

ALFRED E. MORRIS

Compiled by his nephew, Carl Reinhardt, O.L.S.

By the death of Alfred Edmund Morris, O.L.S., C.E., who succumbed to a sudden heart attack on the morning of 7th May, 1931, Perth lost a popular and respected native son. Mr. Morris had been indisposed for several weeks, but was

apparently making slow progress towards recovery when the final summons came.

His grandparents were amongst the pioneers of Lanark County, coming there from Wexford, Ireland. The Morris homestead was situated just beyond Elmwood Cemetery on the outskirts of Perth.



Alfred E. Morris was the son of John Morris, P.L.S., and of Mary Ann Tetlock, of Drummond Township, and was born in Perth on 5th January, 1857. The father, John Morris, whose biography appears in the Association's Report for the year 1914, was for several decades one of the busiest and best known surveyors of his day. In fact he and another veteran surveyor, the late J. M. O. Cromwell,

also of Perth, surveyed a large part the lands in that district. Following in his father's footsteps, Alfred E. Morris studied surveying under his father, and assisted him in these early surveys. However, after qualifying as a Provincial Land Surveyor for Ontario on the 10th April, 1879, Alfred Morris branched into Civil Engineering, and for the next quarter of a century was actively and usefully employed in connection with some of the most important undertakings of that momentous period. Joining the Engineering Staff of the Canadian Pacific Railway in the early eighties, he was first engaged on railway construction north of Lake Superior (where R. G.

Reid had the contract), and afterwards for several years was kept busy in connection with the difficult main line construction through the mountains of British Columbia. After that he assisted in the survey of the International of Maine (now C.P.R.) through the northerly part of the State of Maine, and was also employed on railway surveys in South Carolina. Returning to Canada he undertook surveys for the Canadian Pacific, Canadian Northern, and Canada Atlantic Railways, in different parts of the Dominion. During his long and useful professional career he was associated with such outstanding Engineers as Major Rogers (in locating the famous Rogers pass in the Canadian Rockies). Marcus Smith, Henry J. Cambie, O.L.S.; H. K. Wicksteed, O.L.S.; T. C. Keefer, O.L.S.; Hugh D. Lumsden, O.L.S.; George and Alexander Middleton, and Col. R. W. Leonard.

Returning to Perth in 1908, Mr. Morris built a home on Mary Street and practically retired. However, he kept his hand in by doing local surveying from time to time, and was also town engineer for many years.

Mr. Morris was unmarried, and left to mourn his loss one sister, Miss Emily Morris, of Perth, and two nephews and two nieces, children of his elder sister, Mrs. C. S. Reinhardt, of Toronto, who predeceased him by five weeks. Of these Mr. Carl Reinhardt, M.E., of Cobalt, and Mrs. D. R. Harvey, of Toronto, were present at the funeral which was held privately to Elmwood Cemetery, Perth, Rev. Dr. Bunyan McLeod, Minister of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, conducting the services. The only photograph of Mr. Morris available is an amateur snap, an enlarged copy of which accompanies this sketch.
