

"The Hambly Family"

Hambly was a well known name in the Nobleton Community for many years as four Hambly brothers settled there in the 1830's. But, now in 1971 there is not a Hambly or their decendant living in the Nobleton area. It used to be said that far away fields were green to the Hamblys are scattered all over the face of the North American Continent. As they are so widely scattered contacts have been broken and it is very difficult to gather information on the family. A few facts are known and these will give some idea of their part in the community.

The Hamblys were United Empire Loyalists who came up from the States and settled in Nova Scotia. In 1828, they came up to York, Upper Canada, now Toronto, and made their home there. Later, four brothers settled in King Township and another brother settled in the Queen's bush afterwards a sister married Woodbury Card and lived in Weston and later moved to Scott Township.

Charles Hambly settled on Lot 2, Concession 9 of King Township, George Hambly settled on Lot 3, Concession 9 and William Hambly settled on Lot 4, Concession 9, before 1835. In 1836, John Oscar Hambly and his wife Catherine and little daughter settled on the West half Lot 8 on Concession 9. It is known that a few years after coming to York that Charles Hambly purchased 200 acres of land in King Township from the Canada Company. As there was so much bush and so few settlers, he had to absolutely cut his way to his property. As the three brothers took up land side by side it is assumed that they came up together and under similar circumstances. By hardwork and perseverance the four brothers converted their property into good productive farms and built comfortable homes.

John Oscar Hambly was born in Newport, Nova Scotia, near Windsor and across the basin from Halifax, on January 23, 1809. He settled on Lot 8, Concession 9, the west half, in King Township, in 1836 and lived there until his death on May 19, 1889. When he first settled there he used to put a bag of wheat on his shoulders and walk to the mill in Hog's Hollow to have it ground into flour. He would then put the bag of flour on his shoulders and walk home. In those early days when Mrs. J. O. Hambly needed anything, she had to buy, she had to walk to Schomberg and back following a blazed trail through the woods.

Mr. and Mrs. J. O. Hambly's first home was a log house. It was burned to the ground and they lost nearly all of their possessions including the things which had been brought up from Nova Scotia and the framed wreaths of flowers made of wool by Mrs. J. O. Hambly. John Oscar then built the stone house which is still the farm residence.

John Oscar Hambly was a Wesleyan Methodist and attended the Church-on-the-Hill as it was called, which was located one half mile west of Nobleton. He was one of the Trustees of this church when the land for the church and burying ground were purchased from

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Samuel Sheardown in April 1845 and was also a Trustee when an additional one quarter acre was purchased in 1874. He attended this church until death and both he and his wife Catherine and some of their family were buried in the burying grounds. John Oscar Hambly joined the York Pioneers in 1882. Mrs. J. O. Hambly died December 1874.

John Oscar and Catherine Hambly had nine children to them -- Amanda, Thomas, Allen, Lydia, Desiree, Ellen, Lois, William L., Ann, Charles and Mary Mylinda.

Mary Mylinda died when she was 19 years old and Charles when he was 27 years old. Ann never married and stayed at home with her parents.

Thomas Allen married Celia Elviss in December 1869. They farmed the fifty acres which was the north half of the East part of Lot 6, Concession 10, King Township; until a few years after Mrs. J. O. Hambly died and then they moved in with John Oscar and Ann and Thomas farmed the homestead until he died in February 1891.

Thomas Oscar, called John, Arthur, Henry and Walter. Walter died when he was eleven years old. John Oscar, married Agnes Wilkie, daughter of Angus Wilkie, Nobleton. They had no family. He clerked in Jeffrey's store in Bolton for some years and then went west where he kept store in Gull Lake, Saskatchewan for fifteen (15) years. (John and Henry belonged to Nobleton Band).

Henry Hambly went West and farmed at Gull Lake, Saskatchewan, but after some years he came back East and bought a farm at King City. He died in 1934. He married Merle Campbell, daughter of Jerome Campbell of Kinghorn. They had four children -- Hazel, Walter, Martha and John.

Arthur Hambly stayed at home with his mother and farmed the farm for her until he bought the farm in 1899. His mother stayed with him and kept house for him until he married in June 1902. She then, moved to Bolton and John lived with her there until she died in Aug. 1909. Arthur married Myretta Irwin, daughter of William Irwin, Nobleton. They had one daughter, Merle.

