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JOHN MacKENZIE MOORE, O.L.S.

Compiled by Mr. R. P. Fairbairn, O.L.S.

Mr. John M. Moore was born in London, Ontario, on October first, 1857. His parents were William and Margaret (MacKenzie) Moore; the father a native of County Sligo, Ireland, whose parents migrated to Canada when he was a boy. His mother was born near Hyde Park, London Township, where her father was the first clerk of the District of London. Descended from Irish-Scottish stock, Mr. Moore was typically British in his attitude towards the affairs of the City, the Province and the Dominion. He prided himself in his descent as much as in his membership in the great family of Canadians.

Mr. Moore was educated in the public and high schools of London and under private tutors. He studied the profession of Architecture, Engineering and Land Surveying in the offices of Robinson & Tracy. He served six years with them, four as an articled student. Thereafter, he continued in the office of his preceptors for several years, when he formed a co-partnership with George Durand under the name Durand & Moore, which continued for several years. His next partnership was with the late Frederick Henry; after a term of years, the partnership was dissolved, from which time Mr. Moore carried on business independently.

Mr. Moore served as engineer and superintendent of water-works of London for seventeen years. London owes a great deal to John M. Moore for its unrivalled waterworks system. The City of London had obtained a special Act of the Legislature giving power to expropriate lands within a
radius of 15 miles for the purpose of obtaining a good water supply. After a thorough exploration of the country by the City Engineer and his staff, the site of the water-works at Springbank was selected. Mr. Moore was a student in the office of the City Engineer at the time the selection was made and took part in the examination of the several proposed sources of supply. Under his term as engineer and superintendent of the system, Springbank was developed into one of the finest natural parks in Canada.

Mr. Moore was City Controller for the years 1916-17, and also as Mayor for two terms 1926 and 1927. His services as Controller and later as Mayor, together with his experience as waterworks superintendent, gave him a shrewd insight into the best methods to conduct the business of the City of London. He gained the reputation, in the two years of his administration, of being one of the best Mayors the City of London ever had.

Mr. Moore was a member of the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada; the Ontario Association of Architects; the Engineering Institute of Canada, and was one of the first members of the Ontario Land Surveyors’ Association. He obtained his commission as an Ontario Land Surveyor on the 9th of October, 1879.

The Province of Ontario, and especially the City of London, has many monuments to the professional skill and civic interest of John M. Moore. Among them are the dignified buildings of the University of Western Ontario, the magnificent London Life Building, the London Hotel and the new Bell Telephone Building on Dundas Street.

In addition to his contribution to the municipal interests of London, Mr. Moore was prominent in the work of the University of Western Ontario. He had been a faithful member of the Board of Governors for many years, having been appointed to the Board by the City of London. President W. Sherwood Fox said he was a much-loved man in University circles, where he displayed a great deal of vision. His practical experience, which he gave freely to the institution, contributed much to the growth and development of the College.

Mr. Moore served as Captain of C Company, 7th Fusiliers, Canadian Militia. He was chairman of the London branch for seven years, and was on the reserve list of officers of the Soldiers’ Aid Commission between 1918-20.
In religion an Anglican, Mr. Moore was a member of St. Paul's congregation. He was a Mason, a member of Tuscan Lodge, No. 195. Mr. Moore won friends and respect by his unassuming personality, his scrupulously honourable business methods and his sympathy with every worthy appeal and every genuine endeavour to improve the condition of his fellow citizens.

Mr. Moore married Louisa M. McClary, a daughter of the late Oliver McClary and Martha (Coombs) McClary. Mrs. Moore survives with three children, Oliver Roy Moore, an architect, and his father's business partner; John McClary Moore, formerly a director of the McClary Manufacturing Company of the City of London, and at present a vice-president of the London Investment Limited; Eva Louise, wife of Mr. W. H. Smyth, Secretary-Treasurer of the same company. Two brothers and three sisters also survive, Mr. J. P. Moore, K.C., M.P.P. for the City of London; Robert G. Moore of Vancouver, and the Misses Katherine, Mary and Jennie Moore of London.

Mr. Moore died on the 29th of June, 1930, and was interred in Woodland Cemetery.