

GILBERT D. HEDDEN
140 FAIRMOUNT AVENUE
CHATHAM, N.J.

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MGI Vol. 381

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

July 31st, 1938

Dear Mr. Harris:

I recieved your letter with the Murphy bill and will forward him a check immediately. I knew of the bill but was under the impression that Horrocks had paid it while there last year. I have inquired now and find that I am in error.

I have word that Hamilton is back at the site and is very probably drilling by now so that any questions you may have in regard to his part in the various agreements can be taken up with him direct on the island. As I recall our conversation we finally decided that you were to approach him on the question of the new percentages and that the easiest way of procedure would be to effect an extension of my agreement with Blair and then to make a new one between Hamilton and myself contingent on the first. You also had in mind the formation of an agreement of procedure in the event of a successful recovery though I do not think that this is immediately necessary. Also the matter of the trust agreement for the property with the Eastern Trust Co. In connection with this it might be very well to start some sort of negotiation with the Dauphinees to see what their ultimate price and terms may be and also to ascertain just how far the Trust Co will cooperate in an arrangement to get title to the entire island. I will very possibly be able to spare a small amount but in view of the uncertainty of my personal situation I cannot let too much go at the present time. Will be glad to hear from you with any suggestion in this regard for I think it would be a shame to have anyone else get in there as long as we have the opportunity to control it.

In my agreement with Hamilton I would suggest that I be given full protection against any property liens arising from his operations, also that the fact that he has agreed to assume full responsibility for the return or storage of the S & H equipment as well as my deposit and equity in the power line. The agreement is in the name of S & H but the money belongs to me. If we could in any way release all or part of this sum it could be applied to the proposed Dauphinee purchase. The only lien that S & H have on it is approximately \$500.00 I owe them for work done which I will clean up in the next week or ten days. You have my power of attorney and can make any arrangement with Hamilton you feel advisable. I also suggested to Hamilton and Krupp that an inventory of supplies and equipment owned by me be made and maintained. There probably is a few hundred dollars worth of miscellaneous stuff such as shovels, picks etc and I would not press that item too much for it could hardly be sold and would only be useful to someone attempting a recovery

Then too you will recall that you suggested some sort of a lease agreement for the tea-room now operating on the island.

If you will get the August copy of The American Magazine you will find that Driscoll has put two and two together and made

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five, in a rather hashed up and garbled account of the latest development there, though I will admit that he is very careful not to commit himself.

The article for the SATEVEPOST of which I spoke to you, has been submitted to them for approval and they have suggested that they want more detail concerning me in it. I have been feeling out around the County for the chances and support I might have if I decided to run for County Sheriff this Fall and I am not at all sure yet of my chances or what effect such publicity would have if I decide to run. It is a good paying position with a term of three years and well might be a solution to the difficulties I anticipate next year and would certainly contribute toward the support of the family. All of which leads to the fact that I am to have a conference tomorrow with the author and decide whether we should hold it for this Winter or put in as little personal reference as they will permit.

I still think a book of some sort would be desirable but we do need some finale to make it attractive to the public. Let us hope that one will come along either with a successful recovery or the exposition of the whole thing as a painful hoax. I have just received word that a Capt Vaughn, born on the island and now 86 years old, is in New York and I intend to go over and interview him. One reason that prompts me to do so is the rumor that the Vaughns and McGinnis' moved from Connecticut with some knowledge of a hiding place known by Kidd and that they either had a clew or a chart that led them to the island, thus making the discovery deliberate rather than by chance as is usually recounted. Vaughn is a direct descendant of the original Vaughn and will undoubtedly have some interesting material anyway. I shall write you any detail I acquire in the interview.

I hope to be permitted to make a short visit in the Fall just before Hamilton quits for the season and arrange definitely with him about next year. In the mean time I shall be in Chatham most of the time and any agreements should be forwarded to that address 140 Fairmount Ave., Chatham, N.J. Best regards to the family and yourself with the hope that we may see you in the Fall. I have also written to both Blair and Hamilton.

Sincerely

Gilbert D. Hedden
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