

JOHN SIDNEY AYLSWORTH

In the year 1681, Arthur Aylsworth, at the age of twenty-five, emigrated from the border of England and Wales, to Rhode Island, in the U.S.A., and settled in North Kingstown, where he married Mary Brown, in Providence, R.I. He died in 1725. Nine children were born to them, one of whom was Philip.

Philip was born in 1692, and married Rachael Green, from England, by whom two children were born, one of whom was Job.

Job married Sarah Clark, to whom twelve children were born, one of whom was Bowen. They resided some time in Schodac, N.Y., then moved to Canada in the year 1788. Job was an United Empire Loyalist, and settled on a farm three miles north of the now historic village of Bath, in the township of Ernestown. His descendants are to-day residing on the same farm. Job was of quick decision on extreme measures. Having a distressing felon, he removed the affected finger with a chisel and a mallet.



His son Bowen, after arriving at the age of maturity, married Hannah Perry, on November 21st, 1797. Hannah was a sister of the late Honorable Peter Perry, who resided in Whitby, and after whom Port Perry is named. Bowen was twenty and Hannah was fifteen years of age, and fifteen children were born to them, and Robert Aylsworth was the fifth. Bowen was a man of somewhat abrupt address, wasting few words in empty compliments, but of great equanimity of character, contented, prudent and unostentatious, and hewing square to the line of settled convictions.

Robert, the fifth child, was born the 20th August, 1805, and married Hannah Fraser, a daughter of Colonel

Isaac Fraser, Ex-M.P., and for many years Registrar of Deeds for the United Counties of Lennox and Addington. Robert remained on the farm his father had given him, near Odessa, in Ernestown township. He was a public school teacher, also the first Inspector of Public Schools in his district, and for half a century was known in central Ontario, as a local preacher and a temperance advocate. He was above the ordinary in intellectual power, and a fluent, logical, public speaker, and took a lively and prominent part in the many questions agitating the public mind in those pioneering days. Twelve children were born to Robert (or Uncle Robert), as he was locally known, and Hannah. Viz. David Wright, a Canadian Methodist preacher, who eventually became a member of the North New York Conference. He married Catharine Marshall. Eight children were born.

Isaac Brock, M.A., LL.D., was a Canadian Methodist preacher. Married Phebe Orser. Eight children were born.

Charles Fraser, O.L.S. and constructor, and then Inspector of Colonization Roads for thirty-five years, married Jane Gillespie. Five children born to them, one of whom is Fraser Aylsworth, O.L.S., etc.

Sarah, married G. H. Hamm. Two children.

Mary Maria, married D. A. McCready. Three children.

John Sidney (the subject of this sketch) was born May 21st, 1846, married Mary Jane Caton, a United Empire Loyalist descendant, on December 22nd, 1874, and three children were born to them. He died the 17th January, 1928, aged eighty-one years and seven months, and was buried in Riverside Cemetery, Napanee, beside his wife.

Martha Matrica, married J. W. McCombs, of N.Y. State. One child.

John Sidney Aylsworth studied at the Odessa High School and the School of Military Instruction, Kingston, Ont.

He then articed himself to his brother, the late C. F. Aylsworth, of Madoc, and also to Messrs. Wadsworth and Unwin, of Toronto, and qualified as a Land Surveyor on January 7th, 1871. He joined the O.L.S. Association.

For the first years after becoming a Surveyor he was engaged on colonization road work, building roads and bridges throughout many parts of Northern Ontario. Then he practised surveying for forty-six years in the counties of Lennox and Addington. He was appointed drainage engineer

for the townships of Richmond, Camden and Ernestown, involving many court cases. He was a Methodist and temperance advocate, and fond of rural out-of-door life. He resided on lot number nineteen, in the seventh concession of the township of Richmond, near Sharp's Corners, P.O. He leaves behind two children to mourn his loss, Victor Alida Aylsworth, who married Schuyler Windover; Elizabeth Winnifred Aylsworth, who married John Wilkinson Humphrey, and one grandchild, Freda Elaine Windover, who married Kenneth Brebner, a civil Engineer. Charles Victor Robert Aylsworth, a son, died, aged five months.