

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR 300 PEOPLE—ROOMS WITH BATH OR RUNNING HOT AND COLD WATER  
SPECIAL WEEKLY RATES

## HOTEL COMMONWEALTH

ON BEACON HILL OPPOSITE STATE CAPITOL

86 BOWDOIN STREET  
BOSTON, MASS.

LEONARD H. TORREY, PRESIDENT

N. Y. P. Library  
Feb. 13, 1942.

Amad  
Feb 17/42  
Dear Mr. Raddall:

Here I am bothering you again, but this time not for myself. I have been writing to everybody who might contribute a sentence about that old sinner, Rev. Israel Cheever, and odds and ends of information are coming in. From Harvard I learn inter alia that Cheever was much troubled with bedbugs when he taught school in Waltham. But they also mentioned the date of The Boston News-Letter which carried an obit. of his first wife. They have a photostab of that issue here. From that I learned that the first wife was a Torrey, and in no time I was back to John Alden and Priscilla Mullins of

(the Mayflower, stopping on the way to pick up another worth-having ancestor, Harry Adams, progenitor of our presidents John and John Quincy Adams.

I'm writing Mr. Clifford K. Shipton, Custodian of Harvard Univ.

Archives, Harvard College Library, I told him about Simeon Perkins's Diary. In his latest letter, Mr.

Shipton asks: "Does the Simeon Perkins diary contain sufficient material on refugee loyalists to justify ~~micro~~ making a micro-film of it?"

I wrote him that I thought it contains more pre-Loyalist material; but it just occurs to me that the later volumes which I did not read <sup>may</sup> ~~might~~ have a good deal on the Loyalists.

Now all this is to ask how Mr. Shipton's query should be answered. And I have given his full address above so that you can take up the

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question with him personally, if you care to do so. I believe it would be a great thing if Harvard would pay for micro-filming the original manuscript. Then if anything <sup>should</sup> ~~it~~ happen to it, a fac-simile of the original would be extant. And, perhaps, after Harvard got it, they would have somebody "break it down" into the various unrelated subjects which are included in old Times's records.

This week I have received from Miss Mullins some valuable Cheever data, some of it from Long's Annals, which in spite of her health she has taken the trouble to copy for me.

(4)

I intend, of course, to see that she finally receives a copy of what I wrote about Cheever, and I'll make her a copy of anything else I have that she wants. I suppose your historical society would ultimately get it.

By the way, what was the book of hers just published? If she told me about it, I have clean forgotten it; and I do not want to expose my carelessness or ignorance or seeming indifference. I'm quite sure the N. Y. P. Lib. would have bought a copy.

I trust that this will find you and your family well notwithstanding the terrible weather you have been getting. My best wishes to you all.

Sincerely yours,

G. D. Bird  
% this hotel.

"AROUND THE CORNER—FROM THE HUB OF THE WORLD"

## HOTEL MANHATTAN

ONE HUNDRED FIFTY SEVEN WEST FORTY SEVENTH STREET

TIMES SQUARE

NEW YORK

PHONE BRYANT 9-7790

N. Y. Pub. Lib.,  
Mar. 2, 1942.

Dear Mr. Raddall:

A thousand thanks for your good letter of the 17<sup>th</sup> ult., which did not reach me until this morning.

I shall turn it over to Mr.

Shipton at Harvard.

I got the impression from Perkins' diary that bending the elbow was one of Rev. D. C.'s chief indoor sports. That is probably how he celebrated the discovery of the Gunpowder Plot in his underground days, thereby winning promotion.

I'd like to know more about the "frolic" on the island at Port Mouton. I believe in including the fish. Total highlight produces no picture. My client can

delete what he does not like.

While the diary contains much that is trivial, I think it would be a great thing if Harvard would go to the expense of microfilming it. I read only the first 2 1/2 vols. At that time I did not know Rev. J. C. was an ancestor of Mr. F. A microfilm of the diary would be a guaranty of its perpetuation.

