

Roy A. Laurence, Q.C.

Barrister and Solicitor

Court House Building

Annapolis Royal, Nova Scotia

December 14, 1960.

Dear Tom:

I acknowledge your letter of December 10th.

Sorry I did not return to Liverpool as I had planned.

I am sending you transcripts of the evidence taken in the Crocker case, as well as an assortment of other papers that might help fill in your background.

The Doyle you refer to is T. C. Doyle. He is at present City Solicitor in the City of Halifax and can be located at his office in the City Hall. He can give you the interesting details as to how he finally located this man Crocker, who really upset the "apple cart" so far as my client and myself were concerned.

Through the help of a retired Halifax Policeman I gained the confidence of three old retired sporting girls. The Policeman pounded the streets of Halifax from about 1880 to 1918. He and the girls gave me a most illuminating picture as to the conditions of life lived by Sarah and people of her ilk in Halifax at that time.

One of the sporting girls told me "she had heard" that Sarah returned to Halifax in the early days of the 1914-18 war and there owned and operated her own house. She also told me the gossip that Sarah had a child and gave it away to a colored couple from Jamaica, who returned there with the child. Apparently the Welfare Agencies were not as well organized in those days as they are today.

One of the most interesting angles of the whole thing was the "boner" pulled by Scotland Yard. I am sorry I do not have copies of the cables exchanged between the Halifax Police Force and the Yard. They first advised that Crocker was married in 1898. We cabled back for further confirmation of this and the Yard confirmed it. We could not believe our good fortune and sent a second cable to S. Y. asking for confirmation and this time they replied in effect "sorry we made an error, it should read 1908". As you will see in the letter written by one of the Council to Mr. Archibald its importance is stressed

because if Crocker was validly married in 1898, his marriage in Halifax to Sarah in 1899 would have been void and she in turn would have been lawfully free to marry Giberson in 1914.

While the whole story is somewhat sordid, there were a few amusing interludes. The one that comes to my mind at the moment is ~~Eric~~ Crocker on the witness stand baring his chest and arms to show his tattoo marks.

Like many other things, if I had to do it over again I would have done it differently.

The papers in this estate are on file in the Probate Registry in Halifax and can be seen by any member of the public.

With kindest personal regards and the Season's Greetings.

Yours faithfully,

Roy L.

Dr. Thomas Raddall,
Liverpool,
Nova Scotia.

P.S. Don't bother returning the papers to me. I'll pick them up one day when in Liverpool. Enjoyed "Governor's Lady" very much.