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Contents

INTRODUCTION	vii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	ix
DONORS	xi
SUBJECTS OF BIOGRAPHIES	xiii
EDITORIAL NOTES	xix
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS	2
BIOGRAPHIES	3
GENERAL BIBLIOGRAPHY	1093
CONTRIBUTORS	1115
INDEX OF IDENTIFICATIONS	1131
GEOGRAPHICAL INDEX	1157
NOMINAL INDEX	1179

VOLUME I	(1000–1700)	1966
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VOLUME IX	(1861–1870)	1976
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VOLUME XIV	(1911–1920)	1998
INDEX, VOLUMES I TO IV: 1000–1800		1981
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Introduction

THE NEW DUST JACKET sported by Volume XIV of the *Dictionary of Canadian biography/ Dictionnaire biographique du Canada* does not signal a break with the past. Its colourful, modern design, less classical and more indicative of the volume's contents, sets out to capture the attention and arouse the curiosity of bookstore patrons. But while decked out in new finery, the DCB/DBC is no less true to its established objectives and methods. Its aim is still to be a literary work that tells the story of Canadians through the medium of biography, and a highly reliable – indeed, indispensable – source of information about individuals and events.

Volume XIV, which includes the biographies of Edward Blake, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Sir Charles Tupper, and other people who flourished in the Victorian era, brings to a close, for all practical purposes, the 19th century. More and more, the realities of the 20th century provide the stories' framework: the development of the Canadian west, the industrialization of central Canada, the massive immigration that changed the ethnic composition of this country, the population shift towards big cities (both Canadian and American), the progress in public education, in technical and post-secondary training, and in literature and the arts. In the new era the search for a Canadian identity remained fraught with conflict. The two great nationalist currents, the Canadian and the *Canadien*, although each was split into various streams, were mutually exclusive because both sprang from ethnic and religious considerations. The points at which they clashed were the separate schools question and the role of Canada in the British empire. The outbreak of World War I would exacerbate the antagonisms. There was one point, however, on which the two currents tended to converge: the hope of greater independence for Canada in international affairs.

The 622 biographies of this volume have been produced by 459 authors selected for their special knowledge of events and personalities. They have made every effort to maintain the high standards that have earned the DCB/DBC its reputation for accurate and precise information, for originality and fairness of interpretation, and for elegance and lucidity of expression. Through their research into primary sources, they have built on secondary studies, enriching and sometimes revising or superseding them. The permanent staff of the DCB/DBC has, as in the past, carefully edited their texts and bibliographies, checked the translations, prepared a general bibliography and list of contributors, and created various indexes which help provide access to information. The result is fascinating. Biographical accounts, perhaps even more than legends or fables, reverberate in our consciousness because they turn the spotlight on individuals who are similar to ourselves, and yet different. They arouse feelings of empathy or rejection, make us aware of what we are, and awaken us to the infinite possibilities of human experience, of what we could be. All Canadians, to whatever ethnic or social group they belong and whatever their place of ori-

1950 assumed a well-deserved place in the International Hockey Hall of Fame in Kingston. As a soldier, he was aptly described as "a man who never gave a command he would not himself have executed willingly," and one whose conduct and character were inspirational. University colleagues said much the same, noting that he possessed "a genius for friendship, he saw the best in his friends, and that best became their standard."

JAMIE BENEDICKSON

NA, RG 150, Acc 1992-9V106 Private arch., Richardson family arch. (Winnipeg); G. T. Richardson to J. A. Richardson, 15 March, 16 Nov. 1915. *Daily British Wing* (Kingston, Ont.), 12 Feb. 1916, 10 Oct. 1921; H. S. Murton, "Capt. George Richardson, hero in sport and in war," *Evening Telegram* (Toronto), 15 Nov. 1921; 35. *Queen's Journal* (Kingston), 14 Feb. 1916, 5 March 1920; Can. Dept. of Militia and Defence, *Militia List* (Ottawa), 1908-14; F. C. Carry, *From the St. Lawrence to the Year with the 1st Canadian Brigade* (Toronto, [1916]), 166-67; Dan Diamond and Joseph Romain, *The Hockey Hall of Fame, the official history of the game and its greatest stars* (Toronto, 1988); W. W. Murray, *The history of the 2nd Canadian Battalion (East Ontario Regiment), Canadian Expeditionary Force, in the Great War, 1914-1919* (Ottawa), 1947), 54. Ont. Statutes, 1932, c.113.

