

Official Souvenir
Programme

Talbot Settlement
Centennial Celebration



May 21st to 25th, 1903
Saint Thomas, Ontario

PRICE, 15 CENTS

U. W. O. LIBRARY

*John R. Taylor
May 21st 1903.*

OFFICIAL SOUVENIR
PROGRAMME

Talbot Settlement
Centennial Celebration

MAY 21ST TO 25TH, 1903
SAINT THOMAS, ONTARIO



WRITTEN AND COMPILED BY
W. H. MURCH
SECRETARY ELGIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY
AND PRINTED AND FOR SALE BY
THE SUTHERLAND PRINTING HOUSE
ST. THOMAS, ONT.

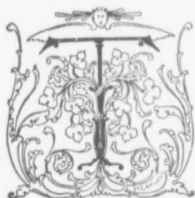
IN ANY AGE it is the duty which every country owes to itself to preserve the records of the past, and to honor the men and women whose lives and deeds made possible its present, and to-day when the whole civilized world is throbbing to social and political impulses of the greatest significance for the future, we ought especially to call to mind such lives and deeds and catch if we can inspiration for acting well the part that falls to each of us.

21000/8
P2
(2)



HON. COLONEL THOMAS TALBOT
BORN 1771 ; DIED 1853.

The Talbot Settlement.



THE TALBOT SETTLEMENT was so called after the Honorable Thomas Talbot, Lieutenant-Colonel of the 5th Regiment of Foot, who sold his Commission in December, 1800, and for his service as a field officer on the Continent, received a grant of five thousand acres in the Township of Dunwich, a district which he had visited some years before with General Simcoe, Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of Upper Canada. On the 21st of May, 1803, he landed at what is now known as Talbot Creek, on Lake Erie, and with an axe chopped down the first tree, thus inaugurating the settlement. Colonel Talbot was Government Land Agent, to whom settlers applied for their farms. His district extended from Long Point to the Detroit River, and included 28 townships in the Counties of Norfolk, Elgin, Middlesex, Kent and Essex.

The following list in the London and Western District was returned by Colonel Talbot as comprising the settlement in 1835 :

| | | |
|--------------|--------------|-------------|
| Middleton | Houghton | Bayham |
| Malahide | Yarmouth | Southwold |
| Dunwich | Aldborough | Orford |
| Howard | Harwich | Raleigh |
| East Tilbury | Romney | Mersea |
| Gosfield | Colchester | Maidstone |
| Rochester | Sandwich | Zone |
| Mosa | Ekfrid | Caradoc |
| Lobo | London | Westminster |
| | West Tilbury | |

Centennial Celebration.

THE CELEBRATION to be held is in honor of the men and women, the pioneers of the Talbot Settlement. Their true and imperishable monument is the manhood and womanhood of the district, the beautiful farms and homes, the institutions of religion and education. Their names will be forever honored among the founders of the Canadian nation.



PORT TALBOT—SHOWING OLD HOMESTEAD OF COL. TALBOT.



A Brief Review for the Home-coming of "The Old Boys" May 23, 1903.

"When we were boys—
Merry, merry boys,
When we were boys together;
It seems to me but yesterday
When we were boys together."

"Be it ever so humble,
There's no place like home."



SITUATED on the elevated plateau of a peninsula formed by the windings of Kettle Creek, the City of Saints is surrounded by picturesque and most beautiful scenery—the views in every direction are fine—that from the west is certainly magnificent.

"WHAT'S IN A NAME"

St. Thomas was named after the Honorable Thomas Talbot, the first settler and founder of the settlement. He it was who cut the first tree, May 21st, 1803, and for years after the event was celebrated annually by a supper and ball in the village; but why the prefix "Saint" was added to Thomas must remain a mystery, for whatever else may be said of Colonel Talbot he was never called a Saint.

