

Dear Mrs. Harrison,-

I was most interested in your letter and am glad to give you what information I can.

James Forsyth of Aberdeen, Scotland, came to the Wyoming Valley between 1765 and 1770. At the beginning of the revolution, he and his family tried to reach Niagara, but were taken prisoners by Indians. Luckily a force of British soldiers attacked the Indians and set them free.

Lists of families in 1783 include James Forsyth, age 44, his wife and four children. Sarah, the youngest, when grown up, married a Buchner.

James had a public house at what is now 2218 Main Street, Niagara Falls, Ont. but it was his second son William (Married Mary Ayckler) who was proprietor of the Pavillion Hotel and fenced in part of the chain reserve, making it necessary for everyone who wished to view the falls from that point to go through the Pavillion grounds.

The struggle between Sir Peregrine Maitland and Mr Forsyth should have been conducted along civil lines, but the Governor made the mistake of using Military force. This he did twice (tore down the fence).

A James Forsyth, I presume a grandson of the first James, was a private in the 2nd Lincolns, and was killed at the Battle of Chippawa. Madame Cellini, once a famed opera singer, was a great-granddaughter of the original James.

William certainly tried to monopolize the tourist trade? He had his hotel, the control of access to Table Rock; stage coaches running over the portage and to Fort Erie and interests in the ferry below the falls. In 1819 a brother of Bishop Strachan mentions staying at "Forsyth's Hotel". In 1831 a Mr Ferguson calls it "a splendid and extensive establishment". Mr. Ferguson travelled to Niagara on the same stage as William and says "He proved to be an amusing travelling companion", - "a personage sufficiently shrewd and well informed". He told Mr. Ferguson that he was the son of an original settler and had himself "raised nineteen children, ten by his first wife and nine by his second".

These facts I have taken from "Township No. 2 Mt. Dorchester, Stamford", by Ernest Green, and the "Niagara Portage Road" by the same author. The first is from Volume 25 of the Ontario Historical Society's papers and records, year 1929, the second from volume 23 year 1926, of the same. Mr. Green's address is: Department of Trade and Commerce, Ottawa.

Mr. J. C. Morden's "Historic Niagara Falls" gives a very full account of the "Pavilion Hotel". You can get a copy from Mr. Morden, 2390 Lundys Lane, Niagara Falls, Ont. clothbinding \$1.00, paper 75¢.