January 21, 1954

Mrs. Riley Smith
1109 Pace Parkway
Route 4, Skyland
Mobile, Alabama

My darling daughter:

I am enclosing you quite a letter from Anne Boykin Murphy of Richmond, Virginia. We were going down there to be guests of the Louis Reynolds of the Reynolds Metal Company last Sunday, but the weather was so bad and the snow was so deep, we were afraid to try to make it, but we are going down pretty soon, and I am going to see this wonderful woman and marvelous person, who knows so much about our ancestors. I think I will try to get all of the facts that she has.

I did not know that Charlotte Boykin's mother had died.

Anyway, this is a beautiful letter and you should keep it for the children. Make copies of all of it and give one to each of the children. I am sending a copy to Bob, Jack and Dick, as well as a copy to Lloyd and the other nieces and nephews. I think it will be very helpful, because it does show that we had some great folks in the past and we will have some in the future if we will all work, pull and pray together.

Well, Mother is still getting me up early. She got me up a little before four o'clock this morning, but she did have some good coffee, some strawberries, and I am dictating this letter to you on the old dictaphone long before daylight this morning.

The weather here has really been terrible -- snow and ice, and ice and snow. I haven't even used the car. I am using taxicabs, because you can't tell where and when you are going to slide, unless you have chains or snow tires.

Don't we have the greatest country in the world? I am working hard to get this Air Force Academy there -- or the "West Point of the Air" -- and who knows, we may get it. We just succeeded in getting three and a half million dollars for the Demopolis Lock and Dam Project in our First District, and also two more million a little further up the line.

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I believe a contract will be let today for between three and four million dollars for the warehouse at Brookley. I guess this will upset my opponent, if I have one, but anyway, I am working on many good things. We had the International Paper people here, the United States Steel Corporation people, and a hundred other men from Alabama. They are all upset about Mr. Eisenhower and say the Administration is financing the Japs to build papermills in Alaska and we are giving them the money, and they are going to make rayon and everything. It does sound pretty foolish, doesn't it?

These particular men all voted for Eisenhower, but they are mad with him now. I let them have it right between the eyes. Howard Galloway of the International Paper Company told me he thought I covered it just right. They had dinner with us that night — he and a new man at the International Paper Company, a Mr. East. I told him he ought to change his name to "South", because we don't want this Eastern bunch, because they are against us.

Anyway, Mother is doing fine and we are all very busy, trying to get some results, and she joins me in love to you, Riley, Cello, Jr., Sandy, Sr., and Boykin, Jr., and all of the rest of our loved ones back home, now and forever.

Devotedly your Dad,

FWB:m

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