

Enfield Hants Co NS

16 Aug 63

Dear Mr Raddall,

I have recently completed a course of studies leading to a Master's Degree in English Literature. I have chosen your work as subject for my thesis.

The first portion of my thesis will deal with biography. I would like to see you in the near future and discuss a number of things. I would appreciate it very much if you could write me and indicate what time I might visit.

Yours sincerely,


John Hawkins

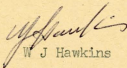
*Ans'd
Aug. 20/63*

Enfield Hants NS
17 Oct 63

Dear Dr. Raddall,

No doubt you were becoming anxious about your record of publications. The copying of them took a little longer than I thought. I hope you will forgive me. The remainder of the material I would like to retain for a while if you don't mind.

Yours sincerely


W J Hawkins

Enfield,
Hants Co. N.S.
March 11, 1964.

Dear Dr. Raddall:

I have just completed the biographical section of my thesis, much of which has been approved by Dr. Pacey Of U.N.B.

I wonder is there any further material such as photographs, lectures, and critical comments, etc., which you have which would be of value to me in completing the record. If so, it would be a great assistance if you could foreward them to me.

I still have the notes which you gave me last fall and can assure you they are safe and sound.

Yours truly,

W. J. Hawkins

W. J. Hawkins.

W. J. Hawkins
Enfield, Hants County
Newa Scotia

7 Jan. 65

Dear Dr. Raddall,

I completed the first draft of my thesis some time ago and with Dr. Pacey's assistance have been working on revisions since. The thesis originally had four sections, Life, Character, Description and Conclusion. Dr. Pacey felt a section on style and structure was required and this week when I visited him, indicated that a chapter on plot should be added. He feels that one historical novel should be examined in the plot chapter indicating that you follow the historical facts closely and that the other historical novels and stories could perhaps be dealt with in a more general fashion. I would like to deal with His Majesty's Yankees in detail, comparing the book with the actual historical documents etc. and also get some details on the other novels and stories.. I have written the C.B.C. on "My First Novel" and the interview with Rex Frost but they seem to have no record of these. Do you happen to have copies? I would like to see any notes or documents which pertain to His Majesty's Yankees and other historical works and perhaps you could direct me to other sources. I hate to trouble you in this fashion and have tried to avoid it since I know your job as writer is very demanding. Dr. Pacey informed me recently that a publisher was looking for material on your life and work and no doubt a study of historical background would be necessary for this if I attempted publication. Perhaps another trip to Liverpool will be necessary to complete this historical portion.

Yours sincerely,


W. Hawkins

1965
Jan. 9, 1964.

Mr. W.J.Hawkins,
Enfield, N.S.

Dear Mr. Hawkins:

I made most of the research for HIS MAJESTY'S YANKEES during the year 1941, supplementing studies of the Simeon Perkins diary and other Liverpool documents which I had been making for several years. The 1941 research therefore involved a number of visits to ^(Ath) Archives at Halifax, and two visits to Fort Beausejour, one in midsummer, the other in November in order to see the fort and the landscape in the same season as that of the "rebel" siege.

After the passage of more than twenty years I can find only a few notes of the mass I accumulated. Probably they are buried under subsequent accumulations in my attic, although I have done some digging there recently with little success.

I enclose my only copy of the CBC radio talk "My First Novel", which I gave on the Wednesday Night program, Dec.16,1953. The other thing you mention (the interview by Rex Frost) took place in station CFRB Toronto in June 1946, but I cannot recall anything in that which would be of value to you.

Most of the characters and detail of the Liverpool chapters of the book were taken from the Perkins Diary, which I was able to study here in the original. Since that time it has been microfilmed for the National Archives, and I believe the Provincial Archives have a copy of this microfilm at Halifax. Also the Champlain Society has since published three volumes of selections from the diary (1948, 1958 and 1961) Professor Harold A. Innis, of Toronto, who edited the first volume of the Champlain Society's production, says in his introduction:-
"In his study 'The Neutral Yankees of Nova Scotia: A Marginal Colony during the Revolutionary Years' (New York 1933), Professor Brebner has made full use of the diary, and the novel of Thomas H. Raddall 'His Majesty's Yankees' (New York 1942) reflects an intensive study of it. These volumes provide a valuable background to an understanding of its significance."

To get the general background of the Nova Scotia at the time of the Revolution I studied "A History of Nova Scotia" by Beamish Murdoch, published in 3 volumes at Halifax by James Barnes, 1865-67. To supplement this I studied the following papers of the Nova Scotia Historical Society:-

History of Halifax City, by T.B.Akins
Proposals for an attack on Nova Scotia, by John Allan
Trials for Treason 1776-1777, by John T. Bulmer
The Militia of Nova Scotia, by J.P.Edwards.
Nomenclature of the Streets of Halifax, by G.W.Hill
Lieutenant-Governor Michael Francklin, by James S. Macdonald
Old Inns and Coffee Houses of Halifax, by George Mullane
Richard John Uniacke, by L.G.Power

Also the following publications:-

The Neutral Yankees of Nova Scotia, by John Bartlet Brebner

Paul Revere and The World He Lived In, by Esther Forbes
A General Description of Nova Scotia, by Thomas C. Haliburton
The Maritime Provinces and The American Revolution, by W.B.Kerr (This was appearing in instalments in the old "Maritime Advocate", Sackville N.B., at the time of my researches. Subsequently I believe it appeared in book form.)

