

The surveyors who are employed and operating a private practice on the side will be required to register the same as any other firm. This will discourage week-end surveyors from working on their own and cause them to associate themselves with a private firm if they wish to do the odd job.

Another additional benefit would be that graduating surveyors will not find their jobs filled by non-O.L.S. party-chiefs. It was at the times when many non-O.L.S. party-chiefs were used, without proper supervision, that many surveying errors were made.

Private firms will, almost immediately, realize more than the cost of the registration fees in the services provided.

The members of the Association will still be paying for the general operation cost thereof.

The real benefit of this system is that the client, our only source of revenue, whether a private person or a governmental office, will be paying their equal share towards the services required to advance surveying in the Province of Ontario.

-o/s-

## HISTORICAL NOTES

### THE LIFE AND HARD TIMES OF THE EARLY LAND SURVEYORS

by Wm. C. Yates

It used to be that the word "surveyor" referred to only one person - a dusty sunburned type, usually bending down behind an instrument on a tripod, roaring incoherently at a couple of assistants in the distance. It was vaguely felt that this person was measuring land, and that the mysterious instrument would, if set up on a stake, automatically find the lot lines. The last few years, however, the word "surveyor" is more likely to mean a fact finder of any kind --- for example, the present writer has been assured on several occasions that a SURVEY shows him to be a leading citizen in his community, and thus eligible to purchase handsomely bound volumes at a rate per foot much lower than sold to the herd. Other surveyors have discovered that the gastric juices of many overweight persons flow 73% faster when the TV commercial starts. Still others investigate the correlation between week-end travel and nervous collapse. It is necessary, then, to refer to LAND surveyors, if what is meant is the few hundred men in Ontario who mark new parcels of land, investigate old ones, and are often seen digging holes about where that old stake used to be.

The work that land surveyors do now will be critically examined many generations hence, just as surveyors who were practicing at Confederation are spoken about now as if they are just temporarily inactive, possibly off on an extended vacation. Their records and reports are very much alive, and project the men themselves faithfully.

The modern land surveyors do their work unobtrusively, meet once a year provincially, and once a month locally, much like other organizations. Whether they are running a line through the northern Ontario bush, or along a local sidewalk, they have a secure place in our stable economy. It wasn't always so --- a study of the diaries and correspondence of the early surveyors makes the modern ones glad to be in this century. This correspondence is full of requests, couched in the most respectful terms, for at least partial payment for work long since done. It is full of hair-raising accounts of disaster and ferocious weather conditions, epidemic, accident, in explanation of why the survey took longer than expected. To be sure,

one would conclude that all surveys at that time were conducted in cataclysmic weather, the like of which has not been seen since. But it must be considered that the surveyors were dealing with some pretty steely-eyed clients -- local and provincial governments, whose paymasters had swinging bricks where their hearts should have been.

Consider the case of Augustus Jones, Deputy Land Surveyor, one of the first in Upper Canada. His original letters to the Surveyor-General are among the Survey records of the Department of Lands and Forests. He practiced for about thirty five years from about 1790 to 1825, and his services to what has become Metropolitan Toronto were priceless. Both Dundas Street, from Burlington to Toronto, and Yonge Street to Lake Simcoe, were done by him, and yet twenty years after some of the work was done, he is still trying to get paid. He is always "your most obedient and humble servant" and should his work be delayed by disaster, he writes as if he were personally responsible for fire and flood, in one letter he ticks off, for book-keeping reasons, the names of some of those who were with him on surveys, with a word about what later happened. It is a melancholy account "killed in Indian Country" "captured by the Americans, and shot for a spy" and so on. The following six letters will give an idea of the stature of the man, the value of his work, and the obdurate nature of the authorities of the day.

York, Dec. 24, 1795.

To W. Smith, Acting Surveyor General, Upper Canada.

Sir: In obedience to your instructions to me to complete the survey of the Township of York, I waited on His Excellency Lt-Gov. Simcoe, together with a map thereof, all of which met with His Excellency's approbation - but His Excellency the Governor was pleased to direct me (previous to my surveying the Township of York) to proceed on Yonge Street to survey and open a cart road, from the Harbour of York to Lake Simcoe, which I am now busy at - Mr. Pearce is to be with me in a few days time, with a detachment of about thirty of the Queen's Rangers, who are to assist in opening the road - I have commenced the survey of Dundas Street, from where it was left off opposite the outlet of Burlington Bay, to the landing, a copy of which I will send the first convenience.

I am your very humble servant,  
A. Jones, D.L.S.

(This letter, upon examination, probably contains, in a few lines, more condensed history of the layout of Toronto and district than can be found anywhere else.)

To D.W. Smith  
Acting Surveyor General  
Newark.

16 Mile Creek  
May 26, 1796.

Sir: I am honored with your letter of 21st of April last, and the 2nd, 3rd of this inst., all of which I will punctually attend to - I have been busy on the road north of the Lake (Dundas Street) since I had the honor to write you last, and in a few days now will have it open from Burlington Bay to the River Credit, with the bridges complete over the two large creeks, the 12 and 16 mile.

I am, Sir, your very humble servant.

A. Jones, D.L.S.

Hon. D.W. Smith  
Acting Surveyor-General  
Upper Canada.

Saltfleet  
March 17, 1797.

Sir: I have been busy some time past performing surveys ordered on Yonge St.;

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my provisions being out I returned to Burlington Bay, to take on more to complete the work. On my arriving here one of my men was taken ill, the appearance of which was much like the small-pox. I sent directly to Dr. Tiffany, who gave his opinion as such; the alarmed the rest of the party much, and they were about to leave me, and not being certain but some of them might have caught it from the sick man, together with the opinion of the doctor, I had the rest of the party inoculated; the sick man as before mentioned thinks that he took it by sleeping in some blankets, at Mrs. Givens, where some of Capt. Brant's people had slept, who had the small-pox on their return from Montreal. I am exceedingly sorry of the delay with my work, tho' unavoidable, it is not in my power at present to get another party. The doctor says that in about fifteen or twenty days time, I may proceed on business, with my party, which time I shall improve as soon as possible - I am at a loss how to act in regard to the expenses by this sickness and inoculation and must beg of you to have the goodness to inform me.

I am, Sir,  
Your very humble servant,  
A. Jones, D.L.S.

These were indeed hard taskmasters. Note that this resolute man finds it necessary to apologize for the delay caused by a virulent plague, and for the expense of inoculating his men.

Saltfleet  
July 13, 1812.

To Thomas Ridout, Esq.  
Surveyor-General, York.

Sir: I will take it as a particular favor for you to be so good and inform me when my old survey accounts will be audited, as I wish to come down and take some deeds out of the Secretary's office, and besides I am in want of money to settle some debts I owe - your compliance will greatly oblige.

Your most humble servant,  
A. Jones, D.L.S.

Saltfleet,  
Dec. 12, 1812.

T. Ridout, Esq.  
Surveyor-General

Sir: On your advice, I enclose my old surveying accounts, made out at the reduced price of 2/6 (from 7/6) which amounts to only 72 pounds currency - I hope there will be no difficulty in your procuring an audit for that charge and hope you will be so good and send me my former papers left with you together with the minutes of council respecting the said old surveys, which may enable me to make a further application to the executive, for some more consideration.

I am, Sir, your most obedient and humble servant.

A. Jones, D.L.S.

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