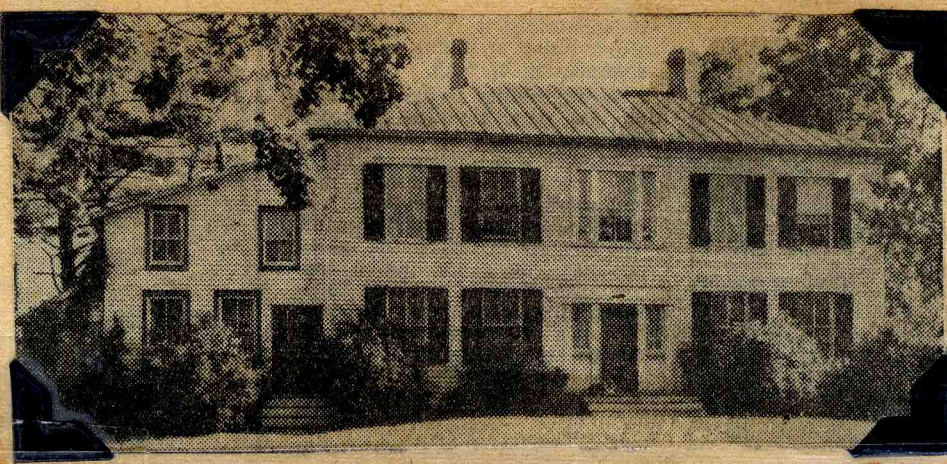


of 100 acres, it was deeded to him direct from the crown. The present brick house on the farm was built in 1850 by Andrew Backus, the family eating their first meal in this house on the 13th of June 1851. It required seventy two thousand brick to build it, the brick being made and burned on the farm and was the first brick house to be built in Dunwich Township. Of Georgian design it contains eleven rooms, and is constructed of virgin oak and black ash beams and joist. Three fire places with black walnut mantles and panelling, and living room finished complete with black walnut trim and doors, floors, are in $1\frac{1}{4}$ inch black ash, also tongued and grooved by hand.

The present owners, Mr. and Mrs. Morley W. Page are each descendants of pioneer families and have a keen appreciation of the history of this old farm and of the Talbot Settlement, Mr. Page's ancestors having also purchased land in the Settlement from Col. Talbot which is still in possession of the Page family. Mrs. Page is a descendant of the Hoskin family, pioneers of Plympton Township, Lambton County, who still retain their crown lands. (1957)

THE OLDEST HOUSE in Dunwich Township, shown above, is still in a fine state of preservation: the Colonel Patterson home on the Lake Road, west of Tyrconnell, built in 1826 and now opened and occupied by Mrs. D. M. Littlejohn and family. There are 14 rooms in this pioneer home, with its wide lawn spaces and landscape planting.



" Sunnyside "

One of the outstanding and colorful men who came into the Talbot Settlement was Leslie Patterson, a native of Fermanagh County Ireland. He and his unmarried sisters and a younger brother migrated to America in 1801 and settled near Erie Pennsylvania. Becoming dissatisfied with the uncertain title deeds, as he refused to take the oath of Alligiance to the American flag, he and John Pearce who had married his sister Frances, ser out on foot to seek homes for they and their families in Upper Canada. Crossing into the Niagara Distrect, they proceede as far as what is now Toronto without finding anything to suit them. Hearing of the Talbot lands they slowly windedtheir way westward and decided to make their homes some three or four miles west of where Colonel Talbot settled five years earlier.

The following year Leslie Patterson, his wife Lydia Backus, their two sons aged one and two years, his sister Mary Storey, her two daughters and son Walter, and another sister Mrs. John Pearce with her husband their two young sons and a daughter, only one month old, set out from Presque Isle Pennsylvania with all their worldly goods in a flat bottomed row boat except a few cattle which were driven on shore for their new homes. After many trying days and nights, they landed July 14th 1809 on the Patterson Homestead what became Lot 12, Concession 10 Dunwich .

The spot where they landed was a ravine just back of St. Peter's cemetery where in 1825 was built a small wooden pier where sailing vessels could unload supplies for the settlers and pick up surplus produce.

All was virgin forest and the settlers first job was to erect a log cabin and clear a patch of ground to grow food for themselves and cattle and flax to manufacture into linen for clothing. They had brought their spinning wheels with them. As soon as they had become established and had land cleared to accomodate them and feed for them in winter, Leslie Patterson with a stout stick in his hand set out on foot for Ingersol where he purchased a few sheep to provide both food and clothing. He returned bome by the Governot's Road but was delayed for three days at Delaware by heavy rains, receiving shelter with Indians.

They were just getting established intheir new homeswhen thewar of 1812 forced them to defend themselves and belongings from invading American troops. In February 1812 Sir Issac Brock signed a commision making Leslie Patterson a Captain of the

Middlesex regiment. This was sent by way of Col. Talbot but did not reach him till June.

