

ERNEST BOLTON HERMON

Was a son of Royal Wilkinson Hermon, O.L.S., who was born on the 4th March, 1830, in Rednersville, Prince Edward County, Ontario. He died at the same place on February 9th, 1907. And his biography appears at page 99 of the 1926 Annual Report, prepared by the chairman, who is preparing the following biography of his son.

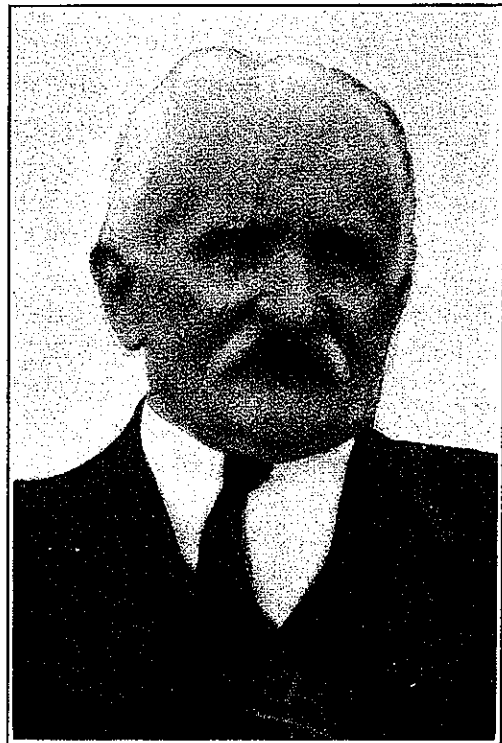
The father of Royal Wilkinson Hermon was William Hermon, who was born in 1802, and died on the 8th November, 1891. The maiden name of his mother was Sarah Roblin, born in 1812 and died on March 11th, 1888. She was born on the adjoining farm.

The grandparents of R. W. Hermon emigrated from Holland, and settled in Pennsylvania, and after the American Revolution, he with other "Pennsylvania Dutch" came to Canada in about 1776 and settled in the Bay of Quinte district. His grandfather on his mother's side was of Welsh extraction, and was one of the United Empire Loyalists settlers. The Roblins of Ontario and of Manitoba are of this family.

R. W. Hermon married Anne Louise Bolton, of Bolton village, in the County of York, in 1860. One son—the subject of this sketch—Ernest Bolton Hermon, was the only issue of this marriage; born April 2nd, 1863, at Listowel, Ont. His wife, Anne Louise, died in 1867.

A year later he married Olive Jeffs of Bondhead. The issue of this marriage was Edward William; Royal Ridley; and Roblin Compton.

E. B. Hermon, the subject of this sketch, graduated from the S.P.S., Toronto. He apprenticed himself to his father and



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was appointed a Land Surveyor for Ontario on the 7th October, 1885. He also became a British Columbia Land Surveyor, and a Dominion Land Surveyor. He assisted his father on D.L. Surveys on the prairies before going to British Columbia in 1886, where he began to practise Surveying and Engineering, and finally became rooted to the soil of that Province.

On the 4th November, 1889, he married Catharine Elizabeth Thomson, the daughter of a Presbyterian Minister, at Calgary, Alta. She survives him. Their issue was six children, namely:—

