

R. R. #4, Aylmer (West) Ontario
N5H 2R3 October 4, 1982

Mr. Louis Mc Dermott
108 High Street
Fort Erie, Ontario

Dear Mr. McDermott:

I have just received my copy of St. Paul's Anglican Church,
Fort Erie, 1821-1981.

I've read your notes on St. Paul's Church, and would like
to have answers to the following questions, if I may:

The book you mention, "The Register of St. Paul's Church
at Fort Erie" by Brig. General Ernest Cruikshank — would
it be available to peruse, possibly in the Fort Erie Public
Library?

If the book is available in the Library, would it
be open to the public on Saturdays? I was thinking
of Saturday, October 9 (Thanksgiving Week-end).

I am trying to trace an ancestor, Isaac Thompson,
who came out from Appley in Westmorland England,
around 1831, bringing 3 sons, Isaac, Jonathan, Harrison
and possibly two daughters, Anne and Agnes.
There were several servants and fellow parishioners
who came also, and they all settled in Bertie. I
have found the farm of ^(100 acres) Isaac Thompson, the son,
in an old atlas of Welland County. It is bordered
by the railway and Thompson Road; but now
is a suburb of Fort Erie, with streets built on it,
so if there were burials on their farm, stones may be gone.

The father, Isaac, was my g. g. grandfather, but I have ^{been} unable to ascertain, so far, when he was born, or when he died. I know that he died at his farm which he called "Southfield," in Bertie, at a good old age. His wife had died in England in 1816 at age 43, having had eleven children.

If you could give me any assistance as to where I might look for the information, I would be most grateful.

Perhaps I could telephone to Fort Erie, later this week, and find out the answer to my question about the Library hours in Fort Erie.

In the meantime, thank you for your consideration.

Yours sincerely,
Marion R. Thompson (Miss)

P. S. -- I was unable to obtain a Death Certificate for Isaac Thompson, Sr., from the Parliament Bldgs. in Toronto, although I have paid for two searches around two different dates, which were only assumptions on my part.

R. R. #4 Aylmer (West) Ontario
N5H 2R3, October 7, 1982

Mr. Louis McDermott
108 High Street
Fort Erie, Ontario

Dear Mr. McDermott:

Thank you very much for your telephone call this evening. I shall certainly look forward to receiving the letter you mailed to me about Isaac Thompson, Sr., who was my great-great grandfather. His son Jonathan, seventh in a family of eleven, was my great-grandfather. He married Charlotte Riselay. I believe she was a descendant of Christian Riselay, U. E. and I'm trying to procure a copy of the book, "Ontario Register, Vol. 4 No. 4," which contains an article about this family. My mother, Mrs. Boyd Thompson helped supply information for this book, to Mr. Thomas B. Wilson of New Jersey, U. S. A., in 1972. Mr. Don Cosens, of St. Thomas helped compile the information for Mr. Wilson, and he has a copy, but I have not had a chance to see the book. Anyway, the Riselay family may also have come from Fort Erie, since I ran across their names several times in the Census Records for Bertie Twp., plus they had a farm not far from the Isaac Thompson farm in Bertie.

I will enclose a ^{hand-written} photo-copy of the letter listing all of Isaac Thompson's (Sr.) children, as given to me by Miss MacPherson of Kendal Records office in England.

Yours sincerely,
Marion Thompson

R. R. #4, Aylmer (West) Ontario, Canada
N5H 2R3 October 26, 1982

Dear Mr. McDermott:

Your most well letter, with its enclosures, arrived to-day, and thank you ever so much for it.

That excerpt from the Ontario Register No. 4 was a real help to me in fitting some of the missing pieces together, in the family tree.

From Page 227 of the excerpt, I read that the Rev. John Kemp of Bury, Quebec was a brother-in-law of my g. g. grandfather, Jonathan Thompson.

On the record of Baptisms from the family Bible, the original of which I have, "Agnes Kemp" has signed her name just below that of John Kemp, both of whom were witnesses to several of the Baptisms. So probably this is Jonathan's older sister, Agnes Thompson, who came over from England with the family about 1831. She is named on the list that I wrote out for you, third oldest in the family of Isaac Thompson, Sr.

Perhaps I'll get down to Fort Erie some fine day to visit the old homestead, and the church and cemetery. In the meantime, thank you so much for all of your enclosures, and information.

I shall look forward to receiving the pictures. Jonathan Thompson was buried at Burdick Cemetery, east of Aylmer in March, 1898, but like St. Paul's in Fort Erie, their records were burned, back in the 1920's. Also the cemetery was vandalized back then, and the stone is missing. The stone for Catherine R. R. is still there + I have a snapshot.

She died at age 16, August 26, 1852.

It really is getting to the place where I should begin to devote my full time to filling in the charts ~~for~~ that I have purchased, and get it ^{all} ready for some further research, perhaps tacking the big one on the wall somewhere.

My full-time teaching duties at school, however, really limit my time for such a big undertaking - so I usually do the most work on family tree during my summer holidays.

Once again, thanks for your invaluable assistance.

Yours sincerely,
Marion R. Thompson

P.S. I would be glad to send you the amount it takes for pictures, photo-copies, etc. Perhaps you will let me know what it comes to, and I can remit in stamps or Postal Money Order, whichever suits you better.

