



Maud Hart and Delos Wheeler
Lovelace Family Papers.

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Irvin W. Roskopf
5931 N. Cloverly Ave.
Apt. C.
Temple City; Calif.
91780.

774 West Eight Street;
Claremont; Calif.

Dear Mrs. Lovelace:-

I was so very pleased to hear from you; the carbon ^{copy} ~~carbon~~ of my letter of September 14th, lay in the drawer of my desk until I finally thought that most likely an author receives so many inquires, that it is impossible to answer them all.

"Gentlemen from England" greatly intrigued me; because it so intimately pictured the area and the terrain I grew up in. It drew forth the very atmosphere of that pioneer time of my grandfather, who came in 1869 when the landscape was waves of rolling prairie grass, no fences, no tress except along Elm Creek and around the lakes.

I have done a good deal of digging into old Martin County history, the past year, and especially into grandfather's life from the time that he left his farm in West Bend; Wisconsin in a covered wagon and oxen to make the trip to Owatonna, Minnesota. There he marked time for awhile, working as a carpenter, while he investigated the prairie land in southern Minnesota.

I was a very close companion to my fathers as a lad, and as we rode horseback, (I had a Shetland pony at age 7) over the fields, or in my two wheel cart & pony, my father would talk endlessly about his boyhood days, and about his own father. He was a strict father, (German dicipline) and I was always more or less in awe of him, asked few questions, but listened intently. These excursions over the fields was almost a daily event, inspecting the flocks of sheep, watching out for breaks in fencing, or watching the crops come up, or the damage done by rains, or where the tilers should put in a stretch of tile.

My father worked very little in the fields for he was always busy "fixing" things around the farm, inventing things that were needed. He was a perfectionist; every piece of machinery that the hired men brought in from the fields had to have a coat of axel grease, and put under shed.

I never heard my father curse, altho' he had a sharp temper when aroused, and sometimes I was the butt of it - - -deservidly. He never smoked or drank - - -except beer of course, which he kept in a large ice-house which he had build^t adjoining our house. We could go into the cooler right from our kitchen. In that day, 1910 this was quite a thing to have on a farm!

Our's was mostly a sheep ranch; hundreds and hundreds of sheep! My Dad was called the "Sheep King" of Martin County, and his blooded rams were bought by other farmers. We ate mutton until I grew wool on my back. On my pony, I had to herd sheep, change them from pasture to pasture. I drove flocks of them each Autumn to the stock yards in Welcome. I had to help cut off hundreds of little lamb tails. The month of May was the worst time; lambing time. My father was a daily mid-wife to them. As soon as I arrived home from school in my cart & pony, he would be waiting; "Irvie, drive me to the East Pasture;" (I was nine or ten) "I want to look at the sheep." I never asked what for, just obeyed.

We would drive over the meadow; here would be a ewe in labor. He would have me stop some distance away, would get out with his Vet. Kit, give what assistance was needed, then to the next patient.

But sometimes there would be casualties; where we missed a patient behind a knoll, or did not arrive in time. Then the hired men were sent out to make a burial right on the spot. At this time in the Spring, just before shearing time, the sheep carried a heavy fleece of wool. If at all possible^{ly} in those days nothing was left to waste. After a sheep was dead some 48 hours, the wool could be pulled out by hand, but gas masks were not at hand in that day. My father refused to do it; the hired man almost quite when suggested to him. I heard all of this and made my father a proposition; that if I could keep the wool from all of these dead sheep until he sold the shearing-time crop of wool, and I could have the money for all that I gathered like this - - - -I might do it. He said go ahead.

And, what did I, a farm boy, buy with this hard earned money? I had spotted a gold signet ring in the Montgomery Ward catalog that I wanted

the worst way. My father snorted!, but I insisted. It would have my initial R on it. I wear that ring to-day, now out of sentiment, the initial long worn out and off, but the gold as bright as ever.

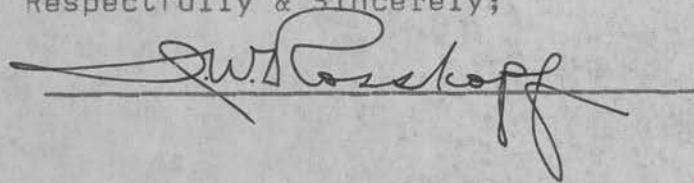
I'm afraid, Mrs. Lovelace, that when I sit down to this typewriter, I'm like a piece of knitting that starts to unravel.

What prompted me to write you in the first place was the main fact, that your description in GENTLEMEN FROM ENGLAND of Winnebago City, the country along Elm Creek, called Chanyaska in your book, was so perfect describing the times of 1870's was so like what my father described of his boyhood days, that I was convinced that you must have lived in that vicinity somewhere to hear about these times from your own folks. However, I can see the efforts and the work that you went to, to gather much of this material. Making a trip to Fairmont, to talk with descendants of these early pioneers. The many, many hours you must have spent in gathering all of this information. I wonder how many, who read a book like this, stop to think the time and effort that an author puts into such a work.

Now, if you should get into that cupboard some time soon, what would be of such great interest to me, would be the names of some of the English descendants you talked to, from around Fairmont. These names would be familiar to me, many of them would be. Also, if you would tell me, when, in writing this book, which particular area, vicinity, if any, you wrote your story around.

I trust that this finds you in the best of health, and that you still keep up your interest in writing; I would like to hear from you again.

