

(Chateau de Beauport)

October 29

/21

Rev, Professor Macnaughton,
Queen's University,
Kingston, Ont.

Dear Sir:-

You may recall an opening sentence in your address to the St James Literary Society some years ago, on our "Old Merchants and Fur Traders", wondering if any of us knew why McTavish Street was so called and my humbly murmuring, "Simon McTavish".

I have become interested in his story, particularly as it concerns his Monument, and would be grateful if you could supply any data, or say where I might hopefully look for it.

I know something of the various cadastral plans of his Estate, the site and appearance of the house and some of the legends attached to it; something of the bequest of lands to his nephew John, British Consul in Baltimore, where he married Emily Caten in 1816. She was alive in 1861 and took action against Hugh Allan purchaser of part of the Estate, for infringement of rights respecting the plot where the Monument still stands, though in a state of great disrepair. I have his burial certificate signed by four important citizens and J. Mountain, Anglican Rector, and have access to the Executors' Statement in settlement of the Estate, and I am now trying to trace the body from its original place of interment to the "Tomb" - now only a heap of ruins - to where it may now actually be, if not under these ruins.

If you intend making any special or extended note of McTavish in your book, I would be glad to furnish you, in exchange, any data which I may have, or will, I hope, get, and you may lack.

Very truly yours,

Please address:

SAMUEL M. BAYLIS,
808 University Street
TELEPHONE UP. 2032
MONTREAL

Samuel M. Baylis

(Chateau de Ramezay)

October 29

/21

Dr A. G. Doughty,
Dominion Archives,
Ottawa.

Dear Sir:-

Some of us have become interested in the story of Simon McTavish, who died here July 6, 1804, and are approaching it from different angles - ownership and bequest of Estate - title to plot reserved for monument - original burial place - erection of monument - removal of body to "Tomb" (shown in "Hochelaga Depicta" but now only a heap of ruins) - present place of sepulture - &c, and I would be very grateful if you would say if you have anything which would throw authentic light on the subject, or where I might hopefully look for it.

Very truly yours,

Samuel M. Baylis

Please address:

SAMUEL M. BAYLIS,

808 University Street

TELEPHONE UP. 2032

MONTREAL

How to Use the University Library.

1. The University Library contains over 180,000 volumes, 31,000 pamphlets, and 1,100 periodicals, Government publications, and transactions of societies. Most of these are housed in the University Library, situated between the Campus and McTavish Street. This building also contains the Law Library, the Blackader Library of Architecture, the Emma Shearer Wood Library of Ornithology, and the Blacker Library of Zoology.

2. Special reference collections will be found in the Departments of Physics, Social Service, Physical Education, and the School for Graduate Nurses. The Medical Library is situated in the Medical Building.

3. The card catalogue to the University Library will be found in cases on the floor of the Reading Room. Entries for authors, subjects, and titles are arranged in one alphabet and should be consulted in the same way as the headings in an encyclopaedia or a dictionary. The ordinary author card contains the following entries: call number, author's name in full, date of his life, title of book, place and date of publication, paging and size.

4. For a book by a certain author look under his name (printed in black on the first line of the card), where you will find his writings listed, with one card for each book.

5. For a book on a definite subject look for the subject (printed in red on the first line of the card), and you will find what the Library has. If you do not find the subject wanted, look under other possible names than the one selected. Frequently the catalogue will suggest which of alternative forms has been used—for instance, it will refer you from "Government" to "Political Science," or from "Grammar" to "Language—Grammar." Sometimes at the end of a set of subject cards you will be told to "see also" certain other headings where you will find additional related information—for example, in addition to the books bearing the red subject heading "Education" you will be referred to additional information under the headings "Architectural Education; Classical Education; Scientific Education; etc."

6. Fiction, plays, and books with striking or unusual titles are catalogued under the title as well as by author. *Societies* are entered under their names and *periodicals* under their titles. Government publications are entered under the name of the country. For *biography* look either under the name of the author of the book or under the name of the person written about.

7. Coloured cards are used for special purposes : blue cards for bibliographies or lists of books on a subject or person ; green for biography or an individual ; yellow for criticism or interpretation ; pink for cards which are temporarily removed from the Catalogue.

8. The Stack is not open to students. In calling for a book use the call slips provided : white for books to be used in the Reading Room only, and pink for books to be drawn for home use. Fill in the call number which appears at the upper left-hand corner of the card, being careful to copy it exactly and to put in the period, plus sign, or two parallel lines which indicate the size of the book (octavo, quarto, or folio) ; fill in the author's name and title of the book ; sign your name and address, and present the slip at the Delivery Desk. Be sure to indicate any special collection stamped on catalogue card, such as " Barnes Collection," " Blacker Library."

9. The shelves in the Reading Room contain the following classes of books : Encyclopædias, dictionaries, and general works of reference are on the north side. These may be consulted freely in the Reading Room but may not be taken from the building. At the east end and on the south side beyond the fireplace are the books reserved for reference in special courses. The shelves are numbered to correspond to the Departments and courses. For conditions under which these books may be borrowed consult the Desk Attendant. The shelves between the fireplace and the Delivery Desk contain new books added to the Library and the books belonging to the University Book Club. These latter are not available for use by students and are not to be removed from the shelves.

