

EARLY HISTORY.

THE HOLDEN BLACKSMITH SHOP.

Another of the old landmarks of Nobleton was removed from the main street of the village during the fall of 1959, when the blacksmith shop was moved from the Norman Rose property.

The records show that property being part of the East Part of lot 6, Concession 9, in the Village of Nobleton, was purchased by George Holden in 1874. A small frame building which was used as a stable at the rear of the Lot was moved up near the street line and remodelled to be used as a blacksmith shop.

Mr. Holden who had learned his trade at the Heacock blacksmith shop on Lot 12, Concession 8, King, opened this shop early in 1875.

Business was exceptionally good and extra help was needed to keep the horses shod, the sleighs and wagons repaired, and the farm implements in working order that the land might be tilled and the produce marketed.

Several young men who had ambitions to become blacksmiths assisted him between the years of 1875 and up to 1906 when William Rose, whom had learned the trade with Nesbitt Riddell, at Schomberg came to Nobleton as his helper. William Rose married Margaret Holden on Jan. 13th, 1909 and became a partner in the business.

This partnership lasted for sixteen years when George Holden retired in 1925. He died on Nov. 10th, 1933, and is buried in the Nobleton Community Cemetery.

William Rose operated the shop alone from 1925 until 1928 at which time his son Norman started to assist him.

I am told by Mr. Norman Hill, who helped during busy times, that it was not unusual to put on 100 horseshoes in one day and that he believes that the record for any one single day was 110 shoes.

In 1939, William Rose and Norman formed a partnership and worked together until 1948 when, owing to ill health William Rose retired. He died on Jan. 27th, 1952 and is buried in Nobleton Community Cemetery.

Norman Rose operated the business until 1958 however, owing to the disappearance of the horse and the change to mechanized farming, the shop was closed.

The building was donated to the Metropolitan Toronto and Region Conservation Authority and moved to the site of their Ancient Village in the Fall of 1959, to be reconstructed as it had been originally in Nobleton.

Along with other landmarks in "Ancient Village" it will be preserved in order that future generations might have an opportunity of seeing a Village or Hamlet as it existed in rural Ontario in years gone by.

Mr. Harold Rose.



Pictures of Norman Rose in the original blacksmith shop reconstructed at Pioneer Village (Dalziel Conservation Area)



THE OLD BLACKSMITH SHOP

The old blacksmith shop was taken down in the month of August 1964 to make way for the new road connecting King Sideroad to the Bolton Sideroad. This shop was originally built in Linton over one hundred years ago by a Mr. Graham. His son wanted to move to Nobleton and brought the building with him. The older Mr. Graham decided to remain in Linton. A carriage shop was added to the business and built on the property now occupied by the Cherry family. This was run by Mr. MacDonald, the same gentleman who originated the Nobleton Brass Band. Wagons, carriages and even sleighs were repaired at that time. The three blacksmith fires were sheltered in this building. In those days you could get a shoe put on your horse for ten cents a shoe and if you required a new one it would set you back 25 cents. These days have gone forever. Nowadays, I'm told, the new method is to phone a blacksmith who arrives in his truck and will shoe your horse right on your premises and I'm sure the price has gone up slightly. Getting back to our story, Mr. Graham rented the shop after he found himself unable to run it due to old age, and he sold it to Mr. Ballard, also a blacksmith. This blacksmith shop, though tilted a little, would have lasted another one hundred years I am sure, proud of the magnificent huge beams forming part and heart of its structure.

