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J. B. SIMPSON, INC.

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Mr. Thomas H. Raddall
Care of Doubleday, Doran & Company
Garden City, New York

My dear Mr. Raddall:

I cannot resist dropping you a line in appreciation of your book, "His Majesty's Yankees," which I took out of a circulating library the other day to look over. I am determined now to buy it and add it to my permanent library.

My interest in your book is largely determined by the fact that my great-great-grandfather was one of the Yorkshiremen recently settled in the Chignecto country at the time of the Eddy rebellion and attack on Fort Cumberland. His name was William Chapman and he was from Hawby or Hornby Hall in Yorkshire, which I believe is not too far from Whitby.

In fact he came first to the Chignecto country as a subaltern in a regiment of His Majesty, George III to relieve the garrison at Fort Cumberland, and he served in the garrison at the fort for a time previous to settling in the community. The story is that he went back to England with his regiment when it, in turn, was relieved, and then returned to Nova Scotia, after reiring from the army, to take up a parcel of land in the Chignecto Isthmus region. He built a house at Point de Bute first, but in 1774 or 1775 built a brick house which still stands on the edge of the marshes not far from the Missiguash at Fort Lawrence. I saw this house for the first and only time two summers ago on a trip thru the Maritime Provinces. I understand it stands about on the site of the earthenworks that were thrown up by the troops from Massachusetts under Monckton and Winslow when they were preparing to attack Fort Beauséjour in 1756.

The Will Chapman, the burning of whose house you mention as having taken place during the fighting around Fort Cumberland in 1776, would very likely be this same great-great-great-grand sire of mine. In going thru the Fort Beauséjour museum I found some interesting mementoes of him which I had not known were in existence.

You see, I am not a native of those parts. I am a Pennsylvanian by birth, having first seen the light of day in Reading, in the heart of the Berks County "Dutch" country, and later, while still a small boy being taken to live in the western part of Pennsylvania, at Franklin, the site of old Fort Le Boeuf, I believe, later Fort Venango, at the junction of French Creek and the Allegheny River, which was the frontier on the days of the French and Indian War.

One strain of my forebears, a Scotch-Irish strain had been resident in Pennsylvania, mainly in Philadelphia, for more than a century and quarter back. Still another was of New England origin,

my great-great grandmother Chapman, née Abigail Kane, a New Englander by birth, having married Thomas Chapman, adjutant of militia in Cumberland County and son of William Chapman of Hornby Hall and Fort Lawrence.

Yet my entire life has been lived in the states of Pennsylvania, New Jersey and New York, and while I am now approaching 52, since the age of 14 I have lived under the eaves of the Metropolis or in it, either in the near-by suburbs of northern New Jersey or right in Manhattan as is now the case.

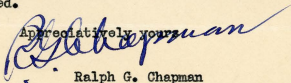
And it is remarkable how little I have known, until just within the past two or three years of the history of Nova Scotia and my own genealogy, in spite of the fact that my parents were both "Bluenoses" by birth, my father a native of Westmorland County in New Brunswick and my mother a Greenfield of Amherst.

Much of what I have learned of Nova Scotian history has been from travel literature and folders in hotel rooms or lounges during a very recent trip to the Maritime Provinces (1940). I have a booklet called "Historical Guide to New Brunswick", prepared by a first cousin of my late father's, Dr. J. Clarence Webster, of Shediac, New Brunswick, who is curator of the Fort Beauséjour Museum, member of the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada and also a trustee, I believe, of the New Brunswick Museum in St. John. He was an outstanding obstetrician and lecturer on obstetrics in the Rush Medical College in Chicago for many years before retiring to the quietude of his native village by the sea.

It is quite possible you have already been in contact with him but, if not, since his hobby has been history, particularly of the Maritime Provinces, ever since his retirement from medical practice, you might find much in common with him. I know he would be much interested in your book if he has not seen it.

I think you do a valuable thing in romantically dressing up these somewhat obscure historical episodes because the only way you can teach most people any history is in some such form as this, and a familiarity with many events not stressed in grade school histories develops much more of a continental perspective than would be otherwise obtained.

Appreciatively yours



Ralph G. Chapman

RGC/o

P.S. Another who should be interested in your book is Professor Howard Robinson who has a chair of history either in Oberlin College in Ohio or Ohio State University, I am not sure which. I think he is a Dakotan by birth but he is a lineal descendant of the aforementioned William Chapman of Fort Lawrence on his mother's side, and from a letter I received from Dr. Webster a couple of years ago, I learned that he had been in the Chignecto country doing some genealogical and historical research. Incidentally, my wife who is a native of Mobile, down in the "Cajun" country of southwest Alabama, had him for a history professor when she was an undergraduate of Miami University at Oxford, Ohio. She insists, however, that you be informed she is not a Cajun, being descended from Virginians ~~and~~ Carolinians who moved southwestward.