

P. S. Collis, I didnt notice until I had this envelope
addressed, that there had been an erasure on it. Will you forgive me?
It was kind of dark & I didnt see it until too late.

WALTER W. GREGG

PHONE CHURCHILL 9-3845

1901 PARKDALE PLACE

MONTROSE, CALIFORNIA

Feb. 19, 49.

Dear Collie:

File

Your letter came some days ago, and I thank you for your understanding heart as far as my poor little mother was concerned, and I love you for the tribute you paid her, and you "dont know the half of it?" For tho I was a very little girl when her trials began, I was wise for my years, and I know what a brave soul she was, and never complained.

A girl gently reared, in a household of girls, all older than she was, it must have been a very tame, quiet existance. You see, I can remember as far back as when I was three years old, and we sent east to see my mother's people. Her aunt Lavinia, who was the bearest to her in age, seven years' difference in the ages, told me many things I had never known before, and all to Mama's credit; what a sweet little girl she was, with a marvelous sense of humor. And when this young Lochinvar came out of the west, and wanted to marry her, it was a far cry from anything she had been accustomed to, a rather strenuous life for a girl whose former environment had beendifferent.

I know that Uncle Augustus and Papa were quite a problem for grandpa. You see, I had the great pleasure of having Uncle Augustus with us in Chicago for a short time, and we took a trip to Waukeegan, where our folks had lived when Dad and Uncle Augustus were boys, and Uncle Augustus told me a lot of things that I would never have known had he not been with us on that trip. He showed us where he and Dad had sneaked off to dances, over the roof of one place. I remember we saw one old lady, I think her name was Campbell. She walked with a crutch. She walked up to Uncle and asis, "Are YOU Joe Gowdy?" Uncle said, "No, I am his brother". That handed me a great thrill, to think I had met an old lady who had been a girl when my father was in Waukeegan. We stopped at Mr. Farwell's house and talked to him. It is built on the site of the old homestead. Mr. Farwell is a very prominent Chicagoan. He WAS, when he was alive. I dont know whether he is still alive or not. I will never forget that trip. I am glad Norma was along, too. We passed the Boardman home, & Uncle told us of a time when they were all in a school room, & some kind of a half-witted boy kept laughing & disturbing the quiet of the schoolroom. At last the teacher said, to this boy, asking him what was the matter. And he said, "George Boardman is saying nasty things to make me laff". That was a family joke after that. Maybe you've heard it. O, memories!

Collie, I am sorry we've always lived so far apart, for I think we would have been very good friends. I was always fond of Julis, VERY fond of Grayce, and was very proud of Tolie & her achievements. You were a very worthwhile family, I know that. I knew what you told me about the Bradford ancestry, but it isnt in our book, so I'm glad to have it in your letter.

(over)