

by Bill Stevens; originally published in the March 2004 Newsletter

John Anderson Marquis

John was born on March 4, 1832 in Fachabers, Scotland; his parents were Alexander and Jamesina (DEAN) MARQUIS. John was christened April 1, 1832 at Bellie, Moray, Scotland. He came to Canada about 1855. He worked at the Bank of Montreal in Montreal, starting as a junior clerk and rising to the position of accountant. The bank moved him to Prescott, Toronto, Bowmanville, Guelph and Dundas. In 1869 John left the bank and moved to Niagara where he took a position as accountant at the Riordon Paper Mills, a position he held for 35 years.

In a previous write-up on John it says that he married Catharine Mathison, an event that perhaps occurred in 1861/62. However, an entry in the Wentworth County marriage register shows him marrying Ellen McAusland in 1867 and his residence as Dundas.

John appears in the 1871 Census for the Town of Thorold, with his wife Ellen, and children Alexander and Isabella. St. Catharines City directory entries for 1874 has John at 18 Geneva Street; for 1875/76 at 4 Albert Street; for 1898 the family is listed at 16 Albert; and the last listing for John in the 1904-06 directory shows him at 19 Catherine Street.

Ellen died on September 23, 1903. The funeral took place on Saturday afternoon from her late home at the corner of Catharine and Albert streets to Victoria Lawn Cemetery. Rev. J.H. Ratcliffe officiated. Pallbearers were A. St. John, L.H. Collard, D.L. Cruickshank, J. Henderson, C.A. Case, and R.T. Hill.

John died a sudden death on Monday, February 13, 1905. He had been at his office at the Riordon mill almost until his passing. John was a prominent member of the First Presbyterian Church and a very active Mason. He held several positions, including that as Past Master of Maple Leaf Lodge, No. 103, A.F. & A.M. He had been a member of the Queen's Own Rifles while living in Toronto and was a Conservative in politics. John left a brother and a sister in Scotland.

Four children survived his passing: two daughters and two sons:

Isabella D. MARQUIS – was born January 17, 1869 in St. Catharines. She married Alex. E. Adam and they lived in Hamilton, Ontario in August of 1947 and then in Milltown, N.B.

Jean E. MARQUIS – was born September 6, 1875 in St. Catharines. Jean lived at the family residence (City Directory entries as follows: 1898 – 16 Albert Street; 1911, 1916 and 1926 – 92 Church Street).

William McAuslan MARQUIS – was born on September 1, 1873 in St. Catharines. William was a life-long resident of the City (City Directory entries as follows: 1898 – clerk – 16 Albert St.; 1904-06 – clerk – Marquis and Gilleland, boards at 19 Catherine St.; 1911 – Marquis and Lane – house at 92 Church St.; 1926 – accountant at Marquis and Pepler, house at 92 Church St.). He was a member of Knox Presbyterian Church and was choir librarian for many years. He was associated for over fifty years with the legal firm established by his brother Alexander. He retired in 1944. William died August 5, 1947. Funeral service was from Hulse and English Funeral Chapel with entombment in the Victoria Lawn Cemetery Mausoleum. Rev. Jason Graham of St. Andrew's Presbyterian

Church, Thorold conducted the service. Casket bearers were Wm. Livingston, R.N. Johnston, Lewis B. Tripp, Stewart Watt, Alec McPhail and Currie Brown.

Alexander William MARQUIS, K.C. – Mayor City of St. Catharines, 1904

Alexander William Marquis was born October 27, 1862 in Bowmanville, Durham County, Ontario. He attended Grantham Academy (St. Catharines Collegiate Institute). He was a member of the original Athletics Lacrosse Club, an outstanding tennis player and later in life joined the St. Catharines Golf Club to pursue golfing. He made preparation for the Bar as a student in the office and under the direction of J.C. Rykert, K.C. and afterward became a member of the firm of Rykert, Ingersoll & Marquis, so continuing until 1896. He then practiced alone for a short time with offices at 13 Queen Street.

Alexander married Miss Alice Maude Norris, a daughter of Captain James (a merchant and member of parliament for the County of Lincoln) and Elizabeth Norris, on June 4, 1896 at the family home on Ann Street.

