



TWENTY-FIFTH ANNUAL SESSION

Meetings every Tuesday, 8.15 p.m., at  
The Engineering Institute of Canada,  
176 Mansfield Street  
TUESDAY 20th. Feby. 1923.

SIMON McTAVISH:-

Merchant; Fur-Trader;  
Adventurer-Unafraid.

(with lantern illustrations)

By SAMUEL M. BAYLIS

Mr. Baylis' paper is replete with unpublished documentary and pictorial matter of historical importance, and should prove of great importance to old Montrealers especially. Bring your friends.

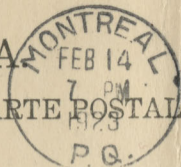
EDMOND T. SAYERS,

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'Phone: Rock. 573

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THE ADDRESS ONLY TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE.  
CÔTÉ RÉSERVÉ À L'ADRESSE.

S. M. Baylis, Esq.,

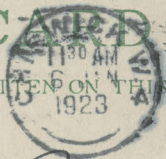
808 University St.

City

*July 2*

POST OFFICE

THE ADDRESS TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS



*Mr S. M. Baylis  
808 University Street  
Montreal  
Canada*

Jan 5<sup>th</sup> 29) 34 Balfour Grove  
Chiswick N4

Dear Sir, London England

I hope you have received Right  
Parcel Safely posted on Dec 13.

I received Telegram also Card.

Trusting you found the contents  
Satisfactory

I remain  
Yours truly  
F. Home

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*20 Hospital Street,*

*23 & 25 St. Sacrament St.*

*Montreal* Feb'y 17th, 1923. 19

ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO BE ADDRESSED TO THE COMPANY.

IN YOUR REPLY REFER TO

NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Mr. Baylis,

I find with regret that I shall after all be unable to be present at your Lecture to the St. James Literary Society next Tuesday, as I am leaving for New York tomorrow night, en route to England by the "Berengaria".

I wonder, though, if you would be kind enough to let me see your notes on "Simon McTavish" when I return. I am most interested and would be sorry to miss them.

With kind regards,

Yours very truly,

*Robt. Reford*

S. M. Baylis, Esq.-

808, University Street,  
Montreal.

(Draft for Mr Ewing)

ST JAMES LITERARY SOCIETY

Excerpt from Minutes of Meeting of February 20 1923

Moved by J.A. Ewing K.C.

Seconded by L.I. McMahan

AND RESOLVED:

THAT WHEREAS in an address before the Society on this date by Mr S.M. Baylis, Vice-President, it was disclosed that SIMON Mc TAVISH, one of the pioneer British merchants of Montreal, who, with his associates, did much to establish the commercial supremacy of their adopted City, died on July 6 1804 and was buried in a Tomb on his estate on the southern slope of Mount Royal where an imposing monument was erected to his memory by two of his nephews;

AND WHEREAS, as may be seen, the burial plot now presents an aspect of utter desolation, the surrounding wall and the monument itself having fallen into a condition of great disrepair and impending ruin; and considering the importance of this departed citizen, the esteem in which he was held by his contemporaries, and the fact that there are no known descendants able and willing to assume the responsibility for its restoration and maintenance;

WHEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the St James Literary Society respectfully submit to the early and favorable consideration of THE HISTORIC SITES COMMISSION the question of their assuming on public grounds the duty of the repair and up-keep of this, the oldest monument in the City, together with the Tomb, the surrounding wall, and the approach thereto, to the end that this important memorial be preserved and made accessible to visitors and the implied reproach of neglect and indifference be forever removed.

Certified to be a correct abstract of Minutes

Secretary-Treasurer.

The Historic Sites Commission,  
c/c Victor Morin, LL.D., N.P.  
97 St James Street,  
Montreal.

The Montreal Board of Trade.

Montreal, 21<sup>st</sup> Feb. 1923.

Dear Mr Bayles -

It was good of you to favour me with a card for last evening's meeting of the St. James Literary Society and because of the lecturer and his subject I hoped to be present but, as so often happens nowadays, I was too joggled to be able to go out in the evening and so missed what I am sure would have greatly interested me.

Thanking you for your thought  
of me

Believe me to remain,  
Yours faithfully,  
George Hadull

Samuel M. Bayles Esq.

TELEPHONE  
UPTOWN 4400.

F.W-T.

594 PINE AVENUE W.,  
MONTREAL.

Twenty-first  
February  
1923

My dear Mr. Baylis,

I had some faint hope that I might give myself the pleasure of hearing your address last night, but my plans were frustrated through the arrival in town of a friend unexpectedly.

Please accept my congratulations on your most interesting and illuminating address, which I sincerely hope will awaken interest in a matter that should be of importance to all Montrealers.

If you publish or have a typewritten copy of your MS, perhaps you would let me have it for my records.

Yours sincerely,

*Phillips Baylis*

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

✓  
Feb 23/23



Cable Address: "Chis"

*John A. Chisholm,*  
*Barrister, Solicitor,*  
*Notary Public, &c.*

*Offices, Pitt St.*

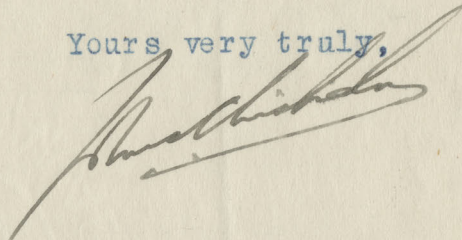
*Cornwall, Ont. Feby. 22nd 1923.*

S.M. Baylis, Esq.,  
808 University Street,  
Montreal, Quebec.

My dear Sir;-

I would much appreciate it if you could let me have the reading of your paper on Simon McTavish which you read evening of 20th inst before St. James Literary Society.

Yours very truly,



C.

Montreal, February 23, 1923.

John A. Chisholm Esq.,  
Barrister, Solicitor, &c.,  
Cornwall, Ont.

Dear Sir:-

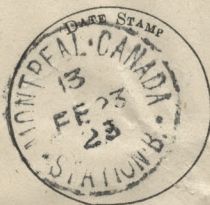
Apart from the marked approval of the audience, I have been gratified at the words of appreciation coming to me by letter, telephone, word of mouth, and in today's editorial in the Gazette, of my little paper on Simon McTavish. The Report, while good as far as it goes, was necessarily brief, and said nothing of the slides, which, with the documents, were the chief feature of what interest there was in the paper.

