

William A. Thomson:::

1850-1852

1885: inf. by R. Radcliffe:::

"His residence was very prettily situated, facing the river and immediately opposite the rapids. It had formerly been the old Kerby property. Mr. Thomson had been in mercantile business in Buffalo, N.Y. and the name of Thomson Brothers is what he went under. They were for many years termed the Hardware KINGS."

On retiring from business Mr. Thomson came to Fort Erie, purchasing the above mentioned property; and tearing down all the old buildings he erected a commodious and up-to-date dwelling for the time. His wife was a southern lady and had a large family of young children, primarily girls. About his time there was a considerable land boom in Upper Canada. Everyone that had any money was investing in village and town lots. Mr. Thomson caught the fever, and made several very expensive purchases. Unfortunately in several instances he also purchased law suits. That fact, together with the boom never materializing, ruined him financially, but after a few years he recovered and died a comparatively rich man.

It was through his efforts that the railway running from Niagara-on-the-Lake to Chippawa, was extended to Fort Erie. He was also the original promoter of the Canadian Southern; and a few years after Confederation, he was a member of the Welland County as M.P.