

FORT ERIE MOURNS DR. WILLIAM DOUGLAS:::::

VETERAN Practitioner Dies after over sixty years Unfailing Service.

"One of Natures Noblemen" is friends Tribute.

The short illness and death of Dr. Douglas of Fort Erie practising Physician for over sixty years; came as a great shock to his friends and fellow residents who had come to regard him during the long years of his unfailing ministrations to them as one of the permanent things of his life. He contracted a cold just after his return from a motor trip to Quebec, in company of an old friend. Bronchitis followed and developed into pneumonia. He died last Friday peacefully in the room where he was born 83 years before.

Dr. Douglas lived all his life in a pretty white house on the Niagara Boulevard,, which predates him by some twenty years. Though he was a man of some considerable means when he died, and always in comfortable circumstances due to his careful attention to his affairs and simple habits of living; he never felt the need of wider horizons or departed from unpretentious habits of living.

In his house this writer was privileged to see his light and simple office, just as he left it; with its big medicine cabinet and old mahogany flat top desk, workman-like and mellowed from polishing. The whole house is furnished with uniform old-fashioned elegance, from the comfortable upholstered chairs in the living room to the big brass bed in which he died.

ENDURED DANGER AND HARDSHIP:::::

It is exemplary that such a man, with all the evidence in his home of more genteel amenities of life; should have been throughout the long length of his years of practice, always cheerfully disposed to endure hardships and dangers, in the course of his professional services.

Long before it was possible to get about by automobile to visit his patients, Dr. Douglas would make his way through mud and rain or blizzard to make calls. When the weather was too bad, or the nights too dark for buggy, he would go on horseback. He had been known on one or more occasions to make his way through snow which reached to somewhere near his waist, to a house where a woman or a child lay sick and helpless; but knowing that since it was Dr. Wm. Douglas who had been sent for; he would come.

And that is not the only side of him which was generous and unselfish. Dr. Douglas seldom sent out bills for services, and it is known that it was part of the doctor's life to give his services to deserving cases without any thought of charging for them; and it is indicated from the unobtrusive fashion in which he extended these privileges; that the number of instances is more than had been talked about.

While his deep interest in medicine and continual application to his profession, occupied almost all his time; more especially in the early years of practice; he had during his life other concerns which were designed for the public welfare. He had an important part in the building of the Peace Bridge, and was a director of the Fort Erie Bridge Company.

He watched over generations as they grew to maturity, and brought their children into the world. The splendid spirit in which he constituted himself, a sort of guardian of the public health, in the early days; is illustrative of the whole tenor of his life. He was not emotional, or moved to impulsive action. He was single-purposed, & sometimes terse. He was sound and solid and never known to commit a mean action.

FRIENDS TRIBUTE:::

One of his very good friends who knew him for fifty years, talked of the gap which his passing left in the life of his friends.

"There isn't anyway of filling the place he left for us" he said, "for young people, yes maybe; but you can't know a man for fifty years like Dr. Douglas; and lose him, without his taking some part of you away with him." "One of nature's noblemen" was his estimate of Dr. Douglas.

The funeral took place last Monday; proceeding to St. Paul's Church for the services at 2.30. Interment at St. Paul's Cemetery. It was largely attended, not only by the local people, but by prominent residents of the county, and Buffalo.

The pallbearers were;;; V.F. Willson: Henry Lewis: P.M. Graham: J.O. Clarke: E.L. Raney: and A.T. Elliot. There were many beautiful tributes, among them pieces from the Municipality, of Fort Erie, and the Peace Bridge directors.

The doctor is not survived by any close relatives. He was never married; and two cousins resident in Toronto, are the nearest living kin.

Will of Dr. Douglas A number of minor bequests (\$20,000) are all that will be deducted from his estate; the remainder estimated at between \$250,000 & 300,000, is to be controlled by Col. Clarke Raymond of Welland; who will be responsible for the building of the Hospital in Fort Erie.

The actual amount of the estate left by Dr. Douglas was \$600,000..

Information on Dr. William Douglas::: from the Fort Erie Times Review. Sept. 1929.