

FREDERICK L. BLAIR

REGISTRAR OF PROBATE
COUNTY OF CUMBERLAND

MGI Vol. 381

153 D

P. O. BOX 35

Blair

AMHERST, NOVA SCOTIA

November 17, 1939.

Mr. Reginald V. Harris,
P. O. Box 535,
Halifax, N. S.

Dear Mr. Harris:

Let me first apologize for not having replied to your letter of the 26th of August.

The war stopped any enthusiasm I might have had at the time, and since then I thought there was no special need of writing because I planned from week to week on taking a trip to Halifax, when I would be able to better discuss matters with you. I still hope to take a trip to Halifax within a short time, and I shall do myself the pleasure of calling on you.

I received a letter from Mr. Hedden a few days after yours came to hand, and he enclosed with it a report from Hamilton, a copy of which I shall enclose with this for your information.

I am very much disappointed in Hamilton's work this summer, and have so advised Hedden. He seems to have been working for information or evidence, in other words, on an exploring expedition, rather than going at the job in a business-like manner. The whole matter, agreement and all, as I see it, is in a mess, which will have to be straightened out before further work is done.

Doubtless you saw the article in Saturday Evening Post of October 14th. If any results therefrom they would of course go to Hedden, but I suppose the war will prevent any inquiries.

You inquired of me if I had ever heard of a Pearce S. Hamilton, a barrister of Cumberland County. I never did, and have asked a couple of men here considerably older than myself, neither of whom ever heard of such a man. You say you have him mixed with a P. S. Hamilton, a journalist in New Glasgow. I wish you could find his diary on Cak Island, if he had such. You will remember that I drew your

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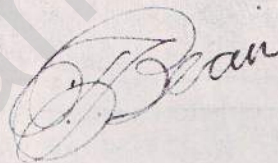
attention to an article that was published in the New Glasgow Enterprise in the early nineties. Unfortunately it was published serially and I was not fortunate enough to obtain the complete article. My understanding is that Hamilton had either a diary or a scrap book, at all events, what I read of his article indicated that he was thoroughly posted on the subject.

I shall be very glad to hear from you with any suggestions you may have to offer.

It is quite evident that Mr. Hedden cannot carry on the work with his own funds, and I am also convinced that Mr. Hamilton has not the backing to conduct operations as they should be. I realize, of course, that the war will prevent any active operations for the time being.

With kindest regards, I am,

Yours very truly,



FRED L. BLAIR

GENERAL INSURANCE

MGI Vol. 381 1526

PHONE 116

BLAIR

P. O. BOX 35

AMHERST, NOVA SCOTIA

August 24, 1939.

Mr. R. V. Harris,
Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Dear Mr. Harris:

I wrote you on the 20th of June, just as you were leaving for the old country, since when I have heard thro' two or three sources that some thing is being done at the island, but in such a small way that I wonder what it is all about.

Have had a letter or two from Mr. Hedden, but nothing regarding the operations. He has visited the island once at least and plans on returning later when possibly he will have me meet him there. I have urged upon him the necessity of getting down to more active operations with the object of solving the problem without further undue delay. Perhaps I cannot do better than quote from a letter written Hedden July 11th to which he has not replied.

"May I remind you that the period of my Agreement with the Government is shortening, and that it will end in 1944. The lease can doubtless be renewed, but I am firmly of the opinion that no person will be able to make as favorable an agreement with the Government as I now possess. I will venture to say that those at present in control will insist in asking 25% instead of 2%. From tips I have received I know what may be expected from the present Gov't, and I see not the slightest prospect of a change in party control for some years to come, unless some vital question not now foreseen arises. It simply means that if we are to get the most out of any recovery at Oak Island, it must be done within the next five years."

May I say that there is also my great desire to see the work finished. I have reached the allotted span while Mr. Hedden is in his prime and now owns the property. Delay means a lot to me and very little to him. He tells me that he intends to follow it through to a finish if it takes him the rest of his life. It is beginning to look as if it will take mine anyway at the present rate of progress, and then what will there be for those I leave behind, for my life's work?

I could say a lot more but this is enough to give you an idea and I would be glad to hear from you and to learn whether or not you know what the plans are. Kind regards.

