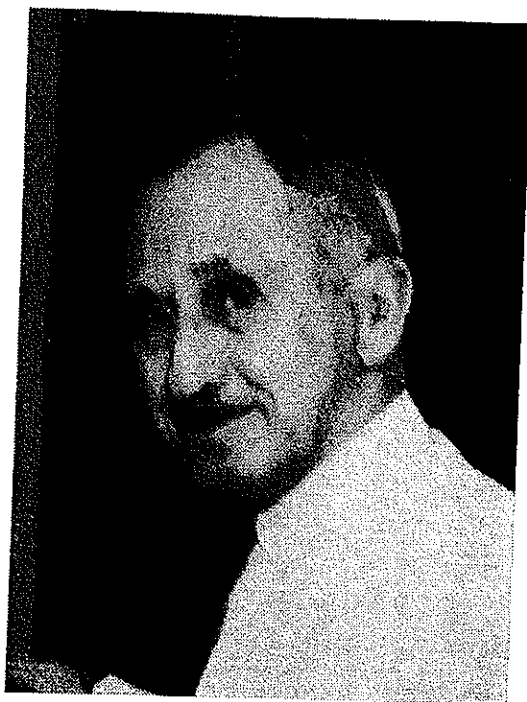


REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON AERIAL SURVEYS & MAPPING

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON BIOGRAPHY
AND REPOSITORY

A. A. Outram of Toronto



BRYAN EDWARD PRYCE AMBLER, O.L.S.

1895 — 1966

by H. D. G. Currie

Brian Ambler, known as Barney to his many friends and associates, spent his boyhood in Toronto. He was educated at St. Albans' School.

Barney's first contact with Land Surveying came when he was employed by the Toronto Harbour Commissioners. He remained with them until 1916, when he enlisted in the Canadian Field Artillery. He served his country and the Empire in France until the end of the First Great War.

Returning to Canada, he re-joined the Toronto Harbour Commissioners, and was involved in the development of the area south of Front Street between Bathurst Street and Leslie Street, probably the most interesting and novel development in the whole area that eventually became Metropolitan Toronto.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON BIOGRAPHY AND REPOSITORY

His interest in surveying led him into articles with Norman D. Wilson, O.L.S. of the firm of Wilson & Bunnell. They were deeply involved in both the surveying and planning fields with the Harbour Commissioners, which meant that Barney continued his work at the same old stand but under a new master. He was commissioned as an Ontario Land Surveyor 20th July, 1931, registration number 590.

During his service with Wilson & Bunnell, he performed surveys in many parts of southern Ontario, and notably at Fort Erie. Barney worked in and around Fort Erie for two years, before the bottom fell out of the surveying market. It was my pleasant experience in later years to retrace many of Barney's old survey lines in the Fort Erie area and I can vouch for the accuracy of his work.

For a short time Barney worked for the Provincial Government on surveys in Northern Ontario. He also practised locally in Weston. He joined Speight, van Nostrand, Ward and Anderson in 1936 and remained with the firm until the end of his career. Barney loved the field. For him time in the office was only for turning in results and taking instructions for new work. Though we worked for the same firm our paths did not cross too often until we were loaned to Messrs. Browne & Cavell in 1939 for a Geo-physical survey project extending from Lake Erie to Lake Huron via Tillsonburg, Woodstock, Stratford, Petrolia, etc. Working with Barney was always pleasant though often arduous, the day for him did not always end at dinner time.

The end of World War 2 saw a great increase in land development. Barney was involved in subdivisions in Etobicoke and North York. He was in his element and most of our students were posted to his field party to be taught the fundamentals of land division. They learned also that a day's work lasted all day.

In 1959 Barney suffered a stroke, and although he made a good recovery, it ended his days in the field. He overcame many of his physical problems and returned to the office, where he established himself in a new role. He was never idle and by his interest and energy set a wonderful example to the younger members of our staff. He suffered a heart attack in August 1966 and passed away 12th September 1966.

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