

P.O.Box 295,

Dorset, Ont., PoA 1E0

Mr. Louis McDermot,
~~c/o Mrs. Marguerite Miller,~~ High St
~~Redstock's Retirement Home,~~ FORT ERIE
~~301 Niagara Blvd.,~~ ONT
~~Fort Erie Ont. POA 1E0~~

Dear Louis,

First, please let me apologise for my long delay in answering your letter with the enclosed photograph copies. Helen Sutton in whose house I live has been quite ill all fall, winter and spring leaving me little time for letter writing. However I have done quite a bit of research .

First, enclosed are not only what answers I have, but also my design of 80 Niagara as it was when I lived there. Actual measurements I do not know, but I think the room arrangements and proportions are fairly accurate. I have also enclosed a photograph of the east end of the living room at 96 Niagara as it looked in 1946 and thereabouts.

The photographs of the tennis club and garden party were difficult since I was not born until 1915.

THE GARDEN PARTY

My mother , then Elsie Montillon is the first person on the left. Your estimated date of 1890 must be too early, since my mother was born in 1887 and died in 1996, so could only be three years old in 1890! Estimating from another similar picture of her which I have at age 13, or so I would say the picnic was closer to 1903.

Attempting to name the picnic goers I would say from left to right they are: Elsie Montillon (b.1887 - d. 1997)

Emily Curtiss

Margaret Curtiss (later married to James Stratton)

Albertina Lewis ?? or a Curtiss

Henry Lewis or James Curtiss??

Herbert Montillon (my uncle) b.1890- d cannot find date-

see grave at St. John's Bertie.

Julia Cruikshank- (have seen pictures but am not sure) was a girlhood friend of my grandmother - was married to Brigadier Gen. Cruikshank who had home across the Garrison Rd (now #3 Hy) from my grandparents' cottage.

Eugene Montillon (My uncle) b. 1883 - d- (grave in Ithaca N.Y.

The Garden Party continued.

Abbie Montillon - (my grandmother)(Marguerite Miller's Aunt)
b-12 Aug. 1855 - d. Apr. 6 1941.

Mrs. Walter Curtiss- mother of the Curtiss girls mentioned
and wife of the Walter Curtiss who lived next door
on the north side, to 96 Niagara. I do not
remember Mrs. Curtiss at all I am afraid.
Grannie's mother 's family came from Warsaw
New York, and as far as I know were not related
to Walter Curtiss.

THE TENNIS CLUB

I am afraid many of these are unknown to me. Here is the best I can do.
Certain identities will be starred, and guesses not.

Rear Row L.to R.

- | | | |
|----|---------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1) | 2) Elsie Montillon* | 3) John Brenton Fitz-Gibbon* |
| | | (Father) |
| 4) | 5) | 6) |
| | | 7)A.T.Elliott? 9) Cranmer Risely |
| | | 10.Richard Graham (Dick)* |

Middle Row L to r

- | | | | | |
|----|----|---------------------|---|-------------------|
| 1) | 2) | 3) Margaret Graham* | 5 | 6 Cassandra Lewis |
|----|----|---------------------|---|-------------------|

Front Row L to R

- | | | | | |
|----|----|------------|----|----------------|
| 1) | 2) | 3) | 4) | 5)Henry Lewis* |
| | | with child | | 6) |

Re 6 Cassandra Curtiss was a daughter of John Curtiss who had the farm
on the first concession (or line?) north of Bowen Road just south
of St. John's Bertie Anglican Church, and who I believe was a brother
of Walter Curtiss who had the farm next to 96 Niagara. Bill Lewis will
probably have information on the date on which she married Henry Lewis.
I am not sure about Cranmer Risely but I know that he was taller than
my father who was 6' 3" and I thought he was even taller than Dick Graham.
The John Graham family were early pioneers and had a farm off the
Garrison Rd.(No 3 Hy.) but lived next north to the Walter Curtiss family
Their four children were Amy (musician) Margaret, Mary (Called Queen)
and Richard (called Dick) John Graham ran an insurance business there
which was carried on by Margaret after his death and then by Amy. After
serving as a guard in the army during WW1 along the Welland Canal
developing T.B. and later worked on the Mail train to and from Toronto
and, I believe with the Insurance.

