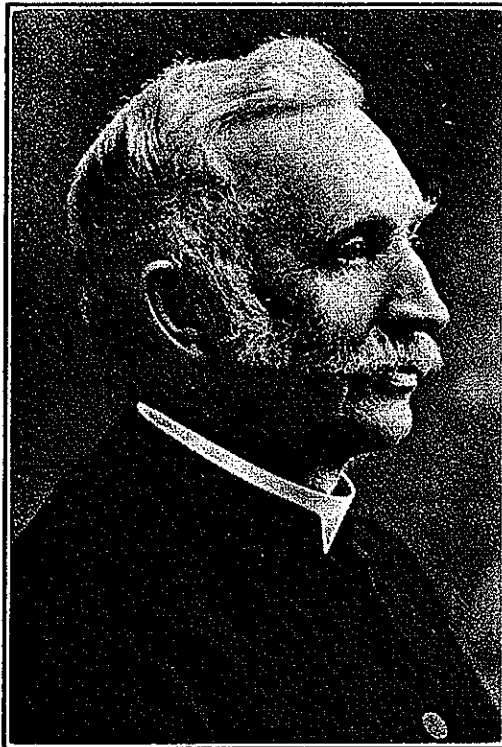


## F. W. ARMSTRONG

Canon Francis Woodward Armstrong was born in Dublin, Ireland, on April 6th, 1849.

During the Border Wars, the Armstrongs moved from Scotland to Ireland. There the Rev. J. H. Armstrong married Jane Isabella Hobart, both being Irish. She died December 30th, 1893. The subject of the sketch is a son by that marriage.



Shortly afterwards the Armstrongs moved to Devonshire in England. Francis W. was educated at Uppingham School, and the Father was Vicar of Staines in Middlesex County, and died in January, 1900.

In the year 1867, Francis W., the subject of this sketch, came to Toronto to visit William Armstrong, a cousin, who was an artist. His paintings of the bridges on the G. T. Railway between Toronto and Guelph, now adorn the walls of the Engineers' Club, Toronto.

During September, 1867, he articulated himself to Surveyors Wadsworth and Unwin in Toronto, as a pupil-at-surveying. After serving his apprenticeship he qualified as a P.L.S. on the 6th October, 1871, and was retained by that firm to make some surveys. In the year 1872 he moved to Orillia, where he practised Surveying locally, and was engaged by the Dominion Government on Dominion Land Surveys in the North West during the years 1880-1-2-3.

He was engaged at Dominion Land Surveys, when such old-time Surveyors as Klotz and King were in the field, and who were all personal friends.

At Christmas in 1884, after returning to Orillia from one of these surveys, he contracted typhoid fever, and while convalescing decided to enter the ministry, and began studying

Latin, Greek and Hebrew, and was ordained a Deacon by the Bishop of Toronto, in St. James' Cathedral, on the 5th July, 1885. He then came to Trenton as Curate to Canon Bleasdale. He was ordained a Priest in May, 1886, in Kingston, by Archbishop Lewis, and was then appointed Rector of Trenton, where he remained until his death. He was appointed Rural Dean of Prince Edward County in 1901 by the then Bishop of Ontario. In 1913 he was appointed Canon of St. George's Cathedral of Kingston, Ont.

For about fifteen years of his life he practised Land Surveying and local Civil Engineering, and always retained a keen interest in these professions. About 1890, he conceived the idea of supplying the Rectory at Trenton and some neighboring residences with spring water. An hydraulic ram was installed and pipes laid from a spring near by.

In 1894-1895, Mr. R. W. Waddell, proprietor of a foundry and bridge works, constructed a similar water works system which interfered with the rectory supply. In 1895, a partnership was formed between F. W. Armstrong and A. W. Hawley, for extending the original water works system across the river and a steam pump was installed. The Trenton Water & Light Co. was then organized and this company purchased the interest of Armstrong and Hawley.

Litigation with Waddell followed, but the matter was eventually settled by the Water & Light Co. acquiring the other interest. The springs developed by Mr. Armstrong in 1890 remain the source of water supply.

Mr. C. Fraser Aylsworth contributed the following paragraphs:

After recovering from a lengthy illness, Mr. Armstrong, in his 79th year, had attended the funeral services of a member of his parish, and while alighting from his car in front of the Rectory, fell and broke his hip. While convalescing from this condition, the writer visited him at the Rectory at Trenton. He displayed much enthusiasm while narrating some of his North West Surveying experiences. His liveliness on that subject prompted me to invite him to attend our next Annual Veterans' Dinner, which he accepted, not having known of those yearly functions before.

He recovered sufficiently to be moved from the Rectory to his summer cottage at Consecon, on Lake Ontario, which he enjoyed so much, where he finally passed away. A re-union of his family had just been arranged and all the members had

arrived in town for the occasion, having received information of his more or less serious condition.

Never before in the history of the town of Trenton had such sympathetic and respectful tribute been paid to the passing of a man as was paid at the funeral to Surveyor Canon Armstrong. The funeral was attended by and the services participated in by all the dignitaries, including Bishop Seager and Clergy of nearby and remote surrounding parishes of the Anglican Church.

Feeling that he should do some fraternity work, and after thinking over the matter, he decided to join one order only, and that the Independent Order of Oddfellows. After admittance to it, he threw himself ardently into its various phases of activities and was promoted in it until he became Noble Grand, District Deputy Grand Patriarch, and Grand Chaplain, and was Recording Secretary of his lodge for a quarter of a century.

On February 11th, 1873, he married Alfrida Miller, daughter of R. B. Miller, solicitor, of Toronto. They had the following children:

Francis Chesney, Alston, Michigan, five children.

Henry Vernon, Toronto, two children.

Reginald Miller, Alliston, four children.

Arthur Severn, St. Catharines.

Norman Herbert, Welland, two children.

Harold Woodward, Oshawa, three children.

His daughters, Miss Ethel and Miss Beatrice, reside at Trenton with their widowed mother.

He was employed on the following Surveys in the years 1871-80:—

Surveyed part of Muskoka Township for C. L. Department.

Laid out villages of Coldwater, Victoria Harbor and Gravenhurst.

County work in Muskoka and Parry Sound Districts.

With Midland and Northern Railway Companies.

In the years 1880 and 1881 he was employed on outline surveys and subdivisions west of the Principal Meridian by the Dominion Government. In 1882 and 1883 he was employed on township outlines and subdivision work in the vicinity of Macleod and Medicine Hat, also on the 3rd and 4th base lines west of the Fourth Meridian.