In 1821 he was made a magistrate and five times a year had to go nearly to Long Point performing his duties. He also officiated in many marriages and read the burial service for the dead. In 1837 he was promoted to a Colonelcy and was out with his regiment. From that time till his death in 1852 he acted as Postmaster for Tyrconnell the office being in his house. The mail was brought from Toronto by Stage Coach when the roads were passable otherwise on horseback sometimes arriving at 2 a. m. This was a weekly service at first then thrice weekly.

When Bishop Stewart of Quebec first visited this district service was held in the Patterson house and the first record of Anglican Confirmation service in Elgin County was held in that home.

The first census of Dunwich was taken by Leslie Patterson beginning 1st of March 1816 and ending 1st of March 1817.

Six daughters and three sons were born to Leslie and Lydia Patterson several of the daughters living to a great age. Hannah passing the 100th year.

Lydia married Archibald Duncan who took over the farm and operated it till his death in 1913. His wife survived him and his sister Miss Maggie Duncan and niece Alice Patterson Granddaughter of Col. Leslie Patterson carried on at the old Homestead till the present owner Mrs. D. M. Littlejohn and her husband took possession of Sunnyside farm in 1915.

Many changes have taken place in the almost 150 years since this farm was settled but the Patterson Home is one of the landmarks in the Talbot settlement.

Miss Alice Patterson a very gracious person to all fortunate to have known her was the last of the family. She had a happy part in the old home with the Littlejohn family till her death in 1920.

The writer of this sketch is indebted to a paper given by Miss Alice Patterson before the Elgin Historical Society over fifty years ago.



FACING South

"
" Agricola Lodge
SO NAMED AFTER AGRICOLA [GENERAL]
who built strong stone walls in BRITAIN
at time of the ROMAN INVASION in 1ST CENTURY
This farm is 2 miles southeast of WALLACETOWN
on Talbot Road, lot 15 is the LUCAS FARM
acquired from THE CROWN in year 1826
by Joshua BOBBER for 3 farthings. Since
1892 has been in LUCAS Family, now the 3RD GENERATION

The EAST, south and west sides of this house were built of stone brought across
the lake by boat from CLEVELAND to pier at TYRCONNELL and hauled by teams and waggons
to this spot, The remaining north side was filled with stones picked up on the farm.

Malcolm N. Graham 1969

North 1/2 13, Con. 6 Dunwich

In 1951 Andrew McIntyre had the crown deed of this land.

It was bought by Malcolm Campbell in 1858.

In 1860 Neil McLean bought it and kept it until 1907 when it was
purchased by Archie McPhail. Mr. McPhail kept the farm until 1930
when it was purchased by Malcolm N. Graham who still makes it his home.

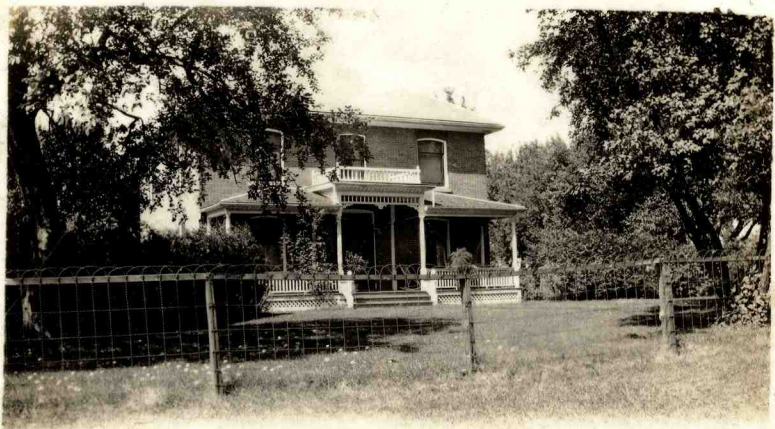
FARM HOMES



"HUNTER'S"

This farm originally was 100 acres, but part of it was laid out in lots as part of village of WALLACETOWN, LEAVING 63 ACRES, the home of Wm. HUNTER, the son of JEFFREY HUNTER, for many years VALET and GENERAL FACTOTUM of COLONEL TALBOT. WILLIAM MARRIED SARAH LILLEY. They had ONE daughter AUDREY who MARRIED REV. HAWKINS.

This farm faces TALBOT ST. ON WEST AND CURRIE ST. ON NORTH. IN 1912 WAS SOLD TO J. McFARLANE, LATER TO S.E. KEILLOR.



"AMELJO ACRES"

Lot nos. 11-12, TALBOT ST.
Sifton's death in 1912.

The farm of Mr. JAMES SIFTON, originally owned by D. McTAVISH. MR. SIFTON MARRIED AMELIA BOBBER. They had two daughters, ELLA AND MILLIE AND ONE SON ELLIS who was killed in WAR. IN 1918, AND GRANTED THE VICTORIA CROSS. post-humously. The Siftons moved after Mrs. Sifton's death in 1912 to DUTTON where MR. SIFTON LIVED until his death in 1949. The farm was sold to N. WELCH.



"LYONSHOLME"

Lot NO

DAISY DESMOND, AUDREY HUNTER,
LILIAN LYONS, EMMA LYONS,

