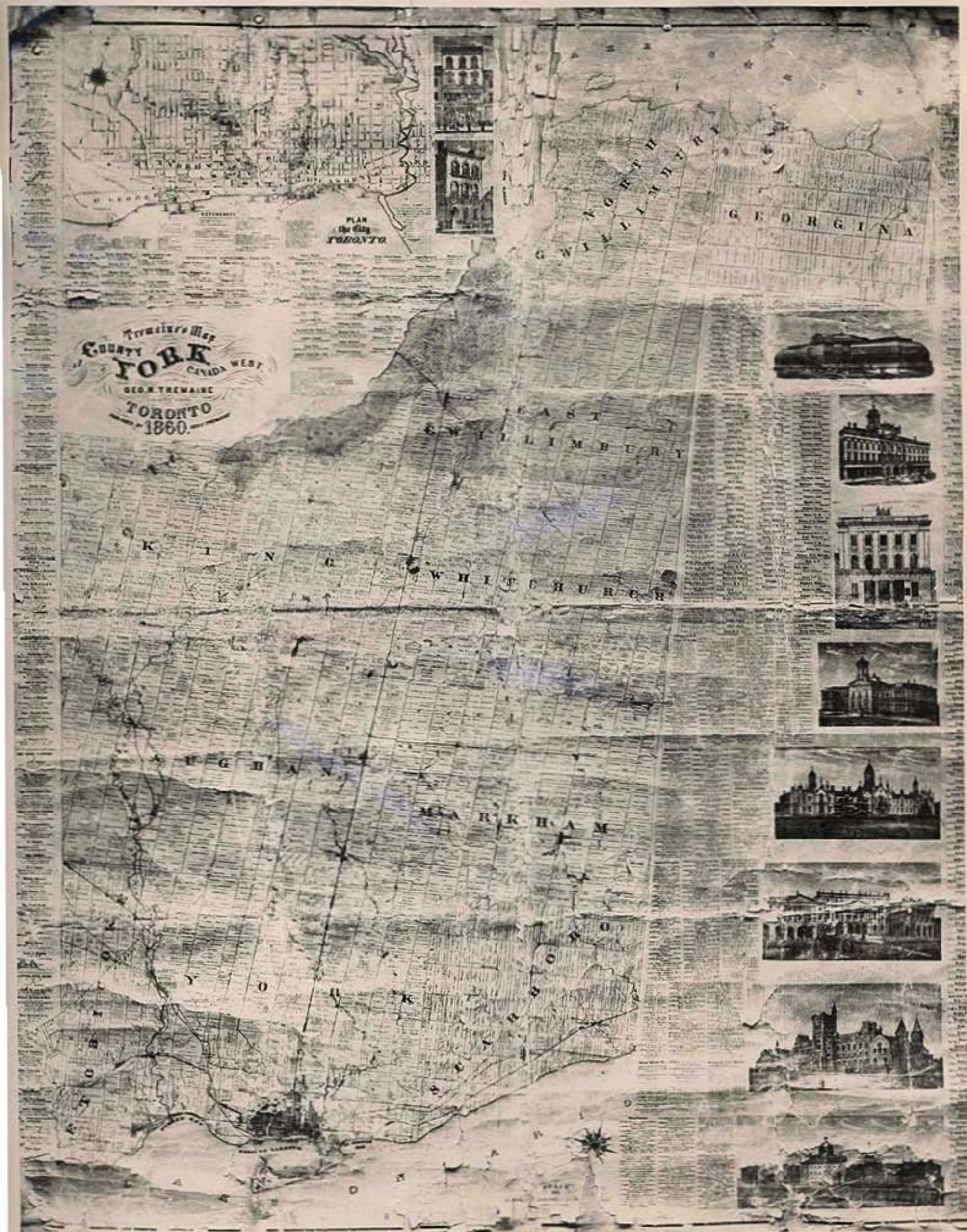
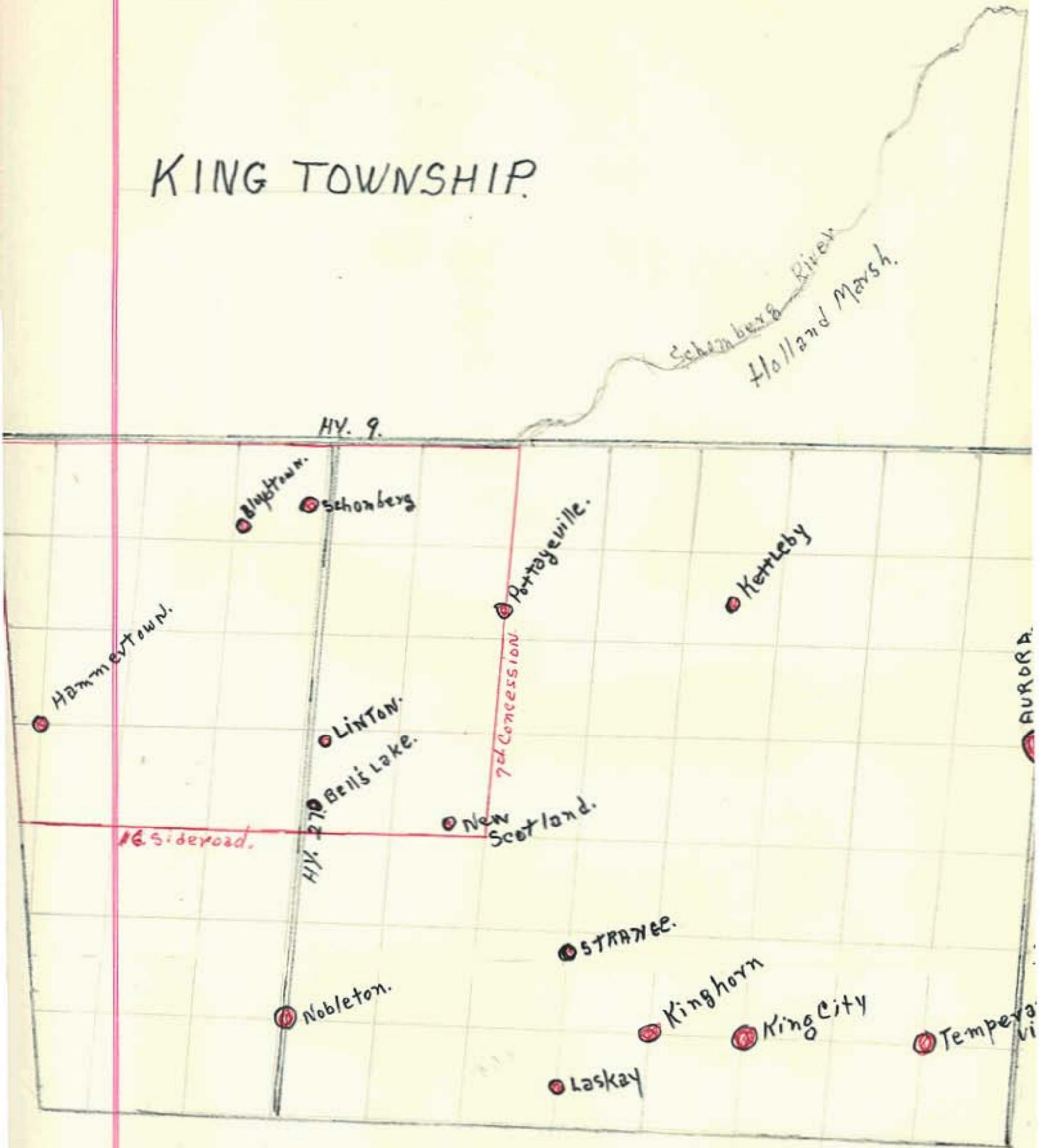


