

82 Waterloo Row,
Fredericton, N.B.,
Nov. 23, 1942.

My dear Mr. Raddall,

I have just read your novel, His Majesty's Yankees, with much interest and a great deal of pleasure. You have done a splendid piece of work, and I hope the book wins the praise it deserves. It is a joy to have a really good novel on the Maritimes and on the period of the Revolutionary War. I hope it will be only the first of a number of worthy successors that will interpret Nova Scotia and the neighbouring provinces as faithfully and set forth their historical background as interestingly as His Majesty's Yankees does.

Miss Ells had told me about your forthcoming novel in the summer when I made a brief visit to the Archives in connection with my own studies of the Loyalists and Pre-Loyalists of New Brunswick. I wish I could write a novel myself, for there is heaps of interesting material in New Brunswick. All I have accomplished is a MSS Along the Rivers of New Brunswick, which is now being considered by the Ryerson Press. It is partly historical, partly descriptive, but it involved a considerable amount of research, for, as you doubtless found, material on New Brunswick is scattered and elusive, and not always reliable.

In the course of my researches, I unearthed some information about a few of the people mentioned in your book, and can correct two or three minor points.

1. ^{p. 193} Parson Eagleson was a Presbyterian minister from Ballymena who was in Philadelphia for less than a year and left there about the 14th of April, 1766, in the same ship which carried the Steeves, Trites and other families to the Petitcodiac. After that he apparently conformed to the Established Church and was appointed S.P.G. missionary. I found a letter of his in the Franklin Collection in Philadelphia, and some amusing information in the minutes of the Presbyterial. If you want more about him, I should be glad to send further details.

2. Moses Delesdernier was a cousin, not the father of Lewis Frederick Delesdernier. Lewis' father, Gideon, was an uncle of Moses, although he was younger than Moses, and married a younger sister of Moses' wife. Moses' first wife died, without children, according to Early New England People, by Sarah Elizabeth Titcomb, 1882. Gideon's sons were Peter, Francis Christian, Lewis Frederick, John Mark Crank (who was on the Miramichi for a time), Frederick, and John (don't ask me why they repeated the names.) Moses' sons were Ferdinand, ~~xxxxxx~~ Joseph, Henry, Charles, according to a petition of his, 1786. He was at Hillsborough in 1770, and was making voyages to the Continent and the middle colonies for settlers in 1774, 1775. Are you sure he was at Cumberland?

3. Was Peck a Tory? (His descendants are rabid Tories,

Wrote her June 3/43 to thank her for review in April, Dalhousie Review

Answer attached

but that is beside the point.) I got the impression that he was neutral, or even slightly Whiggish, but I cannot say how. (I shall have to extract the book from my father in order to see what you say about the location of Peck's house.) p.225. Peck's land was up the bay from St. Mary's Point, on the other side of the Shepody River, and included the present Albert, Riverside and part of Hopewell Hill.

4. p.205. Does one see Shepody Mountain from Cumberland, or is the Rockport peninsula in the way?

5. Mijik puzzled me at first, as the usual spelling is Midgic. Westkok is usually Westcock. I know 18th century spelling gives all sorts of variants, but in most places you have used the accepted spelling.

6. p.220. I am not sure that the cove inside Point Wolf would be accessible from the bay, there's a long narrow passage through the cliffs and rapids. Of course a dam has been built, which might have altered the cove considerably.

7. p.246. Did Monckton's men destroy above St. Anne's? There were French settlers there in 1783, some of whom had been there 20 years. I have not run across any references to a battle (?) at Kingsclear, and would be glad to have them.

8. p.344. Goold had been treating with the Maugerville people in May, 1777, and had received their oaths of allegiance and given them certificate of that. The papers are in the Halifax Archives.

These are very trifling matters, and it is only because your book is so excellent historically that I bother to set them out for you. I was particularly interested to find that you had come to the same conclusion regarding the collapse of revolt in Nova Scotia that I had reached through study of the Maugerville settlement, namely the visits of the privateers and the arbitrariness of the Committees of Safety.

