

THE THOMPSON HOUSE:::

This large two story frame home, with its many exstensions and numerous rooms and fire places; is marked as belonging to Wm. ^AThompson who took over the Fort Erie Mill in 1850 from a Mr. Lewis Moffat of Buffalo. ^{HOUSE 1854} He was a relative of George Moffat one of the purchasers of the Mill from James Kerby in 1832. Kerby who was living in Niagara on the lake and had a partnership with Robert Grant, which they broke in 1831. Kerby took over the Mill and between 80 & 90 acres that went with it and moved to a spot near the Mill.

The earliest owner of this property was John Garner a member of th Buttlers Rangers. He sold to William Dubar who constructed the Mill around 1795. Thomas Burns also owned part of land and west of it Dr. William Prescott Hall. In 1823 Kerby sold a 3rd. interest in the Mill to Benjamin Hardison and in 1796 it appears that Benjamin owned for a time or held a claim on the land belonging to Wm. Dunbar as well as the Mill sight.

W.A. Thompson Operated the Mill from 1850- 1852. The house remained long after the Mill ceased operation. It was used by the U.S. Consulate and later became the home of the Gear family: Mr. & Mrs. Sidney, Pattie, & Herb (killed overseas) For some time it was lived in by the Ed. Burger family. In the early 20's, the home was left empty, and it was used as a smuggling headquarters, to bring in chinese, coal, oil, and booze. During the construction of the Peace Bridge this old home was used as a cook house, and boarding place for many of the workers. In sad shape after so many years of use, the Thompson home met the fate, of several others and was finally demolished.

It had Tunnel To MILL RACE, blocked OFF BY BURGER. ALSO SEVERAL FIRE PLACES.

Never must one not forget the old Thompson house that was pulled down to make way for the bridge. Framed by tall trees with its french windows opening on the purling mill race of Col. Kirby's day, and its wide-balconied stairway of walnut. It once was the charming home, gardened with many flowering shrubs and sweet old-time perennials.