Respectfully & Sincerely;

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "J.W. Rosskopf", written over a horizontal line.

CHAMBERS DISTRICT COURT
17TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

JULIUS E. HAYCRAFT, JUDGE
FAIRMONT, MINN.

February 12, 1936.

Mrs. Maud Hart Lovelace,
69 Highbrook Avenue,
Pelham, N.Y.

My dear Mrs. Lovelace:

I have your kind letter, of the 7th inst., which finally came in through storm bound mail trains today. We are having an unprecedented cold weather in this state, the longest continued cold spell ever known. Fairmont was without a train from Friday of last week until yesterday afternoon. Roads and railroads are being opened now and, unless there is an additional storm, we are in pretty fair shape. The coal shortage, you read about, was grossly exaggerated. Mrs. Haycraft and I enjoyed a short trip to Texas, in January, but returned all too soon. We spent over a week at San Antonio. There is much of historic interest there, including, of course, the Alamo.

I read of your father's death, and was very sorry to learn of it. As you know, your father and I were well acquainted and very friendly.

Howard Haycraft's address is 404 East 55th Street, New York City. In his work he is with the W.H. Wilson Publishing Company, in the Bronx. I think it is located on University avenue.

I note what you say about the Root River country, through which the southern division of the Milwaukee Railroad traverses. I cannot now think of any article descriptive of that valley. I have in my library the last fifteen volumes of Minnesota History, and looked through the index today but could find nothing in regard to it. I herewith enclose a clipping from the last Sunday's Minneapolis Journal, which has some bearing on the situation.

Yes, I have traveled through this valley several times. Two years ago, on our automobile trip East, Mrs. Haycraft and I drove the trunk line highway along the Root River country to LaCrosse, simply for the purpose of enjoying the scenery. I have often stated, and such is my belief, that extreme southern Minnesota is the scenic part of Minnesota. I like it far better than northern Minnesota. I know of nothing in the state more beautiful than the Root River valley. I think of the town of Rushford. This town is nestled at the foot of a huge bluff. The side of the bluff toward town is not timbered. Away up on the side of this bluff the word, "Rushford," is spelled out with stones, which are painted or whitewashed and kept in a whitened condition. The Root River is peculiar in the fact that it goes on terrific rampages. The situation is such, among the hills of southern Minnesota, that it may rise several feet within a few hours and frequently does.

You raise the question of where the English settlers, coming from

CHAMBERS DISTRICT COURT
17TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

JULIUS E. HAYCRAFT, JUDGE
FAIRMONT, MINN.

Mrs. Maud Hart Loveless, #2.

LaCrosse to Winnebago City, on the Milwaukee Railroad, broke the journey for the noon meal. I doubt if there were any eating-houses anywhere along this line at that early date. It would be my idea that, if any one on the train had anything to eat, it was because they carried it on the train themselves. It is possible that there was an eating-house at one of the little towns. Even today the railroad is backward. I remember of coming from LaCrosse, on this road, in 1919, and with a bunch of lawyers, and, at the little town of Isinours, lunches in a sort of a shoe-box were brought on the train by boys and sold for fifty cents each. We all bought a lunch and ate it on the train. Among those in the party was Judge Oscar Hallam, then of the Supreme Court.

I assume, and have so understood, that the English Colony bought their lands in Martin county from the Milwaukee Railroad Company. If so, the money would have to be converted into United States money at some time. Whether the purchase was made and the contract completed in England, I do not know. You, perhaps, have better information on that subject than I do.

If you need Budd's History of Martin County, just let me know and I will mail it to you. It is, as you know, a small, flat book, and could be easily dispatched by mail.

I was thinking of you the other day and of the survivors of the English Colony you interviewed. Harry Serle is in a hospital, at Fairmont, and has been for about three months. He has had some kind of an operation and his condition is not good. Lenny Burton, the queer character you met, has been ill at his home for some two or three months. His condition is precarious. Mrs. Brown, of Sherburn, with whom you spent such delightful hours, is in Chicago, having just undergone a major operation. It begins to look as though you moved just in time in this matter. We will extend your kind remembrances to the persons named in your letter.

Remember that it will be a pleasure to help out in the matter you have undertaken at any time. With kind personal regards, in which Mrs. Haycraft heartily joins, I am,

Sincerely yours,

Julius E. Haycraft

CHAMBERS DISTRICT COURT
17TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

JULIUS E. HAYCRAFT, JUDGE
FAIRMONT, MINN.

March 14, 1936.

Mrs. Maud Hart Lovelace,
69 Highbrook Avenue,
Pelham, N. Y.

My dear Mrs. Lovelace:

We had a letter from Howard a few days ago telling of his visit with you. He mentioned your inquiry as to the route from Winnebago to Fairmont of our English colony, and whether they came in from the east on Blue Earth avenue or from the north on North avenue. He said he wished you had our old 1874 state atlas. We have this atlas at our home and have two in the county Historical Society. I, therefore, sent you by express one of these atlases. I sent it two or three days ago, but have not had time to write until today. You may keep the atlas until we call for it.

