

January 16, 1951

Mrs. Grace Bell Brush
Muncie, Indiana

Dear Mrs. Brush:

I received your interesting note with your Christmas card and I wish to compliment you on your beautiful penmanship.

For many, many years in Lawrence I considered that your father and myself were the two hardest working men in town. We not only worked during the day but far into the night. As you may recall I lived at that time on Indiana Street so that I walked past the music store on my way home and could frequently see your father at work at his desk in the rear of the store. To go back still further the Bell Brothers business was first established in the 600 block not far from the Pierson Mills. I am not sure but that George V. Kummer may have had an interest at that time. That was before I came to Lawrence in December, 1891.

Later at about the time when I came, the store had been moved into the building owned by John Gardner, and Mrs. Gardner had a millinery store upstairs. I remember that the Dave Levy store was just south of you and the men in the store commented on the extreme modesty of your mother in having a foot-wide board placed along the side of the stairway so that they would not see her ankles as she went up and down stairs.

In those days I had to write all of the musical criticisms on recitals and my ignorance in the correct spelling of names made it quite difficult, so I would often go upstairs to the rooms of your parents where they would tell me how to spell the names of the composers.

I remember when you were born how happy they were over their charming little daughter. Then later came your sister, the harpist, of whom I have not heard for quite a long while.

I used to say that I had bought more pianos from your father's firm than any other person in Lawrence not connected