

TYRCONNELL METHODIST CEMETERY

In 1850 the first Methodist Church was build in Tyrconnell, and the same year the Trustees of the church decided to procure a piece of land for a cemetery.

The land was donated by Meredith Conn, and the first trustees were Peter Crane, Meredith Conn and Jonas Page Sr., Secretary-Treasurer. Mr. Page continued as Secretary-Treasurer for many years and at one time during those years took a vacation to his birth-place in Oxfordshire, England. During this time the plans and deed were left with John O'Brien of Tyrconnell who had the misfortune of a fire which destroyed his house and contents, also, the deed and plans of the cemetery. Later Mr. Page's son, Jonas, Jr., redrew the plans by memory and became the Secretary-Treasurer. He served as such until 1925 when the United Church of Canada came into being. The cemetery up until this time, 1925, was known as the Tyrconnell Methodist Cemetery.

After union in 1925 the Methodist Church at Tyrconnell was closed, and the cemetery became the burial grounds of the members and adherents of the Wallacetown United Church of Canada.

In 1925 the trustees of the cemetery were T. A. Braddon, James Trothen, William McArthur, Norman Crane and Herman J. Page who accepted the office of Secretary-Treasurer from his Father Jonas Page, Jr.

Herman Page served as Secretary-Treasurer until his sudden passing in 1947 at which time his brother, Morley W. Page, accepted the office. Morley Page is Secretary-Treasurer at the present time. 1966



Tyrconnell Cemetery 1967



St. Helen's Cemetery

ST. PETER'S CEMETERY

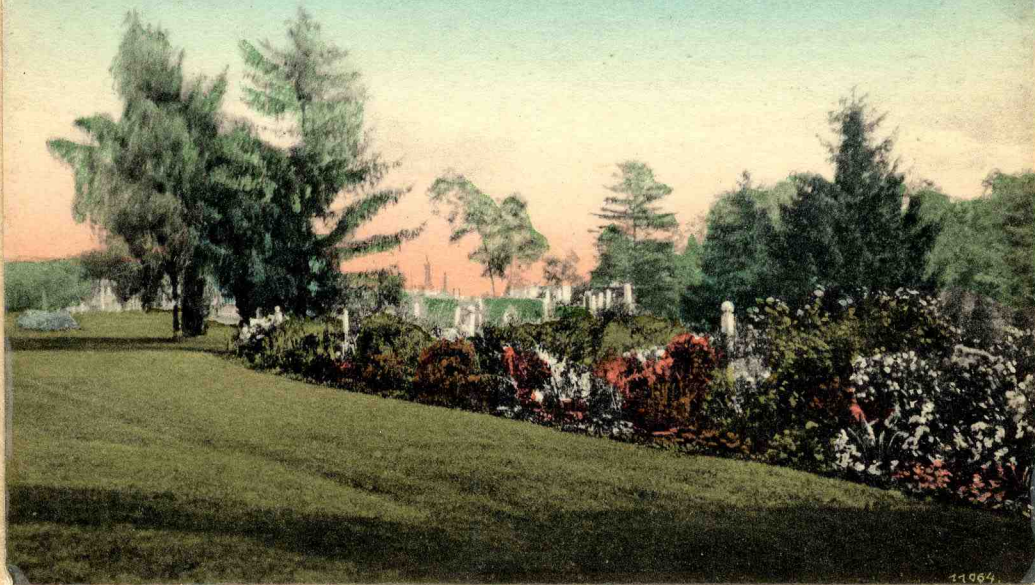


St. Peter's Cemetery, Tryconnell, Ont.

