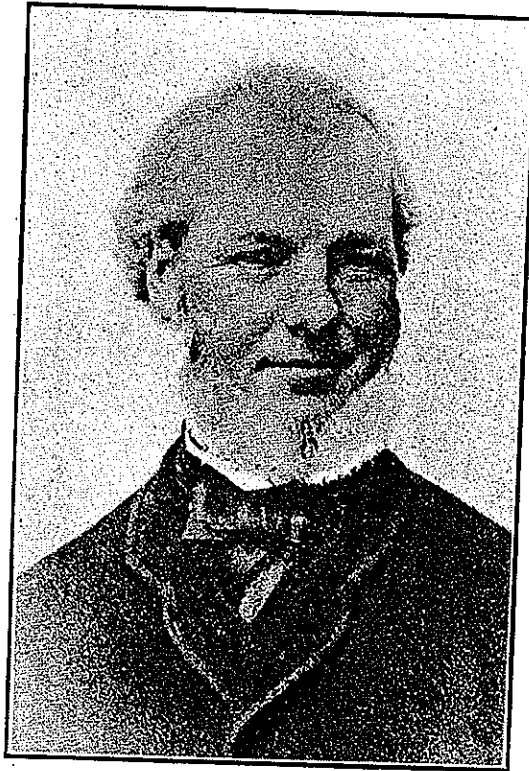


ALEXANDER JOHN ARMIT WILKINSON.

The subject of this sketch was born on October 17th, 1822, at Sandwich, Ont., and died on May 29th, 1885, at Windsor Ont. He was the second son of John Alexander Wilkinson, P.L.S.

During the Rebellion in 1837 and 1838, A. J. A. Wilkinson held a commission in a volunteer company raised by his father, Captain Wilkinson, and took part in the clearing out of the rebels from Fighting Island, also at the taking of the schooner "Ann" off Elliott's Point, near Amherstburg. He qualified as a Deputy Provincial Surveyor on Oct. 31st, 1843, and practised at Sandwich. He was subsequently engaged by the Montreal Mining Company to lay out and in-

spect their mining lands on the north shore of Lake Superior.

While engaged by the company he met Sir William Logan, the Government Geologist, who was there examining the mineral lands throughout the country. Sir William obtained his assistance for a time and endeavored to induce him to give up his employment with the Montreal Mining Company and take the office of Assistant Geologist, but the inducement was not considered adequate.

He performed five surveys for the Dept. of Crown Lands, one being at Southampton in 1847, and in the same year he subdivided the Township of Morris in Huron County. He made many surveys in the County of Essex. One of the most important of the local surveys made by him was that of Pelee Island in Lake Erie. This Island had been granted to the Indians and was controlled by the Indian Department. Peregrine McCormick had, however, acquired the greater part, if not all, of this Island from the Indians in some way, and in 1866 Mr. Alex J. A. Wilkinson was employed by the Indian Department to survey the Island. His plan dated Nov. 1st, 1866, shows the roads, lots, marsh lands

and coast line as it then existed. The total area of the Island is about 10,000 acres, of which about 6,000 acres represent reclaimed marsh lands. There are many descendants of Peregrine McCormick now residing on the Island.

About the year 1850 the California gold fever was at its height, and with Hon. T. B. Pardee, late Commissioner of Crown Lands, Ontario, Mr. Wilkinson started from Sandwich going by team overland to California, this journey occupying upwards of six months. The climate of California not agreeing with him, he embarked on a sailing vessel for Australia to meet his brother, who had sailed for that country from New York. After an absence of about five years he returned to his native place via England, thus making the circuit of the globe. On his return he devoted himself to the practise of his profession. For some time he was connected with the militia and served in the first and second Fenian Raids. In the latter he was in command of a company.

Politically he was prominent in the ranks of the Conservative party. He belonged to the Church of England, and in 1869 he was united in marriage with Wilhelmina Adelaide Lizars, daughter of the Late Daniel Lizars, Esq., of Goderich, Ont. She was born in 1830 at Edinburgh, Scotland, and accompanied her parents to Canada in 1833. The children born to Mr. and Mrs. Wilkinson were: Armit L. of Windsor, Ont.; Ruby A. E., the wife of the late Donald C. Graham, M.D., of Fort William, Ont. and Pasadena, California; and Jessie the wife of Charles R. Dowdy of Milwaukee, Wisconsin.