

### George Bremner Cardiff

The following biographical sketch of the late George Bremner Cardiff, aged 87, one of the district's bulwarks, who died here last Monday, is furnished the Renfrew Journal through the kindness of Mr. J. L. Bremner, of town:

"The eldest son, and child of the late Geo. Cardiff and Elizabeth Bremner, his wife, was born in the Township of North Elmsley, Lanark County, on the 2nd day of April, 1832, and came when a child of two years old with his parents to the present Cardiff homestead in Admaston, where they arrived on the 4th day of March, 1834. His father, together with the late John Bremner and the late John and Peter Campbell, were the first permanent settlers in the township. Here young George grew up to be a model, physical specimen of a man, a giant almost in strength, which was all needed, in after years, and at the pioneer work of clearing land from the original forest and other heavy work, as there were no "easy" jobs in those days. Wherever he was he was always found pushing and taking the heavy end of everything, and, as to his enormous strength it has been often related of him by his intimates, that when he was in his prime he could lift a weight of 1,400 lbs. off the ground. And one of the hardships of the early settlement was in getting men enough to raise and put up a log building, and he often walked from home in the morning down to Horton or McNab, do his share at one of these "raisings," usually fitting and putting up a corner on the building, and then walk home again at night, and perhaps on the next day go west as far as 3rd Chute, now Douglas, going through the same performance.

People in those times, more than now, had to help one another or they could not have got along at all, and as Mr. Cardiff was an expert axeman, the chief work of the times, his services were sought after from far and near at those raising bees, and all his younger manhood was spent in the heavy and hard work of clearing the timber off the homestead and getting a fine farm out of the

forest. He was very successful along with his father in making a beautiful home. Then about 1866 he branched out as a lumber jobber in the winter season, his first contract being at the Black Donald Creek, taking out saw logs for the late John Francis. At this work he continued with the usual ups and downs of the lumber firms, but always attended to his farm in the summer season, and being an expert horseman, the best could always be found at his place, and was always worth going to see. He was a man with an exceptionally well balanced mind, could hardly be ruffled or irritated, and generally had the happy faculty of getting on top or seeing the good side of everything.

He served in the Township Council of Admaston for some eight or ten years, where his sound common sense and advice was much appreciated, but he never sought for, nor cared for the glare of public life, always preferring the quiet life of his home and his family. He was a Liberal in politics, but when asked by his friends on more than one occasion to let his name go before a convention for political honors he steadfastly refused, and never would listen to such proposals.

He was married on the 10th Jan., 1859, to Bertha Carswell, eldest daughter of the late Dr. Allan Carswell, and to this union ten children were born, five of whom have predeceased him. He is survived by two brothers and two sisters, John, of Calgary; and William, of Admaston; Mrs. Chas. Moore, of Dakota; Mr. Dudley Moore, of Vancouver; also his wife and three sons and two daughters, Geo. F., Allan and Wm. James, all farmers in Admaston, the latter being on the homestead. The daughters are: Mrs. Chas. Mayhew, of Renfrew, and Mrs. Hugh Beach, of Portage La Prairie, Manitoba. Mr. Cardiff came to reside in Renfrew about eight years ago, his youngest son taking over the homestead. Here he has lived quietly, but spending a great deal of his time with his boys out in the country, as it seemed more like home to a man of his energy and active nature. Although in his 84th year, he was quite fresh and smart up to within four days of his death, and could walk up town as sharp and quick as many men 50 years his junior, but on Tuesday, 26th May, after having dinner as usual, he was doing some work around the house when he suddenly took an inward pain and although Dr. Mann was called in soon after, he seemed to get no relief and gradually weakened until the end came early on the morning of the 29th,

surrounded by his dearest friends thus ending a long life well and honorably spent.

His funeral on Monday was very largely attended, practically every family and connection in the district being represented. He was buried with Masonic honors in the Admaston cemetery, in the countryside he had helped to tame and build up.

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