

23rd of April, 1837. In the midst of healthful rural scenes he grew to be a man of stalwart frame and great physical strength, and as the eldest son in a family of twelve children he did very much to assist his parents in converting their forest farm into a rich and beautiful home.

Being endowed with rare mechanical ingenuity and also with extraordinary administrative and executive ability, he was naturally qualified for conducting extensive industrial enterprises. About the age of thirty he embarked in the lumber business in the township of Esquesing, County of Halton, Ontario, not far from the town of Milton. Though a stranger in that community he soon won the confidence and esteem of all with whom he came in contact; his strict integrity, genial nature, commanding presence and modest, manly bearing always entitling him to the highest respect. In the course of a few years, by his enterprise and industry he reaped a rich financial return which was but the beginning of the success which attended all his subsequent undertakings. In 1871 he took into partnership with him Mr. Robert Laidlaw, son of the late Mr. Walter Laidlaw of Esquesing. Having purchased extensive timber limits in the county of Simcoe, both partners removed to Barrie, Ontario, from which, as a centre, the well known firm of "Shortreed & Laidlaw"