

Edgar John Jarvis, 1835 – 1907

Edgar John Jarvis was recognized for his contribution to the early development of Rosedale, Toronto, in a plaque dedication ceremony at Branksome Hall School on November 2nd. 2007.

Edgar was born January 28th 1835 on a farm 4 miles east of Oakville the 3rd youngest of 12 children of Frederick Starr Jarvis and Susan Merigold. He was the grandson of Stephen Jarvis UEL.

At the age of 19 “Plan of Rose-Park” being a subdivision of the Rosedale Estates, adjoining the City of Toronto Registered plan 104 was drawn up by him.

He was introduced to Rosedale by his uncle William Botsford Jarvis of ‘Rosedale Villa’. During the 1860’s and ‘70’s he assembled land throughout Rosedale and southern Ontario.

On October 17th 1863 in a ceremony at St. James Cathedral he married Charlotte Beaumont daughter of William Rawlins Beaumont M.D., F.R.C.S. Three years later Edgar, Charlotte and three children moved into their new home Glen Hurst which still stands behind the original stone gateposts of Branksome Hall. Enchanted by the surrounding ravines, he envisioned turning the area into Toronto’s most prestigious neighbourhood. To attract affluent buyers, he constructed the first two high-level bridges across the south Rosedale ravine, built for sale two of Rosedale’s early mansions, and planted Elm and Maple trees on their namesake Avenues.

Edgar, Charlotte and their 12 children lived in Glen Hurst until 1880. He constructed his second home ‘Sylvan Towers’ at the north east corner, now Glen Rd. and South Drive.

Edgar’s career was a roller coaster ride of successes and failures, his fortunes rising and falling with the economy and the real estate market. In 1887 they moved into rented quarters.

While some of her children were quite young Charlotte graduated with first class honours and the A.T.C.M. degree from the Toronto Conservatory of Music. For the next 20 years she was a member of the staff and taught music. She wrote poetry. Her book “Leaves of Rosedale” was published privately for her husband in 1905. She wrote verse which was published in newspapers under the pen name “Rosedalia” She was indeed a pioneer.

Edgar built his last home “Evenholm” in 1907. His son Beaumont was the architect. It stands today at 157 South Dr.

Edgar died January 15, 1907, age 72. Charlotte lived for another 24 years and died in Toronto at the age of 88.

[Submitted by Bob Jarvis, great-grandson of Edgar.]