

Partridge Island,  
General Delivery,  
Saint John, N.B. April 3, 1947

*Ansd  
april 7/47*  
Dear Mr. Raddall-

I have read all of your available books including Tambour, Roger Sudden, His Majesty's Yankees and Pride's Fancy. It is difficult for the layman to comprehend the atmosphere which surrounds one who has won national and international acclaim, but having lived long enough to realize that nearly always our really famous people are often the most approachable, I feel moved to express myself in a personal letter.

Born at Canning, N.S. in the heart of the Cornwallis Valley, most of my life has so far been spent outside Nova Scotia. Nevertheless the strong impressions of childhood were formed there and in Halifax, which time cannot erase. A strong feeling for my native land therefore remains with me, of late years coupled with an interest in my personal ancestry which traces through the Newcomb genealogy to Mayflower times.

Searching the Public Library here for works on Nova Scotia lead me to your writings. Obviously you have taken your adopted land to your heart and given to your work a talent which must create pride in the hearts of lovers of their native land. "Roger Sudden" and "His Majesty's Yankees" are outright classics in theme matter and treatment. One lives and moves through the land page by page and so far as I know the historical accuracy leaves little to be desired. Some criticism of the Indian tortures in such vividness seems to have arisen, but it rests with the reader whether such is too strong for the stomach. Of "Pride's Fancy" I might say that it is excellent reading, embellished with your fascinating style, but with the qualification that it is another sea story. Your "land" stories are in a class by themselves and so far the most appealing to me personally.

Reading these "land" stories naturally gave me thought concerning my native section of the province. While not historically dramatic it seems to me that there should be material for some sort of story in the settling of region around the Basin of Minas by the Connecticut Planters of 1760 amongst whom appeared he who was the ancestor to our line in Canada.

"Tambour" appealed to both my wife and myself. For her the appeal was purely the lifelike and sympathetic treatment given the stories. For myself in addition was my personal experience as a wireless operator from 1917 to 1920 at Cape Race, Canso, and Chebucto Head; also my experiences in the Halifax explosion of 1917. In the latter the Chebucto Road school, turned morgue appears recognizable, wherein I searched with friends for their dead. Concerning "Tambour" itself I am curious to know if this locale would be "Bird Rock" and if this and other stories in the book have any "fact" foundation.

Yours with sincere appreciation,

*W. G. Loomer.*

*P.S. Let us have more books like "Tambour" please!*