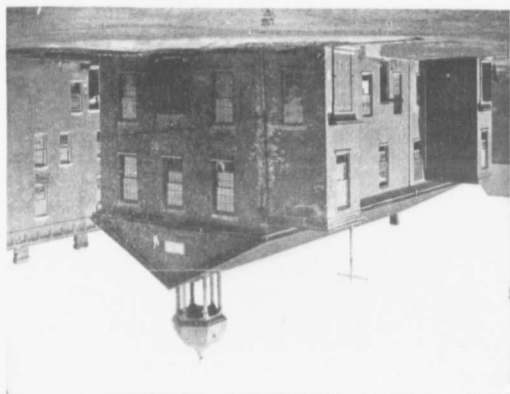
The earliest date of settlement was 1810, when a few families took up land, among them the Rapeljes, Mandevilles, Drakes and Curtis, who erected their homes on the crest of the western hill, near Pleasant street.

Opened Nov. 20, 1899.

NEW CITY HALL — BUILT IN 1899



OLD TOWN HALL — BUILT IN 1850-1



It is recorded that during the war of 1812 the hamlet was occupied by General McArthur and a force of American soldiers, numbering 1,000 men, who made foraging raids upon the live stock and devastated crops and buildings of the settlers.

The first business was established by James Hamilton, who in 1817 opened a general store at the foot of the hill, on the London road, which was quickly followed by others, and in 1824 the village was of considerable importance.

In 1821, Daniel Rapelje donated the land for the erection of that quaint little church on the hill, known as St. Thomas Episcopal Church, said to be the oldest church edifice between the Grand and Detroit Rivers. It was built in 1824, and is still in a good state of preservation. A visit to its well filled graveyard will recall more "early history and reminiscences," than volumes of reading. Its records or register of baptisms, marriages and burials, contains some illustrious names.

The village grew slowly and all building was west of where the old town hall now stands. In 1831 the late Thomas Lindop settled here. In 1832 the late M. T. Moore followed, and others, whose names are still prominent among our citizens.

In the early thirties, Mrs. Jameson, an English authoress, visited the Talbot district and afterwards published her impressions in "Sketches in Canada." This is what she says of St. Thomas in 1837:

"St. Thomas is situated on a high eminence to which the ascent is rather abrupt. The view from it, over a fertile, well-settled country, is very beautiful and cheering. The place bears the christian name of Colonel Talbot, who styles it his capital, and, from a combination of advantages, it is rising fast into importance. The climate, from its high position, is delicious and healthful; and the winters in this part of the province are milder by several degrees than elsewhere. At the foot of the cliff, or eminence, runs a deep, rapid stream, called Kettle Creek (I wish they had given it a prettier name), which after a course of eight miles, and turning a variety of saw-mills and grist-mills, etc., flows into Lake Erie at Port Stanley, one of the best harbors on this side of the lake. Here steamers and schooners land their passengers and merchandise, or load with grain, flour or lumber. The roads are good all round, and the Talbot road, carried directly through the town, is the finest in the province. . . . The population of St. Thomas is at the present rated at seven hundred, and has doubled within two years. There are three churches, one of which is very neat, and three taverns. Two newspapers are



BIRDSEYE VIEW OF ST. THOMAS.

BAPTIST CHURCH.

published, one violently Tory, the other violently Radical. I found several houses building, and, in those I entered, a general air of cheerfulness and well-being very pleasing to contemplate. . . . I was very much struck with this beautiful and cheerful little town—more I think than any place I have yet seen."

Smith's Canadian Gazetteer, published in 1846, contains the following :

ST. THOMAS — A large village in the Township of Yarmouth, beautifully situated on Kettle Creek, 17 miles from London and 9 miles from Port Stanley. It is surrounded by a succession of hill and dale and in the midst of a fine well cultivated country. It was laid out about thirty years since, and now contains between 700 and 800 inhabitants. It is a place of considerable business. The plank road, from London to Port Stanley, runs through the village north and south, and the Talbot Road east and west. Stages from London to Port Stanley pass through the village daily. A weekly newspaper is published here, "The St. Thomas Standard." Churches and chapels, six, viz., Episcopal, Presbyterian, Roman Catholic, two Methodist and a Baptist. Post office—Post three times a week. Professions and Trades—Four physicians and surgeons, three lawyers, one grist and saw mill, carding machine and cloth factory, two foundries, two breweries, two distilleries, ten stores, six groceries, four taverns, one temperance house, two druggists, one printer, four saddlers, one baker, two butchers, one watchmaker, four coopers, eight blacksmiths, three wagon makers, five tailors, four shoemakers, one painter and glazier, one tinsmith, one surveyor, two bank agencies (Montreal and Gore)—principal tavern, Ivors.

