

P.O. Box 321
Mahone Bay
Nova Scotia
Canada

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Sept. 2, 1976

Mrs. Marguerite Hedden
1219 N. George Street
Kissimmee, Florida 32741
U.S.A.

Dear Mrs. Hedden:

I am still out here in Nova Scotia doing research on my Oak Island book. It has been a most interesting summer digging through old archive records of the island as well as interviewing local people on the subject.

In the course of my research I have come across quite a bit of correspondence between Gilbert Hedden and various people connected with the search over the years. I must say your husband certainly was a prolific letter writer and his work on the island was highly regarded by his contemporaries and the searchers who followed him. In fact, several persons have told me that Gil was probably closer to solving the mystery than anyone, and it was unfortunate that his financial difficulties forced him to abandon the project.

Anyway, one of the reasons I am writing is that someone recently told me that he was under the impression that Mr. Hedden's estate still held ownership or control of one four-acre lot on Oak Island. From what I can see from existing records, this seems unlikely, but I thought it would be worth checking out with you. I am under the impression that your husband sold all the lots he owned on the island to John Whitney Lewis on May 12, 1950, for the sum of \$6,000. Is this correct in your opinion?

I shall likely be finished by local research by the end of this month, after which I will probably spend the fall and early winter in Vermont working on the actual book manuscript. There is also a chance Kathryn and I will again go to Florida this winter. If we do, I will be sure to look you up again.

Oh, I almost forgot. The other thing I would like to get from you if possible, is a black and white photograph of Mr. Hedden to use in my book. Preferably I would like one of him on the island in 1936 or 1937, but such a photo doesn't exist, any other will do. So it would be most helpful if you could mail me a photograph of him.

I again thank you for your past help and I look forward to hearing from you again.

Sincerely,

D'Arcy O'Connor