



Laura Jane Musser and
family papers.

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R. D. MUSSER

LITTLE FALLS, MINN.

May 1, 1958

Miss Laura Jane Musser
c/o The Dorset Hotel
30 West 54th Street
New York City

Dearest Laura Jane:

I was so sorry to learn that you had been ill, and I presume for that reason you did not return home as soon as you had anticipated. I am looking forward with much interest for your return, just as soon as you possibly can do so.

Everything is going on as well as could be expected at the home and I know you will be very happy to get here.

I had such a fine surprise when they brought me in a package of some very beautiful things that I can wear, and I do appreciate it very much. I am waiting to thank you in person when you get back again.

Pauline, Betty and Edgar and all are getting along nicely around the house, and it looks quite beautiful now since we have had a little rain.

All join me in love and best wishes for you and a happy return home.

With much love.

Your

Daddy

RDM*S

R. D. MUSSER

LITTLE FALLS, MINN.

May 7, 1958

Miss Laura Jane Musser
The Dorset Hotel
30 West 54th Street
New York, New York

Dearest Laura Jane:

You will soon be back in your home again and we all can hardly wait until you come. I know we will have a very happy time together talking about your trip and the friends that you met and all the nice things that they did to make it so nice for you while you have been ill. You state that they brought you books and many other things, including some oranges, and that Mr. Groth came to see you almost every day.

You spoke about seeing Mrs. Schuyler. I presume that Phillippa is away or she would have come in to see you also. I think you stated that you saw her father and I presume that he is still with the "Pittsburgh Courier".

I had such a nice letter from June and she told me that Billy and his partner did not make a success of the business that they had been doing and it had to be suspended and now that he is planning on going to Albuquerque into some business that he thinks will be more successful. I know you will be glad to see June again, as we all will be, and perhaps Billy will also come with her.

I haven't much news to tell you beside that everything is going along nicely at the house and the office.

I haven't seen Mrs. Starin or any of the children since you left.

I just had a nice visit with Grace Woodworth and she asked about you and I know she will be glad to see you when you return.

Pauline, Edgar, and Betty take good care of me and there is nothing that I could ask them but what they would do for me. Edgar says that he will meet you at the airport as soon as he gets word from you, and bring you right to your good old home, as soon as you arrive.

Grace says that her father is reasonably well but he gets confused and sleeps most of the time.

There is nothing else that I can think of that I would like to tell you besides that I will be very happy to see you when you come.

With my love and best wishes, I am

As ever,

Your Daddy

RDM*S

R. D. MUSSER

LITTLE FALLS, MINN.

April 21, 1958

Miss Laura Jane Musser
The Dorset Hotel
30 West 54th Street
New York, New York

Dearest Lotsie:

The best news that I can give you today is that we are having a nice rain and the grass is turning green and the trees are budding out into their summer and fall leaves. If the rain continues, we will have enough for the gardens and in the much needed places in Minnesota that is seriously in danger of a large forest fire.

The organ tuner is still with us and I cannot understand why he is here so long. Edgar has spend quite a little time helping him and he keeps telling us that he will be soon finished with the organ, but so far that has proven merely a guess.

I was so glad to have that talk with you over the 'phone and I presume I will soon have a letter from you, for you always write such newsy letters, and I will be so glad to hear from you.

I presume that you and your friend are having a wonderful time in New York, for I know that you have so many places to go that will be of interest to you both.

Pauline and Edgar take good care of me and I am feeling pretty good, so you do not need to worry about me, but I do miss you and will be very happy to see you when you return home.

With my love and best wishes and kindest regards to your friends, whom I know, I am

Devotedly and lovingly yours,

RDM*S

Daddy

ENCYCLOPEDIA of AMERICAN BIOGRAPHY

A DIVISION OF AN INSTITUTION FOUNDED IN 1877

Winfield Scott Downs, LITT. D., EDITOR

The Standard of Biographical Service

THE AMERICAN HISTORICAL COMPANY, INC.