Mr. A.T. Elliot was the druggist on the boulevard at the corner where the
ferry boat docked.

Southr corner of Catharine St. Old Dunham House. Outstanding family,
Well known and very clever family - Pennsylvania

Dutch I believe. Mabel who my mother knew wrote

"The Trail Of The Conestoga" published by McClellan &
Stewart, Tor. 1942. House had bullet holes from the
Fenian Raids.

- Home of a Mrs. Canary an old woman who kept goats.
a big yellowish house

- Next tow or three houses I don't remember. occupants

- St. Paul's Anglican Rectory at top of hill
St. Paul's Anglican Sunday School below it.
Originally St. Paul's Anglican Sunday School, now
Redstock's Retirement Home. Rectory on hill

- House used to be, thought haunted big house, dark brick

- Clapboard large house also on top of hill -

- Ravine

- St. Paul's Anglican Church made from stone from the
Original Fort, My mother played the organ until she
married from about age 14. Yncle Herbert's wife Aunt Clara
played here - a very highly trained and beautiful musician.
Railroad Tracks- for freight delivery
Garage on south corner of Gilmore.

- Thomas farm from Gilmore north to include 96 Niagara
and gulley in between. George Thomas had tiny house
on corner and Adie Thomas on hill just behind him.
(Johnny had house on Eidlewilde St. May have also
been part of farm .(??)

- Walter Curtiss Farm (Swanick family lived behind.

- John Graham House - Amy, Margaret, Mary (Queenie) & Richard (Dick)

- Hershey House where Miss Emily, Miss Kat, Mrs. Thompson
(nee Hershey) and nephew Jack Mann lived.

- Benner House (My Uncle Eugene recorded this as

Mr. & Mrs Benner and Mrs. Benner's mother. 2 Apts

- 80 Niagara My home - see family description

- Mr. Bond, His wife who was a Risley, & Miss Risley lived.
(Risely another old pioneer name)

- Mr. Henry Lewis House. Henry Lewis and Cassandra nee Curtis (dau of
John Curtiss)

- Old family homestead of the Lewis family belonging to

Catharine St.

Mrs. Canary (?)
had goats.

???

Church

Gilmore Rd.

Molly Lewis sister of Henry, and Eleanor, and Albertina when I was a child, and later occupied by an RCMP officer by the name of Hough, and then Verril family, before being turned into a nursing home. Miss Madeline Nourse and her mother lived with Miss Molly Lewis and then Miss Nourse built a house to the north and Miss Molly moved in with them and rented the old house to the above mentioned people. It is (if still there) one of the most beautiful boulevard homes and deserves historical preservation.

- Madeline Nourse House
- House built by "Dutch" Jackson

-House was owned by "Auntie Mill Warren" and was later turned into apartments, and Auntie Mill lived with the Henry Lewis family until she died. I don't know where she was related to them. As children we always used to chat and wait to take her home if we saw her wandering. She would go to the empty ^{house} to "get her brother's lunch" I would help her get out the dishes that were not there etc. rather than upset her. (Her brother had already died)

- Red Brick house belonging to Mrs. Hurl Fry
- Large old House occupied if not owned by a M. & Mrs. Chalmers.
- Mr. & Mrs Broadleigh and their children Margaret, John and Violet lived there. Margaret was my closest friend all through elementary school. Mr. Broadley worked for the Railway.

Three other houses ???

- Arner Chemical Mfg. Co later made into apartment House where Marguerite Miller lived after she sold her home farther north down the boulevard, and left to go the Redstocks Retirement home.
- International Railroad Bridge.

Wintemute St
Warren farm

Broadley

Lewis Street

R.R. Bridge.