Sincerely,

F. L. Blair

MEMORANDUM

RE: BILL TO AMEND THE MINES ACT RELATING TO
TREASURE TROVE
ETC.

The import of this Bill is to amend The Mines Act so that authority will be vested in the Minister of Mines to obtain satisfactory arrangements between the holder of treasure trove agreements from the Crown and the owner of the surfact rights, where the treasure trove agreement provides that searching may be carried on. It is simply to clothe the Minister with the same powers in reference to treasure trove that he now has in obtaining similar arrangements between the holder of a gold mining lease and the owner of the surface rights.

It also provides for any cases where the holder of a gold mining lease is at the same time the holder of a lease from the Crown, permitting him to seek treasure trove on the same areas as contained in gold mining leases, that work done on the areas in reference to seeking treasure trove, prevents a forfeiture of the lease in the same manner as work in connection with mining operations prevents a forfeiture.

The facts surrounding the case in question which gave rise to the introduction of this Bill are as follows:

The property has been under lease from the owners for years and the rental has been paid regularly. Upwards of \$50,000.00 has been spent during the term of the lease in attempts to prove the treasure theory correct, the greater proportion of which has been paid to local labor.

The lease expired subsequent to the death of Mrs. Sellers in 1931, and renewal could not be effected. It is impossible to make satisfactory arrangements with those who might finance future work because nothing definite can be said with respect to the surface rights.

The whole property consists (so the owner says) of about 150 acres. There are no buildings and the cleared portion is fit for pasturage only. The net revenue after payment of taxes is now about \$15.00 per year.

The area required is not in excess of 20 acres. There are a number of pits within this area which materially depreciate its value for ordinary purposes, and \$200.00 would be a liberal estimate of its worth.

A flat refusal to lease that portion has been made by the owners. An offer of \$900.00 cash for the same, was also declined. A definite refusal to sell it, or any portion of the whole was made. The best and only offer made by the owners, was to sell the whole property for \$5,500.00.

It is estimated that a quarter of a million dollars at least have been spent in attempts to solve the mystery of Oak Island. The greater proportion of that sum has been expended to the benefit of the people in the vicinity of the island.

There is another \$100,000., available, if the property can be secured to enable the work to proceed. This money will be furnished privately. There will be no company, nor any offering to the public. The money will be expended under the supervision of properly qualified engineers, and modern equipment will be used.

Whether or not anything is discovered, the expenditure of this money will be inestimable to the immediate communities well as to Halifax and other places where it will be necessary to purchase equipment, etc.

The work will be an attempt to solve a mystery that has centered around the island for the past 140 years. It is the opinion of those who have studied the question, that there is every justification for the belief that a treasure is buried there. If their opinion proves to be correct and a treasure is recovered, the historical value of much that may be found, may be incalculable, and the advertising value to the province of such a discovery will undoubtedly be very great.

Submitted by E.T. PARKER,
APRIL 23
1935

(See also "MINES ACT" FILE)

Blair file.

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PHONE 116

FRED L. BLAIR

GENERAL INSURANCE

MARITIME BLOCK.

AMHERST, NOVA SCOTIA

March 13, 1935.

Mr. Reginald V. Harris,
Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Dear Mr. Harris:

First let me thank you for cheque enclosed with your letter of the 11th instant. I am returning receipted memo. herewith.

With respect to the attitude of the Gov't, I am quite unable to see why the Minister should decline to expropriate because this is not a mining proposition. Was talking to Mr. Taylor of the Mines office, after I was talking to you a week ago today. I claimed that this is in many ways, better than a mining proposition.

It is an attempt to solve a mystery centering around that island which has to a considerable degree, interested the people of this province for approximately 140 years. If our theory is correct, and a treasure is recovered, the advertising value to the province is incalculable. The historical value of much that may be found, may also be incalculable. It is high time that the Gov't of the Province of Nova Scotia awakened to the fact that they possess at their front door, a possible means of bringing the province before the world in a manner equaled only by the discovery of Tut-ankh-Amen's tomb. No mining proposition is in its class.

