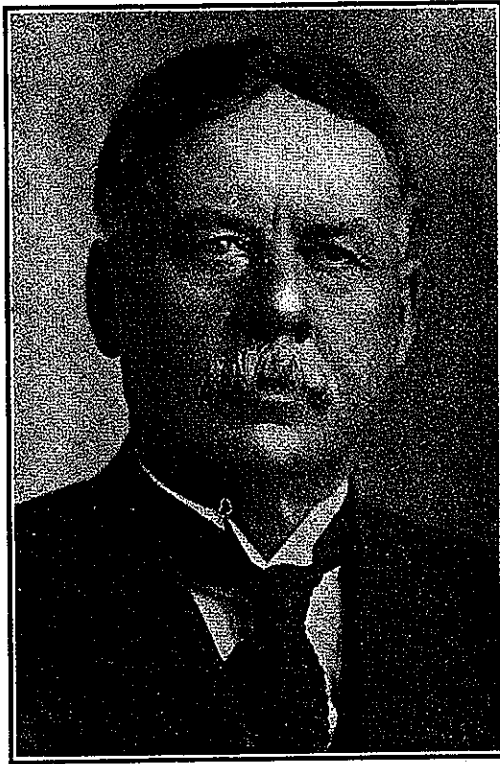


W. A. DUCKER

During the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway from Winnipeg westward to the Rocky Mountains, many engineers and Surveyors from the eastern provinces found employment on the railway and a number of Land Surveyors from Ontario decided to follow their chosen profession in the west, among them being the subject of this sketch.



William A. Ducker was born near Port Elgin, in the County of Bruce, Province of Ontario, on April 4th, 1852—where his parents were pioneers.

He obtained his primary education at the Kincardine and Sydenham High Schools, after which he attended the S.P.S., Toronto, and graduated in 1882.

On April 6th, 1882, he qualified as a Provincial Land Surveyor in Ontario, and in the following year went to Winnipeg, where he qualified as a Manitoba Surveyor and was employed by C.P.R. Co. in laying out townsites and in inspecting lands. He was engaged in this work until his appointment as Surveyor for the Manitoba Department of Public Works in 1891, a position he held until 1896.

From 1898 until 1911 he was Swamp Land Commissioner for the Dominion Government with head office at Winnipeg. From 1912 to 1915 he was managing director of the Winnipeg Banana Plantation near Bluefields, Nicaragua. From 1915 until his death, on June 2nd, 1923, he was Surveyor for the Manitoba Department of Public Works.

He took an active interest in the Association of Manitoba Land Surveyors, and was President of the Association in 1898-99. He was also a member of the Association of Professional Engineers of Manitoba.

He was prominent in Masonic Craft activities, being a Past Master and Past District Deputy of Ionic Lodge, No. 25, A. F. and A. M. He prepared the plans for, and was instrumental largely in the erecting of the Masonic Temple, Winnipeg. His funeral was held at the Temple, and burial in St. John's Cemetery.

Mr. Ducker is survived by two sisters: Mrs. E. Lefress, Tacoma, Wash., and Mrs. R. Atkinson, Winnipeg; by three daughters: Mrs. Charles Milburn, Beverley, Alberta; Mrs. Kenneth Burns and Miss Stella Ducker, of Winnipeg.

Mr. Ducker joined our Association in 1893, his address then being Winnipeg. He was placed in the withdrawn list in 1894, but was again on the active list in 1897, his address being Rat Portage. In 1898 his address was Winnipeg, but his name was not on the active list again until 1904.
