

---

## CHAPTER XVI

---

### THE TALBOT AND MIDDLESEX SETTLEMENTS

*What a farce, Henrico, is this public will  
We hear so much about, but never see :—  
Who lies to the mob, may ever use them ill  
Where honest Jack could never set them free.*  
Old Play.

#### I

### THE TALBOT SETTLEMENT

ONE of the most remarkable chapters in the history of Canadian pioneer life is that of the Talbot settlement, in what is now the county of Elgin in Ontario.

The history of this important undertaking, with that of the eccentric and remarkable undertaker is related in a very able and exhaustive contribution to the Royal Society of Canada by Dr. Coyne, F.R.S.C., of St. Thomas, whose grandfather was a prominent member of the early Talbot settlement.

The Honourable Thomas Talbot, of Port Talbot,

## *The Scotsman in Canada*

---

on the shores of Lake Erie, and the founder through long years of toil and expense of one of the most successful Upper Canada settlements, remains to-day as one of the most picturesque and interesting personalities in the history of our country. About the lives of few men has there gathered so much of the romantic and the mysterious as has become attached to his. When his real story is known, the elements of tragedy lie deep beneath the seemingly strange events of his life and his sudden self-banishment from the court and camp of the Old World to the rough hardships of a pioneer condition in the New.

As regards the man himself and his evident life-tragedy, those who care to study the subject will find all the details in the ably-collected memoirs of Dr. Coyne, with its long list of documents bearing on the subject. Let it suffice here to say that Col. Thomas Talbot, the intimate friend of the Duke of Cumberland and Arthur Wellesley, afterward Duke of Wellington, suddenly sold his commission in the army in 1800, and came out to Upper Canada, where he got a grant of 5,000 acres of land, with the avowed object of settling that part of the province with emigrants from the Old Land. He had been in Upper Canada some years before as aide-de-camp to Simcoe, and his settlement included a large area along the northern shore of Lake Erie.

Because of his aristocratic connections, his prominence in British society, and for other reasons, Talbot has by some been compared with MacNab,

---

## *The Talbot and Middlesex Settlements*

---

whose settlement has already been dealt with. In some few superficial aspects there is a similarity in their object, but there the comparison ceases. Both, it is true, were regarded as eccentric, but whereas MacNab has been shown to be impractical in his ideals and methods, the opposite is true of Talbot. Dr. Coyne, who is an impartial and not by any means a too lenient student of this remarkable man, says of Talbot: "But aristocrat as he was, and with all his eccentricities, there was a practical side to Talbot's character, and he looked forward as well as backward. His importance as one of the makers of Canada is based upon the plan of settlement which he formed, or rather adopted, and which he continued to carry out with characteristic determination for nearly half a century." Dr. Coyne gives a proper estimate of Talbot's place in Canadian history in the following summary of his accomplishment as a father of Canadian pioneer settlement: "As founder of the Talbot settlement, he attached his name to one of the richest and most prosperous agricultural regions in the world, extending from Long Point to the Detroit River. The Talbot Road is the longest, and was for many years the best, as it still is one of the best, in the province. The property of the Talbot settlers was systematically and extensively advertised. The Government made use of it for the purpose of attracting immigrants to all parts of the province. Throughout Upper Canada the settlement was held up as a model for imitation."

---

## *The Scotsman in Canada*

---

Talbot's scheme of settlement, so far as the Scottish settler was concerned, included especially the townships of Dunwich, Aldborough, South Dorchester, and North Yarmouth, which he settled largely with Argyllshire Highlanders. Their language was principally Gaelic, and many of them had emigrated as a consequence of proclamations offering grants of from one hundred to two hundred acres to each settler. The settlement, which was started in 1803, was for many years stayed by the war of 1812-14; and these pioneers suffered much from invaders from the south across the lake. When the war was closed in 1816, a few Scottish and Ulster Scottish settlers arrived from the United States and settled in Dunwich and Aldborough. In the same year some families of the Selkirk settlement of Kildonan on the Red River, who had removed into Upper Canada, among them the McBeth family, came in and settled. These were followed about 1819 by a large influx of Argyllshire Highland emigrants who took up land in Aldborough. These settlers formed a very desirable addition to the population, being of a superior class. So many came from Argyllshire, that when the Marquess of Lorne, as Governor-General, visited St. Thomas in 1881, the descendants of these early settlers gathered in thousands and presented him with an address. A printed copy of this address, which was composed by the Rev. Dr. McNish, a noted Gaelic scholar and a native of Argyll, is in the Library of Parliament at Ottawa. It is signed by hundreds, including many Camp-

## *The Talbot and Middlesex Settlements*

bells. The Marquess, in his reply, informed his audience that he had never seen, even in Argyllshire itself, so many Argyllshire people present at one time.