Mr. and Mrs. Hambly were Methodist and took an active part in the Church life. Arthur took a very active part in the building of the Church in 1896, helping draw the brick and attending the work bees. He was a member of the Parsonage Committee of Kleinburg Circuit for the Nobleton Church. He sold the farm to William F. McCutcheon and moved to Kleinburg in March 1909.

Lydia Hambly married Charles Hambly, son of William Hambly, of Nobleton who kept a General Store in Nobleton for a number of years and then moved to Toronto. They had one daughter.

Desiree Ellen Hambly married Joseph Elviss and they had eleven children -- William, Thomas, George, Charles, John, James, Gordon, Lydia, Mary, Estella and Sarah. Mr. and Mrs. Elviss farmed at Nobleton from the time they were married until the family were grown up. After some of the family had gone West, Mr. and Mrs. Elviss and the rest of the family moved to the West as well.

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William Hambly married Annie Walker of Aurora and they had two sons. He kept store in Tottenham and then went West and kept store there, as he had done here.

Amanda Hambly married John Lockart Card and they farmed in Vaughan Township. They sold the farm and moved to Portland, Oregon in 1885. They had born to them, seven sons and two daughters.

Lois Hambly married Daniel Card and they farmed in Scott Township. They had three sons and four daughters.

Charles Hambly was born on February 18, 1808 and had purchased the 200 acres, Lot 2, Concession 9, in King Township and was settled there before 1835 and lived there for the rest of his long life. By 1885 he had purchased 600 more acres and had it under the plough and in spite of serious loss by fire, he had accumulated a large estate. His barn was hit by lightning and burned in July 1871.

Charles Hambly was a Primitive Methodist and attended this church which stood at the north end of Nobleton, west side, where the cemetery now lies. It was known as the Rough Cast Church. Charles Hambly was one of the trustees of this church when the land was bought from John Hawman in January 1852 to build the church on. This church had a flourishing Sunday School, called "The United Sunday School". Charles Hambly was it's Superintendent and Bible Class teacher for many years. He never allowed a collection to be taken but, paid all the expenses himself including prizes. He served on the Township Council and was a Reformer in politics.

Charles Hambly married Miss Mary Ann Hambly, daughter of William Hambly in 1833. They had seven children - William, Edwin Charles, David, John, James, Bella, and Elizabeth. Two of the children, David and Bella were mutes and attended the School for the Deaf and Dumb at Bellville.

Charles Hambly built two houses on his farm. The first was a long frame house without verandas and the second was a fine, large brick house built just a little north of the frame house. Both houses are still residences.

William S. Hambly married Violet Young and lived in the States. Alvira Corinne and Charles Ranson were their children. Mrs. Hambly made her home with her neice, Mrs. John Dean, Nobleton, in the later years of her life.

Edwin Charles Hambly married Louisa Oberling of Kleinburg and they farmed the north half of Lot 34, Concession 9, Vaughan, Township. They had two sons, Elmer, who was a dentist in Toronto and Herman who took over the farm in 1900.

Herman married Sarah Cherry, daughter of James Cherry, Kleinburg. After Herman's death in 1912, Mrs. Hambly continued to farm the farm for 28 years, until she sold it in 1940 to George Irwin. She then built a bungalow in Nobleton and lived there until her death. They had no family but, adopted a daughter, Lottie, who married Clarence Hoover and lived in Nobleton.

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Edwin Hambly was the Superintendent of the Sunday School held in Mount Lebanon School House during the 1880's and most of the 1890's.

David Hambly married Susan Speirs, also a mute. They had no children but, took their neice and nephew Mary and John Leeson to live with them. They lived on the original farm Lot 2, until their deaths. David in May 21, 1970, and Susan on April 25, 1925, and after their deaths they left the farm to Mary as she had stayed with them and cared for them. David lived in the big brick house and for many years rented the farm and the tenants lived in the frame house.

John Hambly married a Mary Leeson and they had three daughters, Alma, Clara, and Louise. He farmed Lot 1, Concession 10, for some years and then moved into Nobleton into the large brick house on the north,west corner of Nobleton's four corners. He moved to St. Thomas in 1904. John Hambly was Superintendent of the Methodist Sunday School for some years until he moved away. His daughters took an active part in the Epworth League.

