

WILLIAM McPHILLIPS

By R. C. McPhillips, M.L.S.

William McPhillips was born at Markham, Ontario, on November 15th, 1843, being the eldest son of George McPhillips, Dominion and Ontario Land Surveyor, whose biography appeared in the annual report of the Ontario Land Surveyors Association for the year 1929.

He was educated in the Public and Grammar Schools of the Province of Ontario, and at St. Michaels College, Toronto, receiving also a certificate of qualification from a Military Academy in that city. While in attendance at the Grammar School at Richmond Hill, he had as a comrade Mr. John R. Teefy, who became afterwards The Reverend Father Teefy, the head of St. Michaels College, another comrade of his at this time was the late William Falconbridge, Chief Justice of the Province of Ontario.

He served under articles with his father, assisting him in his private practice, before and after receiving his commission as an Ontario Land Surveyor on July 6th, 1865. He was a lieutenant in the Seaforth Company of Volunteers, and as such was at the front in the Fenian Raids.

He was appointed as an assistant to Sanford Flemming on the survey of the Intercolonial Railway between Halifax and Quebec, and during an epidemic of typhoid fever which broke out in the survey camp, to which he fell victim, he died at the Town of Bic in the Province of Quebec on April 22nd, 1871 where he is now buried.

Conscientious and honorable to a high degree, an affectionate son, a generous, gay companion, William McPhillips' death at the age of twenty-seven was a great sorrow to all who knew him.