1. Olive Louise, born September 1st, 1891, at Vancouver, B.C., married Reginald Hody, January 2nd, 1920, died December 25th, 1926. Two children, Edmund Reginald, born January 3rd, 1921, at Penticton, B.C. Lyona Elizabeth Barbara, born August 5th, 1925, Vancouver, B.C.
2. James William, born October 7th, 1892, at Vancouver, B.C., married Constance Marjory MacPherson, July 1st, 1920. Issue five children; Richard Bolton, born October 16th, 1922, at Vancouver, B.C.; Edith Elizabeth, born July 19th, 1924, at Vancouver, B.C.; Constance, born February 3rd, 1926, at Vancouver, B.C.; John MacPherson, born December 3rd, 1928, at Vancouver, B.C., James Ernest, born December 3rd, 1928, at Vancouver, B.C., twins.
3. Florence Ruth, born October 2nd, 1894, at Vancouver, B.C., married James T. Underhill, June 19th, 1918. Issue 5 children; James Edward Lees, born April 18th, 1919, at Vancouver, B.C.; Joan Ruth, born January 24th, 1921, at Vancouver, B.C.; Dennis Walter, born January 28th, 1924, at Vancouver, B.C.; Shirley Patricia, born July 21st, 1928, Vancouver, B.C.; Mark Allen, born October 11th, 1934, at Vancouver, B.C.
4. Ernest Thomson, born September 17th, 1897, at Vancouver, B.C., married Vivienne Marie Nye, June 23rd, 1927. Issue 3 children; Charles Bolton, born May 18th, 1928, at Vancouver, B.C.; Valerie Louise, born February, 1930, at Vancouver, B.C.; Vivienne Anne, born February, 1931, at Vancouver, B.C.
5. Ethel Elizabeth Alexandria, born July 9th, 1902, at Vancouver, B.C., single, at home.
6. Katherine Helen, born April 22nd, 1906, at Vancouver, B.C., married Leonard Norman Stokes, March 23rd,

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1929. One child, Katherine Louise, born May 30th, 1930, at Vancouver, B.C.

James William, the second child of the subject of this sketch, obtained his schooling at the Public and High Schools in Vancouver, and attended the School of Practical Science, in Toronto, for one year, but did not graduate, going to the War instead, and served for five years in the 16th Battalion, the C.A.M.C. and the Air Force. And served his apprenticeship for a B.C.L. Surveyor with his father.

Shortly after the arrival of the subject of this sketch in Vancouver, he entered into partnership with James F. Garden, B.C.L.S. The firm being later known as Garden, Hermon and Burwell. The latter being of the historic United Empire Loyalist family of Port Burwell, Ont., from whence came Lewis Burwell (1819), and Mahlon Burwell (1809), whose biographies appear in our Annual Reports.

This firm of Land Surveyors made the original C.P.R. right-of-way surveys from Revelstoke West. Also laid out on the ground all the original subdivisions in Vancouver, B.C. Mr. Hermon spent two years in the Carriboo gold fields in the 90's, surveying and engineering. He made a great many of the early mineral claims and timber limit surveys in the early days. Mr. Garden left the firm about the turn of the century, and Hermon and Burwell carried on. They conceived and carried out the original Lake Buntzen power development, for the Vancouver Power Co. (British Columbia Electric Light and Power Co.). They also planned and carried out the original Seymour Creek and Water System, and improved and modernized the Capilano System, both of these form the Vancouver City Water Supply. He and his partners did considerable work for the British Columbia Government.

His son, J. W. Hermon says, I could go on for a week detailing specific works that he has done, suffice it to say here that he had a long and useful life in the practice of his profession, and leaves an unblemished professional record behind him.

His chief hobby was gardening, he was very fond of his garden. He was also keenly interested in photography (although he would never have his own picture taken) and cabinet making. He was a member at one time of the Congregational Church, although for the last forty years he stayed away from all Churches, as he did not like going to Church,

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rather preferring to be in his overalls, working in the garden. He carried on no other business than his profession.

He died at Vancouver, B.C., on the 6th February, 1937, leaving his wife. He was buried in Ocean View Burial Park, Vancouver. Thus ending the life of a conspicuous pioneer Western Builder, who was a son of an illustrious father.

One time while chatting with the father he told your chairman about a unique sermon he had recently listened to by a Presbyterian Preacher, whose Church was on an high hill. At the conclusion of his sermon, he warned the members of congregation in these words. You can climb this hill to this Church twice every Sunday. You may pray as much as you like. You can give to the Church until it hurts you, and you may read your bible until your eyes are sore, and with it all, I warn you that, if you should get into the Kingdom of Heaven, it will only be by the skin of your teeth.