

## "KING CREEK"

Christopher Stokes emigrated to Canada from England in 1827. In 1834 he bought 200 acres, Lots 4 and 5, concession #7, in King township. Four years later he built a grist and flour mill on the creek on Lot 4. It was named Linton Mills, but was commonly known as "STOKES HOLLOW" and a thriving business was begun.

Prior to this time there was a general store on the corner of Lot 6, north side of the King Road and a little east of the Mill Road, known as Mc Mullins Store. In view of better business, it was moved to Lot 4, concession 7 and re-located to the west of the road and the Mill and south of the creek.

In 1866 postal service came here and a post office officially named King Creek was accomodated in the General Store.

Mr. Mc Mullin became Post Master, and in later years saw Mr. Jesse Nunn operate the store and Post Office.

In 1913 plans for rural mail delivery was organized. Mail boxes were erected from King to the eighth concession in King. July 2, 1913, Mr. George Egan as mail carrier began the six day a week run of King R. R. #2. Thus ended the need for the King Creek Post Office.

Mr. Egan served for many years driving a horse and buggy. The route is still the same in 1970, but is travelled now by automobile.

In this locality, 3 sawmills also got their power from the water of this creek. One was located at the north east corner of the King Road and Concession 7, King.

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Another to the south between King Road and the Stoke's Mill. There was also one south of King Creek on Lot 2 between the 8th and 9th Concessions on the Dobson property. One of these mills was the first in King Township to have a circular saw. Previously, they used a mooley saw, a straight saw pushed up and pulled down through the logs.

A hotel business also thrived in the heyday of this little community where farmers coming for flour and supplies could shelter their horses and quench their thirst.

With the advancement of steam and electric power in the 20th Century the small water powered Mills soon became obsolete, King Creek being one of them.

A gala picnic on May 24th, 1913 was the last known community gathering when about 70 people attended. Mr. W. C. Harris now owns Lot 4 where traces of the dam can still be seen on these now, beautifully landscaped grounds.

*Verna Chamberlain*