This was in 1846 — Four years later (1850-1) the Township of Yarmouth built the old Town Hall, which did good service for a half century.

In 1852, St. Thomas became incorporated and the population numbered 1,300. About the same time a portion of the County of Middlesex was set apart as a new county with St. Thomas as its capital, and out of compliment to the Earl of Elgin (Governor-General 1847-1854), it was called "Elgin."

The first meeting of the new County Council was held in the Town Hall, April 15th, 1852, and David Parish represented the town as its first reeve. A year later (1853), the Court House was built. Progress was slow, as population in 1860 was 1,750, and strange as it may appear, the first railway (London & Port Stanley), built in 1856, did more harm than good.



COURT HOUSE, BUILT 1853
PARTIALLY DELTROYED BY FIRE 1898.



COURT HOUSE AS REBUILT 1899.



SQUIRE HUNT, FOR WANT OF BETTER ACCOMMODATION,
TRIES A CASE IN A CELL AFTER THE FIRE.

In 1870 the agitation in favor of the Canada Southern Railway reached its climax and the Great Western, fearing the competition of the new line, surveyed the Loop line, and it seemed as if it was to be two roads or none, for if either withdrew neither would have been built, and the construction of these lines of railway infused a new life and energy that no other town in Canada has ever equalled. From 1870 to 1876 the population increased from 1,800 to 6,000. In 1879 it was nearly 8,000, and it was a task for municipal government to keep pace with such growth.

In 1874, the first waterworks was constructed at a cost of \$25,000 for fire protection only. The same year the gas works were built by private company at a cost of \$65,000.

In 1878, the first Street Railway Company was incorporated, and on July 1, 1879, the bobtail horse cars were plodding the length of Talbot street.

On May 24th, 1878, the corner stone of Alma College was well and truly laid by Hon. Adam Crooks, then Minister of Education. Churches kept pace with the rapid onward march and public school accommodation was a problem for ward schools, as soon as built, were too small for the number of children to attend, and we draw your attention to the pictures embellishing this programme for proof that we possess the finest churches and school buildings to be found in any city of equal size in Ontario.

The impetus given us by the building of railways still continues and to-day we are known as the Railway City. The Credit Valley, built in 1880-1, from Toronto to St. Thomas, soon passed into the hands of the Canadian Pacific. The Lake Erie, from the west, is now controlled by the Pere Marquette and will be extended eastward to Niagara in the near future, forming a system as great as the Michigan Central. The Loop Line, built by the Great Western, is now part of the Wabash, through line from Kansas and the south to New York. The Canada Southern, now Michigan Central, have erected mammoth workshops, employing hundreds of men, and is to-day our hope and mainstay.

Industries have been encouraged and are still being drawn to the railway centre. We are the only city in Canada owning its electric street railway, and a few weeks ago we purchased a beautiful park for the use of our citizens, so that municipal ownership is being practically tested. The fire department and police force are both efficient and worthy of mention.



OLD WELLINGTON STREET SCHOOL.



NEW WELLINGTON STREET SCHOOL.

Two daily papers furnish the latest and best of the world's news, and "The Times" and "Journal" are among the progressive dailies of the province. They have recently relegated the "old time" compositor to the archives of the last century, and placed in their offices the up-to-date typesetting machines, which visitors are invited to see in operation.

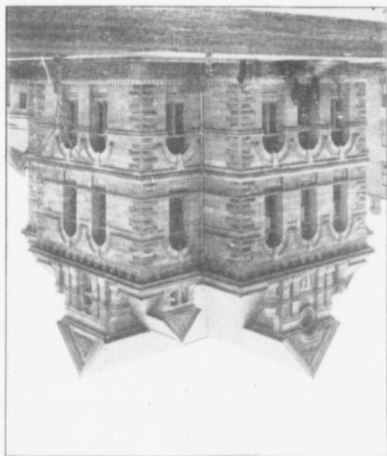
The new waterworks and pumping station are models of their kind and are among the rare exceptions. Good spring water is furnished for domestic use, filtered and purified, and has proved healthful and superior to "the old oaken bucket that dipped in the well."

