

been the eldest daughter of Barnabas Horton* of Palmyra, N. Y., and not long after her marriage with Lyon, they emigrated to Canada—apparently about the year 1794—settling near the present Village of Thornhill at a distance of thirteen miles from Toronto. The *Thirteen Mile Pine Tree* stood near their gate, and about the roots of this favorite landmark their children often used to play. At this early Canadian home most of their family† were born, the youngest of whom is the subject of this sketch.

According to the government records, the first patentees of Markham Township—those of 1796—were John Lyon, Nicholas Miller, and Thomas Kinnear. As the patent records of York County only begin with the year 1796, these three settlers were likely located before that date. When Lyon and Miller settled at Thornhill, Toronto consisted of but five shanties, one of which had the luxury of a brick chimney. General Simcoe and his party of men, hungry and tired, stayed at Lyon's dwelling on their way north on an exploring expedition, where they partook of cakes which they relished so much that they called again on their return south. This must have been on one of Governor Simcoe's later short expeditions of 1796 when Yonge Street was being opened out, and not on his memorable journey to Lake Huron in 1793.

*The family of Barnabas Horton of Palmyra, N. Y. was indeed a large one and interesting in some respects. He had previously come from the State of Rhode Island to Palmyra, which was then a small village in Wayne Co. N. Y., and which afterwards became noted as the place near which the notorious Joseph Smith claimed to have found the golden plates of the Mormon Bible. Of this noted impostor the Hortons had some knowledge. Out of sixteen children in the Horton family (some of whom died young) there were five sons and eleven daughters. The following list contains the names of those who survived childhood: Elizabeth, Caleb, Jonathan, Deborah, Christina ("Teenie,"), Mehetabel ("Hittie,"), Experience, Patience, Abigail ("Abbie,"), Sarah ("Sally,"), Penelope, Mary, Amanda.

Elizabeth, the eldest, was born on Sept. 6th, 1789, and after marriage to John Lyon, removed to Canada. Caleb in early or middle life removed from Palmyra to the vicinity of Detroit where his means were wasted. Abbie married one Trueman and lived near Niagara; in after years she lived with her sister Elizabeth on Yonge Street at Thornhill. Sarah became the wife of one Walker, who kept a wayside hostelry or tavern on Yonge Street. Several of the daughters in this family never married. Their father (Barnabas Horton) built an addition to his dwelling near Palmyra for the use of those who remained single or became widows. There were, however, descendants in more than one branch of this family, as the subject of this sketch possessed in recent years a photograph of one of her cousins who had passed her life there.

The Hortons belonged to the Presbyterian faith, of which they were staunch adherents; of Elizabeth it has been said that she was well versed in the Bible, and never read other books except perhaps an occasional New York paper which her daughter Phoebe received before the Canadian press came into existence.

†This family consisted of the following members:—

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| Hannah Lyon, | born Oct. 17th, 1794. |
| Samuel " " | " July 7th, 1797. |
| Sarah " " | " Jan. 24th, 1800. |
| Abigail " " | " Dec. 13th, 1802. |
| Barnabas " " | " Mar. 7th, 1805. |
| Phoebe " " | " Aug. 16th, 1808. |

The eldest child, Hannah, lived to be but eighteen months old.