

COMMITTEE ON BIOGRAPHY
**AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF THE LIFE OF
COLONEL ARTHUR J. vanNOSTRAND**

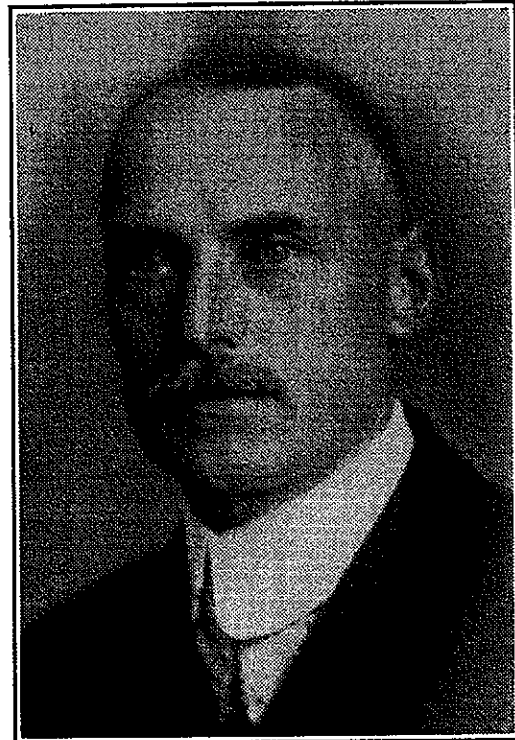
Born on October 14th, 1861, in the Township of Whitchurch, County of York, Ontario, the eighth of nine children of John vanNostrand and his wife Anna Maria (Marsh) and of the seventh generation descended from Jacob Jansen vanNoordstromdt who migrated from Holland to New York State in 1638. Was educated at the Public School and the Newmarket High School.

In July, 1879, passed the Preliminary Examination for Land Surveying and was articled as a pupil for 3 years' service with P. S. Gibson, P.L.S. of Willowdale.

In May, 1881, Articles were transferred to Major A. C. Webb with whom I acted as assistant on Dominion Land Surveys in the vicinity of Forts Ellice and QuAppelle North West Territories, but again transferred Articles back to P. S. Gibson in November, 1881.

In October, 1882, passed Examination to Practise as an Ontario Land Surveyor and in November, 1882, passed the Examination for Dominion Land Surveyor. In 1883 and 1884 he was engaged with Major A. C. Webb and Joseph Doupe on Surveys for the Dominion Government including office returns. On April 15th, 1885, entered into partnership with Thomas B. Speight and under the firm name of Speight and vanNostrand carried on a general practice of land surveying.

In 1886 took an active part in organizing the Association of Provincial Land Surveyors. On June 1st, 1887, married Kathleen G. Logan, daughter of Canon William Logan, M.A., of Fenelon Falls, who predeceased me on February 12th, 1934. In 1890 was elected Secretary-Treasurer of Association of



ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO LAND SURVEYORS

Provincial Land Surveyors and continued in office until 1900, was elected Vice-President in 1897 and President in 1898.

In 1893 entered the "Corps of Guides" as Lieutenant; was promoted to the Ranks of Captain, Major and Lt.-Colonel in 1911, also acted as Intelligence Officer from 1896 to 1911 in Militia reorganization. In 1899 to 1903 the firm of Speight and vanNostrand was enlarged by the admission of A. T. Ward, O.L.S. In 1911 elected a Member of the Committee of Management of the Canadian Military Institute and was made Vice-President in 1915.

Served as Divisional Intelligence Officer with the Canadian Militia Contingent in attendance at the Coronation of King George V.

In 1914 was elected President of the Engineers' Club of Toronto. On July 16th, 1915, enlisted for overseas service with the 74th Batt., C. E. F., as Junior Major and on March 16th, 1916, received the appointment of 2nd in Command and left for overseas. During war service was engaged on special work of bombing instructor in Witley and Bramshott Training Areas, also at Terdigham, France. Then with Forestry Corps in France and in 1918 appointed in charge of Epsom Khaki College. Arrived back in Canada on February 19th, 1919, and resumed practice with Speight & vanNostrand; the firm was then enlarged by admission of John vanNostrand and R. M. Anderson.

In 1936 having completed 50 years of Partnership, the 2 original members retired. Subsequent to retirement was engaged in research work and other hobbies.

In all, 30 articed pupils had served under articles with the firm of Speight & vanNostrand.

General information:—United Empire Loyalist stock; Anglican and Freemason; was identified with the following Societies: Ontario Land Surveyors, Dominion Land Surveyors, Professional Engineers of Ontario, U.E. Loyalist Association, York Pioneers, Canadian Military Institute, Engineers' Club of Toronto (Past President). The Royal Canadian Institute and Canadian Red Cross.

Col. A. J. vanNostrand died on May 23rd, 1939, and was buried at St. John's Church-yard, York Mills. He is survived by four daughters, Mrs. R. D. Campbell, Elgin Mills; Mrs. Basil W. Wedd Lille, France; Mrs. H. A. Molyneaux York Mills; Mrs. R. B. Hutchison, Toronto.

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IRA JOHN STEELE

By Stewart Young, S.L.S.

The subject of this sketch was born at Boxall near Aylmer in Elgin County, Ontario, on April 6th, 1881.

He graduated from the School of Practical Science, Toronto, in 1902, and passed his Preliminary Examination as Dominion Land Surveyor in May of that same year. He was assistant to Joseph Ross, D.L.S. on Surveys in British Columbia from May 15th, 1902, to April 11, 1903, and assistant to P. R. A. Belanger on Surveys in the District of Assiniboia from April 11th, 1903, to December 1st, 1903, and with the Topographical Surveys staff from February 18th, 1904, to October 3rd, 1904.

In October, 1904, he accepted a position on the National Transcontinental Railway work.

Mr. Steele received his Commission as a Dominion Land Surveyor on April 16th, 1908, and as an Ontario Land Surveyor on April 10th, 1910.

He was engaged on Contract Surveys in Western Canada during the 1908 to 1913, inclusive. Mr. Steele received his Commission as a Saskatchewan Land Surveyor on March 25th, 1913, and about that time took up land near Lloydminster, Sask. During the latter part of his life he engaged in Agricultural pursuits and was for several years Reeve of the Municipality in which he lived.

He was a prominent member of the Canadian Seed Growers Association, a Director of the Saskatchewan Registered Seed Growers Ltd. and President of the Saskatchewan Field Husbandry Association. In religion he was a Presbyterian. He died on January 5th, 1929, and was buried at Langbanck, Saskatchewan.