

J. F. DONLY
MILL VILLAGE, N. S.

Sunday Evening.

Dear Tom;-

Am pleased to know the old stuff I sent you was of interest and suspected it would be.

With regard to the grass it is pretty hard to tell for sure which it is you refer to without a plant but I suspect it is as you say 'Marram' which grows on the sand beaches and Mrs. D. and myself get some each fall for winter decoration. I am enclosing a spike and if this is what you mean you can be certain that you are correct. If this is not what you mean and a specimen could still be had it would be then possible to identify it and if I could not for certain I know one who could. Most of the grasses could still be had from last years growth. It is perhaps you refer to one of the other grasses or even perhaps a sedge or rush and among the three they grow in the sand in great variety. As you are to make considerable use of this in your book it would be well to be sure and I am quoting from my Botany relative for this one.

Gramineae.

Ammophila.

Ammophila arenaria (L) Link.

Sea-Sandreed. Sea Mat-Weed. Marram.

Also Commonly; Reed or Sea-Shore-Bent. Beach Grass.

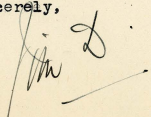
Spires. Sea Sand Grass, Sea-reed.

I am not including the description but it grows 2 to 4 feet high in the sands of the sea coast from Newfoundland to North Carolina, and inland along the shores of the Great Lakes as well as on the ~~exte~~ coasts of Northern Europe.

Use of the word Spires might appeal to you or Spire Grass as it seems the most descriptive and surely the 'Old Folks' of whom I suspect you will be writing would use a descriptive term.

Let me know if I can be of further service and please pardon the terrible typing as I have thumb in a cast.

Sincerely,



Ans'd
Mar. 30/50

P.S. Am sending specimen in following table.

J. F. DONLY
GREENLAND
MILL VILLAGE, N. S.

(Dec 1960)

Friday.

Dear Tom;-

Many thanks for your letter and I am inclined to agree with regard to the place of manufacture of the bottle. However I have some books on old glass, both English & American and none mention any Robert Thin. This in part gave me the idea it might be local. A Mr. Cameron on the T.V. last night again mentioned such industry in Pictou County.

Your comment about Wentworth names up river again prompted me to compare Titus Smith's account with the map of this area. It is difficult to plot his track in this particular section as he himself mentions the frequent changes in course etc. to get around the numerous lakes in the Lapland district. However I assume the mill he mentioned on the Petite River, where he stopped, would have been at the present site of the power station near the highway at Hebbville. It appears to me that he crossed Salter's Brook between the two lakes of that name, where the brook bears S.E. as mentioned, and crossed the Medway above Glodes Falls, possibly at Harleys Run where the river is quite narrow. This would have brought him right through this section, a bit to the south of Wentworth Lake (Often called and marked on some maps as Winnifred or Winfred).

July 23rd. 1801.

Proceeded S 55 W 4 miles. First 2 miles $\frac{1}{3}$ swamp, remainder very rough covered with thicket of small spruce and fir with pine at the distance of 5 or 6 rods from each other, some useful for boards, but not for mast timber. Last 2 miles covered chiefly with pine from 3 feet to 18 inches big at butt. Numbers which will answer for masts, but very few which will run more than 60 feet. Within two miles of where we halted passes a brook, course S.E., within 1 mile passed a river about 6 rods broad supposed to belong to Port Medway - very fine pines near it. These 2 days past we have seen some moose tracks and have hardly ever been out of fresh caribou tracks.

It is odd but true that a good bit of his trip is easily plotted on the map and I take it on his return sweep from Shelburne coming east he made the Liverpool road within a short distance one way or another where the power line crosses beyond Mossehorn Lake.

I have made considerable use of this document

J. F. DONLY

GREENLAND
MILL VILLAGE, N. S.

in connection with a couple of botanical treatises for the Dept. of Lands & Forests, the second of which still in hand and covering only the trees. There is considerable historical application here with regard to the date of introductions of some exotics as Locust but I fear one will run into a stone wall in this regard. None of my professional botanist friends are any help.