I have talked with some of those whose judgment is good, as to the period in question, and we feel sure that the Englishmen came into Fairmont from the north. There was a road running practically due west from Winnebago to Jackson, called the Jackson road. It is still called the Jackson road. If you will look at page 138 of this atlas, the map of Faribault county, you will see this road on the map. After going west out of Winnebago, it jogs north about a half a mile. It then proceeds due westerly. You will find the Martin county map on page 137, and you will find this road shown running past Waverly post-office. Follow the road to a corner one mile north of Horicon post-office. From that point south into Fairmont. Unquestionably this is the route. This road parallels Elm Creek, being just north of it at all times and never at a greater distance, I believe, than a mile. The timber on Elm Creek can be seen the entire distance to the corner north of Horicon post-office. From the Horicon post-office you will note that the road parallels the Center Chain lakes. These lakes are but a short distance west of the road. The timber on their banks is plainly visible at all times, and the water of the lakes occasionally.

There is some careless work done by the map maker as to Elm Creek. In the Faribault county map you will notice it labeled "Elm Creek" and emptying into the Blue Earth river just south and west of Winnebago. On the Martin county map it is labeled "Chain River," and farther west as "Walnut Creek." Walnut Creek and Chain River are misnomers. The stream was originally known by the Indian name of Chanyaska river. It was later changed to Elm Creek and was known as Elm Creek, with occasional references to Chanyaska river in the early seventies.

Another mistake on this map, and which might confuse you if not corrected, is the fact that Budd lake, south of Fairmont, is labeled "Hall's Lake, and Hall lake, the larger one next south, is labeled "Bird Lake." You will recall that the house we visited, in which you were so much interested, lies between Budd and Hall lakes.

This atlas in its entirety is one depicting conditions just as they existed when it was gotten out in 1874. There are maps of all the counties

CHAMBERS DISTRICT COURT
17TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

JULIUS E. HAYCRAFT, JUDGE
FAIRMONT, MINN.

Mrs. Maud Hart Lovelace. #2.

and of most of the cities and villages. The roads and scarcity of roads is shown. The railroads and the lack of railroads is also shown. You will note that the map correctly shows the Southern Minnesota railroad terminating at Winnebago City. It seems to me that you may find the entire atlas of interest. I sincerely hope so.

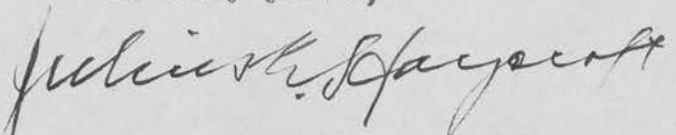
Howard enjoyed his visit with you and Mr. Lovelace very much and, as stated, has written us about it. Since dispatching the atlas by express I received your kind letter, of the 9th inst.

You will be interested, I believe, in learning that our old friend, Harry Serle, who has had such a siege, was out yesterday and at his justice of the peace office for the first time. The Sentinel had a front page article relative to the matter, with Harry's picture.

Be free to call upon me at any time, no matter how much in detail. I will be very glad to assist in any way I can. After a month or so I will not be so busy in court, but even during that time I have some days when I am not engaged in court work.

With kind personal regards, in which Mrs. Haycraft joins, I am,

Sincerely yours,



Additional: It may be of interest to know that, where one turns south from the Jackson road he crosses Elm Creek at what was then known as West Ford--hence the name of one of our townships, Westford. The Jackson road and the stage traversing it did not come through Fairmont. It went due west from the Horicon post-office corner and thence southwest to Jackson, but, of course, Fairmont travel left the Jackson road at the Horicon post-office corner and came south to Fairmont.



CHAMBERS DISTRICT COURT
17TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

JULIUS E. HAYCRAFT, JUDGE
FAIRMONT, MINN.

March 16, 1936.

Mrs. Maud Hart Lovelace,
69 Highbrook Avenue,
Pelham, N. Y.

My dear Mrs. Lovelace:

In my Saturday's letter I wrote that the Jackson road and the stage traversing it did not come through Fairmont. That is true. The long distance stage did not come through Fairmont. I find, however, that there was a stage operated between Winnebago and Fairmont only. I find the advertisement in the first issue of the Martin County Sentinel, July 3, 1874, also this advertisement continued into issues in 1875. The stage left Winnebago at seven o'clock in the morning, arrived at Fairmont at noon; left Fairmont at one o'clock in the afternoon, arriving at Winnebago at six in the evening. It was operated by Snow and Gould. These men were Fairmont men. This stage traveled the West Ford route.

Sincerely yours,

Julius E. Haycraft

CHAMBERS DISTRICT COURT
17TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

JULIUS E. HAYCRAFT, JUDGE
FAIRMONT, MINN.

Mrs. Maud Hart Lovelace #2.

beautiful almost beyond description. We had a bad tornado the 30th of April, that went diagonally through the southern part of the county and did an immense amount of damage. It was really an outstanding tornado, but the devastated strip is comparatively small.

Mrs. Haycraft and I have on our list of places to visit, sometime in the future, Charleston, South Carolina and its vicinity. I know it must be most interesting.

With kind personal regards, I am,

Sincerely yours,

Julius E. Haycraft

HAMMERS
BOND
MADE IN U.S.A.

SENTINEL PUBLISHING CO.

Printers and Publishers

FAIRMONT DAILY SENTINEL

FAIRMONT, MINNESOTA

Oct. 8th, 1935.

H. S. FAIRLEY, Pres.
ARTHUR M. NELSON, Sec-Treas.
C. N. SWANSON, Advertising Manager
JAMES F. CAVERS, Circulation Mg'r

Maud Hart Lovelace,
590 East Third St.,
Mt. Vernon, New York.

My Dear Mrs. Lovelace:--

I have just completed acquiring the information relative to Greame, Ela and "my late mother-in-law" requested in your charming letter of Sept. 24.