10. Books in special demand are kept on the shelves behind the Delivery Desk.

11. Current periodicals may be found in the small room next to the men's coat-room. For back numbers or bound volumes, consult the catalogue and apply at the Desk.

12. If you have any difficulty in finding information from the Catalogue do not hesitate to ask for assistance from the Attendant at the Desk. *The attention of students is called to the following extracts from the Regulations of the Library Committee.*

13. The University Library is closed on Sundays and on certain other holidays, as noted in the *Calendar of Meetings*. With a few exceptions, which are posted in the Library at the appropriate time, it is open as follows :—

(a) During the session, from 9 a.m. till 6 p.m. and from 7 till 10 p.m. On Saturdays from 9 a.m. till 5 p.m.

(b) During vacation, from 9 a.m. till 5 p.m. On Saturdays, from 9 a.m. till 1 p.m., except during July and August, when the Library is closed on Saturdays.

14. Students in the Faculties of Arts, Law, and Applied Science are entitled to read in the Library and may borrow books (subject to the regulations) to the number of three volumes at one time.

15. Students in the Faculty of Medicine, who have paid the Library fee to the Bursar, may also read in the University Library, and on depositing the sum of \$5, may borrow books on the same condition as students in other faculties.

16. Graduates in any of the faculties, on making a deposit of \$5, are entitled to the use of the Library, subject to the same rules and conditions as students in Arts, Law, or Applied Science.

17. Books may be taken from the Library only after they have been charged at the delivery desk ; borrowers who cannot attend personally must sign and date an order, giving the titles of the books desired.

18. Books shelved in the reading rooms or seminary-rooms must not be taken from the rooms to which they have been assigned ; and, after they have been used, they must be returned promptly by readers to their proper places upon the shelves.

19. Before leaving the Library, readers must return to the attendant at the delivery desk books which they have drawn from the stack for use in the reading-room.

20. All persons using books remain responsible for them so long as the books are charged to them, and borrowers returning books must see that their receipt is properly cancelled.

21. Writing or making any mark upon any book belonging to the Library is unconditionally forbidden. Any person found guilty of wilfully damaging any book in any way shall be excluded from the Library and shall be debarred from the use thereof for such time as the Library Committee may determine.

22. Damage to or loss of any books, maps, or plates, and injury of library fixtures, must be made good to the satisfaction of

the Librarian and the Library Committee. Damage, loss or injury, when the responsibility cannot be traced, will be made good out of the caution money deposited by the students with the Bursar.

23. Should any borrower fail to return a book upon the date when its return is due, he may be notified by postal card, and requested to return the book. If the time has not been extended, or the book returned, after a further delay of at most three days, the book may be sent for by special messenger, at the borrower's expense, or may be replaced and paid for, in the case of a student, out of the caution moneys of such student; in the case of graduates or other borrowers, out of their library deposits. *A fine of five cents for ordinary books and of twenty-five cents for reference books is imposed for each day that a book is overdue.*

24. Before the close of each session, students must return uninjured, or replace to the satisfaction of the Librarian, all books which they have borrowed.

25. Silence must be strictly observed in the Library.

26. Infringement of any of the rules of the Library will subject the offender to a suspension of his privileges, or to such other penalty as the nature of the case may require.

G. R. LOMER,
University Librarian.

Montreal, October 29, 1921.

W. Ormiston Roy Esq.,
Mount Royal Cemetery,
CITY.

IN RE SIMON McTAVISH

Dear Mr Roy:-

In recalling your kind promise to see if your records will disclose missing links in the story in which I am taking some interest, I subscribe some known facts which may interest and assist you.

(1) Simon McTavish died "on Friday last the 6th instant at his country seat near the mountain" - (Gazette, July 9, 1804). He was buried - ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ place not stated, but presumably the Protestant Cemetery, acquired 1799, now Dufferin Square - on the 8th July 1804, as certified by J. Mountain, Anglican Rector, and four witnesses, all important names connected with deceased by blood, marriage, or business ties.

(2) A Monument, inscribed as "erected by his nephews, William and Duncan McGillivray" (no date given), and a "Tomb", with steps leading up to it, are illustrated on the title page of "Hochelaga Depicta", 1839. The Monument and steps exist, in great disrepair, to-day, but in place of the "Tomb" is a mound of stones, filled in with earth, which may have originally formed the "Tomb"

QUERIES - Was the interment in the Old Cemetery as certified?
Was the body later exhumed, and when?
Was it transferred to the "Tomb", or Mount Royal, then or later?
Where is its present resting place?

If the M. R. Cemetery records afford this information I would be grateful if you would be good enough to let me have it.

