

January 13, 1944

Mrs. Chas. D. Stough Jr.  
7539 Colfax Avenue  
Chicago 49, Illinois

Dear Mary Jule:

Gertie came down with me this morning to see her dentist and read her letter while she was here.

We are delighted that you have found the shawl because we felt certain that it couldn't have gotten away from the house. I am glad to know you do appreciate things from your little grandmother. She was possibly a little larger than you, but not much, and how she would have loved you and your little daughter.

In going thru the pictures that we brought home, we ran across a sheet of paper written on both sides in pencil concerning a very bad storm on the night of my birth and reference to my severe illness some time during the first year. It was written so beautifully that I had it copied in the office yesterday, the original having become so dim that it was difficult to read it. She was a wonderful woman and how she ever went thru all that she did and kept her little flock together is a mystery to me. Her children, however, all helped as best they could, and your grandmother began earning money as a teacher when she was 14, and was a great help to her in sustaining morale because she was older and more understanding than the rest of us.

We opened the cedar chest day before yesterday, but have not yet been able to unlock the trunk. The key that was used to lock it evidently refuses to open it, but I shall knock it open with a cold chisel if necessary. Everything in the chest came thru all right, but it was in there that I put in a lot of check stubs and some letters that I did not have time to go thru in Chicago. I appreciate all that you have done and thank you so much for finding the shawl and sending it to us. It has probably been close to 50 years and maybe longer since I have seen it.

By the way I heard indirectly the other day that the parties who were presumed to rent your house had said they were not going to take it, but they are still occupying it as long as the other parties have paid the rent for. I presume that your folks know