Greame Archer-Burton, single, came to Fairmont in 1876. He left behind in England his sweetheart, Ela Denne. She was of a high class Kentish family.

In 1883 Greame returned to England, married Ela, brought her to Fairmont. They remained here about 5 years thereafter. The house that was their home is still here. Two of their children were born here.

Fearing that there would be none competent here Greame's mother, who never came to America, sent along with the young couple her own cook.

Ela died in Maryland about ten years ago, surviving her husband-sweetheart only a short time. Both she and Greame had inherited money but lost it all in a few years.

"My late mother-in-law" is a British whimsicality. The person referred to was a Mrs. Older who ran a boarding house here where Greame and several other single English blades lived for some time. Mrs. Older, in crude, hearty, Yankee fashion insisted on "mothering" her lonesome, misfit charges, and they reciprocated by calling her "mother" or "mother-in-law."

Have had a couple of delightful visits recently with Mrs. Broun who has fallen in love with you. She has spoken of you on both occasions. Also saw "enny this evening, getting from him much of the information given. He has been very ill and is likely to pass at any time.

Assuring you that has been a pleasure to be of some assistance in this literary undertaking, and with kindest regards,

Most Sincerely Yours,

Arthur M. Nelson

1935
98
22
1935
1378
22

8245: Maryland Ave
Chicago Ills.
Feb 28th 1936.

My dear Mrs Loulace.

How very kind of you to take time
in your busy life, to send me such
a kind letter. I also had one from
Mrs Haycraft a week or so before
yours came. I am truly thankful
to be able to report my self as
much improved, & growing stronger
every day. I left the Hospital
on the 8th of Feb. having been
operated on two weeks before, it
was a pretty bad operation but
I had two grand doctors & they
were pleased to look upon me
as a marvellous patient, the
senior doctor (they were Father &
Sons) brought three ladies to see me
one day, introducing them as friends

of his, & saying he wanted them
to meet the most wonderful
woman in the United States, &
told him I would burst with
pride: I had lots of funny ex-
periences while in the Hospital,
fell out of bed for one thing, fortunately
without hurting to either myself or
the floor, but those Hospital beds are
pretty high, I was in a four bed ward,
& my room mates were ever so nice,
we had some good times together;
& I certainly had the nicest nurses
anyone could wish for. Now I am
with my niece Mrs. B. N. Bufe, my
sister Mrs. Sharpe's oldest daughter,
she & her son live with her with
her married daughter, & they are
all so good to me, that I would have
done without my niece I don't know,
I was at Mitchell Reese Hospital

Where she has been head of the
Record Room, for twenty-five years,
she was able to visit me two or
three times every day, & was kind-
ness itself, & has been so since I
came here, nursing & caring for me,
so kindly she has always been my
favourite's niece, as her mother
was my favourite sister. She died
a little over a year ago. No, Percy is
not with me, I'm afraid he has
been having a pretty tough time
of it, all alone, in that big house,
trying to keep warm. It's been terribly
cold way below zero for weeks on
end, fifty-five days, to be exact,
& such snow storms & wind, the
highways & railways have blocked
for days at a time they had a
bread famine for four days, which
would be hard on those who have

never baked bread for themselves,
I am really thinking about going
home now, in a couple of weeks
more, I think I'll be able to take
the trip, I'll have to go by St Paul,
so as to break the journey, will
take a fast train here, stay over
right in St Paul, & go on by bus
to Fairmount next day, I'll get in
there at 12.30 & can stay with a
friend, till 5 o'clock, then I can
go home, with one of my neighbours
who goes over to Fairmount every day,
& goes home again at five.
I'm so looking forward to reading
your new book, & will watch for
it anxiously. Thanking you again
for your kindness in writing.

Sincerely yours
Lucy. E. Brown.

MRS. A. G. T. BROWN
P. O. BOX 820
SHERBURN, MINNESOTA

Sept 26th 1935

My dear Mrs Lovelace
How very kind it was of you to send
me that book, I surely will enjoy
reading it & thank you very much.
I'm alone this week, Perry had to go
to Minneapolis for further treatment
for his eyes, so I'm saving my book
till Sunday, when it will help to pass
the time. I don't mind week days as
much as they are full of work, but
Sunday is a long day, when I am
alone. Later on when I am not quite
so busy I intend to write out the
memories I told you of, & will send
the paper to you, it isn't much, just
little things that will help you get

MRS. A. G. T. BROWN
P. O. BOX 820
SHERBURN, MINNESOTA

the atmospheres of our old home.
I would be proud to think you
named your place at Minnetonka,
~~Homegood~~ ^{to do so} by all means!

I see you have left Mr. Vernon & gone
to Pelham I suppose that's quite
near New York City.

Thanking you again most
sincerely for your kind thought
in sending the book.
Lucy E. Brown.

I forgot to say it rained hard
yesterday.

MRS. A. G. T. BROUN

P. O. BOX 820
SHERBURN, MINN.

August 16th 1936.

My dear Mrs Lovelace,

I have often thought of you during this hot & trying summer, wondering how you were getting on with your writing, & I've wondered so many times, what the book will be called when it is finished.

