

ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO LAND SURVEYORS



JAMES THOMAS COLTHAM, O.L.S., D.L.S., P.Eng.  
1882 - 1964

James Thomas Coltham was born in the Township of King on September 24, 1883, where his early youth was spent on the farm at the family homestead. He received his primary education in Whitchurch and his secondary education at the Aurora High School.

Originally, Mr. Coltham had intended to enter the law profession, but following a severe illness he was advised to seek outdoor work and choose the surveying profession as his career. He became articled to H. J. Beatty, O.L.S., of Eganville, in the year 1907, and received his commission to practise as an Ontario Land Surveyor on April 18, 1911. Shortly thereafter, he obtained his Dominion Land Surveyor's certificate, following which, he was engaged by the Dominion Government to carry out extensive stadia surveys of lakes in Alberta.

For a short period he located in Timmins and in association with the late J. W. Pierce, O.L.S., he surveyed the Dome, the Hollinger and McIntyre mining properties. Mr. Coltham then opened up a private practice in Haliburton, where he remained until the year 1920, when he decided to go to Parry Sound and work for David Beatty, O.L.S. Upon Mr. Beatty's death, Mr. Coltham established a permanent practice, and in 1930 he purchased the field notes of Edward Bazett, O.L.S., of Huntsville, Ontario. Up to his retirement in 1959, Mr. Coltham was actively engaged in survey work in the Parry Sound and Muskoka Districts performing numerous surveys for both the Federal and Provincial governments.

He married Ethel Elvira Childerhose of Eganville in 1926, who predeceased him in 1962.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON BIOGRAPHY

Mr. Coltham was a life member of the Rising Sun Lodge, No. 129, A.F. and A.M., Aurora, and received the fifty year masonic jewel in 1947. He attended St. James United Church in Parry Sound, and was a member of the Parry Sound Golf and Country Club, the Parry Sound Granite Club, and the I.O.O.F.

Mr. Coltham passed away April 7, 1964, in his eighty-second year, and was interred in Hillcrest Cemetery, Parry Sound.

He leaves a daughter, Harriett Armson of Toronto, and a brother, George of Newmarket, Ontario, who is also an Ontario Land Surveyor.