

## EARLY HISTORY OF NOBLETON

The following notes by Ruby Gillham.  
1953.

The village of Nobleton was named for or after Joseph Noble who was one of the very early settlers on the corner of the ninth concession and the King side-road in the Township of King. He bought the land from a John Robinson, whom I understand got it directly from the Crown.

Joseph Noble was the first tavern keeper in that settlement.

Nobleton Post Office was first into being on May 6th, 1851. The first post master was a brother of Joseph Noble, Thos. Noble, and he resided where Wm. Hawman lives today. The mail came tri-weekly from Toronto by stage coach via Vaughn Plank Road.

The earliest information that I could gather that is authentic is around the year 1857 as to inhabitants of the small village. At that time there were about one hundred people. There was then a Presbyterian minister in the group, namely, Rev. Jas. Adams, Free Presbyterian Minister. He lived on the side road just west of where the United Church stands today. Thos. Cairns was a farmer living somewhere in the village. Conrad Hawman, a carpenter, lived in a small frame house on the land where Art Gillham built his house and which was sold to George Irwin after his death.

Along about this said year Joseph Noble sold his tavern to John Hart. And here I might add that the log tavern was built right in the centre of the four corners with drives leading to the different directions. This was in the good old days when the best roads were of corduroy.

Henry McCluskey was the blacksmith and his shop and dwelling were on the land where Sam Davis lives today. In later years the McCluskeys left and went to Maple.

Robert Munsie was the general store keeper, his home was on the corner lot which was owned by the Fry family in later years, then owned by Harold Cain.

In 1856, William Munsie became post master as Thos. Noble died in that year.

The farm that Arthur Hill owns today was at one time the property of Martin Snider, whom I understand procured it from the Crown in 1843. His brother Captain Isac Snider bought a farm around the same time. It is the farm now owned by the Malloy family.

In interviewing older inhabitants of our village, I found Malcolm Wilkie with the keenest memory. He could remember as far back as 1870.

In 1870, Chas. Hambly was the post master and also store-keeper. He lived where the Larkin General Store and Post Office building was

and still stands. Since then it has been owned by many including Harold Pringle, Goodfellow Bros., and now Donald Kaake. In or about this time the mail came to Nobleton by a different route. It came to King Station and was delivered by Herbert Watson who became the Mail Carrier. He lived where Howard Wellar lives today.

The mail carrier in those days really had to cover a lot of ground. He left Nobleton early in the morning, first going to King Creek, Post Office, then out the town line to Laskay, then up the 6th Concession to Strange, then from there on to King Station. He covered the same ground coming back to Nobleton. This was before the village of Kleinburg had a railroad.

The Rev. Jas. Adams was still living in Nobleton in 1870 and then preaching on the 9th Concession, 11th Concession, and also Laskay Presbyterian Churches.

About this time there arose another tavern known as the British American Hotel where the old E.J. Kaake home stands, since owned by George Dove and now Harold Westbrook. Hotel owners name was James Busby.

I understand one of the best auctioneers of those times lived in Nobleton where Jas. Cherry's home is today. His name was Nicholas Armstrong.

Camefon is a very old name in Nobleton. Jas. Cameron was a working man and had a very humble home built just out of the village on the land now owned by Norman Fry. His son Henry Cameron lived in the village proper, in fact built the house that George Sampson lived in for many years. He was the great grandfather of the McCutcheon Bros.--Frank and Walter.

John Card, laborer, lived where the Newton Pringle home is today. He was the father of Loch Card, Albert Card and Mrs. R. Train..etc.

William Childs (wagon maker) lived in a modest house on the land where Harold Pringle has his dwellings today. He was the father of DeLoss and Bart Childs.

The farm owned by Mrs. Chas. Hill was in those days Aaron Cody's farm. Coday sold it to the McKinnons. Then Cody lived in Nobleton after the sale of his property. George, Arthur, and Percy Hill's grandmother Hill was a McKinnon before her marriage to George Hill Sr. Also the sons and daughters of Chas. Hill, Wm Hill. etc.