That was my line of talk to Taylor. He agreed that no owner should be permitted to hold up such a proposition, and while he is only a clerk in the office, I feel sure that those above him will see the matter in the same light. If the Mines Act will not permit them to expropriate for this purpose, an amendment can be quickly passed. Here is a project, which in addition to the possibilities above referred to, will involve an expenditure of possibly \$100,000., half of which may be in wages. Is that to be blocked by a nit-wit's refusal to allow us on a piece of land the value of which is not in excess of \$300.00? We have already offered three times its value.

It might be wise for Mr. Parker to feel his way through Mr. Smiley, confiding in him and telling what is necessary, and let Smiley confer with the Minister and ascertain what he will do before action is taken. Smiley and I are pretty close and he is aware that I have been endeavoring to put Oak Island over. We can pull other strings if necessary.

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March 13, 1935

I believe that expropriation should be the aim because I cannot successfully negotiate in the future unless ~~that~~ the surface rights are available without any hitch. The owners decline to deal, hence I am prevented from making arrangements that might solve the mystery and advertise Nova Scotia. That would seem to me to be the line of talk.

The land desired is of very slight value, being the far end of the island and pock marked with pits. The greatest revenue therefrom for the past 25 years, has been that obtained through me, approximately \$1000.

I thought of suggesting to Sellers when talking to him, that we would agree to resell at purchase price, but should we admit that I anticipate to shortly settle the matter? I have been endeavoring for years to close out this problem and it may take more years yet.

However, my hope is to settle it very shortly if not blocked by the owners of the property. Referring to the last sentence of your letter, I think that both the owners and the Gov't should understand that my object is to get control of the land so that I can negotiate, but I am not sure,

- (a) when I can successfully close a satisfactory deal for the work of recovery,
- (b) whether or not, if I do close, that the operations will be any more successful than heretofore.

If no satisfactory conclusion is arrived at under the next effort, some other party is sure to approach me for the right to continue the work, and it is not reasonable that I should be held up by the owners. I have five on a waiting list right now, with another inquiry only last Saturday.

I have every confidence that between yourself and Mr. Parker, that something satisfactory will be worked out, and I shall be glad to hear from you when it is decided just what course will be pursued.

With kindest regards, I am,

Sincerely yours,



FRED L. BLAIR

GENERAL INSURANCE

MG 1 Vol. 381

PHONE 116

790

MARITIME BLOCK.

AMHERST, NOVA SCOTIA

March 7, 1935.



Mr. Reginald V. Harris,
Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Dear Mr. Harris:

After leaving you yesterday I called on Mr. Taylor at the Mines office for the purpose of ascertaining, if possible, the area of Oak Island. I am enclosing a copy of sketch which the Dept., had previously furnished me.

The outline over the squares is the shape and size of the island as shown on the map indicated on the sketch. The squares represent 40 acre claims into which, for leasing purposes, the Dept. has divided the province.

According to Mr. Rogers in the Mines office, the lines are shown as they would run through the island, while the numbers represent the district claim numbers on and surrounding the island.

It was this sketch I referred to in my letter of February 16, wherein I stated the island appeared to be about 120 acres in extent.

Yesterday I asked Mr. Rogers if he could tell me the acreage. After putting his rule on the map, he estimated from 120 to 130 acres. The island is only three quarters of a mile long, not one mile as generally understood.

Mr. Sellers claims there are about 300 acres and that they own over one half, or approximately 160 acres. On the other hand it appears that the acreage is not over 130 and that the Sellers proportion at the most cannot exceed 75 acres. This fact should be borne in mind when considering the price of the property.

Am enclosing memorandum of my expenses on recent trip to Chester Basin, for which Mr. Hedden said you would reimburse me from the funds in your hands. He told me to send you a memo., of any expenses I incurred and you would refund the amount, keeping the memo., as a voucher.

Doubtless you have seen Mr. Parker before this and he has reported to you in more detail including the fact that Corkum claimed my Mines lease was not worth the paper it was written on because the required labor had not been performed. Mr. Parker has no doubt also mentioned

the fact that Mrs. Corkum died before Mrs. Sellers, and that it might be necessary to obtain a copy of the Henry Sellers Will in order to determine who is the correct heir to the one sixth part now claimed by Mrs. Corkum's children.

Just as I finish this I realize that Mrs. Sellers possessed in her own right, one half of the property in question, and it is a one third interest in that half now claimed by Mrs. Corkum's children, they being the descendants of one of Mrs. Sellers' three children. That I did not explain to Mr. Parker.