We surely have had a bad summer season, July terribly hot, & ever since late May so dry, no rain worth speaking of till last week, on Wednesday night saw inch of rain fell, & everyone rejoiced, & felt renewed hope that the corn crop would not fail yet will be a short crop at the best, but the rain will save some that otherwise would, not have matured; you know how

dependent we are on the prosperity
of the farmers; the small grain was
a good crop, much better than anyone
dared to hope that it would be & the
prices is good, also the prices of corn, so
that offsets the short crop in some
measures. Further west the drought &
grasshoppers have taken everything, one
of my nephews who lives in Tempe
I.D. was here with his wife for a few
days about the middle of July, I heard
from his wife yesterday they found
things in a bad condition when they
reached home after an absence of
three weeks, the grasshoppers had eaten
every leaf of their trees & shrubs, &
all that was left in their garden, was
the stakes to which the tomato plants
had been tied, the hoppers had even

MRS. A. G. T. BROUN

P. O. BOX 820

SHERBURN, MINN.

got into the house, down the fire-
place chimney, eaten holes in the rug,
& the window shades, & two of the glass
curtains were so badly eaten, that they
cannot be mended. There was sand, &
dead grass hoppers all over the house &
my niece had quite a task to clean
up the house, I certainly would like to
live in a more equable climate,
Minnesota is too strenuous for me, always
extreme, no moderation about it.
The Martin Co. Historical Society will hold
its annual meeting the last Sunday
of this month, all residents of the Co
for over fifty years have been asked
to rejoice at the Centennial Office & those
who attend the meeting, will be specially

honoured, I have registered, but having
no car, it is very doubtful whether I
will be there, though I would like
very much to go. Perhaps you read in
some newspaper that Mrs Susan Grayson
Giselle who writes a column for the
Fairmount Sentinel, had won the
prizes offered for the best Country
Correspondent. I am sending you the
Sentinel's account of how she was
entered in the Contest without her
knowledge, & came out winner of
first prize. I thought perhaps it
would interest you to read it,
knowing Mr. Nelson & the Fairmount
Sentinel. I hope you are well & have
not been working too hard through
the hot weather. Kind regards from
both my son & myself.

Sincerely yours
L. E. Brown.

Sherburne
April 5th 1936.

My dear Mrs Louelace.

You are right in thinking I would be at home now, I came back March 16th, & after taking things very quietly, & enjoying my own home once more, I feel much better, than I did when I went away & everyone tells me how well I look, I just do a little at a time, & a lot of resting in between, Pegg helps me a great deal, & I have help with washing & ironing, I have not yet been to town, too far for me to walk just yet. Pegg surely had a lousome time of it, with the terrible winter weather, he would have been badly off without his radio which was a Christmas gift from his cousins in Chicago, it helped to pass the time. That I would have done without my niece & her daughter, at whose house I was I don't know for sure, my niece Emily Keefe, is surely a grand person, she saw the doctors for me arranged for Hospital accommodation, & then nursed & took care of me all winter, she has been head of the Record Room, at Michael Reese Hospital for 26 years, so knew all the ins & outs of the game, was able to get me a substantial reduction in rates at the Hospital, & the doctors were very old friends of hers & I would have been badly off indeed if it had not been for her kindness. Now as to the questions you asked, I don't remember any Christmas parties we never had anything to do with the Mansdails' our best friends at that time, that I remember, each family kept their own Christmas.

I don't remember hanging up my stockings, that & talk
of Santa Claus come later when my niece & nephews
were little, there were ^{the} not many gifts - there was not
much in that way in the house, what there was,
was put on the Christmas trees, which we had on
the evening of Christmas Day, that was bravely
lighted with real candles, & some ornaments, but
did not have as much on it as is considered
necessary now-a-days. The house was decorated with
evergreen, cedar & fir branches, over the doorways &
windows, there were trees on the lake bank, from
which the branches were cut, they were not put up till
Christmas Eve. Yes, we always went to church, all
of us, & we had dinner some time in the afternoon,
when it could be made ready, usually roast, &
boiled turkeys, (one not being enough for such a party),
vegetables, plum pudding, mince-pies, & afterwards
dessert, apples, oranges, figs, nuts & raisins, cluster
raisins & blanched almonds, sometimes I don't
remember, if always, there was some wine, & we
drank the health of 'Absent Friends'. The plum
pudding was always made & boiled a day or so
before Christmas, each member of the family was
supposed to give it a stir, & for it were put
a ring, a button, & a dime, when the pudding
was served the one getting the ring would be the
next one married, the dime meant riches for the
lucky finder, & the button, old bachelor or old maid
hood. The pudding was made beforehand, because
it had to be boiled for four hours, but did not take

Too bad you are losing your nice maid, I hope
you will find another one as good.

You speak of Spring flowers out, the Saturday afternoon
before I left Chicago we drove to Lincoln Park to
see the display of Spring flowers in the Conservatory,
they were so lovely, Azaleas & other shrubs, yougolds
hydrangeas, wall flowers, tulips & other flowers, but I
didn't see a crocus, there were lovely Chinese
Primroses, & primulas, a perfect riot of colours.
Now I must stop, I hope I have given you the
information you wanted, & that it is clear
to you, my memories so far back are a bit vague,
but I think what I have told you is about
right anyway, no one will ever know the difference
if I have erred in some particulars.

I am looking forward so eagerly to reading
the book when it is finished, & ^{are} also hoping
that you will be coming this way this summer,
& will be able to stop & see us.

