

- Hillsdale Poultry Farm
- built in 1874, replaced frame house which was moved west to become hired man's house
- bricks were made on the farm -
- solid stone foundation with walls of 3 layers of brick
- basement has original ovens used for baking
- has been in Pearce family since 1809
- Marion (Brown) Pearce (John S. Pearce's widow) still resides in the farmhouse

This farm is situated on Lot 10, Concession 10 of Dunwich Township.

B 1837. D. 1923.

John Pearce B. 1818 D. 1905.

on horse of Leslie Pearce





This farm is situated on lot 19 Concession  
& Dumouch Township. Crown, Col Talbot,  
Josiah Ladd, Archibald Graham then James  
C. Robb own it in 1903 next Brother Neil  
A. Robb Ella Belle Robb to Neil Malcolm  
Robb, then Barbara A. Robb owns it to-day,  
as Barbare A. Gremontez. (remarried).



PIONEER

HISTORY.



THIS PHOTO TAKEN ON THE 10th CONCESSION OF DUNWICH  
TOWNSHIP IN FRONT OF PRCY AND JAMES JONES.

This is a steam threshing machine with a grain separator . A team of  
horses with a water tank. Belongs to the Hooley Brothers.



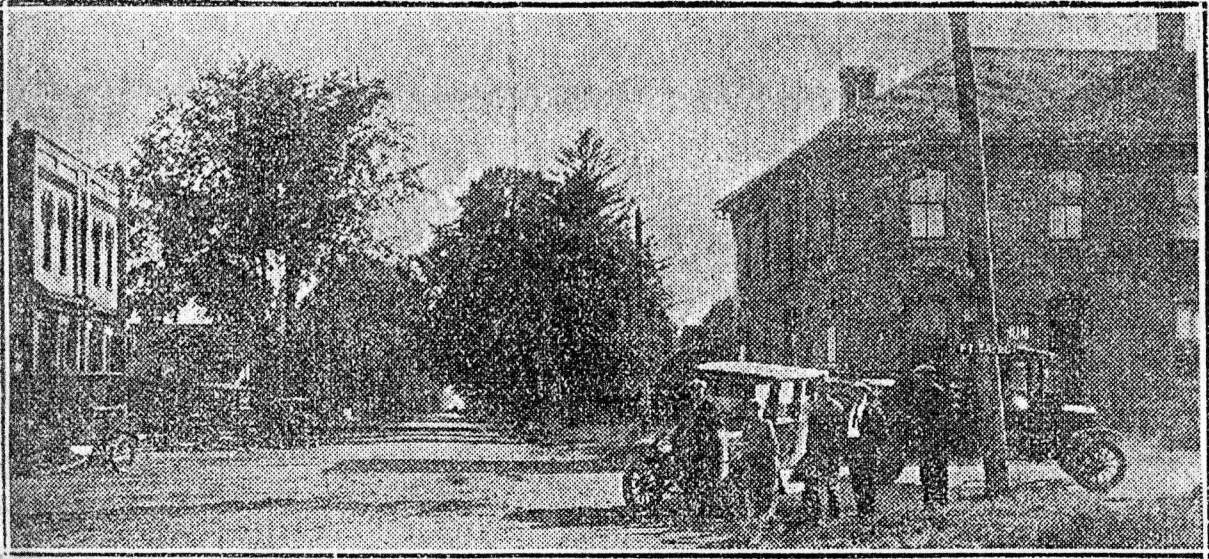
THRESHING TEAM IN 1910 THE HOOLEY BROTHERS.

*Photo given to us by Lyle Jones 1995.*



A HISTORIC VILLAGE IN ELGIN WEST,

21  
1927



THE historical village of Wallace town, in South Dunwich, from a picture taken looking west along Talbot road, now better known as the Lake Erie North Shore Trail (No. 3 Provincial Highway.)

1071 1045





## Reflections of the past <sup>Dec 4/96.</sup>

### The Crossroads of Elgin were once rooted in Wallacetown

In the early 1800's Wallacetown was commonly known as "Frogtown" because of the many frogs that lived in the nearby swamps. It was so bad that during the summer months it was hard to carry on a conversation with another person because of the noise made by the frogs.

The naming of the village was discussed at length among the early Scottish settlers and several names were put forth such as Dakville but it was turned down because of another town with the same name. It was finally agreed to name the village Wallacetown after the Scottish National hero Sir William Wallace.

The tiny settlement continued to grow and by the year 1852 Wallacetown had its own Post Office.

A Shingle Mill was established in the village in 1857 by A.and.J. McPherson.

By 1860 the town had grown to include the following businesses: A General Store operated by John A. Blackwood, Wagonmaker, Robert Bradt, Shoemaker, David Cameron and a Saw and Grist Mill which was operated by Campbell and McLean.

