

March 6, 1941
Rec'd March 23

Dear William:

Your letter of January 28th arrived on March 4th and we are hoping that the cold is completely well and that the sun will soon shine to warm up the atmosphere of the proverbially "sunny Italy".

Newark is running along in the same old rut - though a pleasant one & news is strangely lacking. John Montgomery returned from his wedding trip and they are living at his home for the present, I imagine until he returns from his military service on which he embarks this month. I have heard various and sundry rumors about the lucky young lady, but as far as I have known her the most malicious are unfounded. Anyhow, it concerns only two people - & if they are satisfied that is the important thing.

Your papa & I have just survived a serious of "duck dinners" - 4 to date & 2 more "coming up" - the last one we had E. C. Wrights, Mitchells, Clarence Jones, & the Shinns - sort of a family affair. The

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appetizers were "de luxe" for Newark - I even put something over on the "super" relatives. Ever eat smoked oysters for hors d'oeuvre[?] Well, with the duck, rice & peppers en casserole, peas & onions, currant jelly, asparagus vinaigrette etc. we served sparkling Burgundy, for dessert - vanilla ice cream with rum sauce (the chef at the Raleigh showed Melody how to make it when she was there Christmas) and plain, uniced angel food cake, coffee, mints of course & then benedictine or triple sec by way of liqueur in the living room. Candle light and excellent service - not à la Mme. Schaub. By the way she is no longer with us. We have a most excellent "lady of color" in the kitchen who hails direct from Tennessee. I don't imagine I can keep anyone as efficient as she very long - at least for \$5 per week & she does the washing - of course, in the south they pay so little that the mentioned amount looks big to her. Naturally she lives out of the house. I want to get the other two dinners over while she is here. Aunt Leila called me to tell me that Martha insists I put on the most perfect dinner given around here - & it may

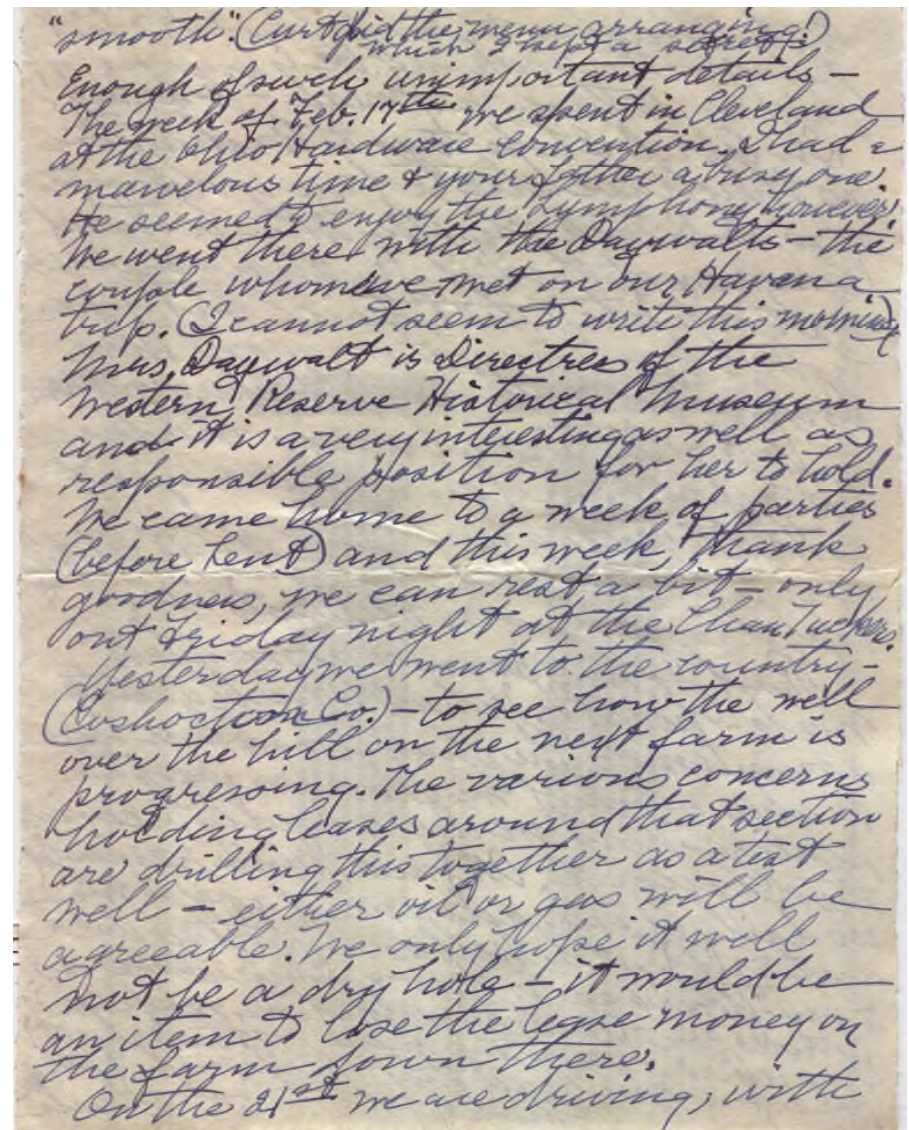
M92
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[be] "smooth". (Curt did the menu arranging! Which I kept a secret).

