



Season's Greetings

ONE OF THE REAL JOYS OF YULETIDE
IS THE OPPORTUNITY TO PUT ASIDE THE ROUTINE
AND CUSTOMS OF EVERY DAY BUSINESS
AND IN REAL SINCERITY WISH OUR FRIENDS
A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

GEO. R. ALLEN
NATIONAL PRESIDENT

LON A. SMITH
NATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT

JOHN V. SEES
NATIONAL SECRETARY

MARTIN MILLER
NATIONAL TREASURER

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JOHN HASSELBERGER

R. D. TAYLOR

L. L. LITTMAN

G. DENT TOWNSHEND

December 24, 1940

Mrs. Willard Drought
1417 North Blackstone
Jackson, Michigan

Dear Cousin:

I have your card of the eighteenth and have also received your Christmas greeting.

I sent a Christmas letter to your mother a few days ago. I sincerely hope that she is now on the way to recovery and will be able to enjoy Christmas with you.

I notice, in your addressing me, you, apparently, do not get my name correctly. My initials are the same as those of your grandfather, W. C. Simons, and the "C." stands for "Collins." Collins has been a popular name through several generations, and has resulted in the nickname of "Collie."

Wishing each one of you a Merry Christmas, and hoping that you will keep me informed, I am

AS ever

Your cousin

LEGAL WEIGHTS

Lbs. per bu.

Alfalfa and Clover Seed.....	60
Apples and Barley ..	48
Bran	20
Beans and Peas.....	60
Buckwheat.....	52
Coal	80
Corn, on cob.....	70
Corn, shelled.....	56
Flax Seed.....	56
Hemp Seed.....	44
Millet Seed.....	50
Oats	32
Onions	57
Potatoes, Irish.....	60
Rye.....	56
Timothy.....	45
Wheat.....	60
Stone, 24 ³ / ₄ cu. ft. Perch	
Wood, 128 cu. ft. Cord	

Weighed on Standard Scales

No. ----- **REEDY LBR.** ¹⁷ ~~72~~ 19 -----

Load of alfalfa ----- **Lawrence, Kansas** ⁴⁰ -----

From -----

To -----

Price \$ ----- Per ⁴⁰ Gross 4350 lbs.

Driver on ----- Tare 3500 lbs.

Driver off ----- Net 850 lbs.

Fee ----- Net ----- bush.

