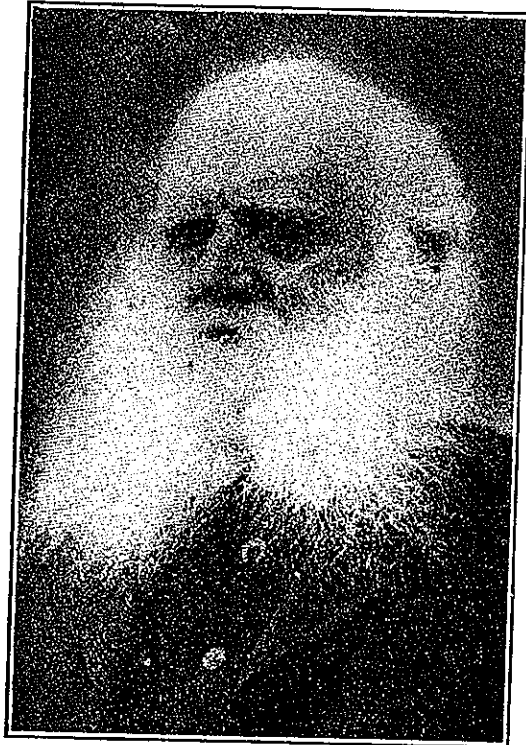


## ARTHUR RANKIN



In the annual report of 1921 will be found a biographical sketch of Charles Rankin, P. L. S., of Owen Sound, in which his youngest brother, Arthur, is mentioned.

Their father, George Rankin, was born October 1st, 1762, in the North of Ireland, served as an officer in the Peninsular War and emigrated to Canada in 1790. For some years he lived at Montreal, where the third son, Arthur, was born, in 1816. Arthur attended school in Montreal, but when a youth he ran away to sea, serving on the Atlantic. George, the father, was a school teacher in Montreal, and later moved with his family to

the County of Essex, where he continued at school teaching in the districts about Sandwich and Amherstburg. He died at By-town (now Ottawa), when engaged in teaching there in September, 1834.

Arthur was in Sandwich in 1830, but not obtaining employment went to York (Toronto). Where he was employed for the next few years is not known.

Before duelling was suppressed by law, gentlemen settled their disputes by challenging their adversaries to mutual combat. In 1836 young Rankin fought his first duel with Henry Richardson, a relative of Col. Brush, of the Brush farm, near Detroit. The event took place on Belle Isle, opposite Detroit, and Rankin was the victor, Richardson being severely wounded. The cause was a young lady, the weapons pistols. From this it would appear that he was then living at home with his mother.

Upon the outbreak of the Rebellion in 1837 he volunteered for service and was made an ensign in Captain Sparks' infantry company, stationed at Sandwich.

When Windsor was raided by the American sympathisers, young Rankin, then a Lieutenant, took an active part in repelling the invaders, two of whom were taken prisoners. Colonel Prince, then in command, ordered the prisoners shot, and they were "shot accordingly," as he then reported. Rankin is said to have been in command of the firing squad. This execution took place immediately opposite where the Hotel Dieu stands.

He fought a second duel with a young son of the Duke of Richmond, who challenged him for a supposed affront. It appears that two attractive young ladies had agreed to accompany the young man on a drive or ride, but for some reason overlooked their engagement and went with Arthur Rankin instead. The duel followed, but as Rankin was a good shot and his opponent a poor marksman, the former fired high and other's shot went wild. The young man afterwards admitted that he was a fool, and the two became fast friends, and young Richmond gave Rankin a signet ring, which, however, he returned to the Duchess of Richmond after her son's death. When Rankin was in England, some years afterwards, he was entertained at the home of the Duchess. The date of this second affair was about 1837 or 1838.

He took an active interest in the Militia, and eventually rose to the rank of Colonel.

Arthur Rankin qualified as a Deputy Provincial Surveyor on April 6th, 1836, when only twenty years of age. It is to be noted that he qualified before the Rebellion, and before his marriage.

Arthur Rankin practised surveying and engineering at Sandwich, but he was a born promoter and speculator.

