

15.11.1971.

Dear Mr. Raddall,

I have just read your book, *The Governor's Lady*, and I enjoyed it thoroughly; I am only just beginning to catch up with lost sleep! Although I read a great deal I am not very keen on historical novels; I prefer history unvarnished.

In connection with Halifax you mentioned an Assistant Commissary-General of that place and this put me in mind of a member of my mother's family, Thomas Williams, Commissary-General of Halifax who married a daughter of General Amherst (although I understand that he had no daughters!) and was the father of General Sir William Fenwick Williams, Bart. defender of Kars, born 1800 in Halifax and died 1881 and is buried in Brompton Cemetery, London.

I have a good memory and recall scraps that my grandfather Henry Rees Williams and my mother told me years ago and I am trying to piece these scraps together. The name Williams is anything but rare and to sort out any one particular Williams is not easy. Perhaps you have come across references to Thomas Williams? If not you might be able to put me in touch with sources from which I could find out more about him. If you could I should be so grateful.

My family has been connected with Hythe for a long time. My great-grandfather, Capt. John Kent, was stationed here in the days when Wellington was building the Royal Military Canal. My mother lived here for some time and my sister and I live here now. It is rather changed since the last war but still a charming place, in spite of efforts to pull it down by developers.

My father, who practised as a doctor in Dover for many years, also loved Hythe and often brought us as children to take boats up to West Hythe for picnics.

If you can spare the time to put me on the right track to finding anything concerning Thomas Williams, the Commissary-General, and his family I shall be very grateful to you. All I know about his father is that he was Thomas Williams of Carnarvon; not very helpful.

Yours sincerely,

*Anleen Kent
(Miss.)*

FIRST FOLD HERE

SENDER'S NAME AND ADDRESS

Kent,

14. Douglas Avenue,

HYTHE,

Kent,

England.

AN AIR LETTER SHOULD
NOT CONTAIN ANY ENCLOSURE;
IF IT DOES IT MAY BE SURCHARGED
OR SENT BY ORDINARY MAIL

SECOND FOLD HERE

BY AIR MAIL
AIR LETTER

PAR AVION AEROGARME

FORESTONE
OFFICIAL INFORMATION CENTRE



Thomas Raddall, Esq.

44. Park Street,

LIVERPOOL,

NOVA SCOTIA,

Canada.

Wrote my
checks, Nov. 26/71



HALIFAX, N. S.

November 25, 1971.

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

Dear Tom,

I am pleased to have your kind letter of the 23rd instant relating to the records of the Queens County Historical Society. These records will be photographed within the next few months and will be returned to the Perkins House in the spring, as you suggest. I am grateful to you and your associates for lending them to me.

Thomas Williams, grandfather of Sir William Fenwick Williams, is said to have served in the Ordnance Department for 45 years. There is a sketch of his life in the History of the County of Annapolis by W. A. Calnek, page 629, and in "Notes on Thomas Williams of Annapolis Royal" by James D. Ritchie in volume 17 of the Collections of the Nova Scotia Historical Society, pages 47-49, as well as in a paper entitled "Historic Families of Annapolis Royal, Nova Scotia", which was read at a meeting of the Nova Scotia Historical Society by Judge Savary on March 9, 1909.

Although Calnek says that Thomas Williams may have been born in Annapolis, Savary notes that in Foster's Peerage and Baronetage, published in 1881, it is stated that he was from Carnarvon, Wales. Thomas Williams married Ann, daughter of Capt. Edward Amherst of the 40th Regiment. When Williams died on April 22, 1789, he was said to have served in the Ordnance Department for 45 years. He had also been a Justice of the Peace, a Judge of the Inferior Court of Common Pleas, storekeeper of the Ordnance and Commissary of Provisions in the garrison of Annapolis. He also held other offices and it appears that he was in Annapolis Royal at least as early as 1751. His son, Thomas, was the father of Sir William Fenwick Williams.

Thomas Williams, junior, married Anna Maria, daughter of Lt. Thomas Walker and his wife, Margaret Dyson. Margaret Dyson was evidently descended from Corporal Francis Yates in the Royalist Army. Thomas Williams, Junior, was a colonel in the militia and he too was Commissary and Ordnance storekeeper at Annapolis Royal in succession to his father. He died on July 11, 1806, at the age of 38.

One of the sons of Thomas Williams, Junior, was William Fenwick Williams. It would be easy to provide additional information on Sir William Fenwick Williams but I do not suppose that you need it. However, if additional information is required, I shall be pleased to try to provide it.

With cordial regards,

Yours sincerely,

E. Bruce Ferguson

Provincial Archivist.

CBF-wm.

November 26, 1971

Miss Aileen Kent,
14 Douglas Avenue,
Hythe, Kent, England.

