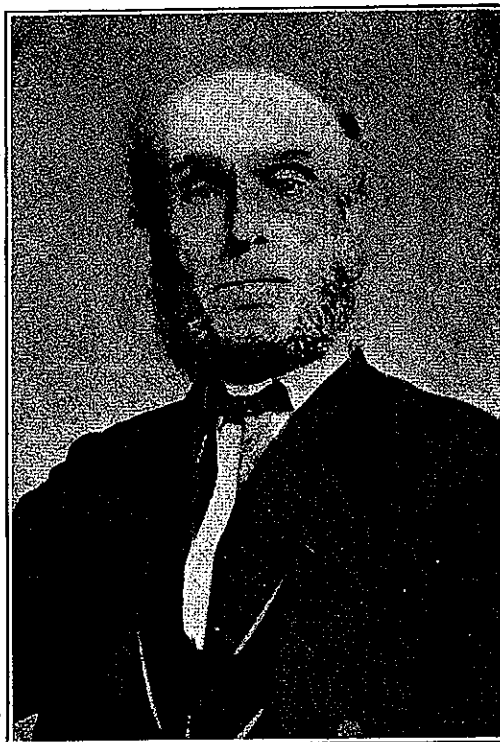


JOHN EMERSON, P.L.S.

By C. Fraser Aylsworth, O.L.S.

John Emerson, the father of the subject of this sketch, was born in August, 1772, and lived near Clones, in the County of Fermanagh, about forty miles from Dublin, in Ireland. He was an officer in the English militia in Ireland, and had a large landed estate, which he sub-rented. He was twice married, and by his first wife the following children were born near Clones: William, born 16th Dec., 1796; John, the subject of this sketch, born 16th Jan., 1799; Thomas, born 10th Feb., 1801; James, born 16th Oct., 1803; Anne (with whom the subject of this sketch always lived, and who married Robert Gillespie), born 17th March, 1806; George, born 2nd April, 1808; Baptis, born 30th August, 1810, died 23rd August, 1813; Mary, born Oct. 20th, 1812, died January 28th, 1813. All those children living came to Canada, on different dates, about the year 1833. They settled on farms in the townships of Tyendinega and Thurlow, on the fine farming lands along the main travelled road leading from Roslin to Belleville. They were all fairly well educated, and William taught school sometimes. Thomas subsequently moved to Goderich, but all were buried in the Church of England cemetery at Roslin. The family were very religious, and strict Anglicans, although a memo., signed by their father in Ireland, reads: "Began my Christian course in December, 1798, and some time after joined the Methodist Society."



John Emerson, the subject of this sketch, received his early education near Clones, and at an early age learned surveying there, for which he had a natural talent. He came to Canada in the year 1832, and at first taught school. Then he articulated himself to Publius V. Elmore, a Deputy Surveyor, and was appointed a D.P.S. on October 31st, 1833. He never married, and always resided on a farm in the north end of the township of Tyendinega, near the village of Roslin, with his sister Anne, Mrs. Robert Gillespie. Mrs. Gillespie had a large family of boys, and one daughter, who became the wife (still living) of the late Charles Fraser Aylsworth, O.L.S., of whom Fraser Aylsworth, O.L.S., is a son. The days of the late John Emerson were the harvesting time of abundance for Surveyors, but through improvident ventures, involving him in protracted litigation, he lost what money he had accumulated by virtue of his extensive and varied practice of surveying. His surveying territory extended throughout the County of Hastings and the adjoining counties of Prince Edward, Lennox and Addington, and Northumberland. Those were the days of genuine side-line disputes and consequent litigation. His extensive experience on such judicial surveys gained him a very prominent position in his survey territory, where his surveys, judgment, and decisions were seldom disputed because of his skill and faultless integrity.

In the words of Tennyson: "And he said fight on," he continued surveying until old age incapacitated him, and even then, although in comfortable circumstances, he persisted in going, going, with the insistent protests of his relatives and friends ringing in his ears, although

"Time and its ally, Dark Disarmament
Have compassed me about,
I fling defiance at them as I cry,
Capitulate? Not I."

But John Emerson, P.L.S., did capitulate, and die, on the 24th of February, 1884, at the age of eighty-six, as is inscribed on the tall tombstone, marking his last resting place, in the little cemetery of the Church of England at Roslin.

Many candidates for the Surveying profession selected him to become articulated to. Many of those successful candidates subsequently became distinguished citizens in various walks of life. The candidates who became articulated to him were:

J. J. Haslett, who was appointed surveyor in 1843.

William Dean, who was appointed surveyor in 1847.

Thomas Webb Nash, who was appointed surveyor in 1854.

David Williams, who was appointed surveyor in 1864.

Charles Fraser Aylsworth, Sen., who was appointed surveyor in 1861.

He was a man of very decided opinions on most topics, and was contemptuous of opinions that differed.

One of his hobbies was the practice of the thrilling branch of dentistry, the extraction of troublesome teeth with the old-fashioned turnkeys. No doubt his happy patients would sing "Stop your tickling, Jock." Then the modern forceps superseded the turnkeys, and whither he went they went also. His only charge or compensation for this service being the satisfaction of pulling the teeth.

Mr. Emerson made surveys for the Government as follows:

1835—Lands in 1st and 2nd concessions of Sophiasburg.

1837—Lands north of Black River, Marysburgh.

1857—13th concession of Rawdon.

1859—Part of boundary, Sophiasburg and Hallowell.

1861—Gore lot in Belleville.

1871—Gore "G" and 3rd concession, Sophiasburg.

He also made survey of an Indian Reserve near Penetanguishene.