

John Colin BLAIN was born in March of 1882, the son of Thomas Pirie BLAIN and Mary Ann MONRO. Colin, as he preferred to be called, married Mabelle Beatrice SMITH, the daughter of William SMITH and Martha BERRYMAN, on April 10, 1909 in St. Catharines. They lived at 11 ½ Geneva Street, then 74 Welland Avenue before moving to 111 Highland Avenue.

Colin served as Secretary of The Lincoln County Historical Society, the forerunner of The Historical Society of St. Catharines for several years under the Society's first president Fred R. Parnell before becoming the second president of the Society in 1936. He was president for three years and he continued his involvement in the Society for many more years.

In 1946, when the Society was somewhat inactive, Colin along with Fred R. Parnell and A.E. Coombs managed to get city council to consider ways to preserve the historical records and artifacts that the Society had collected. The collection had been stored in the basement of the public library until the space was required for library purposes and were now being housed in the Lake Street Fire Hall. City

Council eventually established a local museum and the Society's collection formed the basis of the museum collection.

His 39 year career as Collector of Customs and Registrar of Shipping in St. Catharines began in February of 1936. The February 6, 1936 issue of the St. Catharines Standard featured a front page photo of Colin being sworn in.

Colin died at his residence on Friday, September 30, 1949. His death was announced along with a photo of him on the front page of Saturday's St. Catharines Standard. On Sunday evening members of the Maple Leaf Lodge No.103 A.F. & A.M. conducted a ritualistic service of the Masonic Order. The funeral was held on Monday, October 3 at 2:00 p.m. from the Hulse and English Funeral Home. Throughout his life, he was very active in the community and Knox Presbyterian Church and thus his funeral service was widely attended. The service was conducted by Rev. H. M. COULTER of Knox Presbyterian Church. Pall bearers were John CRAISE, Harry EDMONSTONE, James REID, Walter SHARPE, James MURRAY and S. H. FALKNER. Burial took place in Old Section 'G' of Victoria Lawn Cemetery.