

BROOKLAKE ROAD, R.F.D. No. 1, MADISON, N. J.

December 1st 1946

Mr. R. V. Harris
Halifax, N.S.

Dear Mr. Harris:

Oak Island seems to be coming to life again. Two parties have approached me recently with the objective of entering into a recovery agreement or in the outright purchase of the island. Both parties have been in touch with Blair and in both cases their negotiations with Blair were rather unsatisfactory.

Blair, as you know, renewed or re-wrote his Treasure Trove agreement or lease with the government in 1944 for a period of five years and apparently in all cases he holds out for a 50% return to him for the use of his agreement, completely ignoring or discounting the fact that his agreement is useless without my permission to trespass. In some correspondence recently seen in one of the above mentioned inquiries he states that permission to trespass is required from the owner but dismisses it as negligible and easy to obtain. In no instance has he written to me or mentioned my name in his negotiations, nor have I had occasion to write him. In the letter just referred to he states that he has several associated and that he must consult them before making agreements or before giving out vital information.

Will you find out just what Blair's current agreement with the government is in detail. Also find out the legal requirements for keeping it active. I recall that the original agreement carried a stipulation that evidence of yearly expenditure must be given to the government or the agreement lapsed automatically. It might also be well to find out if another agreement can be written concurrently with that of Blair. The present status seems to be a stalemate situation. I own the property rights and Blair owns the Treasure Trove rights. Neither can proceed without the other and Blair sticks to his 50% thereby scaring away all ventures of any kind.

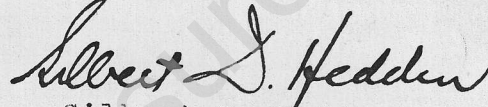
Possibly the government would consider an agreement with me direct. After all I have invested some \$40,000 on the project whereas Blair can certainly lay claim to no more than a few hundreds. As the matter stands I am to all practical purposes barred from selling, negotiating or searching on my own property. As I should like to take all steps possible to protect my interests and to possibly continue the work of recovery this next season will you please without too much trouble find out what you can and let me know so that I can make some definite plans. ~~MARYLE~~ Hamilton has advised me that he has no further intention

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of continuing his efforts at recovery though he would be glad to act in an advisory capacity with any group doing recovery work.

I was sorry to be unable to visit Nova Scotia this season but reconversion work has kept me entirely too busy to venture away. I have again postponed my visit for still another season and will hope this time to get up there some time in July of next year. You may hear from some people in New York (name of Reichert) who I referred to you for any legal advise or assistance in Halifax or Canada. Best regards to yourself and all the family.

Sincerely


Gilbert D. Hedden

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