

# In 1796 Ontario Saw Some Strange UFOs



Special to Buffalo Evening News

**WILLOWDALE, Ont.** — What may have been the first reported sighting of unidentified flying objects over North America has been found in an 18th Century diary by the Rev. James S. McGivern, S.J., historian at Regis College.

The incident is recorded under the date Oct. 12, 1796, in the diary of one Simcon Perkins, published by the Champlain Society.

The extract reads:  
"A strange story comes from the Bay of Fundy that ships have been seen in the air. Mr. Darrow is lately come from there by land. I enquired of him. He stated that they were

said to be seen at New Mines near Mr. Ratchford's by a girl about sunrise.

"The girl cried out and two men who were in the house came out and saw them. There were 15 ships and a man forward with his hand stretched out. They made to the eastward. They were so near people saw their sides and ports. The story did not obtain universal credit, but some people believed it."

**Comments** Father McGivern: "It is of interest that in the era of sail, the UFOs were reported in the form of ships, whereas today they are reported seen as exotic aircraft."

Higley

DEC 19 1967

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REMARKS A Buffalo Evening News article sent me by a friend. As you can guess when you read it, they probably <u>did</u> see ships. This has happened in the arctic when a superior mirage was noted and radio contact was made with the radio waves travelling the same course as the optical rays. Icebergs also "float in the sky." Bob				
FROM		ROBERT R. HIGLEY, Lt Colonel, USAF		DATE
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