

THOMAS W. DYAS.

The Dyas family of this Province trace their lineage through Col. Edward Dyas, of Clonturken Place, County Caven, Ireland, who went over to Ireland from England with William of Orange, during the campaign against James II. There is a tradition in the family that the name is Spanish, and that it was originally spelled Dyaz.

The direct descent from Colonel Edward to the subject of this sketch was as follows:—Colonel Edward; John I.; Joseph; John II.; John III.; John IV., and Thomas W.

John IV. was born at Clonturken Place, but about 1850 he went to New Orleans, where he and his family lived until 1858, when they came to London, Canada West. He had the following children:—Ettie Matilda, married Church; Eleanor, married Halpin, John Joseph; Rosetta (unmarried); Thomas Winning; Robert Henry, and William Jacob. The last named is now the only survivor of this family, and from him the family history has been obtained. He is in the publishing business at 33 Richmond Street West, Toronto.

Thomas W. Dyas was born in Ireland on September 2, 1845, and was therefore thirteen years of age when he came to Canada. He decided to take up the profession of Land Surveying, and served under articles with Charles Lennox Davies, who was then practising in London. On January 7, 1865, he qualified as a Provincial Land Surveyor, and probably worked with Mr. Davies that year.



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In 1866 he came to Toronto and entered into partnership with Charles Unwin and C. C. Forneri, the firm name being Unwin, Dyas and Forneri. This was the period of the oil boom at Oil Springs and Bothwell, and of the mining boom at Madoc. This partnership continued until 1868, when Mr. Dyas returned to London and opened an office. His practice was similar to that of all surveyors of the time. He was on surveys in the Lake Superior district, probably with Mr. Davies on mining claims.

In 1870 and 1871 he was employed as inspector of drainage work west of London.

He was an able writer, and from 1872 to 1874 contributed to the "Farmers' Advocate," of London. His articles attracted the attention of the Hon. George Brown, of Toronto, and, as a result Mr. Dyas accepted a position on the Toronto "Globe" in December, 1874, which he held until he went to the "Mail," in December, 1877. He remained on the "Mail" as manager of the advertising and circulation department until his death at his summer home on Toronto Island, on June 22, 1899.

In June, 1871, he married Emma W. Ball, daughter of Ezra Ball, and step-daughter of Ezra Augustus Taylor, of London. Mr. Taylor and Mr. Dyas were intimate friends.

Mr. Dyas had the following children:—Bessie Emma Matilda, married Hugh C. McLean, publisher of Contract Record, etc., one son living. She died May 29, 1897. John Homer, born 1873 in London, in business in Toronto. Annie Ellen, unmarried. Thomas Augustus, married Alice Rust, daughter of C. H. Rust; they live in Boston. Arthur Warren, in business in Toronto. Marjorie, unmarried, in Toronto. Mrs. Thomas W. Dyas is living in Toronto.