

## ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO LAND SURVEYORS

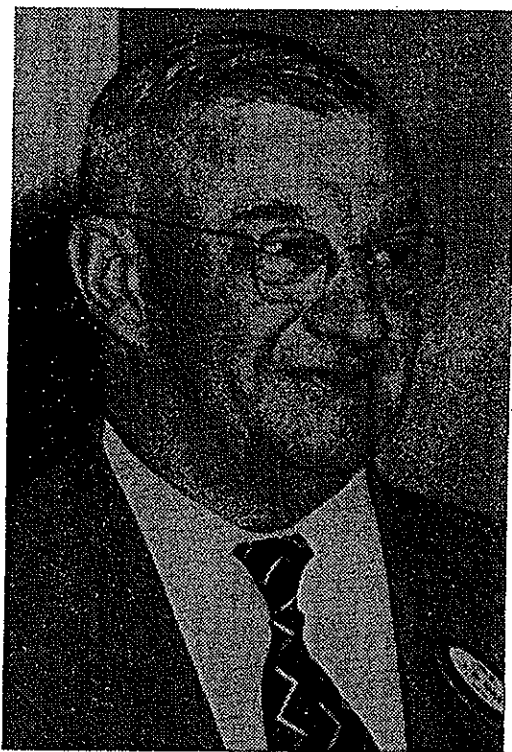
ment, as for instance township outlines in Algoma District — the outlines of Hayward, Hook, Legge, Minnipuka, Paskata and Roche, to name a few. Our subject was for many years the surveyor for the town of Orillia, which was his home from youthful days to the day of his death, September 17th, 1955, at the ripe age of 85.

In religion Mr. Watson was a Protestant and an active member of Orillia Masonic Lodge, No. 192, which Lodge performed the graveside memorial burial rites.

Genial, quiet, and a lover of outdoor life, he had many friends who revere his memory, and his passing is mourned by his widow, Eva Danae (nee Peard), daughter Edna, and brother Robert — all of Orillia.

### **JAMES RICHARD GILL** **O.L.S., B.A.Sc., (Toronto)**

Familiarly known to his friends as "Dick," and widely known to the residents of the Sudbury area as "Mr. Falconbridge," the death occurred, at the comparatively early age of 64, of our above member at Sudbury on May 28th, 1955. His death succeeded an air visit to his son in St. Louis (Dr. Burroughs Gill, Ph.D. of Missouri University); he was stricken and hospitalized while there but recovered; upon his return to Sudbury he suffered a relapse and died in St. Joseph's Hospital.



Dick was born in Orillia, Ontario, on October 21st, 1891 — his father, Joseph Sutherland Gill, and mother, Jessie (nee Jupp). In his early juvenile years the family moved to Sudbury, where Gill senior became that town's first retail jeweller. Our subject there received his public and high school education, and returned to Orillia for additional education at the Collegiate Institute that pioneering Sudbury could not then provide. Being then too young to enter University he articulated as an apprentice to R. W. DeMorest, O.L.S. (commissioned 1889, deceased 1951 — see 1954 report). Later he did enter Toronto University on an engineering course, and graduated in 1914 with the degree above noted but having in the meantime received his O.L.S. commission on Feb-

ruary 13th, 1913. He then chose Sudbury as the scene of his professional life.

From 1914 to 1917 and again from 1922 to 1929, he was engaged in private practice as an O.L.S. surveying mining claims, laying out subdivisions in and near Sudbury, and doing considerable work for the Ontario Government on township boundary re-surveys. To name a few, Bevin, Blezard, Bowell, Eden, Humboldt, Hunt and Kitchener townships were so retraced.

## COMMITTEE ON BIOGRAPHY

The period between 1917 and 1922 was spent in the service of the British American Nickel Corporation—a then very active nickel prospect and potential mine that fell by the wayside succeeding World War I. Nickel was considered strictly a war-time munition, therefore held no place in the peace time picture, and consequently demand fell to zero. However, by continued intensive research by the International Nickel Corporation, the metal became proven to be of non-military prime importance, and so in 1929 “Dick” associated himself with the young—and struggling—Falconbridge Nickel Company. In the service of that company he served until his death, with promotion after promotion till he became chief engineer several years before his death.

Mr. Gill was deeply interested in his chosen Sudbury, and gave much of his time to its welfare; he was a member of the Rotary Club, a past District Grand Master of the Masonic Lodge, a member of Idylwylde Golf and Country Club, and also a member of the Sudbury Airport Commission. He was an active member of the Anglican Church.

The funeral, very widely attended by citizens from all walks of life, took place on May 31st, and the body laid to rest in the Anglican Cemetery with full Masonic graveside rites.

Left to mourn his passing were his wife, Marion Pearl (nee Burroughs), daughter Josephine at home, son Dr. Peter Gill of Buffalo, and son Dr. Burroughs Gill above referred to.

*Note:* “Dick’s” aunt, Miss Clare Elizabeth Gill, also a resident of Sudbury, and for many years his housekeeper, died the same day as Dick.

### LEIGHTON ADELBERT VAN SKIVER O.L.S., D.L.S.

See “*Lost Trails*” 1954, Annual Report.

The following by Robert B. McKay,  
O.L.S.:

Herewith is a photograph of Leighton A. Van Skiver, O.L.S., D.L.S., who was one of my assistants on O.L.S. surveys in the railway belt for part season August to December 13th, 1913, as described in 1913-14 Annual Report of Topog. Surveys Branch Department of Interior.

