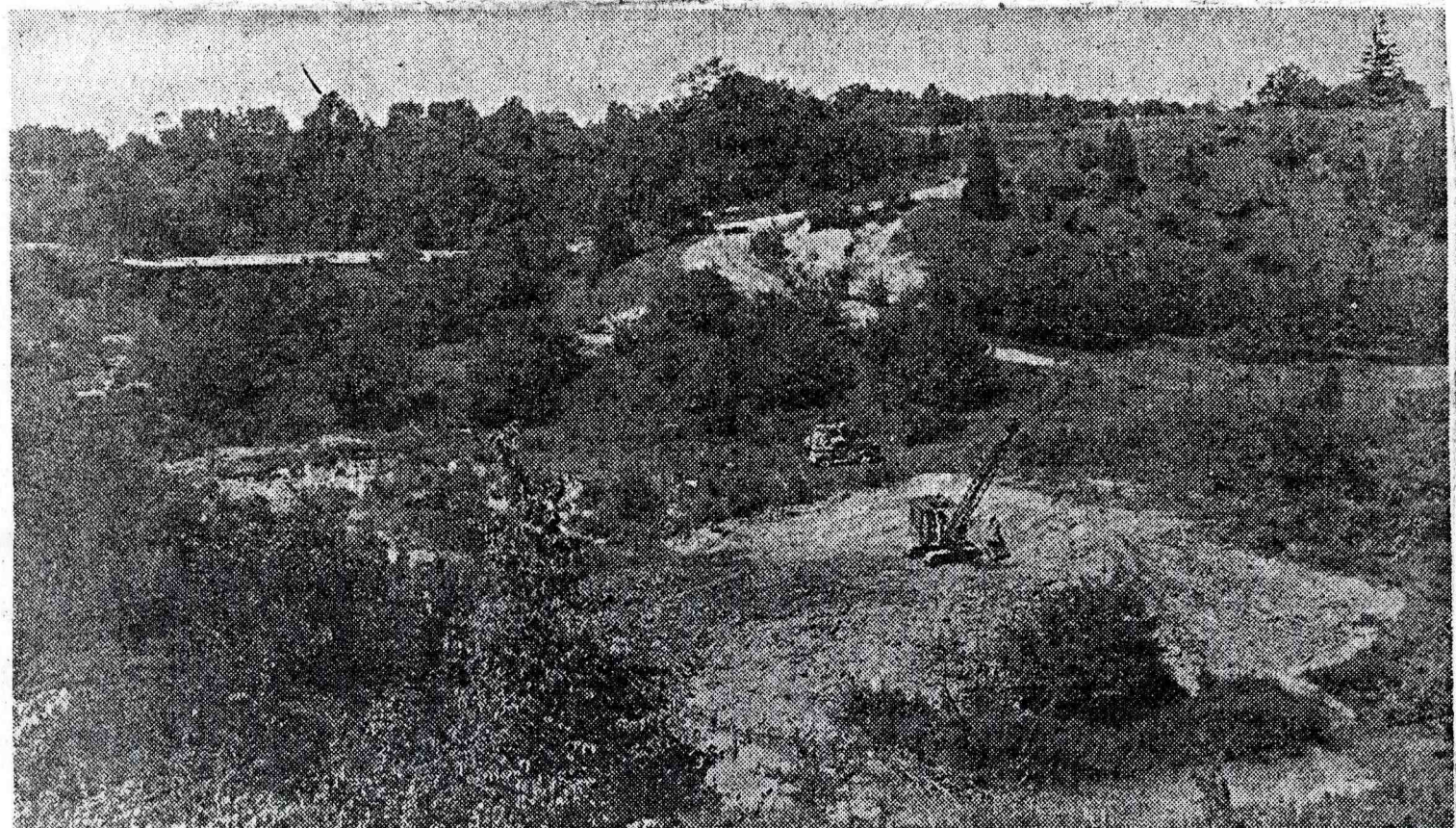