Our new municipal buildings must be seen to be appreciated, for they are a credit to the city and the architect who designed them. Last, but not least, we have spent hundreds of thousands of dollars on street improvements, and we are proud to say that in 1903 our appearance reflects our prosperity, and we stand in the front rank of progressive cities in this or any other country.



R. R. AND CITY, V. M. C. A.

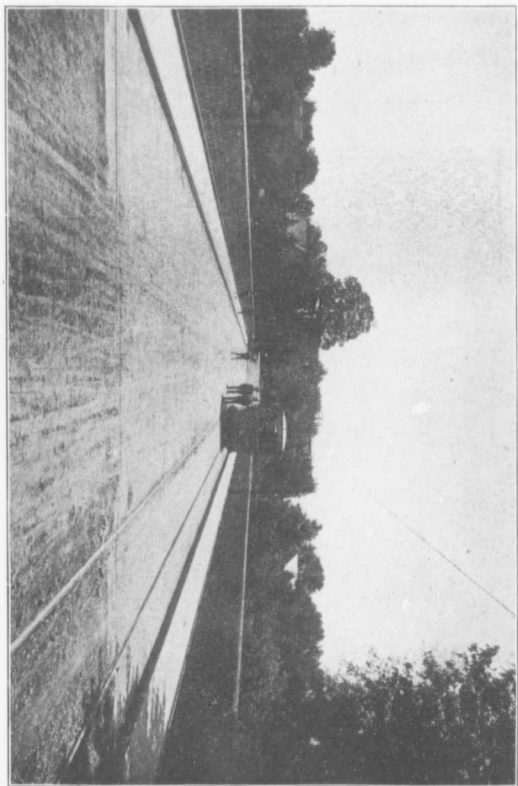
POST OFFICE.



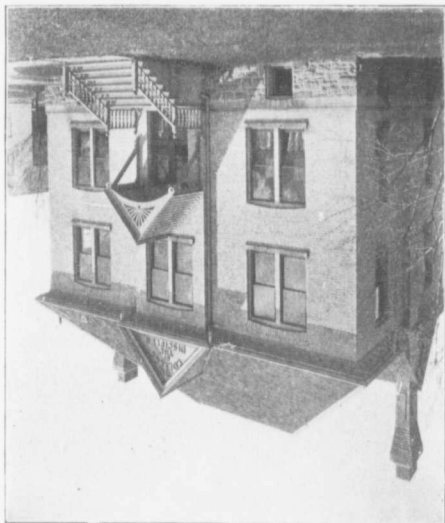
BALCLAVA STREET SCHOOL.



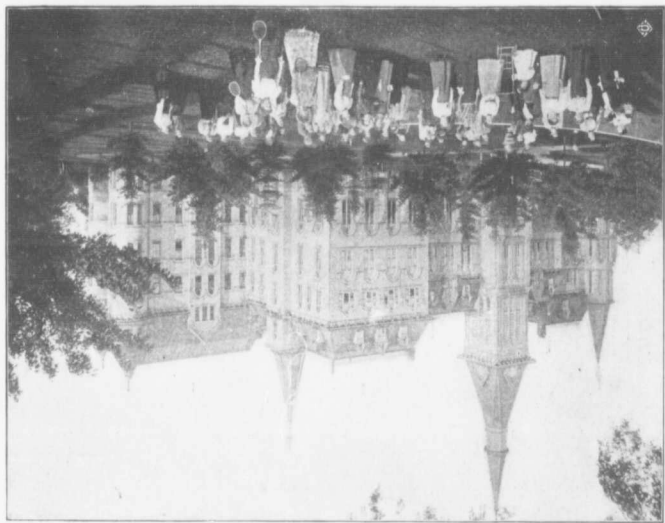
WILSON BRIDGE APPROACH.



