



BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH  
OF  
ANDREW RUSSELL, ESQ.

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THE following obituary notice of the late Mr. Russell from the *Evening Journal*, of Ottawa, and the sketch of his life and career, taken from Rose's *Cyclopedia of Canadian Biography*, make up a concise history of this eminent public servant, whose name is respected and beloved throughout the length and breadth of our Dominion, by all who had the privilege of knowing or coming in contact with him.

To make the sketch complete, it is only necessary to add that since Mr. Russell's withdrawal from the public service in 1883, he has lived in quiet retirement at his home in Ottawa, and was on a visit to his daughter, Mrs. A. K. Roy, in Toronto, when he received the summons to depart this life.

(From the *Evening Journal*, Ottawa, Feb. 25, 1888.)

Andrew Russell, of Glasgow, Scotland, whose name was well known throughout Ontario and Quebec, as Assistant Commissioner of Crown Lands, and who served his adopted country faithfully from the time of his first appointment as Superintendent of Government Roads in June, 1829, to the time of his well-earned retirement from the Department of the Interior in January, 1885, died last night at the residence of his son-in-law, 40 Cecil Street, Toronto, aged eighty-five years. His exemplary, unswerving constancy to the cause of Temperance has been fruitful of much good, and the following testimonial (see address from Association of Dominion Land Surveyors, below) is a monument of which a large number of relatives are justly proud: A consistent Christian. His end was peace.

(From *Rose's Cyclopedia of Canadian Biography*.)

Andrew Russell was born in Glasgow, Scotland, on the 29th June, 1804. He is a son of Alexander Russell and Janet Jamieson. He received his education at Glasgow, in the Common and Grammar Schools, leaving Glasgow with his parents, sister and brother for Quebec in May, 1822. The family settled in the Township of Leeds, County of Megantic, in June, 1822. Our subject was appointed Superintendent of Colonization Roads and Settlements in Megantic by the Governor General, Sir James Kempt, in June, 1829. On the union of Upper and Lower Canada he was placed in charge of the Surveys

Branch of the Crown Lands Department for Canada West; and in 1857 he was appointed Assistant Commissioner of Crown Lands for the Province of Ontario. In 1870 he returned to the Capital to assist in the Census service. In 1874 he received the appointment of Chief Clerk in the Department of the Interior; and in 1883 retired, after fifty-four years of public service.

Confining his attention purely to official duties, our subject never meddled in politics. He married in May, 1834, Lucy Chandler Lord, eldest daughter of Lieutenant-Colonel P. C. Lord, senior J.P. for the County of Megantic. During Mr. Russell's term of office he faithfully devoted his professional abilities to raising the standard of the surveying profession, and what he accomplished may be gathered somewhat from the following copy of an address presented to him by the Dominion Land Surveyors:—

*To Andrew Russell, Esq.:*

The Surveyors throughout the Dominion of Canada embrace this opportune time, on your retirement from active service, of presenting you with this Address, expressing, as it does, in but a feeble manner the esteem in which you are held by the profession.

During your fifty-four years of public service in the departments of the old Province of Canada and of the Dominion of Canada, you have preserved throughout that high standard of public morality, integrity and faultless character so worthy of emulation.

In the Crown Lands Department, as well as in the Department of the Interior, you have left your ineffaceable mark; ever prompted by the sense of duty, regardless of personal ends.

A generation has seen you in harness, unassuming, but treading the path of honour.

But our gratitude centres especially upon your professional career. It was you who introduced into Canada the use of the transit theodolite upon public surveys, displacing the less accurate and variable compass. It was you who pointed to the stars for a sure guide, instead of the fickle magnetic pole.

Through your unceasing efforts surveying has attained its present high standard, ever aiming higher, and now is an honourable profession. Rightly may we style you the father of astronomic surveying in Canada, and proud are we of so worthy a progenitor.

May the laurel wreath you have won, resting on its snowy bed, brighten your remaining days in your quiet retreat.

And posterity will record, "His work is well done."

Signed, on behalf of the Surveyors, by

OTTO J. KLOTZ,

*President of Association Dominion Land Surveyors.*

A. F. COTTON,  
*Secretary-Treasurer.*

*Ottawa, March 20, 1884.*

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Mr. Russell's surviving family are his widow, Mrs. Russell ; his three sons : Alexander L. Russell, P.L.S., D.L.S., etc., of Port Arthur, Ont. ; Wm. L. Russell, associated with his brother Alexander L. in the same profession at Port Arthur ; Andrew Russell, who lives in Ottawa ; his four daughters : his eldest, Lucy, married to Wm. R. Ross, wholesale grocer, Montreal ; Kate, married to Rev. O. R. Lambly, M.A., Methodist minister, of Madoc, Ont. ; Jenny, married to Jno. B. Simpson, of the Dominion Government Audit Office, Ottawa ; Annie E., married to Alex. K. Roy, of the firm of Hart & Co., booksellers and stationers, Toronto, Ontario. Mr. Russell died 24th February, 1888, at the residence of his son-in-law, A. K. Roy, 40 Cecil Street, Toronto.