Sincerely yours,
Lucy E. Brown.

so long to wear up. After the older ones were married, they & their children came to have Christmas dinner with us till the family grew too large, then each had their own dinner at home, & my mother & father would take the horse & buggy or sleigh whichever it might be, & drive round, paying a short visit at each place, & taking what gifts there were with them. When we were all older, grandchildren & all, we had a party on Christmas night, when as I remember it, any one was welcome, & we served supper, scalloped oysters, oyster patties, mince pie, cheese cakes & tarts. The young men who had visited Gattis' the famous party cook in London, used to tell my mother her oyster patties were as good as Gattis', & I'm sure they were. One round we used to sing quite often when we were all together, was "Come to dinner, come to dinner, there's the bell, there's the bell, Bacon & potatoes, Bacon & potatoes Ding dong bell, ding dong bell", we sang three "Black hills too, & Moscow's burning" not "Scotland's burning". I'm glad to hear of someone having Spring weather, we have had none so far; it is so cold all the time, & we have so little sunshine, it snows nearly every day, we just think we are getting rid of it, when some more comes. My tulips & narcissus bulbs were showing when I came home three weeks ago, but have made little or no growth, we are getting very tired of chilly winds & cloudy skies.

4) I forgot to tell you that when we had our dances,
all the new women dress clothes ^(tails) & white gloves & the
girls also wore white gloves, if we had short sleeves the
gloves were long sixteen buttons or so, some of the
new had tucked or embroidered shirts & they were an
awful nuisance to do up, the least little bit of soil on
the row would catch on the tucks & when I was
dancing with the boys, I used to take notice of their
shirts to see if they were better done up than those I
had done myself. You asked about the furniture &
at that time, I couldn't recall much, but I remembered
afterwards that the dressing tables in the bed rooms
were plain pine tables with skirts of coloured cambric
& over that gathered skirts of dotted muslin, the
looking glasses were on stands & stood on the tables.
In the drawing room there was a rose wood gate leg
table & on the mantel piece were bronze candle sticks
with lustre drops & pot-pourri jars of Crown Derby China
filled with rose leaves my mother used to dry. Amongst
other games we played in the evenings were binglet - we
& Loo, & we played Anagrams, & worked out Cross words
puzzles, rebuses etc. On Christmas Eve we always went
Carol singing ten or a dozen of us, packed in a double
bob sled, with buffalo robes & hot bricks to keep us warm,
we drove round to the houses of all our friends & sang
Carols outside the windows then we went in to refresh
ourselves with coffee & hot mince pies or cakes & maybe
mulled wine. On Christmas morning the whole family
gathered before my mother's & father's door & wakened the
boys singing Carols, the first was always the hymn
Christians awake, salute the happy morn, & then

2) usually the Fine Howell my mother's favorite.
The coming of the first train into the town, was a
great event, the whole town was at the depot the
Band & everything, soon after the railroad reached
Fairmount before that, Eastern people used to come
to look over the country study the Flora & Fauna etc,
most of them stayed with us, & delightful people they
were too, Railroad officials too came, amongst them
Mr. Sam Horn, now Sir William Sam Horn, or is it Charles,
I can't remember, he used to play with us girls & boys,
& we had great fun after my father & mother went
to Victoria B. C. to live. Sir William visited them several
times. On my mother's birthday Oct 28th we always
made "Topped" the married members of the family
would come in the evening bringing some sugar
& butter, & we would make of 'big Biddy' of Topped,
this was poured into flat buttered tins of lard, & in
the morning it was cracked up & divided round.
After my three older sisters were married & gone,
we three younger ones divided up the house work in
this way, one was cook & responsible for everything
in the kitchen & pantry, one was housemaid &
had charge of the bedrooms sweeping dusting etc
& one (this we called Holiday week) looked after the
sitting-rooms & hall, helped at the table & washed
the dishes & helped to make the beds. ^{My father} ~~My father~~
^{of two weeks} would not have lamps carried about, so there
were more than twenty lamps to be cared for cleaned
& filled, & the chimneys were always washed on
Saturdays, I think I told you our pantry was called
the china pantry & the other the butler's pantry but
the latter was not right, we called it the buttery.

(3)
Once in a while in summer we used to go on
on a picnic, ten or a dozen buggy loads of us,
we had dinner on arriving at our destination,
then the boys would set up bar & indulge in
jumping pole & vaulting etc, after supper we would
drive home slowly keeping close together & we sang
all the way home, all the old songs, 'Do you know
John Peel with his coat of grey', 'O New Golden
Blippers', The animals went in one by one, & such
as that, it was lots of fun. If the time was right
we gathered wild grapes & there were hazel nuts
in some of the woods too. I remember the Field
Trials for Dogs were held on the prairie round
Fairmount one or two years, my father & the boys
would drive some of the Eastern men out
with their dogs & watch the trials. Did any one
tell you of the big snow in 1880 & 81, my father
& mother went to a Church Conference in Fairbault
in Oct & when they returned we had to meet them
at the depot with a sleigh, that snow stayed on
the ground till the following April, the railroads
were blocked all winter long, all available men
would go out & shovel out the tracks, there were no
snowplows then, the next day everything would
be drifted full again, we were without trains or mail
for a week or ten days at a time & further west
people had to burn fences & anything they could get
hold of for fuel, my sister & her husband were going
on a picnic to England, they came into town & had
to wait two weeks for a train to take them on the
first stage of their journey to N. J. It seems to me, it