Dictionary of the Language of the Micmac Indians, by Silas Rand.

On my visits to Sackville and Fort Beausejour I was able to consult the late Dr. J.C.Webster of Shediac, an authority on the history of the district and the author of many books and brochures about it.

In the library of the museum, Fort Beausejour, I made notes from:-

1. A notebook of William Chapman, who worked on repairs to Fort Cumberland (the British name for Beausejour) 1776-1777.
2. A copy of the report of Lieut.Col. Goreham, on the siege of Fort Cumberland by rebel forces 1776.
3. Memoir of Colonel John Allan, by George H. Allan
4. History of Sackville, by Dr. W.C.Milner
5. A copy of the Orderly Book of Fort Cumberland, 1759-60.
6. Plan of Fort Cumberland, by Colonel Robert Morse, R.E., 1784.
7. Environs of Fort Cumberland, by J.W.Des Barres, 1781.
8. Memoir of Col. Jonathan Eddy, by J.W.Porter
9. The American Invasion of Nova Scotia 1776-7, by W.B.Kerr
10. Military Operations in Eastern Maine and Nova Scotia during the Revolution, by Frederic Kidder.
11. Letter-book of Captain Alexander McDonald of the Royal Highland Emigrants Regiment, 1775-1779.

It would be impossible now to recapitulate the many sources from which, over a period of years, I had made myself familiar with the speech, dress, food, houses, ships and so forth of the people of the period. I had written a number of short stories about the Nova Scotians of the period for Blackwood's Magazine, during the 1930's. (Most of these, and some written for American magazines, were published in book form in 1947, under the title THE WEDDING GIFT and Other Stories.) One of these stories, At The Tide's Turn, was drawn from an actual affair at Liverpool, as recounted in Perkins' Diary. It appears again, in somewhat different form, in Chapter 51 of His Majesty's Yankees.

As the basic idea of my book was to tell the story of Nova Scotia during the Revolution, in the form of a novel, the plot had to follow the principal course of events at Liverpool, Halifax, and Fort Cumberland. Roughly two of every three people in Nova Scotia in 1775 were settlers from New England and their sons and daughters; most of them lived in the western half of the peninsula; and at that time Liverpool was the county seat of a district extending over the present counties of Queens, Shelburne and Yarmouth. Therefore the events in Liverpool had a strong influence on what happened in the other Yankee settlements.

Please return, when you have finished with them, the CBC script and the other letters and papers I lent you. Come down here again if you wish.



Enfield, Hants Co.N.S.
5 February 1965.

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

Dear Dr. Raddall:

I hope you do not mind me troubling you so soon again. I wonder if you remember the sources of the plots of "The Amulet", "The Badge of Guilt" and "The Wedding Gift." I have been studying the plot of "The Wedding Gift" and think it is one of your finest. I suppose that something so perfectly constructed could only be the result of lengthy and deliberate planning. But is it based on a legend or tale? And "The Amulet", did you hear the tale from Indian sources or is purely an imaginative creation? Do you recall the sources of information or plot in "The Badge of Guilt"? If there are any examples of using legends, tales, old stories as the basis for your short stories I would be pleased to hear of them. Am I correct in assuming that in your book, The Wedding Gift you have gone to history mainly as a point of reference, for setting etc. and have constructed the plots yourself?

Thank you for the material you recently sent me.

Yours sincerely,


John Hawkins

February 18, 1965

Dear Mr. Hawkins:

In answer to yours of February fifth.

The Amulet The story is fiction based on certain actual things and scenes and people. Many years ago I saw a withered old woman sitting on the floor of a shack, the home of a Micmac family. She took no part in the conversation. When I asked who she was, they said "One of the Sa-ak-a-wach-kik" (The Ancients). They didn't laugh, but I took it as a whimsy, and probably it was. In those days I had a hobby of hunting for prehistoric Indian camp sites, both inland and on the coast of Nova Scotia. Once, at a spot called Indian Gardens on the Mersey River, an ancient camp site since submerged by a hydroelectric power dam, I was shown a little stone amulet such as the one I described in my story. Part of it was missing. The finder was a relic-hunter like myself, he refused to part with it, and what became of it afterwards I don't know. In prehistoric and partly historic times (as late as about 1745) a large tribe camped on this site. In spring many of them paddled their canoes down the river and spent the summer scattered along the adjacent coast in small fishing camps. Every time I searched in one of these coastal sites I had a romantic hope of finding the missing portion of the amulet. I never did. Once I was visited by an archaeologist, W.J. Wintenberg, who had done some work in Nova Scotia sites and asked to see my collection. I mentioned the stone amulet I had seen because it was unique -- at any rate I had never seen anything else of that kind. Nor had Wintenberg. We discussed the Indian belief in the transmigration of souls, human to animal or bird or fish, and wondered if the amulet had anything to do with it. A year or two later I found myself discussing these same things with a retired minister, and I mentioned the old lady who was said to be one of the Ancients. Out of all these searches and meetings and talks came the short story I called The Amulet. It is, I think, a good example of the way a writer's mind works, subconsciously assembling various scenes and experiences, and then asking the inevitable question, "Given these facts, what might have happened?"

