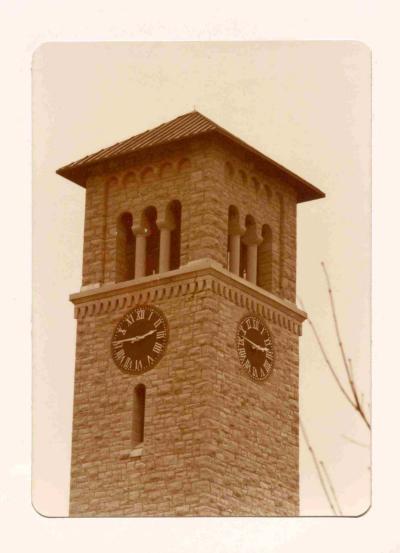
READING ROOM

NATHAN F. DUPUIS, PROFESSOR and CLOCKMAKER of QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY
AND HIS FAMILY

by Jane and Costas Varkaris



NATHAN FELLOWES DUPUIS

PROFESSOR and CLOCKMAKER of QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY

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The Canada Council and the
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whose financial assistance
this work would not have
been possible.

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October 1979 2153 Beaumont Road Ottawa, Canada

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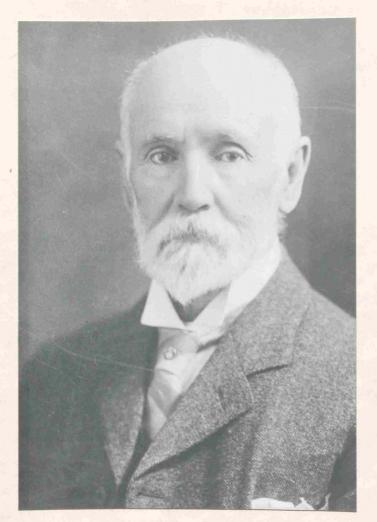
Dr. N. Miller

Mr. C. G. Provin

Mr. Larry Taylor

Mr. Jack Wells

#### INTRODUCTION



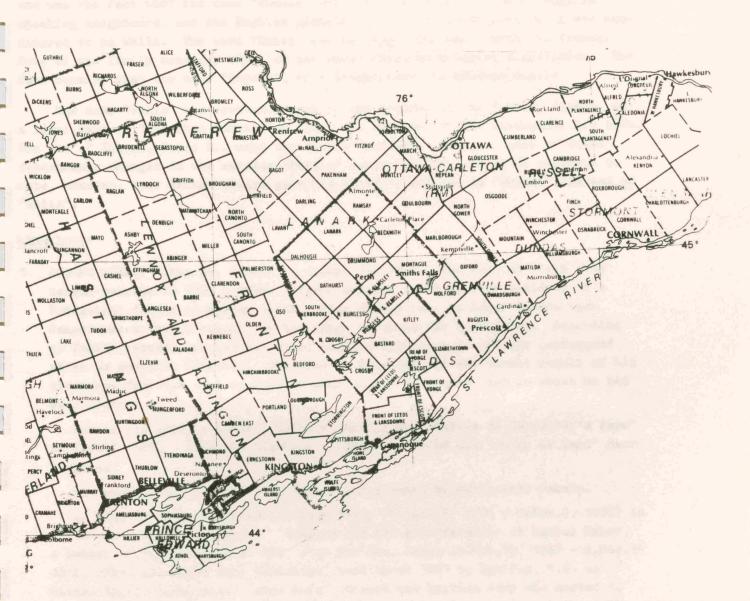
Nathan F. Dupuis

Nathan Fellowes Dupuis, M.A., IL.D., F.R.S.E., F.R.S.C. was born in 1836 and died in 1917. In his eighty-one years of life he had many diverse accomplishments to his credit. His family and his major achievements in clockmaking and in the academic field are being discussed in the following pages. In addition, to more fully understand the man, this article also includes comments made about him as well as comments made by him.

To avoid lengthy descriptions in family relationships in the section to follow, the genealogical numbering system described by Gordon Phillips, Ottawa Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society (Pub. 76-12) has been used.

In essence "the system provides for numbering each person in the order that he appears in the family unit and prefixes to the number, the accumulated numbers of all his direct ancestors". "In order to determine the generation, one merely counts the digits in the number." e.g. 115 John F. is third generation and is the fifth child of the first child of the founder of the family.
e.g. 11531 Helen Jean, granddaughter of John F., first child of his third child.

Nathan F. Dupuis was born in Portland Township, Frontenac County, Upper Canada to the Dupuis-Wells family. The County of Frontenac, Ontario, originally part of the Midland District, is one of the most historic parts of Canada. Its county town, Kingston, was once the capital of Canada and from this town came the first prime minister of Canada. It was to this area of Upper Canada that many early United Empire Loyalists came when they wished to continue to be under British rule.



Part of the Province of Ontario.

#### THE FAMILY

The family to which Nathan Dupuis was born, used two different surnames, namely Wells and Dupuis. Some of the descendants chose to keep the surname used at birth. Others changed to the second surname during their adult life. The reasons for this dichotomy of names has never been clearly documented. It is of interest to note, however, a number of explanations given by various descendants. One was the fact that the name "Dupuis" was difficult to pronounce by English—speaking neighbours, and the English translation of Dupuis was used which was considered to be Wells. The word "Puits" can be translated into "well" in French. Some of the family consider that "of the rain" would be a better translation. The fact remains that the name "Dupuis", as a proper name, is untranslatable.

The name "Wells" was certainly used by the founder of the family, Joseph, as a legal name in 1836 when purchasing land, and was used by him throughout his life. One son of Joseph, James B., used the "Wells" surname. However, most of James' descendants changed to the surname "Dupuis" early in life. It is of interest to note, however, that Nathan always gave his father's surname as "Dupuis" instead of "Wells".

#### GENEALOGY\*

JOSEPH WELLS, b.May 24, 1798(?) - d.June 19, 1870. The date of birth from census records is 1795 - 1796. Joseph was the third of four children of a Protestant family of Norman stock. This family came to Lower Canada when Canada was a French colony, in the reign of Louis the Fourteenth. According to family records, he had two older sisters with whom he did not correspond after he moved to Kingston. His move to Kingston was the direct result of his discharge from the Army of Defence when it was disbanded, and to which he had been drafted.

During his service career, he took part in the "Battle of Chrystler's Farm" on Nov.17, 1813. Upon his discharge, Joseph received his "scrip of land" near Kingston.

His brother was a "French Voyageur" and drowned in North West Canada.

On Feb.15, 1819 he married Eleanor Baker (b.Feb.25, 1799 - d.Nov.6, 1878) in St.George's Church, Kingston. Eleanor was the granddaughter of Samuel Baker, a native of Tarrytown, N.Y. who, with his son, James (b.Oct.19, 1767 - d.Nov.19 1852) after suffering many hardships, came about 1781 to Halifax, N.S. as United Empire Loyalists. James Baker entered the British Army and served in Jamaica and Newfoundland as well as the Maritime Provinces. On Oct.25, 1797, James married Rebecca Robinson (b.Jan.29, 1780 - d.July 29, 1832) and Eleanor, their only child, was born in Halifax. The family shortly after, moved to Kingston, Upper Canada. James was a shoemaker later in life. The 1851 census listed James as living with Joseph and Eleanor.

Eleanor and Joseph lived for a time near Kingston and then moved to Ernestown Township, on the York Road, two miles west of Odessa, Ontario in

<sup>&</sup>quot; See explanation of numbering system on pg.1.

- 4 -

This is to writing that James Baker Bok?

That James Baker Bok?

and Rebucea Robinson Spin; were married.

a! Halifax in the Province of Nova Stoking on the 25th Say of Ortoler, in the year of our Lord 1797;

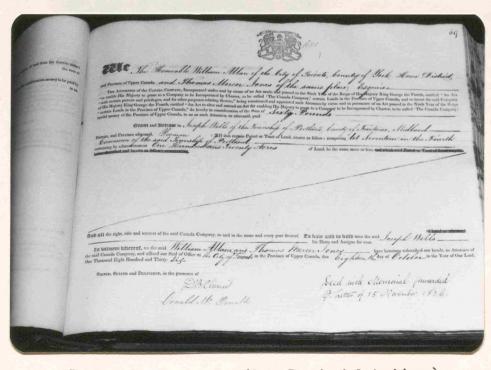
buy me Robert Forser J. J.

Rector of the Parish of Schaul.

Halifax a fore said.

Wedding certificate of James and Rebecca Baker.

Lennox and Addington County, where two of their sons were born. They purchased, in 1836, a farm of one hundred and twenty acres in Portland Township, Frontenac County, on Concession IV, Lot 17 from the Canada Company. It was described as having maple, basswood, ironwood and elm, with birch and pine on the west boundary. The soil was clay and loam, "a middling lot", level but light and two miles from a mill. The price was £ 60. Two other sons were born on this farm.



Deed of Portland lot. (Ont. Provincial Archives)

By 1860, the lot was owned by two sons, J.B.Wells and Thomas Dupuis. In the 1860's Joseph and Eleanor were living with J.B.Wells near Verona. Joseph died on June 19, 1870 but his death was not recorded in Toronto and no Dupuis-Wells cemetery stones exist in the Verona Cemetery. Eleanor was living with son Thomas, in Odessa, Ont. in 1871 and her death occurred on Nov.6, 1878.

Joseph Wells was by religion, Wesleyan Methodist. Eleanor was a follower of the Church of England.

JAMES BAKER WELLS, b.June 16, 1829 - d.May 26, 1899. James, eldest son of Joseph was a farmer. The family was Methodist. On Dec.31, 1849, James married Sabra Hachebaum (b.Feb.1, 1829 - d.June 29, 1859). He built a frame house near his father's log house. Sabra died six weeks after the birth of her sixth child.

James, on Jan.4, 1860, married Margaret Shangraw (b.Oct.14, 1830 - d.May 14, 1895). The Shangraws were French Huguenots whose name originally was Gingrais. Soon after, the family moved to Verona, Concession 10, Lot 11, Portland Township, a lot which on the map appears to be mostly swamp.



James B. Wells and wife Margaret.

Verona originally was called Buzztown, with only an access trail in the 1840's. The coming of the railroad brought prosperity to some. Seven more children entered the family.

Son Stanley was present at his father's death and was in charge of the burial. Rev. George Stafford and Rev. George Overbaugh officiated at the funeral. James B. is buried beside his first wife in a Presbyterian cemetery near Verona in a place known locally as Piccadilly. It is rather strange that with a number of sons alive, the death of James B. was reported by W. H. Reynolds, a cheese manufacturer and cheese box maker of Verona.

