

The History and Family of Cornelius Moore



THE earliest tradition says that the ancestor of our family was a youth of sixteen when the order was given to use the Church of England service, in the Churches of Scotland. The Moore family refused to attend and were imprisoned, but the youth escaped and fleeing to Holland, remained there until the religious troubles were abated, when he emigrated to the South of England. Here he married and set out for the New World, landing at New York. He labored for a time in clearing the forest from land now within the busy metropolis and then homesteaded on the Delaware river, fourteen miles above the city of Trenton, in Hunterdon County, and in the State of New Jersey. His name was Cornelius, and his English wife was Elizabeth Grandon. Four sons are mentioned: John, Daniel, Lawrence, and Robert, also one daughter, who became the wife of Doctor Morehouse, of New York.

When the Revolution made a division of the people, our family remained loyal to the King, and the two eldest boys, John and Daniel went into the King's army; Lawrence and Robert being too young to enter. Father Cornelius was so obnoxious to the revolutionist, that he was lynched as well as other Loyalists in New Jersey. For an account of these fierce times, see the Nelson Histories in most School Libraries. The tradition says that they lowered our ancestor from the tree, thinking him dead, but he revived and they let him go free. He suffered from epileptic fits, but lived many years afterwards.

After the civil war had continued for several years, John and Daniel emigrated to Canada. John received a grant of land on the lake shore, between Hamilton and Toronto, but thinking the land better, sold the first homestead and bought in Flamborough, on higher ground, a farm where his son Cornelius lived until his father died at an advanced age. Daniel received a grant of land at Beechwoods, now Beaverdams, in the township of Thorold, where he continued to live until his death. The younger sons, Lawrence and Robert were drafted into the army of the republic and when peace was made were allowed to remain in the State, but the father lost his farm by confiscation. They then moved across the Delaware into Buck's County, Pennsylvania, where they rented a farm on the Butternut Flats, along the Sasquehannah. They had more congenial neighbours as the Quakers and Mennonites had not taken any part in the war, and were not bitter against the Loyalists. Here they lived until Lawrence had a family of eight children, four sons and four