

December 22, 1941

Dr. Ross W. Sanderson
Buffalo, New York

My dear Dr. Sanderson:

You failed to give me a more adequate address, but I have no doubt that your good work in Buffalo makes a further address unnecessary.

I certainly remember you and remember you well and my remembrances are all kindly and favorable to you and your work. I was mighty glad to get your letter and I wish for you continued success.

I was happy to get a good letter from Frank Jennings and another from Dr. O. C. Brown, former pastors. You may not recall but years ago when our Baptist Church was temporarily without a pastor, I acted for the church as its representative on the Ministerial Alliance at the Bieder Wolf meetings. Prior to that time, I had acted as secretary of the building committee of the Baptist Church and as a result for probably twenty years, I continued to receive letters addressed to Rev. W. C. Simons.

During the World War I had an odd experience. Jake Cohn, the proprietor of the Fair Drygoods Store, asked me to head Jewish relief in Lawrence. I told him that he had many Jews in the community who could do the work better than a Gentile, and he said that he thought probably I could pry loose something from some of the fellows that one of their own ilk might be unable to get. I knew that the Jews had contributed in all of our other campaigns here--this was during the World War--and so I said all right, I will do the best I can. Oddly enough and contrary to all of our ideas of their character, the Jews refused to let me contribute personally to their fund, but for a number of years afterward, I received all kinds of communications from Jewish organizations and finally had to write some of them that while my name was Simons, I was not a Jew and had no Jewish antecedents and was a member of the Baptist Church. After that they dropped me from their lists.