

MICHAEL DEANE

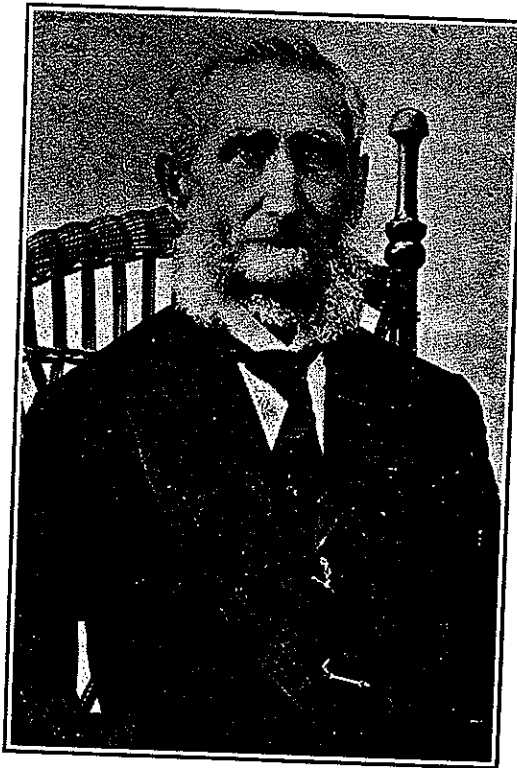
Data collected by J. J. Newman, R. W. Code, A. G. Ardagh, Rev. Father McColl, Lindsay; Miss Kate Dickson, Canon Marsh, Lindsay, and the Chairman

Michael and William Hunt Deane were two brothers, and were both graduates in science of Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland. They were co-undergraduates with Charles H. Tyndall, the distinguished Physicist, and Henry Creswicke, Jr., Barrie. Michael and William were two exceptionally well trained surveyors.

They were children of Patrick Deane and his wife Jane Frances Leigh Hunt, and were born in the parish of Birr, in Parsontown, Kings County, Ireland. Michael entered college at seventeen.

The two sons remained at college in Dublin while their father and mother and uncles came to New York State in about 1831, where the father as a C.E. was engaged on engineering works. A son, Francis Hunt Deane, was born in New York about 1831.

After his graduation, W. H. Deane came to Canada in 1846 or 1847. And then the father and family also came to Canada. During this time Michael had remained home on the Ordnance survey in Ireland, and in his 21st, or 22nd, year he went to England, where he was engaged on municipal works in London and Darlington, and on the construction of the London and Manchester Railway for a time under L. K. Krund, the celebrated civil engineer. During this time his brother, William H., wrote an interesting letter to him, dated:—"The August, 1847, Gananoque," thus:



“My Dear Brother:—

“By the last mail I received two newspapers from you directed to Belleville, by which it would seem you did not get any of the letters or newspapers I sent you. The last letter I sent through my Aunt Kitty. It is a great wonder that you have not received any of them, and that since my brother John died that you could not find time to write a few lines to my mother. In my last letter to you I informed you of my circumstances and prospects, and every day seems to bring with it fresh confidence. I have not the slightest doubt but that in a few years we will be independent and have sufficient bona fide property to keep us the rest of our lives. Now that the railway mania is about on its last legs I think there is not much hopes of you doing half as well in that country as you would in this. But the season is now too far advanced for you to think of coming this season. It is so sickly on board at sea, and the equinoctial storm would be on, and the navigation of the river and gulf of St. Lawrence is dangerous. My instrument is, as I informed you in my last letter, to cost me thirty-two pounds and ten shillings, which I am to pay within two months, and all I can make this dull time will barely support me until the harvest will be over. Then I will get more work than I can do until May. Yes, more than would keep us continually employed. The pay will be more secure in this country than I anticipated. I think you had not better think of coming out this autumn. When I was in Montreal for my license last May I visited the only optician's shop in that city and found that very good five inch instrument would cost 33 pounds, and a six inch, such as I have, would cost 45 pounds. That is Halifax currency. Now taking these things into consideration, it would not be prudent to come without one. Any kind of a thing would do here. Because all you have to do is to measure one horizontal angle at a time. But when a man goes to buy, a bad one will nearly cost as much as a good one. A common circumferenter is very useful in this country, as it very often happens that you will be called to survey an irregular piece of ground, and triangulation in this country is out of the question, there being so much wood land. I will be able to pay you back by the time you are coming out, as I will have all my winter's earnings clear profit. I am three weeks now in this place, and worked about two days in a week, and I have earned sixteen dollars, and two of these days I earned five dollars a day, for which time I would toil on the O'survey the very long time of a fortnight, and run the risk of being chisled

the half of it for some unknown fault, or for not obeying some orders, which I never saw, "Vide Girbum." Before you leave spend your whole time studying civil engineering, because railways in this country will take a lead, and the lines will be of such enormous length, that they will require many surveyors. Let you get Galbraiths engineering that will give a man of little practice, some idea of the business. Mr. Russell said after a very minute examination of my instruments that it is as good as he ever saw. The surveyors in this country have all very poor instruments. If you are in any way down in the mouth, cheer up. Make up your mind to come, and also to make a living. The long time it took me to get on my legs need not daunt you. In six months after you arrive in this place, you will be acknowledged a professional man, and then you can look back with pleasure at the toils and troubles you had to attain it. The climate here is agreeable enough. Summer very warm. Winter most incessantly cold. Nearly in the extremes of both. Now my sheet is nearly exhausted. If any of my old friends think of crossing the water, they can find me. I think Shanley and Thompson ought to come out to this country. The tide of immigration is so great that surveyors must be in great demand.

