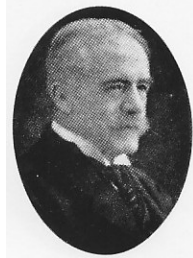


Col. William Nisbet Ponton, MA, KC

Grand Master (1921-22 and 1922-23) of the Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M. of Canada
in the Province of Ontario

and

Grand First Principal (1919-20, 1920-21 and 1921-22) of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of
Canada in the Province of Ontario



(1855-1939)

William Nisbet Ponton was born in "Sidney Cottage", Thurlow Township, just outside Belleville, Canada West, on January 22, 1855. He was educated at Belleville schools, Upper Canada College and the University of Toronto, Osgoode Hall from which he received a BA (1877) and MA (1878). During this period he edited the *Upper Canada College Times* and was an associate editor of *Varsity* as well as being a constant contributor to many other publications. He was called to the Bar in 1880 and was created a King's Counsel in 1908. During his lifetime he served as a Senator of the University of Toronto, a member of the Board of Upper Canada College, a Bencher of the Law Society of Upper Canada and First Vice-President of the Ontario Bar Association. In 1906 and 1912 he was a delegate to the Empire meetings of the Chambers of Commerce and spoke at Guild Hall, London and Edinburgh. For thirty years he served on the Belleville Board of Education. During World War I he served in the Argyll Light Infantry and was Colonel of the Regiment for seven years and also served as a Member of the Central Executive of the Canadian Red Cross.

Colonel William Nisbet Ponton was married and his wife was active in the Girl Guide movement and served as Divisional Commissioner in Belleville (Globe and Mail, May 16, 1938, p 12).

He is described as a staunch Presbyterian and he and his wife were members of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Belleville.

M. W. Bro. Col. William Nisbet Ponton, MA, KC, died on September 6, 1939.

Masonic Career

He was initiated into Belleville Lodge, No. 123 GRC, Belleville and served as WM (1897). He was elected as DDGM of Prince Edward District No. 13 (1905-06) and Deputy Grand Master (1919-20 and 1920-21). He was elected as Grand Master of the Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M. of Canada in the Province of Ontario for the 1921-22 and 1922-23 terms.

In *Capitular Masonry* he was exalted in The Moira Chapter, No. 7, Belleville and served as First Principal (year unknown) and Grand Superintendent (year unknown). After serving in a number of Grand Chapter offices he was elected as Grand First Principal of Grand Chapter for the 1919-20 and 1920-21 terms. On June 27, 1921, M. Ex. Comp. Herbert Spohn Griffin, Grand First Principal elect, died in Hamilton, before he could be installed. His illness had already resulted in a decision by M. Ex. Comp. Ponton, to permit his installation in Hiram Chapter, Hamilton, at such time as his health permitted. His early death meant that M. Ex. Comp. Ponton continued in office for the full year until the next Annual Convocation on February 22, 1922.

In *Knights Templary*, he was a member of King Baldwin Preceptory, No. 6, Belleville.

[Source: (1) *Annual Proceedings 1921, 1922 and 1940* of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Canada in the Province of Ontario. (2) *History of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Canada 1857-1932*, published under authority of the Grand Chapter, 75th Anniversary issue, 1932. (3) *Central District (1858-1895) and Ottawa District 13 (1896-present) Royal Arch Masons of Ontario*, published 2003 by Gryphon Jenkyns Enterprises, ISBN 0-9732736-1-5.]