

Ontario Land Drainage Practitioner – Biography

John Alexander McKay, B.S.A., O.L.S. (1913 – 1960)



John Alexander (Jack) McKay was born in London, Ontario. He attended South Collegiate in London before entering the Ontario Agricultural College. Jack graduated in 1935 with a BSc in Agriculture, specializing in Animal Husbandry.

Enlisting in the R.C.A.F. (Radar) in 1940, he spent five years in England. Upon returning to Canada, he joined the Ontario Agricultural College with Professor F. L. Ferguson, Head of the Drainage Department. Jack taught at OAC, researched drainage issues and the laying drainage systems on private farms until 1951. At this time, he was provided a leave of absence to serve articles under Samuel Wallace Archibald, P.Eng. O.L.S. and continue his studies in drainage.

In May 1955, he was commissioned as an Ontario Land Surveyor. He decided to remain with S.W. Archibald and in 1958, developed a partnership with S. W. Archibald and John Gray under the name of Archibald, Gray & McKay. Jack was widely known and respected in the field of drainage and most of his time was devoted to the Municipal Drainage Act.

Jack McKay was involved in many groups and had many interests:

- Mason, in Ontario and England
- Past Master and Treasurer of Delaware Valley Lodge No. 358, A.F. & A.M., G.R.C.
- Order of the Eastern Star
- Past Patron of Silver Jubilee Chapter No. 217, O.E.S., Delaware, Ontario.
- Delaware United Church
- Gardener, growing 6000 gladioli each year to share with friends and neighbours.

Jack was related to J. J. MacKay, O.L.S., and E. G. MacKay, O.L.S. of MacKay and MacKay of Hamilton Ontario.