

R. W. HERMON

By C. Fraser Aylsworth

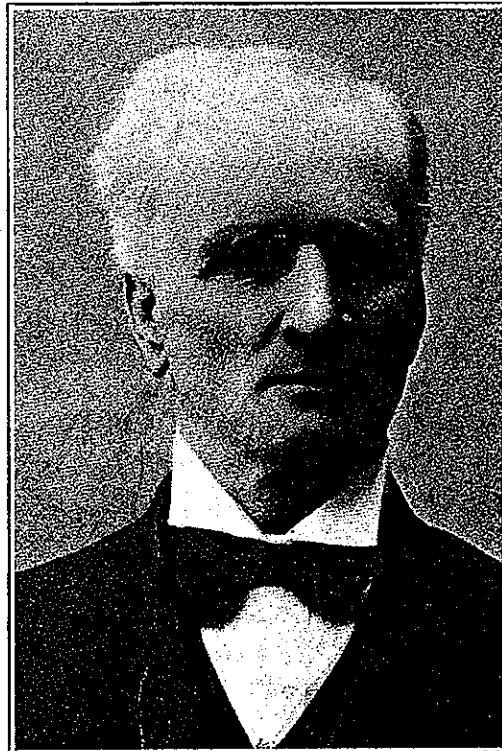
Royal Wilkinson Hermon was born on the fourth of March, 1830, in Rednersville, Prince Edward County, Ontario. He died at the same place on February 9th, 1907.

His father was William Hermon, who was born in 1802, and died 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 emmigrated from Holland, and settled in Pennsylvania, and at the time of 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 Loyalist settlers. The Roblins of Ontario and Manitoba are of this family.

R. W. Hermon was educated at Queen's University and Cobourg. He taught school for a couple of years, afterwards qualifying as a Land Surveyor with an uncle, the late Mr. Peterson at Mono Mills, and became a surveyor on the 13th, July, 1857.

He married Anne Louise Bolton, of Bolton village, in the County of York, in 1860. One son, Ernest Bolton Hermon, O.L.S., is the only survivor of this marriage, and has resided in Vancouver, B.C., since 1886. She died in 1867. A year later he married Olive Jeffs of Bondhead, County of Ontario. Three sons, Edward William, Royal Ridley, and Roblin Compton, survive him. The first is in business in Toronto. The



second near Cookstown, Ont., and the youngest in Vancouver. His second wife died at Listowel, in 1875. In 1877, he married the late Mrs. Mary Hawkins of Listowel, by whom he had one son, Freer B., now residing in Napanee, Ont., and one daughter Mary Gertrude, now Mrs. Dr. Caughy, of Detroit, U.S.A.

In 1876 he moved from Listowel to Rednersville, and took over the old homestead, where he resided until his death. At Rednerville he began a local survey practice, and had a considerable clientele in Prince Edward and Hastings Counties. As a draughtsman he was considered above the average, and his professional skill was frequently required in the courts.

In 1882-83-84 he was Inspector of Dominion Lands Survey contracts in Saskatchewan and Alberta, and in 1885 was Inspector of Surveys for the Ontario Government, in northern Ontario, and surveyed two or three townships in the Muskoka District for the Ontario Government.

His early practice was in the Counties of Perth, Huron, and Bruce, of which he published a detailed map in the 70's.

During this period the late Lewis Bolton, O.L.S., served his apprenticeship with him, and together they purchased and operated for a number of years, a large woollen mill at Listowel, disposing of the business about 1875.

From 1870 to 1879, he carried out various surveys for the Dominion Government, in Manitoba. For part of one season he was a member of Triangulation Survey party, fixing the 101st Meridian.

Much of the original surveys around Portage La Prairie were made by him, also those around Poplar Point and High Bluff. Many of the early settlers at Poplar Point were recruited by lectures delivered by him in Listowel and adjacent centres.

A detailed list of his Western Surveys is given below:—

	Township	Range	Meridian
1871	Subdivision 12 and 13	5 and 6	Pr.
	Subdivision 11 and 12	3	E.
	Outlines 11 and 12	1 and 2	E.
1872	Subdivision 13 and 14	3, 4, 5	Pr.
1873	Subdivision 13 and 14	20, 23, 24	Pr.
	Subdivision 11 and 12	12	Pr.
1875	Outlines 22	11, 12, 13, 14	Pr.
	Outlines 23, 24, 28	13, 14	Pr.
	Outlines 25 to 29	15	Pr.
1880	Subdivision 21, 22, 27, 28	29 and 30	Pr.

The above surveys, in 1872, 1873 and 1874, were made by Mr. Hermon in partnership with Mr. Louis Bolton, D.L.S.

In 1897, Mr. Hermon acted as Assistant to Mr. James Dickson on Subdivision surveys made in the Dauphin district.

During his survey operations, in the vicinity of Portage La Prairie, in 1871, Mr. Hermon suggested the possibility of a canal connection, between the Assiniboine River and Lake Manitoba, by way of Long Lake. In 1874, a party under the direction of Mr. Lindsay Russell, Assistant Surveyor General, made an investigation to determine the practicability of Mr. Hermon's suggestion, and reported favourably with reference to it, but apparently, no serious attempt was made to carry out the scheme.

He was Engineer for the Township of Ameliasburg, in Prince Edward County, for a number of years, during which time he rendered that Municipality valuable service.

He took a deep interest in Municipal affairs, at one time holding a seat in the council of that township. He was of a kindly disposition. He was a great reader, and always well informed on the current questions occupying the public mind. In his home his friends were always hospitably entertained, and his large conversational powers, coupled with his extensive travels, keen observation and fine descriptive talents, enabled him at all times, to interest his guests. On different occasions he gave public addresses of a high character which were always thoroughly educating.

Up until the Christmas preceding his death he always enjoyed the best of health, and scarcely knew what an ailment was, considering the exposures that surveyors are subjected to.

But at the age of 77, the old, old disease of Surveyors' "stomach trouble" overtook him, and proved fatal, in spite of all that loving hands could do to alleviate his distress. Thus the Great Reaper called to himself an exceptionally active, and outstanding citizen, who was always in the forefront of his chosen profession.

He was buried in plot number 26, in Albury Cemetery. This cemetery is most beautifully located, about six miles west of Rednersville, gently sloping towards the south shore of the Bay of Quinte amidst a prosperous rural setting.

A distinguishing feature of this cemetery that the writer noted was that the corner posts of the various plots in it were

of chizzled white marble, with bevelled tops, with the numbers of the plots engraved in them. "As enduring as the surveys he had executed."

R. W. Hermon made the following surveys for the Provincial Government:—

Township of Lount	1874
Township of Stisted	1875
Township of Hudson	1888
Inspection of Surveys	1881
Inspection of Surveys	1903

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