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HISTORIC SITES AND MONUMENTS BOARD OF CANADA

Shediac, N.B., June 30, 1942.

*Acknowledged
July 2/42*

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

Dear Mr. Raddall,

Mr. Bulmer, my Demonstrator at Fort Beauséjour Museum, writes suggesting that I write to you about the opportunities for research in Canadiana in the New Brunswick Museum in Saint John.

This Museum is now the third largest in Canada, ranking after the Royal Ontario in Toronto and the National in Ottawa. It has three departments, Natural Sciences, Arts & Crafts, and Canadian History and Archives. The last-mentioned is the largest, embracing the large pictorial collection (with over 4000 exhibits, donated by myself, my Canadiana library containing many rare items, the military and marine sections, the large Provincial (Loyalist) Collection, and the Archives section; to it is being added the great Ganong collection, rich in history works, books, pamphlets, documents, &c., relating, particularly to the Maritimes. In addition is the splendid cartographical collection, relating to our east coast. The Museum is the richest house in Canada relating to the Maritime

At the present time there is no Curator of Canadiana, the last one having resigned last September. Owing to war conditions we have not been able to fill the vacancy. It is a position which offers a great opportunity for research.

If you should visit the Museum, Miss Metz, the secretary of the Department, will be at your service. Also, Mr. Squires, Curator of Natural Sciences, knows the Collections well & will be glad to help you.

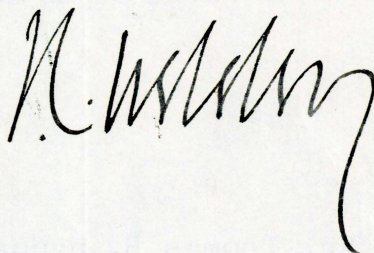
I am glad to know that you are working in the atmosphere of Canadian history & trust that your forthcoming book may be a success.

It is interesting that two Maritimers, Mrs Evelyn Eaton and yourself are now writing historical novels in N.S. Mrs Eaton is

a native of New Brunswick, but is living at Victoria Beach above
Digby Gut.

Believe me,

Yours sincerely,



Ans'd Jan 6/43



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Shediac, N.B., Jan. 3, 1943.

Dear Mr. Raddall,

I desire to congratulate you on your book, "His Majesty's Yankees". I have read it with the keenest interest and have been recommending it to various friends. I have, of course, ordered copies to be added to the libraries in Fort Beauséjour and the N.B. Museums.

The period with which you have dealt is very vaguely known to most people. Until recent researches in the Public Archives of Nova Scotia, there has been no accurate information regarding the population of Nova Scotia, just before the Revolutionary War. I wonder if the great preponderance of the American element was ever known among the people themselves. If Eddy had not been such an impetuous ass and Allan's cautious methods had prevailed, the story would have been different and Fort Cumberland would have been easily taken, with the result that a new State would have been added to the Union.

I consider your novel one of the best "historicals" ever written about our country. Indeed, I rank no other higher. Evelyn Eaton must now look to her laurels.

I presume you will not stop after this success. I have often thought that an interesting story could be built up around the subtle deviltries of the Abbé Le Loutre, ending, perhaps, with the events of 1755.

I doubt if you have ever read my monograph on this distinguished gentleman. I find I still have a few copies and send one to you.

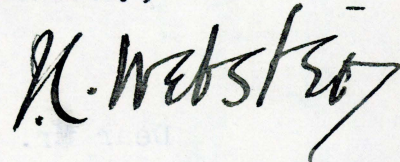
Our French friends still chew the rag over the "Expulsion" and Longfellow has done much to influence opinion among English-speaking people. All forget the antecedent years, about forty in all during which the British authorities exhibited great patience and tolerance in trying to bring the Acadians to a realization of their

obligations as citizens, and to induce them to take an oath of unrestricted loyalty to the Crown.

The attitude of Quebec to-day is much the same as that of the Acadians. The people are against unrestricted military service and are determined to designate their own obligations to the state. That Canadian statesmen should now be found carrying out a policy of appeasement towards a local minority of the nation seems a tragedy.

With all good wishes for the New Year,

Yours sincerely,



P.S. I may say that I began my Le Loutre research in the hope of finding that the devil was not as black as he was painted. The late able scholar, Senator Poirier (who always referred to "Le Loutre as "that old villain", to whom I confided my intention, told me that I would fail. He was right. The evidence was all against him.



Replied
Mar. 27/43

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HISTORIC SITES AND MONUMENTS BOARD OF CANADA

Shediac, N.B., March 23, 1943.

Dear Mr. Raddall,

Nearly all my Canadiana library is now in the N.B. Museum. Consequently I am handicapped in replying to such communications as yours of the 20th inst.

