

You may remember, or you may have forgotten [sic], that in 1843 I invited your attention, through Mr. Mills, to what I deemed an important improvement in the construction of lock gates; the principal of those improvements were entrusted to Mr. Mills, in a written specification accompanying a model. I did believe at the time (and my opinion has never changed) that a great saving would ensue from the constructing of gates on my plan, but I did not succeed in making all others think as I did. There were at the time obstacles to my obtaining a patent in Canada, or I should have made application. I have taken steps to obtain one in the United States.

I presume you are aware that the Commissioners of Public Works are now building gates on my plan. I do not deem it unreasonable that the origin of the improvement should be acknowledged.

To establish my claim to the invention is an easy matter, and that the value of the improvement is far above what is estimated at present is well known to many practical men; when once fairly tested on the simple principle of the invention, it will certainly supersede any other plan heretofore used for constructing wooden gates, whether you take into view economy or efficiency.

I do not know as any pecuniary emolument will accrue from my obtaining the acknowledgement hereby sought, but I do not consider that it savours of unwarrantable ambition to seek such an acknowledgement. Can I ask of you, personally, to favor an official acknowledgement of my claim to the origin of the plan? I have taken the liberty to address the Chief Commissioner on the subject.

I am, sincerely,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed)

NATHANIEL TAGGART.

Honorable H. H. KILLALY, Esq.

[Copy of No. 12,824.]

8th February, 1853.

SIR,--I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 4th inst., in which you state you had invited my attention "through Mr. Mills" to a certain improvement on the mode of building lock gates, that gates on this principle are now being built by the Department and requesting a certificate that the principle is your invention. In reply I have to say, that I have no recollection whatever of Mr. Mills having ever spoken to me upon the subject.

I presume the improved construction you allude to is "the solid framing" on which plan we have built several sets of gates. The plans and specifications were made by Mr. Keefer, and I cannot imagine that that gentleman would hesitate a moment in acknowledging your claim to originating the idea, if he had learned from Mr. Mills or any other quarter that you are entitled to it. Mr. Keefer is now in Montreal, and I would recommend you communicating with him.

Mr. N. TAGGART,  
Ogdensburgh.

(Signed)

H. H. KILLALY.

Extract of a Report of a Committee of the Honorable the Privy Council, approved by His Excellency the Governor General in Council on the 14th August, 1874.

The Minister approves Mr. Page's report and recommends that \$2,000 be accordingly paid from the appropriation for unforeseen expenses to Nathaniel Taggart's widow, the money to be sent by the British Minister at Washington, to be handed to the United States Government for the purpose of being delivered to Mrs. Jane Taggart, who is an American Citizen and resides at Waddington, County of St. Lawrence, State of New York.

(Signed)

W. A. HIMSWORTH,  
C. P. C.