

## THE EARLY HISTORY OF NOBLETON

In the year 1800 the Township of King was laid out by Surveyor Stegman. At first slowly, then more radical, immigrants from the British Isles settled in the Township. In 1812, there were only forty families in the whole township, but in 1850 the population had increased to over five thousand; and several villages including Nobleton had begun their history.

In attempting to write an account of the history of this village and district, the lack of written records is a serious handicap to any factual history. It is difficult to determine the exact year that Nobleton had its beginning. From deeds of property, we find that this district was settled between the years 1812 and 1837. The burying ground, established prior to 1837 has a headstone bearing this date.

The village of Nobleton was named after a Joseph Noble who was one of the very early settlers on the corner of the 9th concession and the King side road, in the Township of King. He was the first tavern keeper in this settlement. He bought the land from a John Robinson, who got it directly from the Crown.

In 1837, Rev. Wm. Aitken was settled in Maple where he served for about fifteen years. Mr. Aitken married a Nobleton girl, Jane Noble, the daughter of the store keeper after whom the village was named. Their illustrious son, William Maxwell, is now Lord Beaverbrook, one of the most influential statesmen in the British Empire.

Nobleton post office was opened on May 6th, 1851. The first post master was Thomas Noble, a brother of Joseph Noble, and he resided where Templeton Mactaggart lives today. The mail came tri-weekly from Toronto by stage via the Vaughan Plank Road.

About the year 1857 Joseph Noble sold his tavern to John Hart. Here we might add that a 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 a blacksmith, his shop and dwelling were on the land where Elmo Chapman the barber, lives today.

Robert Munsie was the general store keeper, his home was on the corner lot now owned by The Leather Traders.

Conrad Hawman, a carpenter, lived in a small frame house on the land where Dick Seed lives on highway #27.

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

In 1870 Chas. Hambly was the post master, and also store keeper. He built the general store which accommodated the post office. Since then it has been owned by many including J.W. Larkin, R.J. Mactaggart, Harold Pringle, Goodfellow Brothers, 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 the late Howard Wellar lived. The mail carrier in those days had to cover a lot of ground. He left Nobleton early in the morning, first going to King Creek Post Office, then east on the town line to Laskay post office, north on the sixth concession to Strange, then east to King Station. This distance was covered on horse back or horse and rig.

About 1870 another tavern was built where Mrs. O. Emmerson's house now stands. This tavern was known as the British American Hotel and the owners name was James Busby.

One of the best auctioneers of those days was a man by the name of Nicholas Armstrong, he lived where Lorne Cherry's home is today. Later in the new century Frank Egan became well known as an auctioneer. He arranged to have a local auction sale once a month in town.

William Childs, a wagon maker, lived in a modest house on the land where Harold Pringle had his dwelling.

There were two George Hamblys in those days. One was a glove maker living in the village and the other farmed the Fergus Mactaggart farm on the 11th concession.

Joseph Hawman, cattle dealer, lived where Bert Snider now lives. This was the home for many years of a Mr. & Mrs. Wm. Pringle. Mr. Pringle sold horse drawn plows.

Isaac Holden, butcher, lived west of the junior public school. He was the great grandfather of Mr. Harold Rose.

The main carpenter in those days was Robert Hollingshead.

James McKenna, shoemaker, was drowned in the creek that runs through the property now owned by Mr. W.B. Cross.

Arthur McNaughton had a general store where Nobleton Auto Electric is now located.

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

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

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

Max Ritt soon after 1870 came to Nobleton and started slacksmithing. His shop was on the north end of of the property known as the Charles Hambly house.

James Robinson farmed just south of the village. One son became Dr. Thomas Robinson of Kleinburg.

The third house north of the Bolton road on highway 27 has housed many business operations. Mr. John Pringle built and operated this store for a number of years, then his son Harold and daughter Flossie (Mrs. Howard Wellar) operated the store while he had another project at the back selling lumber.

Since then this building has served as office for the Township of King, well driller, Imperial Bank, cleaners, T.V. repair, antique dealer and at present a pet food store.

Harold bought the store across the street from R.J. Mactaggart and closed his first store. Being now the only general store he did a thriving business until about 1920 when Mr. E. Horsley opened a store in the second house north of the Bolton Road and highway 27.

About 1925 Mr. Horsley sold to the Goodfellow Brothers. They operated this general store until they bought the store on the east side of 27 highway from Harold Pringle. At this time Mr. Pringle renovated the house the Goodfellows vacated back to a lovely dwelling. Mr. Pringle then went into the business of seed buying. The building at the rear of this property had formerly been used by a wheel rite, as a lumbering yard and a seed mill. The later business he now operated himself, and Mr. Pringle travelled to the northern parts of Ontario buying clover, alsike and alfalfa seeds.

In 1914 Mr. Andrew McLure sold his farm lot 6 con. 7 King to Jake Casselman. This was the start of the influx of the Jewish settlement around Nobleton. Mr. Casselman was a wheeler dealer who negotiated the sale of many farms and homes to the Russian Jews. The Jews were being persecuted by the Zurst's Government of prerevolutionary Russia. A number of them came to Canada and settled here just before the Russian Revolution. Hinchy Bornstein kept hotel where the Imperial Service station stands. Louie Galer had a cheese factory just west of the junior public school, Rabbi Dinkin lived on part lot 7, Con. 8. David Redbolt, Abraham Rabiport, Morris Ginsberg, Abraham Ronsberg and the Greenspoons all lived on farms. These people lived here and raised large families. Their children attended the tenth line and Nobleton schools.

Many of them moved to Toronto and other towns when the opportunity arose. The Greenspoons were the last to leave having made many friends, some of whom still keep in touch. They bought furs from the local trappers and hunters later opening a fur salon in Toronto.

About the year 1898 Robert White began his carpentry work in earnest. He was considered very good. He lived where Mr. Harold Long lives today. His planing mill and sash and door factory was located between his house and the United Church. Misfortune befell when his son Vernard accidentally met his death when caught in the belting in the factory.

Around 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 Thomas 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. The villagers 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, now owned by John Sheardown, was where the Orange Hall once stood. In the same edifice the Anglicans at one time worshipped here, long before they had a church to go to. The mill was destroyed by fire August 15, 1950, and the present building replaced it.

The land where Goodfellow & Witherspoon service station is located was where the main tavern once stood. The last tavern keeper was Harry Wright. He came after Pete McCarthy, previous to Pete McCarthy a family named Trent owned it. The first Mrs. J.W. Larkin was a Trent girl. In 1913 there was an election, local option carried so Mr. Wright boarded up the windows and doors of the hotel and left town.

In 1890 Nobleton had a band considered the best band north of Toronto. Thomas McDonald was the band master. In everyday life he was a wagon maker. The band was one of the valliage 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.

In 1910 King Telephone Co. installed phones. Bolton telephne had already been in the area some time.

In 1912 there was a school fair held in Nobleton, the first of its kind in the township. This became a yearly event being held at different locations.

In the summer of 1912 a fire started in a stable belonging to John Wells. This is the property now owned by Elmo Chapman. The fire spread to thirteen houses before being brought under control. Mr. Alfred Davis, 80 years of age, dropped dead when his house caught fire. The Well's stable was the only building completely destroyed.

In conclusion let us not forget the ladies. In 1920 the women of Nobleton organized a branch of the United Farm Women of Ontario, the first president being Mrs. John Wilkie and the Secretary Miss Mary Ellis (Mrs. Elliot Cain).