Alice Rebecca Wells, b.Oct.4, 1850 - d.Nov.30, 1895. First child of James B. was a school mistress. On Sept.18, 1878 Alice married James Price, and they lived at Mountain Grove, Ontario.

Lanson Baker Dupuis, b.Dec.17, 1851 - d.Feb.2, 1928. He taught school. His first marriage, on Dec.26, 1879 was to Alice E. Martin (-- d.Nov.30, 1886) of Yarker, Ont. They lived for a short time at Emerson, Manitoba around 1884. He studied for the ministry in the Montreal Conference. He was ordained and admitted to the Detroit Conference in 1894 and held a pastorate in Pontiac, Michigan.

After the death of his first wife, Lanson, on June 28, 1893, married Helena A. Casselman (d.1956). The family recall that Lanson was a perfectionist with beautiful and ornate penmanship. On Feb.2, 1928, he died in Pontiac, Michigan of an aortic aneurism. Although the death certificate states he was buried in Oak Hill Cemetery in Michigan, it is believed that he now rests in the cemetery in Yarker, Ontario.

Laura Adele, b.Nov.26, 1881 - d.Apr.17, 1883 first child of Lanson.

Edma Alice Eloise, b.Jan.24, 1884 - d.Apr.13, 1971. She was cared for by her Martin relatives after her mother's death. She worked for Dr.Ettinger of Kingston and cared for the Ettinger children and grand-children, and managed the large household. She developed a heart condition and remained in the Ettinger home where Barbara Ettinger made her declining years comfortable.

She is buried in Cataraqui Cemetery, Kingston.

Emily, b.Aug.7, 1853 - d.July 17, 1924. Third child of James B. married on Feb.27, 1872, Miles Martin and lived on a farm in Lennox and Addington County. Their home was a haven for motherless children of relatives who considered her a strict but loving mother. After the death of her husband, she lived with daughter Laura and niece Beatrice Leeman in Toronto and Montreal. She is buried in Wilton, Ontario cemetery.



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1131 Herbert Clare Martin, b.Sept.4, 1873 - d.July 30, 1952. Herbert taught school and later became station agent at Margaret, Man. He was an avid baseball fan and curler. On Dec.24, 1905 he married Wilhemina Magwood (d.Feb.2, 1978) a devoted church worker. On retirement they moved to Edmonton and then to Cold Lake, Alta. where they are buried. As only family members to settle in the West, Herbert and his Uncle Franklin were close friends. Their many children and grandchildren are listed below.

11311 Eleanor Emily Martin, b.Dec.25, 1906 - Eleanor married Charles A.Demeriez (d.Aug.11, 1977) on Oct.16, 1930. Eleanor is a graduate nurse and lives in Cold Lake, Alta.

113111 Eugene Alexander Demeriez, b.Sept.10, 1931.

11311111 Shirley Anne, b.Oct.18, 1956 - daughter of Eugene.

1131112 Wanda Jean, b.May 6, 1960.

113112 Richard John H. Demeriez, b.Apr.26, 1933 - married Shirley \_\_\_\_ on June 3, 1961.

113113 Wilma Kathleen Ame Demeriez, b.Apr.4, 1934 married George Krook.

1131131 Barbara Eleanor Krook, b.May 22, 1955

1131132 Gregory Krook, b.Mar.11, 1958

1131133 Gwen Krook, b.Mar. 28, 1959

1131134 Robert Krook, b.Oct.2, 1960

Peter Burton Demeriez, b.July 17, 1936. He married Deanne Darlow on July 18, 1960.

1131141 Lori Clare Demeriez, b.Apr.6, 1961

113115 Irma Arlene C. Demeriez, b.Aug.16, 1936, married Don MacIntosh on May 7, 1960.

John Patrick Martin, b.Aug, 19, 1909. Jack, with sons and nephew owned a fleet of large transports which operated between Cold Lake and Bonnyville, Alta. He is now retired. He married Gertrude E. McMillan on Nov. 15, 1938.

113121 Neil Edward, b.Oct.16, 1939

113122 Gary Ross, b.July 22, 1942

113123 Alan, b.Oct.7, 1948.

11313 Eugene Harland Martin, b.July 27, 1912. Gene was employed by Hudson's Bay Company in Alta. and B.C. He returned to Cold Lake where he operated a clothing store. He served as mayor of Cold Lake for ten years. On June 11 1938, he married Mary Ann Paraska.

ministry was present at his father, a death evilves to charge of the real way, described the first wife in a frequency of the series of the se

- 113131 Harland Thomas, b.Dec.28, 1940
- 113132 James Herbert, b.Aug. 25, 1944
- 11314 Millicent Bernice Martin, b.Dec.15, 1915 d.July 2, 1922. Bernice died of leukemia.
- 11315 Irma Wilhemina Martin, b.Nov.21, 1917. Irma is an accomplished pianist and a devoted church worker in Cold Lake, Alta. On May 25, 1946 she married Laurence Eason.
- 113151 Larry Thomas Eason, b.Sept.5, 1953
- 113152 Landi Joyce Eason, b.Mar.11, 1958
- 11316 Herberta Bernice Martin, b.July 16, 1922. She taught school. On Aug.15, 1949 she married Dr. Lawrence Fisher who taught in the States and University of Calgary in Alta.
- 113161 Margaret Leslie Fisher, b.Sept.10, 1956
- 113162 Keven Fisher, b.Aug. 1960
- 11317 Margaret Beth Martin, b.Mar.31, 1927. On July 25, 1952 she married Robert Breadon who is in forestry in Victoria B.C.
- 113171 James Scott Breadon, b.June 17, 1953
- 113172 John Martin Breadon, b.Dec.7, 1955
- 113173 Paul Breadon, b.Sept.22, 1958
- 113174 Jennifer Ruth Breadon, b.Apr.15, 1965
- Laura Alice Eleanor Martin, b.July 7, 1882 d.Feb.13, 1973. She married Harry Petty (d.Apr.24, 1938) on June 10, 1914, an employee of T. Eaton Co., Montreal. With determination she overcame the debilitating effects of several strokes. After a final stroke, her body was given of Medical Science according to her wishes.
- 11321 William Martin D. Petty, b.Feb.24, 1919. He was a teacher with a flair for writing. For a time he had charge, in Montreal, of Educational broadcasts when radio was new in this field.
- Marilyn Edith A. Petty, b.Jan.14, 1924 survivor of twins. On June 24, 1954 she married Jeremy Lyman, an electronics engineer. The family live in Toronto and share interests which include drama, writing and music. Marilyn is employed by Random House Publishing Co.
- 113221 Peter Lyman, b. June 30, 1951
- 113222 James Patrick Lyman, b.May 15, 1954
- 113223 Suzanna Lyman, b.Sept.27, 1958

.. PORTLAND Township.

John Franklin Dupuis, b.Sept.19, 1857 - d.Oct.14, 1936. Frank left home at 20 years of age and worked on a dairy farm for six years in Syracuse, N.Y. In 1880, a character reference from his employer in Syracuse reads "J. F. Dupuis is a good worker possessed of extra good judgement, and strictly honest". After a short time in Ontario, he came to Manitoba in 1883, settling in the Emerson district where he farmed. On Feb. 28, 1895 he married Margaret Jane Fraser (b.1867 - July 5, 1963). He retired in 1919 to Norwood, a suburb of Winnipeg, Man. In two competitions for Best Farm in the area, Frank came first and third among twenty farmers. He and his wife were members of the

Presbyterian Church where he was an Elder. They are buried in Elmwood

Jane Wells, b.July 4, 1855 - d.Jan.29, 1871, fourth child of James B. Wells.

Marjory Eleanor, b.Apr.6, 1899 - One hundred years after her grandmother, Eleanor Baker. She taught in country schools in Man. On Apr. 19, 1930 she married Raymond Miner Empey (d.Jan.25, 1968). Marjory and husband farmed in Ridgeville and were active in church and community work. Marjory now lives in Emerson, Man.

Gary Raymond Empey, b.Oct.21, 1941. He is interested in autos and lives in Emerson, Man. On May 5, 1962, he married Dorothy Hilderand and later married Evelyn Gorrell.

James Raymond, b.Aug.25, 1962

Dorothy Diane, b.Sept.25, 1963

Cheryl Ann, b. Feb. 1, 1968

115114 Cindy Lou, b.May 7, 1969

Cemetery in Winnipeg.

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115113

11512

115121

11521

115115 Bonnie Lynne, b.May 28, 1970

Eleanor Mary Empey, b. June 29, 1945. She married Gordon A. McKee on July 10, 1965 and participates in church and school activities.

Raymond Alexander McKee, b.Jan.23, 1966

115122 Patricia May McKee, b.Jan.19, 1967

Alice Emily Dupuis, b.Feb.18, 1902 - d.Feb.28, 1976. Alice taught school for eighteen years. She married George Matthew Bruce on Sept.16, 1939 and they lived on a farm at Helston, Man. She is buried in Gladstone, Man. cemetery.

John Fraser G. Bruce, b.Oct.9, 1941 continues to farm on the farm which has belonged to his forefathers for over one hundred years.

James Baker Fraser Dupuis, b.Dec.10, 1904. He was employed with Harris Abattoir which later became Canada Packers Co. and he moved to Fort William, Ont. in 1927. In 1928 he married Doris Isabel Brewer. From 1944 - 1973, James B. worked for Great Lakes Paper Co. He is interested in sports.

Helen Jean Windred, b.Nov.5, 1929. She married George William Sutherland on July 1, 1952.

William Mark Sutherland, b.Feb.9, 1955

John Gregory Sutherland, b.Nov.29, 1956

Marion Joan Sutherland, b.June 7, 1958

Anne Elizabeth Sutherland, b.Dec.24, 1959

115315

Janet Ruth Sutherland, b.Mar.22, 1961

115316 Robert Fraser Sutherland, b.Oct.20, 1962

115317 Catherine Jean Sutherland, b.June 16, 1964

Jackson Franklin Dupuis, b.Nov.2, 1938. On Sept.29, 1961 he married Carol Long.

