, belonged to the family of Gillman Willson, one of the first to be buried here, and Archibald Hamilton, of St. Thomas, who lies here, was the son of one of the early settlers in the district.

A long line of white monuments

commemorates the name of Conn, well-known in Tyrconnell for many years, the first members of the family coming from County Armagh, Ireland. Meredith Conn, the head of the family, lived to be nearly a hundred years old, and members of the present generation still remember the sturdy old man, bumping and jolting over the rough roads in his waggon, when over ninety years of age.

On a gentle slope in this cemetery too is the white cross that brings to mind a tragic accident that occurred in St. Thomas in 1885. It is sacred to the memory of Anna, aged thirty, wife of Frederick Sanders; of Freddie George, aged 5; and of John C. Dempsey, aged twenty-eight, mother, son and brother, who met death in a railway accident in St. Thomas. Frederick, the bereaved husband and

father, was also buried there in 1919. He was the son of John Sanders, who came to this country to manage the farm of Colonel Airey and died in 1876, also being buried here.

A Sacred Trust.

Their descendants, those to whom the names of Port Talbot, Tyrconnell and "Little Ireland" are fraught with strong memories, are now scattered all over the continent and to distant parts of the world. Their interest continues, however, and letters and generous donations for the upkeep of the historic resting-places of their brave forefathers come from many parts of the continent.

It is not a materialistic community that has proceeded from such stalwart pioneers. Respect for their heritage and reverence for their forefathers is deep ingrained

in the present generation of this district and the members consider it a sacred trust that they shall keep well this God's Acre, where sleep those who braved the ocean, blazed the trail and hewed down the forest to carve for themselves and posterity homes in this new land.

It is a trust that too many rural communities—and cities also for that matter—neglect, a fact which makes the tender and scrupulous care, with which St. Peter's cemetery is tended, outstanding. Situated in a spot of extraordinary natural beauty, with grass as fresh, as smooth and closely cut as that of the best-kept lawn, it causes innumerable passers-by to pause, while others coming to visit it for its historic interest, find they have discovered a spot of rare beauty also.

A familiar figure to many visitors to this historic spot within recent years is Mr. B. E. Sifton, one of the three earnest trustees, who has worked early and late at the cemetery, the assured permanent upkeep of which is a project next his heart. It is a labor of love. "We have built monuments and memorials to our gallant war heroes," says Mr. Sifton. "Why should we forget the last sleeping places of those who blazed the trail and hewed down the forest on the countryside?"

But the last members of the generation which grew up in personal knowledge of these sturdy pioneers are but few now and it is their earnest endeavour, assisted by all the members of the church, to ensure the permanent care of this place, where the "forefathers of the hamlet" sleep. Some of the families have died out, with no sons and daughters to care for their graves, but these are equally honored by those who care for the cemetery.

And that the permanent upkeep of all plots and the whole cemetery grounds be assured, the present trustees, B. E. Sifton, John Halpin and John L. Pearce, are raising an endowment fund, the interest alone of which will provide for this constant care. Descendants and others interested in the historic associations of the old cemetery have been appealed to. And the appeal of the treasurer, Mr. Sifton, has been met with the usual generous response by the congregation and also distant lot holders, who have heard of the work, with the result that \$2,200 of a proposed \$3,000 has been contributed.

St. Peter's church, which is so closely interwoven with the early history and development of the Talbot Settlement, celebrated its 95th anniversary on Sunday. In retrospect, one can, in imagination only, contrast the scene at the opening of the church in 1828—the few sturdy, undaunted settlers gathered in the rude, unfinished structure, built under what would be considered to day insurmountable obstacles, and surrounded by the forest primeval—with the scene on Sunday, where such a large gathering had congregated to do reverence to their Maker and honor to these early settlers.

That these pioneers handed down a goodly heritage and appreciated is seen in the beautiful farms in the vicinity of the venerable church, many of them still owned and tilled by their descendants, and worshippers at the church their great-grandparents founded.

Only two grandchildren of John Pearce, one of the prime movers in the erection of the church in 1828, are living—Miss Sarah Pearce, who was present on Sunday, and William Pearce, of Calgary, who sent his regrets at being unable to be present.