\$3.40 Hunter ----- Weigher

Signature

C. E. FRIEND, CHAIRMAN & VICE PRES.
A. E. WOESTEMEYER, ASST. CASHIER

S. A. WOOD, CASHIER

T. J. SWEENEY, JR., PRESIDENT
GEO. DUNKLEY, ASST. CASHIER

Peoples State Bank

CAPITAL \$ 50,000.00

SURPLUS \$ 100,000.00

LAWRENCE, KANSAS

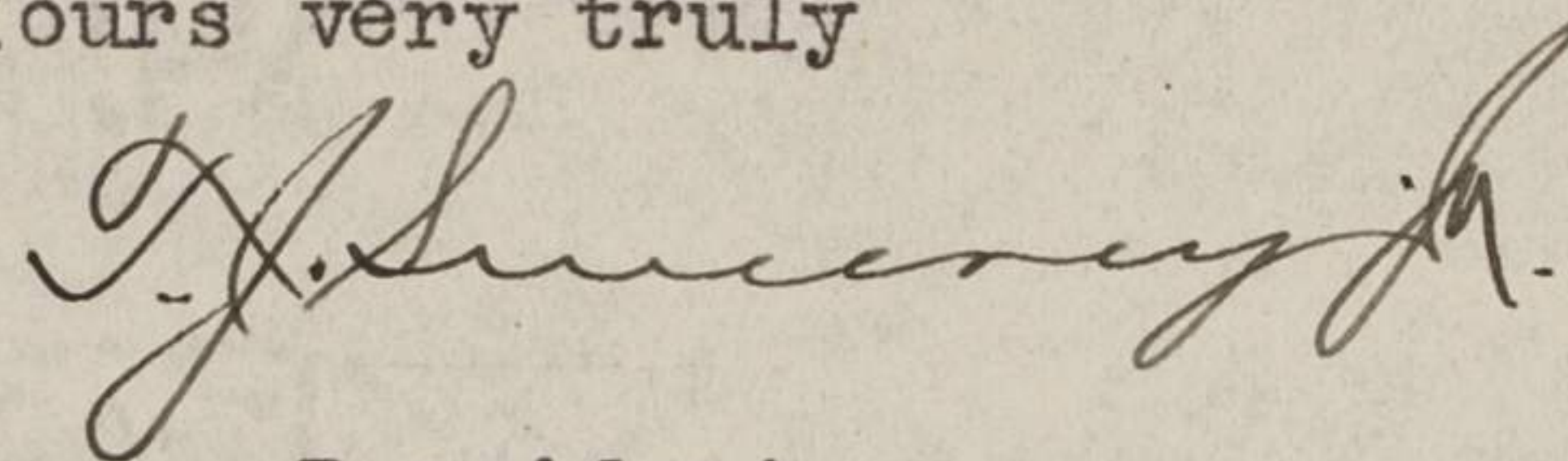
December 23, 1940

Mr. W. C. Simons
C/O World Co.
Lawrence, Kans.

Dear Mr. Simons:

We enclose herewith a check representing a semi-annual dividend of six per cent on your stock in this Bank.

Yours very truly



President

December 19, 1940

The Topeka Daily Capital
Topeka, Kansas

Gentlemen:

Please find enclosed 25¢ in stamps to cover
the enclosed invoice.

Thanking you very much for this service, I
remain

Sincerely yours

WCS:T

Enclosures

Mrs. Emily B. Simon

Mrs. Don A. Freeman

2

Free Top R 3

Branched Minn

Mrs. Lillian Gandy

3751 Aldrich Ave So

Minneapolis, Minn

Mrs. Chas. H. Howville

7539 Colfax Ave

Chicago, Ill

Mrs. Kathryn Drought

1417 N. Blackstone St.

Jackson Mich

Handwritten notes at the bottom of the page, including names like "Mrs. ...", "Car ...", and "Illinois".

call on John C. Anick
C. H. M. S. P.

December 17, 1940

Miss Etoile B. Simons
Tree Tops, Route 3
Brainerd, Minnesota

Dear Etoile:

I sent you under another cover recently a copy of the High School Budget which contained a very warm appreciation of you by Henry Asher. I presume you found the article and enjoyed reading it.

I have received your good letter of the thirteenth, and I feel flattered that you would think of me in connection with illustrating your story, but I realize that I could not do so. Whatever artistic ability I may have had has suffered thru disuse. I think you know I would be happy to do anything of this sort for you if I could.

The story you tell of the mice is interesting and reminds me of Bobby Burns' famous poem about the little mouse.

I remember well the days when we tried, largely unsuccessfully, to keep the stock out of our growing fields. Running a farm in western Kansas was a good deal like the famous boat on the Pawnee which I have never forgotten, its peculiarity being that it required two men to operate it, but only had displacement for one. We started working at such an early age that I cannot recall very much idling in connection with our years in Hodgeman County.

In another year, I shall have lived in Lawrence five times as long as I did in Hodgeman, and, yet, that experience looms large in all of our lives.

I shall probably write you again before Christmas, but, in any event, I hope that you will have a very enjoyable Christmas season. I shall check up on the Ayers Directory and see if I have one that we can spare.

Lovingly

Your brother

December 17, 1940

Mrs. Kathryne Drought
1417 Blackstone St.
Jackson, Michigan

Dear Kathryne:

I am sending you a record of the names of the passengers on the Mayflower who left descendants.

You are a direct descendent from William Bradford, for more than thirty years Governor of Plymouth Colony. This relationship comes to you thru the grandmother of Collins Gowdy. She was Ann Collins and married James Gowdy.

In case you wish more information, I shall be glad to give it to you.

Your loving cousin

Collie

December 17, 1940

Mrs. Charles H. Hoinville
7539 Colfax Avenue
Chicago, Illinois

Dear Julia:

I am sending you a record of the names of the passengers on the Mayflower who left descendants.

You are a direct descendent from William Bradford, for more than thirty years Governor of Plymouth Colony. This relationship comes to you thru the grandmother of Collins Gowdy. She was Ann Collins and married James Gowdy.

In case you wish more information, I shall be glad to give it to you.

Your loving brother

Collie

December 17, 1940

Miss Lillian Gowdy
3751 Aldrich Avenue, South
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Dear Lillian:

I am sending you a record of the names of the passengers on the Mayflower who left descendants.

