

Answered
Nov. 13/74

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8 Nov. 1974

Mr. Thomas H. Raddall
Liverpool, Nova Scotia
Canada

Dear Mr. Raddall:

You may recall that on 24 October 1973 you wrote to me in answer to some questions I raised in connection with my great grandfather, Captain Joseph Darby, and where your publications could be obtained.

My wife and I thoroughly enjoyed "The Nymph and the Lamp", "Roger Sudden", and "At the Tide's Turn".

I am still attempting to collect details on the life of Captain Darby. You told me that he was captain of the schooner "Daring". Do you have any recollection as to his boat activities prior to his arrival on Sable Island (1830) or after he left (1848). Do you know the dates of his birth and death. Lt. Geoff Vickridge told me in 1968 that he was born in the Channel Islands.

In a 530 page "A History of The Higgs, or Higgs Family" pub. in 1933 I find this statement: re. Benjamin Wilson Higgs: "After the decease of his wife he married secondly Amelia Arabella, sixth daughter of Joseph Darby of Halifax, by Mary Stevens, his wife." Is there a possibility that Captain Darby could have died and was buried in the Camp Hill Cemetery in Halifax?

You mentioned in your 1973 letter that your biographical material was purchased by the Dalhousie University. Would it be asking too much of you to pass on this letter to the Librarian in hopes that a few of my questions could be answered. I specifically am interested in any details of Captain Darby's life, activities, sailing ventures. Did he sail to Bermuda?

You may recall that I have in my possession a solid gold medal dated 1840. It was sent to Captain Darby from Louis Philippe I, King of France (1830-1848) It was sent to

Ministère
De La Marine
A Darby
Capitaine
Britannique
Superintendant
De L'Île De Sable
Pr. Secours Généreux
A Des Marins
Français
Naufrages

On Sept. 27, 1974 my wife, my cousin (Mary Stanferd of Mahone Bay) and I chartered an airplane at the Halifax Airport and flew to Sable Island. We spent five hours there and were royally received by Paul Thorne and his technicians. The trip was the realization of a dream I had entertained for many years. Mr. Thorne had only been on the island several years, and he was not familiar with all the historical background, which I am sure intrigued you.

I recently obtained a copy of a 104 pgs paper back book:
"SABLE ISLAND, Fatal and Fertile Cresce nt" by Lyall Campbell.
(Published by the Lancelot Press, Windsor, Nova Scotia). Mr.
Campbell has done a fascinating job in telling the history
and romance of Sable Island. If you have not already seen the
book I strongly recommend it to you.

As a side bit of history, I discovered that Joseph Darby was
Supt. of Sable Island from 1830 to 1848. Louis Philippe I
was King of France from 1830 to 1848. In the latter year he
abdicated and the second French Revolution began. I feel sure
that these dates are entirely accidental.

My references to Sable Island include:

- Patterson, Rev. George "Sable Island Its History
and Phenomena" 1894 (I have a copy of this book)
- Grosvenor, Melville Bell "Safe Landing on Sable"
National Geographic Magazine Sept. 1965 pp.398-432
- Rosebrugh, D.W. "The Graveyard of the Atlantic"
Canadian Geographical Journal Feb. 1932 pp 73-85

I regret that our recent trip to Mahone Bay, N.S. did not
permit time to pay you a visit.

It is gratifying to know that no ships have been wrecked on
Sable Island since 1947.

Sincerely yours,

Willard F. Goff

Willard F. Goff, M.D.

Ministère
De la Marine
A Darby
Capitaine
Bretannique
Superintendent
De L'île De Sable
Fr. Secours Général
A Les Marins
Travail
Santé

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