

245 Wildwood Drive, #212  
St. Augustine, FL 32086  
April 15, 2003

Dear Mr. Clark,

I am returning to you the picture of the M.C. Sweet milk wagon, since it has very little meaning to me. My grandfather lived with us in Hull's Cove in his late years, and I never heard him, or my father or my Uncle Henry, or any of their three sisters mention a dairy business, but in a conversation tonight with my cousin Jerome, he confirms that Grandfather Sweet **did** operate a dairy business for a few years in Bar Harbor, and that the man in the picture is Henry Sweet, the older son. Neither of us have any idea of where in Bar Harbor the picture may have been taken. Jerome feels that it was not really a thriving business, (the size of the wagon does not speak of large volume sales,) and that what business was available in Bar Harbor in the winter in the early 1900's could hardly have paid for the horses hay.

Grandfather had a well deserved reputation as a hard taskmaster, and a skinflint into the bargain, and Jerome's recollection is that his father was simply the cheapest help available to **his** father, and sometime after this picture was taken, his father moved to his own farm, and dabbled in the milk business himself. He says, and I am inclined to agree, that the most promising area was the inception of the Mount Desert Island Co-operative, and that eventually foundered on irreconcilable differences between some of its members, all of whom were very hard-headed and independent.

I must admit that I admire the patience and perseverance that you and your associates in the Historical Society have put into the research of the dairy business, and I do wonder occasionally how many dairy cows exist on the Island today. I am too far removed both by miles and years to be of much help in any further efforts, but I wish you all well just the same,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Max Sweet". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.