You are a direct descendent from William Bradford, for more than thirty years Governor of Plymouth Colony. This relationship comes to you thru the grandmother of Collins Gowdy. She was Ann Collins and married James Gowdy.

In case you wish more information, I shall be glad to give it to you.

Your brother cousin

Collie

December 17, 1940

Miss Etoile B. Simons
Mrs. Don A. Freeman
Tree Tops, Route 3
Brainerd, Minnesota

Dear Girls:

I am sending you a record of the names of the passengers on the Mayflower who left descendants.

You are a direct descendent from William Bradford, for more than thirty years Governor of Plymouth Colony. This relationship comes to you thru the grandmother of Collins Gowdy. She was Ann Collins and married James Gowdy.

In case you wish more information, I shall be glad to give it to you.

Your loving brother

Collie

WCS:T

December 17, 1940

Mrs. Kathryne L. Drought
1417 North Blackstone Avenue
Jackson, Michigan

My dear Kathryne:

Your letter of December 9 and Betty's card of December 16 arrived at the same time.

Some years ago when I first came to the conclusion that your teeth were causing most of your bad health, I had hoped that you would have the teeth extracted rather than have them treated, because I have never known a case in which the treatment was successful; and one infected tooth can cause a great deal of trouble.

Betty's card indicated that you were improving somewhat, and I hope that you will be feeling much better by Christmas. As soon as your condition will warrant it, I certainly would advise having the infected tooth drawn rather than to have it treated.

I am glad that the men are busy and that you are happy over your new daughter.

I wish you happiness and good cheer for the holiday season, and inclose, herewith, a Christmas check for \$10.00.

Your loving cousin

December 14, 1940

A Florist
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Dear Sir:

Please send as good a blossoming poinsettia
as you can for \$2.00 to Miss Lillian Gowdy, 3751
Aldrich Avenue South, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Please send the bill to me.

Miss Gowdy is my cousin.

Respectfully yours

WCS:T

December 11, 1940

Mrs. Charles Stough
1534 Vermont Street
Lawrence, Kansas

Dear Mary Jule:

The enclosed came to me as I have been assisting in a small way in the care of lepers for, perhaps, twenty years.

You will note the name of the tree, and, I think at least once in my life, I spelled something correctly.

Sincerely yours

WCS:T

Enclosure

December 13, 1940

Judge C. C. Simons
Detroit, Michigan

Dear Sir:

About twenty years ago I had some very interesting letters from a Mr. Thomas Simons of Columbus, Ohio who had given quite a little time to the study of Simons genealogy. The last letter I addressed to him, perhaps ten years ago, was returned unclaimed, which makes me believe that he had, probably, passed away.

Someone, however, should have the data that he gathered, and I am writing you thinking that possibly you might know something of the Thomas Simons family.

The first Simons that I know of definitely in my line was near Enfield, Connecticut and was born about 1650. Circumstantial evidence leads me to believe that he was a son of William Simons who was in Woburn, Massachusetts as early as 1635, and I think, probably, that this is the same William Simons who came from England at about that time, the name of the ship having been given me by Mr. Thomas Simons.

If you have ever given any time to genealogy, you have, doubtless, found it interesting. Early variations of the name in Scandinavian countries show the family to be an ancient one. The first member in England came over with William, the Conqueror. Many of the families in the United States bearing this name are, also, of English ancestry, but emigrated to America at a later date than my forebears.

I shall be pleased to hear from you.

Respectfully yours

WCS:T

December 13, 1940

Mr. G. W. Simons
Darling and Company
4201 South Ashland Avenue
Chicago, Illinois:

Dear Sir:

About twenty years ago I had some very interesting letters from a Mr. Thomas Simons of Columbus, Ohio who had given quite a little time to the study of Simons genealogy. The last letter I addressed to him, perhaps ten years ago, was returned unclaimed, which makes me believe that he had, probably, passed away.

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I shall be pleased to hear from you.

Respectfully yours

WCS:T

December 10, 1940

Dear Sisters:

A son was born to Dorothea and her husband Sunday evening about eleven o'clock. The baby is rugged, well-formed, and has hair, apparently, as dark as Dorothea's. We have not seen his eyes yet because he is so perfectly satisfied with life that he sleeps all the time, and, as much as we want to see his eyes, we don't feel like forcing him to open them.