The following is a list of persons of Scottish extraction who were settled by Col. Talbot in the townships of Dunwich and Aldborough, dated March 20, 1820:—

William Bannerman; George Bannerman; James Black; Neil Blue; Archd. Blue; Duncan Brown; Robert Blue; John Brodie; Alex. Brodie; Alex. Baxter; George Brodie; Hugh Black; Henry Coyne; Donald Currie; John Currie; John Clark; Wm. Clark; Alex. Cameron; Donald Campbell (1); Donald Campbell (2); Archd. Campbell (1); Donald Campbell (3); Archd. Campbell (2); Dougald Campbell (1); John Campbell (1); John Campbell (2); Dougald Campbell (2); Duncan Campbell; James Campbell; Archd. Campbell (3); Archd. Coswell; Neil Campbell; John Campbell; Alex. Campbell; Angus Campbell; Archd. Campbell (4); Donald Campbell (4); John Campbell (4); Donald Cameron; Donald Campbell (5); Thos. Dewar; John Douglas; James, George, Thos. and John Dixon; Thos. Dewar (2); Alexd. Dewar; Malcolm Downie; Colin Ferguson; John Ferguson; Duncan Ferguson (1); Alex. Forbes; Mungo Forbes; James Ferguson; Donald Ferguson; Angus Gunn; Donald Gunn; George Gunn; Alex. Gunn; John Gibson; Jas. Gibson (1); James Gibson (2); Hugh Graham; David

---

## *The Scotsman in Canada*

---

Gibson ; Wm. Gibson ; Robt. Gibb ; George Gibb ; John Gillies (1) ; Archd. Gillies ; Colin Gillies ; John Gillies (2) ; Wm. Gunn ; Angus Gray ; John Gillies (3) ; John Gillies (4) ; Alex. Gray ; John Gray ; Duncan Gillies ; Neil Galbraith ; Neil Haggard ; Alex. Haggard ; John Kerr ; Robt. Kerr ; John Livingston ; John Leitch (1) ; Duncan Leitch ; Colin Leitch ; Malcolm Leitch ; John Leitch (2) ; Neil Leitch ; Donald McIntyre ; John McPherson ; Duncan McLelland ; Robt. McDermand ; Wm. McDermand ; Abr. McIntyre ; James McKay ; John McCallum (1) ; John McCallum (2) ; John Matheson ; John McLyman ; Hugh McKean ; Carson McCurdy ; James McLean ; Neil McPhail ; Alex. McNabb ; Duncan McNabb ; Daniel McKinley ; John McLean ; Peter McKinley (1) ; John McDugald (1) ; Duncan McFarland ; Donald McGregor ; Archd. McIntyre (1) ; Angus McIntyre (1) ; Findlay McDermod ; Donald McIntyre (2) ; Donald McNaughton ; Allan McDonald ; Angus McKay ; Gregor McGregor ; John Menzie ; Laughlan McDugald ; Donald McEwen ; Neil McLean ; Duncan McLean ; Duncan McKinley ; James McKinley ; Peter McKellar (1) ; Arch. McLean ; Donald McLean (1) ; John McIntyre ; Malcolm McIntyre ; Duncan McIntyre (1) ; Donald McDermod ; Malcolm McNaughton ; Duncan McCallum ; Duncan McCall ; Thos. McCall (1) ; Samuel McCall ; Duncan McKillop ; Archd. McKillop ; Donald McKillop ; Donald McAlpine ; Malcolm McAlpine ; Donald McGregor ; Angus McIntyre (2) ; Donald McIntyre (3) ; John