In 1843, in company with Captain Keating, he organized a band of Ojibway Indians and visited Great Britain, where he produced the first Wild West Show. This venture proved remunerative and they cleared about \$75,000. Upon his return, in 1845, he went into real estate and shipping, and from that to mining operations.

In 1846 he opened the first mine at Bruce Mines, afterwards consolidated into the Montreal Mining Company. When

the Steamer Cathcart came down the Lake with 300 tons of ore, in the Spring of 1847, consigned to Baltimore, it carried the first cargo from that rich field of mineral wealth that came down the Lakes.

Shortly afterwards he withdrew from this company and sold his interest for £30,000. He then became interested in gold mining on the Chaudiere River, Lower Canada. Some gold was extracted, but it was not a paying venture.

In 1848 Alexander Vidal, P. L. S., prepared a map of mining locations on the River St. Mary and Echo Lake. Four "locations" are shown on this plan. From west to east they were known as Clark location, 6,400 acres; Elliott location, 6,400 acres; Lemoine location, 6,400 acres, and Simpson location, 6,400 acres. The Indian village at the mouth of Garden River, is within the Lemoine location.

The Clark location was acquired by the Sault Ste. Marie Mining Company, in which Col. Arthur Rankin was the moving spirit, in 1849, and mining operations were commenced, but after an outlay of \$1,500 work was suspended until 1853, when work was vigorously prosecuted for the season. A good road was built from the river front to the mine, buildings were erected and some ore mined.

The ore was similar to the copper ore at Bruce Mines, then being operated by the Montreal Mining Company, to whom Col. Rankin sold it. At the end of 1853 the Sault Ste. Marie Mining Company suspended operations to await results at Bruce Mines, which proved to be a great disappointment. The younger company attributed the failure at Bruce Mines to extravagant management. In 1860 mining was resumed on the Clark location and additional buildings erected. The mines at last succeeded in convincing the Crown Lands Department that part of the land should be granted as a mining location at \$1.00 per acre, and the balance at 20 cents per acre. The mine in this location was known as the "Emerald Mine."

William Gibbard, P. L. S., on January 21st, 1861, and Albert P. Salter, P. L. S., on September 14th, 1863, reported on the property.

The final Crown grant was made to Arthur McKee Rankin by patent dated Quebec, April 1st, 1865, the price paid to the Government being \$2,560.

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When mining operations ceased and colonization attempts began cannot be now ascertained, but Col. Rankin spent a large sum of money on this property.

A townsite, called Petora, was laid out by Joseph Cozens, but it did not materialize. The land had been burned over before mining began, and upon clearing the burned timber and underbrush the soil was found to be gravelly or solid rock, and unfit for agriculture. This enterprise was a financial failure, and the Colonel became heavily involved in his attempts to develop the property.

Eventually the Rankin location passed into other hands. About 1918 the pulp wood upon this property sold for a sum said to have been \$250,000.

Some years later he acquired the timber on Fitz William Island, south of Manitoulin Island, in which deal Joseph Cozens appears to have had an interest, but after the timber was disposed of he sold out.

One of his latest ventures was the purchase of Bois Blanc Island, in the Detroit River, opposite Amherstburg. He experienced difficulty in making payments on this property, but his son came forward and made the final payment.

Col. Rankin took an active part in politics, and as early as 1848 he wrote an article for publication, advocating a confederation of all the Provinces, which received considerable attention and much adverse criticism. He had the satisfaction of seeing his dream realized in 1867.

In 1851 he made his first appearance in politics. He ran as Conservative candidate in Kent, but was defeated by the Hon. George Brown. In 1854 he ran in Essex, against Albert Prince, son of Col. John Prince, and was elected. Later he ran against John Prince and was defeated. In 1857 he was again defeated, but in 1861 he won against Hon. John O'Connor. In 1867, after Confederation, he was defeated by O'Connor, and again in 1872, after which he dropped out of politics.

In 1840 he married Mary, the eldest daughter of Alex. McKee, of Sandwich, one of the pioneers of the district. They had two sons, the eldest, George, being a playwright and novelist. He married a daughter of Sheriff Hall, of Chatham, who died at the birth of an infant. He afterwards married Miss Benson, of St. Catharines, but there were no children.

