

JOHN ALBERT KIRK

By the death of John Albert Kirk the Alpine Club of Canada has lost one of its original members. He died at his home in Summerland, B.C., on September 3rd, 1930, in his seventy-sixth year, and was buried in Summerland Cemetery. He had been an Anglican.

Mr. Kirk was an enthusiastic lover of the great hills, and was one of the little company of adventurers who journeyed to Winnipeg in 1906 to bring into existence the Alpine Club of Canada, that has since become famous throughout the Alpine world.

Mr. Kirk was born in Stratford, Ont., on January 9th, 1854, and went to school there. He was a son of Joseph Kirk a Provincial Land Surveyor, at Stratford, Ont., whose biography was published in 1900. He spent some years subsequent to the completion of his schooling with his father. He was appointed a Land Surveyor for Ontario on July 6th, 1877, and later as a Dominion Land Surveyor. He was engaged upon Dominion Land Surveys, when that practically unknown country was opened up for settlement.



In 1889 he received his commission as British Columbia Land Surveyor, and was one of the earliest residents of Rossland, where he carried on his profession. Kirk's map of the Trail Creek mining camp of 1897 was well known and much used in those pioneering days.

He was an old friend of the Lieutenant-Governor of B.C., the Honourable Randolph Bruce, who writes as follows: "In 1898, a real estate company promoted at Rossland, purchased

the townsite of Wilmer, and Mr. Kirk was sent over, first as Surveyor, and then as manager of the venture. He laid out the townsite, established a saw mill, and took a very prominent part in the erection of a hospital, the creation of a board of trade, and in the many matters incident to the development of a new district. He was of a rather retiring disposition, and his friendships were very earnest and sincere, and appreciated by all who had the privilege of winning his confidence."

For twenty years Mr. Kirk conducted surveys in various parts of the Province, and in 1909, settled in Summerland, as Surveyor and fruit grower. He was well up in the service of his profession, and contributed papers on various subjects to the Reports of the Ontario Land Surveyors' Association.

He never married, and made the following D. L. surveys:

- 1882—Township subdivision and outlines west of 2nd Meridian.
 - 1883—Township subdivision west 4th and 5th Meridians.
 - 1884—Township subdivision west 4th Meridian.
 - 1887—Inspection and correction surveys and trail between
Medicine Hat and Dunmore.
 - 1889—Subdivision and traverses in British Columbia.
 - 1890—Mineral claims and timber limit, New Westminster, B.C.
 - 1902—Miscellaneous surveys in B.C.
 - 1903—Township subdivision west 6th Meridian.
 - 1904—Survey pt. Lot 7, Group 1, Kamloops District, B.C.
 - 1905—Miscellaneous surveys in B.C.
 - 1906—Miscellaneous surveys in B.C.
 - 1907—Subdivision of township 26-2-6.
 - 1908—Part subdivision and part outlines in township 23-2-6,
and township 23-5-6.
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