

Department of Geological Sciences

Graduates

The first geologist to be granted a degree by McGill University was Sir William Logan, organizer and first Director of the Geological Survey of Canada, who received an honorary LL.D. degree in 1856. In the following year a similar degree was conferred on Sir William Dawson, Principal and Vice-Chancellor of the University, who, as the first Professor of Geology at McGill (1855-1899), may be aptly termed the Father of the Department.

The first geologist to actually graduate from the University was Robert Bell, destined to become a noted explorer and Director of the Geological Survey of Canada, who received the degree of B.A.Sc. in 1861. To further equip himself for his exploratory work, Dr. Bell also took the medical course at McGill, obtaining his M.D., C.M. degree in 1878, and in 1901 he was granted the D.Sc. degree.

T. Sterry Hunt, Professor of Mineralogy and Chemistry at the University, was the recipient of an honorary LL.D. degree in 1865. While at McGill, he did much field-work in geology, and he was the first to advance the now generally accepted 'anticlinal' theory to account for the formation of natural oil reservoirs.

From this time on, a steady stream of geologists graduated from the University. Brief reference is made below to some of