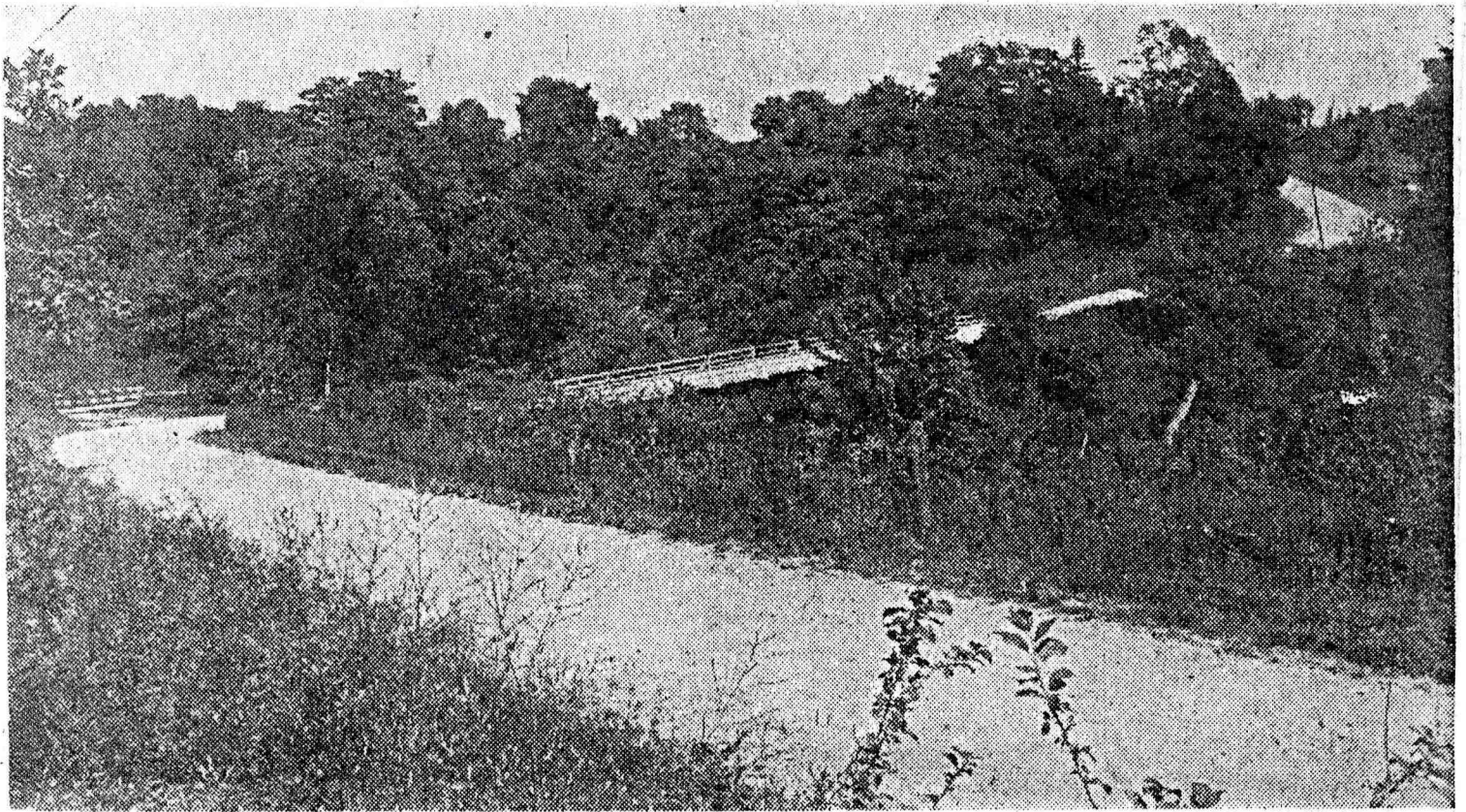


