

GILBERT S. CLAPP

By Allan R. Davis

Gilbert S. Clapp, another of Ontario's old Land Surveyors, was of Quaker and United Empire Loyalist descent. His ancestors came to Canada after the Revolutionary War. Joseph Clapp and Benjamin Clapp are named in the early records of



Adolphustown, that historic township on the frontier of the County of Lennox and Addington. Benjamin Clapp held the distinguished office of Overseer of Highways in that municipality in the year 1793, and Gilbert D. Clapp was appointed assessor in 1804. Several of the Clapp families moved into the adjoining counties of Prince Edward and Hastings, where many of their descendants are found to-day. Those who remained in Adolphustown have become dispersed in recent years, until the name has disappeared from the municipal records, though descendants still remain.

While no definite record is available it is now assumed that Gilbert S. Clapp was the son of Gilbert D. Clapp, of Adolphustown. He was born in 1809, and settled in Napanee, where, after the ordinary education and experience, he was admitted as a Deputy Provincial Surveyor on March 16th, 1835. He then began an active and successful career, and married Miss Mercy Simmons of that district, whose several sisters also married in that community. One of these became Mrs. Parker, the mother of Sir Gilbert Parker, the renowned novelist—reared in Hastings County. Another, became Mrs. Tobey, of Napanee, who reared a large family; and another married Mr. Madden, whose tannery in Napanee was a well-known building for many years.

The family of Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert S. Clapp consisted of but one daughter, Fanny, who was reared and educated there, and their comfortable home became a favorite social centre until the Surveyor's untimely death in his fiftieth year, in 1859.

Later, the widow married Mr. W. V. Detlor, of Napanee, and the issue of this marriage was two sons, Morley, killed overseas in the World War; and Sidney, now in business in Western Canada.

The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert S. Clapp married Dr. R. A. Leonard, of Napanee. After practising his profession for some time, Dr. Leonard received the appointment of Postmaster which position he held until his death a few years ago. Since then the widow has followed her husband to the grave, and they are buried with her parents in the family plot.

Mr. and Mrs. Leonard have left a family of three daughters and one son, all of whom are now married and settled in life. These are Marion, Mrs. A. F. Lace, 59 Gormley Street, Toronto; Hazel, Mrs. E. S. Byers, of Gananoque; Frances, Mrs. R. J. E. Graham, of Belleville; and W. E. Leonard, who married Miss Girvin, of Winnipeg, and is now in business in Toronto.

Like all the other surveyors of Central Ontario, Gilbert S. Clapp had a wide and lucrative practice in the new settlements of that heavily timbered country, and also beyond the confines of the settlements, northward, where the Government was always surveying new townships, building roads and bridges, and delimiting the vast timber areas which made many fortunes for operators, but which now have practically all disappeared. Those burnt-over lands and protruding rocks are now calling for that re-forestation which inevitably must come with future generations, to ensure that re-settlement and activity of former years.