In the same mail with your letter came one from the librarian of the New Bedford Pub. Lib. From it I quote this choice morsel:

"Rev. Israel Cheever accepted the call to Dartmouth and was ordained Sept. 25, 1751; a council met in 1759 when there was a quarrel and it was found he had been guilty of a breach

THIS MIGHT BE PASSED ON TO MISS MULLINS

"AROUND THE CORNER—FROM THE HUB OF THE WORLD"

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TIMES SQUARE

NEW YORK

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of the 3rd, commandments, and of rash speech and conduct. With some advice the council advised that he be dismissed. In 1761 the church in Liverpool gave him a call and there was no Congregational Church in that government. Mr. Cheever was installed over the Nova Scotia Church at Rochester, Mass., Oct. 6, 1761. This curious ceremony was arranged at the request of the committee of the Liverpool Church, Elisha Freeman, Capt. Nathaniel Terry and Nathan Tupper."

The Rev. gentleman may have been guilty of sweating; but in his day definitions were so broad, animosities so bitter and the rulings of church elders so arbitrary, that I almost feel like giving the old feller the benefit of the doubt.

However, my mother's sister was married to a Bapt. preacher, who, 'tis said in the family, could sweat in the privacy of his home when occasion required.

Again I thank you for all your courtesy and trouble. Wish I could reciprocate!

My best to yourself and family.

Sincerely yours,  
G. B. Bird.



FROM CONNECTICUT HERALD, 28 Feb. 1823.

"From the Norfolk Beacon. — Ran away from his wife and helpers family, on Friday last, John S. Riggo, by trade a tailor, aged thirty-five, a wide mouth zigzag teeth, a nose of high burned brick blue, with a lofty bridge, swirl-eyed, and a scar (not an honorable one) on his left cheek. He pines and loads, (that is, takes snuff and tobacco). He is so loquacious, that he tries every one in company, but himself. In order that he may entrap the sinner and the saint, he carries a pack of cards in one pocket, and the practice of piety in the other. He is a great liar, and can varnish falsehood with a great deal of art. Had on, when he went away, a three-cocked hat, which probably he has since changed for a round one, with a blue body coat, rather on the fack. He was seen in Bennington on Saturday last, disguised in a clean shirt.

V.B. It is supposed he did not go off without a companion, as he is a great favorite with the fair sex."

G. BURTON BIRD  
311 TRUMBULL STREET  
HARTFORD, CONN.

Recd June 16/42

ANTIQUARIAN  
GENEALOGIST  
BIOGRAPHER  
PUBLISHER

N. Y. Pub. Library, June 11, 1942.

Dear Mr. Raddall:

For some time I have felt an insistent urge to write you. Two reasons have caused resistance: inclination not to bother you, and the fact that, while I have a vast amount of overtime to my credit, production quantitatively has not been up to my measure. My client is a prince: he never says 'nuthin'. I'm as fee as a wild mustang on the prairie.

But this morning I am in receipt of a letter that overcomes all inhibitions. Returning 12 8<sup>2</sup> x 11 pp. of my transcripts from the Perkins diary, Dr. Shipton writes:

"I am very much interested in what you have to say about the Simon Perkins diary. The wartime budget of the Harvard Archives would not permit us to make such an investment, but I shall bring the matter up at the next meeting of the American Council of Learned Societies."

He also returned your letter and one from Miss Mullins to me that contained references to the diary

I wrote last to Miss Mullins on May 13<sup>th</sup>. As I mailed the letter, I remarked to the friend with me; "I have a feeling that this woman is dead." As the letter has not been returned, apparently the worst has not happened, but she may be a very sick woman.

Sometime ago, she sent me criticisms of my sketch of Rev. Israel Cheever. For the most part they dealt with my sloppy English, and I am extremely ~~careless~~ grateful for them. It is several years since I wrote for publication and I have grown careless. The pressure under which I'm working also is a contributing cause.

She said that agreeable to my request, she had turned that sketch over to you to take a whack at. Perhaps I was presuming too much in making that request. I know your time is money. Since Mr. Fuller (I think I told you in confidence) <sup>that he is my dear</sup> plans, if not prevented by paper rationing, to print and distribute my compilation gratis to important refs. libraries in U.S. and Canada, I am naturally trying to keep expenses down to the lowest point.

G. BURTON BIRD  
311 TRUMBULL STREET  
HARTFORD, CONN.

ANTIQUARIAN  
GENEALOGIST  
BIOGRAPHER  
PUBLISHER

This is not written to suggest early action on your part, as there is no hurry about the Chewer skeletons.

