

The following is copied from the Renfrew Mercury of Jan. 1, 1915.

JOHN JOHNSTON OF HORTON

By the death of Mr. John Johnston Horton township has sustained the loss of one of its oldest and most respected residents. Since the year 1847 Mr. Johnston lived and labored in Horton, and in the years gone by no man attained greater respect and admiration for integrity of life from his fellow-men than did the late gentleman. Born in November 1838, in Ireland, in County Armagh, although not far from Enniskillen, the late Mr. Johnston came with his parents to Canada in 1840 and they settled at Carp, Ont. Five years later his father came up to Horton to teach school and in due time to take possession of the present homestead. The land was covered with bush and the only shelter at first was a small shanty, bleak and windowless. Matters quickly improved under the care of Mr. Johnston's father. Many a week-end in those old days he would walk to Capp to be there for Sunday, but at the end of two years the family came and took up residence on the present homestead in the year 1848. Here the late Mr. Johnston grew up to manhood, and it was to this place that in 1867 he brought his bride, Jane Stretton of County Kerry, Ireland. The marriage took place on a Friday and yet no disaster has ever befallen in all the ensuing 47 years, and the father has left his partner for so many years and all his children--six sons and three daughters--alive and in health. Mr. Johnston himself was a strong man and at the age of 77 had not a grey hair in his head. In his home life Mr. Johnston was an ideal husband and father, and among his fellow-men he was held in high esteem, and was a great power for good in the locality. His kindly sympathy and loving, warm-hearted Irish heart made him love and be loved by all. In all the years of his life he was never engaged in a law suite of any kind with his fellow-men. He was a member of the Horton Council for many years holding the position of treasurer, which he resigned owing to sickness. He was a member and a leading spirit in the Sons Of Temperance while this order held sway in Horton. He was also a member of the Orange Lodge of 36 years standing and held various offices in the order. Mr. Johnston was especially prominent as a member, rather a pillar, of the Methodist Church to which he belonged and which he loyally supported. For 40 years he was Sunday school superintendent and class leader. His whole life and character bespoke his friendship with God. To know him was to love him, to come into contact with him was to be unconsciously drawn toward those beautiful Christlike principles for which his life stood. Mr. Johnston had been for some years failing, but in the end death came suddenly. He joined his family and friends at the table on Christmas night, but later in the night he became ill and after much suffering borne with Christmas fortitude, he said goodbye to his loved ones, and fell asleep. His illness lasted only two days, death taking place on Sunday night, the 27th. of Dec. 1914