

The CURTISS summer home: Niagara Blvd. Fort Erie Ont. 1887.

information from Emily Curtiss.

Mr. Walter Langdon Curtiss of Buffalo N.Y., first moved into his summer home on the Niagara blvd., in the centre of the block between Gilmore Rd. and Wintemute St., in 1887.

there had been a house on the property before their arrival; a two story affair with the oldest part being the back section. According to Emily, this home had at one time been occupied by the Thomas family. Walter Curtiss bought the old home from a Mr. Pierce. *(last South Montclair)*

The house which at first was two stories, with a somewhat flat roof, was considerably enlarged by the Curtiss's, shortly after moving in. Later a gabled roof was added and a third floor attic.

Immediately to the back of the house stood a large windmill and adjacent to this was the ice house. Set well back of the other buildings were two large barns. Still thurthier back on the property stood another two story, four romm frame house used for the help. This building the Curtiss's nick-named the farm house. to serve the family the Curtiss's had a coloured maid, who lived with them in the main house.

Their property streched all the way from their home, south to the Gilmore Rd., and west to where Dunlop St., is to-day. it proceeded from thre to Thompson Rd. and this was called their back pasture. At the time the Peace Bridge was built mr. Curtiss, sold most of his holdings, keeping the home and hoping to gain considerable profit. With little hope of gain after the comming of the depression; Mr. Curtiss bought back most of his original property.

During the summer months their home was a bee-hive of activity, with all the notable people in town gathering there::: the Lewis's, the Grahams, the Cruikshanks, the Montillons, the Harveys and many more.

Walter Langdon Curtiss:	b.	d.	married June 6/1877
Alice <u>Bond</u> (wife)	b.	d.	

children:

Emily	b.1885	Utica N.Y.	d. Buffalo N.Y.
Margaret	b.1886	d.	
James Bond	b.	d.	

Margaret Curtiss married George Stratton.

Emily, became librarian in the first Bridgeburg library, and continued in their service till she moved to Buffalo in 1936. It was at this time that she had hopes of a position in the Queen St. library, but because she on the other side of the Gilmore she was refused. A position was offered her in the Buffalo public Library, and she moved there. The old home then stood empty for a number of years, however in 1939 because of the high cost of taxes etc. it was desided to take it down. For this job the services of Mr. Mullet were aquired.

James Bond Curtiss took up a position in the Amigari factory of Tutton & Bailey later called Hart & Cooley.

Mr. Walter Langdon Curtiss, was in the business of making railroad ties. He owned considerable property in the souther U.S.A. states, where he aquired his lumber. In the early 1870's he started a tannery on the Alleganey River in N.Y. State, and the town of Salemanica sprung up around it.