[Alice Maud, was united in the holy bonds of wedlock to Mr. Alexander William Marquis, one of our most prominent young lawyers. The drawing room presented a very pretty sight, decorated with flowers and plants. At the hour of 5 o'clock the bride appeared leaning on the arm of her brother, Mr. Charles Norris. . . . The newly wedded couple left on the 7:34 p.m. train for New York and eastern cities, amid showers of rice, old shoes and good wishes. About fifty friends assembled at the station to bid them farewell for a short time. [Evening Journal – June 5,

1896]. A brilliant society wedding was consummated on Thursday afternoon at the Residence of Mrs. James Norris when her daughter, Alice Maud, was united to A.W. Marquis, barrister, of this city . . . and was witnessed by about 100 guests. The bride, who was most charmingly attired, was attended by her sister, Miss May, and her cousin, Miss Annie Norris, the latter from Montreal. [The Daily Standard – June 5, 1896]. They were followed to the depot by many of the guests, and given a real, hearty send-off, with the aid of a quantity of rice, which was fairly distributed over everybody. – Evening Star – June 5, 1896].

The couple took up residence at 9 Ann Street, now Norris Place. In the City Directory for 1904-06 Alexander is shown as a barrister at Marquis and Gilleland, located at 16 Queen Street. The City Directories of 1911 and 1916 show Alexander as a barrister at Marquis and Lane, 16 Queen St.

The Directory for 1926 shows Alexander, K.C. at Marquis and Pepler barristers at 16 Queen St.

Alexander was a Conservative Party supporter. Between 1900-1903 he was an alderman for the City of St. Catharines and was elected mayor on Monday, January 4, 1904 by a majority vote of the electorate, defeating Alderman Wilson by 219 votes. He served only a one-year term as mayor. In 1916 he became solicitor for Lincoln County and twice appeared before the Privy Council. In 1921 he was appointed a King's Counsel.

Alice Maude NORRIS MARQUIS passed away on Tuesday, March 8, 1921. Funeral services were held on Thursday, March 10 from her home at 9 Ann Street (now Norris Place) to the Victoria

Lawn Cemetery Mausoleum. Maud was a member of the I.O.D.E., Knox Church.

In 1929 Alexander married a second time to Miss. Ethel Florence LAMB of Ottawa. She was a member of Knox Presbyterian Church. Ethel died on Thursday, December 6, 1951 at the St. Catharines General Hospital. Funeral was from Butler and Son Funeral Home, 33 Duke Street, with entombment in Victoria Lawn Cemetery Mausoleum. Rev. Granville Taylor-Munro officiated. A brother, William H. Lamb of Montreal, Quebec, survived her.

Alexander was a president of the Lincoln County Law Society, 1935-37 and in November of 1938, upon completing 51 years of practice was honoured by the Society with a banquet and presentation. At the time of his death he was the oldest practicing lawyer in the city. He was a member of the board of management of the Niagara Peninsula Sanatorium, for many years a director of the Imperial Trust Company of Toronto, which became Premier Trust Company and he was instrumental in having them open an office in St. Catharines. He was a member of the Masonic and Odd Fellows lodges, the Sons of Scotland, the Royal Arcanum, the Canadian Order of Elks, the Independent Order of Foresters, the St. Catharines Club and Knox Presbyterian Church (serving 20 years on the board). He died on Sunday, June 30, 1940. Funeral service was held Wednesday afternoon at 2:30 p.m. from the family residence, 9 Ann Street (now Norris Place). Interment in Victoria Lawn Cemetery, Cullinen Mausoleum. Among the pallbearers were Judge Campbell and Dr. Sutherland. A street was named after him, Marquis Street, which runs between Carlton and Russell streets.

Children of Alexander and Alice Maude MARQUIS:

Marjorie C. – was born about 1900 in St. Catharines and lived at 9 Ann Street (1926 Directory). Marjorie died September 6, 1985 at Chateau Gardens in the Town of Niagara-On-The-Lake and is entombed in the Cullinen Mausoleum in Victoria Lawn Cemetery.

James Norris (“Norrie”) – was born October 22, 1901 in St. Catharines. Norrie was a graduate of Ridley College and Osgoode Hall. He joined his father in the practice of law as Marquis and Marquis. In 1947 Norris was appointed local Registrar for the Supreme Court of Ontario and Clerk of the County Court and Surrogate Court Registrar for the County of Lincoln, a position he held until his retirement in 1966. He was president of the St. Catharines Baseball Club, Past Master of Perfection Lodge. Norrie died November 30, 1970 at Albright Manor in the Town of Lincoln. His wife Helen Louise Wilson, known as “Nellie” died on Tuesday, November 25, 2003 at Henley House, St. Catharines in her 95th year. They were members of St. Paul Street United Church. Both Norrie and his wife are buried in Fonthill.