You will be interested in his name - Charles Simon Johnson. This makes a combination of Charles, the first name of Mr. Johnson, Sr., and Dorothea's maiden name. Lance is at home with us and we are enjoying him.

It is the expectation now to bring Dorothea to Lawrence in an ambulance Friday or Saturday of this week to remain for a week in Lawrence Memorial Hospital where she will be at home and we can visit her more easily than at Topeka. When we saw her yesterday she looked as sweet and fresh as only she can look, and one could hardly deem it possible that she had given birth just the night before.

Bus is with her, having come down Sunday morning to meet us. We had Dorothea in Topeka Saturday to see her physician, and she took dinner with us at the Jayhawk Hotel. The next morning we arrived at Stormont Hospital at about nine o'clock and Bus had beaten us there by about five minutes. He came down last night to see the basketball game, in which Kansas was victorious over a very fine team from Texas.

You may have seen the announcement of the birth in the paper. We had thought of wiring you Sunday night but Gertie thought it would be better to wait until we knew the name to be given the new son.

We feel very happy and proud in having six grandsons and three granddaughters.

I hope that you are all happy and in good health.

With love

Your brother

December 3, 1940

Mrs. C. H. Ruff
Hanston, Kansas

Dear Mrs. Ruff:

I was talking today with Reverend C. W. Thomas, student pastor for the Baptist Church, and I found that I made a very grave error in regard to your son, Glen. I find that he has identified himself with the student work at our church and has efficiently conducted the Roger Williams Foundation orchestra. Mr. Thomas spoke very appreciatively of his work.

I had not seen Glen in the choir nor in the church, although he may have been there and I missed him, so I had presumed that he had not been coming.

I am very happy to correct my error and I trust that he may be able to continue his work at the University to its completion.

Sincerely yours

WCS:T

After 10 days, return to
THE ATCHISON, TOPEKA AND SANTA FE
RAILWAY SYSTEM,
908 Railway Exchange,
CHICAGO, ILL.

Hoinville



Mr. W. C. Seymour
of Journal-World Co.
Lawrence
Kansas

Charlie
says I'm a
good nurse

Nov 30

Dear Collier, and family -

I think we have
headed off influenza
Charles' temperature
is gone, and he is moist
I give him liquids only
but lots of them
He has just had his
medicine and a glass
of consommé also an
ice tea glass of hot lemonade
It is 2 AM and I'm going
to bed now. He is
still somewhat stuffy
but nothing to worry
me. and I'm sure not
gone to his lungs.

I had kept a pad and
counter-irritant on his
lungs - If everything
went right he'll be up
tomorrow afternoon and
in his office Tuesday -

He got up this morning
rubbed himself with
alcohol and kept on the
chest pad, dressed and
wore heavy overcoat and
fur cap, drove down town
and was in his office -
for a while - I was almost
frantic because I had
fought high temperature
most of last night -
Fortunately the weather

2 moderated and you
melted ^{when he got back} he had his
broth and fruit juice and
was glad to get back in
bed. This was his birthday
but I called off all celebra-
ting until he is well

He had cards and you
calls from friends but
felt too miserable to care
much. Our cable late
tonight special from his
niece and nephew who always
send funny ones. - They only
pretended they forgot until
the last minute and said
"Had my face red?"
I wish get to bed - but I
it so seldom well, I knew you

would be worried
When he gets up and
goes to bed, you may know
he is really ill and I
don't waste anymore.

I do, not get cold infections
easily but my throat is
scratchy tonight and I'm
coughing but I'm taking
medicine and believe I
can fight it off.

Went to had a fall on
my knee, my leg, a week
ago - It didn't break but
it's discolored, very sore
and painful if touched.

I'll have to be more careful
I jumped to catch something
falling and tripped over

3 but I saved the breaking
any way and am 100 to
the good but am almost
inclined to think I've suffered
more than 150 worth of
discomfort just in trying
to turn over in bed with it.

All ^{diapiric} is coming on all
right but the swelling
and discoloration are
not going as fast as they
should - She is very brave
and keeps around.

If you see Mary Jane, please
tell her about Charlie as
it's too late to write now.
Much love (I read last
night in the Journal - would of you
thank you for dinner)
Your sister Julia

Friday night
Nov. 29, 1940

Dear Collie

I've everything all
right, ah Mary, Julie, Betty,
Charlie, you & I have heard
a word from them since
I was in Lawrence over
two weeks ago. ^{We have written two or three times} We would
like to know if they are
comfortably settled and
if the house is comfortable
and warm and if they are well.

