

FRASER, Dr. John Bell

Genealogy

1855-

READING ROOM



John Bell Fraser, M.D., C.M., Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons, Kingston; Trinity Medical College, Toronto, member of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario, etc., etc., has been practising his profession in Toronto since the year 1890, and is one of the well established medical men of the city. On his paternal side Dr. Fraser's forefathers were natives of Scotland-his great-great-grandfather, Col. William Fraser, was born in Scotland in 1745, and on reaching manhood he joined the army, and was sent to America where his regiment was quartered in New York State prior to the Revolutionary war.

During the progress of the war he remained loyal to the British cause, but after the war was ended he came to Canada and settled on a grant of land in the township of Matilda, County of Dundas; and at the time of his death owned several thousand acres of land in Upper Canada-he died in 1826.

Lily Fraser (Col. Wm. Fraser's wife) was born in 1749; and she and Col. Wm. had a family of six sons and one daughter; Lilly Fraser died in the year 1834.

Hon. Thos. Fraser, a man who took a leading part in the questions and politics of the day, was a brother of Col. Wm. Fraser.

Lieut. Thos. Fraser, son of Col. Wm. Fraser, was born in 1775, and like his father was a military man.

He married Susan Smallman in 1802, and very shortly after his marriage was sent with his regiment (60th. foot) to the Island of Hayti, where he died in 1803- his widow lived until the year 1845.

Thomas Fraser, P.L.S., only child of Lieut. Thos. and Susan Fraser, was born in Dundas Co. in 1803, and on arriving at manhood he went to Auburn, New York State, U.S.A. here he qualified as a surveyor and civil engineer, then returning to Canada he was appointed a Provincial Land Surveyor by the Government of Upper Canada on the 4th. of August, 1825.

In 1827 he married Jane Elizabeth Bell, daughter of John Bell of Ernestown, Upper Canada, and they had a family of nine sons and one daughter-but two of the sons died in childhood. T. Fraser, P.L.S. with Messrs. Burroughs and Kilburn, surveyed the Rideau Canal; and for years he was engaged surveying new townships, etc. in different parts of Upper Canada. Several times Surveyor Fraser was offered political honors, but he always declined.

Thos. Grant Fraser, sons of Thos. Fraser, P.L.S; and father of Dr. Fraser, was born in the township of Kingston, December 5th. 1829. He attended the local public school and lived on the old homestead for some years both before and after his marriage. He married Hannah, daughter of John and Margaret Bell in 1853; and to them were born four children, two sons and two daughters.

In the year 1869 Thos. G. Fraser and family moved on a farm a short distance from the Town of Brockville, and found it a very healthy and agreeable place to live.



T. G. Fraser worked for a time as outside ticket agent of the Grand Trunk Railway, Brockville and later ran on the G.T.R. Road between Brockville and Bellville principally; then later years spent most of his time on his farm. A few years before his death he moved to the City of Toronto where he died January 4th. 1896- he was a warm friend and loving father.

Dr. Jno. Bell Fraser son of Thos. G. Fraser, was born in the Township of Kingston, November 16th. 1855, he received a common school education in the public school nearby, then later in the public school of Brockville, Ont.

After leaving school he followed the profession of agriculture for a time; but later deciding to adopt the medical profession as a life work he entered the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons, Kingston, and graduated with the degrees of M.D., C.M., in 1888, also taking the same degrees from Trinity Medical College, Toronto. He at once entered upon general practice, his first location being Spencerville, Ont. where he remained about two years, then moved to Toronto in 1890.

Dr. Fraser has always been interested in Christian work, and while a student at Kingston helped organize the first Y.M.C.A. formed in connection with the medical school.

He also is a strong temperance advocate-having been a total abstainer during his whole life. He is also a lover of relics and antiquities, especially those that have historical or interesting associations connected with them, and he enjoys showing his guests and friends his stock of relics, etc., especially those that share his enthusiasm in such matters. Among his relics, etc., are Indian pipes, arrowheads, tomahawks, gouges, crockery, a pipe of peace, beaded bags for powder for the face, gunpowder, tobacco, etc., a New Zealand "Tike," Bone chisels and bone money sea-eggs, sea-plates, brain coral, stalactites, stalagmites, etc., etc., and an old copy of the Baskerville Bible once owned by his great-great-grandfather Fraser has an honored place in his collection. He also has some good specimens of the flint-lock gun and pistol once used by our forefathers.

In politics Dr. Fraser is an Independent-believing that if men would support principles instead of party that it would be better for our country. In religion Dr. Fraser is a Methodist, he has been a member of that church for years, part of the time in an official capacity; but while he loves the Methodist church he has a warm feeling for the other Christian denominations.

The doctor is a great admirer of nature and natural curiosities such as mountains, woods, caves waterfalls, romantic scenery, valleys, and thinks that some of the caves that are not widely known & such as the ice caves in New York Stat, and some of the caves in Bermuda where hundreds of stalactites hang glittering from the roof of the cave) are well worth visiting.

Dr. Fraser was married in 1884 to Miss Frances Sarah McLean, daughter of Henry McLean, of Brockville, Ont., and after a very happy married life she died in 1902, leaving four daughters and a husband to mourn her loss. She was a true wife, a loving mother, and a warm friend.



On account of overwork, Dr. Fraser's health commenced to fail so he sold his place on Queen Street, East, and in the fall of 1905 went to Great Britain where he spent some months visiting the hospitals of London and Edinburgh, looking up some old family records, examining some of the historic buildings found in England and Scotland; seeing and hearing some of the prominent men of the day; and getting an idea of the social relations governing society in the old land.

Returning to Toronto the doctor resumed practice on Sherbourne Street and soon was busy again; but did not undertake to do as much work as he had been doing formerly. With a comfortable home, kind friends, loving children, and good neighbors his life is a pleasant one, and it is his sincere wish that each of his adult friends and acquaintances may enjoy similar blessings suitable to their particular cases.