Empty lot on S Corner of Wintemute St
White house on N corner
I believe the Warrens & Wintemutes were related

where listed

You will see that instead of adding to your picture, I have made a complete a listing as I can for each of your pictures, and of the homes along the boulevard from Lewis to Catharine St. Hop you can make sense of it. I feel sure that the Land registry office in Welland would Have the old original records of land grants along the boulevard. I know that the Elliots, The Hersheys, the Grahams, The Lewis'. and the Curtiss's were all pioneer familys in the area, and as often happened (or maybe always) people intermarried. I know therfore that the Warrens, the Witemutes, the Lewises and the Curtisses were related, and that the Grahams, the Elliots, and the Hersheys, and the Nellises and the Carmichaels were all related. Their ancestors were often either UELs or descendants of Br. Regular troops using the fort. There is, by the way a book that was put out for the centennial of St Paul's church some years ago. I know I had a copy, but cannot find it. Possibly the Church has a copy or the library. I cannot remember if I wrote to thank you for my copy of the photo you took, but I was certainly delighted with it and now have it in my album. Another possible source of information in the Ontario Archives. I believe it is still housed in the Museum building called the Sigmund Samuel Bldg opposite the parliament's west door on Queen,s Park Cresc. I don't know of any descendants of the Stantons or the Kirby's still extant.

Now to my family. — **FITZ - GIBBON**

John Brenton - born In Stoney Ford Co. Kilkenny Ireland Nov. 22 ? attended Highgate Boys School Cardiff Wales, and graduated in Civil and Mechanical Engineering from Cardiff University He took 4 years of training after that at the British Engineering shops where he specialized in the construction and design of buildings and machinery required in the production of steel.

He came to Canada to build the steel plant on Cape Breton Isd, and moved from there to various other steel plants, Im at present working on his biography and hope to have sites and dates before too long. He met my mother while at the Bethlehem Steel plant in Buffalo, and later wound up at the Hannah Furnace Co. there. He died after a mastoid operation at Fort Erie July 6, 1932.

Elsie Elizabeth- Graduated as a teacher in Buffalo but married before taking a position. (You have her dates.

John Ord b. b. 30 June 19 11 attended Ridley College, Wintemute P.S. and Buffalo tech, then studied Mechanical engineering at U.B. finishing his degree extramurally with the British Engineering School He worked at the Horton and then became Field Engineer for the Algoma Steel Co., Sault Ste Marie, Ont. He later moved to the States

and d. Seattle, Wash.

(61)

Maurice Archibald- b. Oct 10 , 1912 (I think) attended School in Fort Erie and did garage work until he joined the Toronto Scottish Reg. in 1939. Always interested in Police work he remustered into the Provost Corps, taking training with the Br. Guards School when overseas and with Scotland Yard. returning home as a Cpt. acting Major. He commanded a unit of cadets at Niagara before going to Burwash where he became 2nd in command until he retired. d. Mar 17, 1989.

His wife was Margaret Wyckoff of Simcoe area who taught at Wintemute St. School in Fort Erie. d. Port Credit, Ont 12 Nov 88

George Desmond b. May 5 1913 After Graduating from FEHS worked for Miss Madelin Nouse re Insurance, and ^{then} In the Assay Office of the Ker Addison Mine in Kirkland Lake before joining the RCAF in 1939, ^{He} was finally shot down over the North Sea during day light raids over Germany ^{when he} was a wireless leader. Jan 1941.

Mary Fbbie b. Jan. 5 1915 Graduated F.E.H.S and Toronto Normal School. taught 5 years at Douglas School Fort Erie. Served in the Cwac 3 1/2 years Graduated in Art & Archaeology University Toronto 1950 and taught Royal Ontario Museum ^{1950 to} ~~Toronto 1973 years~~ and continued in research ^{until} 1985 ~~for the Museum~~. Now resides in Dorset Ontario.

Robert Eugene b June 10, 1922 Graduated from electrical training from Sault tech. Served in R.E.M.E during W.W.II. from 40 to end of war. Employed by General Electric until retirement

Married to Betty (Gertrude Elizabeth Anderson) of Edmonton Has a son David in Canada's Permanent Force , Daughter Robin Nurse in thn North West Territories Both with children
Bob resides in Port Credit Ont.

If you need more information that I can give, please let me know.