It would not surprise me at all but what the letters Mr. Willans has have to do with this particular timber lot. I expect even the original Mack became interested in the timber as it would offer the only product of the land and it may have had to do with cutting the masts as mentioned.

Drop in sometime when over this way,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. F. Donly", with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

J. F. Hardy
Mill Village, N.S.

December 23/60

Dear Jim,

On reading your letter I realised that I had a copy of the Titus ^{Report}, on which years ago I got Reg. Dickie and Ralph Johnson to mark the actual names of brooks and lakes and rivers. You are quite right in your own deductions -- he did cross SALTER'S Brook and Wentworth Brook; and the mention of pines -- "numbers of which will answer for masts" -- strikes me as significant. At the first chance I'll ask Reg. if he knows the title history of that tract.

In his days as Surveyor General of the King's Woods, John Wentworth cruised the South Shore more than once; in his correspondence I found mention of two blocks of land that he marked off entirely for naval reserves, one on St. Margaret's Bay, the other on the Mersey River. The one on the Mersey, judging from the distance he gives "above the sawmills", must have been somewhere about Bon Nature Lake and brook. This was interesting, because Bon Nature is the only surviving French name on the Mersey, and of course it means Good Masts. It looks as if one of the early French travelers on the river must have noted that same bunch of big pine. Probably not Rossignol, even though his name was later attached to the Big Lake. He seems to have been merely a trader, coming out from France each spring to obtain the fur catch of the Indians as they made their seasonal migration to the coast. De Meulles and others traveled the whole length of the river en route across country from Port Royal.

Incidentally there is another Wentworth Lake in Digby County, which Titus struck on Sep. 17, in the headwaters of the ~~Sink~~ Tusket River, west branch. But here no mention of mast pines, in fact "hardwood most of the way", and the trees he found "marked with a Cross which appeared to have been done very long ago" were probably so marked by Acadians fleeing inland to escape the Expulsion. Wentworth always marked a mast pine with the King's broad arrow and his own initials.

Another interesting thing about Titus's report is that he found so much burnt and barren land as he moved westward past the Mersey. I had always assumed that those scrub areas were the result of fires in much later times. Possibly the damage was done by the spread of the brush fire that destroyed the settlement of Tarleton's Legion at Fort Mouton in 1764.

And here's a query that I've put to foresters for years. New Brunswick has plenty of cedar. Nova Scotia has none except the lone area around Cedar or Cedarwood Lake, Yarmouth County. Why? And why only there?

LAR

J. F. DONLY

GREENLANE

MILL VILLAGE, N. S.

Dec. 24th. 1960.

Dear Tom;-

Thanks for your letter and interesting comment therein.

With regard to Cedar I can make the following observations. There is a bit more of it than you suspect and some of it native. A senior student at Acadia made a study and wrote a treatise on it just a couple of years ago. You must remember that there are other tree species native in N.B. which we do not have here at all and only Fundy is between. *Acer saccharinum* (Silver Maple, a large tree in the corner of the tennis court on your street); Butternut, *Juglans cinerea*, (three trees anyway at South Brookfield) and *Pinus rigida*, Pitch Pine are three which come to mind. When here they are exotics. It is a question of floristic zones and probably the acidic rock or gold bearing series is responsible for a soil condition not suitable for it. However the western limit of range on the far side of Hudson Bay tapers off in similar small stations as here.

I have been told for years by those who worked there of a patch of Cedar on Round Lake, or near it, at the headwaters of this river and that there is a very old tree behind where the school house still stands at The Halfway House on the old Annapolis Road. Also that there is a growth of small trees on the hillside of the fire tower in that part. Someday I would like to have a look see myself.

