

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON BIOGRAPHY

WILLIAM BUTTERTON FORD, O.L.S., M.E.I.C.

1870 - 1964

William Butterton Ford, who received his commission to practice as an Ontario Land Surveyor on February 21, 1898 and the oldest member of the Association, died in Guelph, Ontario, on November 2, 1964, in his 94th year.

Mr. Ford was born in Staffordshire, England, on October 25, 1870, to Mary Wright and William Ford. He was educated at Dollar Academy near Stirling, Scotland, where he graduated in 1887. Mr. Ford then became articled to an English firm of architects, surveyors and engineers and upon the expiration of the six year term of articles, came to Canada in 1893.

Upon his arrival in Canada Mr. Ford first worked with the surveying firm of McBride and Farncomb of London, and on April 4, 1894, he articled to William Mahlon Davis, O.L.S. of Woodstock.

In 1898, Mr. Ford joined the surveying firm of Tyrrell and Hewson of Hamilton, and in that year he became a partner in the firm, upon the death of Mr. Hewson. During the period of 1898-1902 when Mr. Ford was associated with Mr. Tyrrell, he conducted many surveys in the Burlington-Hamilton area. Mr. Ford had the privilege of plotting the field notes taken by Mr. Tyrrell in his famous expedition to Great Slave Lake and Chesterfield Inlet. In 1899 he became an associate member of the Canadian Society of Civil Engineers and in that year he surveyed the Township of Delamere. Following the completion of the surveys of township outlines, in the District of Algoma, for the Ontario government, he relinquished his surveying practice in 1902 and left Ontario for Newfoundland where he joined the engineering staff of Dominion Iron and Steel Company at Wabana, Newfoundland.

In 1903, Mr. Ford married Matilda Louise Rees of Lance Cove, Newfoundland, who predeceased him in the year 1928.

From 1903 to 1913 Mr. Ford had a rather adventurous life in prospecting for iron ore properties in Cuba and Venezuela for the Nova Scotia Steel and Coal Company and the Dominion Iron and Steel Company.

Upon his return to Burlington, Ontario, from South America, Mr. Ford joined the Canadian Engineering and Contracting Company in the year 1914, which was the year the company commenced business in Hamilton. He became a director of the company in 1937, vice-president in 1944 and upon the death of Mr. Fred W. Paulin C.E., O.L.S., in 1957, Mr. Ford became Chairman of the Board of Directors. He held this position until his retirement in the year 1959, at the ripe old age of 89 years.

ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO LAND SURVEYORS

During the 45 years spent with this engineering firm, Mr. Ford contributed a very great deal to the success of the company and he was a highly respected member of the construction industry in the south-western part of the Province of Ontario. Notwithstanding that Mr. Ford had relinquished his land surveying practice in 1902, he retained an interest in the surveying profession and it was not until 1933 that he finally ceased to be an active member of the Association.

For many years, Mr. Ford was a faithful member of St. Luke's Anglican Church in Burlington, as a Warden and Sunday-School Treasurer. He was also a member of the Court Orient No. 416, I.O.O.F. and of Harbor Grace Masonic Lodge No. 476, Newfoundland.

Mr. Ford was interred in Hamilton Cemetery. He is survived by one grand-daughter Mrs. Howard (Molly) Mitchell and six great grandchildren, all of Guelph.

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