

## MATTHEW JOSEPH BUTLER

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Was one of the most brilliant and versatile members of our profession. He was born at Deseronto (formerly Millpoint) on the 19th day of November, 1856.

He was the fourth child of the late Tobias Butler, and his wife, Elizabeth McVey.



Tobias, his father, was born in the town of New Ross in the county of Kilkenny, Ireland, and Elizabeth, his wife, was born in the town of Cushendall, in the county of Antrim, Ireland. They were married in Kingston, Ontario, on October 21st, 1855. Tobias was the capable and honourable bush manager of the Rathbun Lumber Co. of Deseronto for a great many years.

Matthew J. Butler matriculated from the Deseronto schools into Toronto University, taking the engineering course. He subsequently took a post graduate course at McGill University in Montreal, Quebec.

He articulated himself to Evans and Bolger of Belleville, and was appointed a Land Surveyor for Ontario on January 11th, 1878. He was also a D.L.S. and C.E., and a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers. A member of the British Institution of Civil Engineers. He took a course in Railway Law in the Kent School of Law in Chicago, Ill., from which he was granted an L.L.B.

His brothers and sisters were: (1) William John Butler, who died September 1st, 1881, aged 22, while attending Queen's University; (2) Mrs. M. A. McKenty, who died in Lacombe, Alberta, four years ago; (3) Elizabeth Butler, died in Belleville in 1917; (4) E. J. Butler, practising Law in Belleville, and has a son also practising Law in Belleville, and a daughter; (5) Dr.

Tobias J. Butler, M.D., who practised medicine in Chicago, Ill., died January 18th, 1903, and was buried in the family plot in Deseronto Cemetery, where a nice monument marks his resting place; (6) Lieut. G. A. Butler is now in South Africa and is a civil engineer; (7) Mrs. W. S. Fetherstonaugh, wife of Col. Fetherstonaugh, O.B.E. (Order of British Empire), Divisional Engineer of Can. Nat. Ry. at Calgary, Alberta.

On November 19th, 1880, the subject of this sketch married Loretta M. J. Shibley, daughter of Henry Shibley, of Newburg, Ontario. She was born in 1857 and died in 1932. She was niece of the wife of Wm. R. Aylsworth, O.L.S.

Three children were born to Matthew and his wife, Loretta; (1) Bessie, born 1882, at Napanee, and is the wife of Dr. Lynch of Sydney, N.S. They have four children, three boys and one girl; (2) Matthew McVey, born at Napanee, died April 27th, 1884, aged 2 years, 8 months and 8 days, buried at Deseronto; (3) Florence, born at Napanee. She married Mr. R. H. Dare, now of Paris, Ontario. They have one boy aged 16.

In 1879, on June 14th, he received instructions to survey the township of Gladstone. On May 7th, 1880, he completed survey of parts of Dungannon and Mayo. In 1885 he made the difficult and complicated resurvey of the township of Kennebec. On May 29th, 1886, he was instructed to survey the township of Marks. In 1883 he was assistant to Mr. Thomas Nash, P.L.S. on the location and construction of the Kingston and Pembroke Railway. In 1886 he was Chief Engineer of the Napanee, Tamworth and Quebec Railway. He was Superintendent of the Temiscuata Wood Pulp Enterprise of the National Transcontinental Railway. In 1905 he was appointed Deputy Minister of Railways for Canada. During his term of Office the National Transcontinental Railway was being constructed across northern Quebec and Ontario. He forsook this to become Chairman of the Can. Govt. Rys. From 1910 until 1913, he was General Manager of the Dominion Iron and Steel Corp. He then took charge of the Longueuil plant of the Armstrong-Whitworth Corporation.

At the close of the Great War he was decorated C.M.G. (Commander of the Order of St. Michael and St. George), in recognition of the services he had rendered the Empire in connection with the production of steel and war material. During the war the late Mr. Butler made six or more trips to Great Britain and France for consultation with leaders.

He retired from active work in 1918, and report has it that he was not at all in poor circumstances. He then decided to seek a congenial location to retire and enjoy his latter years. With this end in view he examined nearly all the North American continent, including California and British Columbia, finally selecting Oakville, Ontario. Here he built a splendid habitation for himself, overlooking the water, with a tower on it for Astronomical observation purposes.

He was an untiring, aggressive and rapid worker, with reading and smoking as his only hobbies.

He was a very prominent pioneer leader in the organization of our present O.L.S. Association. In fact it was he who induced the writer to associate himself with it.

He was our first member to extemporaneously deliver an address upon a given subject which happened to be "Cement."

After the passing of his wife in 1932, he went to Sydney, N.S. to be with his daughter, Bessie, where he died on June 22nd, 1933, aged 76 years.

He was buried in the beautiful upland, joint Protestant and Catholic Deseronto Cemetery, situate east of the town, on the south side of and within view of No. 2 Highway and the Bay of Quinte, where the grave containing his remains and those of Loretta, his wife, is marked by a massive, rough faced, light gray, Scotch granite tombstone, surmounted by a large cross.

The tombstone is beautifully inscribed as follows:—Matthew Joseph Butler, b. 1856—d. 1933. His wife, Loretta M. J. Shibley, b. 1857—d. 1932. The writer once remarked to a mutual friend that the subject of this sketch seemed to be a rolling stone. He replied, yes, but always into a higher and better position. He was a Roman Catholic in religion.

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