Chas. Graham was village blacksmith, living where Joe Ballard lived, and was blacksmith for many years and where Nellie Ballard lives today.

A family by the name of Cranston lived where the Rose property is today and where Mr. Holden blacksmithed for many years.

There were two George Hamblys in those days. One was a glove maker living in the village and the other farmed where the Fergus Mac-tagart farm is today on the 11th, Concession.

Jacob Hawman, cattle dealer, lived where Bert Snider now lives and which was the home for many years of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Pringle. Jacob Hawman was an uncle of Mr. Wm. Hawman.

Isac Holden, butcher, lived where Mrs. Northcott today lives. He was Mrs. Wm. Rose's grandfather.

The main carpenter in those days was Robert Hollingshead. Grandfather to the Hollingsheads now living in Woodbridge.

Jas. McKenna, shoemaker, was drowned this year in the creek that runs through Norman Robb's farm.

David McCutcheon is another old respected name. He was grandfather to McCutcheon Bros. Patrick McCutcheon another brother was grandfather to Mrs. Stanley Cain. (Pauline McCutcheon.)

Arthur McNaughton had a store where the Clarence Hoover residence is today.

Nobleton in those days had their own medical men. Dr. John Mahaffy had a house and office just west of the village proper.

About 1870, Wm. Munsie took over the Robt. Munsie store after the post office was connected with the Hambly general store. Munsie also sold marriage licenses.

The front part of the present school was built in 1870 with the teacher for the school being R.S. Perry...Note: this school was later torn down and a new one built.

John Phillips had a shoemakers shop somewhere in the front part of the Ellis farm. He married Thos. Noble's widow. He made shoes and cultivated a few acres of land.

Max Ritt soon after 1870 came to Nobleton and started blacksmithing. His shop was on the north end of Albert Hill's corner property.

Jas. Robinson farmed just south of the village. One son became Dr. Thos. Robinson of Kleinburg.

Later in the 19th century we find Capt. Isac Snider still farming just south of the village on the same farm. (Father of Mrs. Alex. Bryson.) Also Martin Snider on his farm--father of Mrs. John Pringle--Harold Pringle's grandfather.

T.C. Starrett took over the main tavern at the corner in the late 19th century. (About 1880.) He was the father of Mrs. Harvey Snider, and Mrs. Wm. Pringle and Cummings Starrett.

Nelson Wellar was farming then where Howard Wellar lives today. Father of Alonza Wellar (Grandfather of Howard and Milton Wellar.)

About the year 1898 Robert White began his carpentry work in earnest. He was considered very good. He lived where Mrs. Herb. Hawman lives today,

About 1900 Nobleton was considered a very wide-awake village, boasting of having three stores and a drug store, three blacksmith shops, two shoemakers, a tannery, three taverns, and a town doctor.

In 1856 after the death of Thos. Noble and when Mr. Munsie took over the post office he had the name of Nobleton changed to Llammore against most of the villagers wishes. So they went around with a petition which they had signed and sent to parliament asking that Nobleton be again the village name. Thus Nobleton again came into its own.

The land on which the Community Hall stands was donated to the village by Martin Snider around 1885 for the purpose of building a Community Hall.

The feed mill that was owned by Harold Cain around 1935 stands where an Orange Hall once stood and in the same edifice the Anglicans at one time worshipped---long before they had a church to go to.

The land where the pool room and service station now stands once was where the main tavern stood. The last tavern keeper that I can recall was Harry Wright. He came after Pete McCarthy and previous to Pete McCarthy a family named Trent owned it. The first Mrs. J.W. Larkin was a Trent girl.

In 1890, Nobleton had a band ~~was~~ considered the best band north of Toronto. Thos. McDonald was the band master. In everyday life he was a wagon maker. The band was one of the village fathers' pride and joy, winning many prizes at the country fairs, and at the Beeton Music Day, etc. When Mr. McDonald moved away Mr. John Pringle became band master. (Harold Pringle's Father.)

Ruby Gillham.