"Sincerely yours,

"Sgd. Wm. H. Deane."

"P.S.: The fact of the matter is now simply this, that if you do not write to me immediately, and that on a sheet as large as this, I will not write again to you for the term of three calendar days. Wm. H. D."

At Montreal, on the 26th day of May, 1848, Michael Deane of Gananoque was appointed a Land Surveyor for Upper Canada by James Earl of Elgin and Kincardine. Michael Deane was born on the 25th April, 1819.

The brothers and sisters of Michael were: Thomas, born 28th Nov., 1815; John, born 23rd June, 1817; Wm. H., born 22nd Oct., 1822, died Oct. 11th, 1867, after a lingering illness; Catharine Francis, born 1824; Franse Jane, born 1826, died in Notre Dame Convent, Kingston, March 14th, 1919, aged 93, buried at Barrie, Ont.; Francis Hunt Deane, born 3rd Jan., 1829, in New York State, and on the 4th May, 1864, was drowned trying to save two men. He married Ellen Leonard, the issue being Jennie Deane, who married Michael Shaughnessy, who was Deputy Collector of Inland Revenue at Barrie.

Mrs. Shaughnessy rendered valuable assistance towards this biography.

On Sept. 6th, 1859, the subject of this sketch married Eliza Anne Northgraves at Belleville, her brother, the Rev. George R. Northgraves, performing the ceremony. To this union seven children were born, viz.:

1.—George Northgraves Deane, born 2nd July, 1869. Drowned on the 3rd June, 1874, while learning to swim.

2.—Catharine Deane, born 9th June, 1862; died 24th Oct., 1907. She was very musical, taught music in Detroit, sang at local operas, and for some years before her death was engaged in the Parliamentary Library at Ottawa.

3.—Thomas Hunt, born Aug. 5th, 1863; died 19th Jan., 1928.

4.—William Mark, born 25th April, 1865. Yet living in Illinois hospital and in very poor health. Had studied surveying and assisted his father on surveys.

5.—Matilda, born 4th March, 1868, now residing at 1784 Seybury Ave., Detroit, U.S.A., from whom most of this data and photo was obtained. She is an accountant and for many years was employed in the office of the Engineering Dept. of the Michigan Central Ry. in Detroit. She is now retired and in social and welfare work in Detroit.

6.—Mary, born 1st Aug., 1869, died 3rd Jan., 1895. She was a school teacher and taught in the Windsor Separate School.

7.—Doctor Alice Maud, born March 5th, 1872, died April 6th, 1928. She was an osteopath, and had a large practice among the wealthy people of Detroit. She died suddenly after giving treatment to a patient.

None of the children of Michael ever married.

Michael Deane was county surveyor for Victoria Co. He carried out many surveys for the Dominion Government from Winnipeg to Edmonton, and on one occasion he entertained an unknown guest over night, who he afterwards learned was none other than "Louis Riel." This he never forgot, and after Riel was sentenced, he joined with many others in a petition for clemency for Riel. After moving from Lindsay to Windsor in 1893, Mr. Deane and his wife lived at 21 Goyeau St., where he died on the 3rd April, 1897, aged 77 years. His wife was born in Montreal, of English ancestry, on 25th March, 1827, and died in Windsor on 29th Dec., 1897, where they were both buried, as were some of their children.

We have a copy of his professional card in Lindsay on April 25th, 1850. On the 27th Aug., 1858, he was appointed to take affidavits for Peterboro and Victoria Counties. He was a Roman Catholic in Religion. He made surveys on the Trent Canal and on the Toronto and Nipissing Railway.

He made the following surveys for the Ontario Government:—

Survey exploration line from Burleigh Falls to Elmore on Oct. 23, 1854.

Assist in survey township Somerville, Nov. 14th, 1854.

Survey line between Somerville and Verlum, Oct. 2nd, 1856.

Survey township of Galway, April 20th, 1857.

Survey part Bobcaygeon Road, March 22nd, 1858.

Survey township of Snowdon, August 23rd, 1858.

Survey township of Digby, October 31st, 1859.

Survey township of Dalton, October 22nd, 1860.

Survey township outlines Blair, etc., August 24th, 1866.

Survey lots 1 to 5 on line between concessions 6 and 7 in the township of Berulem, April 16th, 1881.

He made the following Dominion Land Surveys:—

1879—Subdv. Tps. 1 and 2, R. 15 and 16, W.P.M.

1881—Subdv. Tp. 25, R. 29 and 30, W.P.M.

1882—Survey of Settlement at Edmonton on River Saskatchewan.

1883—Survey of Settlement at St. Albert near Big Lake on Sturgeon River; and of Fort Saskatchewan Settlement on N. Saskatchewan River; and tp. outlines between 13 and 14th, bases W. 4th, M.

1884—Subdv. Tps. 27 and 28, R. 9, W. 3rd M.; and of Tps. 29 and 30, R. 8 and 9 W. 3rd M.

1888—Subdv. Tp. 22, R. 4 and 5 W.P.M.; and of Tp. 23-5-W.P.M.

1892—Subdv. Tps. 35 and 36, R. 24 W. 4th, P.M.; of Tps. 32, 35 and 36, R. 25 W. 4th P.M.; of Tp. 32, R. 26, W. 4th, M.; and Tps. 31 and 32, R. 27, W. 4th, M.