The Badge of Guilt Much more truth than fiction. I came upon the scene, the cast, and most of the tale while staying at a small beach hotel in P.E.I. one summer early in War Two. The episode of the Montreal tarts and the white goloshes is a piquant note in Halifax wartime history. I had conversations with the young RAF fliers I described, and with the lady I called "Georgie", and of course "Mrs. Ternix". I wrote the story to get it off my mind, but for obvious reasons I made no attempt to sell it to a magazine. For the same reasons I withheld from publication "The Mistress of CKU" and several others until a sufficient time had passed for the actors to fade into anonymity. They fitted into a general theme I had in mind, and I included them in the "Master of Arms" volume (see my Author's Note) in the spirit of now-it-can-be-told.

The Wedding Gift.

You are right in assuming that I went to history for the settings of the stories in this volume, and for many of the characters and incidents from which the plots emerged.

In the particular story called The Wedding Gift I had the aid of such oddly assorted sources as the diary of Simeon Perkins and a privately issued volume by Henry R. Stiles entitled "Bundling, Its Origin, Progress and Decline in America", dated 1871. As you probably know, bundling was a common custom in New England during the eighteenth century, when western Nova Scotia was settled so largely by New Englanders. The actual scene of my story was the horse path which then connected Liverpool with ~~the~~ Port Medway, crossing a rugged wooded peninsula. In his casual way Perkins mentions a man and woman making this journey in mid-winter, apparently to attend a religious service in Liverpool. I sent my man and woman the other way. Wandering preachers of various sects, including "Lady Huntingdon's Connexion", flit through Perkins' pages. I picked one of them. "Ride-and-tie" was a common method of journeying with one horse and two people when the going was rough. Perkins mentions the wreck of a ship "from Mogador in Barbary" occurring at Port Medway, and a merchant's agent there busy salvaging "goatskins in pickle, almonds, wormseed, pomegranate skins and gum arabic". That was marvellous.

In constructing the plot I wished to tell the story so that ~~the~~ what French writers call the "clou" came in the last line or two. This is a good and interesting form, although it has been much misused. People like O. Henry used to build a whole story around a trick ending; it was an amusing stunt, like that of a parlor magician, and just as artificial. It is much more difficult to produce a story involving people and a situation that are true to life and highly interesting right from the start, and top it all with one fact, one phrase, that throws a new illumination on the whole like a flash of lightning.

Sincerely,

Mr. John Hawkins,
Enfield, N.S.

June 15, 1965

Mr. W.J. Hawkins,

Enfield, N.S.

Dear Mr. Hawkins:

It will soon be two years since you borrowed the material from my correspondence files, and I'm sure that by this time you have obtained whatever you need. Will you return it now, please?

How are you getting along with your thesis? When it is finished, may I see a copy of it? I promise not to quarrel with anything you have to say!

Sincerely,

Emfield Hants NS


28 June 65

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

Dear Dr. Raddall:

I am very sorry for the delay. I was in the process of replying to your letter Friday when the mails told me that the thesis had been accepted. The post script to my letter then became so exuberant and emotional that the sober light of Saturday morning revealed that my letter would not be suitable. I am, therefore, taking this opportunity to thank you for your help and patience. I enclose the material which I have borrowed also. Thanks again.

Sincerely,


John Hawkins

W. J. Hawkins
Enfield, Hants Co., N.S.

Enfield, Hants Co.,
Nova Scotia,
November 26, 1965

Dr. T. H. Raddall,
44 Park Street,
Liverpool, N. S.

Dear Dr. Raddall:


My conscience has been bothering me a good deal lately because I have not forwarded a copy of my thesis. I had three copies typed, intending one for your records. I found, however, that U. N. B. retains two copies and, therefore, I am left with only one bound copy.

I hope to be able to forward my own copy to you in the future so that you can at least have a look at it.

Thank you again for the kind and prompt assistance with the thesis.

Yours sincerely,

Hawkins/bc


W. J. Hawkins

*Ans'd
Nov. 29/65*

*(He never did send the copy
of his thesis.)*