Years ago, I was interested in trying to learn something about the semaphore telegraph system established between Halifax and Fredericton, which was only a very short time in use. I found a few references, but no complete account. Dr. Ganong had, previously, made a similar inquiry, but had not succeeded in finding anything important. He was of the opinion that information might be obtained in the Gov't records in Halifax. Now, however, you inform me that no record is to be found in the Archives of N.S. Ganong found out that the system was started in 1794. He, also, located a number of the hills bearing the designation "Telegraph", seven in number, and thought that others might be found bearing the name.

Signalling was carried out by means of arms, flags or lights. The system was displaced, of course, when Morse's telegraph system came into operation about one hundred years ago, though the Halifax-Fredericton system was a short-lived affair.

This is about all I can say at present. When I visit the Museum I shall search our records in the hope of finding something more.

Yours sincerely,

The New Brunswick Museum

Saint John, New Brunswick
Canada

Shediac, N.B., July 23, 1947.

Dear Mr. Raddall,

I should like to add your portrait to the great number of distinguished Canadians in my Pictorial Canadiana Collection in the N.B. Museum. For many years I have given my chief attention to those who belong to the past. In recent years I have decided to add living persons, who have earned the right to be in such a Collection.

If you have a permanent sketch it would be welcome. If not, will you send me a photo from which a permanent drawing may be made. Photographs are not suitable because in time they fade.

Will you, also, be good enough to send me the main data relating to your career, for the catalogue?. These would include place and date of birth, education, &c., &c.

I may say that the Collection is now the largest of its kind in existence.

As I shall be 84 in October, I shall not be active much longer, though I intend to keep occupied until the end. I find that I become more easily fatigued than in recent years. Indeed I have decided to resign the Presidency of the Museum at the end of this year.

With kindest regards,

Yours sincerely,

*Ans'd. & sent
photo etc July 31/47*

H. Webster
(Dr. H. Webster, of Shediac N.B.)

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HON. THANE A. CAMPBELL, M.A., LL.D., CHARLOTTETOWN, P.E.I.

W. D. CROMARTY, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE, OTTAWA, ONT.

HISTORIC SITES AND MONUMENTS BOARD OF CANADA

Shediac, N.B., Dec. 8, 1949

*Answered
Dec 12/49*

Dear Mr. Raddall,

I heard you speak over the radio and wish to congratulate you on your output. I feel that your eloquence should not be wasted on the air of Canada, but that your discourse should be issued in the printed form, so interested persons may read and re-read. Moreover, in printed form, our libraries may be enriched. Certainly, I look forward to filling a gap in my Canadiana library in the N.B. Museum.

May I, at the same time, refer to your work on Halifax, a masterly and timely production? I am glad to know that you are becoming more and more appreciated as the master in your line of work. I trust that this appreciation finds expression your financial returns.

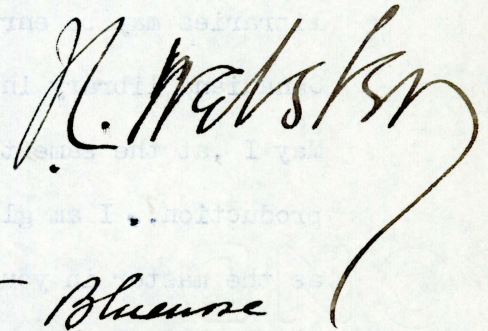
Frankly, I am somewhat given to despair when I note the wide-spread indifference towards Arts and Letters throughout Canada. The material pleasures of life are dominant in the minds of the majority. As I go about I note that the buying of good books for homes is almost non-existent. It is no wonder that there is not more than one decent book-store in New Brunswick and that one is small, leading a precarious existence.

One looks to Colleges for something different, but there the material pleasures seem to dominate a large percentage of students. I deplore the existence of

prevalence of competitive athletics. In a report just received from President Hutchins of the great University of Toronto, I was glad to note that this feature (Intercompetitive athletics) has been banned.

The educational work carried on in the N.B. Museum among young people will develop a new spirit among a considerable number of the people in the years ahead. Attendance is voluntary not compulsory and the interest displayed indicates that the spirit may be fed as well as the body. Such influences have been lacking everywhere in the past, and home encouragement has long been wanting, because parents lack the proper cultivation or throw up their hands despairingly as youth insists on having a good time.

Sincerely yours,



P. S. -

Has any good prints of the Bluebook ever been issued. If so, can you give me the name & address of a firm issuing them.

I do not hang photographs in the Museum because they fade after years of exposure.

A good process print must be satisfactory.