I have pleasure in sending you under another cover the duplicate MS with prints of the slides for your reading and early return, as there are a number of others who have asked for the same privilege. If you know of anything more than what I have dug up from quite unknown sources, I will be glad if you will let me have it.

Very truly yours,

*Lawrence Bayly*

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*B*

Postmaster.

This certificate should be kept and submitted in case it should become necessary to make enquiry for the registered article.

The Post Office keeps a complete record of the registered article; but the sender, should he desire to do so, might write the name of the person to whom the registered article is addressed on the back hereof as a further means of identification with records of his own.

Feb 24/23. Wm Perry aged 86

Telephones that about 75 years ago he went with his father to repair the lock in McTavish Tomb. Did so. Went inside. Saw no remains of coffin. Thinks all had gone to dust. Describes tomb as fine stone structure, about 10ft square inside. Promises to call for a talk. Memo get him to put in writing what he says he saw. Says he saw coffins on iron stands. Will write to Gazette

John A. Chisholm,  
Barrister, Solicitor,  
Notary Public, &c.

Offices, Pitt St.

Feb. 24th, 1923.  
Cornwall, Ont. Feby. 24th, 1923.

The late George H. McGillivray of Williamstown, Glengarry County, was a grand nephew of Simon McTavish.

Mr. T. S. Elliott of Walla Walla, Washington, is preparing a book for a Life of Finnan McDonald. I am endeavouring, when time permits, to assist him in getting facts concerning Finnan's life before he entered the employ of the North-West Company, which he did in 1804.

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

My dear Sir,-

- Simon McTavish -

It was very kind indeed of you to write me 23rd inst. in reply to mine of 22nd inst. and send me your paper on Simon McTavish with the photographic slides. I have these from you this morning, and will take the best care of them and return them to you at an early date. As yet I have had no chance to look over your paper but hope to do so tomorrow.

Like many others who wish to know something of the history of Canada, particularly of our North-West and British Columbia, I have for years - ever since I was a child, in fact - been interested in trying to learn more and more of the old North Westers, those "Gray Wolves of the West". I had a special concern in these as great grand uncles of mine, John McDonald and Finnan McDonald "Big Finnan of the Buffalo" and other relatives were of more or less prominence in the old North-West Company. This John McDonald, according to Dr. Doughty of our Dominion Archives, became one of the Counsellors to the Governor of Ruperts Land in 1822, the year after the North-West Company amalgamated with Hudsons Bay Company. Finnan, his younger brother was clerk under David Thompson and crossed through Hawse Pass over into what is now Windermere Valley and down into the Kootenay country in 1807 where he remained until the fall of 1826.

Simon Fraser, of Fraser River fame, died, as you know, in 1862, and is buried at St. Andrews Cemetery just six miles north from here. John McDonald of Garth, "Bras Croche" retired from North-West Company in 1816, settled permanently at Greys Creek on the St. Lawrence River four miles east of here, where he died in 1860. It was through the late Simon McTavish, of whom you have written, that John McDonald of Garth entered the employ of North-West Company. This would be in the early part of 1791. I have a typewritten copy of the autobiography of John McDonald of Garth which has been compared with the photostat in our Dominion Archives of the original. Mr. de Lery Macdonald, 34 St. Matthews Street, Montreal, is a grandson of John McDonald of Garth.

Samuel M. Baylis, Esq. -2-

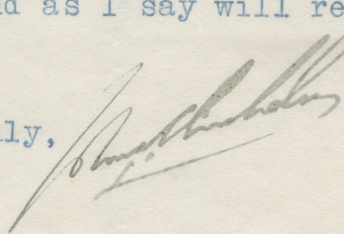
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However, I must not take up too much of your time. I know I will greatly enjoy your paper and as I say will return it to you at an early date.

Yours very truly,



G.

TELEPHONE  
UPTOWN 4400.

**F.W-T.**

**594 PINE AVENUE W.,  
MONTREAL.**

Twenty-sixth  
February  
1923

*Confidential*

My dear Mr. Baylis,

Unless someone takes the McTavish matter in hand, nothing will be done. Why don't you look about and get a couple of public-spirited Montrealers like yourself to take the initiative. Colonel Herbert Molson is the most likely name that occurs to me. With your assistance, he could raise funds for such a laudable purpose better than anyone I know.

Robert White, the editor of THE GAZETTE, would surely assist through the medium of his paper; also Lord Atholstan, on his return. I can't offer you my services. My time is not my own, I am hard driven. The matter should not be allowed to drop. I hope you will go to it.

Yours sincerely,

*Phillips Baylis*

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

John A. Chisholm,  
Barrister, Solicitor,  
Notary Public, &c.

Offices, Pitt St.

Cornwall, Ont. Feby. 26th, 1923.

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

My dear Sir,-                    - Your paper on Simon McTavish -

Following mine of 24th inst. -

I herewith return this essay with the 24 photographic slides. I assure you I much appreciate your courtesy in letting me read this paper and permitting me a view of these interesting photographs. I do not recall any newly unearthed material concerning this man's career or history. Abbe Dugas' "Partners of the North-West" (in French) throws illuminating side lights on the Nor' Westers recruiting methods, &c., and, while not mentioning Simon McTavish particularly, would give a pretty good idea of how he and others like him conducted their operations from the Montreal end and in the vicinity.

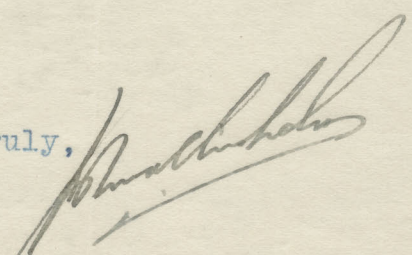
His dream of being the founder of a Canadian Family of McTavish completely vanished less than 25 years after his death. How the spirit of the Tent-Maker must have smiled at his efforts? "The worldly hope men set their hearts upon, &c."

I am always on the look-out for correspondence to or from the North-West with special reference to the years 1800-40. Private correspondence is what I prefer; the formal reports are too stiff and stately.

I am writing William Briggs of Toronto for copy of your "At the Sign of the Beaver".

Again thanking you.

Yours very truly,



G.  
V.F. 35 "D"

Montreal February 28, 1923.

John A. Chisholm Esq.,  
Barrister & Solicitor &c.,  
Cornwall, Ont.