I am also desirous of learning the circumstances and date of the erection of Monument and "Tomb", which must have ^{been} between 1804 & 1839; if the picture correctly represents both as they originally stood; and, if so, when and how the "Tomb" came to be destroyed and the mound-constructed out of the debris; and if the body lies under the ruins; but, except, possibly on the last point by implication, I fear that your records may be silent.

November 2 1921

Very truly yours,

Mr Roy telephoned today that a careful search through the records fails to show that Simon McTavish was buried in any of the Protestant Cemeteries. The inference is therefore, that he was buried in the plot on his estate where the monument now stands, & presumably the body is still there.

Samuel Bayly

271 Prince Arthur St. West.

Nov. 2. 1921

Dear Mr. Baylis,

I am sorry to say the edition
of the "History of St. Gabriel Church"
was exhausted a good many
years ago.

There are, however, some extra
unbound sheets which I am now
considering having bound as there
is a demand for a few copies.

I think the price will not be
less than three dollars, as the cost
of binding has risen, but, if I
should have any bound, I shall

let you know of the fact and
also of the price,

Yours sincerely,
Kate Campbell.

EMUEL M. BAYLIS,
808 University Street
TELEPHONE UP. 2032
MONTREAL

Montreal, November 5, 1921.

S. W. Ewing Esq.,
CITY.

Dear Mr Ewing:-

You will recall the appointment at the last Council meeting of a Committee to look into the matter of the McTavisk Monument with a view to its preservation.

We are getting at it from several angles with some success, have secured useful data, and hope to get more.

Believing that personal recollections of the older citizens will be valuable, I thought of Mr McCord, but find he is not well enough to be seen. Mr J. R. Dougall gave me his recollections and drew a rough sketch of the "House of a hundred windows" as he counted them, and Mr Lighthall tells me of a recent conversation which he had with Mr S. H. Ewing who gave him some recollections of the House, the Tomb, the old roadway leading up to it, now absorbed by the City into the Park, and the action, Caton vs Hugh Allan, taken in 1861, for restitution of property rights in the Plot, apparently resulting as shown to-day in the semi-circular piece of land jutting into the Allan property and surrounded by a wooden fence.

Mr Ewing's recollections on these or other points within his view should be so valuable that in the interest of antiquarian research and public information I hope he will feel moved to put them on record.

He could reel these off, without any attempt at literary finish, as quickly as the stenographer could take them down, and we might have a typed copy if you would suggest that he be good enough to do it.

Very truly yours,

Emuel M Baylis



S. H. EWING & SONS, Limited

COFFEES, SPICES, CORKS,
WHOLESALE TEAS
AND GENERAL
COMMISSION MERCHANTS.

98 TO 104 KING STREET MONTREAL, November 10th., 1912.

Dear Mr. Baylis;-

W. 5885 W

My son has handed your letter to him of the 10th., of November, and I now have pleasure in complying with your request in giving you as much information as I possibly can in connection with the McTavish house and monument. My recollection is that in 1852 an exhibition was held in the grounds, in which the old house stood. The late David Denner had a very good picture of the house. As far as I can remember it was three stories, and quite a number of small windows were in it, it was built of stone, and on each gable there were round towers, these towers only ran to the first story or a little above it, with circular roofs, and they were covered with some sort of material which shown like gold. At this time the floor in the first story had been more or less removed, and the house never being occupied was badly out of repair, and much of the material had been moved by thieves. It was said when the house was demolished the remaining timber was used in building "Braehead", afterwards occupied by the Late M.H.Gault. The McTavish monument of course stands where it then stood, and was in good repair at that time. I remember that when Sir Hugh Allan built "Ravenscrag" there was some trouble as it was said Sir Hugh was encroaching on land which belonged to the McTavish monument, but I do not remember how the matter was settled. As regards the land on which the house stood, Sherbrooke St., was open, but there were no houses on it at that time. Sherbrooke St., where The Prince of Wales Terrace now stands was all fields, and a plain fence ran along Sherbrooke St., with a gate that opened into the grounds, which if I remember rightly, would be about the centre of The Prince of Wales Terrace. The late John Leeming of Montreal was the President of the exhibition which was held in the foresaid year. The house had the reputation of being haunted, as Mr. McTavish's death was said to have been tragic, but as to the truth of that I know very little

Trusting the above information will be of interest, and regretting I cannot furnish you with more.

I remain,
Yours sincerely,

Samuel M. Baylis, Esq.,

C i t y.

S. H. Ewing

W. 5885 W
thanks!

(Château de Ramozay)

October 29

/21

The British Consul,
Baltimore, Md., U.S.A.

Sir:-

May I trouble you on a matter in which you may be of some service
ice for which I should be extremely grateful?

Simon McTavish, one of our old Merchants and Fur Traders, died
here July 6 1804 and presumably lies buried in an isolated plot
on his Estate now part of Mount Royal Park, where a monument, erected
to his memory by his nephews, William and Duncan McGillivray,
still stands within an iron railing and surrounding stone wall.

