

W.C. Personal

February 6, 1948

Mr. J. W. Lang, Sexton
Jetmore, Kansas

Dear Mr. Lang:

Thank you very much for your letter of November 13. I am glad to know that my uncle, W. C. Gowdy, does not lie in an unmarked grave. As I told you before, I had placed the marker at the grave of my Uncle Harrison Gowdy.

I know that you were born in 1887, and I wonder if you are the son or grandson of Judge Lang, who for a number of years was Probate Judge of Hodgeman County. It is my remembrance that he became gray quite young. He lived south and west of our place, five or six miles away, and I think he lived not very far from the Butts and old Doctor Munger, whom you probably do not remember. We left Hodgeman County in 1888 when you were probably a year old, but we always have a kind remembrance of Judge Land and, as I have already intimated, we considered him older than he probably was because of his gray hair. As you know, it has been many years since we left Hodgeman County. Mamma passed away in 1921 at the age of eighty-five. Both of my older sisters, Julia and Etoile, died in 1943. My brother, Louis, passed away some years previous and my younger sister, Grace, now Mrs. Don A. Freeman of Brainerd, Minnesota, and I are the only living children. I have been a resident of Lawrence since December 1891, and have been engaged in the newspaper business. I have largely retired from active work and the business is carried on by my son, Dolph C. Simons.

I was talking recently to Mr. George Marquardt who spent some time in adjusting assessments in Hodgeman County, and he tells me that the County had become very prosperous and that the land in the southwest part of the County had become very productive. We lived on the old Hays and Dodge Trail about three miles south of Duncan's Ranch on the Pawnee Creek. The south line of our