Dear Sir:-

I have your kind favors of 24th and 26th instant and the registered packet of MS and prints of slides came along with your last. I am glad to hear that the reading and sight of these gave you pleasure.

There are, of course, many sources where the story of the Nor-Westers and their amazing activities may be looked for. This was, however, outside of my special enquiry concerning the Tomb and Monument and I find nothing in these published records dealing with McTavish himself beyond what led me to tersely characterize him as the "dominating personality" which he is shown to be.

I am interested in all you write of these old pioneers and have been in touch with Mr De Lery McDonald who has much of interest pertaining to them. Dr Campbell's "History" tells a lot about them and Rev John Bethune's "Diary", now in the Ontario Archives, might have more, Had I been able to examine it. The Dominion Archives have practically nothing relating to McTavish himself. Mr McCord says he has something which he will look up if time and health permit.. Hugh Taylor's papers would reveal much of what I want to know if they could be got at in London, where they probably are. Your neighbor, Mr F.D. McLennan, wrote me last November telling some of the story of Williamstown and its old settlers, and sent a copy of the interesting booklet relating to the Centenary of St Andrews Church for the Chateau de Ramezay.

At last reports, the market had been cleared of "Beavers", but as I have a few skins left of the bundle sent me by way of profit (?) on the venture, I can let you have one at the quoted price (\$1 post paid) should you fail elsewhere. I have also a few of the O.P. "Camp & Lamp", 2nd edition in paper @ 75c, practically the same as the 1st, but lacking the autograph, which can be supplied in both cases, if you care for it.

Very truly yours,

Paul H. Bayliss



SAMUEL M. BAYLIS,

808 University Street

TELEPHONE UP. 2082

MONTREAL

Montreal, March 1st, 1923.

A. W. Reid-Taylor Esq.,  
c/o Service des Acredités,  
Crédit L'Yonnais,  
Paris, France.

SIMON MC TAVISH TOMB AND MONUMENT

Dear Mr Reid-Taylor:-

I had hoped to hear further from you in this matter, but have nothing since my long letter of October 20/22 replying to yours of Oct 1/22. Meanwhile, I have read my little paper and enclose Gazette report, which is good as far as it goes, but is incomplete and says nothing of the 24 interesting pictures and the important documents. The paper backed me up in an editorial next day in commending me for bringing the matter to public attention on the lines of the Resolution, copy of which I enclose.

I am still in the dark concerning much of importance which your family papers might disclose - care and ~~up-keep~~ and by whom; covering the Tomb; number and names of persons buried there &c, especially whether Judge and Mrs Reid were among them, as Mr D. Ross McCord also seems to think. He says he has a lot about the matter and promises to look it up for me if time and health permit.

The Cemetery people tell me that there are no records of the interment of the bodies of Judge and Mrs Reid in either of their cemeteries. Mrs Reid, in her testimony in the Catch-Allan Case, 1861, says that her uncle (Simon), her brother (Duncan), and a nephew (?) are buried in the Tomb but does not mention her husband. The builder of the wall says that there are 3 others, unnamed, but he, too, does not mention Judge Reid, and of course Mrs Reid died later. On what do you base your opinion as to their burial there and have you any positive evidence of this?

Since writing you, I accidentally discovered evidence of the death and burial of all the McTavish children in England. I got the certificates of burial, pictures of the monument there erected and the inscriptions thereon, with views of the Church at Chiswick, all of which you might be interested in seeing and hearing about when in London. The Verger, F. Horne, would, I think, willingly show and tell you everything.

I shall be glad to hear from you on the special point raised and generally in any way in which you can throw light on the matter. It might help if you, as one specially interested, would write to the Gazette urging action and offering to co-operate.

Very truly yours,

Samuel M. Baylis

25  
If the Reids are really buried there,  
Your responsibility is obvious -  
What was the reason or right of burial?

Miss  
Murray-  
3 days old

John A. Chisholm,  
Barrister, Solicitor,  
Notary Public, &c.

Offices, Pitt St.

Cornwall, Ont. March 3rd 1923.

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

My dear Sir:-

Yours of 28th ult came here 1st inst. I have been out of Town and see it for the first time today.

Express Order for \$1.75 is herewith for which please send me one copy of your, "Camp & Lamp", and, "At the Sign of the Beaver". William Briggs the publisher of Toronto, wrote me that the, "Beaver" was out of print. I certainly would like to get these books autographed, as once I get them they will not be for sale.

Our mutual friend Mr. <sup>f</sup>Farquar D. McLennan of Cornwall has a large fund of accurate information concerning the history of Williamstown in Glengarry County; in fact, there is no one in Glengarry County now who has the same data he has. If he could be induced to write something about it, it would be of value, even if he put it in the shape of notes only.

I have just had another very interesting letter from Mr. T.C. Elliott of Walla Walla, Washington in reference to Big Finnan McDonald, "Big Finnan of the Buffalo".

Yours very truly,

Mar 5/23

mailed

Encl. 1.  
V.F. 35 "D"  
C.

Beaver -

See me Sullivan (Que)

" Cob "

" Concordia Palace " (Mont)

P.C.

advising

151 Lafayette Avenue

Brooklyn, N.Y.

March 4<sup>th</sup> 1923

Dear Sam:

Helda sent me the paper with the account of your lecture - which I was more than glad to receive - it's a long time since we heard anything about your doings and naturally I am pleased when some one will send me some news about your literary life. I was much interested in your subject

and the exceptionally interesting way you made  
your plea - only I am I'd do much rather hear  
you for there I'd get a much more interesting  
idea of all as you expressed your feelings. but  
as it is. I am very glad to read it for myself  
and thank anyone who will send me the  
copy - even newspaper print.

I hope you keep well and may for there in  
lies the only way to what happiness we can  
get out of this life

With hearty congratulations for your success -  
Your friend Clara -

Cable Address: "Chis"

John A. Chisholm,  
Barrister, Solicitor,  
Notary Public, &c.

Offices, Pitt St.

Cornwall, Ont. March 6th 1923.

S.M. Baylis, Esq.,  
808 University Street,  
Montreal, Quebec.

My dear Sir;-

Referring to mine of 3rd inst to you I this morning have from you, "At the Sign of the Beaver" and, "Camp & Lamp" with many thanks.

If you should happen to come across or hear of any unpublished correspondence to or from Nor' Westers between 1800-40 I would appreciate it if you would let me know where I could see it.

