

AYLSWORTH BOWEN PERRY



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The Perry family originally came from Devonshire, England.

Robert Perry, grandfather of the subject of this sketch, was born in the State of Rhode Island in 1750. He married Jemima Washburn of Dutch extraction, served in Revolutionary War with the Provincial Royalist forces, and was at the Battle of Stillwater (Saratoga), when General Burgoyne surrendered. Two days previously, Robert Perry and his family were sent to Lower Canada for safety. Daniel, father of A. B. Perry, was born on this trip, at Mashish, now Rouse's Point on Lake Champlain, N.Y. As this interrupted the journey, Robert proceeded to Upper Canada, and selected a new home for his family on the boundary

between Adolphustown and Fredericksburg, about two miles North of the Bay of Quinte, near the historic village of Bath.

Daniel Perry married Jane Williams, a Welsh girl, and lived near Morvan in Ernestown, where A. B. Perry was born, on November 25th, 1813.

He became articled to either Joseph Kilburn, or to Wm. H. Kilburn, Deputy Surveyors of Kingston, and was admitted to practise on March 3rd, 1842.

He resided at Kingston until about 1848, when he removed to Violet in Ernestown, where he continued to reside until his death.

He made the following surveys for the Provincial Government:

Outlines of Township of Anglesea, Barrie, Abinger, Ashby, Denbigh, Effingham, Cashel Mayo, Mackenzie, Ferrie, Croft, Chapman, Ryerson.

Road lots, Addington, Madawaska and Camden.

Re-survey Township of Kaladar.

Survey of Presque Isle.

On his last survey in the Parry Sound District he found it necessary to come to Toronto to have repairs made to damaged instruments. The Rev. Salt of Christian Island provided the guides and canoemen for the trip. On his return the canoe was capsized in a gale on Georgian Bay, fortunately near shore to which the Indians swam, but Mr. Perry, who could not swim, clung to the capsized canoe which drifted on shore, where he was rescued by the Indians after he had sunk the second time. From the effects of the shock and exposure he never regained his former rugged constitution.

Mr. Perry enjoyed an extensive local practice, and throughout Lennox and Addington, he was known as an accurate surveyor, and a highly respected citizen.

Thomas Nash 1854, Samuel Owen McGuire 1860, Wm. R. Aylsworth 1861, George B. Kirkpatrick 1863, and Nathan F. Perry 1864, all served under articles to A. B. Perry. The last mentioned entered the Ministry and removed to the United States. Mr. Nash became Chief Engineer of the K. & P. Railway and Mr. Kirkpatrick, Director of Surveys for Ontario. Messrs. Kirkpatrick and Aylsworth were both Presidents of the Association.

A. B. Perry was married three times, first to Electa Fellows on February 24th, 1839, who died June 24th, 1847, no children surviving; secondly, Melinda Clark on September 14th, 1848, who died November 18th, 1863, leaving five children, all of whom are now living as follows: Margaret, married Peter McIntosh, of Winchester, Ont.; Julia, married Rev. S. J. Hughes, Porterville, California; Elgin Perry, of Lindsay; Olive, married Robert McDonald and Rebecca Jane unmarried. On March 10th, 1866, he married his third wife, Mrs. Wm. Clark, who died March 13th, 1886, without children.

While engaged on surveys for the Kingston and Pembroke Railway, his health became broken and for some years before his death he was unable to continue his professional work.

He died on November 19th, 1887, leaving five children and a large number of grandchildren.

A. B. Perry, C.M.G., Commissioner of the Royal North West Mounted Police, at Regina, is a cousin of A. B. Perry.

(The greater part of this sketch was compiled by C. Fraser Aylsworth, O.L.S., of Madoc.)