John McTavish, nephew and heir of Simon, was British Consul in
Baltimore in 1843, if not also before and after that date. In
1816 he married Emily Caton (or Katen) of the same State if not
City and died in 1850, leaving property to his wife, who is said
to have been connected with the American Commissioner (1775-6)
Charles Carroll of Carrollton. She was alive in 1861 and took
action here to preserve the reservation of burial place and ap-
parently succeeded in her demand.

Some of us have become interested in the story of Simon Mc
Tavish and are approaching it from different angles with the aid
of such data as are available here.

It has occurred to me that there may be living in Baltimore
descendants of John McTavish and Emily Caton who might be in
possession of information or family papers which would throw
light upon and afford the human touch to this story of the past,
and if you know or can hear of such persons who would communi-
cate with me I should be very pleased and thankful to you and
them.

Respectfully yours,

Samuel M. Baylis

Please address:

SAMUEL M. BAYLIS,

808 University Street

TELEPHONE UP. 2032

MONTREAL

BRITISH CONSULATE ~~GENERAL~~

BALTIMORE

Ref. No.
1104/21.

18th November, 1921.

Dear Sir,

With reference to your letter of the 29th October last relative to the descendants of Simon McTavish, I find that according to the Foreign Office List, John McTavish was appointed British Consul at Baltimore on the 15th October 1834, and that he died at his post on the 21st June 1852.

I am informed that a certain Carroll McTavish, who is believed to have been the son of John McTavish, had issue by his wife, Ellen Gilmer McTavish, a son named Frank McTavish who married and had issue:

- (i) a son Richard Caton McTavish, who is still alive, his address being c/o "Arizona Daily Star", Tucson, Arizona; and
- (ii) a daughter, Anita McTavish who married first George Elder, by whom she had a son, Carroll McTavish Elder, now living, aged about 21. The name of her second husband is not known to me. She is now dead.

I do not know whether Mr. Richard Caton McTavish would be able to furnish any information about his family, but it might be worth while communicating with him.

I am, Yours faithfully,

Hugh Alex. Ford
H. B. M. Consul.

Samuel M. Baylis, Esq.,
808 University Street,
Montreal.

SAMUEL M. BAYLIS,

108 University Street

TELEPHONE UP. 2032

MONTREAL

Montreal, November 21, 1921.

Hugh Alex: Ford Esq.,
British Consul,
Baltimore, Md. U.S.A.

IN RE SIMON McTAVISH Ref No 1104/21

Dear Sir:-

I have your very courteous letter of 19th instant, and thank you most heartily for your very kind interest in the matter and the useful data which you have so carefully compiled.

Our enquiries are being made on purely antiquarian and historical lines, and I shall write to Mr Richard Caton McTavish to see if he can throw any more light on the matter than we have here in documents and Court Records and the recollections of the "oldest inhabitant".

There is, of course, no question of pecuniary interest to any heir, close or remote, as all such matters were settled under the Will of Simon transmitting the property to his nephew John who bequeathed his whole Estate to his wife Emily Caton. She was alive in 1861 and took action against a neighboring proprietor for encroachment on the ground occupied by and reserved for the Tomb and Monument since the first sale by John. After 8 years of litigation the demand for restitution was granted in the final judgment of the Court of Appeal in 1869.

In these 60 after years of apparent indifference and neglect by any interested parties, the Monument and its appurtenances have fallen into great disrepair, and being private property - still registered in the name of "Widow of John McTavish" - the City disclaims all responsibility for its care; but our hope is that failing descendants willing and able we may get the authorities to change their attitude on public grounds, the Monument being the oldest, among the many we now have, in the City, commemorating one of the great pioneers of its commercial history.

By a curious co-incidence, a lady, Mrs Jessie Munro Coffey, dropped in here casually yesterday, claiming, though vaguely, descent from old Simon, and expressing a wish to see the burial place which her mother, who was born here, sometimes spoke of. We were pleased to assist her in her desire and she promised to make enquiries and send us any data which she might be able to procure.

Againn thanking you,

I am, dezz Sir,

very truly yours,

SAMUEL M. BAYLIS

(*Antoine de Ramezay*)

November 22,

21

Richard Caton McTavish Esq.,
c/o "Arizona Daily Star",
Tucson, Arizona, U.S.A.

Dear Sir:-

As you may perhaps know, your ancestor, Simon McTavish, was one of our old Merchants and Fur-Traders who died here July 6, 1804, and was buried in a Tomb, now in ruins, in an isolated plot on his Estate, now forming part of our Mount Royal Park. A Monument was there erected to his memory by two of his nephews, one of whom died and was buried in the same Vault in the year 1808, along with others of the family who died later. A wall, now falling to decay, was built around the plot in 1846-7, and the ground consecrated in 1848, thus setting it apart forever from the sphere of commerce.

The entailed lands, passing over deceased children, came into the possession of John McTavish, your great grandfather (?), who was British Consul at Baltimore, 1834-1852, when he died, leaving all his property to his wife, Emily Caton, whom he married in 1816, and who is said to be connected with the Carrolls of Carrollton, hence the recurrence of the family names. The Estates were presumably disposed of by Will of the last inheritor and there is, consequently, nothing more than a sentimental interest attaching to descendants, the title a merely nominal one, in which the City disclaims all interest of ownership or care of the Plot, being still registered in the name of "Widow of John McTavish".

