

1111
Mrs. John C. Mulholland
348 West Onwentsia Road
Lake Forest, Illinois 60045

January 15, 1966

Well, hi!

And first of all, though you spoke of pictures in your Ennis card, there was only one of Kay. No Andrew!

Thank you for sending the one of dad and Mr. Bert Snetzer.

Mike and I have been fascinated. (Mike's "curling"!) I asked Mike if he'd ever seen anyone who looked like Mr. Arthur before — and he said, "I'd like to say 'no!' because of this weird photography but that's my forehead, brows, eyes, nose, mouth, especially my chin and flopping ears — and now I know where I got this soap of hair! — At (over)

least he managed to make a dent
 in the front of his! (It's posted the
 same - and the same color!!) And
 we are certainly built exactly the
 same - look at the slope of the
 shoulders, and the shape of his
 hands and legs. (Identical! But so are mine!) - Only Mike
 is a blown-up version. He's
 already 4" taller, etc. And he
 has superb teeth ("Look, room! - no
 cavities!") (Mother and Daddy
 were married for six years before
 she found out his were false!)

Mike just came in. Dad kept
 telling him, but now he believes
 me!

You were only about 11 - and
 we lived in that buff brick house
 in Augusta - and mother was
 ill - and ^{her} Cousin Maquigite
 Shaw, from ^{somewhere} Alabama come
 to visit for weeks Judy and I
 had so much trouble feeding

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everyone, and washing and keeping
 house! Anyhow, she and
 a cousin who was a lawyer
 in some Ala. town were interested
 in tracing "the family tree" —
 distaff side only, because that's
 where they come in. Our
 Revolutionary ^{WAR} ancestor — on
 mother's side — was Col. ^{JUNIUS} Freeman.
 Mother's grand-
 father Benjamin Felix Simmons
 was a Captain in the Civil
 War. (He and our grandfather —
 "Papa" — Benjamin ^{FLETCHER} Simmons
 were surveying Walnut Grove
 Cemetery ^{ca?} when the first train
 rolled into Newport, Arkansas.
 (over)

They and Dr. Scarborough 4/11
(remember the lot across from Ebbey's.)
had wanted the capital of Ark.
to be Jacksonport ^{instead of S. Rock.} but they
lost by 3 legislative votes.
(This is so far as I heard it from
Uncle Bob, Aunt Margy, Papa, etc.)

(Papa was on his way to
S. Rock later on the Mo. Pac.
and went to the job and a
revolver he had strapped on
went off accidentally and
shot him through a kidney,
etc., etc. and he got dumped -
half-dead, on Dr. Scarborough's
operating table ^{inst. R.}. When Dr. S. said,
"I'm going to get this bullet out!"
they (?) said, "It will kill him!" and
he said, "This is my friend
Ben Simmons, and he's a wonder

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ful- and tough - son - of a bitch!"
(I know ~~a~~ million of these
tales! Remind me later if you
wish to hear. Remind me to
tell you what daddy said to
mother when she told him she
was preg. with Max! - I was
under that dining room table!!)

Anyhow, our grandma and
grandpa were named Lucy
James ("Miss Jenny") Saxon
Simmons and Benjamin Fletcher
Simmons. (They had Benjamin
^{anyhow take!} Felix, William, Eleanor Cornelia,
Son, Theodora, Saxon, and
Benjamin - he adopted his 1st
cousin's daughters, ^(Eileen?) ^{Sassie} ^{my love!} Lena & Ellen -
Later 3 more!) (over)

Grandmother's mother was
Theodora Saxon ~~the~~ — her
maiden name was Ratenberry.

(I can remember mother talking
about Uncle Billy Ratenberry ^(He was slender, tall + had silver hair!)
and his sister was a ~~doctor~~

doctor! — very unusual in that
day and age. (Sorry for the
mistakes! Mike is scraping up
his Zoology drawings and he's
so upset that he's not Michelangelo,
I'm upset!) As a matter of fact
mother was born tongue-
tied and she clipped her tongue!

(And Miss Jenny said, "Arthur,
rock the baby's cradle like a dear,
and when she grows up you may
have her!" — and he said, "Miss
Jenny, I wouldn't have this
squallin' little fool!" —)

Anyhow, mother loved her
"Gran" as much as Kelly loves me!

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And ever dear "Vante Marnee"
was completely in awe of her -
as was Uncle Bob and Papa!
(I have her picture! And Miss
Jenny - ^{and Papas!} Mom gave them to me
when she told me for the first
time she wanted Alison to have
"her silver".

And our great-great grandmother
was Antoinette Terry Saxon.
I always rather imagined the
name was really Antoinette
~~Terre~~ ^{Terre}, since she was French -
and things do get Americanized.
(Anyhow, do you remember dear
"Cousin Dess" Saxon and all her crew
who used to descend on us from

Texas and stay for months ...

No! you weren't born! Or you were a baby! They were fascinations but futile! ^{she was married into the Boston branch.}

On Papa's side I know nothing — except that I have a hunch they were far more elegant and realistic than on mother's.

I'd really rather talk about your gorgeous progeny — and mine — and what we're going to do about the future and not the past. Your young are beautiful — as are ours (you should see our daughter! She made her mistakes — as every person is entitled to do — and it's so lovely we can't believe it!)

9/11

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Something odd is, I keep remembering Ehem Watson!! When Al. was having her "growing pains" I kept thinking of all he'd told me about Emily + Franchele — and Lady Eliz. and Elin. Geeg Patterson — his nieces. Right next to doctor

was Ehem, Doc. Elton, Uncle Bob McDonald, Mr. O.W. Watson, Geeg Snow, and Paul Geeg. And I forgot Felix — but he never thought me anything about females! I hate to think of a life barren of those gentlemen.

