

FARMERS' SUPPLY YARDS

H. L. BARBER & CO., INC., PROPRIETOR

LUMBER, COAL, CEMENT, BUILDING MATERIAL

HERBERT L. BARBER, PRESIDENT

WILLIAMS, MONT.,

April 23, 1935.

G-G-R

Mrs. V. W. Reynoldson
Boone, Nebraska

Dear Bess:

That was a beautiful letter written on the 12th and I appreciated it very much. Haskell was three years younger than you and I realize that you two youngsters enjoyed the association together in our home at Roger's Park.

A few years ago I made up a list from my Brief records of your Aunt Elizabeth's family and I'll enclose one herein.

I'll enclose a self-address stamped envelope and ask you to write me as to when you left us to go to school preparatory to teaching? And was the school in Iowa or Nebraska, also did you return to Roger's Park after such schooling? If so, when did you leave to begin teaching in Nebraska? I believe that is where you began your teaching.

Here will follow a few paragraphs I have prepared and sent to those who knew Haskell.

We suffered a great loss here recently and have concluded to write you about it for you knew him.

My only son, Haskell, passed away at 11:30 o'clock P.M., Saturday, March 30th. He had been ill but a short time and it was first diagnosed as flu but later it surely was pneumonia.

He had weak lungs from a youngster and that was the original reason we came to Montana. He improved here very much, but in recent years had severe attacks of coughing from colds. He had always recovered quickly from them and thought he would recover as quickly from this attack. No one, not even the doctor realized the danger of his condition until the evening he died when a registered nurse of long experience in such cases was secured. Up to the last he thought he would recover and met death cheerfully and with a smile. He was very cheerful, hopeful and enthusiastic about his new business which I turned over to him more than a year before. It was a delight to me to see him take such a great interest in a business of his own and be so businesslike and so hopeful about it.

2 - V.W.R

I was unable to attend the **agular** funeral, just a short service at his home before he was taken to the M.E. church at Valier for the public service. The Legion of which he had been Adjutant some years earlier gave a full military burial and am told it was impressive. Am also told it was one of the largest funerals ever held in the county. The ground was covered with a foot of snow, but the sun was bright all day.

Bernice's husband, Harry, has been ill most of the winter, which made matters worse here. Recently I sent Margaret, Lester's wife, to the hospital for an operation, she has recovered and is now at home. This has been a trying period for us all as you will understand. In all the years I have lived here I never have **been** so much sickness--none touching me closely except Elizabeth's illness and death after her journey to Portland for hospital service in 1922.

I was always sorry that you did not remain in Montana. For in later years have convinced me that I could have gotten you on a farm on such terms as would have permitted you to make a living and to pay for it. Those who have stuck to the irrigated land, developing an economic unit, are the best off here and have resisted drouths and depressions better than the others.

I should like to see you and the family. May be able to make that trip sometime, especially if Bernice can go with me.

With a world of good wishes,

Sincerely,

Herbert L. Barber

Enc: list
stmp env.

Hi,

THIS IS A LETTER FROM HERBERT BARBER TO MY GRANDMOTHER, MRS. V.W. REYNOLDS (ELIZABETH MCNAIR). SHE WENT BY "BESS", SHE WENT TO LIVE WITH MARTHA AND HERBERT IN CHICAGO WHEN SHE WAS ABOUT 14 YEARS OLD. BOTH HER PARENTS DIED IN THE SAME YEAR. MARTHA WAS HER MOTHER'S SISTER. SHE LIVED WITH THEM UNTIL SHE WAS OUT OF HIGH SCHOOL.

NOTE THAT HERBERT REFERS TO MARTHA AS ELIZABETH. HER OWN FAMILY CALLED HER "MATTIE".

THIS IS PRETTY SPECIFIC ABOUT WASKELL'S ILLNESS AND DEATH.

DON'T KNOW WHO LESTER AND MARGARET WERE. PERHAPS YOU DO.

HOPE YOU FIND THIS INTERESTING.

Bob

(Bob Sebastian)