80-90 EIGHTH AVENUE, NEW YORK 11, N.Y.

TELEPHONE: WATKINS 9-7750-1-2
CABLE ADDRESS: LEWHOSO, NEW YORK

October 20, 1958

Miss Laru Jane Musser
Little Falls,
Minnesota

Dear Miss Musser:

We should like to include in the forthcoming volume of the ENCYCLOPEDIA OF AMERICAN BIOGRAPHY a record of the activities and achievements of Richard D. Musser.

In order to obtain accurate and authentic information from which this biography may be written, we are asking our associate editor to call on you in the near future, and we shall greatly appreciate your help in providing him at that time with such facts as will be appropriate for an article of this nature.

The enclosed folder will explain our reasons for wishing to preserve, through the medium of the "encyclopedia method" the significant facts of the lives and accomplishments of Americans in all walks of life and spheres of activity.

May we take this opportunity to thank you in advance for any assistance you may be able to render in this matter.

Cordially yours,

THE AMERICAN HISTORICAL COMPANY, INC.



Edward H. Preston
Director of Publications

EHP/jh

608- Highland Avenue
Little Falls, Minn.

Air Mail

Miss Fannie Jane Musser
~~2000~~ ~~1988~~



School at Fennel Street

~~Boston~~

~~Mass~~

Hotel Dorset
West 54th St
N.Y.C.

June 10, 1958

Miss Musser,

Just a note to let you know that everything here is just fine your father is well and sends you his love. He received your cards and really appreciates them. I am sending your check blanks on to Boston so you will be sure to get them as they might not reach you in time at Wash. D.C. Hope you and Miriam are having a wonderful time on your trip. Everyone here sends their best wishes.

Ed



POTLATCH FORESTS, INC.

GROWERS AND MANUFACTURERS OF FOREST PRODUCTS

SHerwood 3-4561

GENERAL OFFICES • LEWISTON, IDAHO

November 7, 1958

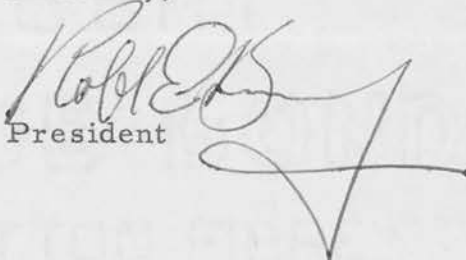
Miss Laura Jane Musser
608 Highland Avenue
Little Falls, Minnesota

Dear Miss Musser:

The Board of Directors of Potlatch Forests, Inc. passed the attached resolution at a meeting held on October 27, 1958.

It was not my privilege to know Mr. Musser personally, but of course many of our Potlatch people, and all of our Directors knew him well. Expressions from these people at the discussion during our Directors' Meeting clearly indicated that we too have suffered a great loss with his passing.

Sincerely,


President

REBundy/ljs
Enclosure



POTLATCH FORESTS, INC.

GROWERS AND MANUFACTURERS OF FOREST PRODUCTS

SHerwood 3-4561

GENERAL OFFICES • LEWISTON, IDAHO

November 7, 1958

I, C. J. Hopkins, do hereby certify that I am Secretary of Potlatch Forests, Inc., and at a meeting of the Board of Directors on October 27, 1958, the following resolution was adopted by a unanimous standing vote of silent, respectful meditation:

It is with profound sorrow that we record the death of Richard Drew Musser on July 29, 1958.

Drew Musser was an organizer of the original Potlatch Lumber Company in 1903, which later was to become Potlatch Forests, Inc. He served as a Director of the company from 1927 until the time of his death, and contributed unselfishly of his time and knowledge to the good of the company and the industry.

Widely recognized as a man of high principles and integrity, he lent strength and solidarity to all of the enterprises in which he engaged.

BE IT RESOLVED, that this resolution be entered upon the minutes of the Company and copies mailed to members of the immediate family as an expression of our sincere sympathy and heartfelt condolence.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal of the corporation on this 7th day of November, 1958.

