

("Walter de Merton" Johnson)

(extract from Mrs. Johnson's letter to H.C.)

Now comes the letter I have from Sir William, but a word of explanation must precede it. My boy (Sir William's godson) was born at 13 Merton St., in the very shadow of Walter de Merton's College. From the beginning Sir William insisted that he be named for that estimable man, but I felt that "Johnson" was too great an anticlimax.

Every inducement was used, including a letter from the patron "saint" himself, which I quote verbatim.

13 Norham Gardens, Oxford.  
Feb. 15/19.

Dearest Walter

I am so glad you have come to such nice people as Robt. & Rose, both old friends of mine in the old days in the Elysian Fields. I am so glad you are to be called after me, as this will give me the right to watch over your intellectual development, and perhaps in 1937 I may have the pleasure of welcoming you to my College as a Rhodes Scholar from Maryland

Affectionately yours

Walter de Merton

*When they didn't call him W. de M.  
but (I think) Robt. W., 3rd ~~son~~ U.O.  
christened him CHIMP!*