

1005 Canora Road, North,
TOWN OF MOUNT ROYAL,
Montreal, 16, Que.

6th September
1 9 4 5

Mr. Thomas H. Raddall,
c/o McClelland & Stewart Limited,
TORONTO, Ontario.

Dear Mr. Raddall,

I have just finished reading your book, "ROGER SUDDEN", which I enjoyed very much indeed; it is an excellent and entertaining story.

My purpose in writing to you is to inquire if the character, "ROGER SUDDEN", was a real person or was the name just made up by yourself?

You may think that I have a colossal nerve in asking you this question but I assure you that it is not prompted by mere idle curiosity. The name "SUDDEN" is most uncommon and I have never met anyone or heard of anyone in Canada who bore that name, except myself, and when I saw the name of your book I became greatly interested.

My middle name is "SUDDENS", and it is the maiden name of my great-grandmother on my father's side. The only remaining branch of this family, as far as I can trace, are living in New Zealand.

From the foregoing you will understand why I am interested in the name which you picked for the hero of your story and I certainly will appreciate receiving a reply from you.

Thanking you, I am,

Yours Sincerely,

Robert Suddens Armstrong

Thomas K. Raddall

Liverpool, Nova Scotia

September 14th, 1945.

Mr. Robert S. Armstrong,
1005 Canora Road North,
Town of Mount Royal,
Montreal 16, Que.

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

Thanks for your letter of the sixth. In hunting for a name for my chief character I wanted one which would suggest a man of great resolution and quick decision, and I hit upon Sudden. It is a Kentish name but other than that it has no connection with my story.

A good deal of the character of "Roger Sudden" is based upon that of Michael Francklyn, an English gentleman who came penniless to Halifax in the early days, was captured by Indians, learned their language, and put his knowledge of Micmac and French to very good use in the amassing of a fortune. But Francklyn lived to be Lieutenant-Governor of the province and died comfortably in bed, full of years and honours, whereas for my own purposes Roger Sudden had to die very uncomfortably in the moat at Louisburg.

Many characters in my book were real people, however, faithfully described, names and all -- Manger, Gorham, Gilman, Le Louvre, Maillard, Gautier, Madame Ducudrai, the Chevalier Johnstone and the Indian, Koap, amongst them.

Sincerely,