Four grandchildren of Stephen Backus are still living, three of whom were present—A. S. Backus, Mrs. T. L. Pearce and Mrs. B. E. Sifton. Alex. Crane, of London, grandson of George Crane, who assisted in the work on the first church, was also present.

A feature pleasingly commented upon was that in the choir were seven great-grandchildren of the first Pearce family, and one great-grandchild, Miss Elinor Turville; also one great grandchild of the Backus family—singing the chants and probably some of the same hymns as their forbears did nearly a century ago.

Two impressive services were held. Canon Andrew, of St. Thomas, was the special preacher, the church service being taken by the rector, Rev. T. H. Inns. In the morning the text for Canon Andrew's theme was taken from Romans 1:1—"Paul, the bond-servant of Jesus Christ," when an earnest appeal was made for Christian Service. The pioneers who founded this church gloried in such service and left an example to be emulated.

At the memorial service in the afternoon, at which many were unable to obtain admittance, Canon Andrew, speaking from the text, I. Kings 8:18, "Whereas it was in thine heart to build an house unto My name, thou didst well that it was in thine heart," emphasized the importance of ideals, dreams and unaccomplished hopes in the spiritual character of an individual. What a man cherished, rather than what he accomplished, was God's basis of judgment, he said. King David could never carry out his long-cherished ideal of building the Temple of Israel, yet he never gave up his dream. Such a faithful failure was great in God's eyes.

All dreams, the speaker declared, tended toward realization, if cherished sufficiently strong in the hearts of men. As an example of this he pointed to King David's dream of a mighty temple and its realization by his descendants. The dream of the Dunwich pioneers of a fine church was also a reality.

The church was profusely decorated with flowers and at the close of the afternoon service these, with many more, were taken to the beautiful cemetery, when the graves of the early settlers and many others were decorated. St. Peter's cemetery is now one of the beauty spots of the old Talbot road and many tourists stop there daily to admire its beauty.

This unique anniversary drew a

number of former worshippers from a distance and also many who had heard of the church's history. A large number were present from St. Thomas and among those from London were Judge Talbot, McBeth, Mrs. McNiven, Mrs. Jewell, Mr. and Mrs. M. Moorehouse and Miss Moorehouse, Mr. and Mrs. Graham, Mr. and Mrs. Alex. Crane and Miss Mary Moore—most of these being related to early families of the parish.

Owing to the unfavorable weather the intended reunion picnic took the form of a social gathering in the school room of the church on Tuesday afternoon. The young people enjoyed themselves in games and amusements, while the older ones spent a pleasant hour or two in social conversation, renewing bygone days. A complete and interesting historical sketch of the parish was read by J. E. Pearce. Needless to say an excellent spread was provided for the occasion.

Early History of the Church

The following extract regarding the early history of the church is taken from a paper on "The First Settlers of Elgin," read by Mrs. E. V. Docker at a recent meeting of the Wallacetown Women's Institute:

"For many years the time and thoughts of the first settlers must have been taken up with the problem of making a living, but religion was not banished from their hearts and lives. They were kept in touch with their church by two visits from the Bishop of Quebec, whose diocese extended from Gaspé to the Detroit River. In 1822 there were but sixteen clergymen of the Church of England in Upper Canada, now Ontario, so their visits were few and far between. They began to long for the regular services of their own church, but there is no record of the many councils held before they decided to build. Then there was the question of a suitable site—a hard matter to decide among the trees and stumps. The families most interested—John Pearce, Mary Storey, Stephen Backus and Leslie Patterson—agreed to give to the value of 70 pounds each to the work. Mrs. Storey gave the site—a more beautiful one could hardly be chosen—and in 1827, 95 years ago, the work was begun.

"By this time other families were coming in, the Bobiers from Ireland, the Cobus and others, who gave their time and talent to the work. The timbers had to be cut from the forest, drawn to the place by oxen and prepared by hand. Then came the framing, a tedious job. Leslie Pearce and George Crane were the framers. There is no record of the date of the raising, but it must have been a great day in the little community. As there were no mills nearby to saw lumber, it was decided to lath and plaster the church outside and inside. Pine logs were cut in the Dunwich swamp and made into laths and shingles. Leslie Patterson made a road to the lake shore, built a scow, gathered stones in the lake and burned the lime for plaster. He also went by boat to Buffalo to get the glass paint and oils. The lead had to be ground, the mortar and pestle being an iron kettle and cannon ball. The putty was made in the same way, the whitening ground and mixed with oil and had great staying powers. The boards for the seats were said to have been sawn in a saw pit but this must have been some time after the church was opened, for they did not have seats at first, just plank or slabs on blocks of wood. When the outside of the church was being plastered and when the plaster was still soft, lake gravel was dashed into it.

