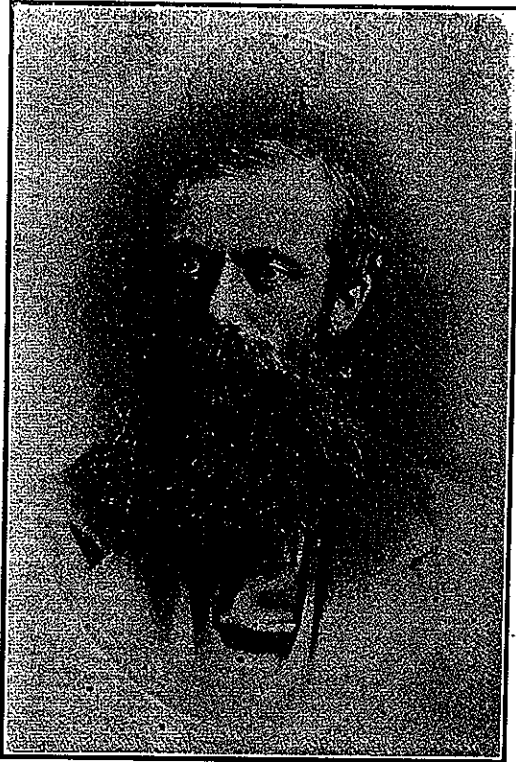


**GEORGE B. ABREY.**

George Abrey came to Canada from Pitsea, near Chelmsford, Essex, England, in 1834, and settled at Carlisle, in Wentworth County, and later about six miles west of Milton, Ont.

He married Louisa Brockitt on March 23rd, 1837.

He died on October 6th, 1870, and his wife on February 21st, 1890.

The children of George Abrey were as follows:—

George Brockitt, born June 6th, 1838, died June 25th, 1906.

Daniel, born Jan. 2nd, 1841, died at Detroit.

Sarah Jane, born Jan. 27th, 1845, married E. Chapman, Campbellville, (now dead).

Annie Maria, born Jan. 23rd, 1847, unmarried, died Sept. 17th, 1920.

Warren Richards, born Aug. 13th, 1850, died Feb., 1919.

William Henry, born April 15th, 1852, died Oct. 26th, 1919.

Chas. W., born June 17th, 1854, living in Toronto.

George Brockitt Abrey was educated at the Grammar School, Milton, and at Victoria University, Cobourg, Ont.

He studied surveying with Henry Winter (then living near Milton, Ont.), and qualified as a Provincial Land Surveyor on January 10th, 1860.

He married Eleanor Patten, of Carlisle, on March 8th, 1861, and took up his residence at Milton, where he practiced his profession and also operated a stave mill. In 1866 he removed to Little Current, Manitoulin Island, in order that he might be near his surveying operations. He took an active interest in the settlement of the Island, which was only ceded by the Indians in 1862, and he also promoted the construction of roads.

He was elected Reeve of the Municipality of Howland, for many successive terms.

He was also appointed a Justice of the Peace, and did much to establish law and order in the then primitive community.

Little Current was incorporated in 1890.

He resided in a fine comfortable house on the south side of Water Street, a log building sheathed with lumber. It had formerly been occupied by the officials of the Hudson's Bay Company, but about 1820 the Company withdrew from the Manitoulin to the post at La Cloche, on the north shore of Lake Huron, and thirteen miles northwest of Little Current, which for many years thereafter was the headquarters for the Company in that district.

From 1862 until his death, Mr. Abrey was employed on surveys for the Provincial Government, the Department of Indian Affairs, the Dominion Government, and also had a good local practice.

Mr. Abrey surveyed the following Townships in Ontario:—Coffin and Coffin additional, 1877; Jarvis, Deroche and Day, 1878; McMahan, 1880; Nairn, 1883; Baldwin, 1884; Strange, 1886; Willison and Flavelle, 1905.

In September, 1880, he made his first trip to Winnipeg, via steamer to Duluth, thence by rail to St. Boniface. There was no railway at that time west of the Red River. From Winnipeg his party walked via Portage la Prairie and Grand Valley Crossing to his first survey and camped in Township 9, Range 20, west of 1st meridian. The camp outfit and provisions were transported in four Red-river carts drawn by ponies, while Mr. Abrey and Mrs. Abrey rode in a buck-board.

There was not a building on the south side of the River in 1880, but the C. P. R. line was located through there that season. The writer of this sketch, then serving under articles with Mr. Abrey, traversed the Assiniboine, where the City of Brandon is now located, and spent many weary days in the willow thickets within the bends. After the completion of these Townships, Mr. Abrey trekked across the prairies to the Qu'Appelle River, where he and his party, including his wife, spent that winter in camp on the south bank of the Qu'Appelle, about twenty-five miles southwest of Fort Ellice.