Old Bridge at Tyrconnell Is Being Replaced



TYRCONNELL, July 16 (Staff). — The rickety, plank-floored, nameless creek that flows into Lake Erie here is about to be replaced at last and work begun on Monday is already well under way at the site of the concrete culvert about 400 feet south with which it will be replaced. The old bridge was built at least 50 years ago.

These two views show the old bridge (above) and the steep, winding approaches to it on the Lake Road extension of the Talbot Road, and the scene in the valley where a steam shovel is preparing the site for the new culvert. The upper photograph was taken from a point about half-way down the hill leading east from the village and shows how the old road takes a sharp right-angle turn at the bottom onto the narrow bridge. On the other side is the steep grade with another sharp bend to the left half-way up to the top. Such a road and bridge may have been all right in bygone days, though even then it must have been hazardous enough for horses and wagons. For present-day traffic, the bridge could nowhere near bear safely the load of a heavy truck.

Three years ago the bridge was condemned. But it has continued

in use because there is no way around it, other than by faking a circuitous detour of several miles.

At last this year, the County Council has made available the necessary funds for a new concrete culvert and new roadways down into the valley and up the other side. Watters Bros. have their big scoop shovel and a bulldozer at work, with the new way already cut in the far bank (apparent in the lower picture). The excavating and filling necessary for the culvert abutment on the east side of the stream is in progress. This view was taken from the west side of the valley and the old bridge may be seen in the upper left background.

The new roadway up the westerly side of the valley will cut into Queen street in the village, which only exists on a plan, and will continue to the west, joining the old road again at about the point where the last general store was operated here.

The change in the course of the road here at Tyrconnell is believed to be the first major change in Lake Road since it was laid down in the earliest days of the Talbot Settlement. It is the oldest road in the county, linking Port Talbot and Tyrconnell, and winds along what was once a mere trail through the woods.

Historical peek at Talbot

ST THOMAS PAPER 1996
By JANE HUGHES

Richard Cartwright, a director on the executive of the St. Thomas and District Horticultural Society and author of a history of that group, combined his twin interests in history and horticulture in a monograph on Col. Thomas Talbot's farm, 1803-1853, which he presented April 17 to the Elgin Historical Society.

Mr. Cartwright's presentation began with the arrival of Col. Talbot on May 21, 1803, when it is believed he ceremoniously chopped down a tree to designate the site of his future home, overlooking Lake Erie on the farm property located on Lots 21-24, Concessions 11 and 12, Dunwich Township.

Talbot was accompanied by Deputy Surveyor William Hambly, Cpl. William Powers and probably George Crane, Samuel Rogers and Patrick Whealand. No doubt these men planted the first crops at Port Talbot; corn, potatoes and possibly vegetables, between the stumps of felled or girdled trees.

Carpenter James Whitten and his apprentice, James Newlands, were brought from Niagara to construct a three-room log cabin which was completed in the fall of 1804. Adding to his household, Talbot also hired Ann Lawler in 1804 to help his housekeeper, Mrs. Powers, while Whitten and others continued to build a number of structures at Port Talbot which included storehouses, buildings for livestock, a blacksmith shop, cooper shop, distillery and mills.

William Caffrey and Daniel Walker were also hired to clear the land so greater amounts of crops could be grown and Charles Scarlet, Mark Chase, John Craford, John Dunbar Davis and Daniel Kingsland were probably among the first farm laborers along with Joseph Smith who was granted an unprecedented 307 acres of land.

The question was raised as to what previous agricultural experience Col. Talbot actually had. Having been in the military, his only practice could have come from a season or two of farming either on leased land in the Niagara area or possibly on his own military land grant of 1,200 acres in Norfolk County, since, as the younger son in a system based on primogeniture, he was probably never involved in running the

family estate in Ireland.

Col. Talbot received his grant of 5,000 acres partly on the basis of growing hemp, used to produce rope for the rigging of ships. But he did not follow through with its production as a major farm crop. In fact, since he could afford to hire laborers and seemed to have more ideas than expertise, Col. Talbot might best be described as a gentleman farmer.

FOREMAN

James Pickering, an agriculturalist from Buckinghamshire, England, was hired in 1825 to act as Col. Talbot's foreman. He kept a journal and records and in his notes. He described a garden, "Pretty well-stocked with shrubs, fruit trees ... in better order than most in America; yet not like a common good one in England".

Hops occupied one corner of the garden along with fruit-bearing shrubs such as currants, gooseberry, blackberry and huckleberry which grew wild in the forests and could be transplanted.

The two-acre garden also contained perennials such as English cowslips, flowering bulbs and fifty varieties of roses grown by cuttings from England. It was described by Anna Jameson, as neatly laid out and separated from the fields; probably by wooden snake fences, which could have supported grapes, also available from transplanting from the woods and of good enough quality to use for making wine.

Melons, cabbages, turnips and cucumbers were also grown. This mixture of vegetables, flowers and shrubs would have been the type of cottage garden popular in the villages of late Georgian and early Victorian Great Britain. Supplementing the vegetables, an orchard of fruit trees featuring apple, cherry, plum, apricot, peach and nectarine varieties was established by 1825. Unfortunately, the apple trees were not grafted and so did not produce a high-quality crop, but the apples were used to make cider. In 1831, Talbot, had 500 barrels of cider and 10 barrels of pear juice in his cellar. By 1837, the orchards apparently covered sixteen acres.

