

John Alfred Irvine

Grand Master (1963-64 and 1964-65) of the Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M. of Canada
in the Province of Ontario



(1912-1996)

John Alfred Irvine was born on January 26, 1912, on Wolfe Island, Ontario (just off Kingston and the largest of the Thousand Islands). His parents, Byron and Rachella Irvine, were of UEL descent and Irish extraction and their son, John, received his primary education in the typical one-room white school-house, S.S. No. 14, Wolfe Island. At the age of thirteen he sailed as a deck-hand and later as an able-bodied seaman, first on the Great Lakes and then along the Atlantic coast from Newfoundland to Jamaica. When not sailing he completed his secondary schooling and graduated from Kingston Collegiate in 1930. He enrolled at Queen's University and completed his first year in a BA program.

He felt there was greater opportunity in business and joined the Hoover Company, selling vacuum cleaners on a door to door basis. Within one year he was placed in charge of the Toronto area and within six years, he was District Manager for the whole Southwestern Ontario region, working out of London.

In 1939 he volunteered for the Canadian Army but was given only a temporary category due to a left arm injury. He joined the militia and was eventually placed on the reserve list of officers in 1945 with the rank of Captain.

In 1947 he left Hoover and established himself in London under the name "Irvine Appliances" and operated the company until his retirement in 1961. During this period he was also interested in other businesses including restaurant, construction and real estate. He was an active member of the North London Kiwanis Club. In his biography, written for the 1963 Proceedings, he described his hobbies as fishing, golfing and curling.

He married Doris Virginia Seeley of Owen Sound on July 3, 1937. They had one son, John. The family lived for most of its life in Lambeth and were supporters of Trinity Anglican Church.

M. W. Bro. John Alfred Irvine died on July 20, 1996.

Masonic Career

Mr. John Alfred Irvine was initiated into St. John's Lodge, No. 209A GRC, London (1941) and served as WM (1950-51). He was elected as Grand Senior Warden of Grand Lodge (1955-56) and to the Board of General Purposes (1958-59 and 1959-60 and also 1960-61). He was elected as Deputy Grand Master (1961-62 and 1962-63) and as Grand Master for the 1963-64 and 1964-65 terms. He was appointed as the Grand Representative of the Grand Lodge of Ireland. He was a member of St. John's Chapter, No. 4, London; Richard Coeur de Lion Preceptory, No. 4, London.

He was a member of The London Lodge of Perfection (TPGM 1959), London Sovereign Chapter Rose Croix, and Moore Sovereign Consistory, Hamilton. He was coroneted as an Honorary Inspector General, 33° (1963).

He was a member of the Shrine.

[Sources: (1) *1963 Proceedings* of the Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M. of Canada in the Province of Ontario.]