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Aug 15, 1969

Dear Uncle Ika and Aunt Ruth,

I have had a busy summer but I intended to write you every day, and I thought about you regularly. I took two courses at college this summer and worked on my genealogy some more. I hit the jackpot one week, obtaining information on the Paynes and also the Howlands.

Through Ethel, who visited me one day in April when Ringling Bros. was in Mobile, I contacted Edgar Howland. He is so kind to write and give me specific information - I am ordering a book on John Howland which he suggested. I hope I can obtain the information I want from it - He has, however, told me that James Howland's parents were Jessie Howland and Mary B. and that James was born in Girard, Pa.

In addition to that, he told me we are from the Franklin Howland Strain - So far, I think the line runs - John Howland of Mayflower m. Elizabeth Tilley, John Howland their son - - - others - - - Franklin - - - ? - Jessie, James, ^{nipa} Cornelia, Maudie Denuer, Mom - me

Dad and Mom ² were here for four days in July. It was a grand visit. They both looked and felt better than I had seen them in years, however Mom suffers from suspected gall stones; ulcers, off and on; and a hiatal hernia - Dad's emphysema seems to be somewhat stabilized -

Dad brought me a picture of Grace Meek's gravestone. I could read the inscription "Gracie O. Wolff" and the dates. also on the marker was Dean Wolff, a 14 mo. child who died about 6 mos. after she did - Did you ever hear of a brother who died as a baby?

Wed. Aug. 20
This letter was interrupted by the hurricane. It was a cu-lu with almost everyone here suffering damage. We were lucky not to bear the brunt of the storm as Bay-St. Louis (60 mis. away) and Sulphur (40 mis. away) did. We lost our pier all of our sloping bluff is eroded badly and we lost many of our most beautiful oak trees which were completely up-rooted. The sea lapped up on the patio and waves broke in our yard - We are about 15 ft. above normal tide and about 300 ft. from shore - Our basement had

2 inches of water back up in it. I'm sure our septic tank needs cleaning, but we are so thankful to be alive - We are in the 30% who didn't evacuate. My car wouldn't start or Sara & I would have been in Mobile - we were packed to leave.

Shep & the boys stayed here, but Sara & I went to a shelter at the St. College. This is our 3rd day with no electric power - no water - no toilets - no cooking - no pho - no lights etc - It is rugged but the scarcity of drinking water is the worst thing.

Today, I went to a friend's house & got a hot meal - my first since Sun. - and washed my hair - It is just as bad here as the reports on radio - Hwy 90 is badly damaged here & across the causeway at Mobile, as well as the western Miss coast. Many homes are just flattened or washed away - Others were just gutted by the water as it rushed through the house -

Sept. 16.

I wonder if you will ever get this letter? I don't think I have your new address in Pomona - I'll have to hunt for it - School started, and I have a wonderful new job teaching all Spanish in the High

school, and I love it - Bob is in my Spn. 2
class - Teaching my own is a new experience
but there's no other Spanish teacher -

I have been so involved with hurricane
yard work and school work that I
haven't had much time to do anything
else - I am going to enclose the papers
I located on Laurence Wolff's Civil
war service - You may have these -
I have other copies -

I know that eventually I will locate
the information I want on our lives.
I am just curious to see how far I can
trace them - Then I want to compile a
little booklet to preserve information -

Has Anne lost interest? I never have
heard whether she received a booklet
I sent her and the picture you had
mistakenly sent me - I sent it back
over a year ago - I do hope she
received it -

I'd better close and look up your
address -

Sorry I'm such a terrible correspon-
dent but my three teenagers & my
teaching keep me hopping - Sara
is 7th grade this year - I can't believe it!

Love to you both,

Irene & Shep
Bob, Steve & Sara