

Handwritten scribbles or marks in the top left corner.

NEW SCOTIA SOCIETY
7 BEAVER STREET
HALIFAX, N.S. B3A 2G1

July 14th '74

Dear Mr Raddall,

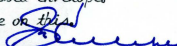
While in Halifax recently I bought the latest edition of Halifax: Warden of the North. I'd bought the earlier one in 1956 while living in Halifax and later sent it to the Veterans' Hospital in London for their library. I really enjoyed the updating.

I have a question to ask - hope you can help.

My son (who's a lawyer in Halifax) and I were talking about Benjamin Franklin - whose revolutionary enthusiasm is being questioned in some current scholarship - and the fact that a recent book indicates that on his death he left property in Nova Scotia to his son. The will was drawn in 1788.

Since Nova Scotia, at that time, was a much larger place it would help, before starting a search of records, to localize the holding. Do you know of any such lands, acquired by Franklin and inherited by his son or others, and where they were located.

I've enclosed a postpaid, addressed envelope.
Thanks for whatever you may have on this.



July 20, 1974

Mr. W.E.Kelleher,
7 Hearsh Crescent,
Kitchener, Ontario.

Dear Mr. Kelleher:

In the research for my historical novel "His Majesty's Yankees" I made a brief note somewhere about the Philadelphia associates, including Benjamin Franklin, and their speculation in Nova Scotian lands prior to the American Revolution.

Dalhousie University Library acquired my manuscripts and papers last Fall, and they are now in the Special Collections room on the fifth floor.

In 1765 Franklin and his Philadelphia associates sent young Anthony Wayne (afterwards famous as a soldier in the American Revolution) to survey lands in Nova Scotia. Franklin was then Deputy Postmaster General for North America and had a lot of influence in London. At the same time Governor Wilmot of Nova Scotia was giving large grants of Crown land to people with just such influence. Consequently in 1765 the Nova Scotia government granted 200,000 acres to 14 persons in Philadelphia, usually known as the Philadelphia Company. This huge grant included what is now the west part of Pictou County and the adjoining part of Colchester County.

The main condition of all these Crown grants was that a certain number of people must be settled on the land within a given time. The Philadelphia Company first sent six families from the region of the Pennsylvania-Maryland boundary. They sailed from Philadelphia in May 1767 in a ship called "Hope", and after a call at Halifax they reached Pictou harbour on June 10. Only four of these families remained at Pictou, those of Robert Patterson, Dr. John Harris, John Rogers and John McCabe. In 1771 they were joined by a few more families from Philadelphia, but by this time the Company were looking for people elsewhere. They induced a number of Scots to settle in the vicinity of Pictou. These came direct from Scotland in the ship "Hector" in 1772, the beginning of a migration which finally settled Scots in what are now Pictou, Antigonish and Inverness counties.

When Benjamin Franklin reversed his hitherto zealous loyalty to Britain in 1774 he was deprived of his D.P.G. job, and that was the end of his influence in London. The Philadelphians who remained at Pictou were openly pro-American in the early part of the American Revolution, and gave active help to the rebels who besieged Fort Cumberland ("Beausejour") in Cumberland County. They managed to retain their properties, however. My guess is that Benjamin Franklin transferred his Nova Scotia land to his natural son William, who was a Loyalist, although so far as I know William never lived in Nova Scotia.

July 20, 1974

~~Mr. W.E.Kelleher,
7 Hearth Crescent,
Kitchener, Ontario.~~

~~Dear Mr. Kelleher,~~

~~Most of my reserach notes are now in Dalhousie
Library University, in their Special Collections room on the
fifth floor~~

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You will find most of this in the History of Nova by Beamish Murdoch, Volume 2, pages 449, 454, 462, 512, 513, and 514.

Sincerely,