

APPENDIX.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF DAVID WILLIAM SMITH (BARONET), SURVEYOR-GENERAL OF UPPER CANADA, FROM 28TH SEPTEMBER, 1792, TO 10TH MAY, 1804.

DAVID WILLIAM SMITH was born on the 4th of September, 1764, and was the only child of John Smith, Esquire, sometime of Salisbury, Lieutenant-Colonel of the Fifth Regiment of Foot, who died commandant of the fortress of Niagara, Canada West, in 1795, by Anne, daughter of William Waylen, Esquire, of Rowde Hill and Devises, County of Wiltshire.

At an early age he was appointed by Earl Percy as Ensign in his father's regiment, and subsequently obtained the rank of Captain, when his aptitude for business in the civil department so manifested itself that he was induced to leave the regular army and enter upon a course which afforded scope for his unusual talents. Although he relinquished his position in His Majesty's regulars, Mr. Smith did not abandon a military career, and held at various times the following offices in the militia, viz.:—Colonel of Lincoln Militia, Colonel of 2nd Battalion York Militia, Canada, and Lieut.-Col. of the Percy Tenantry Riflemen, of Northumberland, England.

On the 27th of August, 1792, Mr. Smith was elected a member of the first Canadian Parliament, and was re-elected to the two succeeding Parliaments.

As a member of Parliament, in which capacity he served his country for twelve years, his abilities made him one of the most distinguished men of his time, and he was chosen Speaker to that body in 1797, and re-chosen in 1801.

Called to the bar on 7th July, 1794, he bore, at various times, the titles of Deputy Judge Advocate, Justice of the Peace, Judge of the Court of Requests, Master in-Chancery and Privy Councillor.

Upon the passing of "The Constitutional Act," 31 George III., Cap. 31, by which the original Province of Quebec was divided into Upper and Lower Canada, Mr. Smith was appointed the first Surveyor-General of the Province of Upper Canada (28th September,

1792), and continued to serve in that capacity until ill-health compelled him to resign, which occurred on the 10th of May, 1804.

Having been from his boyhood known and honored by the notice of the Duke of Northumberland, Mr. Smith, upon his return to England, was appointed by His Grace as commissioner, auditor and general receiver for the Northumberland estates, which position he successfully filled for the remaining thirty-two years of his life.

During this time he also held many prominent public offices, and on August 30th, 1821, as a recognition of his many services in the new world as well as the old, he was created a baronet.

Sir David was twice married, first, on November 3rd, 1788, to Anne, daughter of John O'Reilly, Esquire, of Ballykilchrist, County of Longford, Ireland, and by that lady, who died in 1798, he had issue seven children, three of whom died young, one son, David William, of H. M. ship "Spartan," was killed at Quiber, and three daughters who survived him.

In 1803 Sir David married Mary, youngest daughter of John Tylee, Esquire, of Devises, banker, by whom he had one son and one daughter.

He died near Alwicks, in the County of Northumberland, England, on May 9th, 1837, in the 73rd year of his age.

His personal property and books after his death drifted into the hands of strangers, but by a fortunate accident, which the watchfulness and energy of Mr. Bain, the librarian of Toronto's Public Library, turned to good account, about twenty-five volumes of manuscript recently fell into the hands of that institution, and these contain records and information of much value to surveyors as well as antiquaries. Among the more interesting of these may be mentioned, a book of plans and descriptions of various properties in this province acquired by Sir David during his residence here, also the first lithograph map of the province, published in London, England, in 1800, from data furnished by the Surveyor-General for that purpose. This map is accompanied by a volume descriptive of the topographical features and settlements of the province. There are also maps of Toronto, Niagara, Duffin's Creek, and others of the more prominent hamlets of one hundred years ago.

Already the plans and maps referred to have been found of great service in boundary disputes, and, with a view of giving to those interested in such matters an idea of the localities touched upon, a schedule of the properties is copied and appended hereto.

Another interesting volume is entitled "Duplicates of Original Papers, showing the manner in which the land granting department was conducted on the first settlement of Upper Canada, with the forms of proceeding, and several subsequent minutes." A volume of miscellaneous matter includes instructions to deputy surveyors, a statement of the contents of the Surveyor-General's office on 1st July, 1802, numerous autograph letters from Chief Joseph Brant, relative to the surrender of territory by the Six Nations Indians; also papers relative to the militia and the lieutenancy of the County of York.

