

O.L.S. # 1



HENRY STRANGE

The late Colonel Henry Strange was born in Demerara, West Indies, September 16th, 1815. His father was in the employ of the British Government and married Miss Brodhead, whose father owned a sugar plantation. She was a distinguished artist and musician.

Henry Strange was the only son and when quite young he and his sister Eliza were sent with their colored nurse to their grandmother in England, where Mr. Strange received a classical education. He understood seven languages, was an excellent mathematician and a musician.

When about twenty years of age, Mr. Strange came to Canada and settled first at Guelph. He then went to the United States for a short time and returned to Rockwood where he acquired about twelve hundred acres of land.

He married Elizabeth Ann Malins of Guelph, in February, 1841. Miss Malins was of a noted English family, an Uncle and Cousin being knighted by Queen Victoria, also an Uncle, Admiral Lancaster who was on Nelson's ship at Trafalgar.

Mr. Strange occupied for many years the historic building in Guelph known as "The Priory" which for some years was used as the C.P.R. station immediately north of the G.T.R. Viaduct and on the west side of the river.

He studied surveying under Peter Carrol of Hamilton. He qualified as a Deputy Provincial Surveyor on November 30th, 1838.

He engaged on the survey of the Grand Trunk Railway between Toronto and Sarnia; on the Great Western Railway from Niagara Falls to Windsor; on the Guelph and Galt Railway; also on the first railway survey in Michigan. He surveyed the Town of Rockwood and part of the City of Guelph.

For some years he was a magistrate and was known in the locality as Squire Strange.

Mr. Strange served in the Canadian Forces under Sir Allan McNab in the Rebellion of 1837-38 and was taken prisoner at Detroit.

After passing his ninetieth Birthday, he surveyed property in Rockwood for Mr. Harvey, of Guelph.

He was highly respected, and his humorous jokes will long be remembered by those who knew him. He died on November 9th, 1906.

Of his fourteen children, Elizabeth, Annie Florence, Ellen Louisa, Emily Augusta, Charles and Edward now survive. His eldest son, Henry was a practicing physician at Hamilton Hospital and was instrumental in securing an Act of Parliament requiring the registration of Doctors, and was appointed the first medical registrar.

By Report of Committees
(Reprinted from the 1919 Annual Report)