Yours very truly,

*John A. Chisholm*

✓  
Ms H. Palfree Library

POST CARD

THE ADDRESS TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE



J. M. J. Day's  
808 University Street  
Montreal 2  
Canada.



March 9<sup>th</sup>

34 Balfern Grove  
Cirencester

Dear Sir

London

England.

Received your P. Card, also letter enclosing  
Draft, Thanking you very much. I  
am very pleased to hear that  
McLarish paper was well received  
and must apologize for not  
answering your letter. I remain  
Yours truly  
J. Home

SIR WILLIAM SCHOOLING K. B. E.

14, BROOK GREEN, W. 6.

HAMMERSMITH 1238.

*London England*

13th. March 1923.

Dear Mr. Baylis,

I have seen in a Montreal "Gazette"  
a short account of your address on Simon McTavish.  
If it happens that you have a fuller report of  
your lecture I should be greatly obliged if you  
would kindly send it to me. It may be that it  
will be printed in full somewhere or other.

I dare say you will remember that  
we met and had an interesting chat last summer.

Yours sincerely,

*William Schooling*

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

*Mar 26/23  
Copy have no copy -*



JOHN M. M. DUFF  
64 Drummond Street  
MONTREAL, CANADA



✓  
Mr. Samuel W. Baylis  
808 University Street  
Montreal

or Simon H. Zivich

My dear Sir

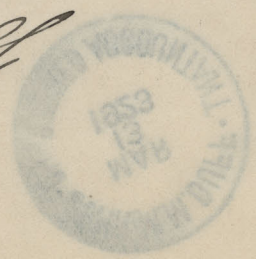
I wrote to the Gazette, just after the chat you & I had a few days ago, at the door of Messrs. Henry Morgan & Co. on Union Avenue. And no doubt you have seen my letter. I shall be glad to hear from you, if there is anything more to be done. I will be at any meeting that may be called to consider the matter, & to take such steps as may be advisable in regard to it, if I am wanted. But I am going away on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> inst, for three or four days, & so will not be able to be at any meeting here next week. It appears to me that you should call a meeting, by letter, or advt, or otherwise, as you may think best; and then action can be taken without delay. Perhaps it might be well for you to prepare some plan of action to be discussed, & for that purpose you should get a few friends together privately; and then when a public meeting is got together, there would be something ready to discuss. Otherwise, a public meeting would be useless. A letter from Mr. Wm Perry, appeared in the "Gazette"

yesterday, which you have been no doubt,  
 In his letter Mr. Perry suggests that the  
 Corporation of Montreal should be asked to  
 take the matter up. Now I think such a course  
 would be unwise, but of course I may be alone  
 in thinking thus. Already I have been spoken  
 to by a French Canadian, who asked me to explain  
 "Why the Corporation should spend money on this."  
 My reply was "The Corporation should not spend money  
 "on it." If you read my letter in the Gazette again  
 "you will see that I suggested that such money  
 "as might be needed should be raised by private subscrip-  
 "tion; I am willing to subscribe"

Now if the matter is brought before the Corporation, I  
 will not have anything to do with it.

I shall be glad to hear from you about  
 the matter; and again I repeat, you are the  
man to make the next move, I will do my  
 best to help you, but have nothing to do with  
 the Corporation in regard to it.

Yours truly  
 L. M. Duff



WORLD OF CHINESE  
 IN THE EAST  
 JOHN W. DOBB

Montreal, March 14, 1923.

J.M.M. Duff Esq.,  
64 Drummond Street,  
CITY.

IN RE SIMON MC TAVISH

Dear Sir:-

I have yours of 13th and am pleased that my effort to awaken public interest in this matter should have so appealed to you.

I trust that other influential <sup>citizens</sup> may be led to follow your and Mr Perry's example in stirring up an indifferent public through more letters to the Gazette, which has shown itself sympathetic, and much of this preliminary "spade work" needs to be done before any public meeting can be usefully called.

It is not clear to me that I should take the initiative, as you and others have suggested, nor do I see what more good can be accomplished just now than arousing a casual interest and gathering a few dollars in a hat collection. If when the time is ripe and a meeting were called and I were invited to repeat my story and show the slides, this might help and I would gladly respond.

I have done my share in labor and expense of about \$100 digging up the unknown data and if say 10 influential and capable citizens were quietly to subscribe \$100 apiece for a Restoration Fund and give the job to a man like Wm Perry to boss it, there is no one to object and I am told that the Law supports such action on technical grounds, as you may, perhaps, discover. This would imply the later co-operation of the City in assuming care and oversight by the Park Committee, which they do not now do.

The grounds of the objection of your friend to the City spending money to preserve the memory of an eminent British merchant are as obvious as the action in diverting public property to the memory of others in making the "Patriots' Square".

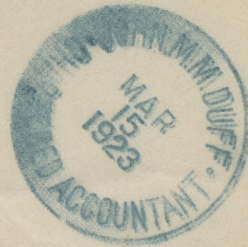
The matter is now before THE HISTORIC SITES COMMISSION and if they do their manifest duty there may be no need for further intervention, except to stir them up to action. Failing this, there is every reason why the City should take it up, considering that part of the Plot and its appurtenances are in quasi-possession of the City and the reserved "Road" leading up to it wholly and, so far as shown, unwarrantably in its actual use, occupation, and apparent ownership, although registered in private ownership.

If you want a little amusement, at no expense, possibly an action for injunction, restitution, and fencing the old "Road" by the Allan wall, might result as favorably as in the Caton vs Allan Case, No 385, 1861, the result of which can be seen in the Allan boundaries, and the record in the Archives. This would bring the boil to a head in short order!

Yours truly,

Paul M. Baylis

JOHN M. M. DUFF  
64 Drummond Street  
MONTREAL, CANADA



My dear Sir

Yours of 14<sup>th</sup> inst. is just rec'd.  
Many thanks. Simon W. Davis

It may not appear to you that you should "take the initiative", but you cannot ignore the fact, that you have already "taken the initiative", and unless you are ready now to lead on, there will be little more done. Clearly it is up to you to call a public meeting, & at such meeting, future action may be discussed and, if considered wise, a plan for the future may be decided on, and further steps may be taken.