We are looking into the matter from the antiquarian and historical point of view with the idea of interesting the family, the public, and the City in the preservation of this old relic of early days, and thinking that you, or your sister Anita, or her son, Carroll McTavish Elder, said to be "now living, aged about 21", his mother being dead (Baltimore?), or others of the connection who may be known to you, may have preserved papers or traditions relating to the life, death and burial of Simon McTavish, might be able and willing to supply missing data which would assist in our researches, I take this liberty of writing you in the hope that you can and if so kindly will throw further light on this interesting story of our historic past.

Faithfully yours,

SAMUEL M. BAYLIS;

808 University Street

TELEPHONE UP. 2092

MONTREAL

PUBLIC ARCHIVES OF CANADA

Ottawa, 24th November, 1921.

Return to

Samuel M. Baylis, Esq.,
308 University St.,
MONTREAL.

with the documents

Dear Sir,

In answer to your letter of the 29th ultimo, asking for information respecting Simon McTavish, I beg to say that I have been able to find very little. I inclose copies of five documents which touch on the intended purchase of the McTavish grounds by Government, in 1828.

Have you seen Mr. E.Z. Massicotte, Archivist at the Court House, Montreal? I believe he is the man who could most help you in your work.

Sincerely yours,

Francis J. Audet

Chief of the Index and Information.

PUBLIC ARCHIVES, Series C.Vol.606,p.54.

Plan shewing the Land upon the Mountain near Montreal proposed
to be bought by the Government.

R. Piper Capt. R.En.

With letter of Respective Officers 3 May 1828.

PUBLIC ARCHIVES OF CANADA.

Series C. vol. 606, pp. 55-56.

Copy.

Office of Ordnance
Quebec 3^d May 1828.

Sir,

I have the honor to enclose copies of a correspondence relative to a reserve to the Crown of 500 acres of Land, which has been located to Individuals (apparently without authority) round the Montreal Mountain. We therefore request your opinion upon this point to be transmitted to the Board of Ordnance The French concessions and Titles, or copies of them We understand have been furnished you by Mr Montizambert, then Acting Provincial Secretary and if any further documents relating to this reserve are required by you they will be furnished upon application.

We have &c.

(Signed) R. Penn O.S.

Edw. Durnford, Col. M. Gore D.S.
Com^d Rl. Eng^s

Jas. Cockburn, Lt. Col.
Com^d Rl. Arty.

True Copy

M. Gore, D^{ty} Storekp.

The Attorney General

&c., &c., &c.

Rl. Engr. Office
Montreal 19th Novbr 1828.

Gentlemen,

Having seen a paragraph in the several Public Prints of this Town setting for the sale of a Small Block of Land belonging to a "Mr. De Rocher" on the 15th of the ensuing Month, and which is situated in the Line surveyed by us at the Northern extremity of the Mountain, and is part of the property which will eventually be required for the use of the Government (should the projected defences ever be carried into effect) I deem it my duty to acquaint you with it, and especially as there will be many individuals who for the purpose of gain will be inclined to purchase this Ground, hoping the Government will at a future period be obliged to give them whatever additional value they may be pleased to set on it; and as the present may not only be a favourable opportunity whereby you may come at the real value of the remainder of the Ground on the Title, and by which a part of it may now be secured to the Public at a comparative small cost, I herewith annex a description together with a Plan of it, and have the honor to be

Gentlemen

Your Obedt humble Servant

(Sd) R.S. Piper

Capt. Rl. Engr.

The Respective Officers

Montreal.

True copy

M. Gore

Dty Storekpr.

To be sold at Sheriffs sale on the 15th of December next.

The following Lots of Ground viz

4 Arpents in Front by 7 arpents in Depth, bounded in Front by Pierre DeRiviere Esquire in rear by John Gray Esquire; on the North side of the Montreal Mountain, by the representatives of the late Simon McTavish Esquire; including a Road of 20 feet wide, running along the line of said Land - Representatives Lepalleur being all in Standing wood, and is enclosed in the rear, and on both sides.

PUBLIC ARCHIVES OF CANADA.

Series C. Vol. 606, p. 59.

Copy.

Office of Ordnance

Montreal 19th Novbr 1828.

Gentlemen

In transmitting to you the enclosed documents relative to a sale of Ground situated on the Montreal Mountain to take place at the Sheriffs Office on the 15 December next.

We have the honor to draw your attention to the Circumstance of all ground not capable of culture being by the French Law the property of the Crown, which privilege was no doubt ceded with all others at the conquest of this Country, as a further proof it becomes necessary to observe that on the 21st of April 1659 the Company of New France, in conceding the Island of Montreal to Pierre Chevrier Esquire made a reserve of 500 Acres of Land round the Mountain in case a Fort was built there for the Maintenance of the Troops; already shewing that the mountain without question is the property of the Crown otherwise it would have been also mentioned.

