

January 12, 1944

Mr. C. H. Hoinville
908 Railway Exchange
Chicago 4, Illinois

Dear Charlie:

It is my understanding that used pianos are bringing a much better price now than at any time in the past. I understand that Mary Jule prefers an upright and in that case would not care to have either the grand piano at the Hills or the one in your home. This, of course, would be a matter for you to discuss with her if you care to, but if you do wish to dispose of either or both of your grand pianos, you probably could never find a better time than now, and you could take it up with some reputable dealer in Chicago who doubtless has people on his list who want them.

I have referred a time or two to mamma's Paisley shawl. We found that Mary Jule had inadvertently given away a red shawl that belonged to mamma which she recovered from Katie. I think perhaps that she may have given the Paisley shawl to someone and hesitates to say so. If the shawl has been given away, I should very much like to redeem it because it was so precious to little mamma who had so few things of that sort. I will appreciate it very much if you will make every effort to locate the shawl. If she has given it to members of the Stough family, I am sure they would not want to keep it when they know how much it means to me.

Mamma has been dead for more than 22 years, but her little keepsakes were not largely divided, and so to the best of my knowledge I have not seen this shawl of mamma's since I was a boy. Julia finally got Etoile to unpack it in order to preserve it. I understand that it is quite badly moth-eaten and for that reason Mary Jule may have felt that it had no value, and to me it is precious even as a scrap, and perhaps I could have it restored. I am perfectly willing that you should let Mary Jule read this letter and if she does and can possibly get this shawl for me, I shall be greatly indebted to her.

I hope that everything is moving along with you as happy as possible under the circumstances. I miss Julia very much.