COLLEGE OF THE DISCIPLES.



ALMA MATER COLLEGE.



Elgin Historical and Scientific Institute

At an informal meeting held April 29th, 1891, at the residence of James H. Coyne, County Registrar, it was decided to establish a society for the promotion of historical and scientific knowledge; from this small beginning the Elgin Historical Society has grown to a membership of over one hundred ladies and gentlemen and with varying success has done something for the preservation of valuable documents and historic landmarks.

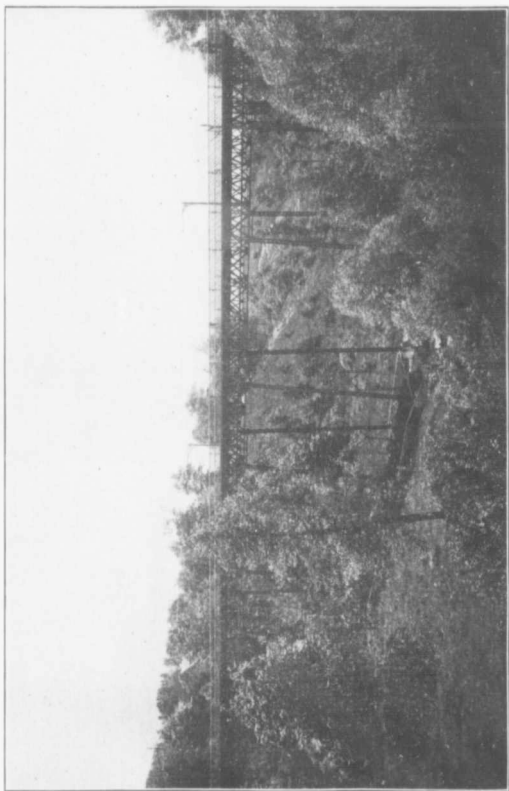
The Society is deeply indebted to the Elgin County Council for substantial aid and support—first, in furnishing a commodious room in the Court House; secondly, for financial help in issuing their first publication, entitled, "Historical Sketches of the County of Elgin."

The first officers elected in 1891 were;

JAMES H. COYNE, President.
JUDGE ERMATINGER, Vice President.
W. H. MURCH, Secretary.
FRANK HUNT, Editor.
K. W. MCKAY, Librarian.
FRANK L. FARLEY, Curator.

Officers for 1903:

C. O. ERMATINGER, President.
S. SILCOX, B. A., Vice President.
W. H. MURCH, Secretary Treasurer.
MISS C. WEGG, Assistant Secretary.
MRS. ST. THOMAS SMITH, Curator.
FRANK HUNT, Editor.



WILSON BRIDGE FROM RAVINE.

City Council, 1903

C. F. MAXWELL, Mayor

| | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| S. CHANT | GEO. A. PONSFORD |
| WM. MEEK | P. MEEHAN |
| DR. L. LUTON | A. M. HUTCHISON |
| R. SANDERS | W. TROTT |
| H. A. TURNPENNY | DR. F. GUEST |
| C. LAWRENCE | |

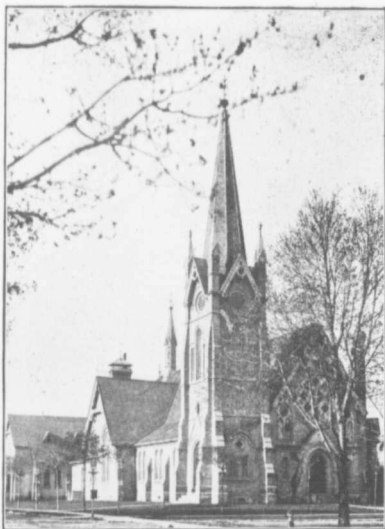


NEW COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE.