With kindest regards, I am,

Sincerely yours,



www.oakislandtreasure.co.uk

2.395- R. V. Harris Papers

BLAIR

M 61

Vol. 384

HE HAS NOTHING ON NEVADA

BURIED TREASURE on Oak Island, off the coast of Nova Scotia, is being seriously searched for by a party financed by Frederick L. Blair of Boston, making the twentieth of such expeditions to seek it in the last 136 years. Some people say the hidden wealth was left there by the Vikings, others incline to Captain Kidd, but Mr. Blair believes that it consists of the ecclesiastical plate and other spoils won by the Scots when they defeated the English in 1314. Of course the date is a long time before Columbus reached the Bahamas, but what is a century or so when a treasure hunt is concerned?

They have a merry time in the Atlantic states looking for hidden treasure and pirates' loot, but it isn't half the fun enjoyed in Nevada. Where they only have Captain Kidd to talk about back there, treasure hunters in this state have Pegleg, Breyfogle and half a dozen others to conjure by. There they say on a dull day: "Let's do something. What say if we search for pirate gold?" Out here they don't say anything but get out the trusty auto, load up with gas, oil and provisions and go searching for the Lost Cabin, the Gunsight and the Blue Bucket mines. And the chances of success in both cases are just about the same.

But Mr. Blair is quite certain about his buried plate because he says he has come into possession of a scrap of parchment brought up by a drill on the island in 1897 and which bears queer marks of a quill pen on it. Bless his soul, there hasn't been a lost Nevada mine ever mentioned but what somebody could produce, perhaps not parchment, but paper with just such marks.

Battle of Bannockburn

www.oakislandtreasure.com

Reno Nev.

Gazette

May 5/31

Fred Blair's ad which appeared in The Journal of Commerce
(and Commercial Bulletin)

on Thursday December 7, 1922; Right hand column; page 1, 4" deep.
(source - NYC Library microfilm; W 43rd Annex)

~~BURIED TREASURE~~

BURIED
TREASURE

Speculative venture, partly
proven, requires \$50,000 for
half interest. If successful,
will produce millions within
one year; otherwise possible
eighty per cent loss. Satis-
factory credentials, proofs
partially successful efforts,
will prove good sporting
proposition for party finan-
cially able ~~to~~ take chance. Full
frank details at interview.
228 F, Journal of Commerce.

Blair's ad prompted the following ~~xxx~~ article on
Page 3 of the same issue:

Can Buried Treasure
Lure Wall Street?

Two hundred years ago the Welsh buccanneer,
Sir Edward Morgan, descended on the town of Panama and relieved
~~it~~ its inhabitants of as much of their wealth as he could take
~~in~~ away. Some years later, when he died Governor of Jamaica,
A rich and respected gentleman, the treasury he took from the
Spanish Main had disappeared.

The ~~rest~~ rest of the world apparently ~~had~~ has
forgotten about this, but there is a man in New York now who

...at which appeared in The Journal of Commerce
 says he is certain that this or some other treasure is buried
 150 feet deep at a certain spot on Oak Island, near Nova Scotia.
 Oak Island is one of the 365 similar islands in the neighborhood,
 which are not inhabited regularly. This man, a native of Nova
 Scotia, is here "to find men with imagination enough to risk
 some funds in a venture" based upon records he ~~possesses~~ possesses,
 which he believes will conclusively prove that treasure exists
 at a spot of which he has secured control from the Canadian
 Government.

The Story goes back to 1795, when three partridge hunters
 on Oak Island discovered in the solitary wilderness a place which
 showed the work of man. To this spot there have come successive
 parties of treasure hunters, who have dug deeper and deeper,
 and have worked out a ~~well~~ well defined pit. After over one
 hundred ~~xx~~ years of digging, there has been brought out of ~~this~~ this
 pit cement, timber, salt water, metal and a piece of parchment
 about half a square inch in area. However, the individual
 interested, whose announcement appears on the front page of
 this paper, declares he now knows just where the suggested
 treasure is situated and thinks he can prove he does to any
 individual interested.

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Blind ~~ed~~ prompted the following ~~xxx~~ article on
 Page 3 ~~of~~ same issue:

Can Buried Treasure
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