By 1825, wheat, clover and timothy seed are mentioned in the records, along with the purchase of two cast-iron ploughs made at Long Point. In 1842, Col. Talbot had 220 acres of cleared

land, the largest amount of improved land in Dunwich township. The census for that year reported oats, peas, Indian corn, and potatoes as well as 63 head of cattle, 2 horses, 150 sheep and 40 hogs. Honey and maple sugar were not mentioned in the census for Port Talbot although they were the staple sweeteners for pioneer homes.

Sheep and cattle grazed north of the house while pigs foraged in the woods. An "innumerable quantity" of geese and poultry were described as being on the property and nearby there was an abundant supply of wild turkeys, pigeons, ducks, deer and fish.

In 1833, Col. Talbot moved from the rough 1804 log cabin into a new home built of hand-squared logs.

By 1846, Richard Airey, Col. Talbot's nephew, was offered the privilege of being his heir. He arrived the next year with his wife and five children and soon moved into the "new" home with Col. Talbot. Due to differences between the lifestyles of the Aireys and the colonel, in May 1848, another cabin, called The Den was built and Col. Talbot moved into this new dwelling.

The year after that, when Col. Talbot returned from a trip to England, he was shocked to find the main house greatly altered and outbuildings removed. Col. Talbot and Mr. Airey continued to clash and in 1851, when he discovered he was no longer to be Talbot's sole beneficiary, Mr. Airey left Port Talbot to return to military duties in Europe and rented the farm to John Sanders while Col. Talbot was on his final trip to the British Isles.

Col. Talbot died Feb. 5, 1853. Of his extensive land holdings, the 1,300 farm acres at Port Talbot and more than 25,000 acres in Aldborough had been left to Sir Richard Airey; his remaining 25,000 acres in Dunwich and a few scattered lots in Middlesex County went, upon his death, to his faithful servant and secretary, George MacBeth.

The next meeting of the Elgin Historical Society will take place at St. Peter's Church cemetery, Tyrconnell, on Wednesday, May 15, for a toast to Col. Talbot. The speaker for the evening will be Don Cosens on pre-1803 land patents, part two. Refreshments provided. For further information call Mr. Cartwright at 633-3939.



THE PARTICULAR COVENANTED BAPTIST CHURCH IN CANADA

Written by Mrs Viola McColl.

As the chronicles of the Old Testament so clearly testify, the history of a Church is the history of its people. In order, therefore, for this sketch of the rise and progress of The Particular Covenanted Baptist Church In Canada to honour properly the Divine example, it, too, must reflect the travels, the labours, the faith and the hope of its members and its adherents.

The story of our Church begins in Scotland about the beginning of the Nineteenth Century, when, one, Daniel McArthur, a layman of Cowal in the west of Scotland, was converted by grace and immediately began to exhort and preach the Gospel to his countrymen with unusual zeal. Moreover, the Lord accompanied his labours with such power that a great awakening took place among the people of the land.

Being desirous to follow the rules laid down in the Word of God, Daniel McArthur searched the country until he found an Elder McFarland of Edinburgh who baptized him by immersion and ordained him Pastor over the flock already established by the Lord at Cowal. As Pastor of this Baptist Church at Cowal he suffered much persecution at the hands of the Established Church Clergy. Once he was apprehended, put on board a warship, carried off to England and put into dungeons. His name was changed often so that his friends had much difficulty in finding him. When he was found, however, he was brought to Edinburgh, where he was tried before the Lords of Session and released - his adversaries being fined four thousand pounds. Afterwards, he emigrated to Thompkins County, New York State, in the United States of America.

Before he left Scotland, however, a number of influential men were raised up under his pastorage, one of whom, in the person of Dugald Campbell, a Deacon in the Church, was to influence many lives in the wilderness of Upper Canada or what is now known as Ontario.

As a Deacon in the Baptist Church at Cowal, Dugald Campbell was liberated to speak publicly, which he did with much earnestness and zeal. On July 28, 1818, he and his family, along with four other families of the Baptist faith, set sail for America from the harbour of Tobermory on the Island of Mull on the ship called the "Mars". They arrived at Pictou, Nova Scotia on September 1 and later at Quebec City on September 20, 1818. From Quebec City they made their way by lake schooner to the shores of Port Glasgow in Aldborough Township.

Upon arrival in Canada, Dugald Campbell and his family settled on the S $\frac{1}{2}$ of Lot 13, Concession 12 and N $\frac{1}{2}$ of Lot 13, Concession 13 in Aldborough Township. Here Dugald Campbell continued to preach among the families who came with him along with other Baptist families of the area. Dugald Campbell was ordained to preach in Upper Canada by Elder Charles Stewart of Gosfield.