

Nelson Collins Hart, MA

Grand Master (1951-52 and 1952-53) of the Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M. of Canada
in the Province of Ontario



M.W. Bro. N. C. Hart

(1888-1959)

Nelson Collins Hart was born on June 11, 1888, in Ops Township, Victoria County. He was educated at the rural one-room school #12 in Ops and at the Omemee High School and Lindsay Collegiate. He graduated from the University of Toronto (BA, 1915 and MA, 1916).

Before entering UofT he taught public school from 1908-11 and immediately after graduation worked as a bacteriologist with British Acetones in Toronto. In 1919 he joined UWO as a lecturer and in 1924 was appointed Professor of Botany and head of the Department. For twenty-five years he served as Chairman of the Convocation Committee. He was one of the founders and very active in the work of the Western Ontario Secondary Schools' Association. (WOSSA). He served with the Canadian Officers Training Corps during two world wars and also was the commanding officer of UWO's University Naval Training Division from 1943 onwards, with the rank of Commander (RCNR).

He was an active sportsman and his involvement extended beyond Ontario schools. He served as Honorary Secretary of the Canadian Olympic Association (1938-49) and general Manager of the Canadian Olympic Team which competed in Britain in 1948. Personally he was active as a curler and lawn bowler.

He married Miss Marjorie Ross of London and they had two daughters, Sheila and Helen, who were, themselves, both graduates of UWO. The family was active in the Methodist Church and after Church Union, they became members of First-St. Andrew's United Church of London.

M. W. Bro. Nelson Collins Hart died on December 7, 1959.

Masonic Career

He was initiated, passed and raised in 1914 in Lorne Lodge, No. 375 GRC, Omemee. In 1920 he affiliated with Tuscan Lodge, No. 195 GRC, London and served as WM (1929). He was elected as DDGM of London District (1938-39) and served on the Board of General Purposes from 1940-49 (Printing Committee, Masonic Education). He was elected Deputy Grand Master (1949-50 and 1950-51 terms) and Grand Master (1951-52 and 1952-53 terms) of the Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M. of Canada in the Province of Ontario.

He was a member of London Lodge of Perfection (TPGM), London Sovereign Chapter Rose Croix (MWS) Moore Sovereign Consistory, Hamilton and was coroneted as an Honorary 33°.

He was a member of the Royal Order of Scotland (1947).

[Sources: (1) *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. (2) Annual Proceedings of Grand Lodge.]