C. J. Hopkins, Secretary

Answered

W. H. T. 33012



MRS. LESLIE B. AVRIT

P. O. BOX 1257

JUNEAU, ALASKA

Dearest Mother,
you have been in my thoughts so constantly - I do hope you receive real consolation in the realization that, for your father, it was probably a relief. He had lived a long life - I always feel it must be terrible not to be able to do the things one used to, and so for him I do not grieve - I do grieve in knowing he is no longer there - I loved him and he has been an important person throughout my life - (tho' I don't recall the time he put me in the closet which he loved to say had fashioned my character :) I'm so happy we had this recent visit and another wonderful memory to tuck away -

We all talked a great deal about coming back - The complications were many, but we would have anyway had we felt we could really be of help. As we didn't see how we could, we felt we could visit later more happily - but now

thoughts have been there, as I'm sure
you know.

By the way, Peggy sent me the
papers with four pictures and
the account of Van Cliburn's
visit - it sounded like a great
success.

Do give my love to Mary - &
Alice & Aunt Laura if they are
still there - and a great deal
for you.

Sally.

Thank you for calling -

IRVING TRUST COMPANY
NEW YORK

H. MILLER LAWDER
VICE PRESIDENT

July 30, 1958

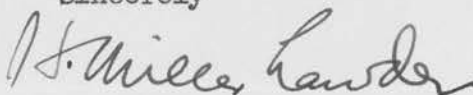
Dear Laura Jane:

We are immensely saddened to learn this morning of
your Father's passing.

I am sure you will always remember with great pride
what he stood for and what he accomplished, and the
high regard in which he was held by all who knew
him.

With heartfelt sympathy,

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "H. Miller Lawder". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Vice President

Miss Laura Jane Musser
Linden Hall
Little Falls, Minnesota



R.M.S.

Dongedyk.
Aug. 25 - '58 -

Holland-America Line

Dear Lottie: - I apologize for not writing sooner but I knew you'd have so much mail or other things to do that a delay wouldn't make any difference. We had a delightful few days in Klamath Falls staying with the Bearup & likewise in Berkeley where we visited the Hawkins - old Spokane friends - I doubt you ever met them -

Marion Walker stayed a day with Mary in Atherton & met us at the Boat.

We sailed at noon the 12th & were in Wilmington (L.A.) at 1³⁰ the 13th. Among other things we loaded 43000 cases of lemons - abt 200 in a case. As one fellow said "If this ship goes down there'll be a lot of lemonade" - We didn't get out of there till 5⁴⁵ the 16th.

Peg & I recall drove us from the Boat on the 14th to the Ruders with whom I lived when in Pasadena. We stayed over night then next day they drove us to Peg's house where we had lunch & Peg drove us back to the ship -

We went into acapulco to put ashore Dave Fisher & his wife. He retired abt a yr ago as mgr of the Willapa branch of Wayabaguer T. Co. We had some nice talks. But he developed a heart condition & the Capt. thought it necessary for him to go to a hospital.

We got into Balboa last night abt 1 a.m. & started through the Canal this morning. We're now in Saturn Lake abt 85 ft higher than the ocean. This is my 4th time through & it's really a fine, interesting trip -

We stop in Curacao to unload freight & are due in Antwerp Sept 8 or 9th.

It seems the Passenger Crew are through by that time so they're paid off & the S.S. Co. sends ^{us} to Rotterdam by train.

Holland-America Line

It is always difficult to write about ones friends who have passed on & sometimes the less said the better because words so often are so inadequate & fail to convey what one feels -

Your Father was very dear to me & I looked forward to a visit late this fall. I'm so glad the girls did have a chance.

He was in some ways one of the most amazing men I've ever known.

The breadth of his reading & the retentiveness of his memory were extraordinary - an instance.

The last time we went up to the lake with Leo & Janet he & I were playing Cribbage - I picked up a book on a table about lighthouses & looked it over.