"The tower and spire were designed by Edward Matthews, a young English architect. When the church was raised in 1828 all the timbers were sound and in perfect preservation."

The communion service, which is of solid sterling silver, was given in 1844 by Charlotte Simcoe, daughter of Governor Simcoe. The inscription reads: "These books and this service of communion plate are a bequest to the Church of the Holy Trinity in Dunwich, Upper Canada."

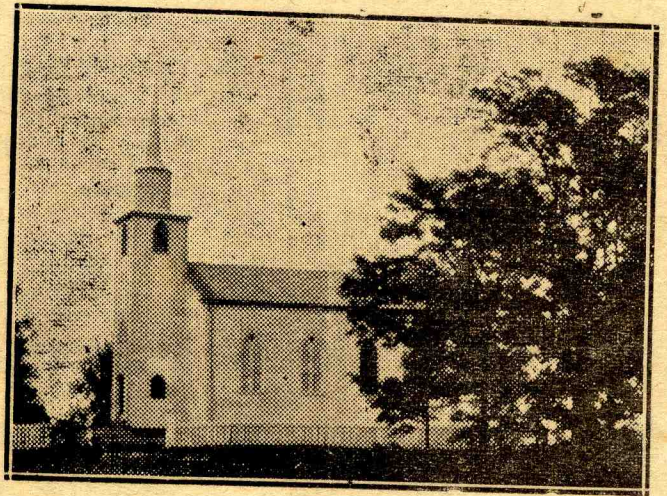
The rectors of the church in order were Rev. M. Burnham, Rev. J. Stewart, Rev. F. W. Sandys, Rev. H. Holland, Rev. J. Kennedy, Rev. W. B. Rally, Rev. A. G. Miller, Rev. Canon Chance, Rev. M. G. Freeman, Rev. George Elliott, Rev. S. A. Macdonell, Rev. O. H. P. Owen, and the present rector, Rev. T. H. Inns.

HISTORIC CHURCH REACHES ANOTHER IMPORTANT MILESTONE —SPECIAL SERVICES ON SUNDAY MARK OCCASION

One hundred and ten years ago a small band of Irish and English settlers residing along the lake shore between what is now Port Talbot and Tyrconnell realized the need of a place for spiritual worship and St. Peter's Anglican church came into being. On Sunday large congregations, which included many descendants of those hardy and devout pioneers, gathered to fittingly observe the noteworthy event, offer thanks for Divine guidance down through the years and to supplicate a continuance of that leadership in the years to come. Bringing special messages on Sunday were Rt. Rev. C. A. Seager, Bishop of Huron, in the morning, and Rev. Kenneth Taylor, St. John's, St. Thomas, in the evening. Rev. Wm. Craroy, who has been rector of St. Peter's for the past twelve and one-half years, conducted the services. A profusion of beautiful summer

law of the jungle and man's desire to do what he likes has resulted in the world of to-day resembling that of the jungle.

"There is an enormous manifestation of force in the world to-day," Bishop Seager continued. A classic example of this is Japan, flowing like hungry wolves over hapless China. The conscience of the world is stricken by such events, but often these invasions with their cruelty and suffering are threads which God uses to weave a definite plan. Bishop Seager referred to William the Conqueror's invasion of England in the eleventh century, his conquest of the Anglo-Saxons, and the manner in which the English eventually became a united, industrious people under his rule. Likewise, the Chinese for centuries have been lacking in ambition, energy and progressiveness. They need a little iron in their blood and



flowers decorated the church.

The choir led the music of the services and contributed two anthems, that in the morning being "Praise Ye the Father," Gounod, and in the evening, "God That Madest Earth and Heaven," Schilling. Miss Frances Pearce was at the organ.