R. R. #4, Aylmer (West) Ontario.

N5H 2R3 March 26, 1983

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



Dear Mr. McDermott:

Some Thompson cousins from the Mississauga area were here for the day last Wednesday; and I was digging in my files to show them all the latest information that I had. (They're going to England in May.)

I came across your letters to me, and I showed them the photostatic copies you sent from Ontario Register No. 4 pertaining to the Christian Riselay family, and his daughter Charlotte, who married my g. grandfather, Jonathan Thompson. The father of Jonathan, Isaac Thompson, died in Fort Erie, on March 5, 1841, aged 70 years (this being the information that you so kindly supplied).

Would I be able to procure a copy of the Last Will and Testament of Isaac Thompson at the Records Office in Welland County, do you think? I am really searching also for the names of Isaac's parents, who, I think, lived at the Southfield Farm in Appleby when he was born.
← Cumbria, England

I have searched for a record of his birth in the Kendal Records Office in Cumbria, England, last summer, but neither I nor two others who are experienced genealogists over there, could find it.

I will be looking forward to seeing the pictures you took of the stone marking the grave of Christian Riselay, and of Isaac Thompson, Jr. I will be glad to reimburse you for the cost and your trouble searching for them.

When school is out around June 30, I'd like to find a free day to drive down to Fort Erie, and see some of the places you mentioned:

- 1) The Thompson homestead;
- 2) St. Paul's Church & churchyard, and the markers and/or stones mentioned above; (church records from 1836-1844);
- 3) Any Thompson "cousins" still residing near or in Fort Erie, if any.

I tried to get you by telephone to-day, but you must be out. It is a bright day here, but still pretty chilly.

Thank you for your assistance.

Yours sincerely,
(Miss) Marion Thompson

Miss Marion R. Thompson

R.R. No. 4

Aylmer (West), Ontario

N5H 2R3

April 22, 1983

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

Dear Mr. McDermott:

Thank you very much for your letter with its enclosures. I now have had two prints taken off each of the 3 negatives that you sent to me.

There was no negative of the picture you took of the stone of Isaac Thompson, Jr. Perhaps the film is still in your camera. Anyway, if you come across the negative sometime, would it be too much trouble to send it on to me?

If I find any trace of Archibald Thompson I will certainly let you know. There was a Joseph Thompson who, when he left England back in the early 1800's, went to the southern United States. His descendants are probably scattered all over the U. S. A. Some are out in Western Canada. This Joseph Thompson was from the same farm in Appleby, England, as my great-great grandfather, Isaac Thompson, so I think they might well have been related. I'll perhaps get more details of the family of Joseph from a living relative in Cumbria, England. He was outlining it orally to me last summer, but we did not get any of it written down on paper.

Thank you for the sketch of Isaac Thompson's Lot and Concession No. Does N.R. mean north of the railroad? Who drew the original?

My Thompson cousins from Mississauga (originally from Blenheim in Kent County; descendants of George Thompson, the oldest son of Jonathan Thompson) were here to see me again this week for a few minutes. So I showed them the diagram of the Isaac Thompson property that you sent. It was of considerable help to them in locating the farm on their large-scale map of the area. I'm just curious as to the origin of the diagram — so perhaps you might tell me when you send along the negative for Isaac Thompson Jr.'s gravestone.

When I come down to Fort Erie in early July, I hope I can choose a day when the Library and St. Paul's Church records will be available to see. I refer to the 1836-1844 records which contain "very interesting reading and many facts about the early church and its parishioners." I'm hoping I might find some reference in it to Isaac Thompson, Sr.

Again, thank you very much for the items you sent.

Yours sincerely,

Marion R. Thompson

P. S. I have nothing in my records about William Thompson who married Penelope Willson, but I'll keep my eyes open for any information about them.

- Children of Isaac and Frances (Harrison) Thompson - married 15 May, 1801
- 1802 May 26: George, son of Isaac Thompson of Southfield and Frances, his wife
--Master of Grammar School at Wisbech 1831-1876.
- 1803 October 30: Margaret - died June 1822 -- Buried at Appleby, England
- * 1805 May 12: Agnes, (KENN) (possibly came to Canada, with father Isaac)
- * 1806 October 21: Isaac Actually " " " " " "
- 1807 October 31: Anthony -- died in infancy, buried at Appleby, England
- 1808 October 1: Mary -- married Thos. Winder -- died in London, England
- * 1810 May 24: Jonathan -- came to Canada with father Isaac
- 1812 December 17: John -- died in infancy, buried at Appleby
- * 1813 February 4: Ann -- came to Canada with father Isaac
- * 1814 May 3: Harrison -- came to Canada " " "
- * 1815 June 26: Jane -- died in infancy. Buried at Appleby, England

* These five (probably all of them) came to Canada
circa 1831. Jonathan and Harrison came to

Malahide Township in Elgin County sometime later.
I have found ^{one or both of} them in the 1851-2 and 1841-2 Census
Records for Malahide Twp. Isaac, their oldest
brother, must have fallen heir to the Thompson
farm in Bertie Township when his father died,
according to the old English custom of leaving everything
to the oldest son.