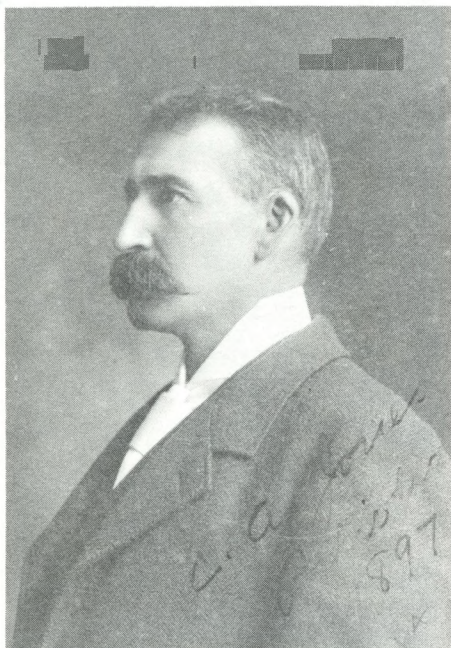


Surveyors of The Past

BY MARY SMITH SCOTT



CHARLES A. JONES

Charles A. Jones was a Land Surveyor and an Artist. He was born in 1855 in the Fifth concession of London Township, Ontario. In 1881 he received his P.L.S. degree after articling under J. McMillan, P.L.S.

He entered private practice in London, joining the firm of Peters & Jones.

The C. A. Jones' Diaries are in the Reference Library of Farncomb & Kirkpatrick Limited, London. The dust of the ages is on them, and the pages are frayed and yellowed, but they are filled with gems of land surveys made all of a century ago. His talent for art is shown in his survey sketches which were colored in shades of summery blues and sunset pinks. Today his workbooks are a delight to see.

There is a self portrait in a field-book, showing him dressed for work in a proper business suit, carrying a briefcase, his moustache groomed, shoes shining, and his tripod balancing on his shoulder. He looks like a modern day business man, for the styles of today are about the same as those worn in the 1880's.

In his Diary written in 1887 is a watercolor sketch of land at the Forks of the Thames River in London. He wrote: "I made a survey of this same property for W. M. Moore in 1884, but at that time I took the frontage of the lots as given on H. D. Ellis', P.L.S.

plan which he made and deposited in the Crown Lands Dept. at Toronto and which gives the Lots 1 chain 64 links each but he found no stone at the Thames and Dundas Sts., he supposing it to be washed away with the riverbank. I know this from the fact of having assisted him with the survey, I being then a student. On search however this time I found the stone which did not appear to have been moved in the least and I divided the block between these stones giving each lot 109 feet 1¼ inches and the line between 23 & 24 agreed with the fence pretty well between these lots as now standing, the fence being an old one".

Today an art gallery is being built on this site. Recently land surveys of the area have been made, using the most modern equipment. The measurements made by Farncomb & Kirkpatrick's sophisticated instruments compare favorably with those recorded on Mr. Jones' survey, but C. A. Jones had as his starting point the Polar Star, and took his bearings from there.

A journal entry by Charlie Jones made in March 1886 outlines his survey of London Steel Works on Rectory Street, London. This Company has changed its location since then, but his plan of that area can be followed as readily today as when he made the survey.

The volume of work increased, and he enlarged the business to include F. W. Farncomb, C.E., O.L.S., and later sold the Company to him.

In 1895 Mr. Jones set up business in Petrolia, and in 1928 formed a part-

nership with J. C. Monteith, Mr. N. E. Sutherland, P.Eng., of Monteith & Sutherland, Ontario Land Surveyors of Petrolia, has written about Mr. Jones in his History of "Surveying in Enniskillen Township, County of Lambton", and a biography of Charles Albert Jones was published in one of the early issues of the Ontario Land Surveyors Annual Report. We are indebted to Mr. Sutherland for much of this information.

Mr. Jones practised land surveying in Petrolia, but he was not forgotten by his peers in London, because in 1925 there is a neatly drawn plan in India ink covering a survey made at 984 Richmond Street, London, for property owned by W. G. Murray, an Architect. In fact, the drawing shows exact measurements of three properties, Mr. Murray's, and his neighbors on either side of him, Mrs. Park and J. H. A. Beattie. Mr. Jones tells about an iron pipe set by Ernest Farncomb, O.L.S. and a wooden stake set by R. Garrett of the City Engineers Department. He closes his letter with the postscript: "I trust you and Mrs. Parks may be able to adjust this difficulty amicably."

Mr. Jones continued his work in Petrolia until his death in 1936.

The vaults of Farncomb & Kirkpatrick Limited, London are steeped in the essence of those who measured and staked the pioneer lands of Southwestern Ontario, and recorded their works for posterity. But Charles A. Jones, our Artist Surveyor, has given us a bonus legacy, with accurate sketches, decorated in rainbow colors, and quaint stories written around them.

The name, Charles A. Jones will always be remembered with the deepest respect.

What Happens to Your Mail?

The following quote is from the Toronto Sun of February 15th:

"At the main post office down there at Front and Bay — they call it Terminal A — are some things referred to as "fast mail delivery slots". The remarkable thing about these slots, considering the organization to which they are attached is that they really work. . . The interesting thing about these slots is that there are two of them. One is labelled "Suburbs & Out-of-Town" and the other "Toronto City only". People use this service and are careful to use the proper slot. Sometimes in freezing weather they will stand for half an hour separating their mail into the proper categories. Then they mail it. **And both slots, we have on authority, empty on to**

the same conveyor and all the carefully sorted mail is jumbled up again".

And again on February 17th:

"At Dundas and University, hard by the entrance to the subway, are a pair of well-used mailboxes. A band around one proclaims "Local". The other is "National and Regional". Because of the offices along University there is often a line-up after work as people en route to the subway drop off the day's mail. And, yes, they carefully separate it, and yes, they carefully deposit it in the proper box, and yes, we have a witness for it happening twice, the mail man comes around in his little van and **empties both boxes into the same bag!"**

How does it work where you deposit your mail?