

MEREDITH, Colborne Powell

(1874 – 1967)

Colborne Meredith, a founding member of the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada and prominent Ottawa Architect had the distinction of being brought into the world by one of Canada's Father's of Confederation.

A scion of an old aristocratic Upper Canadian family, Colborne Meredith was born in St. Andrew's, New Brunswick on Sept. 15, 1874 while his parents were on a vacation. The family physician was Sir Charles Tupper one of the country's founding fathers and later Prime Minister. Meredith's father Edmund served for a time as deputy minister of the interior with the Canadian Government. His mother was Fanny Jarvis, the daughter of Sheriff William Jarvis of Toronto whose house Rosedale inspired the name of one of that city's affluent suburbs.

At a young age Meredith's parents returned to Toronto and young Coly as he was called by his friends received most of his education there and attended the University of Toronto in 1892. From 1892 to 1898 he was a student under Frank Darling. Immediately after the completion of his train-

ing he moved to Ottawa where he practiced until 1906 with the firm Band, Burritt and Meredith. He practiced under his own name until 1912 when he became a partner in the firm Meredith, Findley and Hazelgrove.

The first world war interrupted his architectural practice. During this time he rose to the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel serving as chief engineer and for a period was commanding officer at Camp Petawawa. After the war Meredith set up practice on his own again and had offices in Ottawa, Pembroke and Sault Ste. Marie where he designed many homes and residences.

Among his better known buildings is the Murphy-Gamble Department Store (1911) an interesting example of the "Commercial Style" influenced by the Chicago School and said by Meredith to be the first reinforced concrete building in eastern Ontario.

Meridith's wife was Alden Griffin. As a retirement project Meredith documented early structures. His collection of photographs and notes is in the Canadian archives.

Important work:

Carling Building, Sparks St., Ottawa	1909-1910
Norlite Building (with Richards & Abra), Ottawa	1916
St. Michael's Roman Catholic Separate School, Church St., Belleville	1908
Ottawa Canoe Club, Rockcliffe, Ottawa	1916
Rectory for Holy Trinity Anglican Church, Pembroke	1909