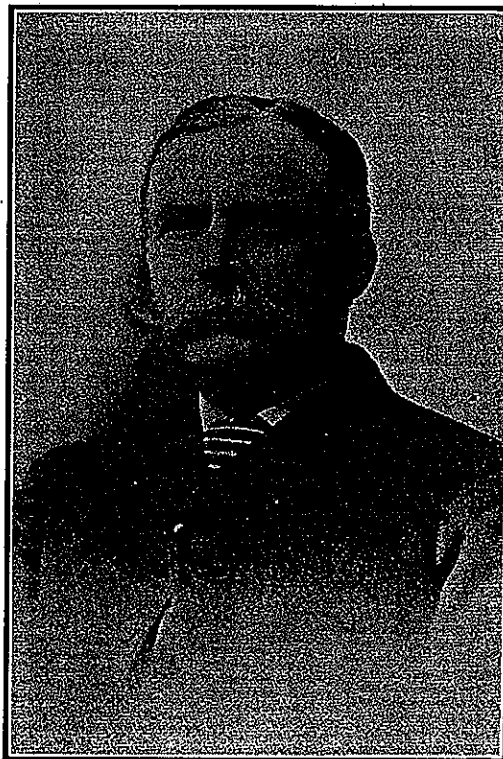


James Warren (1864), Edgar Bray (1866), W. C. Eaton (1868), Willis Chipman (1881), and T. J. Patten (1883), served under articles with Mr. Abrey.

MILNER HART.

By his Son, M. D. C. Hart.

Philip Dacres Hart, of London, England, and his wife, Elizabeth Ann Chace, daughter of Richard Chace, came to Canada in 1835. His father had retired after thirty years' service with the Hon. East India Company. For a year or two they resided in Lower Canada, then moved to Brantford, where Milner Hart was born, on December 12th, 1837. The remaining seven children were born in England. One son went to India; two remained in England, and four daughters came to Canada. One of the daughters married Capt. Brown, of His Majesty's Service. One of Milner Hart's sisters now survives — Mrs. Henry Stokes, of San Francisco, Cal.



Milner Hart was educated at the Grammar School, London, Ont., and served his apprenticeship with Colonel Dennis. He qualified as a Provincial Land Surveyor on July 11th, 1863, and appears to have taken up his residence at St. Marys, where he lived for many years.

A few months before his death he dictated to the Chairman of the Committee an account of his experiences during the first Red River Rebellion, but unfortunately he did not revise it after it had been typed. The following is a summary:

"In 1869 Colonel J. Stoughton Dennis was instructed by the Dominion Government to make certain surveys in the Red River settlements, and two surveyors were appointed to perform surveys under Colonel Dennis, these two being Adam C. Webb, of Brighton, and Milner Hart, of St. Marys. Mr. Hart accompanied Col. Dennis to St. Paul, thence to St. Cloud, arriving at the latter place in July. St. Cloud was then the terminus of railway travelling in the direction of the Red River settlements. They purchased two waggons and the necessary horses in St. Paul and started overland from St. Cloud for Fort Garry, a distance of about 300 miles. At this time Fort Abercrombie on the Red River was an important point.

Major Boulton was one of the party having been engaged as chainman, and later in the season was attached to Mr. Hart's survey party. There was also a man named Wallace, nephew of Col. Dennis, and two or three others.

They arrived at the 49th parallel in due course. At this point a building had been erected a short time before, which was used as a Customs House. It stood on the west side of the Red River on a high bank overlooking the stream. An oak post had been planted on the high west bank, about 200 feet from the river, by surveyors employed by the American Government, a few years previously, and had been accepted as the International boundary for some time.

Col. Dennis and Mr. Hart ran due west from this post about 10 miles, then commenced work on the first principal meridian.

At the point where this crossed the Assiniboine, Col. Dennis left Mr. Hart in charge, who continued the line to Grosse Isle, about 75 miles north of the boundary. This point is about 10 miles west of Stony Mountain and not far from Shoal Lake. It is not "a body of land surrounded by water," but a fertile plain surrounded by bush where Boyd and Colin Inkster had a cattle ranch.

While Mr. Hart was engaged in producing the principal meridian northward, Col. Dennis personally outlined two townships, each nine miles square, on the east side of the meridian and north of the Assiniboine. This survey was, however, afterwards abandoned.