If you drop it now, there may be little or no result of what has been done. You asked me to write to "The Gazette" and I have done that. Also I have promised to attend a meeting if you call it. Also my letter has stored up Mr. Wm. Perry. Also you know all the facts, in a way that nobody else does, so I beg

leave to urge you to make another  
move. If you do not move, no  
other person will move, largely  
for fear of interfering with you.  
If the City Council takes it up, I will  
not have anything more to do  
with it.

Perhaps you are not aware that, if part  
of the Plot &c. are in possession of the City,  
and allowed to remain in such possession  
for a certain time, the City will then become  
Absolute Owners of the land, making a  
good title by possession without opposition  
from any person.

I think you should "Get a move on",  
soon as possible, & I am ready & willing  
to help. There are others who will join,  
I am very sure.

Yours truly

D. W. Duff



Will you let me know if, for an established fact, all other descendants and their are dead? This seems difficult, *prima facie*, to ascertain.

I oppose the notion, as a relative, that the monument become Crown property unless I should choose to disinterest myself from the subject.

You will quite understand me, I feel sure, for I am proud of this distinguished Canadian who has done so much for his Great Country.

Thanking you for all the trouble and interest you are giving to this matter.

Believe me always yours  
Very sincerely

Wm. G. Taylor

Chief Justice Reid, as you well know gave a wing to the Montreal General Hospital. Would not therefore some of the Directors etc have attended his funeral and would not some record of this be amongst the archives of said hospital? So that way we might find out when he was buried for a certainty.

Anyway whether he was buried or not under the monument (though I feel certain he is) that fact would not alter my relationship (by marriage if one should choose) with the McGavish (since I have the portraits) nor my interest, nor my right to look upon questions concerning said Monument.

Service des Accrédités  
Crédit Foncier  
Paris

22<sup>nd</sup> March 1923

Dear Mr Bayliss

I hear that a Mr Duff  
presumes that all the descendants  
of Mr Simon M. Tavish are dead and that  
the property now belongs to the Crown.

This, to say the least, is a little premature!  
My great great aunt was a sister of  
said Mr M. Tavish therefore I have a  
say to what ~~some~~ may come of Mr Duff's move.

What has he got to do in the matter  
in that he takes such categorical initiative?  
If all the other descendants are dead and  
this must be proved then the property  
belongs to me and I can see and decide  
what may be the best action to take

I would be pleased to join with a corporate body interested in the restoration of the McTavish monument, for I quite understand my duty and responsibility in the matter. We must first prove that my family paid for the upkeep as my aunt affirmed. I have no idea who executed the last work done. I am afraid my poor father sadly neglected the most of his responsibilities during his life.

In the meantime,

Believe me very sincerely

Yours,

Arthur Reid-Taylor

Paris

20<sup>th</sup> March 1923

Dear Mr Baylis,

I am in receipt, to-day only, of your interesting letter for which please accept my very best thanks.

I hasten to assure you that I had by no means let the matter in hand fall into abeyance. I have been endeavouring, and continue, to get hold of my family papers which an unscrupulous London (Eng.) solicitor has succeeded, up to the present time, in preventing me from obtaining them. As soon as I can obtain justice I shall have great pleasure in providing you with all the information I may obtain.

I always heard my grandfather, my father and mother and my uncle Herbert (to whom I am writing to-day on receipt of your letter) affirm most categorically that Chief Justice and Mrs Reid were buried in the McTavish tomb and that my grandfather (to my father after him to a certain extent) paid for the upkeep of said tomb. My aunt, Miss Taylor can & will corroborate this. She lives at 214 Bishop St Apartment No 26.

It would have been natural for Chief Justice Reid to have been buried where my family affirm he is if only on account of his wife's relationship



to the McTavish family and the statement of the  
Cemetery people seems to substantiate this opinion.

The Gazette mentions the sale of the surrounding  
property to Sir Hugh Allan for the building of  
Ravenscrag. My grandfather used to tell me that  
Sir Hugh Allan acquired the land from him (I  
even heard as a gift) and it was my grandfather  
Hugh Taylor who obliged Sir Hugh Allan to bring  
down his wall therefore he must have had a  
very special interest. My father when we used  
to walk upon the mountain used to point out the  
monument as where Chief Justice Reid lay buried  
and my aunt only a little over a year ago did  
the same. If you can get her memory going she  
could give you a deal of information. I think we  
are right on that score because my father was a man  
of tremendous exactitude and erudition and was  
in partake with Sir John Abbott. His son Jack  
might know something. My father kept us boys  
(my brother was Governor of the Egyptian Soudan)  
more or less in total ignorance of the family affairs  
and my grandfather died when I was a lad of 11.

Have you seen Mr Henry Joseph on the matter?  
He is pretty well versed in these matters.

Old Mr. Beigne Melanque who acted for my grandfather  
may know something.

Perhaps they are records amongst Messrs  
Macintosh & Myer's papers of payments by my  
grandfather. Most of the people who could  
have thrown light upon the matter are dead.

I do not know if my cousin M<sup>rs</sup> Brock Buchanan  
could give you any information if you went to see her.  
She has a very lucid mind and a very charming  
personality at 84 years of age. My grandfather  
inherited a great deal of the McTavish property  
(he had nearly all Peel St, Stanley St, McTavish St, part of  
Sherbrooke St & the mountain which was sold for \$90,000 by  
him) many years after through whom I do not know.  
I find it naturally possible that Mrs Reid caused  
her husband to be buried where she intended to be  
buried and that this fact accounted for the immense  
interest my grandfather took in the tomb about  
which he often spoke.

The right to my great uncle's burial then was  
on account of his connection with the McTavish  
family by marriage. As you remember, my  
grandfather inherited the portraits I possess  
of the McGillivray & McTavish family, about  
which I have been several times in correspon-  
dence with Mr Jery Mc Donald who expressed a wish to  
have copies in oils made for McGill University.

I am perfectly willing to cooperate and  
interest myself quite particularly in the monument  
provided my position regarding the Monument,  
its ownership, the rights regarding it are made  
perfectly clear. That is to say if I am the  
heir of him if the Reids are buried there  
(about which definite proof should be sought to be  
eventually forthcoming), and there are no other  
members of the family, I should either do the  
whole thing alone, as an honour and a duty  
or if the proof should prove at present for I do  
not conceive any idea of the cost nor the delay

Again Lady Drummond who was as intimate  
at Park House for her mother Mr. Parker was  
a friend of Mr. Hugh Taylor. I do not know  
if she is still living.