For the booklet I am presently doing for Dept. L. & F. and in regard to Cedar I have written;

The Forest Resources Report of The Department of Lands & Forests 1958 lists Eastern White Cedar as constituting a fractional percentage of the softwood gross volume in Halifax, Kings, Annapolis, Digby, Yarmouth and Shelburne Counties. In the first mentioned it is given at 0.01 %, the smallest and in Digby the largest at 0.27%. It is obviously then of no economic importance but does present some interest otherwise. Some of the stands may be indigenous, others are not and seedlings are evident from older transplants. If the former assumption is correct these then represent the eastern limit of range and similarly a few disjunct stations on the west side of Hudson Bay are the converse. In between it is a common and sometimes abundant species reaching northward to the Height Of Land.

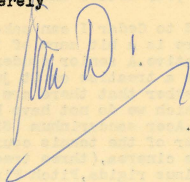
Titus Smith listed it among the species present in the western area of the Province in 1801. An interesting item appears in the list of Lunenburg County plants in DesBrisay's "History Of Lunenburg County", where it is mentioned as being common on the Blandford Peninsula. This was first published in 1870.

(over)

Cannot find where this item has been used in any other bot. lit.

I thought I had sent you a copy of the enclosed before and if I have put this in the basket.

Sincerely,



J. F. Donley,
Mill Village.

Feb. 3, 1961

Dear Jim,

Thanks for your interesting letter of Dec. 24th, and for the copy of your booklet, which I've read and tucked away carefully in my file on the Nova Scotia forest. I hadn't known of the other occurrences of cedar in N.S. The fairly large patch at Cedarwood Lake, Digby County, has always intrigued me, considering the width of Fundy separating it from the only apparent source of seed in N.S.

I've had some correspondence lately with our mutual friend Erskine. He is very careful and painstaking in his field work, but he draws some questionable conclusions. For example he seems to think the prehistoric Indians in these parts dried a lot of clams for winter food. I can't see Indians going to all that trouble for a food that had so little nutritive value, when we know from Micmac tradition that their ancestors smoked salmon and alewives (both plentiful and easy to get) for that purpose.

Again, he speaks of Indian Gardens (Mersey River) as "a fishing camp", and in a letter to me added "The amount of game necessary to maintain so large a village as the chips suggest would be quite beyond the possibilities of the neighborhood."

We know from tradition and from evidence on the ground that the ancient savages had two kinds of fishing camps on the Mersey. There was the camp at Salmon Island Cove, where they speared great quantities of salmon at the foot of the Milton rapids. This was also the head of tidewater, the logical and best place on the river for the salmon catch, which lasted from April to late July. (Some Micmacs were still camping there for the salmon run as late as the 1830's.)

And there was the camp at the foot of Big Falls, in October when the eels were swarming down the river. The Micmac name for this place means Great Fish Weir Place, and for evidence there are the characteristic V-shaped stone foundations in which they wedged their brushwood, revealed when the Power Commission cut off part of the old river bed in 1929.

I often visited Indian Gardens in the days of the old small wooden dam above the camp site, when the river ran low every summer. I saw no trace of weirs there, in fact there seemed to be none above Big Falls until one got to the Kejinkujik stream, a long way from Indian Gardens. Hence I can't believe that the savages camped at Indian Gardens primarily for fish.

Tradition (and my own belief) is that Indian Gardens was a winter camp. Moose hunting was always better inland than on

the coast; and just west of the Gardens lay the chain of swamps, beginning about West Brook and Kempton Lake and culminating in the huge Dunraven Bog, which were a famous feeding ground for caribou right down to modern times. (Lord Dunraven and his sporting chums slaughtered the last herd of caribou there as late as the 1870's.)

Also there was the matter of shelter and fuel. Indian Gardens was a much more sheltered spot in winter than anywhere on the coast. Having no adequate tools for cutting firewood the savages depended on dry deadwood. From Indian Gardens they could rummage all about the lake shores for such wood, using canoes before the freeze-up, and then hauling it over the ice on the "tabakum". They couldn't do that on the sea shore; the sea was too boisterous after the Fall gales began, except at irregular intervals, and there was no transportation by ice at all.