In 1882 and 1883 he was employed on base lines in Northern Saskatchewan, and in 1886, 1902, 1903, and 1904 on subdivision work.

He established and carried on for many years a trading store at Little Current, the building and storehouse being

located between the residence and the steamboat wharf. For twenty years he was undoubtedly the most prominent man on Manitoulin Island. Not only was he a Magistrate, but Postmaster, Dockmaster and Surveyor. He also acted as observer for the Meteorological Department, and if all observers were as conscientious in their work as Mr. Abrey, the reports would be more complete. In 1880 he constructed on his lawn a small observatory with hemispherical dome, for star observations.

He became an expert on surveying instruments, and it is doubtful if a more varied collection could have been found in Canada than that owned by him when he lived at Little Current. His wonderful knowledge of the defects in instruments, the methods of testing, and the necessary adjustments were acquired from careful experiments and close study. He designed and had constructed for his personal use in 1878 a seven-inch transit made of aluminum, weighing only  $6\frac{3}{4}$  pounds. This was one of the first made of this metal, and cost about \$1,000, and a solar attachment added \$300 to this amount. He also designed a solar attachment for a cradle theodolite, that was exceptionally simple, and gave satisfactory results in practice. It is to be regretted that he did not prepare for publication a manual on surveying instruments, as no one was better qualified to combine theory with practice in respect to instruments.

In 1882 he removed to Toronto and opened a city office and took up his residence there, and in 1892 he removed his residence and office to Toronto Junction.

He died at Toronto on June 25th, 1906, and was buried in the cemetery west of the Old Mill on the Humber.

His son, George S., acted as his assistant for many years before his death.

The following children survive:—Louisa Eleanor, born 1862, married Stuart Jenkins, of Montreal (now of McGregor Bay, Ont.); Sarah Letitia, born 1862, married George Beauchamp St. John, in 1880, of Worcester, England, of Sydney, Australia (he died about 1900); George Spencer, O.L.S., born 1872, married in 1897 to Mary Campbell, residing now in West Toronto.

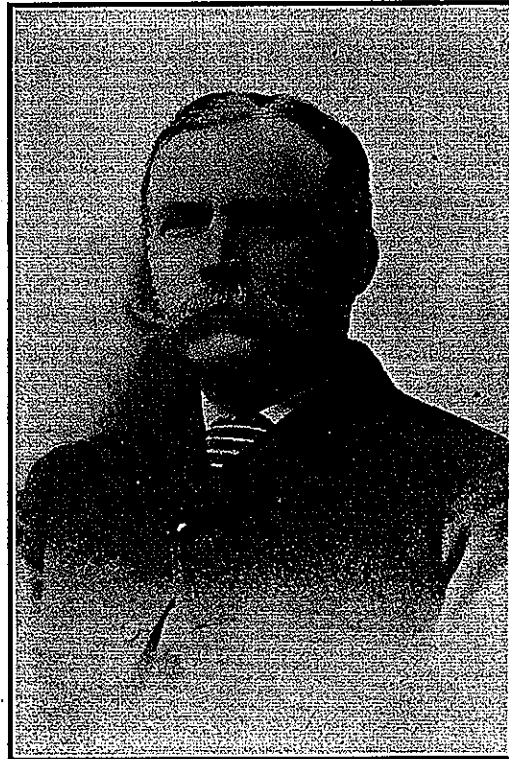
An infant daughter, Edith, about eight months old, died in camp on the bank of Assiniboine at the northwest corner of Sec. 22, Twp. 10, R. 19 W., about two miles west of where Brandon station is now located, on October 12th, 1880, and was buried there. Mrs. Geo. B. Abrey died on September 19th, 1910.

James Warren (1864), Edgar Bray (1866), W. C. Eaton (1868), Willis Chipman (1881), and T. J. Patten (1883), served under articles with Mr. Abrey.

### MILNER HART.

By his Son, M. D. C. Hart.

Philip Dacres Hart, of London, England, and his wife, Elizabeth Ann Chace, daughter of Richard Chace, came to Canada in 1835. His father had retired after thirty years' service with the Hon. East India Company. For a year or two they resided in Lower Canada, then moved to Brantford, where Milner Hart was born, on December 12th, 1837. The remaining seven children were born in England. One son went to India; two remained in England, and four daughters came to Canada. One of the daughters married Capt. Brown, of His Majesty's Service. One of Milner Hart's sisters now survives — Mrs. Henry Stokes, of San Francisco, Cal.



Milner Hart was educated at the Grammar School, London, Ont., and served his apprenticeship with Colonel Dennis. He qualified as a Provincial Land Surveyor on July 11th, 1863, and appears to have taken up his residence at St. Marys, where he lived for many years.

A few months before his death he dictated to the Chairman of the Committee an account of his experiences during the first Red River Rebellion, but unfortunately he did not revise it after it had been typed. The following is a summary: