

May 15, 1947

Dr. J. Russel Wickey
29 Public Square
Belleville, Illinois

Dear Russel and Mima:

We are glad to reach both of you with one letter. We enjoyed the good letter that we had from Rusty.

It is my understanding that the first baby in your family named Charles, was born with a cleft pallet and had a silver plate to close the opening. I do not think he lived very long and the only record that I have is a letter written by your mamma, my Aunt Julia, to her brother - my father - Dolph Simons. At this time she appeared to be in poor health and heartbroken because of the death of the little boy. I think she had no other children at that time.

Papa died October 29, 1877 and your mamma died about six months previously. I think that letter is in the Simons family Bible and if you would like to have it, I will send it to you, as you have so little to remember your mother by.

Of the Mason line, I can give you a complete record beginning with Samson Mason who located at Swansea, Massachusetts, as I recall, at a very early date. Our great grandfather on the Simons side was Ezra Mason, who was the father of Wealthy Ann Mason, who married my grandfather Alfred Smith Simons, who was also your grandfather, being the father of Aunt Julia.

You and I are both rather short of relatives. Of my brother and three sisters, all I have left are Mary Jule Stough, my grandniece, and her little