

ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO LAND SURVEYORS



ROGER MELVILLE LEE was born in the Township of North Dumfries, about six miles west of Galt, in the Cedar Creek Road area, in November, 1881.

He was the son of David P. and Euphemia (Rennelson) Lee, who were immigrants to Canada from near Haworth in Scotland. He had three sisters and three brothers all of whom predeceased him.

He attended Dickie Settlement No. 25 Public School, and the Galt Collegiate Institute, where he was one of the best football and hockey players in the Township.

Immediately after his graduation from the Galt Collegiate, he worked for a short time with the American Radiator Company in Buffalo, New York. Following this, he served his apprenticeship as a Land Surveyor, in Hamilton and the West.

He received his Ontario Land Surveyor's Certificate in 1909; and his Dominion Land Surveyor's and Saskatchewan Land Surveyor's Certificates in 1910.

During this time he graduated as a Civil Engineer, having completed a correspondence course with Queen's University, to obtain his degree.

He returned to Ontario, and married Catharine Jane Pollock in 1911. Shortly after their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Lee left for Saskatoon, where Roger practised with the firm of Phillips, Stewart and Lee until 1915. During this time a daughter, Grace Lee, was born.

REPORT OF THE BIOGRAPHICAL COMMITTEE

Returning to Ontario in 1915 Roger entered partnership with the late A. M. Jackson in Brantford. After the first World War, the firm became Lee & Nash (a firm of Ontario Land Surveyors and Consulting Engineers). Mr. Lee's partner being Col. A. L. Stanley Nash, who is at present with the Department of Municipal Affairs, in Toronto. During this time, his son John Douglas Lee was born.

He was with the firm of Lee & Nash until 1929, when he was appointed County Engineer for the Municipality of the County of Brant. During his twenty-eight years of service with the County, he was highly esteemed by all who knew him, or came in contact with him. His vast fund of knowledge and wisdom with respect to matters pertaining to Engineering, Drainage, Road and Bridge Building, and all aspects of his work, won him great respect in his field.

Among many lasting memories of his service in Brant County were many beauty spots, roadside parks and reforestation projects that were created by him in an effort to beautify Brant County, its roadside and rural areas; as well as many bridges, such as the Cockshutt Bridge (built in 1933), spanning the Grand River, and many others, built under his capable direction.

His retirement came in 1957, due to ill health.

For many years he was a member of Brant Avenue United Church, later transferring his membership to Farrington Church, where it remained at the time of his death.

He was a member of Reba Lodge AF and AM. He was also a member of the Brantford Club, having served them in the capacity of President, as well as having been on the Board of Directors.

He was also a member of the Brantford Golf Club, the Ava Golf Club and the Brantford Duplicate Bridge Club.

For many years he was on the Executive of the Engineers' Golf Association, and was also Past President of the Ontario Land Surveyors' Association.

His wife, Catherine Jane (Pollock) Lee predeceased him in 1941, and his daughter, Grace Lee, died four months of his passing in 1958.

He is survived by one son, J. Douglas Lee, P.Eng., of Kingston, Ontario.