Photograph of old Map of York County 1860.
Owned by the Estate of the late Gladstone Lloyd of Schomberg.
Photo by F. Diamond, Aurora Ont.



KING TOWNSHIP



Area enclosed in red covered by
Schomberg W.I. Curator
Tweedsmuir History.



THE TOWNSHIP OF KING



- IT'S HISTORY, GEOGRAPHY AND TOPOGRAPHY

Records reveal that King Township is the largest township in the County of York and the fourth largest Township in the Province. It contains 89,000 acres of the most interesting terrain in the Province because it has not only some of the best agricultural grounds, but hills and valleys, bush, swamp and marsh lands. It is indeed most picturesque.

It's known history extends back to 1749 but it was in 1787 that the English purchased the land, comprising all the County of York, from the Mississauga Indians, by the Toronto Purchase Act, for 147 barrels of trade goods and 97 gallons of rum. The Holland and Humber rivers added greatly to the value of the location in those days and early explorers considered the ridges of King Township as almost mountainous. It was not known then that the height of land that crossed the Township at Linton is actually the watershed between Lake Ontario and Hudson Bay. The first road built through the Township was ordered constructed by Governor Simcoe. It ran north from Lake Ontario to the Holland River and is now called Yonge Street after Sir George Young. This was built in 1794 and was paid for by the North West Fur Company. The first settlers were at Armitage and according to the Domesday Book there were seven families. No doubt the Lloyd's may have been one of these.

