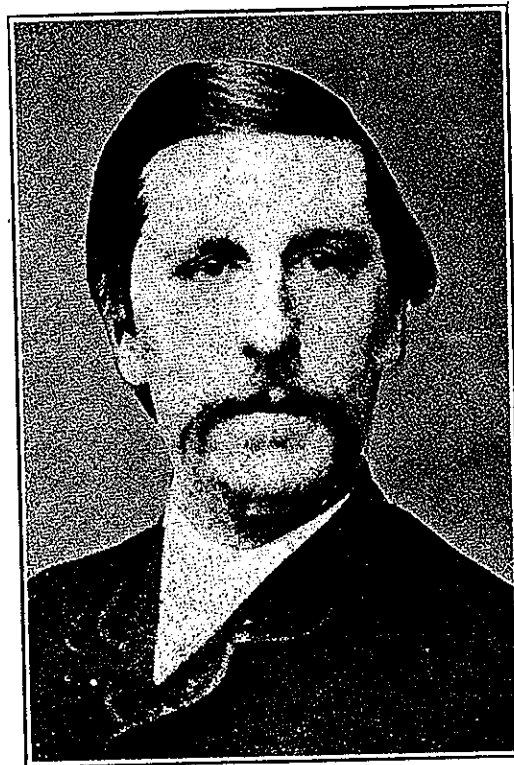


MUTIUS V. CLEMENTI

By C. H. Clementi

Mutius Vincent Clementi, so named after his distinguished grandfather, Muzio Clementi, composer and, as signified by his tombstone in Westminster Abbey, "Father of the pianoforte" was born at Mornington Place, London, Eng., on January 14th, 1835. He was elder brother of the late Theodore B. Clementi, P.L.S., Peterboro, Ont. Mutius was educated at Bedford School, one of England's most noted "public Schools". On July 9th, 1853, he sailed, and the word is used in literal sense, from East India Docks, London, for New York. Thence he proceeded direct to a so-called "Agricultural School", at North Douro (now Lakefield), Peterboro County, operated by the late Colonel Strickland, a retired army officer. Many young Englishmen of good family learned the rudiments of practical farming as understood by the genial Colonel. They consisted chiefly in a thorough training in manly sports and a fine discrimination in the selection of liquors. That the subject of this sketch neglected close application to the liquid part of his training is shown by a letter written on August 3rd, 1954, to a relation in England, in which Mutius said, in part, "the students here are complaining about the recent enormous raise in the price of whiskey which now costs seventy-five cents a gallon". A month later a letter written to the same English relation announces his intention of studying surveying. This letter, it will interest Surveyors to learn says "Surveying is no mean profession as one holds an honorable position in the Community and you make your pound, £1 a day". Both letters are in the possession of the writer of these lines.



On September 11th, 1854, Mutius began his studies for the surveyor's profession with the late John Reid, P.L.S., Peterboro, and on October 16th, 1857, qualified as a Land Surveyor. When his brother qualified in October, 1858, they entered into partnership, their office being over the Peterboro Post Office. After three years in active work as a Surveyor Mutius was offered and accepted the position of General Secretary of the Port Hope, Lindsay and Beaverton Railway, afterwards the Midland Railway. Holding this position for two years Mutius moved from Peterboro to Orillia, where he practiced his profession as Surveyor for three years. Recognizing the young man's ability Henry Covert, Port Hope, President of the Midland Railway, offered Mutius the position of Station Master at Peterboro, which situation he filled satisfactorily until his sudden death at Peterboro on December 7th, 1872. Mr. Clementi, like his brother Theodore was an ardent cricketer for many years. His son, Frederick Vincent Clementi, Chief Clerk of the Canadian National Railway at Peterboro has a cricket bat with suitably engraved medallion inset presented to Mutius by Peterboro Cricket Club in 1863 as "best all round cricketer of the District".

Mutius Clementi was married in 1860 at Peterboro, his bride being, Miss Mary Johanna Ferguson, of Demerara, W.E.I., who was descendent from a long lineage of Protestants in Ireland. The issue of this marriage was two sons and a daughter, viz Frederick Vincent, Chief Clerk, C.N.R., Peterboro, born 1862; Bruce, born 1864, died 1871; and Miss Mary now residing in Peterboro.

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