

Letter and enclosure from J. Mitchell to Alexander Graham Bell, February 22, 1918

false statements no records of Edy. PUBLIC ARCHIVES OF CANADA Goderich, February 22, 1918. Prof. Alex. Graham Bell, Baddeck, N. S. Dear Dr. Bell,—

I am not sure but h that I inadvertently overlooked acknowledging your very kind letter to me dated Dec. 29, and if I did I assure you it was not from want of interest in your career and the splendid work you have done for humanity, nor from want of appreciation of your very kind offer of assistance in the work I am trying to do in that connection for the records of this Archives Department.

I am glad to say that I promptly received from the New York offices of the Am. Telephone and Tel. Co., the copy of the book they issued, giving your testimony in the Government Telephone suit, and that will go in with the rest of the material which I hope to have completed when I receive the promised portrait you very kindly promised (which will, I presume, be forwarded when you return to the busy haunts of the city.)

I came across the enclosed clipping some time ago, and when in London last week called on the sons of your old time friend, whose decease is here recorded, to see if I could get any information that might be added to our record. Mr. Leslie Edy was much interested in what I told him of the proposal, and said he had several times wished he had sent a copy of the paper this clipping is from to yourself. I told him that as I would likely be writing you again I would send this copy to you for your perusal, and when you are through with it I will hope for its return, as I think I may make it a part of the record of the Telephone, and incorporate it with the other material I will send in to Ottawa for filing.

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I trust you are well this trying winter, and I am sure that, like myself, you will be glad to resume work with activity when the blessed spring time returns. I am weary of this long winter.

Gratefully yours, Ontario Rep. of Public Archives of Canada. (Encl.—Newspaper clipping).

1917 ADVERTISER, LONDON, ONTARIO, THURSDAY, AUGUST FIRST TELEPHONE LINE RAN FROM HIS STUDIO.

Advertiser Illustrations. WILLIAM D. EDY, who died on Tuesday at his home here.

MAN WHO ASSISTED BELL IN PERFECTION OF PHONE DIES AT HIS HOME HERE

William D. Edy, Photographer of Original Apparatus, and Man Who Aided in First Telephone Conversation Over Line, Passed Away Thursday Afternoon.

William D. Edy, for over 30 years one of London's leading photographers, and who assisted Alexander Graham Bell in the perfection of the telephone, died at the home of his son, E. Leslie Edy, 4 Cartwright street, Tuesday. He was 85 years of age and had been living retired for several years.

He was born in the township of Burford, county of Brant, in 1832, and received his education in the public and private schools of that district. He started life as a farmer, but after a few years went into business as a photographer with his brother, the late J. N. Edy, in Brantford. The partners soon achieved fame. They were the first in Ontario to adopt the practice of retouching negatives. Later they produced an oil painting of Captain Joseph Brant from a miniature on ivory made in England. This was presented through Lord Dufferin to Prince Arthur.

Photographed First Phone.

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In 1876 he assisted Alexander Graham Bell in perfecting his invention, the telephone. All the photographs of the original apparatus were by William Edy, and the first telephone conversation in the world took place between his studio and the Bell farm. He was subsequently offered a half share in the company for \$1,200, but did not accept the offer.

He moved to London in 1879 and established a studio here. He conducted this until several years ago, when his son, Leslie Edy, took over most of the work. At one time Mr. Edy was offered a half-interest in the Eastman Kodak Company for \$700, but declined the offer.

Mr. Edy was twice married, first in the year 1854 to Miss Milanda Haviland of Boston, Ont., who died in 1873, and later to Miss Mary Howall, daughter of the late Capt. Henry Howall. He was an earnest Christian, and had long been a member of the Plymouth Brethren. He is survived by six children. Lorenzo of Vancouver, B. C.: Mrs. W. Bogart, of Toronto; Willis, of Brantford; E. L. Edy of this city; Mrs. Harry Brown, of Toronto, and F. W. Edy of this city.

The funeral will be held from the residence of his son, Leslie Edy, on Thursday at 8 a. m. The services will be conducted by the Plymouth Brethren. Interment will take place at Oakland, near Brantford, the remains leaving London on the 9 o'clock