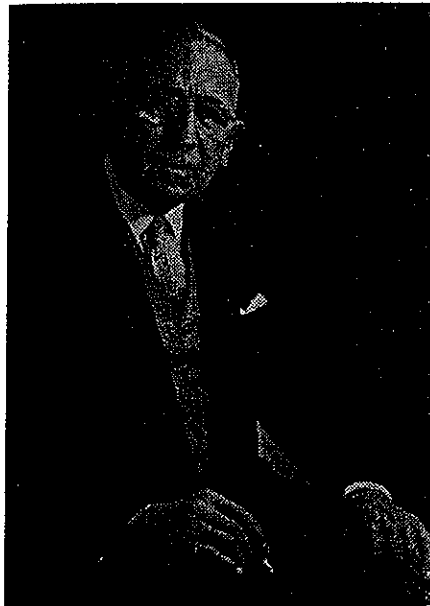


ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO LAND SURVEYORS

Doug as he was best known was one who enjoyed reading. Being bilingual his subjects were of a very diversified nature making him a well informed and most interesting conversationalist in social gatherings which he enjoyed. His first love was fishing, that is fly-fishing, and many a time it was said "he would rather fish than eat". After the first of February in any year it was not unusual to find him in a tackle shop dreaming of the days to come when the ice was out and the season open.

He returned to Collingwood after retirement enjoying thirteen years among old friends and acquaintances not forgetting the trout streams he had known since boyhood. He passed away September 26, 1966, aged 83 years.



JOHN VAN NOSTRAND, B.Sc., O.L.S.

1885 - 1965

by H. D. G. Currie, O.L.S.

John van Nostrand passed away September 18, 1965. He suffered a stroke in July while enjoying a holiday at his summer home in Muskoka and did not rally from it.

The Association has lost one of its most valuable members. Not only was John outstanding in his chosen profession, he also had a profound belief in the integrity and independence of the Ontario Land Surveyor. He maintained a high standard of performance and behaviour to the end of a long and honoured career.

The van Nostrand family came from Holland to Long Island in 1638 and with other United Empire Loyalists to Canada about 1792 settling in York County at Vandorf and at York Mills. There are family burials recorded as early as 1807 and the van Nostrand family plot in St. Johns Church at York Mills is still in use.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON BIOGRAPHY AND REPOSITORY

John's family lived at the corner of Delaware Avenue and Dewson Street when he was born. When he established his own home in later years, it was just half a block further north on Delaware Avenue. He did not join the exodus to the suburbs and lived in the same block for eighty years.

His father was a brother of Col. A. J. van Nostrand, one of the original founders of Speight and van Nostrand.

John received his early education at the Model School which at that time was operated on the present site of Ryerson Polytechnical Institute. He later attended Harbord Collegiate Institute and graduated from the School of Applied Science of the University of Toronto in 1909.

During his undergraduate years he was a member of the gymnastic team which won four consecutive championships. He also played football and quarterbacked the "School" Mulock Cup team.

Summer vacations from university were spent working for Speight and van Nostrand and naturally his articles of apprenticeship were served with the old firm. He commenced his association with the firm in 1905 and was proud to state that he had never worked anywhere else. He received his commission as an Ontario Land Surveyor on May 1, 1910.

He was married to Eleanor Maynard Wedd on October 19, 1910, their union being blessed by six daughters and one son.

Following the practice current in 1909, John would go to the bush in the summers and work in the city during the winter. His northern trips included base line, township outline and township subdivision. In common with all other good surveyors he developed a love for the north country which stayed with him all his life, although in later years he was forced to be content with his summer home in Muskoka and annual visits to the hunting camp.

During his professional career he participated in the development of Toronto from a small city to a tremendous one. He carried out many of the important survey projects and gained an enviable reputation for his work in the industrial or "down town" area. His services as a consultant were always in demand.

His grasp of the art of "down town" surveying was amazing. His patience in the field, attention to detail and his belief that all surveys should be worked out in the field were the factors that led to his ultimate success. It is comforting to see his reports turning up for every block of the "down town" area for their presence means that most of the problems have been resolved and the complete story will be in the file.

John was appointed to the Board of Examiners of the Association in 1923 and served continuously until 1958. He was elected to the Council of the Association in 1927 and became President in 1931. He served on committees too numerous to mention. His service to the Association was of the same high standard as his work and those of us who were privileged to work with him in Association matters benefited from his experience and advice.

His interest in other organizations included membership in Phi

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Kappa P. Fraternity, Beaver Meadow Hunt Club, Toronto Anglers and Hunters Association, The Garden Club, High Park Horticultural Society. John was always an active member, participating fully in the programme of each organization. He was also a former member and President of the Engineers Club.

The van Nostrand family have owned land at Lake Joseph in Muskoka for many years and if there was a place he favoured more than another it would be there. John had explored the lake thoroughly in his younger days and could always find good fishing when the other residents had given up. He would open his cottage as early as possible each year and keep it open until the snow came. He and Tracy leMay would spend a few days there in the early spring in order to put in the vegetable garden and no doubt enjoy a little early fishing in their spare time.

Working in the country with John or visiting Muskoka with him was a delightful experience. He always had time to observe nature. He would identify both the flora and the fauna, take the trouble to find birds nests and describe fully the habits of each. He had the happy faculty of imparting knowledge to his students and at the same time giving them a permanent interest in nature.

The advent of the coffee break in business life saw the formation of many little groups of professional people who would meet daily for ten or fifteen minutes, have coffee and discuss their mutual problems. Coffee house consultations became the order of the day, and John became the spokesman for the surveying profession. He was well known to the members of the Bar Society, both young and old. He always enjoyed the lively discussions of the Bay Street Coffee Club and could always be counted on for an opinion.

Older members of our Association will remember the stag dinners held during the Annual Meetings when John van Nostrand, Roy Kirkup, Jim Dobie and others would provide the music. John played the violin and played it well.

The writer was privileged to be associated with John van Nostrand for many years. I found him to be a kind, sympathetic person. Proud of his family, proud of his profession and proud of his country. He lived during a time of intense development and his contribution was a great one. His philosophy was that if a thing must be done, then it must be done well. Our Association has benefited greatly from his participation.