

February 15, 1945

Miss Lillian Gowdy
3751 Aldrich Avenue South
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Dear Lillian:

I thought I detected just a little of a somber note in your last letter, where in contemplation of your passing you fear that no one of your relatives would be there. I assure you that if at such a time I could be of any service to you, I should make every effort to come, and if you had made note of what you would like to have done with your belongings, I shall try to see that your wishes are fully carried out. This, of course, is in case you do not have someone else with whom you have already arranged to care for things, in which case I certainly should not wish to meddle in any manner.

In comparatively recent years I have been affected by a good many deaths--that of Julia, Etoile, Vera, Little Sally, our own John Louis, Mother Reineke, Gertie's sister Blanche, Dr. Gowdy, Gertie's brother John who died recently, and her brothers Will and George who went some years ago.

I keep in touch a little bit with Calla. I think she is slightly older than I, and her life seems rather saddened because her daughter, Norma, has been thwarted in what Calla believes was a promising career as a composer. I probably write her about twice a year.

Times now are very uncertain, but I am inclined to believe that Germany will be soundly defeated within a very short time and that Japan will be as certainly crushed, but her defeat will require a longer period of time and the expenditure of lives and money on the part of Americans. I am not all together happy over the prospects for the postwar period. We are certainly in the hands of unscrupulous politicians at home and are associated abroad with men in whom unfortunately we are not warranted in placing too much trust.

I still think that you are a wonderful woman of splendid fortitude and are possessed with an excellent view of life and its responsibilities.

With love and best wishes,

I remain