

WILLIAM HOWARD FAIRCHILD, P. Eng., O.L.S.

by his nephew, A. T. McLaren, O.L.S.

Mr Fairchild was born 22nd May, 1872, at Mount Pleasant, near Brantford, Ontario, son of William F. and Caroline Secord Fairchild; he had two brothers and two sisters. The Fairchild family first came to what became



Brant County in 1780. One of the first members of the family to settle in that district was an interpreter for Captain Joseph Brant. Howard Fairchild's mother, Caroline, was a member of the same family as Laura Secord.

Mr. Fairchild was educated in Brant County Public Schools and at the Brantford Collegiate Institute. He received his engineering degree from the School of Practical Science, Toronto, and his Land Surveyors Certificate while apprenticed to Roger Lee, O.L.S. of Brantford, on February 17th, 1900.

After graduating as an engineer he moved to Simcoe, later returning to Brantford where he was City Engineer from 1908 to 1912, and in 1913 went to British Columbia where he worked for MacKenzie and Mann, railroad builders for the C. N. Railways out of Port Mann. In 1916 he took up residence in Galt and accepted the position of City Engineer. Mr. Fairchild held that position until 1921 when he resigned to become manager of the Public Utilities Commission; he served in that capacity until 1924.

In succeeding years Mr. Fairchild, while not a permanent official, was regarded as consulting engineer for the City of Galt. He was always called in for the laying out of curbs and gutters, sewers and other city work. He compiled the last edition of the Galt City Map prior to 1943.

As the only Ontario Land Surveyor in the Galt district, he was in frequent demand for survey work in connection with property sales and laying out new subdivisions. He was also a member of the Galt Suburban Commission for some years. As an Ontario Land Surveyor and Drainage Engineer, the bulk of his work has been in the Norfolk County tobacco district, and for that reason Mr. and Mrs. Fairchild and their daughter Frances moved to Simcoe in 1940 where he opened up an office carrying on his private practice until the time of his death.

It is interesting to note that a brother, Charles Courtland Fairchild, C.E., D.L.S., O.L.S., A.L.S., figured largely in the development of the Canadian West, and also that Mr. John E. Jackson, D.L.S., Grad. S.P.S., P.Eng., served his Land Surveyor's apprenticeship under Mr. Fairchild, graduating in 1911. Mr. R. Blake Erwin, B.A.Sc., C.L.S., P.Eng., also advised me that as a youngster he had become acquainted with Mr. W. H. Fairchild while the latter was surveying his father's farm just out of Waterford, Ontario, in order to settle some litigation involving the title.