Enough of such unimportant details – The week of Feb. 17th we spent in Cleveland at the Ohio Hardware Convention. I had a marvelous time & your father a busy one. He seemed to enjoy the Symphony however. We went there with the Daywalts – the couple whom we met on our Havana trip. (I cannot seem to write this morning.) Mrs. Daywalt is Directress of the Western Reserve Historical Museum and it is a very interesting as well as responsible position for her to hold. We came home to a week of parties (before Lent) and this week, thank goodness, we can rest a bit – only out Friday night at the Chas. Tuckers.

Yesterday we went to the country – (Coshocton Co.) – to see how the well over the hill on the next farm is progressing. The various concerns holding leases around the sector are drilling this together as a test well – either oil or gas will be agreeable. We only hope it will not be a dry hole – it would be an item to lose the lease money on the farm down there.

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Esther Hughes to Camp Knox to visit Bob for the week end. He is enjoying his work there very much - & salary!

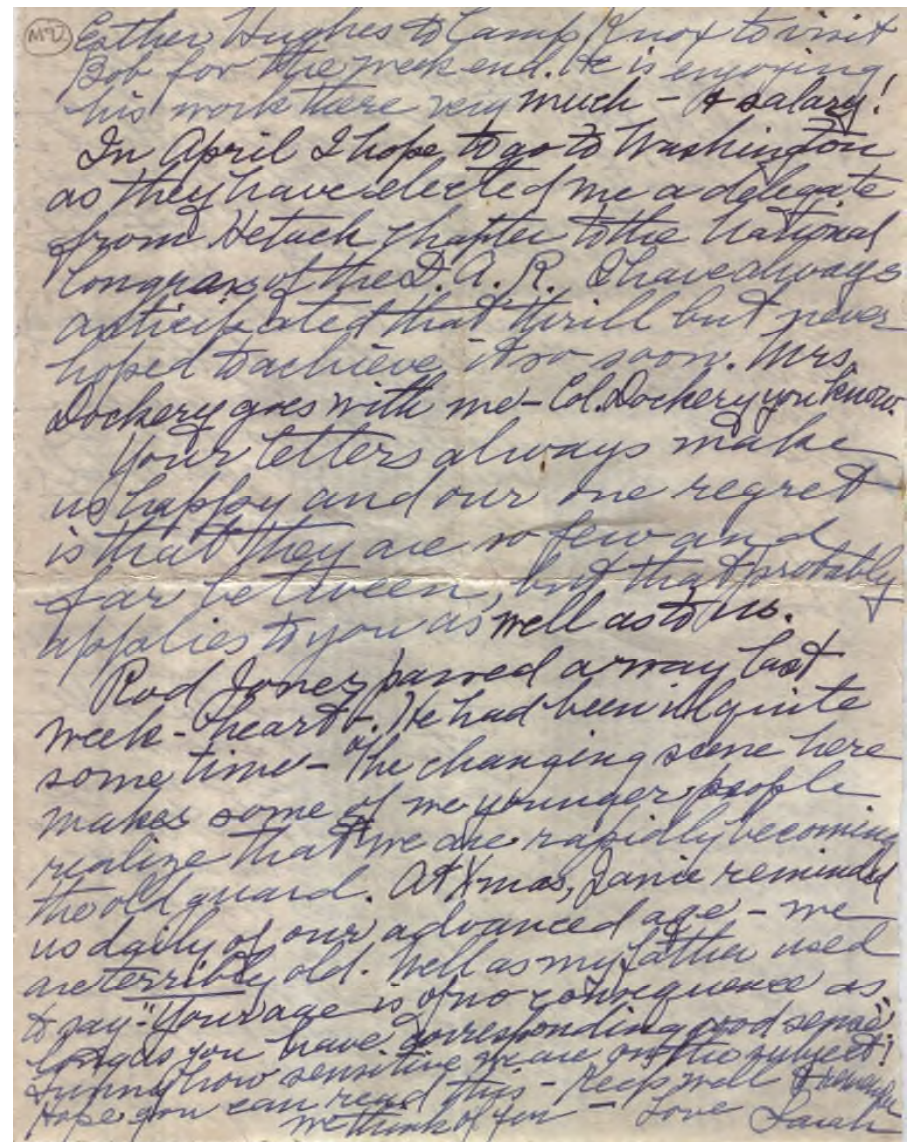
In April I hope to go to Washington as they have elected me a delegate from Hetuck Chapter to the National Congress of the D.A.R. I have always anticipated that thrill but never hoped to achieve it so soon. Mrs. Dockery goes with me - Col. Dockery you know.

Your letters always make us happy and our one regret is that they are so few and far between, but that probably applies to you as well as to us.

Rod Jones passed away last week - heart. He had been ill quite some time. The changing scene here makes some of us younger people realise that we are rapidly becoming the old guard. At Xmas, Janie reminded us daily of our advanced age - we are terribly old. Well as my father used to say - "Your age is of no consequence as long as you have corresponding good sense." Funny how sensitive we are on the subject!

Hope you can read this - keep well & remember we think of you.

- Love
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