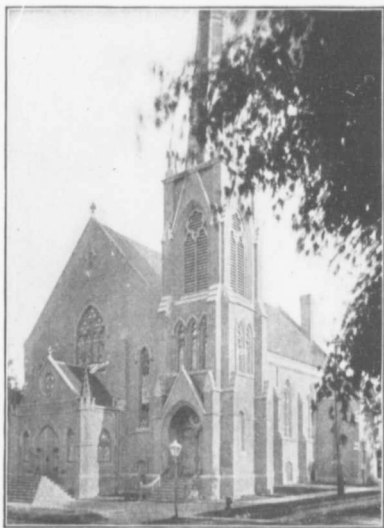
Board of Education, 1903

FRED DOGGETT, Chairman.

| | | |
|------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| J. A. KILPATRICK | D. K. MCKENZIE | S. DUBBER |
| S. B. POCKOCK | A. W. GRAHAM | F. W. WRIGHT |
| J. R. MARTIN | J. E. FRASER | E. C. SANDERS |
| A. R. McDONALD | JOHN MERRY | WM. MEEK |
| J. S. FRASER | R. T. HANKINSON | W. V. McDONALD |
| J. LOCHORE | A. BARBER | R. SWINN |
| T. STEWART | DUG. MCCOLL | F. BENNETT |



TRINITY CHURCH.



FIRST METHODIST CHURCH.

OFFICIAL
PROGRAMME

First Day—Thursday, May 21, 1903

Under the auspices of the Elgin Historical Society

PREPARATION DAY

10.00 a. m. — All city bells will ring to usher in the celebration. Decorations to begin.

9.00 p. m. — Banquet at Grand Central Hotel.



AMASA WOOD HOSPITAL.

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME

Second Day—Friday, May 22, 1903

EMPIRE DAY

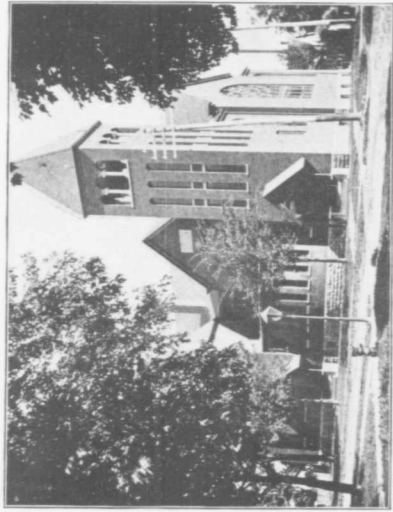
Under the auspices of the Board of Education.

- 10.30 a. m. — Raising the Flag
Balaclava Street School.
- 11.30 a. m. — Raising the Flag
Wellington Street School.
- 2.00 p. m. — Formal opening of New Collegiate Institute
by Hon. Richard Harcourt, Minister of Education
- 3.30 p. m. — Grand Concert by 300 Children
in Metcalfe Street Rink. All school children admitted free.
Adults, 15c.
- 8.00 p. m. — Grand Concert in Metcalfe Street Rink
Presentation of medals to life-saving crew of Port Stanley for
the rescue of six sailors from the U. S. Schooner "Mineral
State."—Concert will consist of songs, choruses, flag designs,
national costumes and May Pole dances by 300 children,
trained by Mr. J. H. Jones, assisted by the 25th Regiment
band. Admission, 25c.; Children, 15c.

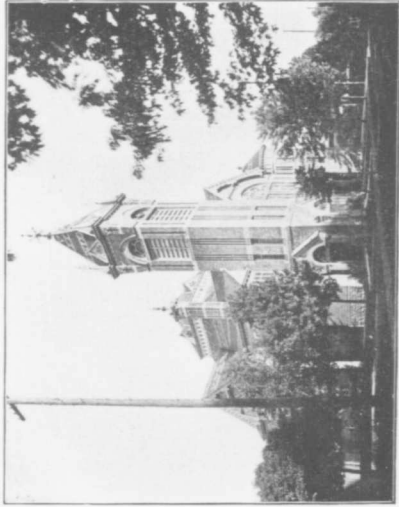


RAILWAY INTERESTS AND THE MEN WHO ARE IN CONTROL

- 1.—SUPT. FERRITOR, G. T. R. AND WABASH.
2.—SUPT. MORFORD, M. C. R.
3.—SUPT. ROBINS, WABASH.