The baby's room is on the
north side of the house
with a window opening on
the porch of her little bed.
and a draft blows in every
when the window is closed.

The window needs a storm
window badly - I wonder if
Mr. Woodley would push one
out - Bob said I mentioned
it but he said he knew

the roof you could be cold
for a child, that may become
uncovered in the night

I don't want to pay for it nor
Charles to think I mentioned
it - but I know it is needed

Both our tenants, Gallimore
and Spence have storm
windows and we do our certain
windows but not on all
of them

If Mr. Woody refused to get
it, I will pay for it if he puts
it on - they are not expensive
and I should advise -

little Vera has had eyes
very severe colds and coughed
when I was there - It is a lot
easier to prevent a cold than
to cure one.

Charles came home sick
from the office at noon today
and has been in bed ever

2 since - Dr. White told me what
to do but I already knew what
to do. The fever is broken and
he is perspiring tonight. Has
had only liquids and lots of
bread. Is sleeping easily
now so I'm going to lie down
soon but shall sleep with
one eye open and give his
medicine next at 2 o'clock
then at 5.

I have been a little under the
weather but a few tests showed
I wasn't eating proteins enough
so am eating two egg yolks
and two slices of beefsteak
and yellow vegetables ^{each day} so I am
better. It is strange when we
consider that we never heard
of vitamins a few years ago and
now have to watch our diets
so carefully - I rarely know
what it means to be hungry

and judge not, tried to diet
and did not know I was
slightening proteins

I think I ate more when you
were there than I usually do; not
about because, Gertie always
had a delightful menu, but
my pleasure in being with
you and our visiting along
as my own wish, not hurried
and enjoyment in conversation
made me eat unconsciously
eat more and enjoy food

In a city, it seems to me there
is little leisure - distances
are great and there is always
some reason to hurry -

Now very confidentially, I
had a letter from Grace
saying they were thinking
or wondering if they ^{you and myself} would
not enjoy and benefit by
opening some time

3 in Hob Springs Ark. A warmer
climate in winter is always
pleasant, but she said they
had good luck last winter
at Hill Lake - I think it
would be unwise to leave
Etyle there alone and she
did not mention talking her
with them - E has lived with
us several years over half of our
married life which will be
32 years Feb. 25 - Of course I
have E's room ready for her and
always shall have a place
for her but I had hoped after
the awful drought we had when E
was so ill and had the stroke
that Grace would keep her
through this winter and next
summer. She does not have
so much to see to and some
iron in the fire - I'm more than
willing to do more than my share

but more emphatically I
feel the time has come that
France should relieve me of
half of the responsibility. I
know you are always willing
and ready to open your door
to your family but you do not
do your part in anything that
calls for extra expense but
your care should stop there
It would not be fair to
venture to have E. live with
you or pay you long visits
I have always felt it
a sister's duty to care for
a brother or sister who is ill
or afflicted or for a mother or
father. The woman is at
the home where the care
must be given and it is not
right nor just for a sister-in-law

4 to have that care.
Willy's wife, Terry, was lovely.
but she could not have given
Mrs Reinecke the loving care
Hertel did.

I told Grace by letter that
I did not think she would like
Hot Springs - It is so full of
invalids, many with social
diseases and impurities to be
boiled and washed out of
and there is so little of interest
there, outside of the springs,
that I am sure time would
drag. Galveston, Wheelbarrow
or San Antonio or San Augustine
would be much lovelier.
I would rather go to historic
old San Augustine than to
Miami any day - I wrote to Grace
about my diet being deficient in protein
as a mere suggestion that a

few texts might determine the
cause for her pain, furor
or shoulder. I am positive
E. is deficient in protein as
she is almost entirely a
vegetarian.

How do you think Gollie
that I want to shift my
responsibilities and if they
carry her there I shall
write and urge her return.

