

ST. CATHARINES PUBLIC LIBRARY



February 16, 1979.

Mr. Louis McDermott
108 High Street
Fort Erie, Ontario. L2A 3P7

Dear Mr. McDermott:

RE your enquiry about WILLIAM ALEXANDER THOMSON 1816-1878.

The Thorold Post (newspaper) lists his death and says that he died at his home near Queenston, Tuesday, October 1, 1878.

The Canadian Directory of Parliament, 1867 - 1967, also lists him and says "Died, October 1, 1878, at GLENCAIRN near Queenston."

Glencairn, is a well-known, beautiful house, on the river side of the Niagara Parkway, a mile north of Queenston. It was built by the Hamilton family of Queenston and purchased from the Hamiltons in 1866 by William A. Thompson (Thomson). He and his large family lived there for many years. The house was purchased around the turn of the century by a John D. Larkin.

Perhaps you should write to St. Saviour's Church, Queenston, to ask whether they know where he is buried.

I certainly feel that he would have no need for an alternative house once he obtained GLENCAIRN for it is renowned for its architecture I am wondering whether there is another Thomson family mixed up here. I would suggest that you check the census records of 1871, for a William Thompson in early 1860 owned The Welland Flouring Mills (later owned by J.A. Everingham) and is very likely that there are other Thomson's (Thompson's) in the area.

When you say that you are interested in finding out more of the life -- do you mean activities? For it would be possible for you to read all the references given in the bibliography in the Dictionary of National Biography. (The Public Archives Manuscripts would have to be

looked at in Ottawa, however) . St. Catharines Public Library has the Debates on microfilm, also the article in the Journal of Canadian studies: "A forgotten forerunner of Social Credit's William Alexander Thomson".

One of the daughters, Maude Stuart Thomson married a Doctor Robert Trimble.

I am sorry I have no other information for you.

Encl:

Yours sincerely,

Sheila Wilson

Sheila Wilson (Mrs.)
SPECIAL COLLECTIONS.