

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON BIOGRAPHY

COMMITTEE ON BIOGRAPHY

F. W. BEATTY



WILMOT JOHNSTON BAIRD

O.L.S., D.L.S., B.A.Sc., P.Eng. (Ont.)

WILMOT J. BAIRD, 73, of Tinder Crescent, Toronto, died at the Scarborough General Hospital on September 26, 1963. It is with deep regret that we heard of his death. Mr. Baird was affectionately known to many surveyors, and few have had such a long, active and illustrious career. Few have given so freely of their time and effort to the Association, and very few will have left such a great and long lasting impact on the pages of our records.

Mr. Baird was born in Scarborough, on the 29th of December, 1889, the son of Alexander and Helen (nee Johnston) Baird. After completing primary school in Scarborough, he attended Malvern Collegiate in Toronto and continued his education in the University of Toronto, graduating from the Faculty of Applied Science with a B.A.Sc. degree in 1912.

After serving his O.L.S. articles with S. B. Code at Smith's Falls, he was admitted in practice in 1912.

"Bill" as he was affectionately called, had an illustrious military career.

- 1908-09 2nd Field Company, Canadian Engineers (Sapper)
- 1914-15 C.A.S.C. (Co. Q.M. Sgt.)
- 1915-17 C.F.A. (Bdr.)
- 1917-19 Royal Field Artillery (Lieut.)
- 1922-33 York Rangers, Canadian Non-Permanent Force (Major)

ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO LAND SURVEYORS

1939-41 Royal Canadian Engineers (Major) O.C. 1st Corps Field Survey Co.

1942-45 2nd in Command (Major) of No. 22 Canadian Army Educational Basic Training Centre.

Awarded Military Cross April 1918

Awarded Bar to Military Cross Sept. 1918

Awarded Efficiency Decoration 1943

He commenced his professional career with R. R. Grant, O.L.S., Toronto, in 1912, continuing with him after the first war, until 1920. From 1920 to 1922 he conducted a private practice in Toronto and was a partner in the firm of Baird and Mucklestone until he joined the Ontario Department of Northern Development in 1933.

In 1936, Mr. Baird transferred from the D.N.D. to the Department of Highways, Ontario, where, with the exception of the second war years, he remained until his retirement in 1959.

Mr. Baird was an active member of our Association. From 1951 to 1962, he was a member of the Board of Examiners. Students and Surveyors for many years to come will be thankful to Mr. Baird for his excellent notes of Instructions and Precises on Curves and Curve Problems.

After service on Committees and Council, Mr. Baird became President in 1956. When he stepped down from that office he was appointed Secretary Treasurer until illness forced his retirement from active service in 1962. His services to the Association were recognized at the Annual Meeting last year, when he was made an Honorary Vice-President. He was also appointed Auditor.

Mr. Baird retained an active interest in surveying education outside of Ontario, corresponding with many surveyors across the world, in other languages.

He leaves his wife, the former Jean Leuty; a son, Donald W. Baird, O.L.S. of Kingston, and a daughter, Aileen, of Toronto. Mr. Baird was a member of Kimbourne United Church. Interment was at Pine Hills Cemetery, Scarboro.