He died about ——— at Sault Ste. Marie. The second son, Arthur McKee Rankin, was born 1844. When attending Upper Canada College he ran away with a travelling theatrical troupe. He was found by his father at Rochester but refused to return home and eventually became an eminent actor who was seen on the stage by many now living. One of his successful roles was Rip Van Winkle and the Danites. He retired from the profession a few weeks before his father's death, his last appearance being at the Lyceum Theatre, Detroit. He died in 18—, leaving two daughters, both of whom married actors, the eldest married Sidney Drew, the younger, Harry Davenport. Sidney Drew's only son was killed in the Great War. After the death of his first wife he married again.

About 1853 Arthur Rankin purchased a home for his widowed mother and his two unmarried sisters, Susan and Kate, in Toronto, on the north side of Queen street, a short distance west of Bathurst Street, and afterwards used as a Deaf and Dumb School. This residence was a fine old mansion set in large grounds, with a driveway. His mother died there in 1856, and his sister Kate shortly afterwards. Susan died in 1864.

He died at the Hotel Dieu hospital on March 13th, 1893, of a dropsical affection, and was buried in the Roman Catholic cemetery, Sandwich. The pallbearers were Judge Woods, Sheriff Mercer, Chatham; Judge Horne, Judge McHugh, Wm. Roomer and Miles Cowan, Windsor. Shortly before his death he made the following remarks on passing events:—"For my own country some great change will surely come within the next quarter of a century, and if I were young again the scheme of Imperial federation would commend itself strongly to me. It may be mythical or perhaps impossible, but nothing can be fairly called a myth that all agree would be a success if it could be accomplished."

Col. Arthur Rankin occupied a conspicuous place in the history of this Province, as a soldier, a promoter of enterprises to develop Canadian resources, and as a politician. He was a man of wide intellectual accomplishments, of cultured tastes and with striking dignity of manners. He was a patriot, an Imperialist and an optimist.

His brother, Charles Rankin, of Owen Sound (See Report, 1921), and his nephew, Charles Edward Rankin, son of his

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eldest brother, Dr. John Rankin, of Picton, Ontario, were also Land Surveyors.

The materials for this sketch and the portrait, were furnished by Mrs. Mary Hutchins, only daughter of Charles Rankin.

### HUMPHREY YOUNG,

By Mrs. Margaret McDermott.

Humphrey Young was born October 8th, 1819, in the County of Wexford, Ireland, from which place the family emigrated to Canada, reaching Quebec in April, 1827. His father, Christopher Young, was born in the year 1785, and died May 11th, 1827, shortly after arriving in Quebec, and was buried near Wolfe's monument. His mother, Elizabeth Beale, was born in 1783, married in 1805, and died in 1854. Of a large family six children lived to maturity: John, born 1806, died 1890; Samuel, born 1808, died 1883; Benjamin, born 1810, died 1883; Elizabeth, born 1817, died 1901; Humphrey, born 1819, died 1845, and Christopher, born 1823, died 1898. These dates are taken from an old Bible brought by the family from Ireland.

Humphrey Young's maternal grandmother's name was Humphreys, hence the name Humphrey. On the death of Christopher Young, Sen., at Quebec, the widow, with her children and others from the same part of Ireland, made their way up the St. Lawrence in what were known as "Durham boats," which were propelled by long oars and in shallow places by poles. I imagine these boats must have been similar to what the Voyageurs used, and called "batteaux." Eventually Brockville was reached, and the widow bought a small farm and established a home near that place. The usual hardships incidental to pioneer life of that time were bravely met and successfully overcome, and the children kept at school when there was one within reach. At school Humphrey early showed signs of marked ability, and supplemented his meagre opportunities at school by studying at home at night by the light of the fireplace, and took his first instruction in land surveying from two men, Wm. Evitt or Evett, who lived four miles away, and a Mr. Rath, the latter, I think, himself a surveyor. I have heard my father, Christo-