

December 11, 1944

Miss Lillian Gowdy
3751 Aldrich Avenue South
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Dear Lillian:

We were glad to hear from you and realize that you still have your brave spirit and your kindly attitude towards life in general. I hope that you will have a Merry Christmas, and I am sure that Mrs. Olson will do everything in her power to make you happy and to feed you well on that day. While it seems too bad that we have to get old, yet it seems to me that we could pretty nearly do away with having a hell if we could make people live forever. Of course, if we could live as rocks without particularly aging, it wouldn't be so bad, but if we had to hang on for century after century, I think it would be pretty tough going.

I don't know that I told you that Gertie lost her last brother just after the celebration of our Golden Wedding. He was 78 years old and had been in frail health for some little time. We had looked after his health and comfort and Mr. Hoinville had been very kind in looking after him for us. He was buried in the little cemetery at Shawnee, Kansas, beside his parents and a brother and sister. This leaves Gertrude as the last living member of her immediate family.

The ground is covered with several inches of snow, but the grass underneath is still as green as it is in summer. The leaves have long since fallen from the trees so that shrubs and trees have gone into the winter in decent shape.

We shall not be able to have our family together this Christmas but inasmuch as we were all together on our anniversary, it does not seem so bad.

Thursday of this week will be the 53rd anniversary of my coming to Lawrence.

With love and best wishes, I am

As ever,

WCS:df

Your Brother Cousin