Probably the most frequented

business during those days was the Elgin House which was owned by David Clay. That first hotel was built by Archibald McFarlane who built many of the log cabins in the area.

The Hotel's name was later changed to the Ontario House.

Duncan Forbes was the town's Cooper and Robert Gunn was the town's first shoemaker and first Postmaster. (Today that building is where the Starting Lineup Store is today).

Another watering hole that was popular was the Anglo-American Hotel that was operated by Henry Colin.

Thomas Keillor owned the Butcher Shop and James Lindsay operated a small grocery store.

Another Hotel, the Britannia, was located at the corner of Gordon and Talbot Streets and it was operated by Thomas Lutton. Another pair of brothers named the McBraynes operated a Machine Shop which was consumed by the great fire of 1885.

At that time the local blacksmith was David McLaws who with his brother built carriages and by 1877 the pair moved their operation to Dutton.

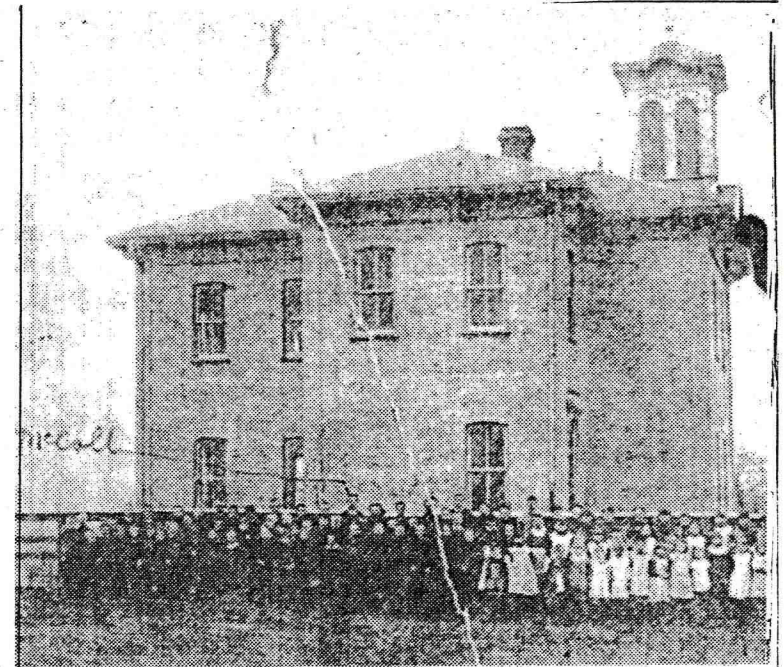
The main part of the carriage works was converted into the Commercial Hotel which became the Queens Hotel at a later date. Another portion of the carriage works was moved to the corner of Mary and Currie Streets. The town also had a harness shop operated by McPhail and Burwell, Angus McIntosh, Shoemaker, John Rapelje, Harness Shop, D.G. Ruthven was the town's first doctor and Stinson and Hearne operated a Cabinet works. Dugald Thompson ran another blacksmith shop while A.C. Urghart was the town's tailor.

The first stage service between Wallacetown and Ridgetown started in 1872 by Jacob Beedle and Paul Saunders. That first stage was built in Wallacetown and it was painted a bright yellow with red painted seats. The first stage driver was Ephriam Lumley. The pair also operated a Livery Stable in the village.

At this point in time Wallacetown was a bustling community as it was located on the main artery for commercial traffic along the old Talbot Trail. But as the railway started to push through the area in the late 1800's Wallacetown's population started to dwindle as some residents and businesses pulled up stakes and moved to nearby Dutton.

The great menace of the time "Fire" added to the village's woes as in 1877, 1880 and 1885 most of the businesses were destroyed by fire and many owners never rebuilt and moved to Dutton.

Wallacetown does have the distinction of wrestling the Aldborough Agricultural Fair to



**Wallacetown's first brick school (built around 1898). It was located two blocks north of the main intersection of the village.**

Wallacetown in 1862 to 1864. Eventually Aldborough residents complained and the fair returned to its original site at New Glasgow until 1868 when the fair returned to Wallacetown where it has continued as the Wallacetown Fair ever since.

In those early days whiskey was the main drink as settlers never had tea or coffee and honey was substituted for sugar. One of the hot drinks of the day was to boil the roots of dandelions and drink the juice. To dye their clothes women used logwood and water for black, madder for red and goldenrod for yellow and the color green was made by adding alum to the yellow weed. Walnuts were used to create the color Brown.

Today Wallacetown is a mere shadow of its glorious past but it is still an integral part of Elgin's proud history.