

L. T. BRAY

Lennox Thomson Bray was born at Caledonia, Haldimand County, Ontario, on March 14, 1877. His grandfather Lennox Thomson was born in Belfast, Ireland, February 5, 1809, came to Canada in 1818 settling in the County of Essex. He followed the profession of School Teacher for some time as so many educated gentlemen did after their arrival in Canada. He taught at Malden for several years, then acquired a farm in Colchester South, where he died on December 12, 1884.

His father William Bray owned and operated a woollen mill at Kingsville, Ontario.

He removed to Caledonia subsequently where he also operated a woollen mill.

William Bray was twice married. There were four children by the first marriage. Mrs. Louie Isaacs, of Walkerville; Mrs. Laura Thomson, of Colchester S.; Mrs. Eaton Payton, of Petersburg, Mich.; and Wm. G. Bray, of Kalamazoo, Mich. His second wife was Margaret Thomson, of Colchester S., widow of George Houghson. Lennox T. Bray was the only child of this second marriage. William Bray died in February, 1878, and the widow took up her residence in Amherstburg, Ont.



After attendance at the public schools and high school at Amherstburg Mr. Bray matriculated at the S.P.S. Toronto from which school he graduated in Engineering in May, 1900. He then became articled to Bowman and Davis, of Berlin, and qualified as an Ontario Land Surveyor on February 17, 1902. In February of the following year he qualified as an Dominion Land Surveyor.

For seventeen years, 1902-1918, he was employed on Surveys for the Dominion and Alberta Governments in Alberta but January, 1919, he decided to return to his home town and upon the advice of his physician abandoned his Western work.

He was appointed Town Engineer for Amherstburg and was also employed as Surveyor and Engineer for adjoining municipalities.

In 1909 he married Miss Alida Wilcox but there were no children.

Early in May, 1923, his malady, an affection of the heart, assumed an acute form and his death occurred on May 10, 1923.

The funeral service was conducted by Rev. H. A. Wright of Christ Church and the Masonic Order. Burial was in the family plot Erie Cemetery, Colchester.

The "Amherstburg Echo" of May 18, 1923, refers to Mr. Bray in the following words. "In the death of Engineer Bray Amherstburg loses a citizen of high attainments and sterling worth, a gentleman of irreproachable character whose aim was ever firm to do his duty, who served the Town with fidelity and zeal, and whose loss will be deeply deplored and felt for a long time." He was survived by his mother aged 86 and his widow.

In 1903 he was employed in subdivision work west of the 3rd Meridia between Battleford and Edmonton. In 1904, 1905, 1906 and 1907 he was employed as chief of various surveys on day work by the Dominion Government, such as retracement surveys, resurveys, etc. On January 1st, 1911. he became an Alberta Land Surveyor.