(4)
was colder in those days, but of course the houses
were not so well warmed, one of my sisters lived
on a farm some miles from town & I have
slept out there & wakened in the morning to
find the sheet stiff with ice from my breath
in the night, we took such things as a matter
of course then. On Easter Monday we used to go
out to this same sister's farm & we would roll
eggs that we had dyed on the Saturday before,
the older ones would come out later in the
afternoon & we played out door games of all
kinds, then had supper early before going home.
My father was always called 'The Governor' by
the older boys, also by the sisters & their
husbands. The bond between my oldest sister
Katie & myself was very close, each one of the older
girls was responsible for one of the younger ones &
I was Katie's responsibility, she died a year ago at
Christmas time & I miss her lovely letters so much,
she was the oldest girl, & I, the youngest.
All of us always helped decorate the Church
for Christmas & also for the Harvest Festival
which was held after the crops were gathered
in Sept usually when we had grain, flowers
& fruits - grapes & apples to use in decoration.
Perhaps this will give you some idea of Mother's
character, she used to tell us never apologise for
anything, if you cannot help it it needs no apology,
if you can help it, you should be ashamed to
apologize.

Sherburn

Nov 3rd 1935.

Dear Mrs Loulax.

I have done my best to set down the things I remember of the old times in Fairmount, & I have not made any thing clear to you, but we know & I will do my best to clear it up. I do so hope that you will find it necessary to come to this part of the country during the winter, if you do, you must surely come & visit us, we should love to have you with us. Winter has set in early & every thing is covered with ice, it rained & then froze; it will be hard on the gardens I am afraid nothing is covered of course, except by the leaves that lodged about the plants. I just got my big vegetable garden cleared & plowed in the nick of time. Before, in fact this very day the weather changed for the worse. I hope you are nicely & peacefully settled in your new home, & that all is going well with you. I hope I have not bored you with my reminiscences & that you will be able to read my writing. I wish I could have type-written it, but we have no machine, neither have we a radio so we did not get your 'thank you' you sent out.

Sincerely yours,
Levy E. Brown.

Thursday.

Mandy darling;

I am so sorry to have been so slow to answer your questions - but the days have been so full, and until lately so hot, & so much confusion -

I haven't had any luck finding violin pieces. If you could find a program of Ole Bull's, who toured this country in the seventies, you could get some names - they haven't one of his programs in the library here. Of course Handel, Haydn, Beethoven, Bach & Mozart would all be possible - a lot depends on the kind of a musician your fiddle is. There is a gorgeous Beethoven concerto for violin & orchestra (Mendelssohn, too, but I am not sure of his dates) - There are lots of sonatas, too - The slow movements of the Handel sonatas are often called ~~Small~~ "Siciliana", and are ⁱⁿ a ~~very~~ rhythmic, swinging style that might very well be the rocking of a boat. They are quite simple to play, too, some of them. Of course you know the folk-songs & operettas of the period as well as I do - "Knewest thou the

land" (Connais-tu le pays) from Thomas' Mignon is a nostalgic sort of tune (the text is Goethe's Wilhelm Meister, you know) Aida is that period, + some Wagner. The Prize Song from Meister-singer is nice for violin - that might fall into the period - but Wagner didn't get out to Minnesota very early. I don't imagine.

["Kennst du das Land wo die Zitronen blühen"]

Then the old overtures "Post & Peasant", "William Tell", "Zampa" etc. might do. There is a funny old piano piece of that period at the library here, called "Dancing in the barn" by Tom Turner, published by Harris - about the "throaty" voice - "Throaty" is the best I can think of. Singers refer to such voices as dark, or sombre colored, or covered tones, or "pharyngeal" tones - But I think, warm, or throaty, or velvety, or purple or lavender colored would be natural descriptions. I hope it isn't too late for these suggestions to help.

I don't seem to have time for much of a letter. Mother is just fine. The heat was hard on her, but her week-end with Mrs. Baltuff picked her up a lot. She seems to be settling

Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Pacific Railroad Company

HENRY A. SOMMER, GEORGE I. HAIGHT, Trustees
Office of General Northwestern Freight Agent
605-617 Metropolitan Life Building

C. L. KENNEDY
SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE

Minneapolis, Minn., April 3, 1936

IN YOUR REPLY PLEASE REFER TO OUR
FILE NO. 7336-X

m.c.h.
Mrs. Maud Hart Lovelace
69 Highbrook Avenue
Pelham, New York

Dear Mrs. Lovelace:

Referring further to your letter of March 4. An answer thereto has been somewhat delayed in that it has been rather hard to get information with regard to the operation of the railroad in 1873. I enclose herewith a letter from Mr. Johnson to Mr. Haynes in connection with the matter, Mr. Johnson being the Executive Assistant to the President. I also enclose a copy of a letter from Mr. C. B. Rogers, an old employee of the company, who has given some very good information, I believe.

The trains at that time ran into Ramsey Junction, which is three miles south of Austin. The Southern Minnesota crossed the Minnesota Central Railway at that point. They have both since become the property of the CMStP&P Railroad.

Should you require more information than is contained in this correspondence, please let me know and I will be glad to take the matter up with the Secretary of the organization known as the Veterans of the Southern Minnesota, and see what I can obtain from them. The description of the coaches, the eating point, etc., is contained herein.

If at any time I can be of assistance, please do not hesitate to call on me.

Yours very truly,

C. L. Kennedy

CHICAGO - March 17, 1936.



Mr. G. B. Haynes:

Returning papers received with your note of the 12th.

In our Museum we have a Passenger Department folder issued on February 18, 1878 which contains a table headed "Chicago, La Crosse, Rushford, Wells, Winnebago and Mankato Line Via Southern Minnesota R.R. The Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul and Southern Minnesota R.R.'s connect in same Depot at LaCrosse for all points on South. Minnesota R. R., forming a Direct Line."

