

# CASKET PRINTING AND PUBLISHING COMPANY, LTD.

ANTIGONISH, NOVA SCOTIA

*Ans'd Jan 2/46*

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PUBLISHERS OF "THE CASKET"

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ISSUED WEEKLY SINCE 1852

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December 29, 1945

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

Dear Mr. Raddall,

To introduce myself: I am a newspaper man of somewhat ancient vintage, a buyer of your books, and a former company commander in the Pictou Highlanders Reserve--one of that dour lot whom you chaps used to entertain at Aldershot camp in the otherwise still watches of the night back in 1942. You may recall we accepted the offerings of the West Nova's glee club with well controlled enthusiasm.

Every time I read one of your historical novels a certain idea occurs to me, and today, for the first time, the idea is translated into action.

Some years ago I prepared for the Nova Scotia Historical <sup>Society</sup> Association a monograph of about 40,000 words on Lieut. Col. Timothy Hierlihy, whose men settled an area of 21,000 acres hereabouts, and who in that sense was the founder of Antigonish. Timothy's life, I discovered, was pretty well a series of disappointments--financial principally. He ~~is~~ forever striving to accumulate a competence, and forever being thwarted by unsympathetic forces of government. I believe that the basis of most successful stories is the attempt to overcome obstacles, and it has often struck me that Timothy's strivings might form the theme of a story. I would try to make something out of that thought except for one thing: I realize without any doubt that I have no skill in writing fiction. The recurring idea which I have mentioned above is that I might interest you in Timothy Hierlihy and his history.

Here is a summary of his life:

As a youth Timothy Hierlihy came out to America from Ireland, and located in Connecticut (about 1750). When the French and Indian war began in 1755 he enlisted in one of the Connecticut regiments as a private, and from then until 1760 took part in each of the summer campaigns which had as their elusive objective the capture of Crown Point. He emerged at the end with the rank of brigade major.

These campaigns taken into the Kenneth Roberts country--geographically and historically. Timothy missed the massacre which followed the capture of Fort William Henry by the French and Indians, but he saw plenty service, the highlight of which was probably the disastrous assault on the French lines before Fort Ticonderoga.

In 1762 Hierlihy accompanied the colonial <sup>forces</sup> ~~troops~~ to Cuba and took part in the assault of Havana, when fever decimated both Imperial and colonial troops. He was brigade major at that time and had something to do with the payroll, and after the boys came home the state Assembly investigated his stewardship. I have not been able to find out with what result, but I do not think anything serious happened. A little later he helped organize a veterans' rights association, the members of which asked the government to give them land in Florida to compensate them for their sufferings. The applications were reviewed with great deliberation, but eventually, in 1775, Hierlihy was granted 3,000 acres in West Florida. He never had a chance to take

the land up.

When the revolutionary war broke out Hierlihy lay low for a year, stalling off local firebrands who urged him to lead them against the British. Eventually he slipped away to New York with some friends, and soon began recruiting for the Prince of Wales Regiment under the auspices of British G.H.Q. When the regiment was fully recruited the command went to a politician, Hierlihy being offered a subordinate rank which he refused to accept. He then began raising another unit, of which he was definitely promised the command. Recruiting was slow, and drafts robbed him occasionally.

At this time Yankee privateersmen were raiding P.E. Island, and the people there were clamoring for British help. General Clinton at New York was being prodded by London to do something, but naturally he hated to send a line regiment away from the fighting front just to play home guard in P.E.I. The recollection of Hierlihy and his half-formed regiment was like an answer to prayer. In the late winter of 1778 Hierlihy and his four Independent Companies started for P.E.I., with Halifax the first port of call. At the eastern Canadian port the little expeditionary force learned that the Strait of Canso was full of ice, and everybody went ashore and into barracks until the situation would improve.