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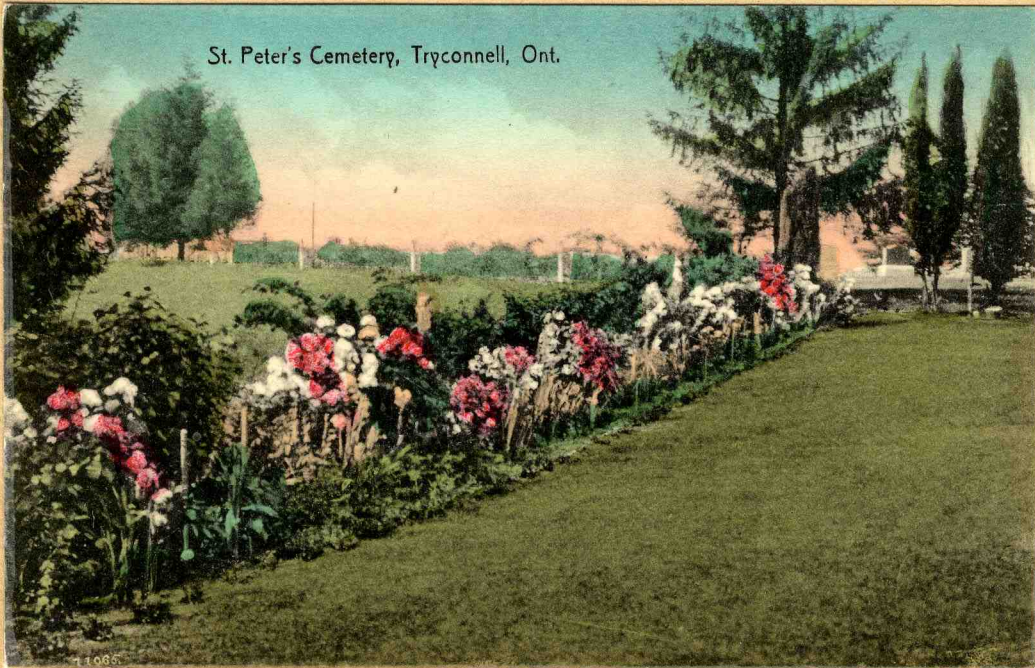
COLONEL TALBOT'S PLOT

St. Peter's Cemetery, Tryconnell, Ont.



VIEW OF WEST SIDE OF CEMETERY
ANOTHER VIEW, BELOW PICTURE

St. Peter's Cemetery, Tryon, Ont.



READ MORE of this CEMETERY
"IN CENTURY of SERVICE 1827-1928"

Schools of district

The Oil Industry



Shooting an oil well on Lucas Farm in year

AND THERE LOADED ON TO RAILROAD CARS. THERE WERE OVER 100 WELLS BEING PUMPED IN THIS LOCALITY. MR. THOMPSON HAD 14 WELLS ON HIS FARM, BUT HE RAN INTO SOME DIFFICULTY WITH THE COMPANY AND HE WENT TO LAW ABOUT IT. RESULT WAS HE LOST THE CASE AND EVENTUALLY LOST HIS FARM ALSO. HE TOOK HIS FAMILY AND MOVED TO THE WEST. THE OIL COMPANY SOLD THE FARM TO JOHN LUCAS. THE PIPES OF THOSE WELLS WERE PULLED OUT AND PLUGGED BY THE COMPANY. THE WELLS ON THE ADJOINING FARM OF FRANK SMITH AND THE STEPHEN BAEKUS PROPERTY, WHICH IS NOW OWNED BY LIDSTER FAMILY STILL PRODUCE SOME OIL, BUT ONLY REQUIRES ONE MAN TO LOOK AFTER THEM, THAT IS MR. LOUIS MARCUS WHO BOUGHT THE WELLS. THESE WELLS WERE ONLY SHALLOW ONES BUT SOME HAVE HOPES THAT COMPANIES MAY DECIDE TO DRILL SOME DEEP ONES. THE COMPANIES STILL HOLD THE LEASES AND PAY THE RENT, SO WHO KNOWS WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN, IT MIGHT AGAIN BE A THRIVING INDUSTRY IN SOUTH DUNWICH.

Fishing Industry

ALONG LAKE ERIE SHORE THERE ARE THREE FISHERIES IN DUNWICH TOWNSHIP. ONE OF THEM IS AT PLUM POINT ON THE FARM OF GEORGE CRANE, ONE OF THE FIRST SETTLERS TO TAKE UP LAND IN THIS SETTLEMENT. HE WAS ONE OF COLONEL TALBOT'S EMPLOYEES.

PLUM POINT ACQUIRED ITS NAME BECAUSE OF THE ABUNDANCE OF WILD PLUMS.

EARLY SCHOOLS IN ELGIN

SCHOOL PRIVILEGES WERE FEW AND MEAGRE FOR EARLY SETTLERS.

IN 1816 FIRST SCHOOL WAS ESTABLISHED IN MALAHIDE.

IN 1818 ONE AT WATSON'S CORNERS IN SOUTHWOLD.

IN 1820 ONE IN BAYHAM

IN 1821 ONE IN ALDBOROUGH AND ANOTHER AT BAYHAM

IN 1822 TWO MORE IN SOUTHWOLD AND ALDBOROUGH

IN 1823 ONE IN DUNWICH

IN 1827 TWO IN YARMOUTH

AND UP TO YEAR 1830, ONLY 20 SCHOOLS EXISTED IN WHOLE COUNTY.