There's a grand chance for a novel on the Scottish fishers on the Miramichi, or on the conflict between the Maugerville settlers and the Loyalists on the St. John, if you are looking for a subject for your next novel.

Yours sincerely,

Esther Clark Knight

Mrs. C. P. Wright.

THOMAS H. RADDALL
LIVERPOOL, NOVA SCOTIA

November 28th, 1942

Dear Mrs. Wright,

Thanks for your very kind letter. I stand corrected on several points but in self defence I can say that I did not refer to Louis Delesdernier as the son of Moses, merely as one of the Delesdernier family.

My authority for the statements regarding Moses in the siege of Fort Cumberland is " The American Invasion of Nova Scotia 1776-7 " by W.B.Kerr, published in the Canadian Defence Quarterly July 1936.

I cannot say whether Peck was Whig or Tory. The fact that the Shepody picket were sheltered in the Peck house, and the further fact that Mrs. Peck told Gorham of the affair, inclined to me to believe that the Pecks were Tories.

~~Shepody~~ Shepody Mountain stands high above the intervening point and indeed looks like part of it when viewed from Fort Cumberland. I assured myself on this point by questioning the caretaker at Fort Beausejour and others who should know. I may say that I spent a good deal of time in personal exploration of the Cumberland area before sitting down to write the book, even to the point of visiting the place in late November for a mental picture of the marshes etc., at the significant time of year.

I spelled Mijik and Westkok deliberately. All Indian names should be spelled in their simplest phonetical form exactly as pronounced. You must remember that David, who tells the tale, speaks the Micmac language fluently.

Mockton's men destroyed above St. Anne's according to an account of the ancient seigneurie of Villerenard which I found in the museum library at Beausejour. As for the fight there in '77, Kerr (see above) states ~~##~~ that Studholme overtook Allan at Aukpaque and captured most of his baggage etc., and an account of John Allan's life printed by his grandson (I think) in the 1850's refers to fighting a few miles beyond. This seems confirmed by records of trails at Hfx of men ~~captured~~ taken in arms at this time. I have not the Allan account ~~##~~ at hand, but my memory is that the fight

Ans'd
Feb 4/57

Mrs. C. P. Wright
407 Island Park Drive
Ottawa 3

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January 20, 19

Dear Mr. Raddall:

This letter has now acquired more topics that a letter should have, but it had better be completed before further topics emerge.

First of all, let me report that I read a good deal of Wings of Night aloud to Mother at Christmastime, and we enjoyed it very much. Each chapter was a short story in itself, and the descriptions were remarkably vivid. I had driven through from Liverpool last June and could see the country. Incidentally, did Lunenburg slip out by mistake once? instead of Mecklenberg? There aren't many novels nowadays which would stand reading aloud. I became very much discouraged, though, about writing a novel myself. I couldn't reach such a peak of excellence .

I have written a series of familiar essays on the Minas Basin country and what an interesting place it is to get to know. Ryerson's are publishing it in the autumn, though I did suggest perhaps it should come out this spring as an antidote to the Gorddn Report. May I quote from His Majesty's Yankees the description of the journey by canoe from Liverpool to Annapolis, for my chapter on "The Backbone of Nova Scotia"?

Mrs. Raddall said you were coming up to check on items for your history of N.S. I have not heard of your being up yet. As I told her, we have plenty of room, and extra latchkeys, and would be very happy to have you stay here, and forage for breakfast with my husband.

I was empowered by the Executive of the Ottawa Branch of the Authors' Association to see if there would be any chance of your coming to Ottawa in May and being the guest speaker at our annual dinner. We would esteem ourselves most fortunate if that would be possible. Ottawa is worth seeing in May, with the daffodils and tulips, and we would be delighted to have Mrs. Raddall come along with you, and there's a basement room where extra members of the family could be tucked, as well as the studio couch in the sun room, where I cast myself in despair when inspiration does not come.

We have survived a bout of very cold weather, the coldest in 45 years or something of the kind. If only you had been here, we would have had heat on in the guest room and would not have had three taps out of action. Fortunately, they came on, many anxious hours later, without bursting, as pipes in Fredericton always did.

Sincerely yours,

Esther Clark Wright