I can get Vera again
as she left a note saying
she would gladly return
to me at any time and I
do not expect Ardeane and
John to be here after Feb 1st.
Her sister is moving here and
I believe she will want to move
in with them after John's
mid year passing. She could not

5 - will move during a
semester without his failing
I know Etta is comfortable
here and if she just
does not boss us all and
dictate all we do; we can
all be peaceful. Water is
always good to her and
leaves washing ironing
or cleaning to do her bidding
If she returns I shall
make one more effort to
get her to take the house
stairs bedroom with its own
bath - but shall not insist
if it makes her unhappy
Please don't pay anything
to France about it but as they
always drive wherever they
go - I know I would love to
go to and pay her share of
food or rent etc - I'm sure I

would not be loyal to the
cause that Raleigh would
be and they would not go
if they had to leave
him. They might decide
not to go but I think they
want to and possibly feel
that as E. has been here
three months, it is time
for her to return.
She has certainly been
wonderful for E. to be here -
a complete change in
every way was what she
needed and after a year
has passed she may want
to return here but if she
wants to come before that,
all right too - Give dear
love to Bertie and ask her not
to forget the recipe for pear sauce
and the cranberry sauce. Much love to
you - Charlie is sleeping like a baby and
still keeps pinning your ^{other} ~~love~~ ^{Julia}

"Tree Tops" Gull Lake, Brainerd, Minn.
November 7, 1940.

My very dear Collie, Gertie,
Dolph, Marie, Dolph and John;

Some time after my walk to the mail box Raleigh barked at one of the Bisek dogs. There are two now which look much alike. One had done walk a little down the drive which leads toward your houses. I put on a coat and hat and Raleigh was happy to accompany ^{me.} Fortunately the Bisek dog had turned back toward his home by the time we were well on our way.

Just after election there was ^{heavy} frost, naturally. I thought most plants had frozen, petunias were beautiful in the South as ear boxes at Marie's. The geranium ^{had} color but leaves had been frozen.

Grace and Don left this morning for Minneapolis. Grace will have an X-ray picture of her shoulder followed by the inspection of the osteopathic physician she visited on ^{former} ~~trip~~ trip. If she feels like it, she will accompany Don to the first ball game Saturday. Sunday they intend to return if they should.

The Bisek brothers just left in a boat to get fish, maybe in a line to smoke later. Deeph with your Dakota game you may no longer be interested in fish. I saw an other boat out to day not far from the lodge in front of your houses.

We are very sorry naturally, in most election results but proud of ^{Kansas,} campaign promised to keep on. I am glad Willkie during his "40" regardless of our inability to do We should live up to life begins in "42" time 4:30 by radio. all we would like to do now we able. Temp 42° time 4:30 by radio. You will see Julia soon when she visits May June. Charles and Vera celebrating their birthdays. Give my love to Dorothy and Wade on their birthday too.

In fact love to you and all.

May God help us all even though Willkie was not elected.

Stodd B. Simmons.

Tree Tops, Gull Lake, Brainerd, Minnesota.

November 26, 1940.

My dear Collie and Gertie:

and letter

Inclosed I send you a clipping which was not sent with the others and ^{to you} letters, regarding Charlie Ruff and family. Please be sure that this is sent with the papers and a letter or two which were to be sent to Charlie's widow.

I thought of mailing this directly to her then decided to send it to you so all could be mailed together and you could see this too. Don went to town but it is snowing. I trust he will be able to drive back without mishap.

Jack and Al have just returned from wrapping your rose bush. Raleigh returned with them as he is interested in having everything right.

With much love as always to you and all.

Etoile B. Simons.

November 30, 1940

Mrs. C. H. Ruff
Hanston, Kansas

Dear Mrs. Ruff:

My sister Etoile has very kindly sent me your letter of November 21 and other letters and clippings which I was very glad to read, and now return to you, herewith.

You will recall that nearly 25 years ago I made my first return visit to Hodgeman County, having my eldest son Dolph with me. He was very favorably impressed with Mr. Ruff's fine Christian character, and I was happy that he had this opportunity of knowing him. I have enjoyed the correspondence that I have had with him in recent years, and believe him to have been a thoroughly consecrated Christian gentleman.

It is very hard to lose those we love and it is hard for us to be philosophical when the loss is in our own home, and, yet, I am sure that you are happier to have lost your husband while he was still in the possession of all his faculties than you would have been to have seen him live to be an aged man, broken in both mind and body.

