

BIOGRAPHIES

ELIAS JOHN BOSWELL

O.L.S., Grad., S.P.S.

Elias John Boswell was born at Cannington, Ontario, on September 26th, 1870. After completing his High School course, he entered the School of Practical Science, University of Toronto, graduating in Civil Engineering with the class

of 1895. He then apprenticed himself to the late Herbert J. Bowman, O.L.S., of Berlin (now Kitchener) Ontario as a student of land surveying. Mr. Boswell passed his final examinations in November, 1896 and was duly admitted to practice as an Ontario Land Surveyor on the 7th of the month. In 1899 he married Miss Elizabeth Lilian Clark of Peterborough, Ontario.



Mr. Boswell early formed a connection with the Canadian Pacific and he was first employed by the company on location surveys through the Rocky Mountains. Later he was engaged in laying out town sites along the C.P.R. lines in Western Canada. "Care of C.P.R. Winnipeg" appears as his address in the O.L.S. reports from 1903 to 1911 when he went to Montreal as right-of-way agent for the railway.

In 1916, Mr. Boswell joined the Hydro-Electric Power Commission of Ontario at Toronto, where he examined and checked the title records of the Electric Power Co. and its twenty subsidiaries

which had just been purchased by the Ontario government and were being operated by the H.E.P.C. With the continued growth of the Commission, there was constant acquisition of new properties, either by direct purchase or through the absorption of established companies and it devolved upon Mr. Boswell to inaugurate a comprehensive system of Title Record Books as well as supervise the large number of land surveys required.

In 1934, the Right-of-way and Property Department was formed with Mr. T. U. Fairlie in charge and Mr. Boswell assumed the title of Chief Surveyor. Mr. W. Harry Williams became assistant to him in 1937 and upon Mr. Boswell's retirement in 1940 took charge of the surveys.

After retirement, Mr. Boswell lived on Avondale Road, Rosedale until his death on October 26th, 1956. He is survived by a son, Frank Burnham Boswell and a daughter Edith, Margaret (Mrs. T. M. Parr) both of Toronto. There are four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. One of the grandchildren is the well known concert pianist Patricia Parr (in private life Mrs. Jos. Grebanier).