115321 Ronald Ernest, b.Apr.19, 1962

115322 Grant Alexander, b.Sept.29, 1963

115323 Christopher James, b.Aug. 18, 1972

11533 Ernest Leslie Dupuis, b.Nov.2, 1938 - twin. Married Elizabeth Evans on May 24, 1962.

115331 Lisa Anne, b.Jan.4, 1963

115332 Debra Lynn, b.Jan.1, 1965 - d.Apr.23, 1976

115333 Robert Ernest W., b.May 18, 1969

Margaret Jean Dupuis, b.May 15, 1906. Jean graduated from the University of Manitoba in 1929, earning her B. of Sc. degree in Home Economics. She worked for the Dominion Department of Agriculture in the seed branch. This was laboratory work in the regulation of the Seeds Act governing the sale of advertised seed. Jean retired in 1970 and resides in Winnipeg, Man.

116 James Nathan Wells, b.June 16, 1859 - d.Sept.3, 1859.

### Children of Margaret and James B. Wells

Joseph Wells, b.Oct.10, 1860 - d.Sept.13, 1930. By 1881 Joseph was a carriage maker in Portland Township and owned land on Concession 11. In the 1890's this lot was owned by his father and later by his brother, Stanley. Joseph married Sarah Jane Goodfellow (d.May 14, 1918), on Dec.24, 1884 and at the time of his father's death in 1899, he was living in Superior, Wisconsin.

The family reports that the intense heat and blinding light of the flame when setting metal rims to wheels for carriages affected his eyesight.

After moving to Superior, Wis. he operated a variety store where each type of merchandise was always kept in a particular place. He recognized coins by feel but trusted the buyer to accept correct change from paper money. When his hearing began to fail, he lost merchandise by theft. Joseph married Jessie Williams (d.Oct.20, 1954) on June 27, 1923. The family records state that she was a devoted wife and companion to Joe who, despite his afflications, retained his jolly and friendly nature. Joe was, for the last few years, totally blind.

James Albert Wells, b.Apr.6, 1862 - d.Nov.30, 1947. J.A. married Lavina Martin on Oct.1, 1889. His wife taught school. In 1895 the Kingston Daily British Whig reported, "Trustees consider themselves fortunate to have secured services of Mrs. J.A.Wells for an indefinite period, presumably as long as she wishes to keep it. She is ..... unusually popular".

On Apr.26, 1898 twins were born, one of which died at birth. Lavina's death followed the next day.

J.A. married Hannah Ellen Lovelace (b. about 1871 - d.Feb.10, 1952) on Aug.23, 1899. She was the daughter of Jacob Lovelace. J.A. owned a lot on Concession 11, Portland Township, near Verona. Hannah also owned a village lot. She played an active part in the Verona Red Cross, and attended the United Church. She was also postmistress for a number of years in Verona. After the death of J.A., Mrs. Wells resided in Kingston. A man who had known J.A. said "Abe just walked around". He died of coronary thrombosis and is buried in Verona Cemetery.

- 1181 Girl, one of twins, b.Apr.26, 1898 died at birth
- 1182 Eloise, b.Apr.26, 1898 d.1914. Eloise lived with her aunt Emily. She died of typhoid fever and is buried in Verona.
- 119 William George Wells, b.Aug.7, 1863 d.Sept.21, 1867.
- 11(10) Infant girl born and died July 24, 1865

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11(11) Charlotte Evelina Wells, b.May 8, 1867 - d.May 18 or 19, 1891. On Feb.6, 1883, Charlotte married Alvin Leeman. The Leeman children were raised by Emily and Miles Martin.

- 11(11)1 Bernard LeRoy Leeman, b.Feb.12, 1884. Bernard was employed on the rail-road. He married Lulu Amey on Nov.14, 1906 and several children were born. Bernard died in Belleville, Ont. in 1957 or 8.
- 11(11)2 Adelbert Lorne Leeman, b.Nov.5, 1886. He was, according to the family, a "venturesome man". He married Beatrice Green on Aug. 12, 1905.
- 11(11)3 Aletha Beatrice Leeman, b.Aug.10, 1888 d.May 8, 1969. Beatrice married Clarence Alfred Peters on Nov.23, 1910, but the marriage failed. Beatrice and Aunt Emily Martin lived together in Montreal for years. Beatrice worked for an electrical company. She retired to her home in Kingston. A heart condition as well as a stroke confined her to St.Mary -on-the-Lake hospital in Kingston where she died.
- 11(11)4 Harry Edward Leeman, b.May 7, 1890 only a year old when his mother died. The brother of Miles Martin, Emily's husband, adopted Harry. Harry and Isobel Hall were married in Sept. 1910. It is believed that Harry worked on the railroad in the West of Canada.
- 11(12) Thomas Stanley Wells, b.Mar.22, 1870 d.May 30, 1938. Stanley was the Verona telegraph operator and station agent. He lived in Portland Township Frontenac County, on Concession 11. On Mar.21, 1894 he married Mary Emiline Godfrey (Feb.22, 1871 d.Jan.26, 1931).

By 1920 he was station agent in Brighton, Ont. and for a short time also was agent in Bloomfield, Ont. He married Myrtle Wellbanks on Apr.3, 1935. On retirement he lived in Picton, where he died. It is thought that Myrtle is living in Hamilton, Ont. Stanley and his first wife are interred in Brighton in Mount Hope Cemetery, where their son Damon is buried.





Damon Wells

Thomas S. Wells & grandchildren

11(12)1 Damon Gerald, b.Dec.29, 1895 - d.Jan.22, 1934. Damon married Victoria Ruth Palen (June 9, 1906 - Aug. 8, 1962) on Sept. 24, 1928. Damon was an electrician and then became a butcher in Brighton. He suffered a heart attack and died at 39 years of age. He was a Mason. 11(12)11 Mary Ellen, b. June 16, 1931 - d. Sept. 21, 1944 11(12)12 John Allen, b.Feb.14, 1933. Jack married Barbara June Hyatt on Oct. 5, 1952. He is Clerk Treasurer for Municipality of the Township of North Marysburgh, Prince Edward County. 11(12)121 Kathy Lee, b.Aug.6, 1953. Kathy married Terry Lee Peever on June 15, 1974. 11(12)1211 Victoria Ruth Peever, b.Mar.23, 1977 11(12)122 Damon Gerald, b.Mar.3, 1955 11(12)123 Steven James, b. June 1, 1968

11(12)2 Russell Burgess, b.Aug.2, 1897 - d.May 19, 1974. Russell married Scybil Western on June 29, 1926. He moved to Cleveland, Ohio in the early thirties where he was employed by the City Transit Commission. Scybil still lives there.

11(12)21 Jean Isabel, b.Aug.14, 1929

11(12)22 Helen Margaret, b.May 11, 1932

11(12)3 Muriel Margaret, b.Feb.7, 1900. Muriel M. and Russel B. were baptized in the Presbyterian Church by Rev. Hugh McLean on Jan.8, 1901. Muriel is a nurse. On Dec.10, 1924 she married Morley Russell Simpson. Her husband was employed by a canning factory to estimate and contract requirements for each canning season. They live in Brighton.

11(12)31 John Arthur Simpson, b.Apr.18, 1930. John Arthur married Marilyn \_\_\_\_\_ on Jan.31, 1953 and has four children.

01ive Mabel, b.Mar.8, 1905. On Sept.10, 1929, Olive married Melbourne Bradshaw Leeman (d.1967). They lived in Detroit, Mich. In 1969 she married Wilbur Henry and lives in San Jacinto, Calif. Olive suffered a stroke in 1977.

11(12)41 Robert Stanley Leeman, b. July 4, 1930. Stanley married in May 1952.

11(12)42 Thomas Charles Leeman, b.Oct.25, 1934. Thomas married on Apr.16, 1955.

- 11(13) Eleanor Elizabeth, b.May 18, 1874 d.Nov.6, 1878
- 11(14) Carrie Elizabeth, b.Dec.31, 1875 d.Dec.25, 1943. Carrie married William George Bradshaw (d. Dec. 2 or 4, 1936), on Oct.19, 1895. After living in Verona, Ontario for a few years, Carrie and George moved to Detroit, Mich. where George was employed with the Chrysler Corporation. After the death of her husband, Carrie lived with LaVerne.
- 11(14)1 Margaret Eleanor LaVerne Bradshaw, b.Oct. or Nov. 11, 1915. She married Donald McMyler on June 14, 1941 and lives in Lansing, Michigan.
- THOMAS ROBINSON DUPUIS, M.D., F.R.C.P.S.K., M.R.C.S.Eng. b.Mar.25, 1833 d.June 25, 1895. First married on Jan.23, 1861, Elizabeth Emery Lake (b.1841-d.Apr.10, 1886), second daughter of Dennis and Jane Lake of Portland Township "a wealthy and influential farmer". In 1879, her mother Jane was still alive, as were sisters Jane Pearson and Harriet Lovell (wife of Robert Lovell). A sister, Emily Brown was deceased.

Second, married in 1887 or 1888, to Anne Jane Crawford, (b.1857 - d.June 20, 1924), daughter of Anthony Crawford. Annie continued to live in Kingston on King Street and then moved to Hamilton where she died.

Thomas R. Dupuis was born in the Township of Ernestown, County of Lennox and moved with the family to Portland Township, Frontenac County, around 1836.

After early local schooling, he studied Classics and Mathematics in an Academy in Kingston and obtained his first class Teaching Certificate. After teaching for a few years, he entered Medical School at Queen's University in 1856.

Queen's University was established by Royal Charter in 1841. Thomas practised in Harrowsmith and Odessa, Ontario before moving to Kingston.

- 1859 1860 was inspector for schools in a number of townships.
- 1862 1869 Trustee of public schools at Odessa.
- Spent summer in Armory Square Hospital, Washington, D.C. as assistant surgeon.
- Appointed Professor of Botany in the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons, Kingston.
- Took a summer session in Harvard Medical School, Mass. serving in city hospitals in Boston in diseases of the eye under Drs. Derby and Williams.
- 1871 Was living with family and mother in Odessa. Received diploma of Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons, Kingston.
- 1871 1880, 1882 Alderman for city of Kingston.

1872 Moved to Kingston.

1873 Accepted chair of Professor of Anatomy.

1874 Surgeon in Kingston General Hospital till death.

1881 In England and received diploma of the Royal College of Surgeons, England.

Much of Thomas R. Dupuis' personal beliefs, idiosyncrasies and activities were given in an obituary which appeared in the Kingston "Whig" of June 26, 1893. The most interesting aspects of his beliefs and activities are high-lighted below.

In 1858 he joined the Orange Lodge but was never active. In 1878 he became a Master Mason. That year he was asked to represent Frontenac County on an Independent ticket, as a candidate for member of Parliament but he declined He was also a member of the Temperance Society.

