



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

July 2, 1971

Dear Mr. McDermott:

The Department of State has received your letter of June 23 asking for information concerning the American Consuls assigned to Fort Erie, and their places of residence.

According to Department records, the following Consuls have served at Fort Erie: Freeman N. Blake, appointed February 23, 1865; William R. Baker, Deputy Consul, appointed February 4, 1868, reappointed Vice Consul April 24, 1869; John M. S. Hunter, appointed Deputy Consul December 23, 1869; Sylvester H. Graham, appointed Vice Consul January 13, 1874; Daniel Derst, appointed Vice and Deputy Consul January 24, 1876; Charles Wesley Vahey, appointed Vice Consul April 19, 1884; Isaac H. Allen, appointed Vice and Deputy Consul July 8, 1891, died April 27, 1897; John V. Bedell, appointed Vice and Deputy Consul January 30, 1900, resigned August 1, 1902; Lewis H. Manly, appointed Vice and Deputy Consul September 5, 1902; James B. Curtiss, appointed Vice and Deputy Consul July 24, 1909; George S. Messersmith appointed Consul June 25, 1914. The Consulate was closed on June 1, 1916.

The National Archives and Records Service, to whom I am referring your letter, may be able to provide you with additional information on the American Consulate at Fort Erie.

Sincerely yours,

Byron Fairchild  
Acting Chief, Historical Studies Division  
Historical Office

Mr. Louis McDermott,  
108 High Street,  
Fort Erie, Ontario,  
Canada.



UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION



DATE: July 15, 1971

National Archives and Records Service

Washington, D.C. 20408

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: NNL

SUBJECT: Consulate at Fort Erie (Your letter of June 23, 1971).

Mr. Louis McDermott  
108 High Street  
Fort Erie, Ontario, CANADA

An examination of our files has shown that the State Department has provided you with incorrect information as to the Consuls who served at Fort Erie. According to our records, the following men were appointed: Freeman N. Blake, appointed February 23, 1865; Andrew C. Phillips, appointed April 16, 1869; Harry P. Dill, appointed February 1, 1881; Robert S. Chilton, appointed April 11, 1882; La Rue Peck, appointed February 27, 1883; James Whelan, appointed May 5, 1886; Ossian Bedell, appointed July 24, 1890; Ralph Johnson, appointed September 19, 1893; Ossian Bedell, appointed July 5, 1897; Horace J. Harvey, appointed July 1, 1902; and George S. Messersmith, appointed June 25, 1914. The consulate was closed by Consul Messersmith on June 1, 1916.

The only location for the consulate which we have been able to find was that of the tenure of Consul Harvey. During this period, the consulate occupied an unnumbered building on Niagara Street, facing the Niagara River, and was about a block from the ferry to Buffalo and a mile from the bridge. The building was owned by Henry G. Falke of Buffalo. We can provide you with a photographic print of this building for \$3.50.

To order please send an international money order or check drawn in United States dollars made payable to the General Services Administration (NNL) and addressed to the Cashier, National Archives and Records Service, Washington, D.C. 20408.

Sincerely,

*Milton O. Gustafson*

DR. MILTON O. GUSTAFSON  
Diplomatic Records Specialist  
Legislative, Judicial and  
Diplomatic Records Division