

## HISTORY OF PARK HEAD COMMUNITY.

## Pioneers.

## Concessions 3&amp; 4, Amabel and Keppel

Early settlers from the County Line ( Highway 6) to the river were William Miller, Sam Miller, Richard Warmington, Robert Philp (1872), William Evans ( 1872), Richard Miller, Henry Rourke, John Wiley, Isaac Cruickshank, James Matches, Hugh Kirkland.

On the East side of the County Line were Robert Miller who settled on Lot 1, Con. 3 Keppel in March 1858. Others were Robert Morran, William Foster and Robert McKnight.

Their early homes were of log construction, but most of these were replaced over 75 years ago, several of them in 1884, with fine brick houses, and bank barns which are still in use.

The first school which the children of these homes attended was the one on lot 5, Con 5, mentioned elsewhere. For a number of years some people worshipped at Park Head until Salem Methodist Church was built on the George Hogarth farm, Lot 1, Con.2 which place of worship was discontinued in 1911. A few families attended Allenford Presbyterian Church.

## Concessions 5 &amp; 6 Amabel and Keppel.

The first settlers in what is now known as Park Head and consisting of Con. 5 & 6 and 7 & 8 from the county line to the 10th sideroad were William Simpson who settled here in 1855, Thomas Armstrong in 1857, Henry Lewis 1859. Other settlers moving onto this large forest tract were William Street in 1862, David Berry 1864, George Sutherby in 1872. David and James Smith settled on Lot 3, Con. 6 in 1860 (and brought the first horse to the settlement) Samuel Rourke 1875. Although it has not been established the exact date, other settlers were; Joseph Marshall, James Rusk, Thomas Kidd, George Amey, John Philp, James Pattison, Wm. Lawson, Joseph Young and the Cordingly's. In 1857 Mr. Edwin Spencer came from England and settled on Lot 1, Con, 5 Keppel, later selling this farm and locating on Lot 1, Con. 6. Mr. Spencer served as a local preacher. In 1863 John Pringle came to Lot 4, Con. 5 and George Pringle to Lot 5, Con. 6, George and John McClelland on Lot 5, Con. 4, William Samells on Lot 4, Con. 4. Other early settlers were Jonathan Cox, Henry Green, Sam'l Walker, William Spencer, Andrew and John Holland, John Radbourne who was a local preacher. These settlers would walk to Owen Sound a distance of ten mile and over and carry their butter which they sold for ten cents a pound or traded for groceries.

Mr. Spencer and Mr. Simpson cut wild hay on the beaver Meadow at Shallow Lake which was probably the first hay cut around here.

On Con. 7 and 8 Amabel James Wilson, George Keys, Lewis Clow, S. A. Fitzpatrick, Thomas Blythe, Robert Thompson, Isaac Berry, Thos. Playford, Thomas Doubt, John Cribbis and George Gates all settled on crown land. It is noteworthy that in 1961, grandsons are still living on the following farms; Howard Matches, Keith Philp, Carl Rourke, John and Brock Rusk, George Sylvester, Percy Gates and on the Warmington farm a great-grandson Vernon Warmington and on the Thomas Doubt farm a great-grandson John Doubt. On this farm an Indian Encampment was situated with well worn trails running north to Cape Croker, south to Saugeen and east to Newash (now Owen Sound North).