He travelled extensively in the United States, Canada and England and wrote lengthy descriptions of his travels. He contributed constantly to "The Whig" Kingston newspaper. He wrote poetry and was "capable of writing at short notice some exceedingly racy things".

He was considered to be an able speaker with a "remarkable memory which was a treasure house of ancedotes". He was reported as being a "friendly cordial person bringing good cheer".

"Not caring to be always in accord with the majority, he demonstrated individuality in mind and body."

He was brought up a Methodist with "Church of England influence", and as an adult considered himself belonging to the Church of England. However, it is stated that he resented dogmas of theology and considered religion as the highest system of morality. This is substantiated by a friend who reported that Thomas Dupuis "illustrated at all times the weakness of the flesh, but illustrated also the glorious possibilities of man".

He was certainly a leader in his profession - a talented surgeon and know-ledgeable and favourite teacher". Unfortunately, his sudden death came long before his plans for life had been fulfilled. He suffered from an attack of dysentery and apparently aggravated the condition by "eating green vegetables on Friday". He died after a day of violent pains, about 9 o'clock in the evening.

Children of Thomas R. Dupuis by his first wife, Elizabeth.

- 121 Evelina, d. 5 months, 9 days
- 122 Etienne, d. June 9, 1867 aged 3 years, 2 months, 6 days
- 123 Charles Bunker, b.1867 d.June 7, 1888 in a railroad accident in Toronto.

  He was a law student and was unmarried. He is buried in Cataraqui Cemetery,

  Kingston.
- Denis Rupert, b.1869 d.1933. In 1894, Denis Rupert was a student and boarded at the British American Hotel, Kingston. He married Hester Jackson (b.May 1, 1857 d.Nov.5, 1918). They were living in Windsor in 1918, although Mrs. Dupuis died in a Detroit hospital. Although Denis Rupert was a medical doctor, he had a partnership with \_\_\_\_\_ Soper by 1913 and sold real estate and insurance. By 1917 he was president of Strauss Realty Company. Denis Rupert and his wife Hester are both buried in Cataraqui Cemetery, Kingston.
- Thomas Arthur, b.1874 d.Oct.17, 1932. He was married but had no children. He died outside of Ontario and is buried in Cataraqui Cemetery.

Child of Thomas R. Dupuis by his second wife, Annie

Ethel Maud, b.May 14, 1889 - d.Nov.10, 1950. Ethel was an accomplished pianist. On June 21, 1916, she married Laurie Burgess (d.Jan. 1950), a graduate of University of Saskatchewan in Medicine. He devoted his life to research, particularly in the field of cancer, and worked with serums. There were no children. Ethel died of acute cardiac failure in Cambridge, Mass. and was buried beside her husband in Lakeville, Nova Scotia. Her closest relatives were cousins from her mother's side of the family. They divided a sizeable inheritance. Ethel Maud was given a bequest from her uncle, Nathan Dupuis, the only person mentioned in his will other than his immediate family.

There are no descendents of the children of Thomas R. Dupuis.

NATHAN FELLOWES DUPUIS, b.Apr.13, 1836 - d.July 20, 1917 in Long Beach, Calif. after an illness of six months. He had arteriosclerosis for ten years. It is worth noting that Nathan Fellowes Dupuis was apparently named after Nathan Fellowes, a veteran of the wars, born in 1787. He was a farmer in Ernestown Township, Lennox County. The name "Nathan Fellowes" appeared in the family for a number of generations. On Aug.6, 1812, the first N. Fellowes married Mary, a lady from the Lake family. Members of this family were neighbours of the Wells-Dupuis family. The two families, namely Lake and Dupuis, were later to become in-laws.

Nathan F. Dupuis was brought up a Methodist but later in his life, he considered himself to be a Presbyterian and attended Chalmer's Presbyterian Church faithfully, to which he willed money. His liberal religious beliefs were the moving force in his fight to have Queen's University interdenominational instead of so much under the influence of the Presbyterian Church.

From the late nineteenth Century, the Dupuis lived at 144 University Avenue, a big double house across from the Douglas Library of Queen's University. The other half was occupied by a series of members of the staff of Queen's including Shortt, Skelton, Clark and Plewes. The Dupuis house continued to be occupied by Mrs. Dupuis until her death in 1943. It has now been demolished to make way for University expansion. A picture of the house is shown in "Lest We Forget" by Dr. Norman Miller.



Mr. & Mrs. Dupuis on Nathan's 80th birthday

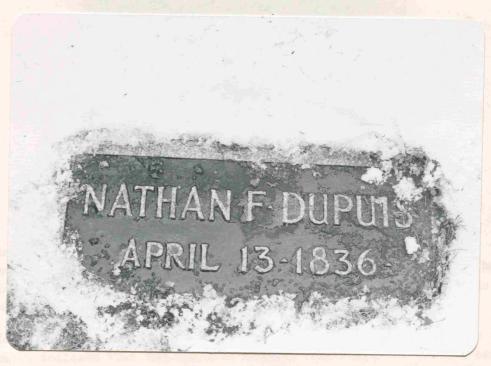


Max, Heloise & Eugene Dupuis

In his will, Nathan Dupuis provided for a foundation for a professorship in Mathematics in Queen's University to be known as the N. F. Dupuis Professorship of Mathematics.

Nathan Dupuis first married on Aug.20, 1860, Amelia Ann McGinnis (b. about 1844 - d.May 26, 1905). She was born in Watertown, N.Y. and was descended from an Irish family which settled in New York three generations before. She is buried in Cataraqui Cemetery.

The second marriage, May 2, 1906, was to Mae Gordon Thompson (b.1868 - d.July, 1943). She was the daughter of tax collector George Thompson. There were no children. Apparently Mae was not interested in the family of her husband. This is born out by the fact that, when his death occurred, she was unable to name his father, mother or tell where they were born - details which were required for a death certificate in California.



Grave of Nathan F. Dupuis in Cataraqui Cemetery

James McGinnis, b.May 24, 1861 - d.Sept.25, 1895 in Philadelphia, U.S.A. where he had lived for seven years. He was called "Max" and was educated at Queen's University. He had an M.D. He married Edith Geraldi from the United States. There were no children.

Nathan Dupuis was "startled" at the news of the death of his elder son, as he had not been aware of his illness.

Child died in infancy.

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Helen Heloise Dupuis

Helen Heloise Dupuis, b.Dec.17, 1864 - d.Dec.9, 1941. On Dec.23, 1896 she married Rev. Melvin Taylor (b.Feb.8, 1853 - d.June 21, 1935) who had two children by a previous marriage in 1882, to Ella D. Stickley. She died in 1895.

Helen Heloise must have been an ideal step-mother because letters exist which indicate that the children thought very highly of her and her father. Heloise wrote poetry, an area of interest shared by her Uncle Thomas and her father. Two poems were printed in the Queen's Quarterly in 1895, the year in which her elder brother died. One is called <u>Life</u> and reads as follows:

He remained many along the time LIFE.

She sings!

And sweet as birds in spring her song,
For life is young and cares are few,
And love is fair, and fond, and true,
And o'er her sky's untroubled blue
No shadows creep, nor motley throng
Of clouds, give hint of coming wrong.

And so she sings.

She weeps!

And fast, and bitter falls the tear;

For youth is gone and love is fled,

And all her heart's high hopes are dead.

—Great clouds, athwart the blue, now spread

Their solemn gloom, both far and near—

Till all her world seems sad and drear.

And so she weeps!

H. HELDISE DUPUIS.

Kingston, Ont.

#### Queen's Quarterly, Vol. III, p.49

In her will she left bequests only to her step-children and their children. It is perhaps of interest that the will was signed Hélèn Helöise Taylor. In using the French spelling of her first two names, one can assume her continued pride in her French Ancestry.

Information about Heloise's husband, Rev. Melvin Taylor, D.D. was found in the Bay of Quinte's Conference Minutes, 1936. According to these minutes, he was born at Clarenceville, Mississquoi County, Quebec, and was converted at the age of twenty-one. He was ordained to the work of the Methodist Ministry at Napanee in 1876. After ministering to congregations which included Montreal, Quebec, Almonte, Arnprior and Renfrew, Ontario, he retired in 1925 and moved to Wellington, Ontario, in the Belleville Presbytery. "His youthful spirit was manifest even in his eighty-third year."

In his early years of preaching, his persuasiveness was shown during revivale "He rebuked evil with flashing indignation, but his love and sympathy went out to all sinners." He was recognized by the church as having administrative gifts and was appointed to many committees where sound judgment was required. He was bestowed Doctor of Divinity by the Wesleyan College. One of his associates said about his death, "My comfort is this, knowing Dr. Taylor's life, it is easier to believe there is no death".

Dr. Melvin Taylor's children, Heloise's step-children, are included in this article because they were the only "grandchildren" grandpère Nathan knew. He remained very close to them all his life and upon his death he left in his will, money to them.

There were two step-grandchildren as follows:

Alice Winnifred Taylor, b. about 1884, and is still alive, now in her ninety's and living in a nursing home in Scarboro, Ontario.

In Sept. 1907, she married Dr. Ashley Lindsay, the world's first missionary dentist. She worked at his side as a missionary librarian. They lived in China from 1912 - 1949 when they moved to Rosedale in Toronto. By 1953 Dr. Lindsay was editor of the Ontario Dental Journal. He died around 1968.

Garnet Stickney Taylor, b. about 1887 and died about 1955. He married Norah J. \_\_\_\_ and lived in Prince Edward County, Ontario. He was a farmer. His children were:

Melvin Elliott Taylor who died in World War II

Douglas Garnet Taylor

Jeanne R. Taylor who married Mr. Hamel

Although the Taylor family moved to Montreal in 1905, trips were made back and forth to Ontario. Nathan's cottage in the Thousand Islands area above Gananoque, Ontario, was their vacation home each summer. After one crowded summer, Nathan and his wife spent vacations in England or on the Continent, and according to Alice Lindsay "had a new, very roomy cottage built with a square tower at one corner. The rest of the house was ours. He and grandmother had a private suite in the tower, sitting room, bedroom, his bedroom one above the other, and on top a deck with railing. He also built two new boat houses, one for the motor launch which only he used when he was there, though he allowed me to turn the wheel and steer. The other was a large double-storeyed building with room for a skiff, a boat for grandmother Dupuis' father, and a punt roomy and safe for us, the only grandchildren. There were five or six hammocks on the larger boat house, a wonderful place, with fishing and swimming for children".

