

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. (Mae'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 photograph but that's my forehead, brows, eyes, nose, mouth, especially my chin and flopping ears — and now I know where I got this mass 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
^(Identical! But so are mine!) hands and legs!! — Only Mike
is a blown-up version. He's
already 4" taller, etc. And he
has superb teeth ("Look, room! - no
counties!") (Mother and Daddy
were married for six years, before
she found out his were false!)
Mue just came in. Due 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 Macguirite
Shaw, from ^{Somewhere} Alabama came
to visit for weeks Gady 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. ^{JUNIOR} Junius Freeman. Mother's grandfather Benjamin Felix Simmons was a Captain in the Civil War. (He and our grandfather — "Papa" — Benjamin ^{FLETCHER} Fletcher Simmons were surveying Walnut Grove Cemetery ^{ca?} when the first train rolled into Newport, Arkansas. (over)

4/11
They and Dr. Searborough
(remember the lot across from Ebb'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 dropped -
half-dead, on Dr. Searborough's
operating table ^{int. 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 ^(William, Jr.)
^{anyhow take!} Felix, William, Eleanor, Cornelia,
Son, Theodora, Saxon, and
Benjamin - he adopted his 1st
cousin's daughters, ^(Eileen?) ^{Suzanne} ^{my love!} Lena & Ellen -
Later 3 more!) (over)

Grandmother's mother was
~~Theodora~~ ~~Jenny James~~ Saxon ~~I~~ — her
 maiden name was Ratenberry.
 (I can remember mother talking
 about Uncle Billy Ratenberry ^{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 scooping 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
 "Grand" as much as Kelly loves me!

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And ever dear "Fante 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 Bess" 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 fascinatin' but futile! ^{she was married into the Saxon 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 is so lovely we can't believe it.)

9/11

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Something odd is, I keep remembering Eben Watson!! When Al. was having her "growing pains" I kept thinking of all high toned male plants Emily + Francheille — and Lady Eliz. and Eliz. Deey Patterson — his nieces. Right next to dad was Eben, Doc. Elton, Uncle Bob McDonald, Mr. O.W. Watson, Guy Snow, and Paul Deey. 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 Happy died with diphtheria
and Buddy & Billy had it, too — ^{hearsay!}
and when house no. 1 burned
down (you started in the
little house we lived in while
ours 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 "Fek"??

Did you know that Fek 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!