I found to me, a very interesting piece of history which was news to me. Leo said - "Do you fellows know when the first lighthouse was built, & where -" George said "Heavens, No" - Your Father played a couple of cards, stopped & said

"I think it was in - Greece - - - B.C. I can't even remember it now - But he was right to the name & date. He did such things often & what pleasure he got from his reading tho' he didn't do much of it these last few years -"

He was by nature very shy but when in company where he didn't feel it he could be the life of the party.

Occasionally only he'd let himself go in a larger group. I remember one of the boys on a team trip west to some of the meetings saying "I never knew Doc Mussie before. On that trip he let himself go & led & was the center of the going all across the country". He had all these qualities & more. A high sense of integrity & all that goes with it & as I said above an exuberance



R.M.S. III

Holland-America Line when he was uninhibited & E. lost consciousness of his shyness - a keen sense of humor. More words will add nothing & I know you know I loved him for himself and will miss him much.

He wanted me to stay more than I did but he also knew I couldn't stay too long not only as a young member of the family but I couldn't stand the inaction physically - I need exercise & plenty of it but I find I don't take it unless I get where I can play games or swim. Shuffle-board on ship. If I don't do these things I get stale, eat too much & hate myself -

I'm writing a note to Mrs. Stratton at Chinese Camp - we had a great trip there. I know she'd want to hear.

Mail just in & Marg says she has a letter from you;

much love & my best to Pauline; shall hope to see you on my way from N. Y. - Wash.

Where? Don't know. Have no plans except Marg wants to be in Rome. Oh! We hope to see Copenhagen & possibly something of Scandinavia -

As ever,

Wm. H. Hunt



Holland-America Line



VIA AIR MAIL

Miss Laura Jane Musser,
Linden Hill,
608 Highlands Ave.,
Little Falls,
Minn.—

Box 1257, Juneau, Alaska-

1263 W. Pratt
Chicago 26, Ill.

Dear Miss Simon:

Mr Munn's passing saddens me for he and my husband spent their boyhood together in an idyllic Mississippi River setting, went on to the State University and joined the same fraternity. Their friendship thus lasted nearly a century. It now had a very special place in our lives and I shall miss his cheerful letters which you may have written for him.

Thank you so much for letting me know. cordially,
Stone Johnson

Interesting
no trivial data about father

Answered



Isabelle Simon
Box 13
Little Falls,
Minnesota

Mrs D P Johnson
1263 W Pratt
Chicago 26

WILLIAM FEICK
14 FOREST LANE
SCARSDALE, NEW YORK

July 31st

Dear Laura Jane -

I am deeply saddened to learn of
the passing of your Dad yesterday.

What an amazing record he
checked up over a ninety four year
lifetime. And to think that he headed
for his office daily until the past few.
A very fortunate person to have lived
so long and so well.

Nevertheless it is a shock when
the end comes and I know the family
is indeed saddened in their hours
of bereavement. Deepest sympathy
for all of you Sincerely
William Feick

Dear Laura,

I hope you are
feeling alright. I am
trying to be brave
& you will have to also.
I am having a tree
planted in Israel
in your father's memory
& you will be getting that
certificate soon

Love
Jeanette



When you read this card today
Here's hoping it will show
That someone's thinking of you now
And wants to let you know,
And someone wants to tell you
In a special sort of way
That warmest thoughts and wishes
Will be with you every day.

Lenette, Maxine
o Jerry
(our)



Miss Laura Jane Mussen
Little Falls,
Minn

209, 3rd Ave N.
Little Falls, Minn.

Hall's
Cancelled checks
for 3 copies of
Museum History
letter to

Neil Woodworth
About Father's
Death

J. J. VANDEBEEK
JAN 1 1894

T. B. ANDERBERG

MINA, SOUTH DAKOTA

7-30-58

Dear Neil,

Thank you very much for your wire telling me of Ours death, I would like to come for his funeral, but we have company at our lake home now & I can't very well get away. Ours was always wonderful to me and I am very sorry that he is gone, but he lived a long life & a very useful one & he will be missed by his old friends & associates. I am inclosing my ck for \$500 & I would appreciate your getting some flowers for me & put on the card "In Memory of T. B. Anderson."