I do not know if Mrs. Jack Sangman my  
cousin (who was Mrs. Oliver Buchanan's daughter)  
knows anything. She is now about 73  
years of age.

I am doing what I can to get hold of  
my family papers which were in the hands  
of an unscrupulous London solicitor.  
Until I can do this I am at present unable  
to give you much information in spite of my  
earnest wish to do so.

I thank you again for the trouble and  
interest you have taken, and are taking, in  
the matter of the McTavish monument. I feel  
sure I am not the only one who so appreciates  
your action.

Believe me in the meantime

Yours very sincerely  
Alexander Taylor

Service des Accrédités  
Crédit Français  
Paris 7 April 1923.

Dear Mr. Baylies,

I have today received  
a letter from my uncle in Scotland in  
which he positively affirms that his  
father Mr. Hugh Taylor (of Park House, formerly  
the Hon. and Col. Mackenzie's house) often com-  
municated the fact to him that Chief Justice and Mr.  
Reid were buried in the vault containing  
the earthly remains of Mr. McTavish which  
bears out the testimony afforded by my  
aunt Miss Elizabeth Taylor (214 Bishop St.)  
As I wrote you I often heard my grandfather  
say the same thing.

Perhaps Mr. Farland who was a partner  
with Col. Victor Buchanan deceased (my  
cousin) might be able to give you some  
information for he and his mother used often  
to go to Park House. (Ranelagh St.)

Montreal April 10, 1923.

A.W.Reid-Taylor Esq.,  
c/o Service des Acredités,  
Crédit L'Yonnais,  
Paris, France.

Dear Mr Reid-Taylor:-

I have your letters of March 20 & 22. Please refer to mine of October 20/22 & March 1/23 so that repetition may be obviated. If, as I take it, you see the Gazette regularly, you will know what has appeared, including the interview with Wm Perry, aged 86, of the old Perry family of machinists, who became keenly interested. He told me that as a boy he went up with his father, who was ordered to repair the lock of the Tomb, and actually went inside and saw the coffins - he thinks perhaps 6 - which agrees with the testimony of Mrs Reid and the builder, Atkinson, in the Allan Case. It is of course possible, if not quite probable, that both Judge and Mrs Reid's bodies lie there, but proof must be looked for in Hugh Taylor's papers, perhaps the Reid Wills, or elsewhere.

Let me first correct you concerning the Hospital Wing. This was built by Mrs Reid in memory of her husband as stated on the Mural Tablet. Then as to the ownership of the Burial Plot which, although still registered in the name of "Widow of John McTavish", is practically "no man's land", cannot be sold, nor taxed, and has always been reserved in the various deeds of sale. Although Hugh Taylor was at one time registered as owner of the block of land on which the Royal Victoria Hospital stands, and probably acquired by purchase the properties in the districts named by you when they were mostly open fields - in one of which our mutual friend George Cuvillier tells me you are interested - he did not inherit by Will anything from Simon, or his legatee, John, consequently did not sell the Allan property, much less give it to old Hugh, who took title as shown in the record. The Action to demolish the wall was not taken by Hugh Taylor but by the widow of John McTavish, although Taylor was an important witness. His interest in the plot was sentimental, semi-official as Executor of John's Estate, but seemingly very real, as it appears that it was he who ordered the Tomb covered up to preserve it when he finally left Canada for England. Since then nothing seems to have been done to care for it, and although urged by some prominent people to push the matter further, I feel this is not my business. The title is as I say, and Mr Duff is probably wrong in saying that it is vested in the Crown, but he, like vereyone else, is only desirous of seeing the Plot fixed up and taken care of, preferably and properly by those, like yourself, who are so intimately concerned in the matter. Heirs of Emily Caton,

A.W.Reid-Taylor (2)

universal legatee of her husband, John McTavish, may be eliminated as wholly indiferent, even if they could be traced. The public can only step in under proper sanction as occasion may warrant. The Sites Commission might even want to know who would pay the bills for repairs to a private monument, and why living relatives of those buried there did not do it.

I cannot think that if I were concerned in the matter as closely as your family are, even merely in a sentimental way,, I should so long have hesitated as to what would be my duty and pleasure in the matter.

May I respectfully suggest that the matter of repair and restoration of the Plot is now the direct responsibility of yourself, your aunt and cousins here, and your "Uncle Herbert", failing any more of the Reid, McGillivray, Taylor, or McTavish families who could be traced by you and induced to help?

As the cost now to build up the fallen corner of the wall, "point" the whole of it and the Monument, re-cut the Inscription, and clean up the Plot, should not be great, I suggest that you instruct The Royal Trust, your agents here, to get this much done at once - say under the supervision of such a capable man as Mr Perry who would do it sympathetically and well, perhaps wholly as "a labor of love" - leaving the matter of uncovering the Tomb for later consideration. The opening of the Tomb would afford the best possible proof of what and who are inside, and no one will dispute your action or question your right to do this. A Trust Fund might be created by donation or bequest of those of your family still living for perpetual care and up-keep.

If it were made known that all this were being done by those who felt it incumbent upon them without calling upon the public for aid, the news would be well received, all reproach removed, and I should feel that any trouble and expense I have incurred to get at the facts and make them known were well repaid.

I close this as I began my first letter with the expression of regret that we did not meet so that details might have been gone into which must necessarily be omitted in writing letters.

Why not take a run over here this Spring for this express purpose, if there is no other business or pleasure calling you?

Very truly yours,

Paul W. Taylor

---

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LE DERNIER MERCREDI DU MOIS, A 8 HEURES DU SOIR

SOCIÉTÉ HISTORIQUE DE MONTRÉAL

FONDÉE LE 11 AVRIL 1858

~~Siège Social: BIBLIOTHÈQUE SAINT-SULPICE~~

~~340 RUE SAINT-DENIS~~

Office of the President,  
97 St. James St, Montreal.

Montreal, April 14th 1923.

S.M. Baylis, Esquire,  
808 University Street,  
Montreal.

Dear Mr Baylis:

The question of properly looking after the McTavish monument, has been placed before the commission of Historical Monuments to-day, and we have decided to ask you to look into the question and make a report to the commission suggesting what should be done and the probable cost of the work, as well as what steps could be taken in order to place this monument under proper custody for the future.

The Historical Monuments commission has no large credit at its disposal and it is needless to say that whatever you would suggest should be done on the most economic lines.

Hoping you will be willing to take good interest in the matter, I beg to remain,

Yours very truly,

V.M./A.R.

