

While driving home I thought about the house and it occurred to me that George B. Dorr would very likely have written about this incident in his voluminous works if he had in fact stopped the house from being built. I also vaguely recalled reading something about gaining control of the Eagle Lake watershed in connection with the foundation of the park. At home I pulled out Dorr's "Acadia National Park, its Origin and Background" and immediately found the passage.

Although Livingston is not mentioned by name, it is clearly the cottage involved. It was a major event in the early acquisition of land by the Trustees. Apparently the directors of the Bar Harbor Water Company, all summer people, had read the article in the Bar Harbor Record and held a hurried meeting in New York and then asked Dorr to rush to Bar Harbor and do something. Dorr did, met with the management of the water company, tracked down the ownership of the cottage and learned where he was. They dispatched the secretary of the Water Company to Florida to meet with Livingston. Dorr does not mention his own role in the negotiations, but presumably he was involved. Ultimately, the Water Company bought out Livingston at his cost. The possibility of similar incidents scared the Water Company. They had tried to get powers of condemnation in their charter but the Maine legislature was unwilling to grant such to a private company. Dorr hit on the idea that the Trustees of Public Reservations would not be subject to this objection and persuaded the legislature to grant it the power of condemnation. The Water Company had \$65,000 capital still available, and funded the acquisition of the Eagle Lake Watershed by the Trustees. This gave an enormous block of land to the Trustees, including the whole west side of Cadillac. Dorr also had the power to condemn land to protect the watershed of the Seal Harbor Water Company, and used it to obtain all the land around Jordan Pond. The story doesn't end here. Lumber interests were so alarmed by the removal of potential timber from their grasp that they went to the legislature and introduced a bill to repeal the charter of the Trustees (or at least its tax exempt status). Dorr got wind of this and rushed to Augusta where he managed to defeat the measure. However, this attack on his efforts so alarmed him that he decided he needed federal protection. The result was that an executive order of Woodrow Wilson created the Sieur de Monts National Monument which Congress ultimately turned into Acadia National Park. So the mysterious stone foundation had a major role in creating the Park.

"Lost Bar Harbor" shows a cottage named Fairview that Livingston built in 1909 using the same architects as listed for the Eagle Lake cottage. It seems unlikely that Livingston would have built two cottages at the same time, so I suspect that Fairview was built slightly later after Livingston had been persuaded to retreat from Eagle Lake. Fairview was built over a basement storey of wooden arches that look rather like the granite foundations at Eagle Lake. I wonder if he didn't just transplant his design to Eden Street? Livingston went broke and ended up as a floorwalker in Macy's. Fairview became the cottage of Mary Roberts Rinehart, and was totally destroyed in the 1947 fire. Ironically the abandoned foundation at Eagle Lake still stands in the woods.