We expect to be in Mpls sometime in August & perhaps I can get Forbush to take me to Little Falls & we can have a good visit, we are still living in our lake home & enjoy it very much as we have lots of company & that is what I like.

Again thanking you & with the best of personal regards I am

Sincerely
Ted

I hope to see you in August.

Sept. 7, 1953

Dear Lotsie:

Words couldn't be more futile, just now, and I shall not even try to say all that is in my heart. But I do want you to know how much I'm thinking of you and of your lovely mother and your fine father.

Though Lynn is not with me here on my army annual reservist assignment, she relayed the word to me; and I know that her thoughts join mine in wishing you strength and courage in this moment.

No one holds a higher place in all our hearts than your father and mother. God bless them both - and you, too!

Love,

Jim Taylor

c/o Elder and Elder
P.O. Box 609
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho

Dear Laura Jane,

How our thoughts have been with you and all your family this day! You have honestly been in our hearts and minds every waking hour since we received the news. As Lynn and I are living out on the lake where there is no telephone, we did not even know until the next morning.

I hope like everything that you will understand our not coming back for the funeral. I honestly felt that I would be more of a burden to you than a help, knowing that you were already swamped with family and relatives for whose care you would be providing. If I had thought that I could be more help than hindrance, nothing could have kept me away.

Actually, Laura Jane, I have rarely had the strength to attend the funerals of those I loved. I am not sure whether you knew, but I did not even go back for my own mother's, and you know how much I loved her. Uncle Drew has always meant more to me than I believe either you or he has ever realized. I consider him one of the great people I have ever known, and I remember him with only the greatest love and affection.

Don't worry about being alone. You are not alone! You will see all of us many times, and I hope that my first visit will be this coming Spring when I go East to seek faculty members. Meanwhile, all of us are praying for you and Uncle Drew, and are hoping that everything is going as smoothly as possible for you under the circumstances.

Much love,

Jim

I know that when you remember my labored handwriting, you will forgive my typing this letter. There is no less feeling in it, I assure you.

James M. Taylor
c/o Elder and Elder
P.O. Box 609
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho



Miss Laura Jane Musser
Linden Hill
Little Falls, Minnesota

CARNEGIE CITY LIBRARY
LITTLE FALLS, MINNESOTA

The Carnegie Library Board here with
expresses the high esteem for your
father who had been a member of the
Board for the past thirty-five years.

Mrs Edwin Johnson

Mrs. John E. Simonett

Mrs. Frank Dewey

Mrs. Chas. Boyle

Mr. Frank Hall

Mr. Arvid Christopherson

Rev. Norris Eodal

Mrs. Leo Keavney.

Mrs. Eugene Buehl, Sec'y.

MAYO CLINIC
ROCHESTER, MINNESOTA

SURGICAL SECTION
OF
C.W. MAYO, M.D.

August 5, 1958

Dear Miss Musser:

You have my deepest sympathy in the passing of your father.

He was a fine man and certainly he lived a long and useful life. I considered him a good friend in the years that I knew him. I should have liked to go to Little Falls for the services but other commitments made it impossible.

Sincerely yours,

Charles Mayo

Miss Laura Jane Musser
Little Falls, Minnesota

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

ACADEMIC ADMINISTRATION

MINNEAPOLIS 14

DEPARTMENT OF
CONCERTS AND LECTURES

August 25, 1958

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
109 NORTHROP MEMORIAL AUDITORIUM
Dict. Fri., the 22nd

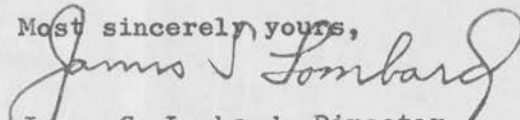
Miss Laura Jane Musser
Linden Hill
Little Falls, Minnesota

Dear Laura Jane:

I read with great regret of the passing of your father. I immediately planned on coming up to the services but was finally persuaded from doing so. Both my wife, Elsie, and my doctors, have tried to keep me from going to funeral services ever since my heart attack. I did want, however, to personally express my sympathy to you in your loss.