## *The Talbot and Middlesex Settlements*

---

McTavish ; John Munro ; Colin Munro ; Archd. Munro (1) ; George Munro ; John McKellar (1) ; Peter McKellar (2) ; Neil Munro ; Archd. Munro ; Alex. McIntyre ; Dugald McIntyre ; Duncan McIntyre (2) ; Dugald McLarty ; Donald McPhadrain ; Neil McPhadrain ; Alex. Munro ; Donald McArthur ; John McKellar (2) ; Archd. McKellar ; Dugald McKellar ; Archd. McIntyre (2) ; Duncan McCallum (2) ; John McLean ; Donald McIntyre (4) ; Alex. McPhail ; Archd. McTavish ; John McCachna ; Donald McCugan ; Donald McKean (2) ; John McDougald (2) ; Archd. McArthur ; John McArthur ; Duncan Patterson (1) ; Archd. Patterson (1) ; Donald Patterson (1) ; James Paul ; Donald Patterson (2) ; Archd. Patterson (2) ; John Patterson ; Duncan Patterson (2) ; Hugh Ruthven ; Colin Ruthven ; James Ruthven ; Malcolm Robertson ; Wm. Stewart ; Duncan Stewart ; Robt. Shaw ; Donald Sutherland ; George Sutherland ; Alexander Sutherland ; John St. Clair ; Daniel St. Clair ; John Smith ; David Full ; Neil Walker ; Angus Walker ; Donald Walker.

What is especially remarkable in this list is the number of emigrants bearing the same name. There are four Archibald Campbells and the same number of Donald McIntyres, and in the list they are each known by their special number. The descendants of these 207 heads of families number thousands in all parts of Canada who are among our most prominent citizens.

II

THE MIDDLESEX SCOTTISH SETTLEMENTS

The county of Middlesex was largely settled by Scottish immigrants, and many of the townships, such as McGillivray and Lobo, bear witness to this in their names.

The first ministers of the Church of Scotland in Middlesex were Alexander Ross and Donald McKenzie, who both took the oath of allegiance in 1832. Other early Presbyterian clergy were John Scott; William Proudfoot; W. McKellican, 1833; Alexander McKenzie, 1837; Daniel Allen, 1838; Donald McKellar, of Lobo, 1839; Duncan McMillan; Williams, 1839; Lachlan McPherson, Ekfrid, 1846; and William R. Sutherland, Ekfrid, 1848.

In the history of Middlesex there is given the following lists of Scottish marriages, by Presbyterian ministers. Twenty-four marriages, from August 6, 1833, to April 29, 1835; twenty-three from May 7, 1835, to Nov. 20, 1836; and nine from February 17, 1837, to December 8th of same year; all recorded by the Rev. Wm. Proudfoot of the Associate Secession Church.

In 1835 seven marriages are recorded by the Rev. James Skinner, of the United Secession Church; and in 1836-7 he records four others. In 1835 the Rev. Wm. Fraser registered two contracts; and the Rev. D. McKenzie four in 1834-7.

All of these marriages are, with a few exceptions,



## *The Talbot and Middlesex Settlements*

---

between Scottish persons, and will be valuable data for family history.

Owing to a scarcity of clergy of the Scottish Church, many of the settlers joined the Baptist and Methodist Churches. In the former denomination and its offshoot, The Church of the Disciples, prominent clergy in Middlesex were: Dugald Campbell, 1838; Isaac Elliot, 1839; Dugald Sinclair, Lobo, 1839; and Richard Andrews, 1840. There are also recorded marriages by Baptist and Methodist clergy, many of which were between persons of Scottish birth or origin.

In 1831, the chairman of the Quarter Session was John Bestwick, while two other Scotsmen, Duncan McKenzie and John Mitchell, sat as magistrates. In 1842 the County Council contained the following Scotsmen: Lawrence Laureson, Andrew Moore, Thomas Coyne, Thomas Duncan, John D. Anderson, Archibald Miller, Isaac Campbell, Hiram Crawford, John Edwards, and John S. Buchanan. In 1843, Thomas Graham replaced Moore, James Murray replaced Buchanan, and Samuel Kirkpatrick replaced Duncan.

In the First Regiment of the Middlesex Militia were the following Scottish names: Lieut.-Col. L. Patterson; Major J. McQueen; Captains A. Gillis, J. McKinlay, J. Patterson, G. Munro; Lieutenants McCall, Gillies, D. McKinley, Blackwood, and E. McKinley; Ensigns McIntyre, McGregor, and Sinclair.

