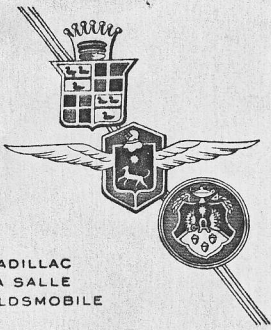


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GILBERT D. HEDDEN, INC.

41 MARKET STREET
MORRISTOWN, N. J.

MORRISTOWN 4-1700

SERVICE
40 BANK STREETCADILLAC
LA SALLE
OLDSMOBILEMorristown, N.J.
March 8th, 1938Mr. R. V. Harris
Court House
Halifax, N.S.

Dear Mr. Harris:

I was very glad to receive your letter yesterday and I now realize that you have not heard from me in quite some time. I have been very busy on personal and civic affairs all this year and, as business conditions seem to be going rather rapidly from bad to worse, I imagine I will be very busy for some time to come. Financial conditions are embarrassing many in this business and I want to expand to one or two more Dealerships if the opportunity arises. The past week has shown a slight improvement generally but it is still too soon to tell and the unsettled condition at Washington has everyone up in the air.

In regard to the letter from O.L. Holland, while it is interesting, I can see no advantage or necessity at the present time of soliciting or accepting financial assistance, particularly from such a remote source. His remarks referring to the connection with St. Andrews are a bit fantastic and may account for the previous references we have had to that same source. I doubt very much that any old journals exist referring to an expedition to Nova Scotia though of course stranger things are possible. If such a reference is there I would think that it would have been discovered and published before now. It is possibly a bit of "wishful thinking" on his part but of course cannot be refuted until the buried objects are recovered and identified as to nature and origin. If you have the time and care to do so, it might be well to correspond with him and acquire a more

tailed account of his findings and translations.

(STARATT)
SEE HIS FILE P. 1374
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The answered questions from the other source are also very interesting

1. Welling apparently never noticed the drilled stones or the triangle though Blair says that he noticed the triangle but did not identify it as such and debated excavating at the site but abandoned the idea thinking it was too near the water line to mean anything.

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2. This question apparently refers to the holes drilled in search of the tunnel and dynamited. I believe you will find a complete report of this in Blairs files and that the only hole that hit water was the center one of the five drilled. I located the sites of three and one, possibly the one referred to, is very evident today, directly over the supposed tunnel line and just a few feet from the drilled stone at the shore.

3,4,5,6, No comment

7. According to the story the Sink Hole Pit was opened to 55 feet before water intruded and stopped the work. I believe this statement was from Chappell who worked there at the time. Tide level at that point would be not over 15 feet.

8. I do not think very much of this experiment as conclusive evidence one way or another

I wrote the Avon Enterprises and forwarded several photographs to them as requested and I am enclosing their reply. Frankly I am inclined to think that they and their machine are a complete and not very clever hoax. I note that you have made it clear to them that they must communicate with you or myself before beginning any work on the island and of course my watchman is instructed to permit no person to land without a pass from me. There is really nothing on the island that they can disturb or damage and I am willing to let them go there any time under the conditions of the agreement. From their last letter they apparently have a slight disagreement with the inventor and it may be that we shall hear nothing further from them.

I am also enclosing two letters from Wilkins which, if you can find the time and patience to decipher and interpret them, are self explanatory. As you will see, our old friend Nolan is involved and I imagine that with him

re included the precious group of individuals at Western Shore. My belief is that they are using the story of the mysterious stone found by Barkhouse which we endeavored to locate last Summer so unsuccessfully. My thought is that one of several situations may exist.

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1. That Barkhouse concocted the stone entirely from his imagination to get a certain local notoriety and fame.

2. That he thoroughly convinced Nolan and his associates that such a stone existed and that they tried to sell me the idea when I was first there but found Barkhouse unwilling or unable to produce.

3. That Barkhouse, impressed by my evident interest of last Summer has now "found" the stone and has passed certain imaginary details on to Nolan & Co. agreeing for a consideration to produce photographs in the Spring. Nolan convinced from his contact with me last season that he can get nowhere with me has for his own interests transferred the location to Shad Bay and is or will try to interest Wilkins or myself with this new story.

4. There is just the wild and improbable chance that Nolan has found something on or near Oak, though if he did I cannot understand why he has not corresponded with me. I heard from him last Fall in connection with his gold machine and I will enclose that letter too. Apparently the man is slightly touched and in my estimation Wilkins would make a nice play-mate for him.

I would not pay the slightest attention to Wilkins ravings in connection with your speech and the published reference to the chart. If we can work up an account that will be publishable and salable we have every right to use the Wilkins chart and any statements in his book. He overlooks the American copyright law that anything published as a FACT cannot be copyrighted and it is not our fault that his chart and some of his remarks are pure fiction. He publishes them as factual. It is possible that the English law is a bit different but the book was published in the United States and we can publish ours there too. I believe further correspondence with Wilkins is useless and I shall certainly not send him any further information.

ough he is so completely gullible that it is a terrific temptation to get up a few really good stories for his benefit. Possibly the only answer he is entitled to is the good old American reply of "Nerts" If you have the time and can locate Nolan it might be well to get a first-hand version of just what he is up to. There is a strong possibility that he is trying to raise funds to continue his work at Shad Bay and has concocted this tale and produced a rock to attract interest. I imagine the Wilkins version of his letter is as garbled as everything else that Wilkins tries to report and it is very possible that the mysterious bay and cove which Wilkins does not reveal is St. Margarets. I shall be very interested to hear anything you may unearth about this latest thing. Best regards to all the family.

Sincerely

Gilbert D. Hedden

Gilbert D. Hedden

P.S. I shall return your first chapter and another document of yours written earlier, next week.



Please return the various letters enclosed when you are finished with them as I have no copies.

G.D.H.

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