

Ans'd
May 3/48

BROWN UNIVERSITY

PROVIDENCE 12, RHODE ISLAND

English Department

April 17, 1948

Mr. Thomas H. Raddall,
c/o Doubleday and Company, Inc.,
Garden City, New York.

Dear Mr. Raddall:

Attracted by family traditions of the Ford and Freeman families of Milton and by the pleasantness of Queen's County summers (and motivated, of course, by undeniable intellectual curiosity) I project a linguistic survey of the county, with special reference to its New England connections, to last two or three summers.

This summer I will be chiefly engaged in ~~xxxxx~~ establishing the historical groundwork of the survey. With this in mind I quite naturally turn to you for information on the whereabouts and availability of such historical materials as logbooks and personal diaries. I would greatly appreciate the names and addresses of individuals and institutions holding such material, and any good word you could put in for me to help in making such documents available.

As for who I am in the way of family relationships I would refer you to Dr. Will Archibald, former registrar of Acadia, now in, or on his way to Milton. Although I have not seen him since I was a lad he will be able to place me as his grandnephew by marriage. As for my apparent integrity and scholarly intent I would refer you to my supervisor in my teaching assignment here, Professor Sharon Brown, and my supervisor in graduate work (for this, as you may have suspected, leads up to a Ph.D. thesis), Dr. George Anderson of this department.

My requirements in history of the province and county are fairly general, but I plan to use such documents as I ~~xxxxx~~ ask for here, first as aids in seeking out direct descendants of the New England line (and of any other wave of immigration of which I may now be in ignorance), and second by transcriptions from them to seek out early patterns of spelling, diction, vocabulary, and grammar as background for my search. Perhaps there might even be some suggestion of pronunciation if I could find any body of early verse.

But this is already enough of an intrusion. I trust that I may meet you in person this summer. Thanks for your attention.

Yours sincerely,

H. Rex Wilson

H. Rex Wilson,
Instructor.

AUGUSTANA COLLEGE
ROCK ISLAND, ILLINOIS

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

Jan. 9, 1950.

Dear Mr. Raddall:

I've managed to become quite a thorough émigré, like most Nova Scotians, but, still in character, I mean to get back and finish up my dialect survey in Queens County. However, now I need some financial aid in such an expedition. For this reason I am applying to the Royal Society of Canada for a grant to help my work along. In attempting to document the stages through which my work has gone so far I find that you are the only person who can vouch for my presence on the ground in the summer of 1948 -- my work at the Archives was done in Dr. Harvey's absence.

I would, therefore, appreciate it if you would send me a note bearing an inside address to The Secretary, Royal Society of Canada, National Research Building, Ottawa, confirming our brief talks and mentioning correspondence preceding and following. Thanks.

Some time between now and summer I shall complete the questionnaire I propose to use. I am meantime awaiting some information from both the American Dialect Dictionary and the Scottish Dialect Survey, with both of which I am to cooperate in my work, before I can go ahead. To fill in time I have been doing a little work on a surname analysis of the county to try to trace ~~xxxxxxx~~ population drifts (I wouldn't be surprised if a good many people from the Lunenburg settlement had drifted over your way -- would you?) Aside from the obvious, I was reminded of your contention that many of the British Legion settlers stayed. Your clear proof is in the census of 1787, for there they are, right where the grants say they should be. Unless Simeon P. dreamed them up I don't see how the old story of their pulling up their stakes ever managed to persist so long. This, of course, is old stuff to you, but I can't help being amazed at the way the old story hung on of a complete depopulation of the settlement. As for Southern speech, well, that's something for me to keep an eye -- pardon -- ear open for.

I look forward to looking at the history as written into Queens County speech. I hope I'll have some observations useful to you.

Sincerely,

Rex Wilson

*Wrote him Jan. 17/50,
enclosing letter to Royal
Society as requested.*