By the way, I have had a letter from the present historian of Braintree, Mass., in which she tells me that the parish which turned down Chewer is now in Randolph and that there was considerable trouble at that time over the heterodox Unitarian doctrine, with which the saints were being tainted. This justifies my guess that that was why Chewer was turned down; but I'm planning to write more letters in hope of clearing this up.

Now, I'm going to enclose on a separate sheet a couple stories that can be eliminated without mutilating this letter, if the censor be so inclined. One of them got through to Mastell. I hope this will find you and your family well, and that the Nova Scotia season has dawned her bright attire. Walter very best wishes to "you-all,"

Sincerely yours,  
G. B. Bird.

FORTY YEARS' EXPERIENCE ON COLONIAL FAMILIES

If Miss Mullins be still in the land of the living, my best regards to her.



THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS

Thomas H. Raddall, Esq.  
Liverpool,  
N. S.

N. Y. Pub. Lib. Tues.

Dear Mr. Raddall; you may no longer be met. in the various camps of Rangers in the King's service in Amer. Rev., but I have just come across a lot of dope on them in N. B. Herb. Soc. Coll., vol. II, p. 224 et seq.

I have been putting in days of research on layalists in N. Y. during the Rev. and their exodus to N. S. in 1783. My little article on settlement of Shelburne (where 2 of my client's Tory ancestors went from Westchester co. N. Y.) is going to be somewhat dif. from most that has been written. I have about come to the conclusion that the human mind that can survey a situation and treat the facts without bias is almost unique. Were I writing a letter, this would run to pp. on N. S. Best regards to yourself and family  
Bird.

I've got to write more than 1,000 words

Thomas K. Raddall

Liverpool, Nova Scotia

December 28th, 1945

Dear Mr. Bird,

Thanks for your very nice card and good wishes. Liverpool is beginning to settle down a little after five hectic years as a naval refitting base. Amongst other things the Navy took over your old abode the Elmwood Hotel, turned it inside out, making dormitories and offices, and built a number of subsidiary offices, garages and storehouses at the rear.

You ask about Freeman wills. My wife was a Freeman but I'm afraid she knows very little about bygone properties. I suggest that you get in touch with Miss Marion Mack, Registrar of Deeds, Liverpool, N.S.; the job would be right down her alley and I believe her charges are reasonable.

With all good wishes for 1946.

Sincerely,

Mr. G.B. Bird,  
132 W. 47th Street,  
New York 19, U.S.A.

Ans'd  
 Feb 19/46

G. BURTON BIRD  
 311 TRUMBULL STREET  
 HARTFORD, CONN.

ANTIQUARIAN  
 GENEALOGIST  
 BIOGRAPHER  
 PUBLISHER

N. Y. Pub. Lib.,  
 Sunday, Jan. 27, 1946.

Dear Mr. Raddall:

Your very kind note of Dec. 28th was duly received, and I intended to have acknowledged it long before this. My client is getting restless (who could censure him) because the job is not finished. Some of the most important work remains to be done, and I am burning myself out trying to finish it - 61 hours and 40' last week.

I wrote Miss Mack twice with a wide interval between letters (the last more than a year ago) asking if she would search the Freeman wills. My man was living in 1825, and probably it would be necessary to cover not more than twenty-five years. The land he occupied was just over the Queen's County line in Annapolis County. But there is no will recorded there.

I meant to say that Miss Mack never answered my letters, and I have not felt like



renewing my appeal. By the way, I was <sup>absolutely</sup> sure that her lineage runs into the Freeman line that I sent her an aughts back to the Mayflower.

I know that such a job is beyond Miss Mullins, if she be yet in the land of the living. Perhaps some competent township official could put in a few hours - probably it would not take more than half a day - in the probate office for me.

Now, I want you to send me whatever Mrs Raddall knows about her earliest Westpool Freeman ancestor, husb., wife and children. Upon receipt it will be my great pleasure to send her the Cape Cod end of her genealogy. Don't let what I have said about being busy keep you from complying with this request. I have plenty of aughts to my credit.

I hope your Muse is still vigorous, that the Pierian Spring is bubbling over, and that old Pegasus still has a powerful kick. My Pegasus not only is spawined and foundered, but has the heaves.

With every good wish to yourself and family,  
W. Thomas H. Raddall Sincerely, G. Bird  
Liverpool, N.S. 132 W. 47th St., N.Y., 19, 624.