

January 6, 1942

Mrs. Leslie E. Wallace  
The Tiller and Toiler  
Larned, Kansas

My dear Mrs. Wallace:

I thank you for the words of congratulations in your letter of December 12th. I knew and admired your husband and Ralph and Eunice. I feel like an inhabitant of Larned because when I was six years old, I helped to scratch some of the marks which still deface the sandstone in what was then known as the stone block and afterwards I think was known for a time as the Grand Hotel.

You are right. My sister, Mrs. C. H. Hoinville, who was Julia Simons, has written a number of stories in regard to the West and we have just issued for her a little pamphlet, "In Old Hodgeman--A Story of Western Kansas". It is probable that she will send you a copy, but if not, you could drop her a line-- Mrs. Chas. H. Hoinville, 7539 Colfax Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

Momma, Mrs. Jennie B. Simons, taught at the Waterman School which was just east of Fort Larned on the north side of the creek. She also taught near Garfield and Julia taught in two or three nearby districts. I attempted rather unsuccessfully to teach a term of school in Ness County when I was sixteen years old. My great handicap was in my utter lack of knowledge of the theory and practice of teaching, as most of my education had been secured at home under the capable direction of my mother, and I knew little about how to conduct a school.

I have been away from our old home in Hodgeman for so many years that few are left who would remember our family or whom I would know, but nevertheless we feel very kindly toward the short grass country.

Thanking you again for your letter of congratulations, I remain

Sincerely yours,

WCS:DMF