In 1905 Nathan Dupuis went to Europe and took with him his daughter Heloise, son Eugene and step-granddaughter Alice. The trip for Alice was a "special gift for her". She remembers his great embarrassement when she insisted on milk or water in France instead of champagne - a direct influence of her strict Methodist upbringing.

Nathan liked Alice's husband, Dr. Lindsay, and in the spring of 1912, offered them the cottage in Thousand Islands. They were unable to accept as they were preparing to leave for Shanghai, and Nathan was very upset, and later sold the cottage. He wanted Dr. Lindsay to "give up this foolish China idea" and offered to buy him a practise and give them the house next door with the cottage "thrown in". However, Alice's husband had pledged his life to China. "It broke his heart to be refused, as it broke ours to refuse. He truly felt and admitted that he thought his

grandchildren had let him down, and never really got over it, although we kept in touch as long as he lived."

In 1979 Jeanne Hamel and nephew Larry Taylor (son of Douglas Taylor) presented a tea set, which had been owned by Nathan Dupuis, to the University. This tea set is now in the Ban Righ Foundation Resource Centre, a centre for women returning to university studies.



134 Eugene Leon, b.Nov.3, 1866 - d.Feb.15, 1933. He was married in Philadelphia to Mary C\_\_\_\_\_ sometime between 1906 and 1912. Eugene received an M.D. from Queen's in 1890. However, the occupation given in the city directory of Philadelphia was that of clerk, and on the death certificate, occupation was watchman.

He died of an aortic aneurism. He was buried in the Odd Fellows' Cemetery in Philadelphia, Penna. but in 1951 all bodies were moved from this cemetery and reburied in Mount Peace Cemetery in the Company lot.

It is unfortunate that after the marriage of Nathan Dupuis to his second wife, a serious rift developed between father and son, a man two years older than his step-mother. Although Nathan knew of the existence of a granddaughter when he made his will, he did not know her name or the name of Eugene's wife to whom he left an annuity.

The will of Nathan Dupuis provided an annual income of \$500. to Eugene with the proviso that "as my son has made threats against my wife's peace I hereby order that if he attempts to carry out such threats, or in any way to wilfully molest or annoy her, he shall receive one dollar and shall from that moment henceforth be cut off from all participation in this will".

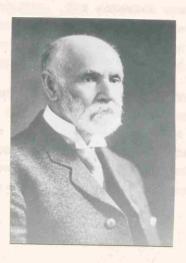
1341 Mary Heloise, b. May 16, 1914 in Philadelphia, U.S.A.

1342 Daughter, b.1917 or 1918

JOSEPH, b.Apr.12, 1839 - d.Nov.7, 1859. He was unmarried. Joseph was a school master of Spikes' Corners near Harrowsmith, Ontario. The Daily British Whig, Kingston, reported his death as follows. "He was thrown from a vehicle in which he was riding and fell upon his head, fracturing his skull so severely that he died." The accident was caused by a collision between two carriages on the highway.

Although no mention was ever made by anyone in the family of Joseph and Eleanor Wells regarding a fifth child named Catherine, the 1851 census records that in the family of Joseph and Eleanor Wells a child named Catherine was aged twelve, one year younger than Joseph. No subsequent census, however, listed this child.

## NATHAN FELLOWES DUPUIS - Achievements in Clockmaking



- Nathan Dupuis - photograph in Dupuis Hall

There have been many men associated with clocks in Canada, but few companies and individuals have made entire clocks which still function today. Nathan F. Dupuis, a professor at Queen's University is one of those few.

His most visible contribution to Queen's University is the clock in Grant Hall Tower. It is still functioning after three-quarters of a century - albeit sometimes erratically, and remains a constant tribute to his talents.

Nathan Dupuis showed remarkable manual dexterity. At the age of thirteen he built a clock from materials found on his father's farm. News of its existence

reached William Smith, a Kingston watch and clockmaker who, after investigation, invited Nathan to Kingston to be his apprentice. It took only a short time for the boy to master the trade, and he remained with Mr. Smith for nearly four years. "His health being injured by a too close application to such sedentary work, he resolved to devote himself to teaching." He taught school for six years before becoming a student at Queen's.

William Smith continued in business until the early 1880's and the name is still used by the firm today.

Nathan was encouraged by his mother to supplement the meagre formal education of the day by reading widely on all subjects. One book which made a profound impression on this young boy was an autobiography by self-taught scholar, James Ferguson, an eighteenth century Scot. This book, an account of Ferguson's achievements in life, so impressed Nathan that he patterned his life on Ferguson's whom he labelled his "hero".

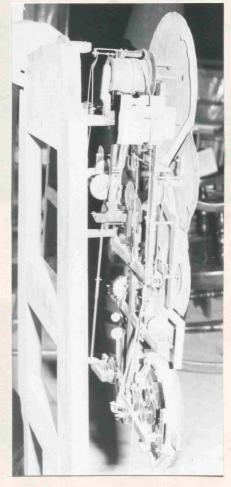
One of Ferguson's achievements described in the book was the building of mechanical and astronomical models. This inspired young Nathan to build his first clock Like Ferguson, Nathan also built mathematical, mechanical and astronomical models throughout his life.

Nathan emulated his hero in other respects including unusual skill with his hands, love of astronomy, and membership to a Royal Society. Also Ferguson was a painter of some repute, a hobby Dupuis enjoyed in later years.

There is little doubt that four clocks found at Queen's University, and now being restored, were made by, or under the direction of Nathan Dupuis. All have the same escapement adopted for the Grant Hall Tower clock which was definitely designed by him. The somewhat unusual gravity escapement is similar, though less complicated, than the double three-legged gravity escapement designed by Lord Grimthorpe (Edmund Beckett Denison) for the tower clock at the Houses of Parliament at Westminster (erroneously called Big Ben).

One of the intricate models made by Dupuis and documented in a number of articles, is a unique clock of nine dials. The dials show mean time, sidereal time, day of the month, positions of the planets in the ecliptic, positions of the moon and four positions of the sun. The planet Mercury appears to have always been missing from the orrery. This crude but ingenious clock has the frame around its dials made of wood from cigar boxes.



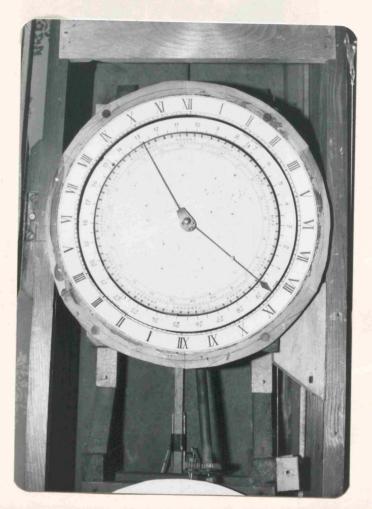


Clock with nine dials

Clock showing crude mechanism

At least one other astronomical clock exists.

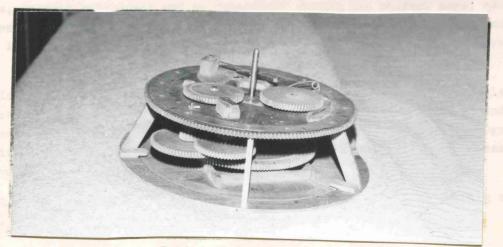




Astronomical clock

Dial

The mechanism behind the dial is also made of cigar box wood.



Behind dial of Astronomical clock

There is little doubt that lour clocks found at Queen's interestly, and concerns restored, were made by, or water the directuos of Marhan Dapule. All have the same escapement edopted for the Grant hall Tower clock which who definitely designed by him. The somewhat unuqued gravity espansive is similar, though lead amplicated, then the doubte terms—larged gravity astropedant designs by lead Captabletys (Edopted to Lead of Farthment Captabletys (Edopted Lead of Farthment as Massage and Captabletys (Edopted and Captabletys) and the tower clock at the Moders of Farthment

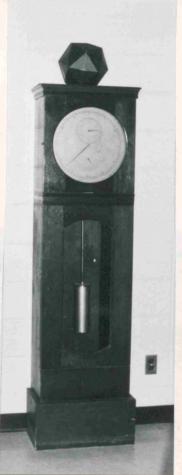
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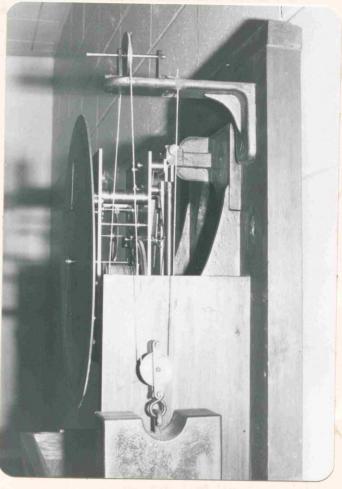
the state of the state of the



Also a regulator is in Sterling Hall, Queen's University. The brass dial was made by Fauthe & Co., Washington, D.C.



Regulator with mathematical model



Movement of regulator

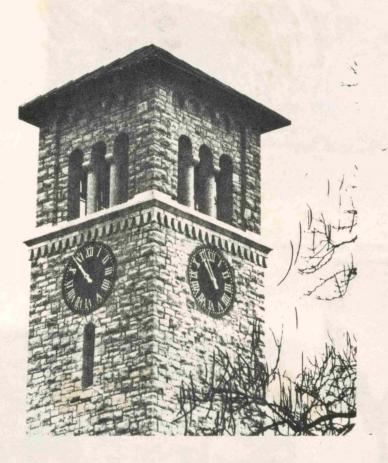
Meantime and sidereal clocks with their accurate escapements and compensations, constructed by Professor Dupuis are also mentioned in a report by James Williamson, Past Director of Kingston Observatory, concerning the transit of Venus of 1882. Much of the equipment used to record the transit had been made and used by Dupuis. Dupuis, an avid astronomer and an "observer" during his student days, had great interest in Kingston Observatory, and worked diligently for its advancement. Therefore, in addition to clocks he made instruments to aid in obtaining astronomical data.

In a report from the observatory, Mr. Williamson said "There was also a very perfect mean time clock in Professor Dupuis' house with compensation pendulum and Grimthorpe gravity escapement, and electrically connected with a chronograph there and with the Observatory. Both the clock and chronograph are of Professor Dupuis' construction and the rate of the clock is very steady".

In 1887 he made and gave to Queen's a clock with batteries to ring classroom bells. It was located in the Senate Room.