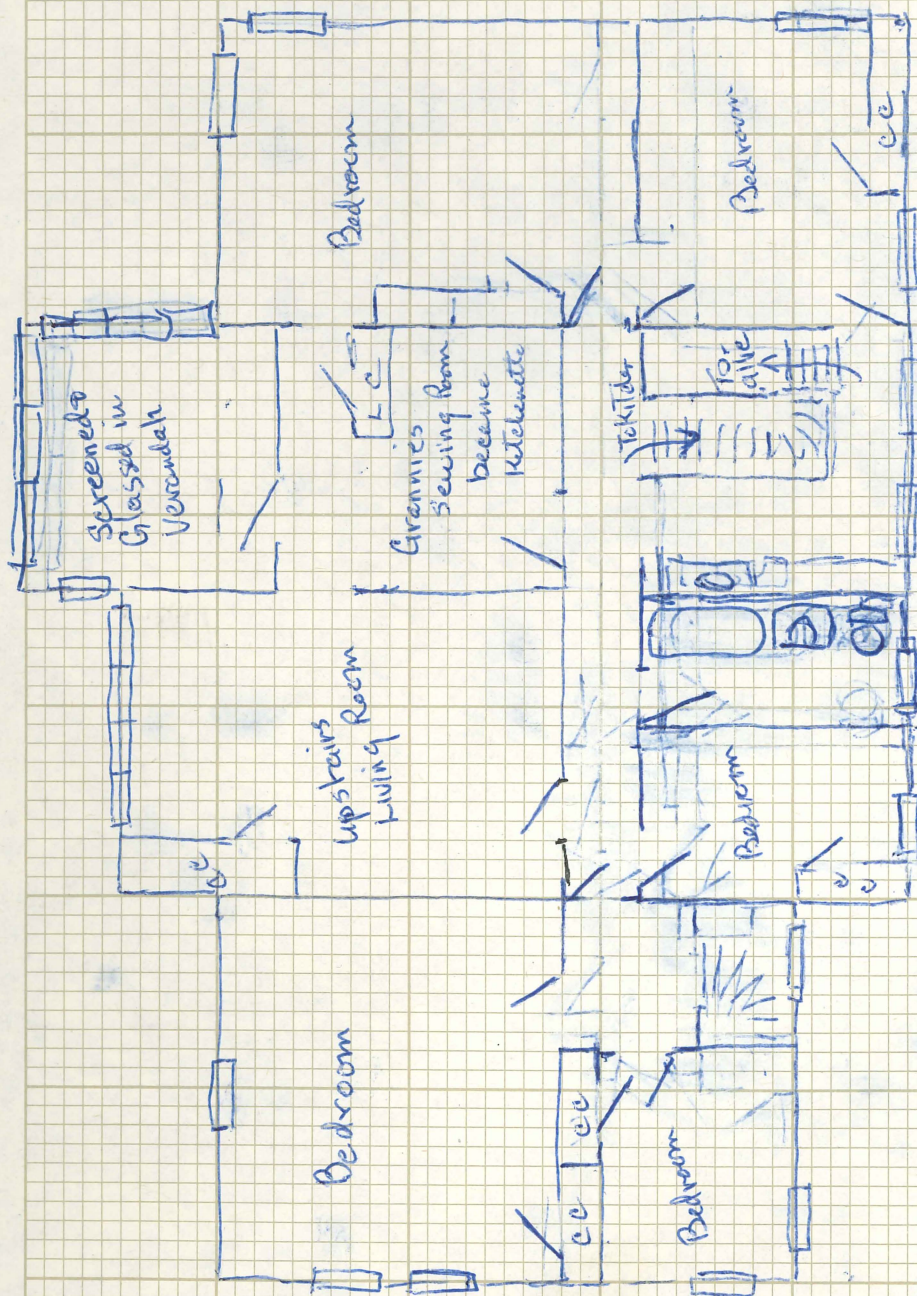
Yours sincerely,

Mary Fbbie

*I do apologize for my typing & disorganization
but cannot take time at the moment to see do it all.
Mary*

2nd Floor
 96 Niagara Blvd, Fort Erie
 as I remember it
 after it had been made into
 an apartment for my grandparents
 from the hall door back.

Mary A. Fitz-Gibbon



FRONT