

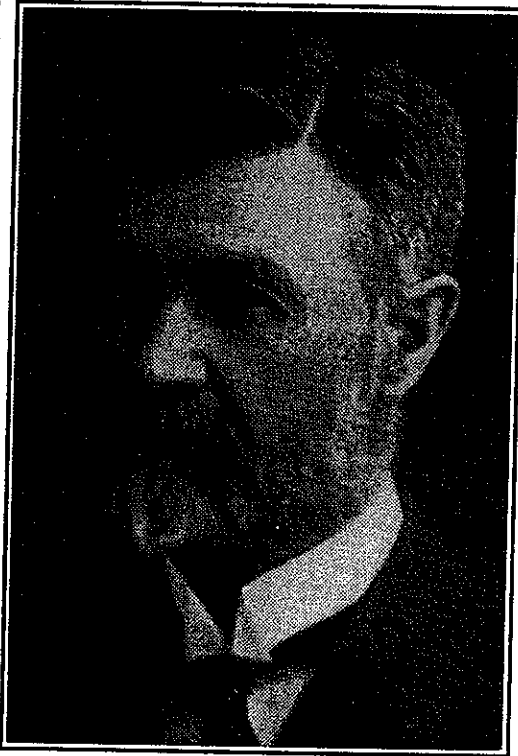
EDWARD THOMSON WILKIE

Compiled by A. P. Walker, O.L.S., from information furnished by his daughter Miss Jessie B. Wilkie

An outstanding Ontario Land Surveyor and Civil Engineer, Mr. Edward Thomson Wilkie, passed away last year in his eighty-first year.

Mr. Wilkie was eldest of the eleven children of William Wilson Wallace Wilkie, and his wife Eliza Bell, who settled on a farm in the Township of Ramsay, County of Lanark, Ontario, where the eight eldest children were born, viz.:

- (1) Edward Thomson Wilkie, the subject of this sketch, born 9th December, 1858.
- (2) James Hamilton Wilkie, born 17th March, 1860, died 18th January, 1884.
- (3) Andrew Bell Wilkie, M.D., born 18th May, 1861, died in Darrrtown, Ohio, after a long illness, 6th November, 1938.
- (4) Maria Silvia Wilkie, born 15th September, 1862, died 4th September, 1863.
- (5) Eliza Maria Wilkie, born 27th January, 1864; married Rev. John Staunton, and after serving as a missionary in the Philippine Islands for 25 years, died at South Bend, Indiana, 25th August, 1931.
- (6) Rev. William D. Wilkie, now of Whitman, Mass., born 2nd December, 1865, and who still survives.
- (7) Jessie Margaret Wilkie, born 20th July, 1867; married R. W. Cavins, M.D., and died 17th November, 1928 in New York City.
- (8) John Notman Wilkie, M.D., born 10th April, 1869; practiced medicine in New York City, where he died suddenly 24th January, 1924.
- (9) Norman McLeod Wilkie, born 28th Sept., 1872, drowned 2 January, 1893.
- (10) Katharine Robertson Wilkie, born 10th November, 1874; married Frederick Owen,



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and died 30th September, 1910. (11) Isabella J. Wilkie, born 26th March, 1877; married Dr. H. E. Bard of Ridgefield, Conn., and who still survives.

The parents retired from the farm into the town of Carleton Place about 1870 where the three last mentioned members of the family were born.

When Edward was about 12 years old, he left school for a time and worked in a woollen mill, in order to help out the family finances, so his schooling in Carleton Place was of a rather disjointed character, but he had made up his mind to be a Civil Engineer, and studied under his uncle, the late Andrew Bell, O.L.S., C.E. of Almonte. In the summer of 1878, he struck out for himself and became chainman on the re-location of the Canadian Pacific Railway, then being located by the Dominion Government, Fort William to Rat Portage. In the following summers (1879-1880), chainman and picketman on the location of the Canadian Pacific Railway west of Winnipeg for 200 miles under the late William Murdock, O.L.S., C.E.