I look at Mike and am astounded that I think "I know what you're going to do!" — I've known you before. This isn't fair. But he does it.

And our oldest granddaughter ^{10/11}
(She will be 3, Tuesday) is the
most spectacular female anyone
ever saw. (youngest is very pretty
and smart!)

Talk about dull letters! I
could have told you about
when Hoppy died with diphtheria
and Buddy & Billy had it, too — ^{hearing}
and when house no. 1 burned
down (you started in the
little house we lived in while
dave was being built. I was
5 when you were born but I
remember!!)

Here's your picture pack. I just
wanted to look. No one needs
a copy really. I remember him
too well! And I had Lane,
those miniatures made
— on porcelain — of both
mother and dad.

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P.S.

Aunt Sally can fill you in
on the paternal side if anyone
can — but why not ask "Fike"?

Did you know that Fike was
a charter member of F.A.E. at
the U. of A.? I have always
adored him — and pretty Aunt
Sal. What a girl!

July 5 1980

Dear Bob,

How was the Tupelo reunion? -And why don't you send me a copy of your list of relatives?...I lost Bill's. There were several people I never heard of on it...such as Mollie Simmons and Henry Simmons, whom, as I remember, were listed as Holman Felix Simmons's siblings..

Mother said neither Dad nor Caniza would talk much about their family, but that Caniza's family (Reeves or Reaves) turned her out completely when she married James Bowie. I always heard that they were married in Hernando, Miss., and assumed they lived there. Caniza, Dad, Alice, and Martha (I think!) ...and James, who was near death with T.B. arrived at Papa's in a wagon...They didn't know him and he didn't know them, but the father was dying, and the youngest girl, Martha, was desperately ill...so they were housed in a tenant house on the farm. J. died, and M. died shortly thereafter and they were buried in unmarked graves on Papa's farm. Dad did rock Mother's cradle ...he was 8 yrs. old when she was born, and Miss Jimmie would say: "Come rock the baby's cradle, Arthur, and when she grows up, I will give her to you!" - And Dad would say, "Miss Jimmy, I wouldn't have this little crying fool!" (Quote: Mother. Also: Papa.)

Never knew Aunt Lena had but one sister...Ellen! I only knew that Papa actually took in Lena, Ellen, B.W. ^{Barty} and Cooter Jones. (Boy! Those Joneses were a bunch of real suggins!!) He might have let orphans live on the farm somewhere and fed and clothed them in return for farm chores...like Finus Odom...when I knew him, as a little girl, he was a hired hand ^{and not around much}. Daddy's mother, and daddy, did the same thing, but Miss Jimmy and Papa were very fond of both of them. (By the same thing, I mean they lived in a tenant house, were provided food and clothing, etc. and dad had chores and Caniza helped grandmother with cooking, housework and taking care of kids. Daddy and grandmother moved to Newport when Dad was about 15. He did odd jobs, and had his first steady job in Wolf-Goldman Dept. store...He and Mr. ~~Seal~~ Snetzer both started there at about the same age and were friends.

Never heard any tales about a "Scotsman and Indian Princess" - Not much help, am I?

Have to go cook! Drat!...The barbecued ribs and chicken at the club last night were delicious.....

Love,



7-5-80

P.S. July 9. Forgot to mail!! -Have been thinking more about the mystery surrounding Dad's family. Did you ever see that picture Mrs. Snetzer found in her attic when she was cleaning it out of her husband, Bert, Dad and an unidentified young man? They looked about 20 yrs. old, and it was made by a photographer. Dad was very well dressed-looked quite prosperous! Bringing up questions like: How was it possible for him and his mother to leave Papa's and move to Newport? Either Caniza relented and communicated with some of her family (Mother said she was a very handsome woman, and a real lady-that her family had "means", but she would not discuss them!!) or Dad did, or Papa did...because they lived in a boarding house (later, after C. died, he stayed in Mimi Kelly's boarding house...Mimi was Bill Lindsay's grandmother.) and someone must have contributed quite a bit to their welfare, and it wasn't Papa...though members of the family visited with them whenever they went to Newport...including Mom. C. developed T.B. and Dad took her to Salt Lake City, Utah, where they lived for a year...but instead of the altitude improving her condition she got worse. They went back to Newport, where she died. So, who paid for all that? Mother didn't know, for he never would discuss it. Also, where did his sister Alice disappear to? I never heard her mentioned but she was Fred Seaton's mother...and they lived in Mo. She was there when the family appeared at the farm in the wagon,....? Was she sent on to some member of their family, where she grew up and got married? -Was Missouri where they were all headed, and James and the child got too sick to go on? That seems rather likely for they were headed in that direction. Anyhow, Caniza and Dad came into some money from somewhere!

Whose child was Lena Maude Harris Lassiter? -and Ellen Harris Hall? Their mother was Papa's favorite 1st cousin, and he promised her on her death-bed that he would take care of her girls. Could she have died giving birth to that third girl, and the baby died, too? If not, what happened to that third girl?? I'm not sure Ellen Harris Hall ever stayed with Papa...for she was never mentioned in any of their stories about their childhood, etc. She grew up somewhere; had Katherine Hall Mills, Pauline ?, and Jack...and died, and Aunt Lena and Uncle Wallace took K. Gee! She was cute! Tiny and dark, and their Margaret was tall and blonde. Complete opposites: where M. was loving and affectionate, K. was rather reserved and quiet! (Have you noticed that I can spell, but my type-writer can't?) (You will notice my spelling of "Papa"... that is the way Mother spelled it on so many gifts!)

Were you at Papa's funeral? - I was a 16 year old freshman at Arkansas State Teachers College (Why did he send Mom and Lena to Central

College and didn't send Theo...nor Pete's?) when he died.