The exact date of the first service in St. Peter's is not definitely known. Records reveal that Divine service was held on Sunday, October 28th, 1827, but whether it was conducted in the present building, then under construction, cannot be ascertained. Previous to the erection of the church, services were held in Col. Leslie Patterson's house, now occupied by D. M. Littlejohn, and here many of the early baptisms took place. The land on which the church was built was the gift of Mrs. Mary Storey, who came to America in 1801, and was part of the farm which she and her son, Walter, had toiled hard to clear and improve. Knowing the primitive tools and scarcity of material in those early days, one can well imagine the tedious job it must have been to raise the structure. But what joy must have been theirs when it was finally completed! It was the first church in Dunwich township and Rev. A. Mackintosh was the first rector.

Referring to the 110th anniversary Bishop Seager on Sunday remarked: "It is well that we mark these anniversaries. In older lands a century is nothing, but in this new country 100 years is a great length of time." We do not measure time by its length but by its content, the Bishop said. Tremendous changes have happened in the past century, but he asked his congregation to think of things that do not change, such as the sovereignty of God, which he chose for his subject, taking the 95th Psalm as his Bible reference. The Old Testament provides an adequate and dramatic picture of God. It refers to him as a ruler, judge, lover, our strength and stay. The Greek translation of the word "Almighty" is "all-ruler." It is impossible for man to admit God is the ruler of all if he continues to seek unbounded liberty and to do what he likes. Even Christ in His life on earth could not do as he desired but did as God directed, and Christians to-day likewise must submit to God's sovereignty. Perfect freedom is the

the Japanese may provide it, even though the opening of the veins for the fusion may be painful. God's kingdom is also being extended by missionaries and others nursing the thousands of wounded and suffering Chinese. "Let our faith in God be strong and unshaken," Bishop Seager concluded, as he urged a fresh renewal of the consciousness of the sovereignty of God.

"Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in heaven," was the text of Rev. Mr. Taylor's address in the evening, in which he stressed the need of an enthusiastic witness by Christians in the world today. Appealing to Christians to make their lives a witness for Christ that they might thereby draw men to Him, the speaker quoted the words of the poet, Edna St. Vincent Millay, "The soul can split the sky in two, and let the face of God shine through." As an example of this power, Mr. Taylor spoke of the manner in which the soul of Livingstone influenced the explorer Stanley in Africa.

Today, many people wear badges signifying their membership in some organization, Masons, Kiwanis, etc., and the speaker urged that the badge of the Christian also, the badge of good character, should be shown to the whole world. A plea was also made for a more enthusiastic witness for Christ, the speaker pointing out that the youth movements of the day in Fascism, Communism, etc., are characterized by a contagious enthusiasm and that ardent spirit is needed in Christianity today.

Reference was made by Mr. Taylor in conclusion, to the fact that many people looking back over their own lives find certain people or certain institutions which have influenced them and made them Christian. He referred briefly to the beginning of the church's history and to the pioneers and to the history of St. Peter's church and parish and declared the Christian of today owes a great deal to the past. The only way to pay a spiritual debt of this nature is to treasure and preserve the things those predecessors thought worth while, and to pass on to future generations the spiritual wealth they handed on to the present.

Annual Ceremony Revived After Lapse of 57 Years; Expect Many Will Attend

Celebration of the anniversary of the Talbot settlement will be revived on Sunday, May 21, after having been lost sight of since 1903. For 20 years prior to that time a program commemorating the historic establishment was held annually.

The celebration was initiated in 1817, also on May 21, and was a highlighted part of Elgin County community life. But for some unknown reason interest waned three years after the turn of the century and the annual event was temporarily forgotten.

Last year an attempt was made to revive interest when the Elgin County Pioneer Museum opened for inspection the Col. Thomas Talbot exhibition at its headquarters on Talbot Street.

EXPECT 500

It is expected that nearly 500 residents of Elgin and other points in Southwestern Ontario will attend the program this year, sponsored by the same organization.

A ceremony at Pearce Park near Tyrconnell will be the site of the opening ceremonies where Dr. J. Gwynne-Timothy of the history department, University of Western Ontario, will be guest speaker. James A. McBain, M.P. for Elgin, will also address those in attendance.