When a new Convocation Hall was needed by Queen's University, the students agreed to collect funds to finance it. It was named Grant Hall which delighted Principal Rev. George Monro Grant and construction began in 1903.

When Professor Nathan



Grant Hall Tower

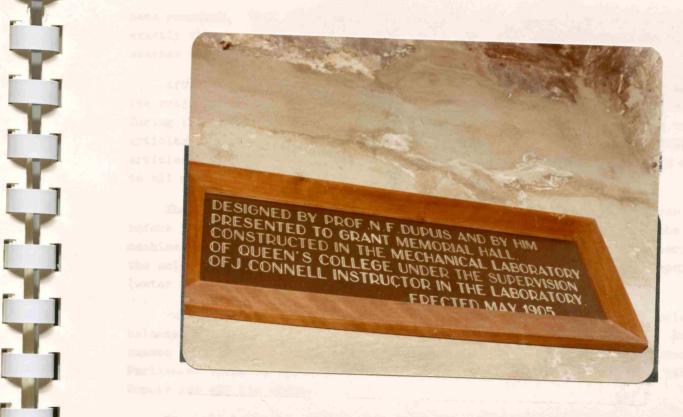
When Professor Nathan
Dupuis was approached by
student James Wallace for a
donation, he replied: "I am
not going to give you any
money because I have none to
give, but as my part, I will
build in my own shop, a large
clock which can be placed in
the Hall Tower". He designed the clock and was assisted by James Connell, instructor in the Mechanical lab.
in its construction. It was
finished in March 1905.

For the construction of this clock, the height of thirteen feet was needed for the length of the pendulum and this necessitated removal of a section of the floor in the lab. Prior to installation, holes were cut on the four sides of the tower, and parts of the clock were gradually brought up to the top of the tower and assembled.

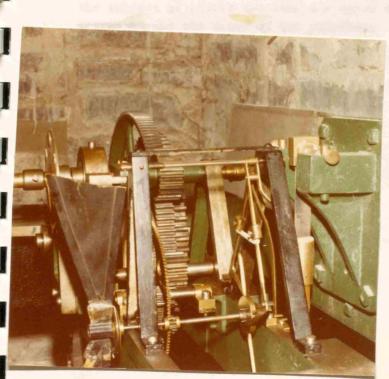
By May 26, Kingston Daily Whig reported "that the clock portion had been working well for a fortnight, and that now dial and hands were being affixed. The

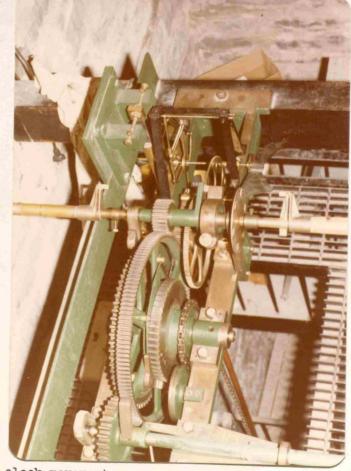
hands are of balsa wood, and seven coats of paintwere given to the dial, the last two being enamel. The clock, an eight day movement, is wound every Thursday.

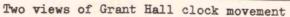
It is not unexpected that high up in the tower, subjected to all the elements, the clock occasionally runs fast or slow, and sometimes stops. In the extremes of temperature, metal gears and escape mechanisms expand and contract. Wind, rain and snow buffet the hands and pendulum. Birds often perch on the hands. Students are warned that they should not completely depend on its accuracy. However, it is a beautiful piece of precision mechanism, still fulfilling its duty after three-quarters of a century. In recognition of the historical value of the clock, it has



Plaque on wall near clock movement









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been restored. Worn parts were built up with metal alloys analyzed to match exactly the original. Plans exist to house the clock indoors where the ravages of weather will no longer cause harm.

After his retirement in 1911, Dupuis continued to write articles on his favorite subjects for the Queen's Quarterly which he had supported since its inception. During the last few years preceeding his death in 1917, he contributed a series of articles on his early interest - all aspects of recording Time. These comprehensive articles show, not only his complete mastery of the subject, but also his devotion to all methods by which the Universe can be described and understood.

The first article, <u>Mechanical Measurement of Time</u>, written just three years before his death, concerns ancient methods, and follows the history of the "geared machine commonly known as a clock" for a period of nearly six hundred years. Also, the scientific instruments predating the clock - the sundial and the clepsydra (water clock) - are described.

Further articles record in great detail the parts of timekeepers including the balance, various types of escapement, and pendulums, and how they work. He discusses the gravity escapement invented by Sir Edmund Beckett for the Houses of Parliament clock at Westminster. This escapement is similar to the one used by Dupuis for all his clocks.

The article series closed with the subject, Natural Measurement and Intervals of Time. He defines the solar day, meantime, standard time (inaugurated by Sir Sanford Fleming, 35 years Chancellor of Queen's University). He proceeds to discuss the week, month, year and types of calendars in existance throughout history. Thus the subject of clocks and time are shown as merely a part of the vast subject of Astronomy and the story of the Universe.

## NATHAN F. DUPUIS at Queen's University

Nathan Fellowes Dupuis began his association with Queen's University, first as a student in 1863, and then as a Professor in 1866. Upon retirement, he had devoted forty-seven years to Queen's. A number of articles have been written in Queen's University Journals about Professor Dupuis. Recently a chapter about him appeared in a booklet called <u>Lest We Forget</u> by Dr. Norman Miller who is perhaps Dupuis' last surviving student.

His major achievements are outlined below at various milestones in his life.

- 1857 1863 Taught school.
- Entered Queen's in December of that year. Principal Leitch and Dr. Williamson (of Kingston Observatory) made him "observer" at £55 a year. Dupuis' active interest in astronomy goes back to childhood. He was to work four hours daily in winter and six hours daily in summer.
- Made librarian. The earliest librarians were students appointed from year to year. This year, also, Dupuis graduated from Queen's with his B.A. A picture of the eight members of the graduating class appear in Queen's Review Vol. I, No. 1, 1927.
- 1868 Awarded an M.A.
- Appointed Professor of Chemistry and Natural History succeeding Robert Bell, at a salary of \$500. in addition to stipend received as an observer. He also taught Physics, Geology, Mineralogy and Biology. His earliest publication Geometrical Optics was published. There was no apparatus for teaching Chemistry and no money with which to buy it. The University was going through very difficult financial times. Therefore, all experiments were conducted with instruments and apparatus made by Dupuis and his students under the "stress of necessity" as described in an address given by him in 1901. His experiments never failed, and students were stimulated by the simplicity and ingenuity of his methods.
- Two salaries gave Dupuis \$1000. a year. This same year the Senate resolved that "it was desirable to open a few classes for ladies", and Dupuis was one of the few Professors that agreed. Subsequently, a course in Natural History was given under Prof. Dupuis.
- In an address made in October, he advocated teaching of Practical Science.

  "It is not a matter of choice with us whether we have science teaching or
  not, but a matter of necessity ..... if our Universities will not make provision ..... Schools of Technology, established for the purpose, will."

  This was the beginning of a serious attempt to establish a school of
  Practical Science.

1877 Elected first President of the new Teachers' Association for County of Frontenac and City of Kingston, which was expected because for a time he was chairman of the board of the Kingston Collegiate Institute and he served for four years as Inspector of Schools in Kingston.

Became Professor of Mathematics and Science. He reorganized the course in Mathematics and later recalled "burning the midnight oil, anxiety, work and study accompanied by weariness of mind and flesh". He selected the significant parts of the mathematics of the day and built his course. Euclid, at the time, was considered infallible. Dupuis determined to never teach Euclid, and he never did - a revolt for which he is well known. According to his contemporaries, he was as skillful in practical application of mathematical theories, as he was apt in discovering them, and impressing them on his students. Many mathematical models were made by him, and reproductions are



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Dr. N. Miller with Models made by Dupuis

still used in teaching. The original models have been preserved and restored by Dr. Norman Miller and are now on display.

One weakness in his teaching of Mathematics was the fact that he did not change the course over a thirty-one year period. The course which he developed in 1880 and 1881 was still being taught unchanged at his retirement in 1911.

In 1880, the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons was brought back to the campus, though not admitted to the University until 1892, as the Faculty of

Medicine. It had been exiled about 1863. Dupuis was one of a number of professors who worked with constant devotion to save it from extinction. For many years he walked two miles to its rented off-campus home and two miles back through all kinds of weather after regular daily classes to lecture to the medical students. He claimed "it required courage to stick to a cause which appeared to be so near a collapse".

- 1882 Elected Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada.
- 1883 Released from courses of Chemistry and Physics with the appointment of W. L. Goodwin and D. H. Marshall. This allowed him to concentrate on the teaching of mathematics.
- 1887 Made and gave to Queen's the clock with batteries to ring the classroom bells
- Visited American Universities with Dr. Goodwin in order to prepare plans for the building of Carruthers Hall which was particularly designed for classes in Chemistry, Astronomy and "assaying".
- Professor Dupuis appointed to the staff in Mathematics the first woman, Netta Reid, as his assistant upon her graduation.
- Dupuis becomes one of the most prolific scientific writers of the just found Queen's Quarterly. The scope of his articles was wide. One article hailed the beneficent advent of the bicycle to modern civilization. Another deplored persistant study of classics which he considered belonged to a "lewer stage of development and was now dead and fossilized". Numerous articles appeared on his favorite subject, Astronomy. Another series discussed theories of measurement and the metric system. Articles on measurement of Time, Ancient and Modern, have been mentioned earlier.
- Made Dean of the Faculty of Practical Science, having been a leader in its formation. Dupuis continued to make pieces of technical apparatus for the new department. One of his first achievements was a working model of the moving parts of a steam engine. This was an era when little practical good could be visualized from studies of subject other than mining and agriculture To Dupuis, it was "his firm belief that a student will do his best when he has some practical and interesting product in view".

Dupuis constructed machines to make fine ruling of gratings for his spectroscope, for the continuous winding on of the covering of an electric wire, for cutting of fine threaded screws for micrometers, and many other inventions. He made mechanical articles for the sheer joy of doing it - his bicycle had a cyclometer on its wheel made by him.

Faculty of Science attracted a number of students in carpentery and black-smithing. Year by year the number of students increased, attracted by courses that were both practical and cultural. "An engineer should be a trained cultural mind, not just a handy tool."

