

THOMAS OLIVER BOLGER

Thomas Oliver Bolger was appointed a Land Surveyor of Ontario on the 6th of May, 1865. He was born at Ballard, King's County, Ireland, in 1840.

His father was Richard Bolger, son of James Bolger of Ballinbarna, Ireland. His mother was Henrietta O'Rielly of Baltrasna, Ireland. He married Cordelia Caissie of Lenora, Quebec, in Lindsay, Ont., on October 8th, 1870.



His children were, Cora, May, Olive, Arthur, Oliver and Edmund.

Cora died in 1906. May, unmarried, now an official in the Bank of Montreal, Kingston. Olive married Mr. G. F. Ellis, and is residing at 3002 West 7th Street, Vancouver, B.C., having no children. Arthur died in 1902. Oliver is in Western Canada, at Woodfibre, and Edmund (now Major Edmund Bolger, C.E., and following in the footsteps of his father), is at the De la Salle Hotel, in Montreal.

T. O. Bolger died 17th September, 1900, and Mrs. Bolger died 20th April, 1897, and both are buried in St. Mary's Cemetery, Kingston, Ont. Francis Bolger, P.L.S., was a first cousin. Mr. Bolger had two sisters, Miss C. S. Bolger, who resided with him after the death of his wife, and died two years ago, and Mrs. Henrietta Brisco, who resides in London, England.

Quoting from a letter, written by his daughter, Mrs. Ellis of Vancouver: "My father came from very old families, both on his father's and mother's side. The Bolgers came over from Normandy, with William of Normandy, to Ireland, and the name was originally 'De Boulgiene.' They settled in Ire-

land, and have been on the same property for over eight hundred years, passing from father to son, and my cousin, James Bolger, is the present owner. The present house is about three hundred years old, and I believe, is only the third to be built. Its name is 'Ballinabarna,' in County of Kilkenny. My father's father, Richard Bolger, was a younger son, so my father's house was 'Clodiagh,' on part of the estate.

"On my grandmother's side the O'Riellys go back to the Irish Kings. They are of illustrious House of Brefney. It is said that the feud between Desmond and Prince Brefney led to the English, in the time of Henry I, getting a foothold in Ireland, which led to the English conquest of Ireland. My father's grandmother, on the O'Rielly side was a Nugent, of 'Farrenconnel House,' who was Governor of Gibraltar and Malta. My father's uncle was Commander and Governor of the Natal Knights of Windsor. John O'Rielly, Commander, died at his residence, 'Trakes College,' Windsor, in 1873, and could have an audience with the King or Queen without a Royal Command."

From this it may be noted that T. O. Bolger was a lineal descendant of distinguished families, of whom he was a most worthy scion. He was not physically robust, although no mouse had anything on him at travelling through the bush at surveying.

He came to Canada at the age of nineteen, and entered the surveying office of J. F. Fitzgerald, P.L.S., in Peterborough, where he remained for a number of years. In 1868 he went to the lumber office of Page and Co. in Belleville, and shortly afterwards went into the Land Surveying and Engineering of the well-known partnership of Evans and Bolger, Belleville. This firm carried on a most extensive and diversified practice throughout the counties of Hastings, Prince Edward, Lennox and Peterborough. Many students at Surveying qualified in their office, among them being Mr. Matthew Joseph Butler, C.E., L.L.B., C.M.G., M.I.C.E., Mem. Can. Soc. C.E., Mem. Am. Soc. C.E., now residing retired in Oakville, Ont., also Mr. F. W. Wilkins, D.T.S., and D.L.S., now of Norwood, Ont., and Mr. William S. Drewry, B.C.L.S. and D.L.S., with whom was entrusted the beginning of the triangulation surveys of B.C. by the Dominion Government. He now lives in B.C. The firm of Evans and Bolger skilfully carried out the engineering of the Central Ontario

Railway, running from Picton, through Trenton to Coe Hill. The Evans and Bolger registered plans of the City of Belleville and the village of Madoc rank high in draughtsmanship and accuracy, and are yet official. Mr. Bolger was professor of Surveying and Engineering in Albert College, Belleville.

In 1887, he was appointed City Engineer for Kingston, Ont., where he instituted the first systematic drainage works of the limestone city, and the waterworks also had his direct supervision, and he was held in the highest esteem by the officials and all of that ambitious limestone city.

While in the partnership of Evans and Bolger in Belleville, instructions were issued to him by the Crown Lands Department, Toronto, as follows:

Survey Township of Lake—Examine lots 10-11, 16th May, 1872.

Survey Township of Lyell, 18th July, 1872.

Survey Lots—Hastings Road, 19th July, 1872.

Survey Township of Sabine, 18th July, 1872.

Survey Township of Brown, 23rd May, 1873.

Survey Township of Burns, 1st Nov., 1873.

Survey Island, mouth Kaministiquie River, 8th June, 1875.

Survey Town plct—Caponaning, 18th Aug., 1875.

Survey Township—Burton, 1st May, 1875.

Survey Township—Residue of Oakley, 17th Aug., 1876.

Survey Township—Joly, 18th April, 1878.

Survey Township—Wells, 23rd June, 1879.

Survey Township—Dryden, 15th May, 1884.

Survey Township—Morin, 23rd May, 1884.

Survey block land between townships Salter and Spanish River, 4th June, 1884.

Survey Township—Lybster and Gillies, 2th May, 1885.

Survey exploration land, Rainy River, 29th May, 1886.

Survey Township of Foster, 31st May, 1887.

Survey timber berth, N. shore Lake Huron, 15th May, 1882.

Mr. Bolger was a member of the Canadian Society of Civil Engineers and a Roman Catholic in religion.