

108 High ST.
Fort Erie ont.,

July 18th. 72

Dear Mrs. Mackonochie:

Have just received a letter from Margaret Armitage, and she suggested I drop you a line. For several years now, I have had a hobby of collecting pictures of the old homes in the area, and a little history of the people that occupied them. About two years ago I met the family that live in the old home of Ernest Alexander Cruikshank, and ever since we have been writing letters, searching libraries and Historical societies to find information on this great Historian. In April I made a trip to Ottawa to search out his grave and that of his second wife. I was unable to find her headstone, and only on writing the cemetery on my return did I find out the information, that she had died in 69, and that she was indeed buried in Beachwood Cemetery. About this time I got a call from the Ontario Archives, who were also looking for Mrs. Cruikshank, as they were going to present a plaque in the honour of Brig. Ernest Cruikshank this Sept. in Ottawa. From the cemetery I got the name of Matilda's great nephew, and in turn he gave me the name of his mother. I have had a couple of letters from her since, and several clippings from the Ottawa papers, and she has come across some photos that she is going to let me have the use of. I also had a letter from a Miss White in Toronto and she sent me some small snaps of Mrs. Cruikshank, but unfortunately none of the General. She did however give me some facts on the personal lives of this couple that will be a great addition to my collection.

Today I received my letter from Mrs. Armitage, and with it your name and address. She says that you lived with Mrs. Cruikshank for sometime after she left Wilton Crescent and that you would probably know some facts of her later life and her interests. Mrs. Moore who lives in the home of her husband in Fort Erie, and of his mother and father before him, has over the last six years that she has occupied the place; restored it back to the way it looked while occupied by the General. She is very interested in history, and is teaching her seven adopted children to follow along these lines. When I started this search a few years back, there was only one book in the Fort Erie Library that contained anything of Cruikshank's works; and it was almost impossible to come up with anything on his personal life. Since this time we have been able to purchase several of his books on the way of 1812, and the Moores are busy trying to get as many as possible for their library. I have written to Ottawa, since my return for several of the things that Mrs. Cruikshank donated to the Archives, and I expect the copies within the next few weeks. As you were living with Matilda, at the time her goods were disposed of, I was wondering if by chance you may have acquired a few keepsakes. I am mostly interested in photos of her and the General or of their homes, or any clippings or important accounts of such things as wedding dates etc. I could always have such things copied off and returned without delay.

Perhaps if you did not purchase anything yourself, you may be able to steer me onto the path of anything that went someplace other than the museum or Archives. This fall they are going to unveil a plaque in Ottawa in honour of Brig. General Cruikshank, and I am working to the day that I can have them put one up on the site of his home in Fort Erie. One way or other Mrs. Moore and I will make the people of this area, aware of the great Historian that came out of Fort Erie; if not the greatest in Canada.

Hoping to hear from you soon and that you will be able to help me with this search;

Yours sincerely
Mr. Louis Mc. Dermott