The first settler in London, the county town, was Peter McGregor, a Scotsman, who settled there

---

## *The Scotsman in Canada*

---

in 1826. In June of 1827 Robert Corfrae, another Scotsman, came to the place.

The township of Ekfrid was one of the leading Scottish settlements in Middlesex. Among the pioneers were: John Campbell, Angus Campbell, Donald McTaggart, Archibald Miller, John McLachlan, John Elliot, Donald McGugan, and Duncan McCall. Among those who came in 1835 were Dougald Patterson, Duncan Campbell, Donald McFarlane, Hugh Rankin, and Alexander McMaster.

Among the pioneers and early settlers of Ekfrid still living there in 1880 were, with the date of their settlement: Angus Campbell, 1828; Duncan McGregor, 1830; Lachlan and Angus McTaggart, 1831; Robt. Orr and N. McLellan, 1832; Jas. Gowanlock, A. Stevenson, and A. McDougal, 1833; David Dobie, 1834; Jas. Allen, Hugh McLachlan, Hector McFarlane, and C. McRoberts, 1835; Angus Chisholm, 1836; Alexander McBean, 1837; John E. Campbell, 1839; John A. Dobie, Alexander McKellar, and Archibald McIntyre, 1840; Jas. G. Begg, Alexander Eddie, George C. Elliot, Robert McKay, Alexander McNeill, and Daniel McCrea, 1842; David Cowan and Adam Clarke, 1845; Duncan McRea, 1849.

The first township offices on record are those of 1833. Those elected then were: Duncan McLean, clerk; Christopher Sparling and James McIntyre, assessors; D. McLean, collector; John McIntosh, John Campbell, Hugh McAlpine, John Galbraith, Robert Parker, James McLellan, Andrew

## *The Talbot and Middlesex Settlements*

---

Wilson, Malcolm Galbraith, John McCallum, Alex. McIntyre, and Peter McDonald, road masters ; Thos. Curtis, Donald McTaggart, and Joseph Provo, wardens.

In 1840, John McIntyre, Malcolm Campbell, and John McKellar were elected wardens, with Malcolm McFarlane, collector. The first mentioned school and library commissioners, in 1844, were John McIntyre ; Donald McFarlane, senior ; John R. McRae, senior, Humphrey Campbell, and John Campbell.

The township of Lobo was another noted Scottish settlement. It was surveyed in 1819 by Burwell, and the next year a large immigration of settlers from Argyllshire in Scotland poured in, and took up land throughout the whole township. Archibald McArthur and Thomas Caverhill were the senior or first councillors. John Harris was the first treasurer, Duncan McDougall was collector of taxes. In 1842, Hugh Carmichael was clerk, and Duncan McLean was chairman of Council. Among the pathmasters were John Edwards, Neil McIntyre, Archd. Paull, McLean, Donald McAllister, Hugh Johnson, John Campbell, Hugh Dewar, Duncan McBain. Other officials were Archd. McKellar, Malcolm Gray, Jos. McIntosh, Hugh Johnson, and Donald Johnson. In 1844 Alexander Sinclair was chairman of Council ; John Brown, clerk ; John Gray, assessor ; and Archd. McVicar, collector of taxes. In 1842 there were six schools in the township. The Scottish teachers were John Campbell, Donald McCrea, William Munro, and John Ross.

---

## *The Scotsman in Canada*

---

The first inspector for Lobo in 1844 was Alexander Sinclair, and in 1862 Thomas Ure. The names of the first settlers who were heads of families in 1820 were : Malcolm McCall, Donald Lamont, Dugald McArthur, and the Johnson, Sinclair, and McKellar families ; also Duncan McKeith, Neil McKeith, Hugh Carmichael, Charles Carmichael, John McIntyre and family, Duncan McIntyre, Archibald Campbell, Malcolm Campbell, John McLachlan, John McCall, John McDugall, afterwards Justice of the Peace, and John Gray and family.

