

These trees are in the section where I took you through the bars and down the cow pasture; there are over 100 acres of holly, and it is well-fruited this season. You will recall the tall tree we looked at; it is very fine now.

Most of the trees have very little new wood; but as I have a collecting permit for this area, I am going to move several to my place and cut others back so that there will be new wood another year. I am convinced that this is the best area on the Cape, for it is one of the oldest and pretty much untouched.

Under cultivation this type of tree has much better foliage and more glossy fruit; this is the reason for the color on the "St. Ann" tree. I am sure that I have at least six as good as "St. Ann" in these woods. You will see by the size of the berries that they are as large under wild conditions as "St. Ann" under cultivation. I found a small tree in a garden in the same locality, and of this type it has the largest fruit I have ever seen on an I. opaca.

Wilfred Wheeler

\* \* \* \* \*

December 14, 1941

I am mailing to you today a box of about 200 cuttings from a tree which I am naming "Helen Makepeace". This tree is on the property of William Makepeace, and I have a relative Helen Makepeace which will give the personal touch to the name. The tree is one of the finest I have found, more in its general make-up than in any one particular. The fruit is so bright that it really shines.

We have had a miserable gunning season when it was unsafe to go into the woods. I hope that I can now do the things I have had to delay on this account.

The Mashpee trees are not so good as the above.

Wilfred Wheeler

\* \* \* \* \*

December 30, 1941

Well, the old year is nearly over and we say good-bye to it with the hope that at least the new one will be no worse in horrors and wars, but I fear we are in for a long period of what Mr. Churchill called "Blood, sweat, and tears". Let's hope we can take it.

I am distressed to hear that there is a possibility of the Army taking Whitesbog. This would be a calamity of the worst kind. All your work and the results of many years of experimenting and all that goes with it. Surely the Army can go in another direction. We are more or less in the same fix, except that the Army is now beginning to realize that this camp was a mistake in time of war and its expansion may not be attempted now. I hope not, and with you hope that your rumor will prove false.

The "Helen Makepeace" tree has a very close-growing habit and is straight and somewhat on the "Griscom" type, although not as large. A lot of trees in the same section are worth propagating, but they will have to be cut back to produce new wood. I have a permit to do so and in another year should have cutting material. I wish you had seen them when you were here. They were in the area of the Lawrence hollies and, by the way, I found three hollies in the Lawrence section the fruits of which measured a half inch in diameter and were round. These trees were in bad condition, so that there was little wood on them. I am moving several to my place in order to get some wood.

The holly market was very high this season, since there did not seem to be so much southern holly and the western was very expensive. If it were not for the war, I think we could look forward to a fine future for holly. There is so much interest in it.

Wilfred Wheeler

\* \* \* \* \*