In addition the program, which begins at 2.30 p.m., will feature a massed Dunwich Township choir, under the direction of Miss Elaine Keillor, of Wallacetown, and accompanied by the Springfield Boys' Band. The Duncan MacGregor Pipe Band, of West Lorne, will also entertain.

SETTLED IN 1803

It was in May 21, 1803—nearly 159 years ago—that Thomas Talbot settled at Port Talbot, where he continued to live, except for short intermissions, until his death in London, Ont., on Feb. 5, 1853, at the age of 83.

He was born at Malahide Castle, 13 miles from Dublin, Ireland, in July, 1771, the son of Richard Talbot and Margaret, Baroness Talbot de Malahide.

Ten years prior to the young

Irishman settling at Port Talbot he was a lieutenant in the British Army and an aide to John Graves Simcoe, lieutenant-governor of Upper Canada. He spent four days going through what was to be his settlement, in travelling from Brantford to Chatham, and was so impressed with the area he vowed to return.

Col. Talbot would have returned in 1801 had not his first attempts to curry royal favor been balked. Unable to get his first desires for a land grant satisfied—largely because the Baby family of Detroit (then in British hands) had got in ahead of him to obtain large grants in Yarmouth Township—he was restrained to locate his land elsewhere and he chose Dunwich Township.

LETTER OF AUTHORITY

With the aid of General Simcoe, Col. Talbot left the Old Land early in 1803 with a letter to the new lieutenant-governor of Upper Canada, containing authority for a grant of 5,000 acres in Yarmouth—if available—or in any other township which he might select.

Col. Talbot selected 5,000 acres in the southwestern part of Dunwich, being comprised of two grants. He had already received 1,200 acres—which was the customary grant made to officers settling in Upper Canada—and had been living at what he chose to call Skittee-waabaa, which was either Port Bruce or Port Stanley.

According to the terms of his dispatch, an additional grant of 200 acres per family, settled by him, was to be made only upon his having surrendered 50 acres of his original grant to each family for whom he might claim and that such family should at the time be actually in possession of the 50 acres.

This condition was the subject of much future controversy as Col. Talbot proceeded to extend his "empire."

So it was that on May 21, 1803, Col. Talbot reached the mouth of what was to become known as Talbot Creek, and began his settlement with the building of his own pioneer home.

CASTLE MALAHIDE

The Colonel referred to it as "Castle Malahide," after his ancestral home near Dublin. However, it was anything but a castle, being a humble abode, made of logs, chinked with clay, consisting of a sitting-room, a kitchen and a store-room. Later a number of one-storey buildings were added.

It was not until many years later, during the latter part of the Colonel's life, when his nephew, Col. Airey, and family, lived at Port Talbot for some time, that the present "Malahide Castle" began to take form.

Col. Talbot did not get along too well with the Aireys, and at his death left the estate to the Macbeth family. In his old age Colonel Talbot made a favorite of young George Macbeth, who took up residence with him in 1839 and was joined in 1840 by his brother, Donald Macbeth.

By 1849 Col. Talbot was not living in the main house at all

but in what was described as a "sort of shanty" by Lady Emeline Stuart-Wortley. (Wortley Road, in London, was named after her husband, Lord Wortley.)

She said that Colonel Talbot, "almost immediately, is going to rebuild it and make a good-sized comfortable house of it." That would suggest that the big house on the Talbot Estate as it still is very much today is about 111 years old.

FRIEND OF POOR

Although Col. Talbot possessed the bluntness of the early military officer, he was a friend to the poor and the needy and in every way tried to assist his settlers.

He was termed by some a "woman hater" and never married. He refused to employ women servants, but preferred with the aid of his male servants to bake his own bread, wash his clothes and attend to important household duties.

Whatever his character, however, he played a major role in the settlement of Elgin County and when Bishop Strachan visited the Talbot Settlement in 1842 he made the following entry in his diary: "The Colonel superintended the settlement of this part of the province and now beholds 50,000 to 60,000 inhabitants in the space, which when committed to his charge was one dense forest without a single settler."

Col. Talbot retained possession of his faculties right up until the time of his death, which occurred at the Macbeth home, corner of Princess and Maitland Streets, in London. Thousands have visited his burial place in St. Peter's cemetery and have read the following inscription on the crypt:

"Sacred to the memory of Hon. Col. Thomas Talbot, founder of the Talbot Settlement. Died February 5, 1853, aged 83."

