

VERNON BAYLEY WADSWORTH

(Compiled from his own historical account of his life and work)

Vernon Bayley Wadsworth, son of Wm. Rein Wadsworth and Sarah Bird, was born at Weston, Ontario, in 1842. He attended public, normal and military schools receiving a commission as Captain from the Military School of the 16th British Regiment.

At the age of 18 he became articled to John Stoughton Dennis (who was afterwards surveyor-general) and immediately set out on survey work in charge of his employer who was engaged to carry out for the government very extensive exploratory and road surveys in Muskoka and Parry Sound and Nipissing Districts.

A detailed account of this work and its attendant hardships are set out in the annual report of 1926.

During the summer of 1864 he was employed to examine lands in some 10 townships in Haliburton by the Canadian Land Immigration

Company and subsequently was engaged in making government surveys in several of these including Rama, Harcourt, Ridout, Guilford and others.

Mr. Wadsworth completed his articles and received his commission as a provincial land surveyor in May, 1864, and John Stoughton Dennis had entered the government service. A partnership was formed by Mr. Wadsworth with P.L.S. B. W. Gossage with office on Adelaide St., Toronto, and an extensive private practise was carried on in Toronto and elsewhere until 1868 when Mr. Gossage decided to retire from surveying and Wadsworth became owner of all plans, instruments, goodwill of the long established firm of Dennis & Gossage.

There being then only two other licensed surveyors in



Toronto, namely Charles Unwin and F. F. Passmore and as these two were older men and with years of experience, Mr. Wadsworth decided to unite with Charles Unwin and thus the firm of Wadsworth & Unwin came into very active prominence and practise, doing work for Dominion and Ontario governments, railway corporations and city surveyors and maintained an office and outdoor staff of some 22 for a considerable time.

In 1872 this firm published a compiled map of the City of Toronto, a very necessary and valuable asset.

In February, 1875, he married Laura Ridout, a granddaughter of The Honorable Thomas Ridout, Surveyor-General and Member of the Executive Council.

In 1879 he purchased premises known as 124 Tyndall Ave. in Parkdale where he and family resided continuously until his death.

In 1876 The London & Canadian Loan and Agency Co. with office on King Street, Toronto, offered him a position as inspector and on consulting with his partners, Unwin & Browne, decided to accept the offer and thus Mr. Wadsworth retired from survey work and carried on his valuations, and in time became chief inspector and then general manager being connected for 44 years with this work until this Company finally amalgamated with the Canada Permanent Corporation and Mr. Wadsworth voluntarily retired in 1921. After 44 years of splendid service to his Company. During the early years when engaged on inspection and valuation work he spent considerable time in Manitoba then in its pioneer days.

Mr. Wadsworth was active and energetic in any pursuit in which he was employed and was fond of outdoor life which accounts for spending many summer months at his commodious comfortable cottage on Lake Rosseau, near the scenes of his early work.

Notwithstanding his withdrawal from active survey work, he always maintained a connection with the association of Ontario Land Surveyors and was honored with the office of honorary president since 1932, which he held at time of his decease on September 14th, 1940, in the 98th year of his life.

His wife predeceased him in 1939 and they lie buried in St. Phillip's churchyard, Etobicoke, adjoining the scenes of his boyhood.

Surviving are one son and four daughters, namely, Wm. R. Wadsworth, K.C., Mrs. Ford Howland, Mrs. W. A. M. Jones and Misses Elizabeth and Adeline Wadsworth, all of Toronto.