The first church was also at Armitage. It was built by the Quakers where a small church stands today surrounded by the graves of the early settlers. I understand the Society of Friends are endeavouring to reclaim these old churches and hold one service each year in each of them.

The first school was built on Yonge Street, three miles south of Aurora and the first Post Office in South King was on the Sixth Concession, Lot 8 and the Postmaster was Chief McCollum. No doubt Lloydtown was the scene of the first Post Office in the northern part of the Township. The first mills were at Lloydtown and Laskay.

The first Survey was made in 1800 and finished in 1859. The first form of Municipal Government was formed in 1809 in Nathaniel Gamble's house in Armitage. The list of officers included a pound keeper and an overseer of roads. Many descendants are still living of these early pioneers and we still find such names as Rogers, Doane, Hughes, Gamble, Lloyd, Pearson, Harman and Hollingshead. At one time, some of the finest pine in Ontario grew on the ridges of King and many were used for Ship's masts. The last one to be cut was taken from Lot 12, Concession 7 and drawn to King Station by six teams of horses.

Sloping north and south from the Ridges of King lies excellent farming land and many farms are held still by descendants of the original patentees. I hope many farm histories and histories of pioneers ultimately will find their way into the pages of this book before the valuable and interesting information is lost forever.

In 1921 Professor Day of Guelph, along with two colleagues conceived the idea of draining the Holland Marsh which hitherto had been waste land. A canal 19½ miles long was dredged around 8,700 acres and the water is pumped by two hydraulic pumps to the east branch of the Holland River and thence to Lake Simcoe. The first property was purchased about 1928 and settlers from Holland arrived to develop the land and form the thriving community known as Ansnorveld. They are industrious and good citizens and their products are known for a wide area.

This is a brief history and survey of our Township. Space does not permit too much detail on any one subject, but an excellent paper, prepared by Mr. Norman McMurchy of Strange, an ex-reeve of the Township, may be found in the envelope on the inside of the back cover of this book. (Please do not take away).

For our history book we are taking the territory included in the six blocks surrounding Schomberg, bounded by the town line on the north, the tenth concession on the west, the eighth concession on the east and as far south as Linton, which is on the Ridges of King and forms a dividing line in the Township.

The accompanying map, drawn in 1860, marks clearly the names of the farm owners at that time and can be referred to when tracing farm histories.

The story of King Township would be very incomplete indeed if nothing was written concerning the lives of the courageous pioneers who hewed their homes from the virgin forest and persevered to leave to each of the succeeding generations a heritage comparable to that of any township in the province.

It has been truly said that to explain the present, one must understand the past that created it, and indeed as decade follows decade it is increasingly difficult for us to understand how and why they suffered such hardship and privation, if there was an easier way. One reason handed down is that although it required pluck and determination it held adventure, and of this there was plenty in the blood of the pioneer settler.

Clearing and stumping a piece of dense wilderness, with the crudest of implements was a slow and hazardous job. This was followed by erecting a simple log cabin with the very minimum of comfort and convenience. The quality of family life depended on character and temperament, and not on the refinements of gracious living. Their secret of success was to live frugally off the produce of their land until it was clear of debt, and few of these men proved to be failures. They also had a pride in accomplishment and in a bush clearing the pioneers felt a freedom and security they had known little of before. The first patch of grain sown amid stumps gave reasonable assurance of ample wholesome food. The bush abounded in game and the streams teemed with fish. The trees of course provided logs for their homes and soon used also to build saw mills and grist mills, which meant flour for food and a nucleus for the beginning of a hamlet.

The first grain was cut with a sickle, flailed by hand and winnowed in the wind. Then carried to the nearest mill to be made into coarse flour. The first mill in the Township was built by Jesse Lloyd at Lloydtown, and settlers are said to have trudged from as far as Bolton across uncleared terrain with a sack of grain on their backs and home again when the flour was made. Bread was baked in pans covered with live coals from the fire-place - cooking was done in open kettles on the hearth. Maple trees were tapped and the sap boiled down for sugar and syrup, wild raspberries grew in abundance and wild plums and apples were also to be had. Soap was made by a process of leaching the lye from the wood ashes and combining it with fat and water which was brought from the streams. Despite the hardships it was a land of peace and plenty and the pioneers loved it.

