

## THEODORE B. CLEMENTI

By C. H. Clementi

In the year 1859, and during a few years following, on an office door over Peterboro, Ont., Post Office appeared a card bearing the legend "Clementi Bros., Provincial Land Surveyors and Draughtsmen". The brothers were Mutius Vincent and Theodore Bold Clementi. The former qualified as a Provincial Land Surveyor on October 16, 1857 and Theodore, the younger brother qualified on October 9th, 1858.

The Clementi family came originally from Rome, Italy, where for generations they had been expert silversmiths and designers in precious metals. A branch of the family were Chieftans among the wild mountaineers of Albania. In the Eternal City in 1759 was born Muzio Clementi, later to be known as a celebrated composer and, as noticed on his tomb in the South Cloister of Westminster Abbey, London, "Father of the piano-forte". As a young man



Muzio when playing the organ in St. Peter's in 1777 attracted the attention of an English nobleman then visiting in Rome. Recognizing the young Italian's phenomenal skill his admirer began investigations which resulted in Muzio Clementi going to England for more complete musical education and subsequent adoption of English nationality. During the latter part of the eighteenth century, whilst spending some months in England resting after a long series of engagements in the Capitals of Europe the young man met and married a lady by name of Gisborne. From this marriage there were two sons and two daughters. One of the sons, Vincent, born in London, June 22nd, 1812, took the degree of B.A. at Cambridge University and was ordained a

clergyman in the English Church. One of his sisters was mother of the late Sir Cecil Clementi-Smith, governor at Singapore of the Straits Settlements. Rev. Vincent Clementi, whilst Rector of Thatcham, Kent, married Margaret Banks, daughter of England's distinguished Greek Scholar, John Cleaver Banks. After the death of his wife Mr. Clementi, accompanied by his two sons, Mutius Vincent, and Theodore Bold Clementi emigrated to Canada settling in the little town of Peterboro, Canada, which town, incidentally, holds the unique position in Canadian municipalities of never having been a village. Peterboro, like Topsy, "never was born, it grew" from a gathering of farms to a town.

Theodore Clementi was educated at Bedford Public School, one of England's big seats of education. The writer has several volumes that he won as prizes in mathematics at that school.

For some years Rev. Vincent Clementi was Incumbent at the Village of Lakefield, nine miles North of Peterboro, where he built St. John's English Church a handsome granite edifice. Rev. Vincent's second wife was the late Mrs. Toker, a daughter of Captain Charles Rubidge, R.N., who with Hon. Peter Robinson, by aid of two ship loads of Irishmen brought by them specially for local colonization purposes, founded the town of Peterboro. Retiring from his charge at Lakefield after nine years work, which included the formation there of Clementi Lodge, A.F. and A.M., he spent his declining years at Peterboro, dying on October 16th, 1899.

His two sons Mutius Vincent and Theodore Bold Clementi both took up the study of surveying and were apprenticed to the late John Reid, P.L.S., after whom one of Peterboro's important residential thoroughfares, Reid Street, was named. In the year 1859, as hereinbefore noted the brothers entered into partnership as surveyors and worked together for some years until Mutius entered the service of the former Midland Railway, becoming station master at Peterboro.

Theodore Clementi, P.L.S., was an ardent advocate of outdoor life spending the summers, when not professionally engaged at Stony Lake, North of Peterboro. It may interest the thousands of Canadian and American cottagers who annually spend the summer at Stony Lake to learn that Theodore Clementi built the first summer cottage on that beautiful Queen of Kawartha Lakes, it being situated on Grassy Island near Mount Julian. He was for many years captain and wicket

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keeper of Peterboro Cricket Club as well as a skilled oarsman Mr. Clementi was stroke oar of the four-oared "Dolley Varden" which made a good showing at Montreal regatta in 1875. He made the original survey of Harvey township in Peterboro County. His ability as a Surveyor was recognized by the Dominion Government when, unsolicited, they gave him contracts, in 1880 and 1881 for government surveys in the then practically "No man's land" of Manitoba.

Theodore Clementi was twice married, his first wife being Miss Toker, granddaughter of Capt. Rubidge, R.N. By her he had two sons, one Charles Hamilton Clementi now a resident of Peterboro, and a younger son, George Vincent, who died some years ago in Chicago. His second wife was Rosamund Dunsford, daughter of late Hartley Dunsford, Lindsay, Registrar of Victoria County. She died lately in Florida after marrying a second time. Theodore Clementi died in Peterboro, March 27th, 1882.

T. B. Clementi made subdivision surveys for the Dominion Government of Twps. 19, 20 and 21, R 1 and 2 West of 2nd M. in 1880, and in the following year in partnership with T. R. Hewson subdivided Twp. 21 R 13 to 18, and 20 and 21 West of 2nd.

T. B. Clementi surveyed two townships in this Province.

Township of Harvey .....	1864
Township of Ryerson .....	1870
Also part of 8th Con. of Ennismore .....	1877

### A Military Incident

He held a captaincy in the 57th Peterboro Rangers. In this connection an amusing incident occurred. The 57th during a three days' outing at Kingston were guests at a reception held on the Anglican Church grounds at the Limestone City. Music at the grounds was furnished by the 57th band. The band-boys noticed, whilst they were doing all the work, that their Regimental officers and officers of the Kingston Soldiery paid many visits to a tent on the lawn. This, it will be remembered was before the O.T.A. destroyed so entirely all use of or desire for stimulants. The band-boys found that enough room was left for two or three officers at once to squeeze in between cases of Bass' Ale in pints. The sentry in charge of the tent was lured away on some pretext and a dozen or two pints of Bass were commandeered by the musicians. Their difficulties then began. They could not drink the ale in public on a church

lawn and their tunics fitted too snugly to conceal the "crocks" below. In the band was the late Joseph Buller, father of William Buller, Collector of Inland Revenue, Peterboro, Joe's instrument was one of the old fashioned bass horns, with a brazen loop over the shoulder and the body of this horn as big as a ten gallon keg. Into the enormous receptacle of brass went the pint bottles to camp. After the 57th had been dismissed Capt. Clementi thus addressed Band Sergeant Rutherford, late Chief of Peterboro Fire Brigade, "Sergeant as the band played God Save the Queen after the lawn social I happened to stand behind bandsman Buller. I noticed that whilst he blew till he was black in the face not a note came from his horn. What's the answer?" Sergeant Rutherford replied "Captain I'll tell you the truth, and I hope you won't report the incident. The only way we could get the stolen beer to camp was to cram it into Buller's horn. One bottle unfortunately got its neck into the wind chamber and plugged it. Old Joe tried, during the National Anthem to blow it loose so he could play during the march back to camp." No report was made of possibly the first time Bass' Ale put a damper on noise and music.

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