It will be a great pleasure having you with us at the concert, which should be an interesting one. As for anything else that I may have done, it is definitely less than you, yourself, do regularly for music and for your friends.

Most sincerely yours,


James S. Lombard, Director

JSL:MM

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

ACADEMIC ADMINISTRATION

MINNEAPOLIS 14

DEPARTMENT OF
CONCERTS AND LECTURES

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
109 NORTHROP MEMORIAL AUDITORIUM

Dear Laura Jane M'Ferson:

I am sending you three tickets
instead of one when they go out later
this week. By all means invite your
two friends! I should have thought
to suggest company for you myself.

Sincerely,

Jim Lombard

New Amsterdam CASUALTY COMPANY

227 ST. PAUL STREET
BALTIMORE, MD.

60 JOHN STREET
NEW YORK, N. Y.

SURETY - FIRE - CASUALTY

IRWIN NATIONAL AGENCY, INC.

GENERAL AGENTS

R. B. LAMBERT, MANAGER

410 FIRST NAT'L BANK BUILDING

PHONE: SHERWOOD 1-3764

VIRGINIA, MINN.,

October 15, 1958

My Dear Laura Jane,

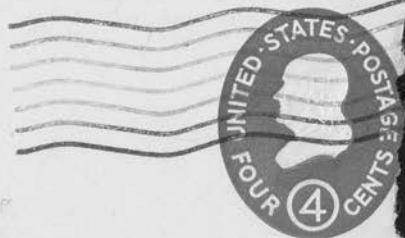
I have just learned--in talking with Van on the telephone the other evening--that your father passed away some weeks ago. I want to convey my sympathy; I am so sorry I didn't know at the time, for I might have been able to be of some help to you.

You do have, I know, the consolation that he lived a very long life--much longer than the "three score years and ten" that the Bible speaks of, and the great respect in which he was held by his associates is, I am sure, something in which you can take pride, as is the knowledge that he played an important part in making Minnesota what it is today.

Most sincerely,

Larry Lambert

Lambert
Box 662
Virginia, Minn.



Miss Laura Jane Musser

Little Falls, Minnesota

Little Falls Lutheran Parish

NORRIS I. ERDAL, PASTOR
PHONE 222

706 Second St. Northeast

Little Falls, Minnesota

FIRST LUTHERAN
LITTLE FALLS
BETHESDA LUTHERAN
RANDALL
ELMDALE LUTHERAN
ELMDALE

September 23, 1958

Dear Miss Musser,

Ever since the death of your father last summer I have intended to write and extend my sympathy to you. I have purposely delayed writing because I felt my voice would be lost in the huge chorus of your immediate friends at that time.

I extend to you my personal sympathy. Grief and pain certainly have marred this world and especially human relations. For someone who has been blessed with deeper insights as to the beauty about us, as seen in art, and heard in music and other culture, I am sure the grief is even deeper. I hope the love of God as expressed to us through Christ will therefore be to you an even greater peace that passes all understanding.

May I also take this opportunity to express to you my personal gratitude for all the nice things you have done for First Lutheran Church. Your activities have been a great blessing to us.

You are also to be commended for the cultural contribution you have made to Little Falls. Many of my music friends from around the state know of your wonderful work in establishing this type of culture in Minnesota. As we move into the second century of history in this state I am sure the name of Laura Jane Musser will be added to the illustrious names who have taught the love of fine music to our people.

I do look forward to the Van Cliburn Concert. I noticed the article in the Transcript about the possibility of having the concert somewhere else. I hope this won't be necessary but, if so, I would like to have you consider some time what I think would be a marvelous possibility.

God bless you.

Yours sincerely,

Norris I. Erdal