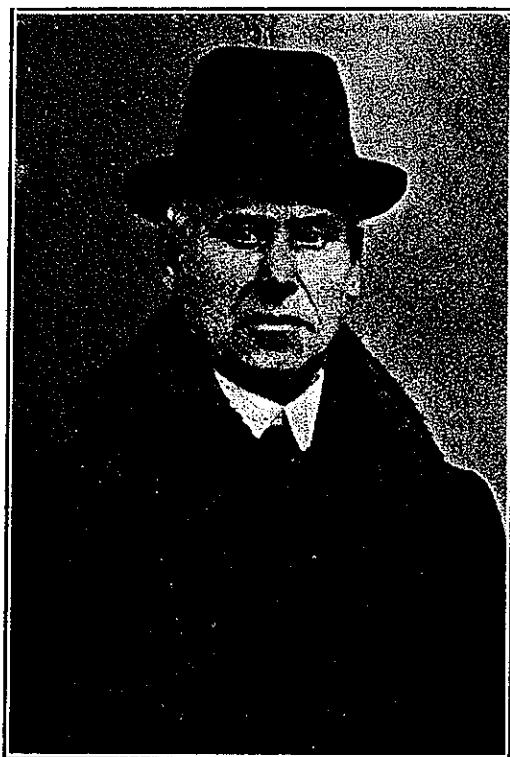


ALLAN ROSS DAVIS

Compiled by A. P. Walker

The late Allan Ross Davis, who passed away in Toronto on 18th September, 1933, was a direct descendant of one of the United Empire Loyalists, who settled in Adolphustown Township, in the Bay of Quinte district, when the same was an



unbroken forest. His great grandfather, Henry Davis, Senior, was one of those who on account of their loyalty to the British throne, left their possessions in the United States and entered Canada, by way of Sorel, in the year 1784, and who after enduring untold hardships, was assigned by the British Government to Lot 16, Con. 2, Township of Adolphustown. Mr. J. R. Davis wrote an interesting paper on the settlement of this district for our Association, and the same appears in the Annual Report for the year 1911. The bush lot assigned to Henry Davis, Senior, in 1784, now a well cultivated farm, still remains in possession of one of his descendants, and is at

present occupied by A. Clarence Davis, who is now township clerk, one of the fourth generation of that family, a remarkable instance of continued possession.

The subject of this sketch was born on this farm 28th July, 1858. His father's name was Archibald Campbell Davis, who married Amy Huffnail, a daughter of Andrew Huffnail, another of the Loyalists. Allan Ross was the fifth child of seven sons and two daughters, only one of whom, Sidney G. Davis, postmaster at Melita, Man., still survives. His primary education was at the public school of Adolphustown, and the high school of Napanee. He entered McGill University in

1880, and graduated with the degree of B.A.Sc. in 1884. He studied surveying under the late F. W. Miller, O.L.S., of Napanee, the late T. W. Nash, O.L.S., of Kingston, and the late Matthew J. Butler, O.L.S., whom he assisted in the re-survey of the Township of Kennebec, and qualified as a Provincial Land Surveyor 8th January, 1886.

In November of that year he went to Washington Territory, U.S.A., and was engaged for one year as draughtsman on the Northern Pacific Railway at Spokane Falls. Coming east again in October, 1887, he remained at home only six weeks before leaving for Los Angeles, Cal., where he was employed in the State Engineer's Office, and in sub-division work during the boom days of that city. Returning to Napanee again in 1888, he married, and on 15th April, 1889, was appointed Assistant Engineer on Construction of the Annapolis and Digby Railway, Nova Scotia, under the late Collingwood Schreiber, C.E., and John St. V. Caddy, C.E. and O.L.S. (whose biography appears in our Annual Report for 1925). He was located at Clementsport, N.S., and remained on this work for two years. Afterwards he was for a short time with the Canadian Pacific Railway Co. at Brandon, Man., on maintenance work, and from 1901 to 1910 was in private practice at Winnipeg, Man. While in Winnipeg he published a book entitled, "The Old Loyalist," which he dedicated "to Alice, my Loyalist wife." In 1910 he removed to Toronto, where he resided practically retired from professional work, until his death in 1933.

On 15th August, 1888, Mr. Davis married Miss Alice Maud Casey, of Napanee, daughter of T. W. Casey, of that town, who survives. There were born three children.

(1) Ross Davis, died in 1911, at the age of twenty.

(2) Eleanor Davis, now residing with her mother in Toronto.

(3) Gordon W. Davis, who in the Great War enlisted in 1915, in the 25th Battery. Saw active service at the front, was disabled and is now in hospital at Ste. Anne de Bellevue, Que.

Mr. Davis was a liberal contributor to the records of this Association. In addition to the paper previously referred to we might mention "The Addington Road," "Land Surveyors in Reconstruction" and two poems written specially for the Association, "Our First Surveyors" and "The Fortieth Anniversary, Veterans' Luncheon." He was a tireless and an

unusually well informed worker on United Empire Loyalist history. He was an ardent churchman and while residing in Toronto was a great worker in the Timothy Eaton Memorial Church, and previous to his death he was assisting towards preserving the first Methodist church in Ontario at Hay Bay. He passed away suddenly and is buried in Mount Pleasant Cemetery.

A photograph of Mr. Davis is published herewith.

JAMES MOORE IRWIN

Was a son of James Moore and his wife, formerly Miss Ormsby, of Dungannon, County of Tyrone, Ireland. He was born in Dublin, Ireland, on the 19th of April, 1841.

He was educated in Dublin, and after coming to Canada, he apprenticed himself to Thomas Herrick of Toronto, on June 3rd, 1859, and was appointed a Land Surveyor for Ontario on the 13th January, 1863, and opened an office for surveying in Port Hope, Ont.



In Christ Church, Ottawa, on the 23rd July, 1866, he was married to Annie Boyd, daughter of Mossom Boyd and his wife, formerly Miss Dunsford, of Bobcaygeon.

Born to them were, (1) Caroline, who married J. Edward Bird of Vancouver, B.C.; (2) Elizabeth, who married Edgar H. Rose, of Los Angeles, Cal.; (3) William Boyd, who supplied the data and photo for this biography, and who now resides

at 122 Douglas Ave., Toronto. He married Kathleen Rose Dunsford (now deceased) of Lindsay; (4) James Moore, mar-