THESE SCHOOLS HAD HUGE FIREPLACES AT ONE END OF ROOM. THE FURNITURE WAS RATHER PRIMITIVE, THE SEATS MADE OF SLABS SPLIT FROM BASSWOOD LOGS, AND SMOOTHED A LITTLE WITH AN AXE.

THE AVERAGE SALARIES OF MALE TEACHERS IN 1852 WAS \$240.00 PER ANNUM.

For years, Wallacetown was the High School District of West Elgin. Then on Jan. 31, 1885, Dutton's ascendancy was reflected in a bylaw changing the name of the Wallacetown High School District to the Dutton High School District, and detaching Aldborough from the Dutton District to the St. Thomas High School District.

While Tyrconnell's first school was held in John Pearce's home in 1822, the first log schoolhouse in the area was built in 1816 by John Watson at Watson's Corners, on the Talbot Road between Fingal and Burwell's Corners. The schoolhouse was 18 by 20 feet with most of the timbers cut on the spot. The first teacher at this pioneer of pioneer schools was William Hannah; the first trustees were John Barber, James Watson and Colonel Mahlon Burwell. In 1820 this school was destroyed by fire caused by a backlog from the open fireplace rolling out onto the floor after school hours. The widely-known Ewen Cameron taught for a few years in settler's homes before a frame building was erected. Crowell Wilson, later member of parliament for the district, taught at this school.

WATSON'S SCHOOL

much of their entertainment. Even a house or barn raising was basis for a social gathering with feasting, dancing and merriment when the hard work was over. So far as can be learned, Tyrconnell folk held their first public picnic in 1860 as a farewell to a beloved school teacher named Stafford.

John Pearce's name appears again in the earliest records as turning over part of his house in 1822 for the first school. In 1824, John Miles Farland's house was used for teaching the pioneer Three R's.

The first schoolhouse was built on a piece of ground on the Stephen Backus farm; the fourth school was on the east side of No. 9 Creek, and was opened in 1847. The following year, another school was built on the west side of No. 9 Creek.

First Schools in Elgin Were Log Cabins

Historians are not entirely in agreement about where the first schools in Elgin were started. Edward Ermatinger in his "The Talbot Regime" says that the first log schoolhouse probably was at Watson's Corners, west of Fingal, in Southwold Township with William Hannah the first teacher.

George Munro, however, in his reminiscences for the Elgin Historical Society, says that a school was opened in Malahide in the same year, 1816, and that in 1819, one Malcolm Robinson opened a school in Aldborough, using his own house. This was a private school, differing from the first public schools until the year 1830, only 20 schools were in Elgin, including those in St. Thomas.

Those first schools were roughly built, cold, dark and dismal, usually, with only two windows containing six panels of 7 by 9 inch glass each. Seats and writing desks were logs flattened by axes. School fees in that early period were ten bushels of wheat per year. The parents of a child had to give the school master another bushel of grain for a spelling book or a quire of paper. By 1840, Aldborough Township had only five schools and all were log structures.

There was an old settlement of four or five families on the lake shore, which had been there before the war: Leslie Patterson, John Pearce, Walter Storey and Stephen Packus, all family connections, and a little farther east George Crane, all in comfortable circumstances. The Highlanders began to come about the same time as Henry Coyne. Common schools for their children were with difficulty established among the earlier settlers of Dunwich. They had neither school houses nor school teachers, and the want of a school was felt so sharply that when the chance of getting a teacher turned up, in the person of Thos. Gardner, my uncle, who was a man of good education, and who was spending the winter with us, Mrs. Pearce, or "Aunt Fanny," as we called her, vacated her kitchen, a room some sixteen feet square, and the school was taught in it. This was in the winter of 1822-23, and was my first school. I walked three miles, mostly through the woods, and only a blazed road at that, to attend it. (The writer was then six years of age.) Next year my teacher was a silly old Yankee, named Abraham Lehigh, and the school-room was George Gunn's old log shanty. (This was at what is now Coyne's Corners.) Gunn had put up a new house and left the old one vacant, and it was taken for a school-house for the quarter, and old Lehigh and his wife utilized it for a dwelling also. Next year Thos. McCall taught in

COYNE'S CORNERS - JOHN PEARCE HOME