Major Webb did not arrive at Red River settlement for some time after Dennis and Hart. He built a scow at Fort Abercrombie and floated down the stream to the Red River settlement. He was employed during the season in surveying lands and boundaries in the vicinity of Fort Garry, and con-

tinued his work until he was stopped by Louis Riel and his supporters.

A considerable quantity of supplies had been accumulating in Fort Garry during the latter part of the season for the survey parties that were to be sent to the settlement in 1870. By November, Dennis, Hart and Webb were at Fort Garry.

The Dominion Government had despatched Hon. Wm. McDougall as Lieut. Governor of the new Province late in the Autumn. The Governor and his party were stopped near the International boundary and were not allowed to enter the Province. Riel had convinced the half-breeds that the Federal Government intended to confiscate their lands or at least to subdivide them by lines running north and south and east and west, whereas their holdings were long and narrow with frontages on the Red and Assiniboine Rivers. The agitation led by Riel was first conducted in a constitutional way, but as his influence increased he usurped all authority and imprisoned many who remained loyal to the Dominion Government.

Mr. Hart was at Kildonan in February, when young Sutherland was shot, and remembered the incident clearly. A French half-breed named "Parisien" had been captured, and was under guard at Kildonan Church. Taking advantage of a favorable opportunity he seized a rifle from a sleigh and rushed down the bank of the river, his guards after him. He met Sutherland, who was riding on the ice down the river, and shot him. He then mounted his horse and fled southward. He was captured shortly afterwards and brought back to Kildonan. A loyal English half-breed was so enraged when he saw the prisoner that he struck him in the face with his hatchet, which inflicted an ugly wound. This act Mr. Hart witnessed. Parisien was then removed down to the stone fort. Col. Boulton states, in his history of the rebellion, that he again attempted to escape, and was shot by his guards, from the effects of which he died. Mr. Hart states that he was allowed to escape to his home south of Fort Garry, and that he lived for many years afterwards.

After Riel had captured Dr. Schultz's residence and warehouse, which stood at the northeast corner of Main Street and Water Street, the loyalists made the lower, or stone fort their headquarters, but after Riel had captured the Portage la Prairie volunteers, Mr. Hart and Major Webb went down the river and spent the remainder of the Winter in the parish of St. Peters, below Selkirk, where Joseph Monkman and his sons lived. The Monkmans were English-speaking half-breeds and

remained loyal. Riel did not dare meddle with the loyal half-breeds, as he hoped that they would eventually join his party. Among those who were at Kildonan at the time, Mr. Hart remembered ——— Newcombe, Alex. Muckle and Dr. Bedome, of St. Andrews.

When Spring opened Messrs. Hart and Webb decided to return to Eastern Canada, and through the influence of Archbishop of Ruperts Land (Macrae) they obtained passports from Riel, or his Secretary, O'Donohue. They secured horses and carts at Fort Garry to take them to Fort Abercrombie. Drury and two others were with them. The Red River had overflowed its banks and the country was flooded in some districts, obliging them to make some detours. From Fort Abercrombie to St. Paul they took stages.

In the latter part of February, Col. Dennis left the lower fort for Portage la Prairie, by a wide detour to the northward, and from the Portage went southward or southwestward across the International boundary.

The rebellion was at an end by midsummer of 1870.

Unsuccessful efforts had been made from time to time prior to 1920 to induce Mr. Hart to write a full history of the first rebellion from a surveyor's viewpoint for the O.L.S. Report, but he declined to write anything for publication.

Mr. Hart became a Dominion Land Surveyor by the operation of the Dominion Lands Act of 1872.

In 1871 and 1872 he was employed on the survey of the principal meridian and township outlines in Manitoba, and as an inspector of surveys. In 1875 and again from 1878 to 1884 inclusive, he was employed variously on township outlines, on trail surveys and as inspector of contract surveys.

In 1882 he removed to Toronto, and in 1890 was appointed to a position with the London and Canadian Loan and Agency Co., the manager being Mr. Vernon B. Wadsworth, his oldest and closest friend.

In 1877 he married Margaret E. Robertson, daughter of David Robertson, of St. Marys. She died in September, 1882. They had one child, Milner D. C. Hart, now manager of the Bank of Hamilton, Hamilton, Ont.

Milner Hart died at Hamilton on July 20th, 1920, after a short illness.