

FRANKLIN HUGO KITTO, F.R.G.S., D.L.S., O.L.S.,
M.E.I.C., P.Eng.
1880 - 1965

by A. Death, O.L.S.

Peel County, and particularly the Brampton district, lost an eminent citizen with the passing of Franklin H. Kitto on November 13, 1965. Frank was well known and highly respected during the years of his practice as an Ontario Land Surveyor in the County of Peel.

He was born in 1880 at the family homestead on the Fifth Line East near Brampton and he attended district public and high schools. He graduated from Teachers College and taught school at Huntsville and Kleinburg until 1904 when the call of the West took him to Edmonton, Alberta, where he worked on the Hon. Frank Oliver's "Edmonton Bulletin" and he became managing editor of that newspaper. His health failed and, threatened with tuberculosis, he was advised to get outdoors for a few years.

Frank articulated with Driscoll & Saunders, Dominion Land Surveyors, in Edmonton, and while with them he worked on township surveys for several years. He wrote his D.L.S. examination in Ottawa and obtained his D.L.S. in 1908. He immediately went into the Federal Civil Service with the Department of the Interior. Frank was married to Agnes Reid of Ottawa in 1910 and in 1911 was appointed Director of Surveys for the Yukon District. The young couple spent the next four years at Dawson City. This was a very happy experience for Frank and he always likes to reminisce about this period of his life for this was still frontier country. Among his many friends of that day was the well known poet Robert Service; in fact, on several occasions Mr. Service was babysitter to Frank's two young sons. He returned east in 1915 and entered Royal Military College at Kingston, obtained his commission and was attached to a reserve unit. He returned to the Department of the Interior and for many years he made extensive exploration trips

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON BIOGRAPHY AND REPOSITORY

through western Canada and the Peace River country. During this period Frank wrote the material for numerous publications put out by the Department of the Interior. Two of these publications were recognized by the Royal Geographic Society of London, England, and they made him a fellow in 1929. One publication dealt with the Canadian buffalo and the other the flora and fauna of the Peace River country. He spent the last three years he was with the Department of the Interior making trips to the Maritimes and in 1932 the branch he was with was closed down and he was retired.

Frank returned to Brampton and in 1934 he obtained his Ontario Land Surveyor's certificate and started a private practice, which he continued until 1941 when he became attached to the Lands Branch of the Department of Lands and Forests at Toronto where he worked until his retirement in 1950.

Frank again returned to Brampton and went into private practice where he was joined by Ian Jackson O.L.S. until 1954 when Frank retired to Grimsby, Ontario. He returned to Brampton in 1964 and remained until his decease in 1965. He is survived by his widow Agnes Reid; his two sons, Rev. Dr. Wm. and Franklin, Jr.; his daughter Anna Jo and several grandchildren.

I knew Frank well for 32 years of his almost 86 years of earthly existence, and in this time I can recall many happy experiences. A survey job with him along was always interesting. He was a naturalist and working in the bush with him was a real education. He was a great *raconteur* who could make you relive his many interesting experiences on the frontiers of the great northwest which he loved so much. He deeply regretted his early retirement from the Department of the Interior.

Frank had a great command of the written English language and his many articles bear this out well. He was also a real stickler on punctuation and spelling and no doubt many stenographers were given a real education in these two things before he left the service.

He was a very warm and friendly person, and was so well known in the Brampton area that his presence on a town survey was a real handicap due to the continuous interruptions from friends and acquaintances taking up his and the party's time. I believe that I was the only student that articulated to him and, although we never practised together, we were, until his retirement in 1954, always in close contact with each other.

Frank had great fortitude and several things happened to him in his life which would have finished many of us, but he came back as strong as ever. I remember in particular in the early fifties he suffered a very severe stroke and I was advised that it was the end for him. Imagine my surprise about ten days later when I saw him at his transit at a busy town intersection. I stopped and told him that if the job was so important I would do it for him. He replied, "I would rather die here than in bed." He recovered and lived for a further 14 years.

Frank Kitto's contribution to society was the same as given by any practising surveyor in a community, but over and above that he was, I feel, in that rapidly thinning group of older surveyors who were



ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO LAND SURVEYORS

pioneers in a sense pushing back Canada's frontiers and adding much to the growth of our country in years gone by. I feel that anyone who knew and associated with him could not escape the benefit of his great experience and the warmth of his personality. Such memories last a lifetime.