RICHARDSON, HUGH, lawyer, office holder, militia officer, and judge, b. 21 July 1826 in London, England, son of Richard Richardson and Elizabeth Sarah Miller; m. first Charlotte Isabella (d. 1879), and they had two sons and four daughters; m. secondly 2 April 1883, in Drumbo, Ont., Rachel Louisa Piper, née Hughson (d. 1904); d. 15 July 1913 in Ottawa.

Hugh Richardson immigrated with his family to York (Toronto) in August 1831, and in 1835 his father became the first manager of the London branch of the Bank of Upper Canada. Educated at the London District Grammar School, Hugh was admitted to Osgoode Hall as a student in 1842 and read law with John Wilson*. He was called to the bar in November 1847 and subsequently practised in Woodstock until 1872, serving also as crown attorney for Oxford County from 1856 to 1862.

As was common for professional men of the era, Richardson was active in the local militia. He helped to organize the 22nd Battalion Volunteer Militia Rifles (Oxford Rifles) in 1862 and would become commander of the unit in April 1866. In 1865, with the rank of major, he saw service at La Prairie, Lower Canada, under Colonel Garnet Joseph WOLSELEY. Later, during the Fenian raids of 1866 in Upper Canada [see John O'Neill*], he was the lieutenant-colonel (his highest rank) commanding at Sarnia.

By order in council in June 1872 Richardson was

appointed chief clerk of the Department of Justice in Ottawa. Four years afterwards, on 22 July 1876, he became one of the stipendiary magistrates for the North-West Territories, joining Matthew Ryan and James Farquharson Macleod*. That fall he travelled to the North-West, and the next year he returned to Ottawa to get his family. On 27 Sept. 1877 he arrived with his invalid wife and three daughters at Battleford (Sask.), the seat of the territorial government where he had had a large house built.

Shortly after arrival, one of his daughters fell in love with a North-West Mounted Police sub-commissioner named Elliott. In February 1878 the latter took her by force from the Richardson home and married her before a Presbyterian minister. The parents quickly got her back again, and Richardson laid several complaints against Elliott and his three collaborators for abducting his underage daughter. In an unusual display of frontier justice, he later presided over Elliott's trial, but the young policeman was acquitted by the jury. Shortly afterwards, Richardson's wife and mother died on the same day.

Richardson lived in Battleford until 1883, when following his remarriage, he moved with the territorial government to Regina. Besides holding trials throughout the territories, he served as legal adviser to the lieutenant governor, and, like his fellow stipendiary magistrates, he was an ex officio member of the territorial council until that body was abolished in 1888. Richardson thus played a major, perhaps the major, role in drafting the territory's ordinances, a task that in most cases meant adapting Ontario legislation to the needs of the frontier.

Best known for presiding over the trial of Louis Riel* at Regina from 20 July to 1 Aug. 1885, Richardson also held a large number of other trials resulting from the North-West rebellion. In addition to many of Riel's Métis followers (among whom was Maxime Lépine*), the defendants included the prominent chiefs Poundmaker [Pitukwahanapiwiyon*], Big Bear [Mistahimaskwa*], and One Arrow [Kapeyakwaskonam*]. Two white men also appeared before him: Riel's "secretary," William Henry Jackson*, and the only putative "white rebel" other than Jackson who could be found, Thomas Scott.

Richardson's handling of these controversial trials has stood up fairly well to the exacting scrutiny of modern historians. He gave Riel considerable latitude to speak in his own defence, not only at the end but even during the course of the trial. Once the jury found Riel guilty, Richardson had no choice under the law except to impose the death penalty, although he might be faulted for gratuitously commenting that he could not offer Riel any hope of a pardon. Some of Richardson's rulings in the lesser trials have been criticized as erratic, but no one has alleged a consistent pattern of bias either for or against the defend-

ants. In fact, after the legal proceedings had run their course, Oblate missionary Alexis André* wrote to Archbishop Alexandre-Antoine Taché*: "Judge Richardson is certainly a just and impartial man and I bear him witness that I would much rather see our people judged by him than by Judge [Charles-Bernard Rouleau*] who is a vindictive man and a servile instrument in the hands of the government." [Rouleau, one of Richardson's colleagues as stipendiary magistrate, presided at the rebellion trials in Battleford, where he sentenced eight Indians to be hanged for murder.]

After the excitement and publicity of the rebellion trials, Richardson returned to his normal routine of judicial work and legislative drafting, and in 1887 he was appointed senior judge on the newly created Supreme Court of the North-West Territories. His responsibilities were equivalent to those of a chief justice and included supervising the administrative work of the court and presiding when the members sat en banc. Each member also had his own judicial district, Richardson's being Western Assiniboia. This arrangement reduced his travelling because Western Assiniboia included Regina.