He was given additional space for his workshops. A wooden building erected originally for athletes was renamed "Mechanical Laboratory". The displaced athletes took revenge by painting in large letters, "Tool House" on the shed. Dupuis acted predictably, threatening to resign if culprits were not punished. The students could not have been more pleased with his reaction.

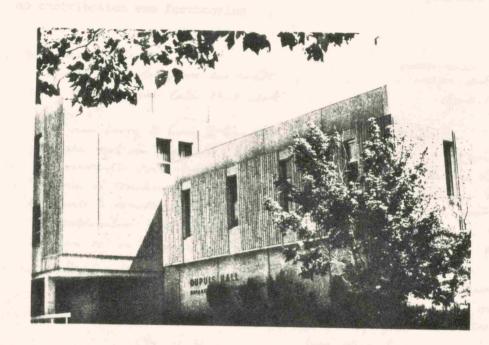
Dupuis continued to emphasize the need for mathematics in his Practical Science course, and considered it "the whole basis of Practical Science". He also wanted to include an adequate course in Astronomy which he said was "starting point for both our Science and Religion - worth its study". Students in the School of Mining had experience in surveying, engineering, simple mathematics and were encouraged to go for Queen's degree of B. of Sc.

1901 Professor Dupuis was presented with a portrait of himself, painted by Robert Harris. The painting now hangs in Dupuis Hall, the Chemical Engineering building completed in 1966 that was named in his honor. The presentation of



Portrait of Prof. Dupuis hanging in Duppis Hall

the portrait on April 30, was a joyous occasion at which he said, "It is not that I have any particular regard for the gift as being a portrait of myself - I never was a dude. I never parted my hair in the middle, or admired my countenance in the glass - and now that I have no longer any hair to part, and my face is becoming careworn and marked with the lines of age, I do not see any reason for admiring that face when transferred to a bit of canvas".



Dupuis Hall

Dupuis told the audience of his early life and the hardships involved in establishing courses in the University. "The first year of my incumbency, the most weary session I ever put in at Queen's, was very largely lost in lecturing on Chemistry without any means of putting life into the lectures by experimentation ..... The first chemical laboratory of Queen's came into existence only two years before I ceased to teach the subject ...... But the ingenuity with which nature endowed me, and a mechanically trained hand and eye were of singular advantage to me; and more than one piece of apparatus which, under the stress of necessity, I constructed in those days is still serving a purpose in the Science Department and bids fair to outlast its maker."

1902 Professor Dupuis became Acting Principal upon the death of Rev. George M. Grant, and carried out his duties with "the same quiet efficiency that characterized him in all he did" (Matheson).

1904 Professor Dupuis announced he would no longer consent to be associated with the observatory. Because of its antiquated instruments, he declared that it was unworthy of the University. A transit, borrowed from Greenwich Observatory decades earlier was to be returned to be shown in their museum! A site was then chosen for a new observatory, and Andrew Carnegie offered money.

N. Dupuis was editor for the July number of The Queen's Quarterly and sent a letter (shown below) requesting a contribution for the journal. Apparently no contribution was forthcoming

Hery acceptable.

If you can oblige us we would like the INS. not later that about June 5th over to bear that we are not in a position to the universale contributors, but as The one is making any porfit, or desires to make profit out of the publication, que all do what love can as a cabour of love aborging to hear of avorably from you I am

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n. F. Dupris

Quean University.

UNIVERSITY PLACE, KINGSTON. Out.

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Dr Frechette Bear Sir.

Javrite your on behalf of "Queen's Quarterly" a publication of Queen's Quarterly" of Johnsh you are a graduitate, to hich has acquired a very respectable printion in the field of general leterature. I am 2 dilor for the July number, and for would be all very much pleased if you could be your losy clear to give us an article for that member. An article for that member. An article for that member. An article for own wife to the last number of the quarterly, on upon any other Subject you may choose would be

Letter from N. F. Dupuis to Dr. Frechette

Public Archives of Canada.

- 1905 Dupuis and members of his family visited Europe. Upon his return, he complained about unheated bedrooms and strange foods, but he spoke with highest appreciation of Oxford University, and particularly their courses in Chemistry.
- 1909 He was a Canadian delegate to Darwin Centennial Celebration in Cambridge, England.
- 1911 Professor Dupuis retired. He received Honorary degree of L.L.D. from both McGill University and Queen's University. He was given a complementary dinner on October 17, 1911 by Board of Trustees of the University and Board of Governors of the School of Mining and Agriculture on the occasion of his retirement from active service. They are baked halibut, prime ribs of beef and deep apple pie. There were lantern slides of his life at Queen's and

there was a presentation of the Dupuis scholarship funds by Professor Matheson; one in Arts, one in Medicine and one in Science.

He was now free to paint, play his violin and read poetry. He could travel. He had fallen in love with the mountains and it was suggested for his health, that he spend much time in California.



Painting in oil by Prof. Dupuis

Prof. Dupuis retained his extraordinary manual dexterity. According to James Cappon, at eighty years of age, he could write the Lord's Prayer in fine script on an area the size of a quarter, and then would give it as a souvenir to a friend.

1917 Professor Dupuis died of acute gastritis on July 20, at Long Beach, Calif.

He also had long standing arteriosclerosis. He knew of this condition and

spoke of it as a scientific fact to W. L. Grant, "My arteries are hardening
and I shall die in a few years".

He was buried in Cataraqui Cemetery, Kingston, Ontario.

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Water colour painting by Prof. Dupuis now at Agnes Etherington Art Centre, Queen's University

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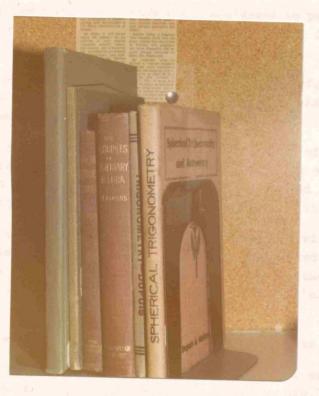
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# Books Written By NATHAN FELLOWES DUPUIS, M.A., L.L.D, F.R.S.E., F.R.S.C.



Books by N. F. Dupuis displayed in Queen's University

- 1868 Elements of Geometrical Optics.
- 1882 Junior Algebra.
- 1889 <u>Geometry of the Point, Line and Circle in The Plane</u>. This book replaced Euclid as a foundation of studies in geometry.
- 1893 Principles of Elementary Algebra.
- 1893 Elements of Synthetic Solid Geometry.
- 1902 Trigonometry for Practical Students.
- 1910 Elements of Astronomy.
- 1911 Treatise on Spherical Trigonometry.
- 1911 The Measurement of Time a compilation of articles that appeared in the Queen's Quarterly.

He also contributed papers to the Transactions of The Royal Society of Canada and other Reviews and Journals of the period. He served for a long time as editor of the Mathematical Department's "Canadian Educational Monthly".

# EXCERPTS of COMMENTS made by STAFF and STUDENTS ABOUT NATHAN F. DUPUIS

The following comments, which have been considered to provide a better understanding of Dupuis' character and beliefs, have been selected from various articles written by a number of staff and students.

Excerpts from articles written by Professor James Cappon. Professor of English, Dean of the Faculty of Arts and contemporary of Dupuis which have been grouped to reflect his views about Dupuis' character and beliefs follows:

"One could easily recognize the fine mathematical quality of Dupuis' mind in all he did .... in lectures, speeches .... and private expression of opinions there was the same precision, the same calm objectivity and well ordered sequence in the reasoning ... which characterize mathematical demonstrations in the classroom."

"There was poetry in his soul ... which did not interfere with the calm rationalism directing his intelligence, except perhaps when he lectured on the heavens. Then the soul of the old astronomer was usually moved - for one brief paragraph to describe in full literary phrase and rolling periods, the "nightly pageant of the stars."

"He had none of the weakness which makes a man speak for the sake of speaking..."

"He was by habit very much of a self-contained man ..... a self made man ..... perfectly content with the lot in life which had fallen to him." He was "rarely seen at the larger social gatherings and never at the intimate smokes or palavers of those days".

"This life, so admirably simple .... gave a dignity to this character which was felt immediately by all who approached him."

"I never saw him approach a colleague with an expansive joke or a friendly tap on the shoulder." He was a decided opponent of theological influence on every day of the week, except Sunday, when he attended church with the punctilious regularity which characterized all he did. He took his part in the movement which led to the removal of the denominational connections of the University with a vigor which was somewhat different in its inspiration from that of its other chief promoters."

"At eighty years of age he amused himself in reproducing in pen and ink a sketch of a landscape by Corot .... it showed an amazing precision of touch and fineness of hand .... every feature was reproduced without any attempt at translation."

"Once when his next-door neighbour had taken what he considered an indelicate liberty in opening up some window commanding his dining-room, Dupuis retorted by setting up a huge ugly wall of rough wooden boards between them as high as the law would allow, completely blocking the said neighbour's light and view in one direction, and of course, totally destroying the aesthetic effect of both houses. He showed it to me and explained its purpose with most evangelical tranquility ...."

board, and with his pocket knife, shaped a substitute which fitted so accurately that the car was safely brought to town ...."

"Have I given the impression that he was austere, more of a mathematical instrument than a man? Some years ago a small girl about five years old became interested in the stars. She was missed one morning and after much search was found standing at Dupuis' knee in his study. Nathan 'unloosed for her the bands of Orion'".

Professor James Ross of Montreal, on occasion of the presentation of the portrait
"He can so handle the facts of nature and of mind so as to draw the soul out of
the mists which at first surround it, and make it conscious of its own great powers
and of the wonderous possibilities of its surrounding."

### D. D. Calvin, author:

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"Though always a practical scientist, he was also a very great teacher, and a foremost mathematician in his day. His lectures, demonstrations and text books were models of lucidity - he became very near to being a genius, and it is not surprising that his Honour students look back on him with deep gratitude."

Biological Scrapbook - Public Archives of Canada:

".... most outstanding character - a mixture of diffidence amounting to shyness and a fine courtesy for which his paternal race has from time immemorial been noted."

Dr. Norman Miller- Professor of Queen's and student of Dupuis:

"For a man who was largely self-educated and who taught a large spectrum of sciences, it is hardly to be expected that he would be at the top level of any one."

"So Dupuis was not a modern mathematician. How could he be? The situation at Queen's in his day did not call for a mathematician engaged in modern research. No one of that quality would have faced the enormous amount of work involved just in keeping the institution alive and building it up."

Sir Sanford Fleming, 35 years Chancellor of Queen's:

"An able man: a finished scholar."

