

DANE WANDABENSE 1907 - 1995

by Kenneth H. McConnell, OLS

Born Dane Waindubence of the Sheguiandah First Nation Reserve on Manitoulin Island, he is the only known member of the Sheguiandah Band to become an Ontario Land Surveyor according to Richard Shawanda, a representative at the Reserve. The road to reach that goal was a challenge indeed.

Orphaned at a very early age, he didn't even know his birthdate. When he was 12, he decided to leave the Reserve, went to Sault Ste. Marie, obtained his education there, and early in the 1920s started working for T.J. Patten, OLS (#194) of Manitoulin. Mr. Patten died in the early 1930s and later Mr. Wandabense trained under Col. S.W.

Archibald, OLS. (That early experience covered many parts of Ontario and northern Canada, and served him well as a Sergeant during World War II.)

After the war, Dane, like a number of Veterans, joined the survey section of the Ontario Department of Highways, became articled to H.S. Howden, OLS, working mostly in northern Ontario obtaining his OLS commission on June 21, 1950.

In 1953, Dane opened up his own practice in Clarkson using the style of "James and Wandabense" with the records and notes of D.D. James, OLS (#270) which included the notes of W.F.B. Rubidge, OLS (#449) and Silas James & Son (#41). The time and location was ideal, and his business was a success. In 1954, Mr. Wandabense became an Associate Member of the Institute of Professional Town Planners and remained a member until 1978.

In 1960, Mr. Wandabense took on Francis M. McGregor, OLS, as partner. The partnership "James, Wandabense & McGregor" lasted until January 1964, when Dane moved to Little Current, Ontario, on Manitoulin Island just north of his birthplace, Sheguiandah. He opened a new office under the name "Dane Wandabense, Ontario Land Surveyor". Mr. McGregor continued working in the Clarkson office temporarily until the practice and notes were purchased by E.W. Petzold, OLS. Mr. Wandabense moved his practice to Espanola in 1979 but continued to live in Little Current.

During all of his private practice career, Mr. Wandabense took a keen interest in OLS Association concerns, keeping a constant correspondence with the Association



office covering such issues as fee structures, ethical practice, government interference and non-qualified people undertaking legal surveys. He sold his practice in 1982 to William J. Keatley, OLS, and along with Gretchen, a Scottish girl he met and married while in the services, spent his time travelling and keeping interested and involved with the Sheguiandah First Nation Band.

Gretchen died in July of 1994 and Dane passed on last June 14th, 1995, at age 88.

In 1987, Mr. Wandabense in declining and invitation to become a retired associate of the Association, cited some special friendships:

Shirley King (#527), who invited him to his first OLS meeting;
John van Nostrand (#417);
John E. Jackson (#421);
S.W. Archibald (#563) who was his high school teacher; and,
Tracy Le May (#400).

Dane Wandabense was indeed his own man.



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ATTALLAH M. WASSEF

by Hoda Wassef

Professor Attallah M. Wassef was born in Egypt. He received a B.Sc.(Hons.) in mathematics from Cairo University (1943). He joined the Survey Department of Egypt as a geodesist. Three years after, he undertook graduate studies at the University of London and there completed his Ph.D. (1950). He returned to Egypt (1952) and developed its first National Aerial

