

THE COYNE FAMILY AND OTHER DUNWICH SETTLERS

From the St. Thomas Times, November 21 and 28, 1891.

Dunwich, the home of Col. Talbot, was fortunate in having for its first settlers men of different lineage, representing the best races in the vanguard of the world's civilization. Col. Talbot was a colonizer of great tact and had studied the development of nations, and in making a choice of settlers he had in view the laying of a foundation which should redound to his credit when the history of Canada should be written. Erratic he was in many respects. No well-defined theory has ever been advanced to account for the actions of this gay cavalier of the English Court, and the companion of Arthur Wellesley, a young man with the brightest prospects in military and civil life, apparently turning his back on every opportunity and burying himself in the wilds of Dunwich. The only data that can be found to throw light on the subject, must be furnished in the history of his life between the time of his first landing at Port Talbot and that time, twenty years later when he possessed all his faculties, unfettered by the prejudices which controlled him in his old age and unwarped by the political asperities which produced them. There is no doubt but that he was emulating the actions of William Penn, or Carroll of Maryland, who had founded states in the young Republic, which had just forcibly separated itself from the mother country. It was the day of colonization. Britons were dreaming of a great empire on which the sun would never set. The dream has since become a reality. In order to ensure its success, it was necessary to fire the young men of blood and wealth with the zeal of Romulus. At the close of the century it was the fashion to talk of the colonies beyond the seas, and to praise the men who had built them up. The founders of colonies divided the glory of the nation with its soldiers and sailors. Thomas Talbot chose to become the founder of a state rather than to win laurels on the battle field. He thought they would be more permanent, and not the less honorable. When once he made up his mind as to his future course, he at once doffed the habiliments of the Courts, and ever after adopted the habits and did not shirk the hardships of pioneer life. He determined that his colony should be as unique as himself. He determined to mix the various nationalities which were available, and to found a new race, which should excel all other peoples. To his credit be it said, he tried to keep out the shiftless and the immoral. He made inquiry into the character of the applicants for land, and though he was sometimes led astray, there