The presence of so many people, dropping their excreta not far from the wigwams during the months of winter, must have made the camp a filthy and disgusting place -- even for savages -- when the snow melted. They must have been glad to hop into their canoes and go down to the coast, in time for the run of alewives and salmon, and before the black-flies began to swarm.

The relics we find are obviously those of several peoples, one succeeding the other, age after age. Nevertheless, the seasons, the movements of fish, fowl and game, and the desirability of certain camp sites, must have imposed much the same habits upon them all.

All the evidence I've been able to find points to a rough calendar, something like this:- Departure from Indian Gardens in April. Salmon and alewife fishing at the foot of Milton falls until July. Scattering in family groups along the coast to places like Port Joli and Port l'Hebert, beside a clam flat, until late September, when the moose began to rut. Then back up the river as far as Big Falls to set up new brushwood in the eel weirs, and to call bull moose within arrow range in the neighbouring bogs. Finally, in November, when both the eel run and the moose-rut were past, pushing on to Indian Gardens for the winter.

Undoubtedly there were groups of nonconformists (as in any human society) who for various reasons chose to avoid the crowd or the general habit. Hence the isolated small camp sites at The Screecher and other places in the lake country. All of which seems true of the Hedway and other river valleys, though on a much lesser scale.

Sincerely,

J. F. DONLY

GREENLANE
MILL VILLAGE, N. S.

Sunday.

Feb 5/61

Dear Tom;-

I have enjoyed your letter no end and many thanks for same. I wonder if Erskine sent you a copy of the recent publication of the N.S. Inst. of Science which had his review and also the data of the investigation of Cedar of which I had mentioned to you? If not I have a copy.

Of course I cannot contribute even intelligent discussion with regard to Indian matters as it is something I know little of. ~~Nothing~~ anything of. When I was doing the angling column of the now defunct Fish & Game magazine I was interested in what digging might turn up as to how the Indians did their fishing and particularly if there was any evidence of angling. From other sources we know that stone age man did and that even fly fishing was done long before Cleopatra's time in Egypt. (she preferred to have a servant dive under the boat and put fish on her hook and so she beat Mr. Anthony in the fishing match). I was able to get Mr. Erskine interested.

I am interested however in the evident association that some plants have with these habitation sites. Not surprisingly I expect, I find some of these, a couple of grasses and a bog full of Buckbean (the only place I know in these parts near or down on Indian Point, the point of land below the East Port Medway school. However a bit of looking has not revealed any habitation site, such must be there somewhere. Perhaps at County Line Brook which flows into what is known as Indian Cove is the place to look but perhaps erosion or road building has washed it out. The old cemetery on Great Island though nearly all eroded is well enough known. I have a beautiful little agate point about an inch long I got there with the first scrape of an intrenching tool. Knowing I had the place this was all the digging I did. Erskine examined it later and finding evidence of too recent burials gave up.

You mention filth about these old habitations. I wonder if you have considered what Mrs. Stanwell-Fletcher has to say about such though her observations are quite recent. Still I think they were applicable. She tells us there was never any refuse or human excreta in evidence about an Indian camp as the dogs looked after that. She was speaking of the then unexplored wilderness of Northern B.C., and things were little altered from stoneage times.

Erskine tells me the Federal people have become suddenly interested in his digs and are going to finance some carbon datings which without doubt will result in some useful data. His failure to find caribou bones or antlers suggests to me that these animals migrated here perhaps from Gaspé because of particularly severe weather or food shortage in perhaps about

J. F. DONLY

GREENLANE

MILL VILLAGE, N. S.

contact times, or after these people had lived in these old places he has dug or changed their mode of living upon the coming of the French.

While Mr. Erskine thinks the Indians at onetime exterminated the deer I feel this is questionable. I would prefer to think that once the forest cover was composed of a considerable proportion of the Alleghanian or hardwood species. Later it was taken over by softwoods eliminating deer range. Cutting and burning over a couple of hundred years has resulted again in suitable range. Without doubt had the reintroduction taken place quite a period before it was done it would have been successful. This of course is only surmise. Dr. Chalmers Smith of Acadia tells me he cannot learn what the forest cover was in the Annapolis Valley even at the coming of the Acadians.