BOUGHT BY U.S. GROUP

The Talbot Estate remained in possession of the Macbeth family until the 1920's when it was sold to a group of Americans headed by the late C. A. Pfeffer, of Detroit.

They planned to convert the historic place into an exclusive summer resort with private dock, swanky hotel, bridle paths, ski and toboggan slides, and other facilities for luxury leisuring.

But the economic depression intervened and the pretentious plans never materialized. Mr. and Mrs. Pfeffer continued to

make "Malahide Castle" their summer home until shortly before Mr. Pfeffer's death, when the estate was sold to Milton Berry, of Allen Park, Mich., a native of Port Stanley.

The Talbot Estate remained in Mr. Berry's hands until purchased by the present owner, marking the first time in nearly 30 years that "Malahide Castle" and its 672 acres had been occupied by Canadians. Col. F. I. Ker, CBE, is a former publisher of the Hamilton Spectator.

His son, John S. Ker, co-owner and manager of the estate today, served with the Royal Canadian Navy and retired as a lieutenant. He was a member of the Canadian destroyer Nootka's crew during a tour of duty in Korean waters. Mr. Ker took several short courses at the Ontario Agricultural College in Guelph prior to taking over management of the estate.

A year after the property was purchased by the Kers, the farm reached a standard of agricultural quality which must be the highest in its long history.

The more than a square mile of farmland was the scene of well organized activity during the first days of possession, and changes have been numerous. During the ensuing years since 1954 the estate has taken on an appearance that would make any owner proud.

CHANGES TO HOUSE

Most notable alterations have been made to the big white house on the bluff overlooking Lake Erie. In its present general appearance, however, it dates back to 1848 when two buildings were brought together with a large main hallway in the centre dividing them, with the whole structure under a single roof.

The easterly half had 13-foot ceilings, the west 10-foot, with the rooms over the west half finished off as second floor servants' quarters. The whole of the second floor over the east half was left empty as a store-room. Since the Kers took over this section has been improved. A large dormer window was cut into the roof facing the lake to give light into one of two new rooms in what used to be the store-room, the second being lighted from an east window.

To improve the bedrooms in the west half of the upper floor, a portion of the original eaves was cut back and new windows set in the south wall just below the new eaves line.

The old verandah along the whole front of the house has been removed, and a patio and low wall around it built at the front. To make the house less drafty and more easily heated, the old shiplap siding was removed, insulation installed and the siding replaced with new material of the same dimensions.

At the time the two houses were joined together, the interior was lathed and plastered. Col. Talbot lived in one of the halves for many years before that when the interior was open and rough.

GAVE FATAL ORDER

It was Col. Airey (overseer in 1848) who made the improvements to the house. It was he, also, who, during the Crimean War, gave the order for the ill-fated Charge of the Light Brigade.

In the hall of the house is a survey of the Talbot Estate, drawn by Mahlon Burwell, which Mr. Ker found in the Archives in Ottawa. It shows where all the early buildings at Port Talbot were situated, including the fort, a cooper's shop, blacksmith's shop, saw-mill, grist mill, the earth dam across Talbot Creek, the race, the Colonel's home, his farm buildings, and some others.

These were all destroyed in the American raid on the settlement during the War of 1812-15.

ORIGINAL FURNITURE

Mr. Ker has kept many old pieces of furniture used by Col. Talbot and probably refurbished down through the years. These include the bed in which the doughty old Irishman slept; an ancient rocker; a desk used by Col. Talbot when he was forming pacts with his settlers; a washstand, a sideboard; the bed in which Lady Wortley slept while visiting at "Malahide," and an ancient piano said to have been brought from overseas by Col. Airey's wife. Also hanging by the drawing room fireplace is the axe with which Col. Talbot cut the first tree on the Talbot Estate.

In 1954 a modern garage was built by Mr. Ker out of timbers from Col. Talbot's blacksmith shop. This building is situated just west of "Malahide Castle."

Mr. Ker has done his best to preserve the buildings in their original state and at the same time make them serve as comfortable living quarters. A tour through the premises on Sunday will reveal the extent of his success.

He is a member of the Elgin County Pioneer Museum and has done much to further its aims and ambitions.