John Albert Rowland, KC

Grand Master (1925-26 and 1926-27) of the Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M. of Canada in the Province of Ontario



(1875-1942)

John Albert Rowland was born in Scott Township, Ontario County, on February 18, 1875. He was educated at the public school in Mount Albert and at high schools in Markham and Kincardine. He attended the University of Toronto and graduated in 1896 (honours Classics) and entered Osgoode Law School. In 1898 he took a Fellowship in Latin and Greek at the University of California and on his return to Toronto was called to the Bar in 1900. He was called to the Bar in British Columbia in 1905.

He was a member of the Board for the Toronto Hospital for Incurables. In 1935 he was appointed as joint General Manager of the Canada Permanent Mortgage Corporation.

He died at his home in Toronto on April 18, 1942.

Masonic Career

At the time of his death his obituary in the 1942 Annual Proceedings notes that he was a "PM of Harmony Lodge and first WM of Metropolitan Lodge." The first would be Harmony No. 438, Toronto of which he was WM in 1910 and the second is Metropolitan No. 542 also of Toronto which was instituted in 1918 and of which he served as WM in 1918, 1919 and 1920. He was elected as DDGM of Toronto Centre District No. 11b for 1916-17). He was elected as Deputy Grand Master (1923-24 and 1924-25) as Grand Master of the Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M. of Canada in the Province of Ontario (1925-26 and 1926-27). He was elected as served as Grand Treasurer from 1933 to 1940. In 1940 he was appointed as Grand Representative of the United Grand Lodge of England.

In 1940 he was elected as Sovereign Grand Commander of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of the Dominion of Canada, an office which he still held at the time of his death..

[Sources: (1) 1942 Annual Proceedings, (page 202). A History of the Grand Lodge A. F. & A. M. of Canada in the Province of Ontario 1855-1955, by Walter S. Herrington and Roy S. Foley, Published by the authority of Grand Lodge, McCallum Press Ltd., Toronto, 1955 (page 224).]