# NATHAN F. DUPUIS HAS THE LAST WORD

It is indeed fortunate that speeches and articles written by Dupuis exist, because they provide us with an inside view of this man's nature which differs from that of the academic man.

On examining the diversity of subjects about which he has written for the Oueen's Quarterly, it is evident that he was knowledgeable on a wide scope of interests At least thirty-five articles were written by him in one publication, The Queen's Quarterly. The topics cover a variety of subjects such as natural science, the bicycle inventors, metric system, England, measurement of time and numerous articles on all aspects of his great love, astronomy.

Inspired by Ferguson when very young, he spent a lifetime studying the Universe One of his first articles concerned the origin of the solar system and the source of heat of the sun. The way he viewed astronomy is depicted in the following quotation

"Astronomy is one of the oldest subjects of human thought - the starting point of our Science and our Religion."

"The Universe with a beginning and end is unthinkable."

"To primitive man without scientific knowledge, every phenomenon of the Universe was so enveloped in wonder and mystery as to be looked upon with a sort of religious awe. Great constellations were objects of beauty and wonder .... Any man today who can, on a brilliantly star-lit night, look upwards to the Southern sky and to the grand constellations of Taurus, Gemini and Orion, and to the Pleiades and Aldebaran and Procyon and Sirius, and not be moved to admiration at the magnificent but silent pagent, has nothing in his soul that answers to a sense of the poetic or the sublime."

He describes with words and diagrams how the heavens were interpreted on ancient Babylonian Plains and in temples of Egypt where the heavens played such a significant part in the lives of the people.

Further articles dwelt on the possibility of life somewhere in the Universe. Perhaps the most indicative quotations of Dupuis' feeling about this area follow:

"Our Sun is only a fourth rate star, and it is only reasonable to suppose some of the thousands of suns would have planets ..... It may never be proved there are intelligent beings elsewhere, but does not mean it isn't so ..... The wonderful pageant of stars was there before our solar system came into existence and will be there for long eons of time after the fires of our sun shall have been quenched."

"In endless variety of the heavens there is also a wonderful uniformity of law and principle - similar conditions give rise to similar results."

"It is not possible to refuse to believe that amongst the hundred million stars which sparkle in the universal vault, there is none with attendant planet sufficiently like this earth in condition to make it capable of producing and sustaining life!

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"Life and its potential development are carried as an integral property in the very stuff of which the Universe is made." "Development of life from lower to higher form must be principally a matter of environment and time." "Life is in improbable places - bacteria in boiling water and frozen north and deep sea."
"Man is rashly bold to say there is no life except on this Earth."

"It is not enough to say God created life by his omnipotent power ..... important not what He can do but what He does do and how He does it."

Speculation about Mars, and possibility of life there was the subject of a number of articles.

"Mars is older (than earth) and should be in more advanced stage of develop-ment."

The thought of life on Mars was exciting to Dupuis as he could see the "canals" in his telescope. His imagination filled the void of scientific knowledge. However, his scientific training would not allow him to discuss the nature of the canals. His impatience of those who completely dismissed the idea of life was evident. He really wanted to believe. "They should be willing to give all new ideas a fair and unbiased hearing." "That we fail to see a certain thing is no proof of its non-existence."

When a "certain astronomer who is head of a large observatory" found not a trace of evidence that Mars is an inhabited world, Dupuis retorted "this seems like cocksureness with a vengeance." "Large observatories and mammoth telescopes sometimes are factors in creation of astronomical dogmatism."

"Canals on Mars are no longer a disputed question because they are too often seen. Whether natural or artificial is quite another thing." He admitted that a series of marks could, at a distance, emerge into a line.

"If all the money wasted upon war .... were directed into the paths of peace, it would in a few centuries serve to cover the whole earth with a system of canals as elaborate as those on Mars."

At the end of one article he left the reader to draw his own conclusions "for this article is already longer than it was intended to be."

"It is safe to say the final solution can never be reached and the conclusion is one of inference only." "That we shall ever be able to see the inhabitants of Mars, if there be any such, or their cities or great structures is altogether without hope."

Of the moon he said, "It is generally admitted that man will never be able to see or study by means of telescope, the remote surface of the moon." Had he been alive today, however, he would have been very excited and delighted about the landing on the moon and our photographs of the "dark side" of the moon.

Concerning his views about religion, the following few quotations indicate that he refused to follow the dogma of the times.

"Progress and development of scientific thought was almost impossible under the narrow, dogmatic, monotonous and artificial ideas of the early Christian church .... where earth was the centre of the Universe and all things were looked upon as being solely for use and comfort and delectation of man."

"The six day theory of creation by asking us to deny most experience of our own senses .... destroys the basis of science."

"Surely Christianity contains enough in itself that is noble and reasonable and good to recommend its acceptance to intelligent people without subjecting its adherents to the necessity of believing legends .... like creation or stories which cannot be brought in line with the results of modern scientific investigation"

"Civilization requires a change of intelligence rather than a change of heart."
"Religion is only one of the many influences which act toward the civilization of a people."

"No man is self taught, for he has the Universe about him and the course of development which the Creator has breathed into it .... and God's gift of the power of observation and reasoning upon what he hears and sees."

"We are truly children of the past ..... the present is but a passing moment; and the future, however fully fraught with hope, is yet an unknown quality."

"For we must remember that man lives in the present, and has some interest in the near future, while the past, however valuable it may be as an index of the future, is forever out of our control."

His views about education are best depicted in his speech to the Osler Club where he stated:

"When I was a boy no certificate of qualification was needed. Anyone who could read and write a fair hand and work a little arithmetic was allowed to teach. Three teachers stand out in my memory. One was a Miss Young, sister of Brigham Young of Mormon fame. Another was an Irish pensioner with one leg. The third was a former candidate to the Holy Orders who was too fond of wine."

He speaks of the "senseless striving for uniformity in the schools which tends to make pupils so many bricks of the same length, breadth and thickness." He feels "experience is a good teacher even though it is a terribly expensive one."

"We must give our children greater degree of self independence. Taught proper use of tools his hands progress and eye and judgement trained by using them."

He had no patience with people who do not use their hands, afraid that "work may soil their fingers and make them calloused and destroy softness of the skin and delicate pink of the nails .....their proper place is in some lady's bower secure

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from wind and storm .... to prevent being frayed or chipped or cracked or even broken into pieces by his contact with realities of the rougher outside world."

Dupuis' ideas about mathematics and mathematicians could be viewed as those of a romantic. A glimpse of this can be found in the following:

"The true mathematician pursues mathematics for its own sake regardless of any practical application ... and it is through him, and him alone, that the subject has reached that unique beauty of form and completeness of generalization which characterizes it. Mathematics is highly artistic. A simple theme is chosen, some conception pretty and charming in itself. Then it is shown that by simply holding this idea up to one's eye and looking through it, a whole forest that before seemed a thick and tangled jungle of bushes and briars is seen to be in reality an orderly garden."

W. L. Grant recalled with amusement a conversation with Prof. Dupuis in which he had complemented Dupuis on "his most marvellous achievement as a teacher ....." he had taught him to like mathematics. "Yes," Dupuis said reflectively, "there is much in even the most elementary side of the subject to appeal to the most ordinary mind."

"I am a teacher who has chosen the profession of teaching for life; and it is probable that I shall continue to be a teacher during the active remainder of my days."

Many subjects currently of interest were discussed by Dupuis more than three-quarters of a century ago. He was a proponent of physical fitness, and praised the advent of the bicycle. "There is no better, no more alluring and no more profitable exercise than cycling provided the rider possesses common sense and uses it." An entire articledescribed cycling history, its future and its effect on the populace. In 1896-7 he again praised the bicycle and predicted "future influence of flying machines." Later when the motor car became popular, motoring was one of his favourite diversions.

Dupuis was indeed a man of vision as evidenced by his various thoughts regarding the future. He was concerned about sources of power for the future. In a day when people burned coal, he worried about expendable resources. He considered that people had "exaggerated ideas of the length of time the supply of coal in the world will last". He suggested "more wind power" and alternatives such as running streams and water falls. He was impressed by Niagara Falls as a source of power.

He discusses the atom in 1909. "It is now certain that the atom of Dalton and older chemists is not an indivisible thing ..... The atom is composed of innumerable particles in a state of incessant activity and rapid motion - certainly not the dead and inert thing that it was long supposed to be."

A few years after the turn of the century he predicted that the metric system "bids fair to become an international and universal system". "To compel the

adoption of the metric system with its pseudo-scientific aspects, its foreign brigin, its uncouth and polysyllabic names and its incommensurability with all existing units would be the acme of legislative folly perpetuated upon a free and trusting community ..... It is hoped that the government of Canada will not be persuaded to play the fool."

"In the craze for the decimal system will we have a ten hour day and a ten day week?"

He was positive about people's activities directed to humanity and he ridiculed those who waste their talents on things useless to humanity. He speculated on "what causes an inventor to invent?", and he remarked on the absurdity of some of the inventions, as follows:

"The Marquis of Worcester invented a little ball which, when put in a person's mouth would forthwith shoot out so many bars and bolts that the person could neither close his mouth, or remove the ball."

He also thought it useless to waste time trying to prove perpetual motion or mathematical impossibilities. He was fond of the fable of the chameleon. "Three men were discussing its colour. One insisted it was blue, one that it was green and the third that it was black. Upon producing the animal they found it to be white."

Finally, Dupuis observed on travel. He was able to travel more after the turn of the century, and enjoyed it greatly. He describes in much detail his journey to England in 1908. He loved California, and the mountains of Europe. He writes about his pleasure ascending the Jung-Frau in Switzerland. "Whole ascent is fraught with intense human interest - beautiful in its snow-capped grandeur, but even at snow limit, there are houses, cottages and workers." He met the American tourist, "a man who prepares himself for travel by filling his pockets instead of his heart and mind".

It is hoped that this treatise on members of the Dupuis-Wells family, and particularly about Nathan Fellowes Dupuis - his academic life, his accomplishments and his thoughts about various subjects, is found to be interesting to the reader and help extend his memory a little longer.

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Public Archives of Canada and National Library of Canada (City Directories, Telephone Directories, Newspapers, Census Records)

Ontario Provincial Archives

Queen's University Archives - Nathan F. Dupuis papers

United Church of Canada Archives

Cataraqui Cemetery Co. records

Mount Hope Cemetery Commission Records

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Frontenac County Land Registry Office

Surrogate Court, County of Frontenac

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