Dear Miss Kent:

I'm so glad that you enjoyed my book, and it was very kind of you to tell me.

I revisited Hythe in 1958, and spent some days at the old White Hart, rambling over the town and countryside. Although my father removed to Canada with his family when I was only half-past-nine, I found that old memories came back very readily. In the School of Musketry, where I was born, the caretaker of the little museum dug out an old group photograph of the staff, with my father in the front row. I was interested to see, too, that his name is on the Hythe war memorial beside the ~~xxxxxx~~ canal, although he had transferred to the Canadian Army before the war, and in fact was commanding a battalion of Canadian infantry (the Winnipeg Rifles) when he died in battle in 1918.

I still remember vividly the life in Hythe as a boy, the glorious picnic jaunts by charabancs to Dymchurch, the walks on the Roughs, and of course the boats and canoes on the old canal.

Now, about your ancestor Thomas Williams. The Public Archives of Nova Scotia have the following information:-
from

Thomas Williams came/Carnarvon, Wales, and his wife was Ann, daughter of Captain Edward Amherst of the 40th Regiment. When Thomas Williams died on April 22, 1789, he was said to have served in the Ordnance Department for 45 years. While stationed at Annapolis Royal, Nova Scotia, he was also a Justice of the Peace, a Judge of the Inferior Court of Common Pleas, storekeeper of the Ordnance, and Commissary of Provisions in the garrison at Fort Anne. He seems to have been stationed at Annapolis at least as early as 1751.

His son Thomas was the father of Sir Frederick Fenwick Williams. Thomas Williams Jr. married Anna Maria, daughter of Lieut. Thomas Walker and his wife Margaret Dyson. Margaret Dyson was a descendant of Corporal Francis Yates. Thomas Jr. became Commissary and Ordnance Storekeeper at Annapolis Royal in succession to his father, and he was also Colonel of the Annapolis militia. He died at the age of 38 on July 11, 1806.

With my best wishes,

Sincerely,

December 4th, 1971.

14. Douglas Avenue,
Hythe,
Kent.

Dear Mr. Raddall,

It was very nice of you to take all that trouble over my ancestors although if I had known you were going to do all the work I might have hesitated to ask you. I am very grateful.

Going to William Fenwick's birthplace told me something that I did not know and that is that his first name was Frederick. At the V. and A. museum it was given as simply William Fenwick Williams. In the Burke's Peerage etc. where I looked him up his name was given as W.F.W. and there was very little to get hold of. Having ancestors with a name like Williams is infuriating, there are so many millions of the same name. At any rate I now know that my lot did not come from South Wales but from the north of it. My mother's other ancestors came from South Wales but their name was Rees and they were much easier to find.

I tried to find the grave in the Brompton Cemetery in which Frederick Fenwick Williams is buried. It was a very hot day and the cemetery is-or seems-several miles long and the only custodian on duty was at the other end, quite out of sight. I had none too much time so had to abandon the search for that time. I thought I might be able to find a bit more information than Burke had given. I shall try again.

Fenwick W's. five sisters must have populated New Brunswick and part of Nova Scotia with Robertsons, Smiths, Vales, Whitneys and Arnolds (maybe the same family as Benedict?) His elder ^{bro}ther was killed at New Orleans where ~~my~~ great-grandfather, Captain John Kent, was also in 1814. J.K. got home to Shorncliff just in time to be at the battle of Waterloo. He upset Wellington by writing a verse that was shown to Wellington by a fellow officer and Wellington said, "I shall not

forget this, Kent". My great-grandfather was a keen Picton man, like many other officers and men and this must have irked Wellington. The verse ran, Where Anglesey his laurels gained

This column rose to tell;
Could Cymric gratitude do more
And say where Picton fell?

a reference to the column on the field to the Marquis of Anglesey but no memorial to General Picton.

J.K. never rose above the rank of Captain, although he was said to be a good soldier. In the Peninsular War he was shot through the leg at Vimiero and refused to have the leg amputated. He was invalided out, (he was in the 95th, the Light Bobs) recovered and rejoined. He was a great friend of Sir Harry Smith. They met on a transport and J,K. heard a youngster sobbing and asked him what was the matter. The boy, some years younger than J.K., said that he was homesick. " Oh, Kent, I wish I had your chances", he said. J.K. stayed put and Harry Smith went to the top but they remained friends and Harry Smith was able to help J.K's son, John Robert, a young Naval officer, out of a scrape when his ship was off the coast of Africa. John Robert, by the way, was baptised at the Folkestone Parish church of St. Mary and St. Eanswith in 1815, while his parents were at Sandgate. Our association with Hythe goes back as far as that.

