

GEORGE ALBERT SIMPSON

The subject of this sketch was born near Bloomfield, Prince Edward County, Ontario, on Oct. 11th, 1842, his father being Benjamin Simpson.

He qualified as a Provincial Land Surveyor on Oct. 7th, 1864, and took up his residence in Belleville, where he went into a manufacturing business, which he conducted for about ten years. This venture, however, was unsuccessful and he then decided to follow his profession as a Land Surveyor, but did not practise to any extent in Belleville before he removed to the North-West Territories.

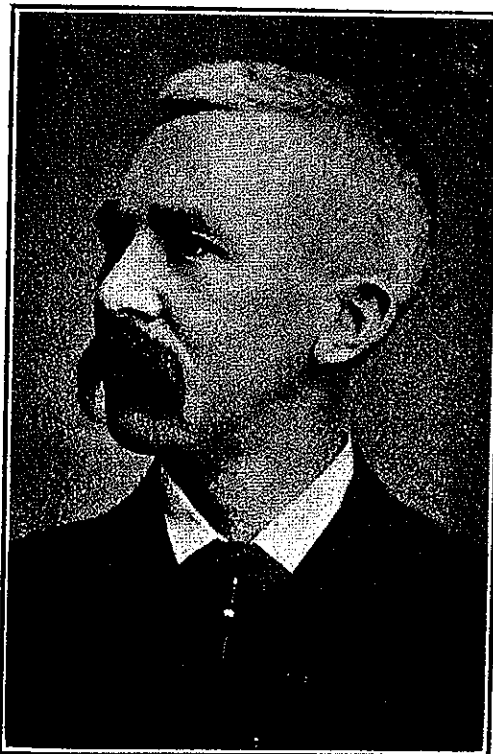
In 1873 he married Emma, eldest daughter of William Ross, M.P. of Picton. One child, Reginald George, born in March, 1874, was the issue of this marriage.

The son became an actor and later was on the staff of a dramatic paper in England.

George A. had one brother, James, who lived at Belleville, and three sisters, one of whom was Amanda. James Simpson was a lawyer and removed to Winnipeg.

About 1875 he left this Province for the North-West and for some time was employed by the Canadian Pacific Railway on exploratory work in the Rocky Mountains. He was later employed on block survey work for the Dominion Government. He resided at Clover Bar, four or five miles below Edmonton, during this period.

No surveys were made for the Provincial Government by Mr. Simpson, but he was employed for a number of years by the Department of the Interior.



1878—Indian Reserves at Eagle Hills.

1879—Indian Reserves at Fort Pitt.

1880—Indian Reserves at Lake St. Ann, Riviere Qui Barre, Sturgeon River and Eagle Hills.

1881—Indian Reserves at Battle River, South Saskatchewan, North Saskatchewan, Meadow Lake and in Prince Albert and Battleford Districts.

1882-83—Subdivisions and outline surveys of Beaverhill Lake District.

1884—Road across river lot, Edmonton.

About 1891 he removed to Winnipeg and was employed on the Northern Pacific Railway in Manitoba as Resident Engineer, which position he held for six years.

In January, 1900, he was appointed by the Provincial Government as Chief Clerk of the Department of Public Works, succeeding Hon. J. W. Sifton, also Chief Engineer, succeeding J. A. Macdonell. Subsequently he was appointed Deputy Minister of Public Works, which position he held until his death.

He took an active interest in the Manitoba Land Surveyors' Association from 1891 to 1905, and was President from 1900 to 1903 inclusive.

He died at Winnipeg on January 8th, 1905.

His wife died there in 1900.

The following excerpts are taken from the "Winnipeg Telegram" of Jan. 9th, 1905:—

"Early yesterday morning about 2.50 o'clock at the General Hospital, after a somewhat lengthy illness, George A. Simpson, deputy minister of public works, breathed his last. Some few days since a consultation was held by Drs. Blanchard, Halpenny and Simpson, when it was decided that an operation was necessary, as without that his condition was quite hopeless, and even after the operation the medical men held but little hope of his recovery.

"He passed through the operation, and has lingered for some days in a state of considerable weakness, it being realized on Saturday that the end could not be very far off. He retained consciousness until the last and his only son, Reginald Simpson, was with him when he died.

"Mr. Simpson during his lengthy residence in the Canadian West, earned the esteem and respect of all who had the pleasure of his acquaintance and friendship. His abilities were undoubted and the place he occupied so conscientiously and well, will be hard to fill. Among his many friends might be mentioned the Hon. R. P. Roblin, the Hon. Robert Rogers, Judge Walker, Professor McDiarmid, Dr. Torrance, Dr. Blanchard, John Woodman and E. M. Wood.

"The funeral will take place this afternoon from the residence of Judge Walker on Broadway to All Saints' Church, where the services will be conducted by the Rev. F. B. Smith, rector of the church, where the deceased was in the habit of worshipping. The interment will be made at St. John's Cemetery.

"Mr. Rogers, who only arrived from the East last night, expressed himself as deeply grieved and shocked to hear the news of Mr. Simpson's death.

"'He was a man,' said Mr. Rogers, 'of splendid ability, a trustworthy and conscientious servant of the Government and one whose place it will be indeed a hard matter to fill. From his first taking office as Chief Clerk of the Department he has been unremitting in his duties and spared no effort that every work undertaken by the Department should be of the best possible character. Thoroughness was the keynote of the man's character and I regret his decease more than I can possibly express.'

The late W. T. Ross, Collector of Customs, of Picton, was a brother of Mrs. G. A. Simpson. Mrs. W. T. Ross is now living in Toronto, and her son, R. Gordon Ross, at Bloomfield.

Barre,
atche-
Albert
erhill
ed on
Engi-
Gov-
orks,
eding
Min-
leath.
urvey-
from
nipeg
t
l-
c
a
y
n
s
e
-
d
il
h