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MR LOUIS Mc DERMOTT
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Dear Mr. McDermott,

I would like to thank you for recognizing the name of Ora Douglas as being from Fort Erie. As Ollie Benner might have mentioned, the picture with her and my mother, Ida Steinmann was probably a farewell party in 1919 when Curtiss Aeroplane was eliminating its war time office force. Anyway, I am trying to get it published in the Buffalo News, hoping that some one will see their mother or grandmother in it and help me fill in the missing blanks. My current problem is trying to obtain more information on my HARP and STEVENS families. Hopefully, you might be able to point me in the right direction. Please see the enclosed STEVENS family sheets, pages 1 through 3.

The first point of interest is the marriage of John A. HARP and Mary J. HUMPHREY as shown at the top of page 2 of the STEVENS' sheets: Mary was the step-granddaughter of Charlotte (STEVENS) QUACKENBUSH/PHILLIPS. Charlotte died in 1899 and 14 months later this farmer came all the way from Aylmer, Ontario to get married in Black Rock. Even though he probably came by train, it still would have an arduous journey by today's standards, so he must have been related somehow. His parents were listed on the marriage license as John HARP and Mary GRANL (?-that's what it looked like). Do you have the name and address of a historian or genealogist in Aylmer who might have more information on this John A. HARP and his ancestors? Bridget (STEVENS) QUACKENBUSH, along with her Bertie property, inherited property way out in Sombra, Ontario (near the St. Clair River) so the family must have really spread out.

Hazel Sauer of Welland (her husband, Merritt, is my 2nd cousin on the STEINMANN side) just sent me information on land grants and early settlers of Humberstone Township. The list includes Edward HARP and his wife, Angelica KETTLE, and John HARP and his wife, Elizabeth FEERO. Here again, I would appreciate a name and address of someone knowledgeable of the descendants of these HARP families in Humberstone. Of course, this is contrary to the 1851 census for Bertie Township that indicates that George STEVENS and Christiana HARP were born in the U.S. Also, in the 1880 U.S. census, both Sophia (STEVENS) DAYTON and John STEVENS indicated that their parents were born in New York State and it was the same for Sophia in the 1900 U.S. census. I could not find any record of the John B. STEVENS family after 1880.

I still have to try to get copies of the marriage records from Toronto, hopefully, to find the names of the parents of George STEVENS. There was an Aaron STEPHENS living near HARP families in Schoharie County in the early 1800's so it is possible that George STEVENS and Christiana HARP met there or on the trail going West towards Buffalo and then crossed the Niagara River into Fort Erie, Bertie Township. If the birthplaces for Michael HARP and Charlotte ARMSTRONG and the estimated birth dates are correct then these two families would not have been involved in the Revolution, but I don't know when the STEVENS family emigrated to North America. However, since the family migrated to Canada, they could have had Loyalist sympathies. The first land purchase that could be found for George STEVENS was in 1842 (50 acres, W 1/2, Lot 5, Concession 5 in Bertie) but, from the birth dates of his children, he would have been in Canada before 1828. Perhaps he rented land prior to 1842.

I do not have any dates or immigration data for Michael HARP and Charlotte ARMSTRONG. I obtained just the names and birthplaces from the "World Family Tree" Volume 1, Tree #2270 (Max B. Reitz) and Volume 9, Tree #1766 (Clark D. Holloway). I haven't been able to find a current address for Clark and Max hasn't responded to my request for his sources. They disagree on the order of the children so I used Clark's which better fits the possible entries in early New York censuses.

I hope you are able provide the names I need to continue my search and I would be grateful for any other information you could provide. I am enclosing a return envelope and two International Reply Coupons. I would be happy to pay any other costs for mailing and copying material that you think might be helpful to me.

Sincerely,



Robert L. Hennesen