

47 N.W. 53rd. Street  
Miami 37, Florida  
Nov. 18, 1954.

Dear Eleanor, George, Henry & Thurley;

On our way from Baltimore to Miami we spent a night at Vernon Mills. The attorney, that Golda rollock consulted in Nelson, British Columbia regarding Uncle John's estate, had sent her copies of his will and copies of a petition filed by Uncle John's widow, Alma Harris, asking The Court to make adequate provision for her support under the Family Maintenance Act.

Last April Golda went to Nelson, B.C. to qualify as executrix but was not able to get much information as to the value of the estate. She spent about \$500.00 for transportation plus her hotel bill for three weeks. The estate consists of personal property, real estate and mineral rights. The bulk of the estate seems to be in cash and bonds.

Golda has not had access to the books on the estate but Alma Harris states in her affidavit that the assets of the estate are as follows;

|                                                                                   |             |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Cash and bonds                                                                    | \$16,279.83 |
| Accounts receivable, stock, fixtures & real estate                                | 4,350.00    |
| Total assets                                                                      | 20,629.83   |
| Less administration and solicitors costs                                          | 3,743.28    |
| Net assets                                                                        | 16,886.55   |
| Paid out (presumably funeral expense, trans -<br>transportation to Virginia etc.) | 2,055.33    |
| Estimated assets less expense                                                     | 14,831.22   |

The value of the mineral rights is an unknown factor. The mine has not been operated for 37 years and is subject to taxes of \$240.00 per year. The taxes have been paid for this year. In 1950 Uncle John told Golda the mineral rights were worth \$200,000.00 but for some years there has been no one interested to the extent of investing capital to explore the possibilities. It appears there is little chance of realising on the mineral rights.

In the petition, Alma's lawyer tries to establish these conditions

- 1 That Alma is in straightened financial circumstances but states she has personal assets amounting to \$14,873.09.
- 2 That all of the other beneficiaries are in "comfortable financial circumstances".
- 3 That the present assets of the estate are largely due to Alma's

- 4 That Alma is in poor health (She appeared to be in good health at the time of the funeral).

Golda consulted Mr. Richards, a lawyer in Warrenton and he has corresponded with a lawyer (called barristers or solicitors in Canada) in Nelson, B.C. but has not received very satisfactory replies. Alma did not use Uncle John's lawyer but engaged another lawyer to draw up her petition

Alma's petition was filed on Sept. 2, 1954 and Golda understood it was scheduled for consideration on Oct. 18 but she had not heard what action, if any, had been taken.

Golda feels that Alma, being the widow of the deceased, has a decided advantage plus the facts she has kept Uncle John's records for years and that she is on the ground and can protect her interest.

Nov . 15, 1954

Letter to Eleanor, George, Henry & Thurley with copy to Mary.

On the other hand, Golda is at the disadvantage of not having first hand information as to the assets of the estate and being far distant from Nelson, B.C.

In view of the small amount of tangible assets (about \$15,000.00 less court costs and lawyers fees .The net would probably be \$10,000.00 which, according to the will, would be divided \$5,000.00 for Alma and \$500.00 for each of the neices and nephews ) Golda, Warren, Clinton and Clarence do not feel they would be justified in engaging legal counsel in British Columbia to fight this petition . I agree with them.

I told Golda I would send copies of the will and Alma's petition to each of you and she will advise you as to what action was taken on the petition. There are not sufficient copies for each of yous so I am sending copies to Eleanor, Henry and Thurley. George can use either Eleanor's or Thurley's copy or can have a copy made.

Mary is being given a copy of this letter. I am sorry I can't give you more encouraging news on this matter but I am giving you the story as it was presented to me.

Please excuse the errors but I have not done any typing for several years. I hope you and your families are in good health.

Sincerely

  
James H. Davis