

November 21, 1944

Dr. J. Russel Wickey
Belleville, Illinois

Dear Russel:

I enclose herewith a letter that I presume was written by your stepmother who was a most excellent woman.

I have enjoyed reading these old letters found in the effects of my sister, Ettoile, but I am impressed with the sorrow, sadness, and trouble in most of them. In letters written by my father to his wife and babies, I find that he was away from home a great deal of the time of his married life, and apparently no man ever loved his wife and family more than he did, and it was a great sacrifice to him and undoubtedly to mamma that they could not have been together day by day. Letters from my grandfather and uncles--all of them had the same note--telling of trouble. Perhaps we today could write in the same way were we so inclined, although generally speaking, I think that ~~our~~ people as a whole are better off than they were seventy-five years ago, and that health conditions are much better now than then.

If my father and your mother could have been transplanted into southern states, I think their lives might have been extended for many years.

I wonder if it were at Wilmington where the Masons were located.

I am glad you are going to be with your family for Christmas.

Love and best wishes to all of you,

Your Cousin

WCS:df
Enc.