It is also our opinion that no proper Titles can be produced by the present holders of the Ground on this Mountain, & therefore we take leave earnestly to request, that no time be lost in obtaining the opinion of the Law Officers of the Crown, on a case likely to be of such vast importance to the Government.

In the event of the right of the Crown being admitted on opposition to the sale in question should be sent to the Sheriffs Office before the sale which takes place on the 15 Decr. next, it would also be desirable that orders be given that the Title Deeds of the present holders of the Ground on the Mountain be produced to the Ordnance Officers, or some other means taken to the end that Government may be satisfied of their Legality.

We have

We have &c.

(Signed)

E.Figg

F.Sisson

Lt.Col.Com^S R.Engs.

O.S.

Com^S Officer Rl.Art^V

not at the Office.

True copy

M.Gore

D^V Storekp^r

PUBLIC ARCHIVES OF CANADA.

Series C.Vol.606,p.62.

Office of Ordnance
Quebec 25th November 1828.

Sir

We have the honor to forward to be laid before His Excellency the Commander of the Forces, the copy of a letter from the Respective Officers at Montreal of the 19th Instant, with sundry inclosures relating to a sale to take place at the Sheriffs Office on the 15th December next, of a lot of ground within the supposed Crown reserve at the Mountain of Montreal, and we beg you will be pleased to obtain His Excellencys authority for the Attorney General to take the necessary legal measures to ascertain the rights of the several individuals to the land of which they are in possession within the limits of the 500 acres supposed to have been reserved for Military purposes

We beg leave to enclose the copy of a letter we addressed on the 3rd May last to the Attorney General on this subject, whose opinion we have not received, but by the same may be (if possible) obtained, before the sale of the above mentioned lot takes place and if the subject requires a longer period for consideration, that the claim may be laid (for the rights of Government) in the usual manner before the Sale is effected.

We have the honor to be, Sir,

Your most obedient humble servants

E.W.Durnford Col.
Com^d Rl.Eng.

Richard Penn
O.S.

Jas. Cockburn, Lt. Col.
Com^d Roysl. Arty.

M.Gore
DY Storekp^r

Lieut.Colonel Couper
Military Secretary

Public Archives of Canada
Series C vol 606 pp 55 r
in re

Reservation of Crown Lands
on Mt. Modoc
for fortifications

SAMUEL M. BAYLIS,

808 University Street

TELEPHONE UP. 2032

MONTREAL

Montreal, November 25, 1921.

Dr A. G. Doughty,
Dominion Archivist,
OTTAWA.

IN RE SIMON McTAVISH, Search Ref No 4573

Dear Sir:-

Please accept for yourself and convey to Mr Audet my best thanks for your interest in my enquiries and courtesy in transcribing the documents which you have sent me.

The point of Crown ownership in the Mountain forest land is new to me, but I fancy it was never pressed and that the present owners are quite content with their titles.

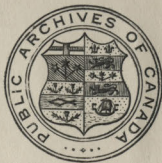
Of course we know of Mr Massicotte's mine of wealth and unfailing ^{in both} courtesy, and I have drawn largely in my researches, upon which I have been occupied for the month past since writing you. I have made copious notes in all directions and have even got on the trail of living descendants of John, nephew and legatee of Simon, though we still lack data concerning the times of erection of Tomb and Monument, and when the former fell into the ruin which it now presents.

I do not know what shape these notes may eventually assume, as we are getting all available information with a view to interesting the public and the City in preserving these old relics of the past.

I think, however, that in the public interest you would do well to consider compiling a "docket" of McTavish and interlocking contemporaries, and I could put you on the trail of documents which would be of much historical interest in such connection, in typing which you might possibly be good enough to include carbon copies for me.

Very truly yours,

(Sgd) Samuel M. Baylis



Hawa,

Nov. 25th 1921.

Dear Mr. Taylor,

We have no very
tender in hand at the
present for the Government.
that I have no one to
spare to work up the
Mr. Tassie question.

The suggestion is a
good one & I shall
undoubtedly take up
the earliest moment.

Yours faithfully,
A. D. Donohue.

SAMUEL M. BAYLIS,

808 University Street

TELEPHONE UP. 2032

MONTREAL

Montreal, November 28, 1921.

E6272
Edgar Gariépy Esq.,
704 St Denis St.,
CITY.

IN RE M/TAVISH MONUMENT AND HOUSE

Dear Mr Gariépy:-

I suppose you are getting along with the photos of the two pictures in Mr Massicotte's possession and the picture in the McCord Museum and will be sending me the six copies which I ordered very shortly.

There is a picture of Montreal in 1811 in the Chateau which I have permission to photo and Mr O'Leary will show you.

I would like a photo of this reduced to about 8 X 10 or less if you think it will come out clearly enough for illustration and record as the plates are made. I would also like another of a section in the centre showing the House, Farm House, and Monument about 4 X 6 enlarged to say 5 X 7. I have left with Mr O'Leary a paper showing the size of the section which he will explain if it is not, as I think, quite clear to you. I would like one copy of each of these and I think Mr Lighthall wants some or all of the prints you are making for me, but you will please ask him and take his order direct.

