

WILLIAM GIBBARD.

William Gibbard was educated at Harrow, Cambridge and London, England, and was in the Royal Engineers in India before coming to Canada in 1841.

He qualified as a Land Surveyor on May 29th, 1844. There is a tradition that between 1844 and 1851 he made a trip to Fort Garry and to Hudson's Bay.

In 1854 he moved to Collingwood before the Northern Railway was completed to that point. He made surveys in the vicinity, including Town Plot of Collingwood, Town Plot of Meaford and subdivisions at various towns and villages between Toronto and Owen Sound.

He was associated with Mr. Casimer Gzowski on the construction of the Northern Railway, the first railway in Ontario. Mr. Gibbard owned a saw mill on the Batteaux River near Collingwood, where he resided for some time. From 1851 to 1853 he was employed on surveys for the Provincial Government, also from 1859 to 1862.

He was appointed Government Superintendent of Fisheries in Lake Huron and Lake Superior about 1862, and was also Justice of the Peace.

The great Manitoulin Island was not ceded by the Indians until October, 1862, and it would appear that some of the Indians who claimed they had not been consulted in the negotiations afterwards caused trouble to the officials. Mr. Gibbard granted a license to a man named "Proulx" to fish off Lonely Island. Proulx was forcibly ejected by the Indians from the Wequimaking district, and took refuge at Little Current. The Government decided to arrest the ringleaders of the revolt, and, on Thursday, July 23rd, despatched from Toronto constables under a sergeant of the Toronto Police Force, and a detective of the County Police for the Manitoulin. At Barrie six constables joined the party and at Collingwood six additional constables, a high constable

and Mr. Gibbard, who assumed command. They embarked the next day on the steamer "Ploughboy," and early the following morning arrived on Lonely Island, when a short stop was made, then proceeded to Wequimakong on Manitoulin, which place they reached on Friday noon. The constables landed, and, upon making one or more arrests, they were surrounded by about three hundred Indians and forced to release their prisoners and retreat to the steamer, which then proceeded to Bruce Mines, where they arrested an Indian, who was taken to the Sault and committed for trial at the Assizes by Judge Prince. The "Ploughboy" left on the return trip on Monday, July 27th, having on board Mr. Gibbard and party of constables, Father Kohler, the Bruce Mines Indian, and many others. A stop was made at Little Current after midnight. Mr. Gibbard was seen on the promenade deck after leaving Little Current, but on arrival at Shebawanawaning at 4 a.m., he was missed. His cap was found on the lower deck, where the Indian was also seen. Foul play was suspected at the time. A search party went up the following week, and found Mr. Gibbard's body floating a mile from land between Clock Island and Haywood Island, and about nine miles east of Little Current.

At the inquest at Collingwood a verdict of wilful murder by parties unknown was rendered.

The "Ploughboy" was built in 1857-58. On July 1st, 1859, when opposite Lonely Island, with Sir John A. Macdonald and party aboard, the vessel was disabled, but repairs were made in time to prevent the vessel from drifting ashore, and she proceeded on her voyage without injury. On August 10th, 1863, owing to a cracked cylinder head, she became immanageable and was beached west of Little Current, where she remained for some time.

The following inscription appears on a tablet in All Saints' Church, Collingwood:—

William Gibbard, second son of John Gibbard, Esq., and Mary, his wife, of Charnbrook House, in the County of Bedford, England. He fell by the hands of an assassin on the 28th of July, 1863, while in the execution of his duties to the Canadian Government, aged 45 years and six months. He was for twenty years actively engaged on many Public Works in Canada as an Engineer and Surveyor; and was for sixteen years a Justice of the Peace for the County of Simcoe. He was universally respected by all classes. He was an upright, honorable and conscientious man, a good son and affectionate brother, a devoted husband and faithful friend. This tablet is erected by his wife, whom he tenderly loved

during their union of sixteen and one-half years, and by his sister, Mary Gibbard. His remains are deposited in All Saints' Church burial ground.

"Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord. Yea, saith the Spirit, for they rest from their labors."

On the tombstone in the adjoining cemetery his age is given as 44 years.

William Gibbard made the following surveys for the Provincial Government:—

Town Plot of Meaford, 1845.

Municipal Surveys in Vespra and Flos, 1851.

Town Plot of Collingwood, 1851.

Town Plot of Thornbury, 1852.

Line between Medonte and Tay, 1852.

Mining locations North Shore Lake Huron and Lake Superior, 1859.

Lots in Nottawasaga, 1860.

Town Plot of Vailspoint, 1863.

Mining location at Current River, 1862.

He married Miss Louisa Hall, who was born at Hampton Hall, Shropshire, England. There were no children. Eliza Hall, sister of Louisa Hall, married Mr. John McWatt as his second wife.

Mr. Gibbard's widow married George Cooke, who resided in the large brick building which stood on the west side of Spadina Avenue, a short distance above Queen Street, and was demolished in 1920.

The Committee is indebted to Mrs. John Laing of Toronto, granddaughter of John McWatt mentioned, for the portrait and the newspapers containing the account of Mr. Gibbard's tragic death.