During 1881-82 summer and winter, chainman, picketman and transitman on the location and construction of the Manitoba South & Western Colonization Railway, still under William Murdock, chief engineer. In the year 1882 he passed his preliminary examination as a Dominion Land Surveyor and commenced serving under Articles with William Murdock, O.L.S., D.L.S., but apparently did not find time to pass the final Examination until 19th August, 1890, when he received his Certificate.

During the years 1882-83-84, chainman, level, and transitman on various land and drainage surveys in Manitoba, and in the Northwest Territories, and Dominion Land Surveyors' work.

1884, March to May—Transitman on location Canadian Pacific Railway in Upper Kicking Horse Canyon.

1885—Transit and level, and resident engineer on Qu'Appelle, Long Lake and Saskatchewan Railway, Regina to Long Lake. 1886-87-88, on location and resident engineer on certain branches of the St. Paul Minneapolis and Manitoba Railway. 1889-90 winter, looking after timber for Duluth Terminal of Eastern Minnesota Railway for Foley Bros., Contractors.

In 1889 he returned to Almonte and entered into partnership with his uncle the late Andrew Bell, O.L.S., passed his

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final examination as a D.L.S. in 1890 and subsequently qualified as an Ontario Land Surveyor on 11th April, 1891. He remained in partnership with Mr. Bell until 1897, when he moved to Carleton Place, and after severing his partnership with Mr. Bell opened an office there. He continued to practice in Carleton Place for many years, carrying on a general Land Surveying and Civil Engineering business, doing a great deal of surveying throughout Eastern Ontario. In addition, he designed and superintended the erection of four highway steel bridges on masonry and concrete foundations, and also supervised many drainage works, having been appointed engineer, under the "Ditches and Watercourses Act" for the Townships of Bathurst, Goulburn, North Gower, Beckwith, Torbolton and Ramsay.

On 4th January, 1899, he married Katharine Snedden, daughter of William Snedden and his wife Jessie McRostie. One daughter, Miss Jessie B. Wilkie, who was born in 1900, still survives. His wife died 1st January, 1902, and on 23rd November, 1904, he married Anna Eliza Forbes of Toronto, daughter of Alexander and Eliza Kennedy Forbes.

Mr. Wilkie lost his home in Carleton Place through a disastrous fire in 1910 and shortly afterwards decided to move to Toronto where he resided until his death.

From 1910 until August, 1915, he was Chief Engineer of the Toronto Suburban Railway, having charge of location and construction of the line between Toronto and Guelph. During this time he designed and laid out substructures for ten steel bridges, and numerous wooden structures. After completion of the work he remained with the company until 1917, looking after Right-of-Way matters.

From December, 1917, until April, 1919, he was with the Imperial Munitions Board, Aviation Construction Department, as Engineer-in-Charge of erection of buildings, drainage, and water supply at Beamsville, Ont.

A period of general surveying intervened and in the summer of 1922 he was appointed by the Department of Lands, Forests and Mines of the Ontario Government, to resurvey and re-establish a portion of the boundary line between Ontario and Quebec from Pointe Au Baudette on Lake Francis to Point Fortune on the Ottawa River. From 1920 to 1926 he was again connected with the Toronto Suburban Railway, and the Suburban Construction Company, making valuations of the System and looking after maintenance.

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From January, 1927 until October, 1930, he was with the Niagara, St. Catharines and Toronto Railway, looking after improvement in the line and construction of a new station at Niagara Falls, Ont.

During all these years he was a regular attendant at the meetings of this Association and contributed interesting and instructive papers from time to time. For some years he was Chairman of the Land Surveying Committee, one of the most important Committees of the Association, and in 1915 was elected President and presided very acceptably at the Annual Meeting in 1916. For the last two years he was Chairman at the annual luncheon of the Veterans of the Association.

Mr. Wilkie was admitted as an Associate Member of the Canadian Society of Civil Engineers in 1904, and was transferred to membership in 1916, and made a Life Member in 1934.

His second wife died 2nd February, 1925, and he retired in 1931, but as a member of the High Park Club remained active and took a keen interest in both bowling and curling until a few days before his death.

He was a member of Erskine United Church.

He died suddenly on 1st July, 1939, and was buried in Park Lawn Cemetery, Toronto.

A photo of Mr. Wilkie taken some years ago is submitted herewith.