I am sorry that I haven't known your son Glen better. As I recall, he visited me once in the office and, I think, dropped in on another occasion when he was not here, but I saw him only once. - At that time I asked him to come to the Baptist Church where, I was sure, he could be very useful and happy in their choir. I think I gave his name also to both our regular pastor and to our student pastor, but, so far as I know, he did not come. I have no doubt that he has been busy with his school work, and, perhaps, in trying to make a living at the same time.

I haven't heard for a long while in regard to Jessie Button. The last I knew of her, she was in very frail health. She seemed to have been a veritable angel of mercy in her own community of Hanston where her husband also was an earnest supporter of the church.

The thought comes to me also that Mr. Ruff, Sr., loaned the

Mrs. C. H. Ruff

2

November 30, 1940

church organization money to complete the building, and, I hope, he received payment for same before he passed away.

I think very kindly of our early home in Hodgeman County, but, aside from Jess Aiken who, at present, is in New Mexico, I think there are few, if any, still resident there that I knew as a boy.

This is a long and rambling letter but it carries with it my best wishes for you and yours.

Cordially

Your friend

November 30, 1940

Mrs. L. A. McNalley
Minneapolis, Kansas

Dear Janet:

I know you have been having a pleasant time with Eileen, and that probably she has pitched in to help Mary Beth with the dishes or in other ways as she is an energetic little tyke who is usually busy. We think a lot of her.

We had a very happy Thanksgiving at our home but missed you and your family. We had a letter from you, I think, yesterday.

Bus went back to Dawson yesterday, taking with him Marie, Dolph, Jr., and John; and Dolph, Sr., is probably on his way now in order to be there for dinner tonight with the Nordlunds and Mrs. Nelson.

Dorothea is well and looks well, and is very painstaking in carrying out the advice of her physician. It won't be long now. We are having lots of fun with Lance.

We enjoyed our visit with you and the family.

Love to all

Your father

November 30, 1940

Miss Etoile B. Simons
Tree Tops, Gull Lake
Brainerd, Minnesota

Dear Etoile:

I am inclosing a carbon copy of a letter I have just written to Mrs. Ruff in which I returned all of the letters and items which you so kindly sent me.

The weather has been more pleasant here, lately, and this morning it was really balmy, but it is cooling off and may be cold tonight. It seems queer to me that we can foretell these changes now while we had to wait to find them out when we were children. I have often thought how deceptive weather conditions must have been to the pioneers. A warm day in mid-winter might well have led them to believe that such weather was to be expected, and a little later a storm may have found them very poorly prepared to meet it. I noted over the radio last night that sub-zero weather was reported from Minneapolis and it must have been still colder at the lake.

I wonder how thick the ice is now on the lake. I presume it is still too early to have it frozen solidly enough to permit traffic upon it. I think that many of those living on the lake use the ice for as many months as they do the roads, although it was far from being icy some of the days at our cabin this summer.

I think all of the birthdays in the family have now passed for 1940.

We had a delightful time Thanksgiving at home with Lance sitting at the table to make the fourteenth member. There would have been fourteen without him had it not been that Eileen was spending Thanksgiving with Mary Beth.

We are having a fine visit with Dorothea and Lance. He can speak pieces, sing songs, and loves to joke and tease--what I mean is, he loves to do little things just to tease someone in a playful way. I don't know that I have ever seen him angry for any length of

November 30, 1940

of time. Bus was, also, here for Thanksgiving but he went home yesterday morning and took Marie, Dolph, Jr., and John with him to spend the week-end with her folks. Dolph, Sr., is on his way up there now and will take dinner with them tonight, returning home tomorrow afternoon.

I wonder if I have ever told you that Loren (Lauren) Gowdy lives in Sabetha, Kansas. You may recall that he is a son of Ed Gowdy, and, when I drove by his home, which used to be the old Roop farm, he had a boy who could have passed as a twin of Dolph, Jr. I shall try to look him up sometime when I go through Sabetha, which I do occasionally when I drive up to Dawson to see Dorothea.

I feel sure that everything around our cabin home is being well cared for by Grayce and Don, and their capable men. I am sure that hardly a week passes that some member of the family doesn't figure out just how long it will be until Gertie and Marie will return to the lake.

I didn't make any note in regard to the family background of Charlie Ruff and his wife.

You speak of the birds working on the suet; We found that a squirrel has been able to climb a one-inch metal pipe to reach the feeding box we have placed for birds. I think we shall have to send him to the happy hunting ground as we do not care to encourage squirrels. I don't like them because they are destructive to birds of all kinds as they raid the nests of both eggs and young.