*Victor Morin*

K.D. CHURCH  
PRESIDENT

D.W. ROSS JR.  
VICE PRESIDENT

C. G. MORRISON  
~~EDGAR WILLS~~  
SEC. TREAS.

INFORCED CONCRETE  
FIRE PROOF CONSTRUCTION  
METAL LATHING  
SIDE WALKS  
FIRE PROOF PARTITIONS

# CHURCH ROSS COMPANY LIMITED

## GENERAL CONTRACTORS

TELEPHONE UP 1234

805 NEW BIRKS BUILDING  
10 CATHCART ST.

MONTREAL

April 20th, 1923.

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

Dear Sir:-

Re restoring and cleaning up the McTavish plot at head of Peel Street here, and putting same in a satisfactory condition, as follows:-

South-west corner of stone wall to be taken down and rebuilt.

North-east corner of stone wall to be rebuilt and east wall to be pointed.

Front wall to be pointed.

West wall, the loose portion of this wall to be taken down and rebuilt and the whole to be pointed.

The east, south and west wall to have concrete coping to replace present wood coping which is rotten and in a very dilapidated condition.

The north wall is used by the city as a retaining wall and they should do the necessary repairs and concrete coping required for this portion.

To point and repair monument and if necessary to put a steel band around base of cap, to recut the letters on the monument.

To clean the lot of dead trees and debris and level the earth and stone.

To erect wire fence with gate from end of wall of adjoining property to the south west corner of lot.

Paint and repair present iron door.

We estimate the work as above would cost about Fifteen Hundred Dollars (\$1500.00).

CHURCH  
PRESIDENT

D. W. ROSS JR.  
VICE PRESIDENT

C. G. MORRISON  
~~EDGAR WILLS~~  
SEC. TREAS.

REINFORCED CONCRETE  
REPROOF CONSTRUCTION  
METAL LATHING  
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# CHURCH ROSS COMPANY LIMITED

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TELEPHONE UP 1234

805 NEW BIRKS BUILDING  
10 CATHCART ST.

MONTREAL

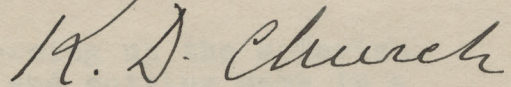
2.

April 20th, 1923.

In our opinion this is the least amount of work that should be done to satisfactorily restore the site. However, we would undertake to do any work required at cost price to us.

Yours truly,

CHURCH ROSS COMPANY LIMITED.



President.

K.D. CHURCH  
PRESIDENT

D.W. ROSS JR.  
VICE PRESIDENT

C. G. MORRISON  
EDGAR WILLS  
SEC. TREAS.

REINFORCED CONCRETE  
FIRE PROOF CONSTRUCTION  
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CHURCH  
PRESIDENT

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MONTREAL

2.

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Yours truly,

CHURCH ROSS COMPANY LIMITED.

*K. D. Church*  
President.

SAMUEL M. BAYLIS,

808 University Street

TELEPHONE UP. 2082

MONTREAL

Montreal, April 23, 1923.

Victor Morin, LL.D., F.R.S.C., N.P.  
Historic Sites Commission,  
Montreal.

IN RE MC TAVISH TOMB AND MONUMENT

Dear Doctor Morin:-

I was pleased to learn from your letter of 14th that the Sites Commission were considering the question of the restoration and preservation of this historic site.

On Friday last, the 20th, I went up to the Plot with our old and ~~valued~~ valued friend, Mr Wm Perry, who brought along Mr K.D. Church, President of the large contracting firm of Church, Ross & Co, both of whom are keenly interested in the matter which now appeals to so many people.

We went all over and about the place and Mr Church gave it a thorough examination. I regret to report that we found it in a terrible state of decay and neglect, calling for a re-building of the wall in many places; "pointing" the whole of it and capping it with a concrete coping along its entire length; re-adjusting the stones of the monument and pointing all the joints; re-cutting the defaced inscription; cleaning up the plot within and without; and fencing the reserved "approach" to complete the semi-circle in front in continuation of the boundary between the Allan property and the Park as adjudged in the Caton vs Allan Case 1860-69. Both Mr Perry and Mr Church will give their services in supervision without charge, and Mr Church would merely ask the outlay incurred by his firm which he figures would be around \$1500 to make a good, complete and permanent job.

As I told you, however, I have been for some time in touch with Mr Algernon Reid-Taylor, formerly of this city, but now living in Paris, France. He is the grandson of Hugh Taylor, an important citizen of Montreal and prominent in its affairs in the 40s to the 70s when he ~~left~~ left for England and later died there, leaving much property here. The Taylors did not inherit anything by will from old Simon, or his legatee nephew, John McTavish, but had, and his family should still have, a keen sentimental interest by reason of the alleged fact that the bodies of their relatives, Hon Judge Reid, who died in 1848, and his wife, Elizabeth McGillivray, neice of Simon McTavish, who built the western wing of the General Hospital to the memory of her husband, and died in 1866, are buried there, along with several others previously interred in the Vault. This Vault or Tomb, shown in the old views, is now completely covered up by a mound or "cairn" of stones and earth, said to

Victor Morin (2)

have been done by order of Hugh Taylor, (Executor of John McTavish) prior to his leaving for England to prevent it being broken into.

I am hoping that my last letter of April 10 will so stir up Mr Reid-taylor's slumbering interest that he will take active steps on his own behalf and that of his family connections here and in Great Britain which will result in the matter being attended to by those, as I wrote him, whose duty and pleasure it should be without public intervention or aid.

I expect to hear from him in a couple of weeks or so, and if, as I hope, the family will take hold and push the matter to a satisfactory conclusion, I will let you know; but failing this, your Commission may, perhaps, then step in in the public interest.

Faithfully yours,

Paul M. Taylor

---

SIR WILLIAM SCHOOLING K. B. E.

14, BROOK GREEN, W. 6.

HAMMERSMITH 1238.

27th. April 1923.

Dear Mr. Baylis,

I ought to have written long before now to thank you for your letter.

If by any chance you have any additional matter that would be of use to me, perhaps you could let Miss E. Haddow (McGill University Library,) have it at an early date. She is leaving for England about the 20th. May and coming over to work with me for about a year. She knows a good deal about the work I am doing, and could bring me anything that you give her.

