

C/O  
Box III  
Brome P.Q.



Mrs. L. Winslow-Spragge,  
2 Parkside Place  
(near 4047 Côte des Neiges (d.))  
Montreal 109 P.Q.

Letter. Crystal Dawson to Mrs. Lois Winslow-Spragge [her cousin]

C/O  
Box III  
Brome P.Q.



Mrs. L. Winslow-Spragge,  
2 Parkside Place  
(near 4047 Co. des Neiges Rd.)  
Montreal 109 P.Q.

Letter. Crystal Dawson to Mrs. Lois Winslow-Spragge [her cousin]

March  $\frac{28}{75}$

My dear Lois - many thanks  
for your letter & am sorry you  
could not find any more of  
those photos of the Pardee Estate.  
Under the circumstances it can't be  
helped - I must have lost them  
somehow in the moving.

You say there was a brother  
that came out to Canada. I re-  
member Father mentioning someone  
of the Dawson line who lived  
in St. Lambert or some suburb  
of Montreal & was surprised that  
they never visited us.

However I'll try & remember any  
little incidents that Father told me

about <sup>(2)</sup>  
Grandfather (Sir William) He  
took a personal interest in the  
students + gave any backward  
though promising, ones special  
attention after classes. One  
special incident - a student was  
ill but not ill enough to be  
unable to sit up in bed! So  
Grandfather went to see him,  
mounting 3 flights of stairs to  
an "attack room" + gave this  
student his books + special  
advice or tuition. (+ probably some food!)

He also, as you know, took students  
of the geology class onto the  
Mountains with hammers to  
examine the rocks etc.  
as you know, you must illustrate a lot of his  
books with pen drawings of  
fossils + shells etc

<sup>3</sup>Grandmother Dawson - when they moved into McFell house where they were to live it was not in tip top shape to say the least. So Grandmama helped with the papering + decorating etc. (I wondered at the time how she could help with papering, but I supposed she must have!) When a hired help noticed how hard Grandmama worked at it all, she marvelled when she came in all fixed up like a fashion plate + sat down + played the piano!

Uncle Goye He had a marvellous sense of humor when he played with "the boys" - his brothers etc. He was the eldest apparently, as Father said he did this + that for them - They asked him questions +

one<sup>4</sup> was: "where did they get the "2  
word 'legacy' for money left you -  
to which he quickly replied - "well,  
you see, they used to use bones for  
money, & the smaller round ones  
from the leg were the best - so  
people said: "Give me the 'leg-I-say!"  
(Others I can't remember!)

He showed the boys how to make  
fire works for 24th May - He got  
powder of some kind & ground it down  
& mixed stuff with it & made cones  
to put it in, with a wick of  
sorts & behold a "Roman candle" etc etc.

When the boys ran errands for him  
a cent in those days seemed a lot  
so he carried on wood block



that's supposed to be

$\frac{1}{2}$  backwards +  $\frac{1}{3}$  of a cent



5  
He rubbed <sup>on</sup> paper over these with  
a spoon after applying ink to  
the block - I can't think of the name  
of these - hot line types? - anyway  
they kept them & got whole coppers  
in exchange!

When he got squares of glass  
that fitted in his magic lantern &  
he made slides - with some special  
paint that was transparent to let  
light through & at same time stuck  
on the glass permanently. They still  
operated when Father had the magic  
lantern at our house (436 Elmour St  
Ottawa). He had a man being shaved &  
the Barber's hand moved up & down  
amid the lather! with a lever - How  
he did this I don't know - anyway we  
managed to push the lever up & down  
with the desired effect!

Uncle George cont. <sup>6</sup> Father said what  
he told us about him was true &  
when Uncle George was out west  
doing boundary work &c for the  
Government he considered that his  
assignment & would not deviate  
from his set purpose - altho the  
lure of gold may have tempted  
him? - (well, he could have picked  
"up some", my remark) He said no, if  
he got sidetracked making money, then  
he couldn't do his work properly  
for the Country & his Government.  
yet, he could tell the men where  
they were likely to find the gold  
with his knowledge of geology.  
you may have heard these <sup>same</sup> stories  
nevertheless I'll pass them on to you  
for what they're worth.

Uncle G. became  
head of Geological  
SURVEY, Ottawa.



Stories not for publication - 7

Uncle George was later made head of Geological Survey Ottawa & a certain wife of the Dept thought her husband should have been made head & not Uncle G. She became violently jealous - swearing etc. at the time, she was pregnant - & her little girl, when she was born, was in the same physical state that Uncle G. was. a terrible thing - They went to our Church in Ottawa & I saw the girl when she was grown up - Of course she didn't know why she was like that.

Another true story mother told me of two fellows they knew Personally - will call them A & B. (She wouldn't tell me who they were as they were a well known family in Montreal - prominent people in business world) well A. went to England on ~~business~~ business & stayed with a family where there were about 4 or 5 daughters. He wrote B & said he'd fallen in love with one of them. Well, he waited till he left & wrote & proposed to one of these

not for publication ↓ §

daughters & told Bin much excitement  
~~to~~ later that she was coming out  
to be his bride. (In the days of the  
Sailing Ships & a spot of steam!)  
Well, the day came & A + B waited  
on the dock. There she is! & when she  
turned around it was the wrong  
sister!! He'd got the names mixed.  
Horror!! A said to B. "I can't go  
through with it, send her back."  
B. said "You can't do that, the time  
it would take &c &c &c" So he  
straightened up and welcomed the  
girl and they married & were the  
centre of "Montreal's highest." I begged  
mother to tell me she wouldn't. Just  
as well - I've been guessing ever since!  
(Wonder if you heard that one!)

I saw a movie a few years ago with something  
the same theme & wonder if B's descendants "told"!