I have heard mountain ash referred to locally by quite a few (including Elton Smith) as Prickly Ash. This is the common name of a more western shrub or small tree also known as Toothache Tree. I suspect this use came from the Indians. Have you run into it? It might be the local M.A. had some supposed virtue for this 'misery'.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. F. Donly', with a long, sweeping underline.

Jim Sonly,

Feb. 23, 1961

Dear Jim,

I've just been reading again your interesting letter of Feb. 5th.

W. J. Wintenberg (who visited me here years ago) found some small evidence of caribou in the shell heaps he and H. I. Smith investigated at Merigonish and Mahone Bay; but he considered the identification doubtful. I wasn't surprised at this. The feeding grounds of the caribou were inland, and it seems to me that only an occasional stray would be found near the sea shore.

Like you I'm doubtful about Erskine's theory that the Indians exterminated the deer. The deer was too small a target, and too nimble, to be killed easily with bow and arrow; whereas the moose and caribou, which survived the arrow hunters, were big and comparatively slow. Also the buck deer couldn't be lured easily in rutting time, and the deer didn't concentrate in large herds around the bogs like the caribou. Your theory of a change in forest cover may account for the disappearance of the deer before the white man came. It could certainly account for a general dwindling of the deer, in numbers and in stamina, so that a disease might have wiped them out.

The name "prickly ash" for mountain ash is new to me, though I'm not surprised. There's an astonishing difference of names to be found in one small province. In Canso and Arichat I found people calling the common poplar "silver oak", and hackmatack becomes "juniper" as soon as you get east of Halifax. In Lunenburg County mountain ash is usually called "dogwood", and as you probably know it played an important part in warding off the witches. It was such a "lucky" wood that fishermen used to make their hand-line reels of "dogwood". One old boy, long retired, stumped out to his barn and fetched his reel to show me; he vowed he had seen it proved many a time -- the line wound on "dogwood" caught more fish. Yet he disapproved of his housekeeper telling me "witch yarns"! Fraser mentions the use of "rowan" twigs to ward off witches in Highland Scotland. Odd to find the same belief in the Lunenburg Deutsche.

I never heard of a "toothache tree" in these parts. I wish I'd questioned old John Francis about Indian medicines, of which he knew a good deal. He used to mix up all sorts of evil brews for the ailments (including venereal) of himself and his neighbors. One staple ingredient was flag-root. The fruit and bark of the choke-cherry had useful properties too.

Sincerely,

J. F. DONLY

GREENLANE
MILL VILLAGE, N. S.

Monday.

Feb 27/61

Dear Tom;-

Thanks again for your letter. I will try and find out what I can re the building of the pulp mill at Charleston for you. It is perhaps my neighbour Alvin Anthony, 93, may know. However I can give you a hint or two. Col. A. N. Jones of Halifax, recently retired from Pickford & Black's, and who lives at the Lord Nelson might have a record of his father's activities as he was one of the original investors.

You perhaps know Everett Grouse at Crousetwon, in any case his son Grant who 'along with' run the mill over there, has a diary of his greatgrandfather or great-uncle I am not sure which, who was in charge of the building of the dam and I think there is a pretty good account of the work, wages as well as much of considerable interest of the times therein. You would have no difficulty in getting this to go through and might find matter of other interest as well.

I was over at Wolville on Friday at Acadia, showing orchid slides etc. at a botany seminar with the students. Mr. Erskine was there too and I had with me some Indian wedges and gouges on loan from one of the Crofts up river which had been picked up this summer in the river. The elder brother Clyde had given me two gouges and a long narrow point a few days previously which I had handed on to Erskine. There is certainly an old site there and I feel it can be found. It will be looked into come summer I am sure. The two gouges I gave him are exactly similar to the ones I saw taken from a burial at Port Au Choix Newfoundland two summers ago.

I would be glad to go over to Crousetown with you as I know these people very well.

Sincerely,