Yours sincerely,

*William Schooling*

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

*Manuscripts  
ms & note book.*

*Miss Haddow to have copy of ms.  
for Sir William & make carbon  
copy for me.*

*Copies of prints & documents can  
be ordered if wanted*

Copy

BRITISH CONSULATE

BALTIMORE

14th May, 1923.

Ref. No. 204/23.

Dear Sir,

Your letter of the 9th instant addressed to the City Clerk, Baltimore, has been forwarded to me by the Chief Inspector of the Baltimore Police Department.

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 Gilmor McTavish, a son named Frank McTavish who married and had issue:

- X (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,

(Sgd) HUGH ALEX. FORD,

H.B.M. Consul.

Mr. Colin Campbell,  
14 St. John Street,  
Montreal,  
Canada.

15 Fort Street

Montreal 8<sup>th</sup> July 1923.

Dear Mr. Bayles —

You did well on the  
McTavish lecture. How about publishing  
the whole story? Sometime ago I  
bought a lot of large photo groups  
of various kinds — Masonic crowd —  
Snow shoe Club. Lacrosse group —  
some family groups — If so you  
could you take a good man make  
it convenient to call on me  
some evening & see if you  
can identify some for me — You  
may be among the list. I think a  
long time ago, you put yourself on  
record as an author of some book  
or other — Have you a spare  
copy? I must show you some of my  
early Canadian legal celebrities. Please  
Telephone Day before you call — so I may be  
in sure.

Yours truly

A. Stone

P.O. Box 52  
Mills Beach, Q.  
July 17, 1973

Dear Mr Horn.

Form of 9<sup>th</sup> post-marked with - has been forwarded  
to me here. Thanks for kind words about my me I wish  
papers. Many have so expressed themselves, some have  
asked the loan of it to read. I don't know what any publisher  
would care to print it at his risk + I don't see my way  
to do it myself.

I am glad to hear of further items of interest  
in your collection of prints, & if you will phone me on  
my return after Sept 1st I will arrange a time to  
call & see them & you.

I enclose folders of my little books, any or  
all of which you will find in the Traser, mechanics,  
& Eddie Fibranes rat me give. If you care to look them  
out, as I would be flattered to have you do so find  
them interesting.

Very truly yours,  
Paul H. Davis

Mr John Horn  
46 Front Street  
Montreal

16 Fort Street

Montreal 22 July 1853

Dear Mr. Taylor.

Yours was duly received - I shall hunt you up, again when you return home - You certainly have done some writing. I wish your Shakespeare had been more of a Canadiana - On the former - one can never be satisfied unless he owned an early original - and the cost! and they seem to be gathering them up in the United States. Of course we all have our hobbies - I do like after all Portraits & Biography: I view it, this way. The world is made up of men & women - I like to get their likenesses & study them up! I am after anything about General James Wolfe - I have quite got together 4 quarts full of odd bits - portraits - news papers cuttings - letters - I do like early Canadian Historical Portraits - principally Engravings - or from Jacques Cartier to Sir John A. Macdonald - that is leaders - I suppose I have some hundreds - I have all the Governors from Amhurst - to the man of today, many with original Autographs - or Documents quite a lot on good old India fill - I have made a few discoveries in my various hunts - for instance - Parkman has given much time to Wolfe - Quebec - Chaudiere - yet he did not seem to know nor did our friend Doubtless know <sup>that</sup> the first Monument to Wolfe - was erected to him in New York - I made the discovery in this City <sup>about the portrait</sup> of <sup>William</sup> <sup>about 1810</sup> <sup>and</sup> Nelson said in a letter written by him - <sup>that</sup> <sup>the portrait</sup> <sup>is</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>most</sup> <sup>like</sup> <sup>me</sup> - <sup>I</sup> <sup>hope</sup> <sup>you</sup> <sup>are</sup> <sup>enjoying</sup> <sup>yourself</sup> <sup>very</sup> <sup>much</sup> <sup>and</sup> <sup>happy</sup> <sup>man</sup> <sup>to</sup> <sup>be</sup> <sup>able</sup> <sup>to</sup> <sup>do</sup> <sup>so</sup> - I hope of Baseworth - Author of *Bochilega Depicta* and some other things of this kind - I hope you are enjoying yourself. <sup>Such</sup> <sup>a</sup> <sup>happy</sup> <sup>man</sup> <sup>to</sup> <sup>be</sup> <sup>able</sup> <sup>to</sup> <sup>do</sup> <sup>so</sup> - I hope

Yours truly

Wm. Stone



SAMUEL M. BAYLIS,

208 University Street

TELEPHONE UP. 2032

MONTREAL

Montreal, Sept 14, 1923.

A.W. Reid-Taylor Esq.,  
Services des Acçédités,  
Crédit L'Yonnais,  
Paris, France.

IN RE MC TAVOSH TOMB AND MONUMENT

Dear Mr Reid-Taylor:-

I have just returned from the seaside where I have been all summer with my family and on taking up my files I find to my regret that I have nothing from you since yours of April 7, which crossed my long letter of 10th April.

I have been in touch with the Historic Sites Commission who have the matter on their agenda and are keenly interested in seeing something done, but lacking legislative sanction, they naturally ~~XXX~~ hesitate in taking the initiative, especially as they feel that there are some persons who might either object to unauthorized intervention, or are remiss in their duty in themselves attending to the matter.

I went up to the plot in June with Mr Perry and one of our large contractors who are both sympathetic and very desirous of seeing something being done, and we all agreed that if it were not done soon the cost would be greater, if, indeed, the stability of the whole construction were not seriously impaired by further delay.

The contractors, who do not wish to make a profit, estimate that \$1500 would put the whole wall, monument and plot in a condition of full permanent repair if done at once, and I should be glad to know that your people would undertake <sup>upon</sup> their responsibility and remove the reproach which reflects not only private individuals but the public at large, whose hands are, in a measure, tied.

As I suggested, a Trust Fund could be established for perpetual care, or, if the place were put in proper shape, and it were so desired and authorized, the Commission would, I think, take it under their care for all time, and I shall be glad to hear that you and your family are now going to take the matter in hand and put it through.

I regretted to notice the death of your Aunt, Miss Taylor, in June last, and recall the kindly reception she gave me and the interest she took in my researches.

Looking to hear from you shortly, or, better still, to have an opportunity of meeting you here if you are coming over this Fall,

I remain,

very truly yours,

Samuel M Baylis