The succeeding generation reaped the benefit of their forefathers' labour, and life for them was easier. Roads were more plentiful especially to the hamlets that sprung up around the mills. These hamlets soon had stores where business was transacted by trade and barter. There was a Post Office at Lloydtown in 1831 and at Schomberg in 1862. There was also a school at the corner of 27 Highway and the Aurora road as early as 1820. The sickles gave way to the reaper and cradle, and more grain could be handled with greater ease. More cattle and pigs were being raised, the latter seeking their own food in the summer and fattened in the fall on beech nuts - then slaughtered and processed with salt to supplement the diet of fish and wild game. Now the proud wife could set her table with butter, curd, cream, meat, a fresh baked loaf or scone, maple sugar, potatoes and fruit - everything home grown but the China tea, which of course was smuggled and very precious.

By the 1840's and 50's settlement of farm lands was advancing apace. Grist Mills and saw Mills were common and the little towns of Lloydtown, Schomberg and Kettleby were flourishing. The farmers could have a better home and out buildings, Each town had its cooper, cobbler, tailor, tannery, smithy, wagon shops, and better stores to say nothing of distilleries and taverns.

Those were the days when our grand mothers set pans of milk in the cool cellars, (actually a hole in the ground where you descended by a set of steep steps through a trap door in the kitchen floor) and when the thick rich cream rose and set on top it was skimmed off and, when soured, was churned into butter in a small dask churn and then packed into crocks. In later years it was made into pounds prints and wrapped in paper. All the surplus butter was traded at the stores, along with eggs and poultry, for other necessities. Often the skimmed milk was reduced to curds and whey and the curds used to make cheese. Grandmother baked all her own bread, made her own lard and sausage. By this time each farmer had his own orchard and the autumn evenings were busy with paring and quartering apples and drying them on a rack hung over the kitchen stove, for winter use. Some were pressed for cider and the pulp boiled down for apple butter.

But food was not her only responsibility. Yarn was spun and socks, mitts and stockings knitted for the whole family, wool was also carded, spun, dyed and woven into lengths of cloth and made into winter garments for the men as well as the children. Of course there were no sewing machines at first but garments were stitched by hand. The worn out and discarded garments were torn into strips and sewn into carpet rags to be woven into gay, colourful floor covering the for parlour. The beds were equipped with

straw and feather ticks, home made blankets and quilts. The homes were heated with wood fires which went out every night, and were lighted with home made tallow candles.

Yet, with all the hard work and inconveniences, grandmother had time for her children, her church, her neighbours and her little flower garden. She was happy and contented and willingly carried her share of the load of family living.

In the late eighties and early nineties farms began to be mechanized. Binders, mowers, rakes, cultivators - all horse drawn. They thought, "surely nothing more could be invented that would be an improvement on all these labor saving devices". To-day's children can scarcely name one of them. Most of them have never seen a cutter or a buggy. Agriculture is progressing so rapidly it takes a young and well trained man to handle the equipment used now in managing a modern farm. King Township farms are equipped to a large extent with the very latest of power machinery and conveniences that are cutting labour to a minimum and making "life on the farm" as attractive and satisfying as in any town in the province.

What revelations come next will be commonplace to our children and grandchildren for we have been trained to accept marvelous inventions without understanding them.



"Running water in the kitchen"

What more could a housewife want?

"Comforts and Conveniences in the homes forty years ago".

"Every home had a parlour - that was only used when company came".





"THE EARLY INDIANS"



The Indians, that once inhabited this part of our Province, represent its pre-historic ages; and it is impossible to estimate just when they first occupied the Country. As we think of that period of time we visualize dense forests, full, fast running streams of water, never ending trails, wigwams, log homes and wild life in abundance. Of all the tribes written about, and many are unauthenticated stories, we believe that three great tribes inhabited this part of the province. These were the Hurons, The Iroquois and the Algonquins. Believing that Algonquin Park was named in memory of that great tribe it would be reasonable to assume that their location was farther north and eastward from York County. The Huron tribes located in Simcoe County and near Midland and westward to the lake which bears their name. The Iroquois inhabited what is now New York State and Pennsylvania, but their hunting ground extended, and their communities were built, over the entire lake region and the Valley of St. Lawrence.

This tribe made the nearest approach to civilization, living in settled communities. Their homes were a number of large crude wooden houses grouped together and surrounded by a wooden rampart. Here, as many families as possible would all crowd in together. There was no provision for privacy or decency - their only drink was water from the streams and their food fish and wild meat, often kept until it was putrid. Their sole luxury was tobacco - that great gift of the New World to the Old.

