

**William Thomas Gray**

Peel County Biography Book 6 Sept. 10-75 1975

**Ex-president of St. Lawrence Starch**

William Thomas Gray former president and chairman of the board of the St. Lawrence Starch Co. Ltd. died at his home in Port Credit on Sept. 5. He was 94.

Born at Cardinal, Ont. in 1880, Gray was one of 10 children of the late John Gray, co-founder of the enterprise with which his son was to be associated for over 70 years.

Gray accompanied his father and family to Port Credit in 1889 when the St.

Lawrence Starch company was established.

Gray began his career there in 1896 and over the years became one of the most knowledgeable and respected starch industry executives in North America.

In recognition of his contribution to the Canadian food industry, Gray was honored in 1964 by the Food Industry Association of Canada with a Knight of the Golden Pencil award, an annual award to selected officials of Canadian

food products, manufacturers and distributors.

In 1967, he was awarded the Centennial Medal, conferred in recognition of "valuable service to the nation."

During the 1930s, in collaboration with T. R. Pogue of Essex Hybrid Seed Co. Ltd. of Riverside, Ont., Gray initiated research into, and encouraged the development of, hybrid corn strains adaptable to the soil and climate conditions of southwestern Ontario.

Corn has since become an important area crop with yields in recent years exceeding 100 million bushels.

Gray was a member of the first council when Port Credit was incorporated as a village in 1914.

A life-long member of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, he was active in the planning and building of the present church in 1928. He was the sole surviving charter member of the Mississauga Golf and Country Club.

While business was his prime concern, Gray found relaxation at his summer home on Lake Joseph, Muskoka, where a never-ending series of projects absorbed his leisure moments until his later years.

His wife, Louise Elliott,

predeceased him in 1968 and his son, Lorne, together with his wife Judy and son, Gordon, perished in the crash of a light aircraft in 1969.

Gray is survived by a daughter, Mrs. H. L. McDonald (Helen) of Vancouver; two sons, Douglas and John, president and executive vice-president respectively of the St. Lawrence Starch Co. Ltd.; seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.