

Ans'd
May 4/42

Noel, Hants Co., N. S.,
May 2, 1942.

Thomas H. Raddall,
Liverpool, Nova Scotia.

Dear Sir: To settle an argument please inform me if you are a Nova Scotian by birth or if you were an established English author before coming to Canada.

I have learned that Blackwood's in England have been printing your short stories for many years and that they have published two or three volumes of compilations of your brief fiction. To be so honoured by Blackwood's is an honour indeed!

Just jot your answers down preferably with a lead pencil in the white spaces left after each query for that purpose and return this sheet to me in self-addressed stamped envelope.

Were you born in Nova Scotia, England or where?

If born in Old Country how old were you when you came to North America?

How long have you been living at Liverpool?
N.S..

Which British magazine was it that accepted your first story?

Was it written in N. S. or in Old Country?

Respectfully,
Colin Faulkner, Noel, N.S.



1942

ON ACTIVE SERVICE

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Dear Mr. Raddall:

I am staying two weeks here as an Air Cadet Officer taking a course of study. I am at #8 S. F. T. S. ^{3 Stations} Service Flying Training near Moncton.

Psychological conditions here between the Airmen and WAAF's at their dances, work, and radio contests is just what you want for your stories. I read your ^{book} Pip Piper of Dipper Creek and other tales from Library of Parliament.

Will you come here for a few days and do Blackwood's or Maclean's or Saturday a story [not an article] about this particular Air Station. You will find a right royal welcome and much good copy for your type of writing. You'll die some day but your writings never will.

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Answer next mail as I will be
leaving for my home in Noel, Hants Co.,
N.S. - Next Saturday.

The reception and work here is bigger
than I as a writer can handle.

Do answer you will come.

The necessary pass for civilians can be
given you. Respectfully,

Colin Faulkner,
Noel, Hants Co., N.S.

Address reply:-

Colin Faulkner,
Officers' Quarters,
#8 SFTS,
Moncton,
N.B.

P.O. Box 661, Halifax, N.S.
27 Jan 58.

Dr. Thomas Raddall,
Liverpool, N.S.

Dear Sir:-

Our mutual friend, James D. Gillis, is bedfast at the home of a man named Milton Miller about ten miles out in the country from Mabou Bus station in Inverness County.

The "Alderwood Home" is located at Baddeck. In cruel words it is the Victoria County Poor House. The superintendent answered that James D. Gillis had been a paid patient there for four years before he left last October. He gets the Old Age Pension now \$55 per month; also a Teacher's Pension which I know to be about \$50 per month.

I believe the Writers' Foundation is being approached on this subject thru the proper channel. So please do not refer this letter on.

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I am sending you these authentic details because of your good-will toward Mr. Lillis.

William Arthur Deacon in his "The Four Janeses" at the top of page 115 states:-

Lillis produced the most remarkable prose work ever composed on Canadian soil.

Thinking of the inordinate number of "remarks" which have been made about it I can concede Mr. Deacon's exceedingly high praise.

Yours very sincerely,
Colin Faulkner,
P. O. Box 661,
Halifax, N.S.

January 26th, 1958

Dear Mr. Faulkner,

It was very good of you to let me know the present circumstances of my poor old friend James D. Gillis. I had not heard from him for years. Apparently his combined pensions are enough to maintain him comfortably, and I'm glad that he is now in a private home and not an institution. He will miss his self-contained life on the hilltop near Lake Ainslie, which he loved so much, but at his advanced age that cannot be helped. The marvel is that he was able to enjoy it for so long in his lone state.

As you know, a few of us (Andrew Merkel, Roy Lawrence, James Martell and I) paid his way to Halifax and back in 1945, and gave him a week's holiday in the city. The idea was that he would soon be too old or feeble to travel any more, and we wished to give him the chance of meeting old and new acquaintances in one of his old stamping-grounds. He enjoyed it thoroughly and we enjoyed him. I'm very glad now that Roy Lawrence had the happy thought.

Sincerely,