The township of McGillivray was not as thoroughly Scottish in its origin as Ekfrid and Lobo, but contained a very strong Scottish element. Scotsmen are mentioned at different periods as being among the leading township officers. In 1843, Thos. Laughlin was pound-keeper ; W. Henry, R. Long, and Isaac Moodie, wardens ; and Thos. Laughlin and George Barber, school commissioners. In 1846, James Simpson was assessor. In 1848, Andrew Neil was a warden, and in 1850, John Graham was an auditor. In 1852, John Corbett was reeve. Andrew Erskine took up land in 1852. David Cameron settled here in 1849, aged seven years. His father Samuel came from Scotland in 1842 and settled in Lobo. Other names are : Donald McKenzie, Jas. Corbett, 1843 ; A. Erskine, 1849 ; Wm. Fraser, 1858 ; T. McInnis, 1853 ; James Marr, 1852 ; C. T. McPherson, 1853 ; R. Neil, 1852 ; Duncan Stevenson, 1851. Other families mentioned in 1866 were either

---

## *The Talbot and Middlesex Settlements*

---

Scottish or Ulster Scots, such as the Hannas, Kennedys, Camerons, Nichols, Lathrops, John McVicar, Logans, and Christies.

Another strongly Scottish settlement of Middlesex was the township of Mora.

Leading Scotsmen among its early settlers were : John Coyne, Archibald McCallum, Archibald Campbell, Andrew Fleming, George Fleming, John D. Anderson, Donald Ferguson, who married Jane McLachlan in 1818, and died in 1851. Hugh McLachlan was another old settler.

Capt. William Symes, of Glencoe (1834); Donald McLean (1834), and Archd. Campbell (1818), were other noted settlers. Other names are Dobie, Parr, McIntyre, Walker, Simpson, McAlpine, and Armstrong. In the oldest extant record-book, dated 1857, Neil Munro, George Currie, and Charles Armstrong are councillors. The village of Glencoe is so called after the famous glen of that name in Scotland. The first surveyors were A. P. McDonald and Ross. As late as 1860 the leading citizens included many Scotsmen. J. W. Campbell was the first reeve. Other names are Dr. McIntyre, Charles Murray, John R. McRae, Dr. McKellar.

The township of East Williams formed part of the lands of the Canada Company, and were surveyed by McDonald, of Goderich. It was settled in 1833 by many Scotsmen and their families, such as those of Donald McIntosh, Donald Henderson, Donald Fraser, James Ross, James McPherson, James Bremner, Hugh McKenzie, and Hugh Crawford. Alexander Stuart, 1832; John Stewart,

## *The Scotsman in Canada*

1832; Donald Henderson, 1832; David Cluness, 1833; John Levie, 1834, were early settlers. The Rosses and McIntoshes were noted families. Capt. Hugh McIntosh, the Andersons, Campbells, McQuillicans, McNeills, Colin Scatcherd, Wm. Fraser, David H. Craig, Alex. B. McDonald, Neil McKinnon, William Halbert, were all noted residents. In 1880 the leading old residents of the township were: Tafford Campbell, 1847; James Campbell, 1846; John Dingman, 1833; Donald McNaughton, 1834; John Levie, 1834; John Leitch, 1843; Neil McTaggart, 1831; Wm. McIntosh, 1831; Hugh McDonald, 1840; David McKenzie, 1836; John L. McKenzie, 1831; Malcolm McIntyre, 1875; Wm. Menzie, 1844; John More, 1846; John Milligan, 1848; Jas. D. McDonald, 1848; A. J. Ross, 1833; Donald Ross, 1832; Duncan Stewart, 1844; Donald C. Stewart, 1833; John Stewart, 1845.

This is a good example of the Scottish stock in a representative Canadian community founded by men of Scottish extraction. The village of Nairn, in 1885, was also composed largely of Scottish inhabitants.

West Williams was settled by the same stock as East Williams, the names being Stewart, McKenzie, Campbell, Cameron, Cluness, Ross, McNeill, &c.

There are to-day hundreds of families in that and adjoining districts who are descendants of these early settlers in the Middlesex townships. There are also thousands of people of Scottish descent scattered all through Western Ontario, of

whom no mention can be made in a work of this size and purpose. The author has endeavoured in this volume to give but a general description of the leading and most noted Scottish hives or central communities, and it is to be hoped that the material gathered together in this work may encourage local historians to pay more attention to the archives of the counties and towns throughout the different provinces of the Dominion. As Joseph Howe said : " A wise nation preserves its records, gathers up its monuments, decorates the graves of its illustrious dead, repairs the great public structures, and fosters national pride and love of country by perpetual reference to the sacrifices and glories of the past."