

101 Main Street East,
Grimsby, Ontario,
January 15, 1972.

Dear Mr. McDermott:

I was very much interested in your letter asking for information about Silas Carter and the Carter family of Bertie Township.

Silas Carter, the builder of the windmill, was my great, great grandfather. His daughter, Rebecca Jemima, married Walter Brown, of Malahide Township, in the Talbot settlement, in Elgin County, about 1824 and went there to live. She is buried in the Dunboyne Cemetery on the farm where she spent all her married life. She had six children, of which the oldest, Nicholas Carter Brown, was my Mother's father. He was born in 1826.

It is quite possible that you have more details about this family than I have. As you know, the early 1800's were hard; money was scarce, and travel difficult; consequently it was easy for families to lose touch. In later years my Mother tried to learn more about the Carter family in Bertie but was not very successful. I will, however, tell you what I know.

Silas Carter's first wife was Jemima Allwood. They had ^{five} four children that I can name, but there may have been others - Silas Carter, Nicholas Carter, Jemima Carter, born 1800 (my g. grandmother) and Sally Carter who never married and lived with her sister Jemima, and is buried beside her. *Rebecca was another born daughter who lived in Bertie. ~~was~~ John Row 6 Dec 18 1806 d Mar 11 1875 buried*

My actual information about Silas is very sketchy, I am afraid. The sources are all secondary. I have one no record research, though I believe in some part of my uncle's family is the marriage record of Jemima and Walter Brown.

Silas Carter was the son of Silas; his mother's name I do not know. He was born 1758, in New Jersey, of farming parentage. Though too young at 16 to enlist in General Washington's army he served as a teamster and according to family story lived for three months in the General's home during the revolution.

At some point he met Jemima Allwood (said to be the daughter of a Loyalist) and they were married in 1783. Silas' sole possessions were three horses, which were said to have eaten poison and to have died. Silas and Jemima came to Canada during or after 1783 and settled on the Windmill Point land. If Jemima were indeed of Loyalist stock and Silas' rebel convictions less strong than his desire for free land, all this could have been possible in the general exodus that followed the War of Independence.

In a statement, dated 1895, Eva Rose of Ridgeway, a granddaughter of Silas and Jemima, writes that when the Carters arrived in Canada, Buffalo was only a log hut trading center. She says that for years Silas took his grist down the lake and river to Chippewa by canoe and thence by trail to the mill at the Falls. She says that after the "Hungry summer" he determined to build a mill on the point.

The generally accepted date is 1832, although my family regard this date as erroneous and believe that the mill was built before the war of 1812, because of family legend about the invasion of the Americans and the soldiers stealing grain from the hopper.

Eva Rose goes on to say that "there was plenty of limestone and a kiln was built to burn the lime for the walls of the mill. One run of burr stones was made from broken boulders found on the farm. The second run of burrs was brought on the ice from Buffalo. Each obstacle was in turn surmounted and the autumn winds of 1832 turned the huge canvas covered swifts of Silas Carter's mill..... Settlers came with grists from sixty miles away and for forty years, the mill was patronized by the whole countryside."

That Silas Carter died on June 23, 1856, is documented. I was told by an old Mr. Hawley, who lived across the road from Mrs. Blakely's, that Silas and his family were buried in the *(Abraham) Kitchin* Cemetery. When I went there, I found enough of the family stones to substantiate this, although Silas's stone was gone. At the moment I cannot recall the name of the cemetery, but it is in the middle of an woods, a road or two east of the point, perhaps two miles from Ann Blakely's antique shop. It may be the cemetery that you speak of.

In Mrs. Blakely's shop you will find copies of all the pictures of the mill that I have. I have no pictures of Silas or Jemima; I regret to say.

If you have the names of any of Silas' descendants in the Fort Erie area, I would be glad to have them. I have always felt that there should be some permanent memorial to Silas near the Point. This I have reason to believe would be easy to obtain were here any local interest and some definite documentation.

Should you have gathered other information than I have given you here, I hope that it will be possible for me to share it. I could come to Fort Erie any time to copy material.

Thank you so much for writing.

Sincerely yours,

Margaret C. Gibson
(Mrs Robert Gibson)

SILAS CARTER married Margaret Buck Jan. 4, 1840.

information from Reid's Loyalists in Ont.

^{Carter}
Rebecca = 1828

Sophia Carter May 5.
1818.

30
17

19

1.
1828
1783

45

Carter }
Shide }
Wm. }
Lecht. }
Proper
brought to speculate.

Frederick 1822
died May 27-1861
went to Michigan

William^H Carter Nov 1817
died = ~~Nov 22 1837~~

Christiana Carter = 1
died 1840 June 11th

John Edmund Carter 1828
May 16th. 1842

Susan^{Wm} Carter 1832
(married Pto) 1854
April 22 (married 1851)

Julian. 1815.

~~John E. 1824.~~

~~Lovina 1826~~

~~Rebecca. 1828~~

George Mitchell. 1830

Mary Catharine = 1836.

Christiana + William Carter
children