Please send me all the prints together with the bill and I will send you a cheque.

Very truly yours,

SAMUEL M. BAYLIS

(Chateau paper)

November 28th

21

J. Henderson Esq.,
Supt. Mount Royal Park,
CITY.

IN RE SIMON McTAVISH

Dear Sir:-

Since telephoning you we have been pursuing our enquiries and have unearthed much that is not generally known concerning the life, death and burial of this old Merchant and Fur-Trader who died in 1804. He was buried, with others of the family later, in the Tomb or Vault once forming a chief ornament of the walled plot on the mountain, but now only a ruinous mound of piled up stones and earth. Writers as late as 1902 speak of the Tomb as "still to be seen", and some of our older citizens well remember it, but so far I cannot learn when it fell into ruin and by whom or at whose orders the mound was constructed.

I know that the City has no jurisdiction, but as this forms an important link in the story, I would be very grateful if you could by search in the Park records or enquiry among the old officials and employees, discover the facts in this respect and let me know.

Faithfully yours,

Samuel M. Baylis

Please address:

SAMUEL M. BAYLIS,
808 University Street
TELEPHONE UP. 2032
MONTREAL



PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

MOUNT ROYAL PARK

Montreal, November 29th. 1921

Mr. Samuel M. Baylis,
808 University Street,
CITY.

Dear Sir:-

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 28th. instant, and must thank you very much for the information you have given me; but I am very sorry to say that I cannot give you any further information, as I have inquired from our oldest employes with regard to the McTavish monument, and none of them have any recollection of the City having done any work whatever on the monument.

Yours very truly,

John Anderson

Superintendent, Mount-Royal Park.

(Chateau)

December 2nd

21

Sir Montagu Allan,
"Ravenscrag",
CITY.

Sir:-

We are looking into the story of SIMON Mc TAVISH, particularly as it touches on his later life, death and burial in 1804 in the "Tomb" on the Mountain, along with others of the family who died later, which becomes more interesting as the little known facts are disclosed from a study of contemporary Documents, Inventories, Court Records, Printed matter, and Pictures.

We are assembling all available data prior to an effort to interest the public and the City authorities - who, as the plot is still registered in private ownership, disclaim all responsibility of supervision and care - in the preservation of this (our oldest) monument to a Pathfinder in the fields of Montreal's commercial supremacy, and hope you may be interested at least to the extent of supplementing our information with any knowledge which you may possess.

Writers as late as 1893-7 speak of the Tomb as well as the Shaft as "still to be seen," but you will have observed the ruinous condition of the structures and the sad state of neglect which the whole enclosure now presents, and you may, perhaps, have also noticed that in place of the Tomb or Vault which once stood at the head of the steps there is now merely a Mound or Cairn of piled-up stones which evidently formed part of this vanished Tomb.

Can you recall the latest date at which you saw the Tomb in situ, and can you say when, if at all, you observed anyone engaged in this demolition and reconstruction, who they were, or by whose authority they were so acting? The late Hugh Taylor, who once owned the Hospital property, and was for long the McTavish Agent, and his papers or his heirs might furnish useful information were either available. Mr McCord could say much, but he so ill that I hesitate to trouble him.

I feel sure that any memories of the old Action are so deeply buried in the dim almost forgotten past that if you can you kindly will be pleased to throw what light you may be able on the point which puzzles us.

Respectfully yours,

SAMUEL M. BAYLIS

MERCHANTS BANK BUILDING,
205 ST JAMES STREET,

MONTREAL, 5th December, 1921.

Samuel M. Baylis, Esq.,

808 University Street,

M o n t r e a l.

Dear Sir,

I received your letter of December 2nd, and would gladly give you any information I possessed in regard to the Tomb on the Mountain of Simon McTavish, but I have none. I was in England and France for four years during the War, and do not remember having noticed any change in the appearance of the Tomb, etc., except that I remember noticing that the wall was very much out of repair, and that the enclosure had an unkept look, which I did not like, but otherwise I did not notice anything in particular until after my return, when I remember walking up to the reservoir with a friend of mine, and we went in and had a look at the Shaft, but I did not go any further, and I noticed then that it was all very badly in want of repair.

Can you tell me any particulars of the Law Suit you refer to? I suppose it has something to do with the land forming the approach to the Gate of the enclosure, as I have often thought it strange that the stone-wall forming

S.B.: 5/12/21: Contd:-2.

the boundary between "Ravenscrag" Property and the Park stopped at a certain distance from the wall forming the enclosure to the McTavish Monument, and that a wooden Fence was erected to form the rest of the boundary, so I will be glad to know the details of the Action, if there was one, merely from curiosity, as I have no hard feeling about it.

Yours faithfully,

H. Montague Allan

(Chateau)

December 7th

/21

Sir H. Montagu Allan,
Merchants Bank Building,
205 St James Street,
CITY.