James Hambly married Rosamond Childs and farmed one of his father's farms. They had two children, David and Harriet. His wife died when the children were small and he continued to farm with a housekeeper. Both David and Hattie went West and stayed there and later James went too and died there.

Bella Hambly married a Mr. Leeson, a brother of Mrs. John Hambly's. Both Bella and her husband were mutes. They had two normal children, John and Mary. After their parents death they made their home with David Hambly, their Uncle John Leeson went to the States. Mary Leeson stayed with her Uncle David and when she married John Dean he came to live with them and farmed the farm.

Mr. and Mrs. Dean stayed with and cared for Mr. and Mrs. David Hambly until their death and when they died they left the farm to Mary. Mr. and Mrs. Dean stayed on the farm until her death in August 1939 and then the farm was sold. Mr. and Mrs. Dean lived in the brick house and for some years before Mary died they rented the farm and the tenants lived in the frame house.

John and Mary Dean had no family but, adopted a son, Ray.

Elizabeth Hambly married Samuel Egan, a farmer at Bolton. They had one son, Charles.

George Hambly Lot 3, Concession 9, King Township.

George Hambly was born in Nova Scotia in 1805 and lived 99 years. He had settled in King Township before 1835 on Lot 3, Concession 9, He brought these 200 acres from bush to a good productive farm. He built the brick house which is now there on the front half. He sold the farm in 1879 to Alex. Mactaggart and he moved to Toronto where he lived until his death. He was a Wesleyan Methodist and attended the Church - on - the Hill, and was one of the Trustees of this church when additional land was purchased in 1874. He married Harriet Lewis and they had one son, Edwin and four daughters, Jennie, Mary, Carrie and Amelia. Edwin went to Toronto when a young man and never married.

William Hambly Lot 4, Concession 9, King Township.
William Hambly settled on Lot 4, Concession 9, King Township before 1835, but little information is available about him. As far as it can be ascertained, he was the oldest of the family and had a large family himself. It is understood that most of his family left Nobleton and went into the world to make their way as soon as they were able.

By Tremaine's map of the County of York Canada West, Published by George C. Tremaine in 1860 he appears to have sold the West half of Lot 4, Concession 9, and William owned the north 50 acres of the East half of Lot 4, Concession 9, and a John Hambly owned the South 50 acres of the East half. This property it is understood passed from one Hambly to another until 1898 when Adam Goodfellow bought the East half, Lot 4, from a Charles Hambly. The York County Gazette, and Directory for 1870-71 shows William Hambly owning front or East half of Lot 6, Concession 9, King Township.

John Hambly on the South 50 acres of East half of Lot 4, Concession 9, was as far as can be learned, a son of William Hambly. John had a large family, William Seamore and Milton were some of his children.

Charles S. Hambly son of William kept a General Store in Nobleton for many years and then moved to Toronto. Charles married Catherine Lewis of Schomberg, a sister of Mrs. George Hambly. Charles and Catherine had three sons and a daughter. Elwood, George Albert and Ella. His wife, Catherine died in May 1870. Later Charles married Lydia Hambly, daughter of John Oscar Hambly and they had one daughter, Annie.

Charles Hambly built the store in Nobleton and also built the large brick house in Nobleton on the north-west corner of Highway no. 27 and Bolton sideroad. By 1870 he also owned the front half of Lot 6, Concession 8, King Township. Charles was also the Post Master for many years. Charles' family grew up in Nobleton and the boys helped their father in the store. Elwood and George attended Hamilton High School. After graduating Elwood taught school at Linton. George and Elwood were both married in the same year and when they married they took the business from their father and lived together above the store for a year or more. Then Charles moved to Toronto and George moved into the fathers house on the corner. They continued to keep store for another year or little more and then George moved to Schomberg and Elwood to Toronto. George later moved to Toronto.

Elwood Hambly married Julietta Spiers, a sister of Mrs. David Hambly. They had four children, Gladys, Laura, Frank, and Ernest. Gladys was born in Nobleton. George Hambly married Margaret Louise Reeve of Warton and they had three children, Olive, Marion, and Lewis Reeve. Olive was born in Nobleton. Albert and Ella were at home in Nobleton until they grew up but then moved to Toronto and later to the States.