A large miniature water colour of J.K. in the uniform of the 95th. was painted while he was in Spain and is, I understand, the only painting of that uniform in existence. A copy is in the V. and A. I made another copy myself.

Now I had better unwind or you may be bored.

Thank you again for your help. My gratitude and a happy Christmas to you.

Yours sincerely,

Colleen Kent

3.2.74.

14. Douglas Avenue
Hythe,
Kent.

Dear Mr. Raddall,

As one of the old inhabitants of Hythe I think you will be sad to hear that the small brass school buildings are in danger of being pulled down & replaced by some hideous modern buildings.

We are trying to save the buildings behind the iron railings parallel to the Canal and get them used for homes or a home for old people or a hospital. They are on the flat & do not mean a scramble up the hill for those unable to climb.

These buildings are a feature of Hythe and can never be replaced aesthetically by anything of to-day and we have enough monstrosities on the skyline already.

2.
1.
Not only this but they
would be so convenient
for shopping for the elderly.
I do hope you will be
able to agree with us over
this.

I believe the procedure in
getting rid of unwanted
buildings is to leave them
empty & unguarded
until boys break the
windows, then it is easy
to condemn them as
delapidated. This is now
beginning to happen.
My typewriter has seized
up & my writing is so
unprofitable as a result of
lack of use that I am
ashamed of it.
All good wishes to you,

Sincerely,
Aileen Kent

February 11, 1974

Miss Aileen Kent,
14 Douglas Avenue,
Hythe, Kent.

Dear Miss Kent:

I am appalled to hear that the fine old buildings of the Small Arms School may be razed and replaced by commonplace offices or storehouses. My father was one of the School staff from 1903 to 1913, and I was born there. When I revisited Hythe in 1958 I was delighted to find that the barracks, the officers' mess, the former lecture hall, and other buildings in my childhood memories, were still intact.

However my interest is not merely a personal sentiment. These handsome and truly venerable buildings should be preserved as a local and national monument. It was here, and on the School's shooting ranges, that the Old Contemptibles came to practice with rifles (and two Maxim-guns to a battalion!) in the few remaining years of peace before 1914. I can remember columns of them marching down from Shorncliff Camp to shoot under the direction of the School staff. I also remember tent camps of Territorials in the fields which then formed a green stripe between the Dymchurch Road and the ranges. All unconsciously they were training for the stop-gap role they were to play so superbly from Mons to Ypres in 1914. It was their superbly accurate rifle fire, brought to perfection on the Hythe ranges, which made up for the shortage of machine-guns in those critical days, and staggered the German masses thrown against them.

I do hope that these buildings will be preserved for some useful human purpose (such as a home for elderly people) as well as a lasting memorial to the British Army of 1914.

With my best wishes,

Sincerely,

2.3.1974.

14. Douglas Avenue,
Hythe,
Kent.

Dear Mr. Raddall,

It was so nice of you to be so prompt in sending me a letter for the local paper. Not quite so nice of me to keep you waiting for a reply but I wanted to be able to say that the letter had been published, also to send you photos. I took last year of the buildings in question.

I have been in Surrey for a few weeks with only flying visits to Hythe. Last week's Folkestone Herald did not put in your letter but it may come out to-day and I hope to see it on my next visit home on Wednesday 6th.

The whole business seems to be the usual hush-hush affair, nothing much told to the public and no meetings, at which views could be aired, much in evidence as far as advance advertising is concerned. There have been petitions but no decision has been given, to the public at any rate. We rather expect that, as in the case of the Chapel of the Rolls, the buildings will fall down in the night!

I hunted for the photos. when in Hythe on Wednesday last but, as I was very pressed for time, I could not hunt very long; snow was threatening and I had to get back to Surrey before it fell, which it didn't. But I will look again next week. Meanwhile, very many thanks for your kindness. I will let you know what happens.

Yours sincerely,

Anleen Kent

P.S. I am particularly interested in the Small Arms School buildings because my great-grandfather, John Kent of the 95th. was stationed in this district during the years before and after Waterloo. The Georgian houses in Sandgate, in one of which he lived, are still there. He was at New Orleans and came home three days before Waterloo and was at the battle there. He must have known the buildings in question very well. I hope I am not repeating a story already told?

John Kent

5.3.1974.

14. Douglas Avenue,
Hythe,
Kent.

Dear Mr. Raddall,

Your letter was published in the Folkestone Herald and brought an unusual response. I had a letter this morning from an old friend of yours of Hythe days and I enclose it. I told him I would do so because it would explain much better than I could all that he told me.

It appears that he met your father in Hythe in 1915 or 1916 in Stade Street. He now lives in Essex and I had to wonder how he got hold of the Herald!

I shall be going home for a day or two and will then try to find the photos. of the Small Arms School buildings which I promised you. So, until then, all best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

Clare Kent