

## Letter from Alexander Graham Bell to Marian Bell Fairchild, October 2, 1909

Beinn Bhreagh, NEAR Baddeck, Nova Scotia. October 2, 1909. Mrs. David Fairchild, Kensington, Md. Dear Daidums:

Your surprise is a surprise indeed. Your Mother and I have had been quite excited over your mysterious discovery at "The Gauldrie" and have had been puzzling our brains as to what it could be. We finally decided that we had found it out and both came to the conclusion that the discovery you had made was —. Yes indeed we did. However, it is not necessary to tell you anything more, at the present time, than to say that we never once dreamed that it was my great-grandfather's chair.

I shall value it very highly and we are anxiously awaiting its arrival here. From what I can find out by telephone it seems to have reached Baddeck; for a package as arrived for us from Quebec with your name upon it and it is described as large enough to contain a chair. The Custom House Officer demands duty upon it even though it should turn out to be a hundred years old.

I am glad that you and David had such a fine time abroad and I am specially pleased that you should have visited your great great grandfather Colvill's place at The Gauldrie. Please find time to write a full and connected account of your visit to The Gauldrie and what has been done about the erection of a memorial tablet to the memory of Andrew Colvill in the little burial ground s of Balmerino, as supplementary to your 2 notes from Scotland.

While you have been searching up one of my ancestors in Scotland I have been at work tracing another in England, and at last have discovered the family to which my grandfather, Mr. Samuel Symonds, belonged. I have not yet found out the name of his

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father and mother but have discovered several uncles, aunts and cousins. So we are hot on the track.

We miss Barbara and Sandy very much. Please tell Sandy that the quack quack is looking for him and that I have just looked inside to see what he has had for his dinner and there is a great package of clean white pipe cleaners there.

I hear that a box has arrived at Beinn Bhreagh. It has been brought up to my study and is now being opened to find out whether it contains a chair. If so —. Jim reports that it does. So I will wait till your Mother comes home and we will have a great ceremonial opening. I won't look at it until she is here.

Your loving father Alexander Graham Bell P.S. The chair is great! The other things too are fine and much admired. AGB