

# Dr. James T. Shotwell

A Creator of the United Nations

Dr. James Thomson Shotwell was among the group of 50 intellectuals and world leaders who attended the Paris Peace Conference in May 1919. But before he took a place in world history as one of the creators of the League of Nations - now known as the United Nations - he was a local boy who excelled at Strathroy Collegiate Institute (S.C.I.) and received first-class honours at the University of Toronto.

In the Age Dispatch from July 7th, 1960, Shotwell fondly remembers growing up in Strathroy in an address he wrote for the Centennial Celebrations for the community. He recalled his boyhood home as the "little house on the hill [...] nestling against the old orchard, and looking out to the garden on the east, with the pasture lots below and the little creek winding through them between the willows." He lived in Strathroy before automobiles and experienced the introduction of telephones and electricity to the community.



PHOTO: James T. Shotwell, New York, 1960. Courtesy of Dr. John Waters.

Shotwell's journey to the Paris Peace Conference began when he accepted a teaching position at Columbia University in 1903. Shortly after the United States entered WWI, Shotwell was appointed to a committee advising President Woodrow Wilson. In addition to promoting US entry into the League of Nations, and serving as president of that organization from 1935 to 1939, Shotwell was among those who drafted the charter of the United Nations.

Today, Shotwell is remembered as an expert in international relations and peace negotiation, and Columbia University still offers a professor position bearing his name. Shotwell wrote nine books, including an autobiography that detailed his childhood and education in Strathroy - where, at one time, he debated with classmate Arthur Currie. At his alma mater, Strathroy District Collegiate Institute (formerly S.C.I.), a history classroom is named in his honour. Shotwell's dedication to the community and his international achievements make him a celebrated HOMETOWN HERO.



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PHOTO: James T. Shotwell's family home, Hull Road, Strathroy. Courtesy of Dr. John Waters. Shotwell moved from Adelaide township to the Hull Road house between 1881 - 1891.