

March 3, 1949

Mrs. Walter W. Gregg
1901 Parkdale
Montrose, California

Dear Calla:

Your letter of February 19 with the enclosures was read with interest.

Etoile and Julia both had the pleasure of visiting the old home of the Gowdys in Wakeegan. I had hoped to make a drive up there with them, but we never got around to it, and ~~there~~ wouldn't be much pleasure in going there alone.

Grandfather Gowdy was a thoroughly good man whose idea of morality was so set and hard that it was hard for him to overlook anything that may have been done. I think he made a mistake in not being a real companion and confident of his boys.

I have one son and seven grandsons, four of whom are young men. Instead of being the austere grandad, I have been more of a partner with them. I thoroughly enjoy them, and I think they have a freedom with me that is not always found between grandparents and the grandchildren.

Dorothea, our youngest daughter, has three boys. The youngest being three years old and the oldest ten. They are fine little chaps and we have lots of fun together.

Grandfather's boys seemed to be a little bit afraid of him, but sometimes I think that the one who really hit it hardest of all was Grandmother Gowdy who gave birth to twelve children of whom six grew to maturity. I wish that she had lived longer so that I could have known her better. I shall never forget going into the house in Hodgeman county, throwing my arms around her neck, and giving her a kiss. It was the last time that I saw her alive.

That country was harsh country, and it is quite likely that