IN RE SIMON MC TAVISH

Dear Sir:-

I am just in receipt of your kind favor of 5th instant and greatly appreciate your interest and courtesy in this matter. It was at the suggestion of Sir Thomas Reddick, conveyed through Lady Reddick, that I took the liberty of writing you, and I am glad that you did not resent it, as I feared.

I had a pleasant chat over the telephone today with Mr D. R. McCord, who, I am pleased to find, is quite well enough to speak, and take such an interest, as he does. Although he knows much of the story in general and remembers seeing the Tomb - indeed, has a water-color sketch of the walled plot in his museum of unknown though comparatively recent date - he can tell me nothing as to the ruinous condition of the Tomb therein shown as erected, and seems to be surprised at what I tell him about its present state.

Yes, there was such an Action for encroachment, Heirs McTavish vs Hugh Allan, instituted in 1861 and lasting until 1869, when it was settled by final judgment in Appeal with the results apparent in your boundaries. We only learned of it accidentally, and as it is of public record, I have drawn upon it freely for information in making up the "docket" which I am compiling for such use as may later appear.

Aside from the part you ought to know which directly concerns your property, the whole story as it develops is so fascinating from a historical and antiquarian point of view that I feel you might like me to give you a brief resumé of it; but it is too long to write, and if you care to appoint a free hour at your office, club, or home some afternoon, I will be glad to tell it and show you the file of papers and photographs which I hope to have completed by Friday. I merely suggest your house as perhaps mutually convenient and thinking that others of your family who may be at home might also possibly be interested, but I am entirely at your service and command.

Very truly yours,

SAMUEL M. BAYLIS,

808 University Street

TELEPHONE UP. 2032

MONTREAL

Samuel M. Baylis

69 Westminster Avenue
Montreal West, Dec. 8th 1921

Dear Mr Baylis

I enclose copy of the extracts I
made from the four depositions in the
Caton-Allan lawsuit. I hope you will
get Sir Montagu interested to the extent
of making some enquiries amongst any
of the Ravenserag servants who have been
there any length of time. Wishing you
luck.

Dec 9/21

3 pictures
delivered at
Chateau

Yours sincerely
Geo. H. Huxley Birch

John Horn - Dec 23 1921 (85) presents me with McTavish portrait which he copied from portrait owned by Reid Taylor abt 20 years ago. McTavish house sold to O.S. Wood 1959 & materials used by him in building his house "Bracehead" later bought by McQuail. Has an original letter of Simon McTavish written from Montreal which he may allow to be photographed. Also has McTavish's seal in wax mounted on piece of Chau Tartan with copy of above portrait - also prints of Tobiashe W. McCallaway, McQuail etc. Promises to write further information

Disturbed from that day to this. As McTavish died in 1804 - and he left his nephews well off - Wm & Duncan MacCallaway, and as they say on the oblique, which was still quite of plain old bread -
"as a graceful tribute -
for his many acts of kindness & showa to them they no doubt immediately ^{went} to work in the erection -
I climbed over the fence - ~~near~~ the left wall at rear end - many years ago - borrowing a ladder from the forester in charge of the Reservoir - I think with time, rain, wind - blowing down of trees - rolling down of stones has gradually covered the tomb. I thought some years ago the old stone wall ought to have been removed by the Park Com^{tee} & the space cleared up & made to be part of the Park - I wrote something in the Press to this effect - but it ended there. Many say he committed suicide - I have a copy his original death notice - not a word ^{hint} of suicide or compensation with some descended out relatives - they say the same - I have seen many letters to his wife & relatives - Galtovers - & others & not the slightest hint of any such thing, and as I think, what I know of him - through their knowledge I must confess I am of their opinion -
He was unquestionably the head & brains of the famous North West Fur Co. They had a branch

in London. ~~Richard~~ ^{James} ~~Forbes~~ ^{Sto} - He seems to have been very methodical. He usually folded his letters over ^{in three} & endorsed them on back.

Copy of letter to ~~Sto~~
Richard ~~Dun~~

23^d October 1799. - He was a nice

German. His wife as you probably know was a French Canadian - Miss Charlotte James McEgil of ^{also married Canadians} St. John's, did she ~~know~~ ^{know} - I once saw an account of an Englishman's visit to ~~St. J.~~ ^{which} said "she was one of the most beautiful women he had ever met". A thing I noticed in letters to him from all over the North West - from employers - or agents, ^{was} they invariably put a P.S. at the end of each epistle, ^{saying} "My kindest regards to Mrs. McEgil". ^{from} ~~St. J.~~ ^{St. J.} ~~McEgil~~ was a beautiful German -

I could say much more - but you better come around some evening & we can compare notes. I am afraid I am not giving you much that you do not know -

Yours Very truly

P.S. I remember now. Some years ago I had ~~some~~ ^{some} ~~date~~ ^{date} about ~~from~~ ^{from} ~~one~~ ^{one} ~~early~~ ^{early} during the war rail about the place

no Stone

I can show you his portrait a letter, his seal J.H.