General Massey was G.C.O. at Halifax. His intelligence brought him word at this time that the Yanks were harrying the C.B. coast, planning to destroy the open coal workings at Sydney Mines, and thus cut off the coal supply of Halifax. You can imagine how bad that looked to Halifax. Massey immediately dispatched Hierlihy and his men to the Sydney area until the ice should clear. Apparently it was a bad summer for ice, for the Connecticut men did not get to P.E. Island until late in December. They were kept busy at Sydney beating off raiders, Hierlihy reporting the winning of one quasi naval engagement without any losses.

Hierlihy's tour in P.E. Island was marked principally by disagreements with the local government, over discipline, over authority, and over land. Recounting his own services and losses Timothy applied for title to an estate of 10,000 acres owned by a Col. Lee who had joined the Yanks, and who used to shock the Puritans with his profanity. (Lee's later dying wish was that he be buried at least a mile from the nearest Presbyterian cemetery, because, having kept "bad company all my life I do not wish to continue so after my death.") Hierlihy's application was turned down. He then began buying for a song town lots at Charlottetown which had been granted to his men, but the governor complained to London, and under protest the lots were returned to the city, collusion being openly charged.

In the last days of the war the Independent Companies were brought to Halifax, and merged with ~~the~~ local volunteers to form the Royal Nova Scotia Volunteers. Hierlihy was appointed C.O. with the rank of lieutenant colonel. In 1783 they were demobilized at Halifax and offered land grants in Antigonish. The colonel and 86 others accepted, and moved down here in 1784.

While still in Halifax, but after demobilization, Hierlihy applied to the military H.Q. for the rum ration which his regiment had been entitled to but which it had not drawn in the preceding two years. M.D.No.6 was non-cooperative.

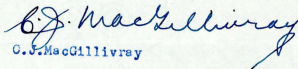
When the British government moved to compensate the Loyalists for the losses they had suffered through exile from the States Hierlihy submitted a claim for \$2,000. This would cover his 3,000 acres in Florida, his smaller farms in Connecticut and Massachusetts, and his pew in church at home. The claims commission scaled his claim down to £460.

Hierlihy died about 1797, and the last of his 3,000 acres was sold to meet his debts. The last of his line died out here about 1890.

If you feel Hierlby's story offers any possibilities, I'll be glad to send you more detailed information about him. My little book is now out of print, but I have newspaper tear sheets which give it in full. It has enough American background to make any fictional extension of interest in both Canada and the States.

Extending the compliments of the season, I am,

Sincerely yours,

  
C.J. MacGillivray



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*Ans'd  
Jan 11/46*

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ISSUED WEEKLY SINCE 1852

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January 8, 1946

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

Dear Mr. Raddall,

Under separate cover I am sending you tear sheets covering the story of our Timothy Hierlihy. The name, by the way, is pronounced "Hurley-high," with the accent on the first syllable. The family has died out here, but there are descendants of the old boy in Newfoundland, bearing the family name, and there are more of them in Shelburne belonging to the White clan (Rev. Howland White, son of the White who settled Shelburne, was C. of E. minister here in 1830, and he married an Ogden, a granddaughter of old Timothy). There are also Hierlihs in near Newcastle, N.B., and in P.E. Island who think they are descended from Tim, but actually their pioneer ancestor is one Philip Hierlihy, who may have been a brother of Timothy's, but certainly was not a son, or else the birth records are all wrong.

Thank you for your letter and for the flattering suggestion. No, I am all right on factual writing, but have no gift for fiction, or else I picked the wrong agent in the days when I thought I had. This running a weekly newspaper is a ball-and-chain job. When I was younger the odd ball-and-chain was small handicap but last year I went out and got myself a coronary thrombosis, and since then the facts of life have been staring me in the eye. If I get ambitious and stare them down my wife takes over, and you know what happens after that. Though not by any means out of circulation I have to watch my step, and I shall be doing very well indeed if in the next couple of years I am able to bootleg enough time to finish up a couple of local historical jobs on which I have made a start. But big research is out, and any steady application of any kind at more than an hour or so at a stretch. "Gather ye roses while ye may.."

Read Timothy Hierlihy when you get time, and after a while I believe he'll begin to trouble your sub-conscious. Then I may see you.

With best wishes.

Sincerely,

*C. MacGillivray*  
C. MacGillivray