The territory fronting on Lake Ontario had been Indian hunting ground from time immemorial and in 1788 was the tribal property of the Mississauga Indians, whose winter lodge, covered with elm bark stood on the banks of the Credit River. In that year they sold to the Crown the lands that now comprise the County of York for a small bill of merchandise and ninety-six gallons of rum. When the county came into being it was clothed in virgin forest save for a clearing of three hundred acres that the French had made around Fort Rouille in 1749, which stood until 1758 on the grounds now occupied by the Canadian National Exhibition. It's exact site is marked at the present day by a cairn on the Exhibition Grounds. This fort controlled the fur trade of the Huron Indians who created a passage by the Holland and Humber Rivers for their periodical trading with the French. It was near this Fort that a French fur trader, Jean Baptiste Rousseau lived with his family near the mouth of the Humber River. It was there that his wife, whose maiden name was Margaret Clyne, gave birth to the first white child born in the County of York.

The Hurons, like the Iroquois, lived in communities. When Champlain visited their settlements he was surprised at the superiority of their villages, and at the cultivated patches of ground rich with corn and vegetables. This tribe was a little more approachable and might have been converted and civilized by the French Jesuit Missionaries, but for the ruthless torch and tomahawk warfare of the Iroquois who utterly exterminated them until nothing remained but the Lake that bore their name.

The Iroquois have been aptly termed - "The Romans of the Western World". Their power of organization of tribes enabled them to conquer many other races in Canada and eventually to become a valuable ally to the British in the ward of the French and English Colonies and in the two ward with the United States that followed.

The courage of the Indian Warrior differed from that of any of the civilized ages. He could die a death of horrible and prolonged torture without a complaining cry, and he was cruel and merciless when he was victorious. On the warpath he resorted to every treachery, every coward's subterfuge of ambush and surprise.

The Indians, unfortunately in their ignorance, could leave no annals, no records of their own past. Only relics in the huge bone pits reveal snatches of their methods of, and struggle for existence. However, the totem pole, symbolic of their skill, intricately carved pillars, bearing grotesque replicas of their beliefs, and the birch bark canoe, exquisitely proportioned, buoyant and yet so frail - and so unsafe, except in all but the most practised hands, remain with us along with the strange music of their names for our rivers, lakes and townships, to remind us of the progress of our vast Dominion.

"His savage hoardes the murderous Chieftain leads,
File through the woods and treads the tangled weeds,
Shuns open combat, teaches where to run,
Shulk, crouch in ambush, aim the hunter's gun
Whirl the sly tomahawk, the war-whoop sing,
Divide the spoils, and pack the scalps they bring."



PART OF KING TOWNSHIP FROM A MAP PUBLISHED IN 1860 SHOWING OWNERS OF FARMS AT THAT TIME. RED LINES BOUND THE AREA INCLUDED IN THIS BOOK.

MAP BY 1860. GEO. C. TRENT



KING TOWNSHIP'S VILLAGES AND HAMLETS

AND HOW THEY GOT THEIR NAMES

- SCHOMBERG - was first called Brownsville after it's first pioneer family of Browns. Later changed to Schomberg after the Duke of Schomberg who lost his life in the Battle of the Boyne 1690.
- LLOYDTOWN - received it's name from the famous Jesse Lloyd who was one of the leaders in the Rebellion of 1837.
- KETTLEBY - was first known as "Sleepy Hollow" and later Tyrwhitts Mills, After the ownder of the flour mills and still later to Kettleby after the hamlet in England where the Tyrwhitts lived.
- SNOWBALL - was formerly Hainstock Corners but when the little white church was moved there, (from south on the third), it became Snowball.
- LASKAY - was named also after a little English hamlet of that name.
- KING CITY - was once Spring Hill, but was changed through the influence of a former reeve - Mr. W.H. Crossley, to it's present name.
- STRANGE - was called after Dr. Strange who was the only Conservative Member in North York before Col. T.H. Lennox.
- NOBLETON - was named for Mr. Noble, the great grandfather of Lord Beaverbrook.
- OAK RIDGES - comes from the great oak forests that once grew in that area.
- LINTON - although one of the early Post Offices, is now extinct, but was named after the first and only Post Master, Joseph Lynn, who also kept a general store from 1861.
- TEMPERANCEVILLE - was named by it's many residents in the locality who had very strict temperance views.
- POTTAGEVILLE - got it's name from one of it's prominent citizens, Mr. Pottage, who had a saw mill, hotel and tannery.

