

November 29, 1948

Doctor J. Russel Wickey
29 Public Square
Belleville, Illinois

Dear Russel:

You have certainly had your share of sorrow in losing members of your family, but, with the exception of the recent loss of your little grandson, most of the deaths occurred sometime ago.

Gertrude was the youngest, and the last one to pass away of the five children in the Reineke family, and while she had a nephew and a niece still living, we have not had communication from them for a number of years.

Grace and I are the only ones remaining of our family of five, and while she has no children, I am blessed with a son and three daughters and with seven grandsons and with three granddaughters. One granddaughter was married September 8, and two or three of the others will probably be married in the comparatively near future.

The 14th of December will be the 57th anniversary of my arriving in Lawrence, and now I have eleven graves to mark in the cemetery here, one of them being a great grandfather of Gertrude's who died many years before we came here. She was always so thoughtful in looking after the graves of members of my family, that I shall not neglect looking after the graves of her relatives. Father, mother, two brothers, and a sister are buried in the little cemetery at Shawnee, Kansas, and I have already taken wreaths to mark their graves for this fall.

With love to you and yours and best wishes for a Merry Christmas, I remain

Cordially yours

W. C. Simons