

December 1, 1994

Dear Mark,

The long Thanksgiving weekend and family activities interferred with getting my thanks to you promptly. I much appreciated receiving and reading the later letters of Edgar to Frant. Most of all, I was thrilled to read her letters to him, as I have never seen any of her correspondence before.

I sent you the letters from the Jamestown Sun as I felt they were a valid source of interest to you as a Civil War historian. After talking with you on the phone, I sensed your genuine appreciation and enthusiam upon reading them. Your remark that they must have been edited as they did not follow the rambling philosophical tone of his later letters struck a bell. Of course--way back in 1961, my husband knew a lawyer who had the original letters from which the Sun articles were derived. He lent them to me and I made transcripts (on an old beat-up manual typewriter lacking a "b"), put them in an envelope, tucked them away and completely forgot about them. I dug them out from an old chest and am enclosing them. I felt you would appreciate reading the unedited letters even in their poorly typed condition. I really had not meant to share them with anyone. The lawyer, Ernest Leet of Jamestown, has long since passed away, so I have no idea what he did with the letters.

I am intrigued--how did you become interested in the 154th? Were you originally from western New York? What is your educational background? What projects are you currently working on?

Once again thank you for all of the transcripts and material you sent--I much appreciate receiving them. I would like these letters returned when you are finished with them.

Yours truly,

Alberta McLaughlin

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