He and two colleagues on the Supreme Court were also appointed "legal experts" — an office that, until its abolition on 30 Sept. 1891, made them non-voting members of the territory's assembly. With or without the title, Richardson played the leading role in drafting the 1888 and 1898 consolidations of the territorial ordinances. He was also administrator (acting lieutenant governor) of the territories in 1897 and again in 1898.

When parliament created the office of chief justice of the Supreme Court of the North-West Territories, Richardson probably expected the appointment; however, he was passed over in February 1902 in favour of his junior colleague Thomas Horace McGuire. That summer, although he was 76 years old, Richardson travelled from Edmonton to Fort Chipewyan (Alta.) on Lake Athabasca as part of the commission paying treaty money in the Treaty No. 8 region. He then retired in November 1903 and returned to spend his final years in Ottawa, a city that was also the home of one of his daughters, the wife of Donald Alexander MACDONALD.

Richardson typifies a generation of Ontario lawyers, politicians, and civil servants who moved to the prairies in mid life and endured the hardships of the frontier while they transplanted the legal, political, and administrative institutions of Canadian society. With the benefit of hindsight, historians have criticized some of his judicial decisions and legislative action, but his competence and conscientious dedication remain unquestioned.

THOMAS FLANAGAN

AO, F 23 GA, M477, items 1964, 1269-71, M5908, item 1676; Law Soc. of Upper Canada Arch. (Toronto), 1-1 (Convocation, minutes); London Public Library and Art Museum (London, Ont.); St. Thomas, Ont., cemetery transcriptions; NA, MG 27, 1, C4, 5, H8; MG 29, D61; MG 30, D1, 25; 753-60; PAA, 69 303/177 (1893) PAM, MG 3, D1; Saskatchewan Arch. Board (Regina), R-85 (Hugh Richardson papers) *Ottawa Citizen*, 16 July 1913; *Ottawa Evening Journal*, 16 July 1913; *Regina Leader*, 30 March 1904; *Regina Standard*, 26 Nov. 1903; *Saskatchewan Herald* (Battleford), 10 Feb. 1879; Bob Beal and R. [C.] Macleod, *Pravie fire: the 1885 North West rebellion* (Edmonton, 1984), 292-333; W. F. Bowker, "Stipendiary magistrates and the Supreme Court of the North-West Territories, 1876-1907," *Alberta Law Rev.* (Edmonton), 26 (1987-88) 245-86; Can. Parl., *Sessional papers*, 1886, no 52 S E (East) [Binghamman, "The North-West rebellion trials, 1885" (MA thesis, Univ. of Sask., Regina, 1971); "The trials of the 'white rebels,' 1885," *Sask. Hist.*, 25 (1972): 41-54; T. E. Flanagan, *Riel and the rebellion, 1885 reconsidered* (Saskatoon, 1983), 116-34; *The Queen v. Louis Riel*, intro. Desmond Morton (Toronto and Buffalo, N.Y., 1974); L. H. Thomas, *The struggle for responsible government in the North-West Territories, 1870-97* (Toronto, 1956).

RICHARDSON, JAMES CLELAND, bagpiper and soldier; b. 25 Nov. 1895 in Bellshill, Scotland, son of David Richardson and Mary Prosser; d. unmarried 8 or 9 Oct. 1916 near Courcellette, France.

Educated at Bellshill Academy, the Auchinraith Public School in Blantyre, and the John Street School in Glasgow, James Richardson came to Canada with his parents around 1911-12. He was a drifter by trade and served for six months in the cadet corps of the 72nd Regiment (Seaforth Highlanders), a Vancouver unit with a prominent pipe band. Following the outbreak of World War I, he volunteered for service in the Canadian Expeditionary Force and was taken on strength on 23 Sept. 1914 at Valcartier, Que., as a private and piper with the 16th Infantry Battalion (the Canadian Scottish), for which the Seaforths provided contingents. At the time he joined up, Richardson listed his father as chief of police in Chilliwack, B.C.

The 16th, which arrived in France in February 1915, engaged in numerous battles during the Somme offensive of 1916. One of the most difficult was Ancre Heights on 8 October, especially the attempt to seize the heavily defended Regina Trench north of Courcellette. Facing enemy rifles, machine-guns, mortars, and artillery, the attackers were particularly vulnerable when they advanced over no man's land.

Frequently a piper would go in with a company assaulting enemy trenches. Not originally detailed for the attack on Regina Trench, the 20-year-old Richardson pleaded successfully with his commanding officer to accompany the troops, whom he piped over the top. The advancing company encountered a storm of fire and enemy wire which had not been cut by the