CENTRAL METHODIST CHURCH.



KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME

Third Day—Saturday, May 23, 1903

PIONEER DAY

And "Old Boys" Re-union

10.00 a. m. — Monster Pioneer Procession

Commencing at west end market and passing through several of the principal streets. Many novelties representing pioneer life will be seen in the line of the procession, for which five valuable prizes will be given. — The crew of the Dominion Revenue Cutter Petrel will also be in line. — Prizes will be given for best decorated wheel and for the largest club of bicycles in line.

1.00 p. m. — Reception of Representatives of Municipalities

Comprising the Talbot Settlement at the City Hall by the Mayor and City Council, after which they will proceed to Pinafore Park and erect a Cairn of stones, each one of which will represent and bear, chiselled upon it, the name of one of the 33 townships embraced within the original settlement, and appropriate remarks will be made by the representatives of the different townships.

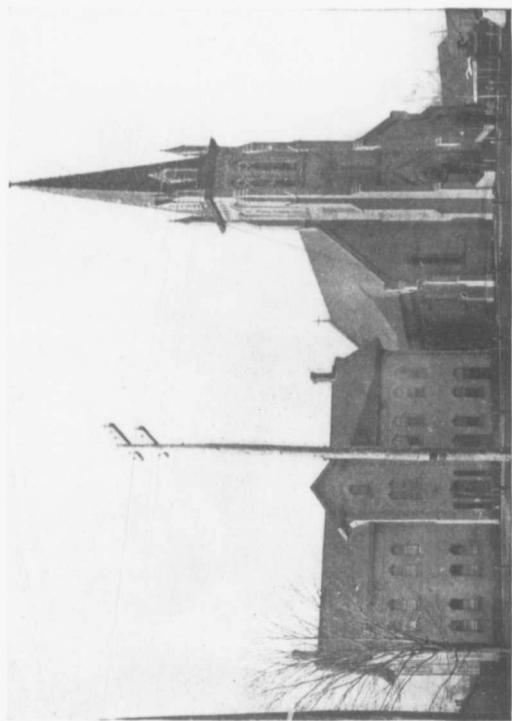
Old Boys register at City Hall on arrival and receive an official badge gratis.

4.00 p. m. — Opening New Athletic Grounds

Foot of East street, with grand lacrosse match between St. Thomas and London.

8.00 p. m. — Reception and Address of Welcome

by Mayor Maxwell to the "Old Boys"; also, band concert by 25th Regiment and other bands — in the rink.



CHURCH OF THE HOLY ANGELS

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME

Sunday, May 24, 1903

11.00 a. m. -- Military Church Parade.

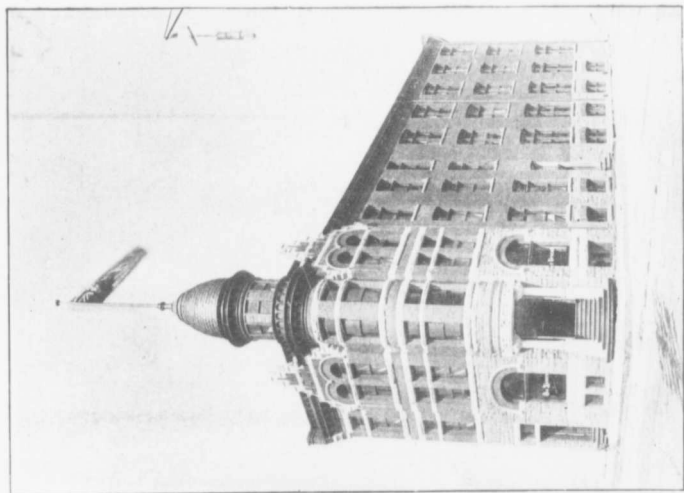
Appropriate Sermons in all the city churches on the progress and development of the past 100 years.

2.00 p. m. -- Societies accompanied by bands

will proceed to cemeteries to decorate graves of departed brethren and pioneers of the settlement.



25TH REGIMENT ON PARADE.



"JOURNAL" PRINTING OFFICE.



"TIMES" PRINTING OFFICE.