This table shows one train each way - an "Express (Ex.Sat.)" westbound and "(Ex.Sun.)" eastbound, leaving LaCrosse 8:35 in the morning, arriving Winnebago 6:55 p.m. This train left Spring Valley at 12:50 noon and a reference mark indicated a stop at that point for meals by that train as well as the eastbound train which left Winnebago at 6:40 a.m., Spring Valley 12:25 noon, arriving LaCrosse 5:48 p.m.

This time card was issued five years later than the year used by Mrs. Lovelace as the time of her story but it is not likely that there was much change in the schedule in that period.

Mrs. Lovelace refers to LaCrescent instead of La Crosse. On the map in the folder referred to LaCrescent appears on the line to St. Paul north of LaCrosse so that one would have been obliged to go south to LaCrosse before starting west on the Minnesota Railroad.



There is nothing in this folder indicating what provisions were made for serving luncheon to patrons at Spring Valley nor is there a description of the equipment used. It is possible that the I. & M. Veterans Association with headquarters at Minneapolis may have some information on the subject and Mr. C. B. Rogers in the General Superintendent's Office at Minneapolis who was with Mr. Foster for many years doubtless will be able to obtain from Secretary Johnston of that Association any information that may be available about service and equipment in the early days.

If I can furnish any other information I shall be glad to have you call me.

FHJ:h

(Copy)

Minneapolis, March 24, 1936

Mr. C. L. Kennedy,
C i t y.

Dear Sir:

Returning herewith file of correspondence originating with letter of March 4 to you from Mrs. Maud Hart Lovelace of Pelham, N. Y., relative to operation of the Southern Minnesota Railway in 1873.

I have made inquiry from some of the older men and find that Sumner S. Johnston, 1328 So. 8th Street, this city, was then employed in train service by the Minnesota Central Ry., which crossed the Southern Minnesota Ry., at "Ramsey Junction" three miles north of Austin. Mr. Johnston says the train referred to in Mr. F. H. Johnson's letter of March 17 to Mr. Haynes was running in 1873 and ran on approximately the same schedule for many years.

There was at that time a lunchroom just across the track from the depot at Ramsey, but none of the trains on either road made regular stops for meals there, the lunch room serving largely people who changed trains there, and Mr. Johnston says he believes Spring Valley, 29 miles east of Ramsey, was the regular meal stop for the Southern Minnesota trains.

As to La Crescent: Mr. Johnston says the layout west of LaCrosse was approximately the same in the early 1870's as now. Southern Minnesota trains leaving La Crosse crossed the River and stopped at "Bridge Switch" then on to La Crescent where they stopped to connect with the line to McGregor and thence west to the end of their line.

The train generally consisted of 4 cars - a mail and express car, followed by a baggage car and two coaches. The first coach was the "Smoking Car" and the second coach the "Ladies Car".

The coaches were built of wood with some metal reinforcing at the corners. Were provided with open platforms at the ends with link and pin couplers, and a considerable opening between the platforms due to the space occupied by the drawbars and links. The trucks were wooden frame with iron yokes for the journal boxes and coil springs carrying the body of the car.

The seats in the coaches were of wood with low backs, about the height of a common kitchen chair back, and had a pad cushion on the seat which was removable, and a stationary padded cushion on the backs. The padding was made, also the cushions, from "curled hair", or horse hair. Lighting of coaches

was by kerosene lamps, either on sidewall brackets or suspended from ceiling. Older type cars had the sidewall lamps.

The coaches were fitted with a small stove in which wood was burned. Also a toilet room in which the seat bowl was open to the atmosphere at the bottom, and a drinking water tank with a faucet at the bottom, and a tin cup fastened to a chain. The smoking cars were also provided with a large spittoon between each seat. Floors were bare boards, sometimes painted, and the brakeman usually swept them with a common broom from time to time. The windows were small and only single sash. Ventilation was accomplished by opening doors and windows.

The speed of the train, and stopping it, was controlled by hand brakes, and the brakeman's principal duties were applying and releasing the brakes. It was also a part of the baggageman's duty to handle the brake on the baggage and mail car.

The Union Pacific Ry. had an exhibition at the Chicago World's Fair in 1934 and 1935 of two coaches built in 1873, and I assume Mrs. Lovelace could get full data and pictures of these cars if she would write J. W. Burnet, General Supt., of Motive Power of that road at Omaha, or contact F. W. Charske of that road in New York City.

I did not enter service of our Milwaukee Road until May, 1884, but I did ride in a number of railway coaches in the early 1870's, and one memorable trip was from Clinton, Iowa, to Denver in April, 1873.

If you cannot read this understandingly, will be glad to see you at Room 10 at the depot any time, or if you care to call at my home at 2621 38th Ave. South, will be glad to tell you anything more that I can.

Am unfortunate in not being able to type this, but owing to having scratched my left hand and getting infection in it, am carrying it in a sling at present.

Our old conductor, Michael Gilmartin, now living at Calmar, Iowa, retired after some 60 add years of service, undoubtedly remembers much about the early day railroading.

Yours truly,

(S&D) C. B. Rogers

P.S. Seat cushions were generally made with red cotton plush tops and edges, and canvas or heavy burlap bottoms. Color of plush varied with the color ideas of different car builders. Sometimes the smoking cars had imitation leather cushions and seat backs.

C.B.R.