

December 11, 1950

Mr. Thomas A. Raddall,
Liverpool, N. S.

Dear Mr. Raddall:

Mr. Frederick J. Pohl, of New York City, in a letter which he wrote to me received Saturday, mentioned that he had mailed to you a copy of his book which The Advocate published recently. Because of its wide interest to Nova Scotians, the thought struck me that you might consider writing a review of it for The Liverpool Advance. As you will see, after looking over the monograph referred to, the author did not publish with any hope of monetary reward, but he does desire to have it brought to the attention of as many Nova Scotians as possible, and I am doing all I can to help him from this end. I enclose a proof of a review which The Advocate carried in last week's issue, this solely because it contains information concerning the author and his work which cannot be acquired from the book itself, and would be of use to you in the event that you might notice the book in the columns of The Advance or any other publication which you should prefer.

May I take this opportunity to tell you how much enjoyment I have received from your books? I still recall vividly my first acquaintance with your work, the short stories published in Blackwood's; it must be all of twenty years ago: and of how I used to lend my copies to friends so they could share with me the pride I felt that a Nova Scotian writer of the first rank, as I was sure you were, had appeared on the scene. My expectations of that time have not been disappointed. I see by a recent issue of the N.Y. Times Book Review that your latest novel has been published, and am looking forward to getting a copy soon.

Yours sincerely,

Arthur Godfrey
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Associate Editor

*Ans'd
Dec 14/50*

The Picton Advocate

THE PICK OF THE NEWS
EVERY WEEK

PICTOU
N.S.

August 2, 1957

*Ans'd
Aug 6/57*

Dr. Thomas A. Raddall,
Liverpool, N. S.

Dear Dr. Raddall:

I am enclosing a letter from Frederick J. Pohl, whose recent book I sent you a short time ago (THE VIKINGS ON CAPE COD) in which he asks me some questions which I cannot answer due to lack of familiarity with the country involved.

Can you give me any help by sending some brief notes on the points involved in the enclosed self-addressed stamped letter. I know this is an imposition, and if you are too busy to give the letter any attention please return it to me without comment and I shall understand; but I receive so many enquiries from various persons asking information on every subject under the sun that I am probably inclined to take it for granted that everyone else is as complaisant about it as I am.

Pohl wrote a book a few years ago about Henry Sinclair's expedition to Nova Scotia, a copy of which I sent you at that time, and these enquiries are along this line. He seeks to identify Sinclair with Glooscap -- a wild theory I admit -- but after reading his 200-page manuscript in which he treats it at length I must say he has amassed a considerable amount of evidence (?) which does not make it seem quite as wild as it might look at first.

(over)

I am afraid that I am partly responsible for setting him off on this track, as in our first conversation when he was here in 1949 doing some researching before he wrote SINCLAIR I said to him that, for many years, I had been convinced that the Glooscap legends embodied the recollections of the Micmacs of an early European visit to Nova Scotia, perhaps as early as the Norsemen or earlier!

In any case, he is off on this track, and he and I both will appreciate anything which you can do to help in resolving these problems of his.

If you can possibly find time to give this letter any attention. I should suggest that you number, in the margin, any points which you can answer and give brief numbered replies.

As I said before, I realize I am imposing on your good nature, and ask your pardon for troubling you about this. Do not, I beg of you, go to any trouble about this; and if it is inconvenient at the moment to give it any attention, I shall understand.

Yours truly,

Arthur Godfrey

P. O. Box 583
Pictou, N. S.

P.S. I enclose a clipping of an article I wrote about two years ago on the subject which you might possibly find of interest and gives some few points of his argument, since greatly augmented. A.G.

August 6th '57

Mr. Arthur Godfrey,
Box 583,
Pictou, N.S.

Dear Mr. Godfrey,

Maybe I'm doing him a great injustice but it seems to me that your friend Pohl is, to put it mildly, an enthusiastic crackpot. His theories about the so-called Sinclair expedition and the Norse voyages to America have no more basis than his own dreams. Of course dreaming is a legitimate occupation and I have no quarrel with that.

The name Glooskap comes from the Micmac verb to "fib", (kelooskooa) and it means simply "Liar" or "Teller of fanciful Tales." The Glooskap myths were simply a kind of entertainment, a collection of yarns told over the winter fires and (in Rand's own time) embellished with scraps of European folk tales. I have a hunch that the lumberjacks' Paul Buryan, a creature of Canadian origin, came originally from the Micmac yarns of Glooskap and his humorous and wonderful fests. But let that go.

Now with regard to Indian canoe routes across the peninsula of Nova Scotia. The route from Pictou to Sherbrooke was by way of the Pictou and St. Mary rivers; I doubt if it was travelled such. There was a well travelled route from Wallace Harbor to Minas Basin by way of the Wallace River and the Folly stream; and from Minas Basin to Halifax by way of the Shubenacadie and the Dartmouth lakes. There was another well travelled route from Windsor to Hubbards by way of the St. Croix and the Mill Lake stream. In western Nova Scotia the main route from Fundy to the Atlantic coast led from Annapolis up the Lequille stream; a short but rugged portage put the Indians' canoes into Liverpool Head Lake, whence the Mersey River carried them by a series of lakes and cascades to the sea at Liverpool. This route to Liverpool was followed and described by de Meulles, Intendant of Canada, who travelled with a party of Micmac guides in 1686. He was probably the first white man to see it. These Indians were from the head of Fundy, where de Meulles wintered. He was anxious to inspect Fort Royal and then pass up the outer coast to rejoin his ship at Canso. The Indians' choice of the Mersey River route seems to show that they considered it the best way across the western half of the Nova Scotia peninsula.

JHR.