

HERBERT THOMAS ROUTLY

By Mrs. Routly

Herbert Thomas Routly was born in Victoria County in the year 1878. He attended public school at Kirkfield and later Lindsay High School, taught school in Ops and Uttersson and later was in the Advertising business in Nelson, B.C.



In 1901 he returned to Ontario and joined the office staff of the Trent Valley Canal Project, entering the School of Practical Science two years later, from which he graduated in 1906. He received his O.L.S. diploma in 1907 and D.L.S. in 1908.

In 1907 he opened an office in Haileybury and practised surveying and general engineering in that town and vicinity for six years. His surveying practice became quite extensive as the mining districts of Cobalt and the camps farther north were opening up rapidly. In 1907 he formed a partnership with Robert Laird, D.L.S., which was discontinued a year later and

followed by the firm of Routly, Summers & Malcomson. This was succeeded by Routly & Summers. The practice included the engineering for the town of Haileybury and township of Coleman. It was as Engineer for the Township of Coleman that Mr. Routly received his first practical experience as a road builder and he was always very proud of the chain of roads constructed there.

He was President of the Haileybury Board of Trade when Sir Wilfred Laurier and the Toronto Board of Trade visited that town in 1912.

In 1913 he moved to Toronto to take charge of the road construction end of the business. From there he moved to Huntington, Quebec, and later to Amsterdam, N.Y.

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In 1918 Mr. Routly returned to Toronto. The firm of Routly & Summers was discontinued, Mr. Summers taking over the surveying and engineering practice at Haileybury and Mr. Routly all road contracting. For a time he was with the Ontario Government as Special Engineer in Road Building but resigned to continue as a road contractor.

He was interested in the Organization of the Road Builders Association and was its Secretary for a number of years and the President in 1931. A Memorial for him has been established by that Association taking the form of a cup known as the Routly Memorial Cup to be presented each year to the contracting firm having the least number of accidents.

He was a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers; of the Association of Professional Engineers of Ontario, the Toronto Board of Trade, the Empire Club, Engineers Club, the Masonic Order and for many years was active in the Rotary Club. He was always keenly interested in the work of the Ontario Land Surveyors' Association and was its President in 1923.

Mr. Routly was a member of St. George's United Church and an honorary life member of its Official Board. He was chairman of the Building Committee when the new church and school room was under construction and gave of his time and energy unsparingly.

He was a man with high ideals in private and professional life and possessed untiring energy.

In 1905 he married Susan Christine Williamson. He is survived by his widow and one daughter, Isobel Christine, who was married to R. A. D. Stewart in 1940. Both she and her husband are graduates of the University of Toronto.

Mr. Routly injured himself lifting a sack of stone which he was having analyzed and passed away May 24, 1940. He is buried in Park Lawn Cemetery, Toronto.

Mr. Routly was the son of William Routly, an early settler in Victoria County whose ancestors came from Devonshire, England. His parents, as well as his brother Obediah and his sister Mary, predeceased him.