I know that Gertie will give attention to the matter of a suit or coat just as quickly as she can. I will take your letter of the twenty-fifth to Gertie so that she can have it before her in checking up on the clothing.

Do you get the National Geographic Magazine? We find it very interesting.

You can let Grayce read this if she will promise to be a good girl.

With much love to all of you from

Your brother

November 23, 1940

Mrs. Don A. Freeman
Tree Tops, Gull Lake
Brainerd, Minnesota

My dear Grayce:

I was under the impression that I had acknowledged the recent letter from you and Don containing check for \$250. I thought about it so much that I may have been confused in thinking that I had acknowledged it.

I am very glad to note your progress and sincerely hope, as money comes in from the mine, that you will conserve it and will put yourselves in a position of security against lean years which may follow. I think it is always wise for ~~you~~ to try to get out of debt for it puts us in better shape to meet any unfavorable conditions which might later develop. I think that I have told you that the deeds have already been made out and attested by a notary.

We think of you often and wish that we could be together here more often as we are together during the summer months.

No special news here. We had a very pleasant visit with Janet and Mac this week. We went out Tuesday and returned Thursday afternoon in time to attend the Mayflower Society banquet that evening. Both you and Etoile are eligible to membership in a Mayflower Society, and, if there is no society there, you could easily affiliate, I think, with our Kansas Society. The cost is \$3.00 a year which includes payment for the dollar banquet held annually on November 21, which was the date of the signing of the Compact.

Give my love to Etoile and to Don.

Lovingly

November 18, 1940

Miss Etoile B. Simons
Mrs. Don A. Freeman
Tree Tops, Gull Lake
Brainerd, Minnesota

Dear Sisters:

I am inclosing, herewith, copy of a letter I have just written to Julia. There is not much to add. I noticed a few days ago that the cold weather had passed on to the South where it was unusually severe. It is possible that Gertie and I will drive out to Minneapolis to spend a day or two with Janet and family.

I don't know yet just what we shall do for Thanksgiving, but we have ordered a turkey and will make it into pemmican in case no one comes to help us eat it. It is a little hard to plan, there would be sixteen of us counting maids if Janet should not come and twenty if they are here, so we are ordering a good-sized bird.

Yesterday we took a ride and took with us Mrs. Frank Strong, widow of the former Chancellor, Mrs. Paul C. Rankin and her mother, Mrs. C. H. Constant. During the drive I made my first visit to the home of Governor Stanton recently purchased by Ex-Governor Harry Woodring after resigning his position as Secretary of War in Roosevelt's Cabinet. The grounds are rather inaccessible and, doubtless, in the early days were reached by a round-about prairie road. Until Woodring bought it, it was very difficult, indeed, both to find the spot and to get to it after you knew where it was. A new road has made it more accessible but it lacks a whole lot of being on a highway. I think the Governor exercised good judgment in picking a spot of infinite beauty. The house, evidently, fronted the south where the view was limited by rolling hills, although at that time, with the paucity of timber, one could, undoubtedly, see farther than today, but to the north the view is magnificent. You look across the Kaw River, the bottoms north of the river, and to the range of hills far to the north.

Their house was built of native stone in the manner in which we built our big barn in Hodgeman County. I judge that the walls are thirty inches thick at the base. It is three stories high at the rear

Miss Etoile B. Simons
Mrs. Don A. Freeman

2

November 18, 1940

of the house, which is north, while the second floor or main part of the house is reached by two or three steps on the south. There are fourteen rooms, each room, I think, had a fireplace but they were baby affairs--no mantels except in a few rooms and, therefore, little depth to the fireplaces, most of them being not more than twelve inches deep. The floors have sagged and walls have cracked until it is a magnificent ruin. It will take a lot of money to restore it, but, if it is done, they will have a main floor in southern style, with a wide hall from north to south with rooms on each side.

The roof seemingly rests like a mantel on the walls and it is a wonder that it has not blown off. The Woodrings have brought up six or eight box cars, which they have shaped around on north, east, and west for a feed yard for stock, and the cars, themselves, are used for baled forage and, probably, grain.

If you are here when it is dry enough to permit one to take country roads, we shall take you out to see it, but please don't wait forty-nine years as I have done as I may be too busy then to show you around.

Much love