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME

Fifth Day—Monday, May 25, 1903

MILITARY DAY

9.00 a. m. — March out of Brigade

Col. Peters, D. O. C. ; 10th Grenadiers, Lieut.-Col. Stimson ; 24th Regiment, Lieut.-Col. Rankin ; 25th Regiment, Lieut.-Col. McLachlin ; C. I. Cadets, Capt. Jones, from park, by way of Wilson Avenue and Elgin Street, to Wellington Street, east on Wellington to Ross, north on Ross to Talbot, west on Talbot to William, south on William to Wellington, east on Wellington to Elgin, south on Elgin and Wilson Avenue to Armories.

11.00 a. m. — Formal Opening of 25th Regiment Armories

2.00 p. m. — At Park

Fue-de-joie and march - past by 10th Royal Grenadiers, 24th Kent Regiment, 25th Elgin Regiment and St. Thomas C. I. Cadets, Trooping the Colors and Physical Drill by the 10th Grenadiers.

3.30 p. m. — Races

Bicycle slow race, 100 yards. Prize, medal, donated by Dunlop Tire Co.

Trick bicycle riding, for amateurs. Prize, medal, donated by Hyslop Bicycle Co.

Prizes for bicycle parade, Pioneer Day, donated by Mr. E. McCredie, St. Thomas.

100 yards, open to volunteers, . . . 1st, \$3.00 ; 2nd, \$2.00.

150 yards, open to all, . . . 1st, \$3.00 ; 2nd, \$2.00.

Sack race, . . . 1st, \$3.00 ; 2nd, \$2.00.

Tub race (on lake), . . . 1st, \$3.00 ; 2nd, \$2.00.

Hurry-scurry race, . . . 1st, \$3.00 ; 2nd, \$2.00.

(Entries must be made before 3 p. m. to Mr. J. W. Stewart.)

4.00 p. m. — Baseball

West London Greys vs. Pastimes, St. Thomas.

8.00 p. m. — Grand Band Concert

by 10th Royal Grenadiers, introducing a set of English hand bells.



THE PUMPING STATION.

Women's Historical Society

MRS. J. H. WILSON, President

MRS. J. H. COYNE, 1st Vice-President

MRS. C. O. ERMATINGER, 2nd Vice-President

MRS. D. O'SHEA, 3rd Vice-President

MRS. S. SILCOX, Recording Secretary

MISS C. WEGG, Assistant Secretary

MRS. E. W. GUSTIN, Corresponding Secretary

MRS. E. CAUGHELL, Treasurer

MISS F. McLACHLIN, Asst. Treasurer

Council

MRS. WILSON

MRS. W. R. JACKSON

MRS. F. M. GRIFFIN

MRS. CORMACK

MRS. GUSTIN



TALBOT STREET, LOOKING EAST.

Demonstration Committee.

C. F. MAXWELL, Mayor, Chairman.

HENRY ROE, Secretary.

DR. F. C. BARTLETT, Treasurer.

| | | |
|-----------------|----------------|---------------------|
| W. B. WATERBURY | R. M. ANDERSON | JAS. H. COYNE |
| L. FERGUSON | E. A. SMITH | H. C. HOCKEN |
| T. G. COURTENAY | L. H. DINGMAN | B. F. HONSINGER |
| F. W. WRIGHT | O. MASTERMAN | P. MEEHAN |
| P. L. M. EGAN | PETER STEWART | H. RUDOLPH |
| SHERIFF BROWN | F. McCORMICK | D. H. PRICE, Aylmer |

TALBOT McBETH, London

CHAIRMEN OF COMMITTEES

LIEUT.-COL. McLACHLIN, Military.

JUDGE ERMATINGER, Historical.

DR. S. SILCOX, Educational.

DR. F. GUEST, Pioneer.

K. W. MCKAY, Old Boys' Re-union.

J. MCKENZIE, Subscriptions.

W. H. MURCH, Printing.

FRED DOGGETT, Rink and Band.

J. W. STEWART, Railway and Games.

WALTER ROSS, Decoration.

S. B. POCOCK, Illumination.

