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“William Kingsford – Pioneer Engineer-Historian”

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Abstract

This paper tells briefly the story of London-born William Kingsford, soldier, surveyor and civil engineer, in Canada from the 1840s until the 1880s, and a historian thereafter who, in his later years, wrote a ten-volume history of his adopted country.

About this Series

Principally, the Cedargrove Series is intended to preserve some of the research, writing and oral presentations that the author has completed over the past half-century or so but has not yet published. It is, therefore, the modern-day variant of the privately-published books and pamphlets written by his forebears, such as his paternal grandfather and grandmother and his grandfather's brother John.

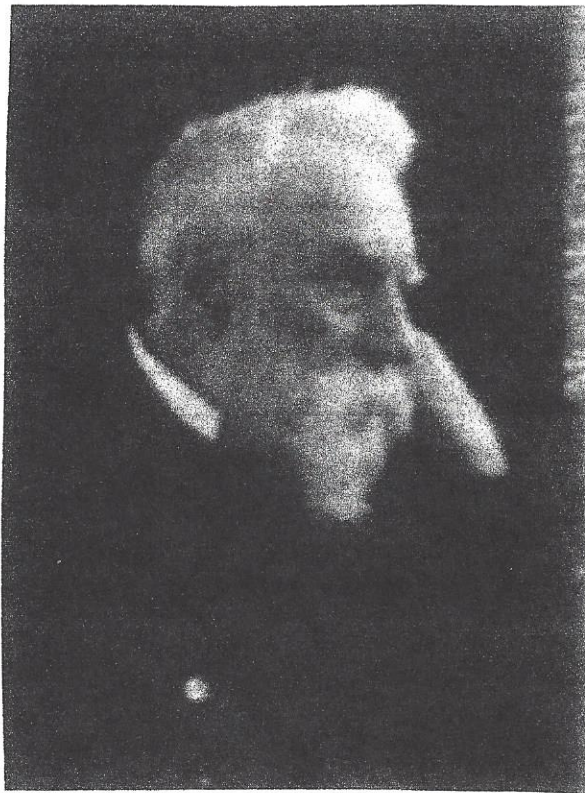
About the Author

He is a graduate in mechanical engineering and the liberal arts and has held technical, administrative, research and management positions in industry in the United Kingdom and the public service of Canada, from which he retired 30 years ago.

He became actively interested in the history of engineering on his appointment to chair the first history committee of the Canadian Society for Mechanical Engineering in 1975 and served both CSME and the Engineering Institute of Canada in this capacity for varying periods until 2003. He has since then researched, written and edited historical material for both organizations and for the Canadian Society of Senior Engineers. He is a past president of both CSME and EIC.

Preamble

The author first became aware of the historical work of William Kingsford - a member of the original Canadian Society of Civil Engineers - during his research some years ago and realized that he was, most likely, Canada's pioneer engineer-historian. There have been very, very few others since Kingsford's time, perhaps the best-known being Robert Legget - like Kingsford, born in England - who contributed books and articles in more recent years. With the imminent arrival of Canada's Sesquicentennial year, and the 130th year since the founding of the CSCE, it seems appropriate to remind Canadian engineers and others that Engineer Kingsford contributed to the engineering and the history of this country.



William Kingsford

