

Funeral of Late Alexander Smith Largely Attended

Many Men Prominent in Politics and Friends From All Parts of Canada Present at Services.

(Canadian Press.)
PORT ELGIN, Ont., Oct. 21.—Amid tributes from friends in every walk of life, the body of Alexander Smith, K.C., former Liberal organizer, was carried from the family homestead to Port Elgin cemetery for burial Saturday. Death occurred at Ottawa, last Wednesday after a two-day illness.

Funeral services were conducted at the family homestead, Lot 14, Concession 3, Sauguen township, about two miles south of Port Elgin, and were attended by many men prominent in politics and friends from all parts of Canada.

Rev. C. H. Padden, pastor of St. Andrew's United church, Sauguen, where Mr. Smith attended Sunday school as a boy, conducted the service. He was assisted by Rev. D. H. Callagher, pastor of Port Elgin United church, who read the Scripture lesson; Rev. Dr. Fraser Smith, Toronto, who led the prayer, and Rev. Dr. D. M. O'Leary, Toronto, who delivered the funeral sermon. Growing tributes were paid the life of Mr. Smith, to his unswerving loyalty and love for his country and friends.

A group of men and women who had attended school under Mr. Smith, before he took up the study of law, were present to do honor to the memory of their former schoolmaster.

Numerous Floral Tributes

Floral tributes were numerous and beautiful and included baskets from Premier Macpherson King and Hon. James Malton, minister of trade and commerce.

Among the chief mourners were Miss Annie Smith, a sister, and Donald Smith, brother, ex-reside of Sauguen township.

Others who attended included Hon. James Malton, minister of trade and commerce; Senator James Spence, and Senator the Rt. Hon. George F. Graham. These men, representing the Dominion government, acted as pall-bearers together with Kirk Cameron, Montreal, an intimate friend of Mr. Smith, and C. M. Bowman, former member of parliament for Southanston.

Others present were: Hon. Duncan Marshall, Wellington, Napa member of parliament for North Wellington; Walter Saffers, secretary to Hon. James Bith; H. E. M. Campbell, of the Department of Trade and Commerce; Ross Munro, Toronto; A. F. Macpherson, M.L.A. for North Bruce; W. F. Taylor, former member of parliament for North Grey; Dr. W. A. Hall, member of parliament for South Bruce, and representatives from every municipality in Bruce county.

The body was conveyed from Ottawa Friday in a special car which carried a number of intimate friends of Mr. Smith.

A. SMITH OF OTTAWA DIES

Was Organizer of Liberal Party of Canada; Close Friend of Laurier

Ottawa, Oct. 17.—Alexander Smith, former organizer of the Liberal Party of Canada and for many years an intimate friend of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, died suddenly at his home here to-day at the age of sixty-two years. He was 33 only a day.

There were few men in Canada better known in political life than Mr. Smith.

A son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Peter S. Smith, pioneer settlers in the County of Bruce, Ontario, he was educated at the Port Elgin and Walkerton public schools, the Collingwood Agricultural Institute and the University of Toronto, where he graduated in 1899.

He attended the law school at Osgoode Hall, Toronto, and was called to the Ontario bar and was sworn in as a solicitor in 1902.

WAS NEWSPAPER MAN

Previous to entering the University of Toronto he was for some years connected with Toronto newspapers.

Mr. Smith filled the position of secretary of the Liberal Party in the Federal and Ontario Provincial fields, and



LATE ALEXANDER SMITH

was for years election manager with headquarters in Ottawa. Immediately after the Federal general election of 1904 he took up residence in Ottawa and there practiced law, shortly afterwards retiring.

He was 33 to-day.

BRIEF HISTORY OF THE NODWELL INDIAN VILLAGE SITE AT PORT ELGIN, ONTARIO

By Fritz Knechtel

Back in 1460 A.D. there existed an Indian Village of some 1,000 inhabitants on the Richard Nodwell property at the top of Market St. near the lake. It was strongly palisaded, covering some two to three acres and within the long-houses were closely packed together. It is the only known fortified Indian village in Bruce County and very important to our pre-history.

These people were likely our earliest Farmers and grew corn, beans, squash and tobacco. They were ancestral to the later Hurons, Eries, Neutrains and Petun Nations. And the Nodwell site depicts a most important line of their development.

Every effort should be made to preserve the site against the threatened urban advance; historically it is irreplaceable and it warrants a very complete investigation and hoped-for later re-creation. It would be a first in Canada, an Indian Village on its original site and based on its original plan.

A great deal of interesting material has been found: Pottery, Pipe bowls and stems, annealed native copper beads, fish-hooks and awls, carbonized wood and seeds, even Elk and Bison (Buffalo) bones. There is evidence of Ceremonial burials and a well advanced tribal organization.

Just what happened to these people? Perhaps fear of attack finally made them move East again, a direction from which they seemed to have come. That this was a very real fear is evidenced by double palisades even on the most protected sides of the village. Or again it might have been exhaustion of wood supply; they required a wood having the least smoke problems and easy-handled. And for construction purposes poles (trees) not too large and requiring only minimum efforts to fell. Virgin forest produced such trees, small in diameter and of great length. Also cedar and Elm bark for house sheathing and roofing; and all of these more difficult to obtain as their cultivated fields extended outwards and supplies had to be brought from greater distances.

It is always somewhat startling to find a complete plan in evidence in the soil; each post left its signature behind as a dark circle; and mapping these posts, recording with care, balling the palisades and the house structures. Likewise dark discoloration indicate fire, food and storage pits. Thus a map of the Village. (See sketch.)

For tourists and students of pre-history.

The first step to be taken is to assure that the area of the Indian village is kept clear of intrusion and available as an open space for park development and an historical area. Having achieved this, it is hoped to start a restoration of the Indian village on the original site and plan. This could be a progressive undertaking; part of the palisades and a long-house, with later the entire village. Bruce County has no historic site developed at present and an Indian Village could well be the first—and on an important North-South highway.

Mr. W. A. (Art) Davey, Port Elgin, Ont. has undertaken a committee approach favoring and promoting the Nodwell Indian Site Project. Bruce County Historical Society (Mrs. Geo. Downey, Tiverton, Ont.) fully backs the undertaking. Annie Meyer, CXXX-TV, Wingham, Ont., has been most helpful in programing and in other ways. The writer has tried to further the matter in every way possible.

Fritz Knechtel, Box 589, Hanover, Ontario.

Alexander Smith
Son of
Peter Smith of
Sauguen